Staying Connected

By Linda Harvey, Editor

Our Tribute to our WWII Veterans resulted in less space for our usual BTP articles. It was well-worth honoring these gentlemen, but to accommodate articles which are timely and important we are sending out this online edition of Between The Palms – Extra.

We worked hard to find and contact our WWII Veterans and we hope we didn’t leave anyone out. They are important to our Country and to Heritage Palms.

Thanks, to HP employee Danielle Strope for formatting Between the Palms Extra for this online version.

WGA Ladies Ready to Play—and Play Golf

By Sharon Waldsmith
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After an amazing collection of eleven Holes-in-One last year, putting the WGA over budget on this line item, the Board has amended the Hole-in-One policy so that if it is not acquired during Wed. league play, it will be awarded $50.00 instead of the $100.00 given for League Day. Plaques will continue to be issued for both. Good luck to all and see if we can break the record again!

Not only do the WGA Ladies enjoy their golf, they love to plan and work on the various events during the season. Committees are meeting and preparing for them now. Maggie Birkmeir is chairing the Dec. 7th Christmas Luncheon, a combined meeting with the Nine Hole League. In January, our Charity Event will again benefit L.I.G.H.T (Long-term Impact through the Gift of Hope & Treatment) with Sue Hagen chairing. Jill Erickson is chairperson of the Challenge Classic Feb. 29th, aptly titled “Leap Year—Leap to the Year of Your Choice.” And Jean Hoppe will Chair the end of the year event. What they have planned for us is being secretly guarded for now. If you want inside information on any of these events you can still volunteer to any of the chairpersons. More details in coming issues.

Food For Thought

Schnitzel, Schnitzel, Schnitzel!!!!!

By Dan Cammarata
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If you enjoy authentic German food, and a quaint old world atmosphere stop in at the Austrian German Pavilion Restaurant at 1400 Colonial Blvd at Royal Palm Square. Reservations recommended, call 239-936-8118.

Specializing in Schnitzel they offer the traditional Wienersnitzel, a breaded veal cutlet, but my favorite is the Black Forest Schnitzel, a generous portion of tender pork cutlets breaded and stuffed with Black Forest Ham, Swiss Cheese and topped with a savory mushroom gravy. Accompany it with fresh homemade spatzle, a German dumpling type pasta, and one of their specialty German beers or a bottle of wine and I guarantee you will make it one of your favorite places to go. Take advantage of their fall special a four course “Culinary Dinner for Two,” plus a bottle of wine for only $44.00. Enjoy!

Gourmet Pavilion’s outdoor dining area takes full advantage of Royal
Welcome back. We have seen many familiar faces return over the last several weeks and it is great to have our seasonal residents back at Heritage Palms. As usual we have an exciting season of events and activities planned. The first big event of the 2011-2012 Season will be a Welcome Back party on October 28. This event will coincide with Halloween and themed accordingly. Although optional, we encourage everyone to put costumes on and join the festivities with fellow members. Following the Welcome Back event we have a number events scheduled for the month of November. Comedy Night featuring comedian Ted Holom November 4-5; Men’s Member Guest November 11-13; Women’s Member Guest November 14; Arts and Craft Show November 19 and our World Famous Thanksgiving Buffet November 24. In addition the golf and tennis leagues will be in full swing as well as our outstanding fitness programs and activities directed by Fitness Coordinator – Toni Grace.

We truly hope everyone had a great summer and look forward to providing a great year of fun and enjoyment to the membership accompanied by the awesome fall/winter SW Florida climate.

The summer flew by and the heat and rain are now gone but there are several projects completed to Heritage Palms facilities that will noticed. The fairway renovation on the Royal front-9 has been a successful endeavor from start to finish. All major work has now been completed and all should be very pleased with the results. The course was open on September 19th and on budget.

In addition to the fairway renovation, several other major golf course projects are complete. A stone paver path was installed replacing the coquina path going from #1 green Royal to the 2nd tee. The cost of stone pavers was more economical than concrete and provides an esthetically pleasing look. Several bridges have been resurfaced and as well as the slant wall on #17 Royal and the bulkhead wall on #18 Royal. The above projects are funded in the 2011 reserve and operating budget.

In July, the Board of Directors approved the expansion of the Lodge parking lot by an additional 26 spaces. The permitting process was painfully slow and final permits were issued October 5. The bid process will be complete October 19 and construction is estimated to begin the week of October 31.

All facilities are looking great and Heritage Palms has been presented a Beautification Award by the City of Fort Myers for our exceptional appearance and landscaping. Look for the sign at the entrance to the gate house.

**2011 Year-to-Date Finances**

The summer is always challenging as weather factors and such play a role in the activity at the Club. However, staff is ever vigilant and very proactive in reducing expenses during slower periods.

Through the first nine months of the year Food and Beverage sales actuals are $1,142,814.43 on a budget of $1,098,000.00. Although restaurant sales in the main dining room have been under plan, the Tiki Bar has performed extremely well with sales 58% greater than plan.

Golf related revenue has been stable for the first three quarters of the year with total revenue of $2,101,821.27 on a budget of $2,081,713.00.

Cart Fees were slightly ahead of budget in September and remain $26,423.05 over projected revenue YTD. Guest fees were at budget in September but continue to be under plan ($18,541.00 YTD). Public Fees were under budget in September by ($2,315.95) and remain ($11,436.84 under budget YTD). Questioning other clubs in SW Florida, we are finding this to be a common trend in the area.

