

THE DRIFTWOOD TIMES

SPRING EDITION

April 2016

The Driftwood Vacation Villas Condominium Association

The Driftwood Ocean Villas Condominium Association

The Driftwood Breakers Condominium Association

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From the Manager's Desk.....

Normally I begin a newsletter with some kind of main topic in mind... normally. This time as I have looked for a pertinent topic on the happenings at the Driftwood, I have found myself at a loss for any one subject to focus upon. Once I realized there was no overwhelmingly important topic I came to the conclusion that THAT was the subject itself. The normal nuances of every day and how the Driftwood, a place lost in its own "time warp" of sorts, continues to be a part of the ever-changing techno-driven world and remains important to so

many after all these years and decades. As I was walking down the driveway the other day, I was behind three people who had just finished lunch at Waldo's and I overheard one say to the others, "I just love coming here, it is such a special place." That just confirmed that the topic for this newsletter is that the Driftwood, just being the Driftwood, has been enough for several generations now. We intend to keep it in good enough condition that many new generations will have the opportunity to enjoy this little oasis sitting amongst all the modern, hi-tech "wizardry" that surrounds us in our everyday lives. The Driftwood remains close to

what Waldo and Ralph Sexton built going on 100 years ago. That in and of itself makes it that "special place" those three people reminded me about as they walked down the driveway. Most of our owners and friends already realize this, and many of our employees, myself included, know how lucky we are to be able to spend our working hours in such a unique atmosphere, interacting with those owners and friends that keep coming back year after year.

One of the nice things we hear from owners is how they appreciate returning each year and finding many of the same employees from prior visits. I thought I would take a few sentences and formally introduce some of those long-term employees. Perhaps next time you are here you will say hello to them. I am the longest-term employee at 27 years, but quickly followed by houseman Kenny Williams, a part of the Driftwood for 25 years. Fred Zappala, Chief Engineer, has been with us for 19 years this summer and one of his assistants, Joe Glinsbecker has been here nearly 16 years himself. Amy Patton, our Assistant General Manager, also reaches 16 years this September. Mike Zebrowski at the front desk started with us in 1999, 17 years ago! Employees here longer than 10 years include housekeeping staff members Tricia Gatlin, Cynthia Manning, Loretta Ray, Antoinette Gatlin and Stephen Ambrose. Then there are those that are closing in on 10 years: Gloria Swendson and Zach Zebrowski in the office, Joe Kelly at the desk now, but a part of the Security staff for many years. In Waldo's we have Lee Olsen, Peggy Riffey, Rodrigo Ordonez, Rochelle Nesbit, Debbie Bianchi, Maurice Montuset, Gean Frejus, Joe Smith all with close to 10 years or more. If I've missed someone I'm sure they will let me know when they read this, and I apologize for the omission in advance! The number of employees who are here at least 5 years would be too numerous to list but suffice it to say that we are proud of the fact that so many have stayed so long. They make it even more welcoming for the owners and friends of the Driftwood who return once or twice a year and see the same friendly faces walking the property and taking care of this "special place." One last employee who now functions as our "guardian angel" is Shirley James, who was with us 27 years before she passed away in September 2015.

Even as I reminisce about the Driftwood and its ability to retain an atmosphere of the past in so many respects, I am also reminded of the steps we have taken to keep up with the pull of modern technology. In the last newsletter I reported on the pending installation of the new Wi-Fi system. Six months later I am happy to report the resounding success of this project. The signals are so strong that devices can be used on the south side of Humiston Park, all the way to the Ocean Grill AND out in the ocean, at least as far as one can swim/wade safely. Zach, in the office, continues to be the "go-to guy" for those who just don't know how to operate their laptops/tablets/iPad etc. and he helps as much as he can, but the WiFi itself is working great!!

While we have no major projects planned for 2016, we do continue to improve your vacation homes. This year we are in the process of replacing lamps, area rugs, and some tables and chairs in D Building. While we will never remove any of the authentic antique pieces that Waldo himself brought, there are others that have not been updated in several years, which we are blending with the old pieces to "perk up" these units. In E building we are replacing nearly all the dining room tables and chairs, patio tables and some lighting in the units. We also continue the replacement of some of the old-fashioned pull chain toilets that remain in many of the E building units. In addition we have installed the new "white bed" in half the Breezeway units and will complete that building in the coming months. In the Cottages, all the area rugs have now been replaced, new patio tables installed and we are experimenting with a new tankless water heater in one of the units. These new heaters are much more energy-efficient but also should have an endless supply of hot water, which will make all those who love those big Jacuzzi tubs happy. If the experiment works as well as we expect it will, and has thus far, we will be replacing the remaining ones as their current useful life ends. We have also nearly completed the removal of the old "popcorn" style ceilings in the cottages and replaced with the same textured product we used in the Breakers renovation in 2014.

In A & B Building we have asked an interior designer to come up with a new floor plan for the eventual renovation of those units. This is not an easy task, especially in "A" building where space is

so limited. We have asked the designer to examine the layout of modern cruise ship staterooms and their ability to utilize space to the maximum in those small rooms that would make an "A" building studio look spacious. Several ideas have been discussed in various board meetings and once a design is settled on we will inform all the owners. These units need updating more than any others on the property and the Board of Directors is aware of that but have no intention of moving forward until a solid plan is received. When the Breakers renovation was first discussed it took almost two years before work began at all. This is a more difficult renovation so I do not expect any major changes for some time. In the meantime, we continue to upgrade and replace items as needed. We have replaced more than half of the refrigerators in A & B units this fall & winter, and many stoves, microwaves and air conditioners are new. We hope to convert the bedding in B Building this summer and fall to the "white bed" also.

