

Neighborhood news: The appeal of Fiddler's Creek is in the details

By Sandy Carinci, Neighborhood News and Storm Watch Team

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

The Everglades and Naples is a far cry away from “da Bronx” where both my husband and I grew up.

After marrying, and wanting to raise a family, we moved to Stormville, in Dutchess County, N.Y., where the local post office and general store were housed together in one small building and we had a four-person party line for telephone service! At the risk of dating ourselves, this was only in the 1970s!

Of course, technology and progress moved along and came to Dutchess County. However, my husband, Gary, has wanted to be a Floridian for more than 30 years. After his retirement, we took a month's vacation and started our trip on the east coast in Fort Lauderdale. Upon coming across Alligator Alley, and seeing the Naples beaches and downtown area, we just knew this is where we wanted to “retire.”

Fiddler's Creek, a 4,000-acre resort community offering golf, tennis, beach and boating, has become our permanent year-round residence after spending six years of having “a foot in each state.”

We have met such warm and wonderful neighbors in Fiddler's Creek. Since we are all transplanted from other areas, our residents are open and willing to start new friendships.

The Club & Spa at Fiddler's Creek presents many opportunities for each homeowner to become involved in activities and social events. There are gala parties, planned travel cruises, several fantastic themed events each month, poolside steel drums, dinner shows, book clubs, Mah Jongg Club, Bridge Club, personal improvement courses like Deep Meditation, Tai Chi, financial seminars, computer classes, photography classes, dance classes — you name it, we probably have it offered here.

Toddlers and teens, as well as the young-at-heart, enjoy the special kids events, carnival day, dive-in pool movie night and free concerts.

There are opportunities for our residents to volunteer for programs such as the annual toy drive for Manatee Elementary School and Habitat for Humanity.

As members of CERT — the Community Emergency Response Team — for Fiddler's Creek development district, my husband and I have learned valuable information regarding CPR, pandemics, hurricane and accident emergency response.

The Fiddler's Creek Community Development District received approval from the Department of Transportation for "Adopt-A-Highway" for a 2-mile length of Collier Boulevard from the Fiddler's Creek entrance to Manatee Road.

Our volunteers will be participating in a monthly pickup of debris along the roadway. Residing here makes stimulating your mind and soul only a sign-up away. Truly, there is so much going on monthly, presenting the total picture is impossible within the limits of this article.

When you purchase a home in Fiddler's Creek, you are investing in a lifestyle.

You can become as involved as you would like or simply wind down and just enjoy the gym and pool facilities at the 5 Star Club & Spa. Exercise classes, cycling, Zumba workouts, water aerobics, tennis and golf make keeping your body in tip-top shape fun and interesting.

As a former paralegal for 24 years in New York and now a Realtor with Keller Williams on Marco Island, paying attention to the details is second nature to me. The appeal of Fiddler's Creek is in the details. The grounds and landscaping at Fiddler's Creek are, I believe, unmatched anywhere in other communities in Naples.

The landscaping architecture has been designed to bring pleasure to the eyes with the use of native plants and shrubs and natural water preserves.

Approximately 3,000 acres on Fiddler's Creek has been left to Mother Nature. Each of the different villages is designed beautifully in an array of color and style.

In 2005 during Hurricane Wilma, many of our mature trees were destroyed when the storm came roaring in. The next day, our director of landscaping and staff were out assessing the damage and within weeks our grounds were restored to their prior beauty.

I am proud to announce that the Club & Spa at Fiddler's was the recipient of the Collier County Commission's WRAP (Waste Reduction Awards Program) award for enhanced and innovative recycling programs and for promoting "green" business practices.

Our newsletter, Boardwalk, will be printed on a preferred paper which is made from trees harvested responsibly utilizing sustainable resources. This is another example of their commitment to the environment.

Yes, the appeal of Fiddler's Creek is in the details. The attention given each homeowner by the staff is always friendly, courteous and top-notch.

From the creativity applied to organizing the many social activities and the enthusiasm of the trainers and staff in the gym to the beautiful walkways and natural preserves and the exquisite architecture of the buildings and fountains, Fiddler's Creek is truly the best place to enjoy life and "retirement."

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Contact Sandy at smcarinci@yahoo.com should you have any community news items