

# THE STEEPLECHASE REVIEW

## DECEMBER 2025



*Bi-annual Newsletter including news, views  
and announcements.*

*Contributions welcome.*

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YOU HAVE IDEAS FOR A NEWSLETTER ARTICLE? PLEASE CONTACT Jane Wynen at [jzwynen@gmail.com](mailto:jzwynen@gmail.com)

**SIGN-UP SIGN-UP**

**DECEMBER 17th SOCIAL**

**SIGN-UP SIGN-UP**



Our Holiday Social will be held on Wednesday, December 17th at 6:00 pm in the Clubhouse. Please bring a festive appetizer to share. Bring your own beverage (BYOB) and \$\$ for the 50/50 raffle.

A sign up sheet is posted at the mail kiosk. Hope to see many of you there with lots of good cheer.

Steeplechase Social Club

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### POOL COMMITTEE UPDATE by Ed Finamore



As 2025 winds down, a significant amount of work has been completed this year in the clubhouse and pool area to improve the overall appearance around the pool and to finally complete some long anticipated upgrade projects. After two years of planning, we finally replaced our old pool deck and clubhouse furniture with new furniture in time for the upcoming holiday season social events. The final delivery of new clubhouse chairs arrived this month, and the reaction among owners has been quite favorable! To further improve the overall appearance we replaced the deteriorated clubhouse cage and screens, which gives the entire clubhouse area a fresh look. When combined with the pool deck resurfacing project we completed earlier in the year, the entire pool and clubhouse area have taken on a nice new appearance that we can all be proud of!

Another long-awaited project involved the upgrading and re-piping of the pump room equipment that supports the operation of the pool and spa. With a history of frequent service calls needed to address different operational issues, we had Bracken Pools, our pool contractor, replace older piping, filter covers, gauges, valves and filters so that the filtering and injection systems would operate more reliably and reduce the number of service calls. Bracken was able to complete this work without the need to close the pool and restrict owner usage.

We are also upgrading the pool signage to give it a fresh new appearance. And our pool servicing company recently hired a new person to perform the weekly functions of testing the pool and spa water, cleaning the pool of leaves and debris and refilling the system with chemicals as necessary to keep the water at the prescribed temperature and chlorine levels. So far, we are happy with his efforts and look forward to a new season of enjoyable pool use this coming year.

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### ASSOCIATION NEWS by Maureen Traxler, President Steeplechase

**FORMS.** This fall, the board updated its application forms to bring them into conformity with Declaration amendments that were approved by residents in recent years.

We also added a new form, Intent to Sell. As you may know, the Condo Association must approve new buyers before closing. There is a 21-day period for Board review of sale documents. By completing and submitting this form, owners who intend to sell will alert the board and management company, and avoid any delay in approving an application before the closing. This process is intended to maintain property values, ensure compliance with community rules, protect community finances and control the community character (for example, by preventing a property from being used as a hotel through a series of short-term rentals).

Just a reminder as we head into Season when more owners will be at Steeplechase: if you are planning modifications to your condo property, you must file the Steeplechase Request to Modify form.

All our applications and forms can be found on our website, [steeplechasesnaples.com](http://steeplechasesnaples.com), under Documents/Forms.

**WEBSITE CALENDAR.** You can find the dates for our upcoming socials (November through April) on our website calendar. Please join us. We can all extend special thanks to our Social committee for planning and organizing these "always-fun" events.

Community Calendar of EVENTS

Community Calendar of EVENTS

December 2025

Steeplechase Community Association Calendar

powered by NextGen

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Holiday: Thanksgiving (all day)	2 Winter Association	3 Winter Association	4 Winter Association	5 Winter Association	6 Winter Association	7 Winter Association
8 Winter Association	9 Winter Association	10 Winter Association	11 Winter Association	12 Winter Association	13 Winter Association	14 Winter Association
15 Winter Association	16 Winter Association	17 Winter Association	18 Winter Association	19 Winter Association	20 Winter Association	21 Winter Association
22 Winter Association	23 Winter Association	24 Winter Association	25 Winter Association	26 Winter Association	27 Winter Association	28 Winter Association
29 Winter Association	30 Winter Association	31 Winter Association	1 Winter Association	2 Winter Association	3 Winter Association	4 Winter Association

**OPERATING BUDGET 2026.** The Board has approved the 2026 Operating Budget, and for the third year, have maintained the same quarterly payment amount. We encourage all owners to make their payments on time, as the Board has planned 2026 projects to ensure that Steeplechase is well-maintained and a great looking community.