Reciprocal fees finished ($71.00) over budget in September. Reciprocal play has been steady but not great. In conversations with other courses the down turn in reciprocal play is widespread with members traveling less this year. Pro-shop and golf course payroll remains ($14,745.00 under YTD through September). We will continue to focus on reducing payroll during these slower months.

As to the third leg of our financial collections, we have a mere 15 of the 1662 Living Units delinquent, only 5 of which are 2009 delinquencies. This continued collection performance - keeping delinquencies beneath 1%, is extraordinary. Of course, management remains vigilant relative to our finances, recognizing that unexpected facility replacements and other unplanned budgetary events can interfere with our progress.

We are all looking forward to a wonderful fall and holiday season and look forward to a great finish to another great year.
**Golf Course Operations**

By Greg Kriesch,  
Director of Golf Course Operations  
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We finished up our summer cultural programs with the final closing of Sabal which opened on October 15th. The weather cooperated again this past summer allowing us to accomplish several tasks. Each course received four aerifications and several verticut applications along with topdressing. The projects completed were numerous and the crew did a great job getting things done. Charles, Jason, Bryan and the rest of the staff worked many hot summer hours getting everything completed. Thanks guys/gals for your hard work!

The Royal course opened on September 19th and all member comments have been positive with the front nine renovation. The Celebration grass continues to fill in and mature. **Remember that we will not experience full maturity for at least another full summer growing season.** The grass has not formed any mat or thatch. A mat is multiple above ground stems that provide cushion and ultimately overall improvement in playing conditions. Most people think that thatch is bad; actually some thatch is good as long as it is managed properly and does not get out of hand. Thatch has the same result as mat since it allows the ball to sit up and provide cushion between the grass and the roots. The colder winter temperatures coupled with heavy cart traffic may cause some thinning of the turf. We will move traffic stakes daily to spread out traffic patterns and reduce wear as much as possible. **One rule to remember is to avoid driving carts on stressed areas.** Hopefully the winter season remains warm without any frosts or freezes. Warm temperatures will allow the grass to slowly progress and recover faster from divots and cart traffic.

We look forward to everyone returning for another great season! We have several planned applications which I will inform you with upcoming BTP newsletters. **Until then make sure you sand your divots and repair those ball marks! Thanks!**

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**HP Beautification Recognized By City**

On Friday, October 7, Heritage Palms Golf and Country Club was presented a Beautification Award by the City of Fort Myer's Beautification Advisory Board. The award is a quarterly merit acknowledgement to private home owners or commercial establishments for their efforts in beautifying and upgrading the aesthetics in their neighborhoods. Eligible City Wards (HP is in Ward 6) for nomination are rotated quarterly to ensure that all areas of the City are reviewed on a consistent basis. The intent is to help inspire surrounding properties to help beautify Fort Myers.

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**VNA Gives Flu & Pneumonia Shots At The Lodge**

Anyone can get influenza or pneumonia, but rates of infection are high among people 65 and older and people with certain health conditions - heart, lung or kidney disease or a weakened immune system. Heritage Palms was fortunate to have the Visiting Nurses Association of S.W. Florida, Inc, a United Way agency, on site, on October 17, to give flu and pneumonia shots.
See You On The Course

By Bob Kelly  
*Director of Golf*

Summer is over and we are bustling with activity once again. It’s great to see our members coming back and listening to stories of their summers abroad. The thing we hear most is how everyone is so happy to be back at HP with all their friends.

The golf leagues are in full swing. If you are new to the Club or have never played in our leagues before, stop by the golf shop and our staff will answer any questions you have.

Mark your calendar for Monday December 5th. We will be having our annual Christmas Scramble, Pro Shop Sale, and member Christmas Party. Sign up in the golf shop for the scramble and reservations for the Christmas Party can be made separately in the Clubhouse.

Thanksgiving day we will again be doing an 8:00am open play shotgun on both courses. Members can make requests through the Chelsea system for that day. The course will close after the shotgun and the golf shop will close at 2:00pm.

This is a very special issue honoring our Heritage Palms World War II Veterans. My grandfather was a WW II Veteran and I am very proud of his service to our country. We are all very thankful for the sacrifices that were made by the Greatest Generation.

I look forward to seeing you on the course.

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Destination Golf: Solheim Cup in Ireland

Seven HP ladies flew to Ireland to attend the most prestigious international match-play team event in women's professional golf - The Solheim Cup. Making the trip were: Kathy Harshman, Charlotte Fennell, Kyong Bacon, Sharon Patalino, Cecile Nason, Dianna Bredeau and Gerry Billingsley. The Solheim Cup features the best U.S. and European-born players from the LPGA and the Ladies European Tour.

The 3-day tournament took place at the Killeen Castle in County Neath, Ireland Sept 23-25. The ladies arrived early and toured the countryside by rail. Even though they all kissed the Blarney Stone, the U.S. Women lost the tournament and the Solheim Cup will remain in Europe for the next two years.

In 2013 the tournament will return to the U.S. - Colorado Golf Club in Parker, CO. The Americans are 6-0 on American soil...so there won't be any reason to kiss anything for good luck.