

Hello All:

It's a cold December morning, but as usual, the best part of living in southwest Florida is that it will warm up by lunch time.

Normally, we would be preparing for our holiday get together which has always been a lot of fun. With Covid being what it is, that cannot happen this year. However, the good news is that several vaccines appear to be on the horizon so I am confident that it won't be much longer before we can get back to normal life and be able to resume our GCEA social events, which help make this community such a great place to live.

Since it is December, it is time to for our dues renewal. Annual dues are a remarkably affordable \$25 per year. We've also decided to retain a great policy put in place by the previous board whereby if you pay dues by Dec 31, there will be a \$5 discount so dues will only be \$20. Considering my neighborhood dues in Maryland were \$760/year, this is the deal of the century!

Please renew as soon as you can to keep our community thriving. Dues fund neighborhood improvements as well as our social events. Recently, we have renewed the paint on our entrance sign, repaired the pavers at our entrance, ensured we always have a new American flag flying and are in the process of upgraded the flag lighting. Because of the pandemic and not spending funds for events this year, we took the opportunity to increase our reserve fund from \$8,000 to \$9,000. The reserve was started by the previous board and gives us a great cushion in the event our sign or other areas of the neighborhood are ever damaged by a hurricane. In taking stock of GCEA inventory, it is likely, we will have to upgrade several of the tents we use for happy hours in the fall and spring. Dues also cover the cost of the storage unit to keep all GCEA items in a central location, as well as the printing of the annual resident directory and monthly paper newsletters. By now, all members should have received their Gold Coast Estates shopping bag. If anyone would like more of these, contact my wife Melissa at, [melissa@godwins.net](mailto:melissa@godwins.net). We have them for sale at a reasonable price. All proceeds go to Gold Coast Estates Association.

The membership form is available on-line at the link below:

[http://goldcoastestates.org/Documents/Membership%20Form%202002\\_27\\_2020.pdf](http://goldcoastestates.org/Documents/Membership%20Form%202002_27_2020.pdf)

We will also place forms in the GCEA Sign at the front of the neighborhood. If anything has changed for you, please fill out the form and include with your check made out to:

**Gold Coast Estates Association**

Please do NOT include cash. Checks give us an easy record to confirm everyone's payment. You can leave checks and forms in the box at our treasurer Susanne Schramm's house, at 2294 SE 28<sup>th</sup> St. If you have no changes, put that in the memo line of your check. If you would like to pay with an on-line biller service, you can send to Gold Coast Estates Association at my address: 2298 SE 28<sup>th</sup> St, Cape Coral, 33904.



Any questions about membership can be directed to myself or our membership chairman, Doug Shaw at [dshaw51@yahoo.com](mailto:dshaw51@yahoo.com). We've noticed a lot of house sales over the last few months. Take a moment to engage new neighbors and encourage them to be a part of this great community. Thanks again to Jon Satrum for keeping the GCEA web site current and relevant. Please direct new residents to this site to get an idea of what GCEA is all about:

<http://goldcoastestates.org>

Please also keep in mind that all GCEA board members are volunteers. None of us are being compensated and doing the work for the love of our community in an effort to see it continue to thrive. If you have thoughts or suggestions, they are always welcome. If you have a complaint, we will always listen and attempt to find a solution, but please be civil.

By tonight, we should also see our entrance decorated with Christmas lights. Big thanks to Bill Ward and Barney Polaski for keeping up this great tradition to help get us all in the holiday spirit.

Lastly, we will be sending out information in several weeks concerning a by-law change to be proposed. The current bylaws state the GCEA Board will consist of five members. To ensure continuity, we will be proposing a change to set the board to be a minimum of 3 members and a maximum of 10 members. Our Secretary, Guido Minaya, and Vice President, Neil Wiley will help craft the correct language and we will send out for most likely an e-mail vote. Normally, this would occur at our holiday gathering, but since that's not possible, we'll find the next best way.

Melissa and I wish everyone a very safe and happy holiday season. We can't wait to get back to our social events and resume connecting with all our great neighbors.