The Board has also reviewed and recalculated our Reserves to allow us to fulfill long-term, large-scale projects that maintain and enhance our buildings and property. This year, we added a few new categories

- Replace Gutters and Downspouts,
- Common Plumbing and Building Repairs,
- Common Walkway and Driveway Replacement, and
- Clubhouse Building.



**PEST CONTROL.** Several months ago, the board changed our pest control contractor to [FIRST CALL Pest Control](http://FIRSTCALLPestControl.com) (239) 247-1534. This company will monitor termite stations and oversee exterior perimeter applications to eliminate and prevent insects, such as ants, spiders and roaches. The company also provides additional service calls, including for interior treatment, as needed at no additional charge to owner or the Association. If an owner notices an interior problem, please contact Bora at Cambridge Management. You may also call [FIRST CALL](http://FIRSTCALLPestControl.com) directly, state that you live in the Steeplechase Community and there should be no charge to you.



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### ASSOCIATION NEWS continued

**OWNER MAINTENANCE.** From time to time, owners ask Board members for guidance on repairs or other work to their units. Steeplechase has a great document that should be a reference guide to owners on many items, such as doors, lanai screens, hurricane shutters, window replacements and more. All owners should take some time to review the Owners Guide to Maintenance 2024, which can be found on our website, [steeplechasesnaples.com](http://steeplechasesnaples.com), under Governing Documents.



**KEEP CONNECTED TO WHAT'S HAPPENING.** All owners are encouraged to check out the [Steeplechase website](http://Steeplechase website) and the bulletin board at the mail kiosk periodically.

Upcoming events and board meetings are always posted there. A Happy Holiday Season to all and may the sun continue to shine in Paradise!

### REMINDER REGARDING LEASING OF CONDOMINIUMS AT STEEPLECHASE



In January 2024, the Association amended the Declaration of the Condominium of Steeplechase to address elements around the leasing or rental of the condominiums.

If you are considering renting your condominium, it will be important to review the Association rules on this subject. Specifically, new owners must own the property for at least two year before being permitted to rent. This is one mechanism that allows us to better manage the insurance costs for Steeplechase. For more info, read under [Governing Documents. Amendment to Condominium Declaration 13.2](#)

### VISION TURF CARE AND LANDSCAPING NEWS by Linda Reed

You have certainly looked out your window at times to see the hard workers and hear the lawn-mowing, leaf-blowing and trimmer-whipping sounds of our lawn caretakers.

VISION TURF CARE is a family-owned business with 25 employees and has been operating since 2010.

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### **VISION TURF CARE** continued

This progressive, full-service landscaping management firm, based in Bonita Springs, provides us with irrigation, landscape pest control, landscape maintenance and installation, as well as an arborist. The owner is Richard Mendoza and we are very grateful for his responsiveness to our varied and frequent requests. Various members of his staff are experts in a range of activities.

They also bring a certain cohesion across several properties of King's Lake by taking care of Steeplechase, The Hamptons, Greenwood and Bristol Square.

In May, all of the hardwood trees were trimmed and this is done every three years. Once a year we also have the palm trees trimmed. Why do we even trim trees? Trimming trees is important for improving tree health, ensuring structural integrity, and preventing safety hazards. Regular pruning removes dead or diseased branches, promotes healthy new growth, enhances air circulation, and makes the tree more resilient to storms by reducing weak points.

You may have heard that we sometimes have tree roots interfering with our irrigation lines. This requires digging and severing of the tree roots, followed by repairing the irrigation lines. This is an inevitable challenge to having such a beautiful, tree-filled environment. We have been fortunate in how well it has been managed through the years.

We also have over 50 pygmy palms and, with age, some of these are dying. The Steeplechase Board is reviewing an estimate from Vision to treat these palms with magnesium in an effort to prolong their lives.



To ensure the best coordination of services and integration of requests into the work schedule, we ask that residents contact a member of the Landscaping Committee (Linda Reed, Mayra Blanche, Len Hook and Smitty Howarth).

Contact details are in the [Steeplechase Directory](#) and at the mail kiosk.

We extend our thanks to VISION TURF CARE staff and owner for their continuous service.

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### PROMOTING HEALTH

“We aren’t getting any younger!” And that is a good thing, because it means we are alive and living each day- adding to our experiences, maybe even wisdom and, yes, years. Each of us can certainly feel the changes to the body with time. Not only aging, but health issues can slow us down. Everyone’s energy level, strength and capabilities are different. Yet we do know that for all ages, and all conditions, healthy, condition-appropriate movement is key to maintaining health and well-being. And no matter what your condition, there is always something that can be done to maintain and even strengthen the body.

We have put together a series of Steeplechase (or nearby) opportunities for taking care of yourself with kindness and self-awareness. A jog may work for some people, while gentle short walk to the mailbox will be appropriate for another. What could you add to your daily routine?

