

Fiddler's Creek Homeowners "Spring into Summer" as they Bid Farewell in Style!

By Mary Jane Chappy, Fiddler's Creek

Even with the sluggish economy, high gas prices and turmoil overseas, we all hope for great winter weather and cold temperatures up north. Well, mother-nature was definitely on our side this past winter season. We had great weather in Naples and record cold and snowfall in other parts of the country – a great recipe for a busy season, and that is exactly how it was at Fiddler's Creek.

A record season on so many levels! The end of the season Farewell Party was nothing less than spectacular with the "Spring into Summer" theme. A record high of over 580 homeowners and guests attended and enjoyed an array of scrumptious food, open bar, decadent desserts, fabulous music, not to mention the incredible show by the world-renown "Human Slinky"!



The performance was the most unusual, astonishing and creative act of its kind, almost beyond description. People ask....what is it? What are we watching? With appearances on TV Shows all over the world and mystifying audiences, "Human Slinky" has been featured in the "Ripley's Believe It Or Not!" and winner of the "WALT DISNEY Special Prize" and other prestigious awards. This act has appeared on the Late Show with David Letterman, America's Got Talent, Britain's Got Talent and other Television shows in Europe, Asia and South America. The doors opened at 6pm as everyone was welcomed by staff, offered refreshing beverages and entertained by unique under-the-sea slinky characters. The news of a special show encouraged many guests to arrive early. The event setup looked a little different than the

last big event. Two new stages were built, one over the pool for the show (later converted to a dance floor) and another setup high for the band. Instead of having one dance floor, now there were three.

"Kudos is extended to the Management and all Staff of Fiddler's Creek for another great celebration – the Farewell Party. I sometimes think that these wonderful festivities just "magically" come together; however, there is much planning, organization, creativity and hard work that goes into bringing these special nights of fun and camaraderie for the residents of Fiddler's Creek to enjoy. The dining treats, drinks and entertainment were exceptional. Once again, Chef Eric and his dining staff did an outstanding job. "Service with a smile" seems to be the mantra of all who worked so hard to make sure our evening was special. Attention to every detail always makes our parties exceptional. I personally know friends and acquaintances residing in other communities who love to participate in our special affairs because of all that is offered for the evening and the value given for the price. Gastronomical delights, limitless drinks, wonderful entertainment, great dance music and fireworks to boot! We had it all and then some!" states Sandy Carinci, Fiddler's Creek homeowner since 2003.

Fiddler's Creek hosts hundreds of events throughout the year. While there are several events in October, the season really takes off with the "Fiddler's On Fire" Welcome Back Party in November, planned around the Thanksgiving holiday. Year-round and seasonal homeowners at Fiddler's Creek begin planning their winter at Fiddler's Creek in July... about five months in advance. Once November comes around, the Club staff and residents go on "auto pilot" with so many clubs, classes, dinner shows, theme nights, kid's activities and big events around the Club.

After recovering from the spectacular Welcome Back Party and Thanksgiving weekend festivities, the fitness center and tennis courts are a great place to reenergize before the next event. For those

working on a slower pace, there's always the resort pools and spa to relax and recover. On the other hand, a motivational class or just enjoying a good book on the boardwalk may be your cup of tea.

Eileen Robertson, Fiddler's Creek homeowner since 1999 shares her opinion, "The Welcome Back Party was fantastic. The decorations created a spectacular atmosphere. The entertainment was wonderful. We have been to all the Welcome Back Parties from the beginning and each year tops the previous year. As our community grows, you can witness the friendships that have grown and making Fiddler's Creek a true community. Thanks everyone for all the efforts to make us feel at home in Fiddler's Creek."

Let's not forget the kids. They are entertained throughout the season with Reptile Shows, Pony Rides, Kid's Sports Camps, Poolside Games, Shark Riding, Bounce Houses, Watermelon Contests, Petty Zoos, Laser Tag, Hair Braiding, Face Painting, Carnival Days and Rock Climbing just to name few!

As the holidays creep up, residents enjoy the Tree Lighting, Chanukah Dinner, Fashion Show, Luncheons, Jewelry Classes, Casino Runs, Poolside Music, Concert on the Green and the Christmas Brunch. Then comes the over-the-top New Year's Eve Party including a spectacular light show of fireworks to dazzle everyone. Fiddler's Creek homeowner's don't need to deal with the bumper to bumper traffic and crowds others deal with when having to drive to see the local fireworks display – they are in their own back yard!

Are you starting to feel the community excitement yet? Well it's just begun! The Passport Party in January is another "big party" at Fiddler's Creek. As a tradition for 8 years at Fiddler's Creek, like wine, gets better with age. The evening is filled with great food, mouth-watering desserts, fabulous music, another spectacular light show and unforgettable memories.

The Passport Party embraces the diverse cultures and ethnic specialties from the international

staff which represents 27 different countries from around the globe. Each employee brings something special to the lives of Fiddler's Creek residents: a sense of humor, kindness, unique accent, as well as peerless traits and culture from their homeland.



During this wonderful night, attendees have the rare opportunity to taste over 80 different dishes including appetizers, entrees and desserts created by Executive Chef Eric Long and his extraordinary culinary team. These authentic dishes are prepared based on traditional recipes provided by the international staff.

