

APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

GULF GATE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 6:00PM at
ST. ANDREW CHURCH
6908 S. Beneva Road

Why sit home this Saturday, when you can join the fun and play Bunco???

Bunco is a fast, **easy-to-learn**, dice game, and you will not just have fun, but also meet lots of people! At 6:00, we will teach the game; play will begin at 6:15.

All are welcome ... not just Gulf Gaters. So, invite your friends and family to play. **AND, IT'S FREE!**

Snacks and beverages will be provided and **prizes awarded!**

Please email us with your name and the number of people in your party at: communications@ggcaboard.us



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Insurance company rejections
Hurricane forecast
Bobcats
Gulf Gate Woods' roof restrictions
Golf course trespassers
Golf course development update
Cuba trip

GGCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 23 - 5:30 PM - GG LIBRARY

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS, BE READY.

The speaker at our membership meeting will be the Chief of Emergency Management, Sandra Tapfumaneyi, who will present a Power Point about the 2024

Hurricane Season and how the County Emergency Management can assist citizens before during and after a disaster.

Lessons learned from Hurricane Ian and Idalia can guide our preparations and evacuation plans.

June 1 to November 30 (official hurricane season) is shaping up to be an early, extremely active storm season.

Let's be aware and be prepared.

Get information at the meeting.

TAX CREDIT INFO ON 30C ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGER

The IRS updated their guidance for the 30C Electric Vehicle charger tax credit per the Inflation Reduction Act. It offers a non-refundable tax refund of 30% of the cost to purchase and install an EV charger; up to \$1,000.00.

The credit is limited to "low income census tracts" (Gulf Gate, north of Gulf Gate Drive) qualified, but will be phased out after 2024.

Here's the source for finding out if you're in a low income census tract:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/3f67d5e82dc64d1589714d5499196d4f/page/Page/>

To claim the credit, file form

8911: https://www.irs.gov/instructions/i8911#en_US_202312_publink1000108191



GG RESIDENTS FACE REJECTION FROM INSURANCE COMPANIES

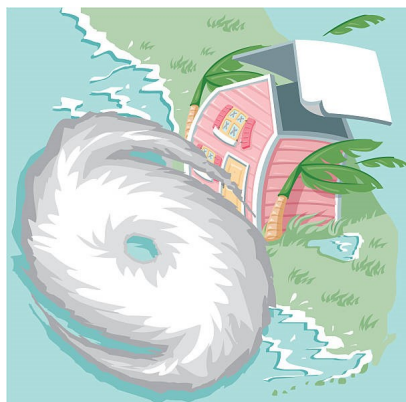
Soaring insurance premiums are hitting many homeowners in Sarasota County. A resident reported that a neighbor was dropped by Heritage Insurance because they are no longer insuring homes built before 2002 in communities like Gulf Gate. Other companies contacted gave a similar response. Citizens will cover them if they replace the 12

year old roof using a new loophole that allows cancellation if there is not a waterproof barrier in place. A new resident was informed by their mortgage company that Citizens was unacceptable, demanding a private insurer. It is suggested that residents check their current insurance requirements as new FEMA flood zone changes are now in effect and mortgage

companies may demand a flood policy. Many of our residents are facing economic hardship because of skyrocketing costs. **It's time to inform our Commissioners, especially Joe Neunder,** that immediate reforms are necessary to protect our citizens' homeownership. **Contact them at:**
commissioners@scgov.net
Lisa Craven, Gulf Gate

2024 HURRICANE FORECAST PREDICTS HIGHEST NUMBER OF STORMS EVER!

An extremely active hurricane season is likely with up to 23 named storms, 11 Hurricanes, five major hurricanes. According to forecasters, record warm Atlantic waters and transition to La Nina which can mean more US landfalls account for increased threat to coastal areas. Residents should begin storm preparations now. Extreme



ocean temperatures indicate an earlier storm season and hurricanes that can rapidly intensify.

Know your evacuation level and nearest shelter, pack your supplies including pet needs and documents, gas up vehicles, protect your home and evacuate, if required by authorities.

ALERT!! ALERT!! BOBCAT SIGHTING ON GOLF COURSE!

