



## Building Community at The Reserve

10/2015

Greetings Neighbors,

Such a beautiful, sunny fall we have been able to enjoy together!

The topic of this Governing Documents Revision Committee newsletter was chosen as an encouragement to us all. As I was gathering resources, I was reminded of many attitudes and norms of behavior that have been tried and tested as groups of interesting individuals attempt to live in community. Simply listed they are:

- Assume that each of us has positive intentions.
- Practice an attitude of “no shame/no blame” as inevitable conflicts arise.
- Understand that more than one person can be “right” at the same time regarding the same issue.

*If you would like to participate in a simple demonstration of this concept, I invite you to meet me at the clubhouse on Thursday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. I will bring a bottle of wine and popcorn.*

- Volunteer to enter the conversation. Each voice contributes to building an inclusive community.
- Take a chance. Run for a position on the Board!
- Be neighborly, whatever that means to you.

A sense of community is often emotional, intangible and difficult to define; it is what makes an address a home, not just a location.

“Living in a community, everyone has a shared interest and a financial interest in their community at large,” says Martin H. Laderman, president of MEM property management corporation. “So it’s in everyone’s best interest not to live in a hostile environment. A friendly environment not only makes it more enjoyable but it also makes it easier to sell and raise a family.”

“There are so many benefits of community building,” says Paul A. Santoriello, PCAM, president of Taylor Management Company. “When you look at the value of where you live there is of course the mortar and bricks aspect of it, the structure and the location. But when you really look at the total happiness you derive from where you live, the sense of community is very, very important.”

There are also economic benefits to community building. "It is also important to a realtor," explains Santoriello, "The public at large, they typically decide on the community first and then they look at units within that community. A large part of the value of that community is how residents get along."

"A harmonious community typically is something that starts at the board level and trickles down to the community," says Santoriello. "First, it needs to start with the attitude of the board and the manager. It's important for the board and for the management to be there collectively, to serve the community as a whole - and one of the services that we should be involved in is building community."

"It's up to the board and managing agent, working together, to instill the feeling of community," says Marni Berk, general manager and team leader for FirstService Residential. "The board supplies the focus and the agent is available for the follow-up and follow-through."

Not fostering a sense of community can have detrimental effects on an association. "If you don't have a sense of community you can get a very apathetic membership," says Santoriello. "You may have a situation where you are more easily divided. If you have a sense of community, residents are usually trying to work for a common cause."

<http://njcooperator.com/articles/1094/1/Howdy-Neighbor/Page1.html>

Please join us in our efforts to enhance the experience of living in our community, maintaining our property, and improving our property values by actively participating in the governance of The Reserve on the Eagle River. Your comments are always welcome. Our next BoD meeting will be on Monday, October 19, 2015.

With gratitude,  
Deb Forsline,  
deb@thereserveontheeagleriver.com  
Governing Documents Revision Committee, chair