Throughout the event, the staff of Fiddler's Creek proudly wears their traditional attire, representing the country they come from. This event has become a "member favorite" for many residents. The ambiance depicts that of an Ethnic Festival many have enjoyed across the country. Employees love this event because they are able to share a bit of their homeland with others as they put their heart and soul in its preparation and execution. At the end of the evening, they proudly carry their flag during the international flag parade. The event was topped off with a world class fireworks display enjoyed by everyone attending this memorable event.



February festivities begin with the Super Bowl Party, Oriental Night and several dance classes to get you ready for more parties. The 60s & 70s Party is always a hit with guests dressing up in unique attire from that era as they boogie to the groovy music. On the romantic side, the Valentine's Dinner is an elegant evening perfect for couples and all the ladies receive a complimentary rose and chocolates. The Chef's Specialty Nights are also a favorite throughout the season. Straight from Disney World, the Beatles Show was combined with a delicious dinner prior to the exciting show.

Fiddler's Creek homeowners and their guests had the opportunity to relive the excitement of Beatlemania as the Fab Four – John, Paul, George and Ringo – took the stage and recreated the thrill of a live Beatles concert. After all these activities can you believe there is still more to come? Well there is.

In March, the Concert on the Green, second of the season, featured Billy Dean and Dawn. The duo has been making music together for almost two decades performing at hotels, cruise ships and country clubs throughout the world. Attendees caught an intimate glimpse of this husband and wife duo and their personal journey through an array of songs including Broadway tunes, Opera, old time favorites like "Pretty Woman," as well as songs written by her mother. Her voice, beauty, charm and notable height fascinated the audience.

Just a few days later it's time for the Fabulous 50s Party! Walking through the Caxambas restaurant doors, you are transported back in time to a very special era. Walls are decorated with records and antique cars, soda and milk shake stations and buffets filled with the favorite foods from the 50's. Fiddler's Creek staff enjoys recreating the atmosphere and ambiance wearing poodle skirts and bowling shirts. All Fiddler's Creek homeowners and their guests, most of who dressed in poodle skirts and bowling shirts as well were welcomed with complimentary Jack Daniels and Coke to get the night started right. Fiddler's Creek favorite singing DJ, Jason DeSimone, kept the dance floor busy performing all the most popular 50's music. Everyone loved reliving one of their favorite pastimes and Fiddler's Creek homeowners look forward to the festivities every year.

Once again, a few days later is the St. Patrick's Day Celebration, a very special event to Fiddler's Creek homeowners both for the Irish and the not so Irish. The evening is filled with traditional Irish sing-a-longs, river dance performance, Irish flare and authentic Irish cuisine prepared by Executive Chef Eric Long and his team. This event attracts over 250 people each year and is definitely on the "must attend" list. Fiddler's Creek homeowners take this opportunity to dress in their customary kilts, as well as other green garments and wild accessories. To top off a truly exceptional night, Fiddler's Creek homeowners sang along to Irish favorites, such as "My Wild Irish Rose," "Danny Boy" and "You Are My Sunshine" just to name a few. One of Fiddler's Creek honored residents, Jack Toole (Mayor of St. Patrick's Day at Fiddler's Creek), begins planning the St. Patrick's Day Celebration 364 days before the actual event. The annual Art Exhibit & Wine Tasting and Jimmy Keys Dinner Show end the month on a perfect note!

With Easter being late this year, the winter season continued through April and the activities kept coming! Friends and relatives of Fiddler's Creek residents seem to flock south for the beautiful weather, resort style living and family gatherings

especially since the snow is still falling in many parts of the country. Kids have a variety of activities to participate in, from Decorating Cupcakes, Laser Tag and Pony Rides to Carnival Day and Bounce Houses.



Shortly after Easter, seasonal residents begin to leave the sunshine state and return north in hopes of some signs of spring. Year-round residents begin to unwind, look forward to the not-so crowded roadways, travel a bit and enjoy the Year-Rounder's Club activities at Fiddler's Creek.

While there are fewer crowds to deal with, the staff at Fiddler's Creek now begins preparing for the next season. In a couple of months, Fiddler's Creek homeowners will begin planning their return and begin making reservations for all the events!

And the festivities start all over again!

Fiddler's Creek is a private, master-planned, residential community offering unsurpassed elegance amongst a tropical setting. With a very low density level of 1.6 homes per gross acre, the plan anticipates nearly 100 distinct neighborhoods upon completion. Committed to preserving the environment, Fiddler's Creek is being planned to accommodate and enhance the natural beauty of the Florida environment. Less than one-third of Fiddler's Creek® will be developed for residential use, while the remainder of the land is dedicated primarily to nature reserves, lakes, parks, golf courses and recreational areas. Amenities offered at Fiddler's Creek include a 54,000 square foot Club & Spa, Fitness Center, Resort Style Multi-Pool Swimming Complex, Tennis Courts, Restaurants, and the opportunity to join The Golf Club and The Tarpon Club. The community is located off of Collier Boulevard on your way to Marco Island.

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For information on Fiddler's Creek community, The Golf Club and The Tarpon Club, please call (239) 732-9300, stop by the Sales Center located at 8152 Fiddler's Creek Parkway or visit www.fiddlerscreek.com.

Fiddler's Creek...A Return to Naples.