

# 2023

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! With 2022 officially behind us, I want to take a moment to reflect on our accomplishments over the past year, and recognize the 100% volunteer Board and committee members who invested significant time and energy to build a better community for all of us. We have sought and made progress on many fronts including, but not limited to, the following:

- Maintaining a “healthy” set of financials with no increase in our HOA fee for 2023 despite a year with a 7.1% inflation rate
- Completing a major clubhouse renovation to both the exterior and interior of the building
- Renewing more than one-third of our homeowners’ yards with new plantings, trees, and sod
- Beautifying the clubhouse landscape with new plantings and trees
- Completing the annual trimming of the oak and palm trees throughout the community. Our arborist said this action saved many from being lost to Hurricane Ian
- Repairing or replacing community pool lighting, outdoor furniture, shower pad, and adding a new accessible gate and railing for the convenience and safety of residents
- Restoring the storm water swale along the south fence to ensure proper drainage and avoid flooding
- Helping residents prepare for and stay safe during Hurricane Ian. After the storm, our volunteers took to the street and worked with vendors to remove debris and tree limbs, bringing the neighborhood back to normal in record time.

These accomplishments are a testament to the dedication and service of the volunteers on the Board and various committees. While we recognize there is more to be done, I am proud of the progress we have made.

I want to personally thank all our volunteers and recognize their contributions. While many offer their help for specific projects or needs, a few have been the backbone of the operations in our community especially this past year. They include:

- Carole Myles – Board member and Landscape Chair, Carole has worked tirelessly in directing our landscape management needs and operations and the “go to” for many other community issues.
- Chris Smith – Irrigation Leader, Chris gives his time and “hands-on support” to the community’s irrigation problems and emergencies. Chris also updates our resident map and directory, has coordinated our clubhouse internet and maintains our email communication capabilities.
- Steve Bragg – Financial and Operations Management Committees, Steve has provided his financial expertise and guidance to the Board each month and handled multiple renovation projects at the clubhouse.
- Bert Andresen – Operations Management Committee, Bert handled multiple repairs to the clubhouse and surrounding area including installation of a new accessible pool gate and pool shower pad.

These volunteers and many others, like our pool checkers and social volunteers, have given their time for the betterment of the Cottages and have saved our community significant operational costs. We are very grateful.

As you can see, 2022 was a busy year, but, of course, there is more to do. I am happy with our progress and the feedback received from many of you. I wish all of you a very Happy New Year and a safe and prosperous 2023 as we work together to build an even better neighborhood here in The Cottages!

Warm regards,  
Marilee Casale  
Cottages President