#### **KING’S LAKE WALKING AND BIKING PATHS**

The path around King’s Lake is one of the sweetest treats around. You can do the whole circuit (1.2 miles), once or more, or you can walk just a portion of the path. There are about 5 benches around the lake allowing for a peaceful rest at intervals. For safety, walkers go clockwise around the lake while bikers and others on wheels (skaters, skateboards...) take the counter-clockwise direction.

There is also a nicely maintained sidewalk that allows for a longer walk around the whole of King’s Lake Boulevard (2.4 miles) and various ‘short-cuts’ allow one to discover the neighborhood on foot.

#### **BIKING**

Florida biking is quite scenic though admittedly flat. Be careful on the roads as drivers can be somewhat inattentive, however there are some very nice bike paths. Do remember: it is important to wear a helmet when biking because it significantly reduces the risk of serious head and brain injuries in case of an accident. On [Traillinks.com](https://www.traillinks.com) you can find a list of bike paths in Florida. This is great for bikers who have a rack on the car and want to discover other parts of the state.

#### **STRETCHING IN THE STEEPLECHASE POOL**

Every morning a dedicated group (often small) gathers at 8:30 in the pool at Steeplechase for gentle stretching and socialising. With the pool water heated to 86°, it is not too difficult to enter the water. And since the buoyant force is equal to the weight of the water you displace, you will feel lighter and floaty, making exercise easier on the muscles and joints. Feel free to come on in, the water really is fine!





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### REGIONAL PARKS

[Collier County Golden Gate Park Community Center](#) also has basketball courts, a playground, walking paths, a pool, a community center where many classes are offered. There is even a boat ramp!

[Sugden Regional Park](#) can be found at 4284 Avalon Drive and has incredible offerings for family fun. This water front park boasts the beautiful view of Lake Avalon with one of Collier County's only fresh water beaches. Water skiing and sailing classes for able bodied and special needs individuals are offered throughout the year at this park. There is also a 1.7mi walking/biking path. So a little something for everyone.

[Rich King Memorial Greenway](#) offers a paved, north-south route along the east side of Naples. It extends 3 miles through a powerline corridor with residential neighborhoods to either side and canal views on its southern end. It actually has two sections: one runs from the parking lot at St. Peter's Catholic Church on Rattlesnake Hammock (2 miles) and the other from Davis Blvd to Radio Road (1 mile).

Its is large enough to accommodate walkers and bikers, and there are a few benches along the way for a rest. Note that there is limited shade. Both of the paths can be entered from Davis Boulevard. Additionally if you look closely, there is a break in the fence just at the intersection of King's Lake Boulevard and Buckingham Lane permitting you to enter the Greenway easily on foot or bike from Steeplechase.

[Gorden River Greenway Park](#). The 140-acre Gordon River Greenway Park is an ecological corridor in the heart of Naples that offers visitors the opportunity to view wildlife and gain an appreciation for Southwest Florida's natural beauty. The 2.5 miles of asphalt, mulch, and boardwalk trails pass through six different native plant communities and are designed for recreational activities such as: walking, jogging, biking, roller-blading and skateboarding. The park is leashed-dog friendly and contains: fishing and look-out piers, a kayak/canoe launch with storage rack, bike racks, restrooms with water fountains, a playground with a tree-house, and picnic pavilions.

*Rich King Memorial Greenway*



*Gordon River Greenway Park*



Entrances to the Greenway (for biking or walking) can be found at: 1) Goodlette Road Entrance 1590 Goodlette-Frank Road: From Goodlette, use the main entrance for the Naples Zoo and head to the very back of the parking lot for the Zoo. And 2) Golden Gate Parkway Entrance From Airport Road, head west on Golden Gate Parkway for 1.5 miles. The Golden Gate Parkway access will be on the left side of the road.

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### RACKET SPORTS

King's Lake Tennis and Pickleball Courts are located on Buckingham Lane, across from Bristol Square. You will need a key to access the courts. If you do not have one as part of your set of keys, residents can obtain one for \$5 from Gary Ryan, "keeper of the keys". You can also buy them from King's Lake Association at the park house near the tennis courts. There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board inside the court to ensure best coordination of use. The courts can be reserved up to two days in advance for one hour of play. Note that ball machines are not permitted on the court. These courts close at sundown.

Arthur L. Allen Tennis Center is located at Cambier Park, 730 8th Street South, Naples. This is an award-winning tennis center, professionally staffed and offering quality programming and facilities for every level of player, at all ages. There is also a great tennis shop (think holiday gifts!). For those here year-round, an annual membership is available at various rates depending on needs and resident location.