Physical characteristics Bobcat



Weight: 20-30 lbs
Shoulder height: 1.5 ft
BL: 2.5 ft
TL: 6 in
Total length: 3 ft
Back of ears: White spot
Tail tip: white underside
Generally more reddish tan, white underside, spots variable (large/bold, small/numerous - blending)

Residents on **Post and Bounty** have spotted a bobcat on the golf course recently. Since the sighting was during the day, the animal may be hunting to feed her kittens, usually 2-3 per litter.

Bobcats are not aggressive, but residents are warned to be watchful of small pets. Also known as the red lynx, they are carnivores, native throughout North America, and part of the ecosystem keeping rodents and rabbits from overpopulation.

Bobcats run at speeds of up to 30 mph and are solitary creatures. Predators are coyotes and human use of rat poisons around the home.

Let's enjoy our wildlife and keep them safe.

GULF GATE WOODS UNIT 2 ROOF RESTRICTIONS

Residents of Gulf Gate Woods will receive a "clean slate letter" soon regarding the replacement materials that can be installed on roofs in that unit, according to community deed restrictions.

Effective the date of the letter, no asphalt shingles shall be installed on homes in Gulf Gate Woods.

Please inform new neighbors of this requirement as a violation will result in litigation by the Board of Directors.

This applies only to Unit 2, Gulf Gate Woods. Deed restriction information can be found on the website www.ggca.us.

GG Woods' residents to receive a "clean slate letter."

TRESPASSERS ON GOLF COURSE; SHERIFF CALLED, OWNER NOTIFIED

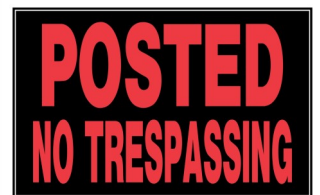
Several individuals are camping in the former cart barn on the former golf course property.

Sheriff's deputies have engaged with the occupants but cannot evict them until the owner representative signs a no trespass authorization in person.

The owners have been notified and reinstalled the gates on the lift station access road off Bounty Drive.

Please report any squatter or unusual activity to the Sheriff's office.

Non-emergency number, 941-316-1199.



GULF GATE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

6601 South Tamiami Trail #222
Sarasota, FL 34231

A beautiful place to live!!

We're on the web!
Wwww.ggca.us

President	Cass Smith
Vice President	Kathy Goff
Treasurer	Karen Goodrick
Secretary	Michelle Guffanti
Directors:	Charles Benoit
	Kathy Butler
	Kevin Emmett
	Katie Fogarty
	John Van Vleet
Past President	Mary Vinsh



GOLF COURSE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The golf course owner, 13th Floor Homes, has requested an extension to postpone implementation of the remedial action plan (RAP). This is a continuation of the request that began back in November 2023. The next status report is due May 30, 2024.

A concern for Gulf Gate residents is the developer's dewatering plan application, which is required by the FDEP, but has not been approved.

Among the issues of concern are pumping of contaminated water from ponds on the property into recharge areas that contain high levels of arsenic and into newly excavated ponds.

The use of numerous diesel pumps within the property for up to 120 days. The noise

(decibel) level is not defined. This includes pumping out contaminated groundwater, which can cause depressions or voids in the ground surface (subsidence) in an area called the radius of influence that includes existing properties in Gulf Gate. Rapid removal of groundwater can cause subsurface collapse threatening foundations of nearby homes.

Recently, this situation occurred in a Pulte Homes' development called Legacy Groves, in Venice, as water was pumped out of an existing pond.

Construction vibrations can also damage nearby structures. Commercial machinery used for site clearing, excavating and soil compaction create vibrations that travel through the soil and are transmitted through the

walls, floors, and roofs.

Pumping out groundwater can lower the water table exacerbating the potential damage. **Without documentation of the existing structures' condition, it will be impossible for owners of Gulf Gate homes to make a claim.**

This hazard is not covered under homeowners' insurance.

Documents stating our concerns have been sent to the FDEP, the developer and Sarasota County Commissioner Neunder.

We will discuss the next steps to protect our community at the Membership Meeting, April 23.

