

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

October 2014

Visit our Website at www.mediterracdds.net for meeting schedule, agendas, minutes of meetings, etc.

Did You Know?

The CDDs encompass approximately 1675 acres.

The CDDs own and operate 76 storm water lakes encompassing 204 acres, 22 wetlands encompassing 211 acres

The CDDs own and operate the primary drainage pipe and control structure system which connects the aforementioned lakes and wetlands and serves to receive, store, treat and convey storm water runoff during storm events.

Each CDD is governed by a five member Board of Supervisors. The Board members are residents of the Mediterra Community.

DEAR RESIDENT,

We hope your summer has been enjoyable. We would like to take this opportunity to update you on CDD business.

THE ANNUAL BUDGET

The CDDs just adopted their Fiscal Year 2015 budgets (covering the period of October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015) and the assessment levels will remain flat year over year (no increases). As a reminder, the CDDs collect their revenues through a non ad valorem assessment that is a part of your annual county property tax bill. In other words, when you pay your annual property tax bill, you are also paying your annual CDD assessment which includes two parts; operations and maintenance as well as debt service assessment. As has always been the case, you may pay off the outstanding principal amount of your CDD debt service assessment, at any time, by contacting the CDD's Lien Roll Manager, at (239) 435-3988 or at www.floridacdd2.com. For your information, this debt incurs interest at an average annual rate of 4.5%, perhaps making early pay off attractive for some.

THE STORMWATER LAKES TO RECEIVE AERATION SYSTEMS

The storm water system is comprised of the lakes, wetlands, dry retention areas, interconnecting pipes and control structures.

The storm water management system is maintained to meet very strict permit requirements through the use of licensed contractors, who specialize in lake and wetland maintenance. The lakes, which are owned by the CDD, are monitored on a weekly basis and treated as needed. The Wetlands are reviewed and maintained to be free of State of Florida recognized exotic and invasive vegetation on a semiannual basis.

In recent years, the CDDs have been very aggressive in the installation of supplemental beneficial aquatic plantings. As a result, we are pleased to report that we are very close to having the desired amount of plantings around the perimeter of most of the lakes. These beneficial plants provide lake bank stabilization (reducing lake bank erosion), improved water quality by absorbing fertilizer run off from adjacent lawns and habitat for fish and birds. Though we will continue to budget for supplemental plantings in future years, the CDDs are now focusing their attention on the wide spread installation of aeration in the storm water ponds. The aeration systems, which are similar to those you commonly see used in fish aquariums (just on a much larger scale), will help in increasing the oxygen levels in the lakes that in turn enhances the overall lake ecosystem and increases the lakes

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MEET YOUR CDD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MEDITERRA NORTH (Lee County)

Brian Neary
Chair

Gary Kaenzig
Vice Chair

Frank Godshall
Assistant Secretary

Tom Van Tassell
Assistant Secretary

David Risley
Assistant Secretary

MEDITERRA SOUTH (Collier County)

Ken Nails
Chair

Bill Rowe
Vice Chair

Dallas Luby
Assistant Secretary

Ken Tarr

Mike Bishko

efficiency in the natural absorption and break down of impurities within the lake including sedimentation (organic muck layer) that can build up over time and create health issues for the lake which can lead to excessive algae blooms and fish kills.

This project will be phased in over several years (3-5) in an effort to keep annual assessments flat and much like we did with the beneficial lake planting project.

INTERCONNECTING PIPE CLEANOUT PROJECT COMPLETED

As mentioned above, the CDDs own and operate the primary drainage system which includes the interconnecting pipes between the lakes, wetlands and water level control structures. As you may recall from our last newsletter, last year we had all of these pipes inspected and cleaned all pipes that had blockages that exceeded 25% of the pipes capacity. This year we completed cleaning of all of the remaining pipes that had blockages below 25% when inspected last year. On an on-going basis we will be annually inspecting and cleaning as necessary CDD pipes in areas of active construction (as there is a higher risk of infiltration of debris in these areas) and we will be inspecting the pipes in the already developed areas on a 3-5 year basis.

It is VERY important that **your** neighborhood association[s] recognize that the CDD's primary drainage system is not all- inclusive. The associations in Mediterra have a similar responsibility to inspect and clean their individual systems that would include, but not be limited to, the roadside collection boxes and pipe work from these boxes to the lake or wetland system. If your association has questions or needs clarification, please have them contact CDD Management at the number located at the end of this newsletter.

YOU CAN HELP KEEP OUR STORMWATER SYSTEM CLEAN

By ensuring that your landscaper does not:

- Fertilize between June 1st and September 30th (the rainy season). With the heavy rains of summer, most of the fertilizer during this period will find its way directly into the lakes and can lead to excessive algae blooms.
- Dump or blow grass clippings into the lake, wetland or conservation areas. As grass clippings decompose, they release high levels of phosphorous and nitrogen (key nutrients in fertilizer) which leads to algae blooms and water quality degradation)
- Damage or remove beneficial aquatic plants along the edge of lake. These plants stabilize the lake banks and absorb fertilizer run off thus improving the water quality in the lakes.

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If you should have any questions, or to report a concern with a lake or wetland, please contact the District Manager's office at (239) 498-9020.

- Not engage in any lake bank landscaping alterations of CDD property without the expressed written consent of the CDD.
- Perform any landscape maintenance within wetland or conservation areas. These areas are off limits except to treat and remove a very specific State issued list of exotics and invasive plant materials.

By ensuring that you do not:

- Dump trash, including dog poop pick up bags, into the roadside catch basins. The catch basins and associated pipe work, lead directly to the lakes, so please take the bags home with you.
- Dump or discharge any other foreign items or fluids into the lake or roadside gutter or catch basin system.

If you should observe anyone exercising one of these “do nots”, please report it to the District Manager's office at (239) 498-9020.

DO NOT FEED THE ALLIGATORS

Please be aware that Mediterra is home to alligators, some of which can be rather large. They will generally keep their distance. However, if they are being fed by humans (which is against the law), they will associate humans with food and may lose their natural fear of us. Therefore, we ask that you refrain from feeding them as it could possibly lead to their being removed and killed by a licensed alligator trapper .

CDDs AND MCA ENTER INTO AGREEMENT TO MAINTAIN LANDSCAPE

The CDDs and the Mediterra Community Association finalized an agreement by which the MCA will maintain landscaping systems along certain CDD owned lake banks that are adjacent to MCA road right of ways. The MCA, which already maintains landscaping within certain road right of ways and common areas throughout community, agreed to take on the CDD areas as a part of their normal operations.

RAINFALL AMOUNTS

Following an above normal rainy season for 2013, we are back to normal or slightly below normal rainy season for 2014. With approximately 3 months remaining in 2014 our year to date total is 38.40”. This is in comparison to the previous year to date totals of 36.35” in 2011, 48.25” in 2012 and 73.75” in 2013.