Collier County Golden Gate Park is located on Santa Barbara Boulevard between Radio Road and Golden Gate Parkway. There are 4 free hard courts and 4 racquetball courts.



### PICKLEBALL

It seems like Pickleball is all the rage these days. But what is it? The USA Pickleball organization says that pickleball "combines many elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong" and makes a great indoors and outdoor activity. You can play singles or doubles, as you would in tennis, but doubles are most common.

The court used for pickleball is the same size as a doubles badminton court. To play, you'll need pickleball paddles and a specific ball with holes. The game is played to a large degree like tennis; one team serves the ball, and the other team must let the ball bounce once before returning the serve. Play continues until one side scores 11 points and is ahead by two points or more. The game is relatively quick to learn but can be challenging for players of all ages, making it a great activity to share with your family.

Pickleball courts can be found at Fleischmann Park, East Naples Community Park, Naples Pickleball Center, Veterans Community Park and at Naples PRO Pickleball Club.





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### WHAT IS THAT SOUND?

Maybe you have been awakened early by that other-worldly and unforgettable cry coming from around King's Lake. While the sound can be a tad bothersome for sleeping in, the limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*) is truly a magnificent bird. This gangly, brown-and-white speckled bird looks a bit like a giant rail or perhaps a young night-heron. Its long bill is bent and twisted at the tip, an adaptation for removing snails from the shell. Limpkins are tropical wetland birds whose range reaches into Florida. They specialize in eating apple snails, which they hunt both day and night. This bird appreciates a marshy habitat and dines on aquatic invertebrates. It also nests on the ground. The bird's cry can be almost haunting as it echoes across the lake. Hopefully you will get to see it as well as hear it! (Article drawn from ALL ABOUT BIRDS <https://www.allaboutbirds.org>)



### PETS AROUND OUR CONDOMINIUMS



An article from an August 2020 edition of the [Greater Good Science Magazine](#) addresses the benefits of dog ownership. It seems that these furry buddies do all of the following:

- Stave off loneliness,
- Reduce stress and anxiety,
- Help us to get along with others,
- Keep us healthier.

That's a lot for such small beings! Our Association has captured just a few requirements regarding pets in the 'Rules and Regulations (2025)'. 4. PETS

4.1 Each unit may have one dog or one cat not to exceed 25 pounds in weight. Pets are to be on a leash when on the common elements.

4.2 Owners must clean up after pets when outside the unit.

4.3 Guests and tenants may not have pets of any kind.

### PLANTS IN OUR ECOSYSTEM

Crotons (*Codiaeum variegatum*): Stunning colors and a bold statement

Everyone can step out the front door of the condo and within a very short distance encounter a CROTON, a perennial evergreen shrub. This tropical plant splashes out in a wide variety of leaf shapes (swirly, narrow to wide ribbons, flat) and colors (reds, oranges, yellows, pinks, purple, greens, and white). The leaves form clusters, highlighting the diverse color patterns.



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These plants love the subtropical environments of Southern and Central Florida, while being native to India and Malaysia. They have many qualities for landscaping: they come in a range of sizes, from dwarf varieties up to some that can grow to 10 feet tall, are easy to grow and are reasonably priced. They like full sun, but some can do well even in shaded areas, such as courtyards.

What is also amazing are the names of various cultivars of Crotons: Gold Dust, Corkscrew, Sloppy Painter, Red Bravo, Stoplight, Mammy, Dreadlocks, Ronald Reagan and even Eleanor Roosevelt. These plants have personality!

Yet they have their darker side too: Do keep children and pets from nibbling on crotons' leaves, as they have irritating and poisonous qualities. The sap from this plant is also known to stain so while they can be used in decorative floral arrangements, you'll want to keep that in mind.

So the next time you walk out the door, take a look around to identify your nearest croton. And once again marvel at the wonder of nature!

### **THE LAKE. EFFORTS BY THE KING'S LAKE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** by Dee Hook



The Kings Lake Board has received complaints concerning the unsightly condition of brown dying vegetation leaving long muddy gaps along the shoreline of Kings Lake. At the September meeting of Kings Lake Association, it was decided that the ribbon of Spike Grass and Littorals will be maintained between 10-15 feet from the shoreline and the brown dead vegetation along the shoreline will be raked and removed by the maintenance staff of Kings Lake. The Lake Doctors will treat all plants from the middle of the lake only not the shoreline.



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In the spring, prior to the rainy season, Lake Doctors will plant 7,000 new Littorals in the muddy areas around the shoreline. Hopefully this will create a healthy habitat for the wading birds and aquatic life that enhance our lake.