February Cuba Trip by Miguel Rivera



I recently visited Cuba as a curious conservationist and nature lover. My intent was to have meaningful interactions with a variety of Cuban nature specialists, archaeologists, historians, artists and to support the Cuban civil society. I had no idea what I would find once I arrived. The delegation was predominantly a group of birders, so our adventure consisted of mainly outdoor activities during the day. All of our travels were on a nice air-conditioned bus with ample room for our delegation members. We stayed in 5 locations while on the island of Cuba; (2) nights in

Las Terrazas, (2) nights in Vinales, (4) nights in Playa Larga, Cienaga de Zapata, (2) nights in Topes de Collantes and finally (2) nights in Havana.

Once we flew into Havana from Ft. Lauderdale, we boarded our bus and headed west toward our first destination in Las Terrazas. On our way, we stopped for lunch where we learned about the Ceiba tree which is of spiritual significance and is always protected no matter where it grows. It's an enormously large tree and is easily seen in the middle of a pasture, cultivated fields or side of the road. We also learned about honey bees that do not sting called Melipona Bees. Once we reached our destination, we quickly became familiar with the Mojitos, and had the pleasure of local Cuban music. Birding included stopping on the side of the highway, any road, pathway or peoples' back yards, where there was a possibility of spotting a bird. Luckily, we were with independent ornithologist Maikel Canizares, so we spotted a lot of endemic birds. In the evenings, live music was performed by a family group called Hermanos Morales, the lead singer a young lady singing, dancing and playing the maracas; she had a beautiful voice. We made friends with the bartender and ultimately learned how to mix our own Mojito drinks by the end of the second night. We visited an orchid garden where we learned about the plants and also the importance of vitamina RRRR (RRRum), important because it relaxes you and helps you roll your RRRRs, try it! We also visited the open-air museum ruins of the Buena Vista Coffee Plantation, visible were the old walls perched on the side of the mountain, the coffee bean drying beds and milling wheel to grind the husk off of the coffee bean.

Our next stay was in Vinales, where we hiked around the rare limestone mountain formations looking for birds and visited a tobacco plantation, where we witnessed the rolling of a cigar. I was honored to smoke the freshly rolled cigar, fantastic! Vinales was our western most destination, the nightly live music was spectacular; couldn't resist dancing.



Next we visited Cienaga de Zapata National Park, where we stayed on Bahia de Cochinos also known as The Bay of Pigs. Our accommodations were B&Bs located in the little town called Playa Larga. Here in the swamps of Zapata we saw pink flamingos whose colors were so rich they were a dark florescent orange and also saw flocks of white pelicans. We saw other endemic birds such as the zunzuncito (bee hummingbird, smallest bird in the world). We hiked pastures where we saw horses, goats, cattle and pigs, eventually walking through a forest and meeting up with a group of brothers who took us on horse drawn wagons to their farm called Finca La Esperanza. This finca (farm) has been in the family for generations. One of their primary purposes is to produce charcoal from trees. At Playa Giron, we visited the informative 1961 Bay of Pigs Invasion Museum. We hiked the Enigma de las Rocas to see unique geologic limestone formations and the opportunity to swim in a beautiful cenote (sinkhole).

On to Topes de Collantes in the Escambray Mountains. On our way to the mountains, we stopped in a town called Trinidad, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where we walked the cobblestone streets and enjoyed the view of the ornate plaza. Hiking in the Escambray Mountains included mountain scenes such as waterfalls and a rainforest environment.

Our final destination was Havana, referred to as La Habana in Cuba. Here we were able to continue experiencing beautiful Latin music, eating delicious food and seeing historic sites and buildings. Our accommodations in La Habana Vieja (Old Havana) overlooked the Atlantic Ocean entrance to Havana Bay with El Morro (Spanish Fort) guarding it's entrance. We could also see a portion of the Malecon, which is the highway along the Atlantic Ocean shore on the north side of Havana. It is here where you see the most beautifully restored 1950s American automobiles. In the evening, we visited Hotel Nacional for cocktails. We spent a good portion of the second day in Havana on a tour visiting four of the major plazas in Havana and learning about the history of buildings, statues and current situation of the Cuban economy.

At the conclusion of our trip, we were able to provide donations for the Cuban citizens such as clothing and school supplies, and were extremely successful in seeing 24 of 26 endemic Cuban birds due to the excellent guidance of Maikel Canizares. We were able to get a better understanding of the beautiful natural environments that have been preserved on this tropical island in the Caribbean (our neighbor). This trip provided me a better understanding of the struggles the beautiful Latin people of Cuba are experiencing due to Cuba's current economic situation.