The Breakers interior renovation will finally be complete this year. We have 7 units of vanity and bathroom areas left to convert. They are all scheduled before the end of the year so the plan put in place back in 2012 will be complete as we said it would be by year end 2016. We are also working on the exterior areas of the Breakers. This past fall we completed the restoration of the two second floor oceanfront balconies, with a new concrete coating on the floors, new privacy wall which extends the full width of the patio and a new railing which matches the blue railings in the 4-story building. The new railings afford those sitting on the balconies a much better view of the ocean than the old wide wood railings. This winter we have been working on the stucco and concrete in the walkways between 3007 and 3011. The work is tedious, but once complete will look great. The gentleman doing the work, Scott Weston, was the foreman on the "A" Building restoration project from 2012; he has a vast knowledge of concrete restoration.

I've been asked by a few owners of weeks in units 3008 and 3028 in the Breakers to survey the other owners of these units to find out their feelings about changing the Murphy bed in those rooms to a traditional queen size bed. I will be sending letters out to these owners later this summer to find out what you think. Obviously unless there is large

majority that want the change we will stay with the Murphy beds that are in place now.

I have been asked by Amy & Zach in the office to request that any owners allowing someone else to use their unit/week to inform us of that change at least a week PRIOR to the start of that week. We need the information in writing, either by email, fax or US Mail. Providing this information is important as we compose the roster for each week's arrival. Please do NOT assume that just because you did something one year that we will remember that a year later. This is not a new policy but one I've been asked to reiterate because we have recently had so many last-minute changes and this can prove difficult when it involves people moving from one unit to another on our very busy Friday & Saturday check in dates.

We have had over 500 maintenance fee payments this year on-line on our website, www.verobeachdriftwood.com. This is a service we began last year and is working very well; we encourage you to use it in the future. It is very easy to use: just go to the website, click on "fee payments" and follow the prompts. You will need to know your unit numbers to access the proper association and PLEASE if you are utilizing this service and own in more than one association PLEASE make sure you exit the site between payments so that your funds are deposited into the correct association's bank accounts.

It was brought to our attention by Comcast, our cable television provider, that we have been receiving signal for their music channels for many years even though they are not part of our bulk accounts. Comcast has now informed us that this "error" on their part will be discontinued in a few weeks. We apologize to those owners who enjoyed the music service but wanted all to know it won't be available on your next visit.

All week 52 owners receive a bonus week 53 in 2016. You may occupy, rent or bank your week 53 units. It is entirely up to you but don't let them just sit vacant! Week 53 occurs when the end of Week 52 still falls in December as it does this year. Week 1 in 2017 begins on January 6th for Friday to Friday weeks and January 7th for Saturday to Saturday.

There are a few units listed later in this newsletter that are up for auction. These are units which we

recently completed foreclosures on and many are some of the better units at the Driftwood. Take a look; you might find a unit or week you are interested in purchasing.

About 100 bricks have been purchased for the John Dean Memorial Garden, located on the ocean side of "A" Building. If you have a loved one you would like to have remembered here, the cost of a brick is only \$50.00. If interested you can either print a form from our website @ www.verobeachdriftwood.com or pick one up at the front desk. It's a beautiful, peaceful spot to sit and remember those we have lost.

That's all for this newsletter. When you are on the property the next time and you see one of our employees that have been here for years and years, tip your hat, wave your hand, say "Hi!" I can pretty well guarantee you will get a smile and "Hi!" in return....and don't be surprised if many of the ones that haven't been with us for that long are still here 5-10 years from now; after all, as you all know, the Driftwood is a "very special place."

Jeanne L. Radlet, General Manager

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UNITS UP FOR AUCTION:

OCEAN VILLAS

The following units in Ocean Villas are available for auction:

<u>Unit#</u>	<u>Week #</u>
E223	18
E223	19
D228	44
D228	45
D228	46

E223 is an oceanfront one bedroom, one bath unit with partial kitchen. The minimum bid on any of the E223 weeks is \$1,500. D228 is an oceanfront & pool front efficiency unit with queen size Murphy bed, partial kitchen and one bath. The minimum bid on any of the D228 weeks is \$800. Both D & E Buildings are on the National Registry of Historic Places. These units are all Friday-Friday occupancy.

BREAKERS

The following units in Breakers are available for auction:

<u>Unit #</u>	<u>Week#</u>
3010	20
3031	21
3030	27
3030	32

These are all 1 bedroom, 1 bath oceanfront units and have a minimum bid of \$1,500. 3010 is 1st floor, 3030 & 3031 are on 2nd floor. They were all newly renovated in 2015. These units are all Friday-Friday occupancy

VACATION VILLAS

The following units in Vacation Villas are available for auction:

<u>Unit#</u>	<u>Week#</u>
B125	20
B125	29
B125	36

These are all one bedroom, 2 bath units with full kitchen and Jacuzzi tub off the bedroom area and all have a minimum bid of \$800. These units are all Saturday - Saturday.

If you are interested in bidding on any of the above referenced units please send envelope to Jeanne Radlet at the Driftwood Resort, 3150 Ocean Drive, Vero Beach, FL 32963.

Mark the outside of the envelope "Bid on Unit _____" and include the unit number on which you are bidding. The bids must be received prior to May 18, 2016. The winning bids will be announced at the Board of Directors Meeting on May 21. If you are bidding on more than one unit, please indicate how many you actually wish to purchase and list the units in your order of preference.