

Town & River Cruise Club

Annual Holiday Boat Parade

By Ken and Adrienne Beebe

The 2018 Annual Cruise Club Holiday Boat Parade was held on Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018. Eleven brightly decorated boats participated this year and we all enjoyed the good weather for the event. It was a pleasant surprise to have this level of participation, making this year's parade one of our best ever. Santa Claus appeared in one of the boats again this year and we were all pleased to see him even though he arrived a bit late for the start of the parade - probably because Rudolph was the only reindeer



Decorate and light up the night





Judy Navojosky served as Santa's elf for the parade.



Having fun dancing and singing



Chris and Sonya Haynes prepare to depart.



Barbara and Flecther Reynolds enjoyed the music with Don Sena.

to show up. Thanks to all the Town & River residents who helped make the season bright with terrific decorating/ lighting displays along the canals from their docks and beautiful homes. To make the even better next year, we entertain the group. will choose a date that

does not conflict with the Cape Coral boat parade so that boaters can participate in both parades if they wish.

Town & River Cruise Club on page 4





Michelle Watson is all lit up with flashing lights for the occasion.



Town & River parade Fred Woodhouse sings to

Board Of Directors Meeting Minutes [Approved] -

Thursday, December 13, 2018

Call To Order

President Mark Generales called the meeting to order at 6:30pm at South Pointe South Clubhouse.

Officers & Directors Present Present: Directors Marge Byrne Kay Gloris, Myriam Lentz, Martha Smith & Terry Brady. Vice President Gary Hudson, Secretary Renee Notes & Executive Secretary Sally Stigler were also in attendance.



therefore are in good standing (and can vote on association business). This may encourage others to pay. Approval Of Minutes – November 8, 2018 board minutes were approved by motion.

Annual Meeting Agenda

With the resignation of Treasurer Kevin Welch, Gary Hudson will fill in temporarily and present the Treasurer's Report, budget & fiscal year-end financials at the Annual Meeting. Renee offered to prepare a power point presentation on Association Income & Expenses. Mark will lead the discussion regarding the vote on the proposed increase in annual dues as recommended unanimously by the Board. Mark will address the initiative to consolidate the deeds of restriction (bringing Units 6 and 11, and properties not covered by a DOR into the Amended, Restated, and Combined Deeds of Restriction (ARCDOR).

Terry noted numerous signs in the Community which are in violation of the deeds of restriction. He will compile a list of properties in violation & have Sally send violation letters. Gary compiled a current Architectural Review and Violation List which was reviewed.

Lake Committee – Renee Notes

Renee noted all is well with the lake. ew Business



Kim Eble and Mike Betts



Absent: Director Rick Ginsburg.

Introduction - Mark Generales - Meeting Overview & **Board Achievements with Future Goals**

Mark announced due to other commitments & responsibilities, Kevin Welch will no longer be a Board Member. Myriam suggested listing in the newsletter the names of association members who have paid their dues and

Architectural Review & Deed of Restrictions (DOR) -

Gary Hudson

Rental Proposal

The Rental Amendments were recorded November 27, 2018 and will take effect on November 27, 2019.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by motion at 7:45pm. The next Meeting will convene 6:30pm Thursday, January 10, 2019 at South Pointe South Clubhouse, 9734 Foxglove Circle, Ft. Myers.

> Respectfully submitted, Sally Stigler Executive Secretary

Catch The Action

February On The Water

By Capt. Bill Russell

Fishing in February may go one of two ways. If we are fortunate, spring will arrive early bringing warm weather, however there is also the possibility for the coldest weather of the year. Like most Floridians, I do not like the cold, not even a little. I have never lived north of Southwest Florida, so I am accustomed to our warm tropical climate.

Before becoming a fishing guide, I would not fish much on a cold day; if it was below 75 degrees it was too cold to get me on the water with a fishing rod. Of course, we would be in our blinds before daylight in knee-deep water duck hunting or waist-deep gathering oysters on the coldest days of the year without even thinking twice about it. But fishing was different, for whatever reason cold weather fishing wasn't my thing.

Soon after I began charter fishing that changed. I quickly learned what I consider cold and what folks who

Word Scramble

By Ellie Ne	al		
Shatre	Dre	Velo	Tloccohae
Lsofrew	Rarwo	Srcda	Eeewttarhs
Cmenoar	Duipc	Soesr	Dignewg

Word Scramble Solution on page 6



spend time in our northern states consider to be cold are very different. I remember the first-year guiding. If the weather was anything but mild and sunny, I was constantly asking my clients if they would like to cancel or reschedule when greeting them at the dock. I often got that look, followed by, "Are you kidding, we just got down from (insert a northern city) and this is the warmest weather we have seen in months." I quickly adapted. Of course, I am often layered with every piece of warm weather clothes I own, while everyone else on the boat is sporting shorts and a T-shirt. I also learned quickly that fishing is often very good when the mercury drops.

Rolling through February we should expect some cold days, how cold who knows. Some years we transition into spring by mid-month and other years we get strong cold fronts right through the month. It's always more enjoyable (for me at least) fishing on the sunny, warm days. Unfortunately we often have to take what Mother Nature gives us on a given day.

Don't be discouraged if your day on the water brings less than desirable weather. During the cold months I find we often catch more fish and better quality during unsettled weather, especially ahead and during a front's arrival. Keep in mind, there are days where it's just not smart or safe to even attempt leaving the dock, when the risk far outweighs the reward. The coldest days this month are prime for catching sheepsheads, the only fish I know in our waters that thrive in the cold, especially the larger fish. It's been a great season for sheepsheads up to this point and the best fishing should peak this month.

Just which way the weather goes this month nobody knows for sure. If you have a day on the water planned, and conditions aren't perfect, stay optimistic, you may be surprised.

Hopefully the month will bring lots of warm days, but if not, don't let a little cold discourage you. It may provide the best fishing of the month.

For charter information, please contact us at Gulf Coast Guide Service and "Catch the Action" with Capt. Bill Russell, phone: (239) 283-7960, website: www. fishpineisland.com, email: gcl2fish@live.com.

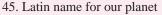
Capt. Bill Russell is a native and lifelong resident of Pine Island who has spent his entire life fishing the waters surrounding Pine Island and Southwest Florida. For the past 22 years Bill has been a

professional fishing guide who takes pride in customizing each trip to ensure everyone on board has a great time and will return again. Come join us and "Catch the Action."



Crossword Puzzle

Across	10
1. Climax	5.4
5. Bitten	14
10. Join	17
14. Outcropping	1 Million
15. Half of six	20
16. Shade of blue	11
17. Money paid for a serv	rice 23
19. Carpets	
20. Eastern newt	
21. Submarine	21
22. Garbage	59
23. Take aback	36
25. Artist's workstand	
27. Consumed food	39
28. Make more city-like	
31. Manicurist's board	42
34. Weeper	
35zag	
36. Docile	50
37. Good person	
38. Gambling game	55
39. Former boxing champ)
40. Held on tightly	58
41. Masses of floating ice	
42. Chickadee	61
44. Ottoman governor	14.4.1
45 I atin name for our pla	anet



-	2	3	4	R I	5	6	7	8	9	$ \gamma $	10	11	12	1
14			1		15	1				†i n	18	1		1
17				18					Ť.		19			
20	1			21			t			22				
23	1		24					25	26				11	
			27			1	28						29	3
31	32	33	1			34		1	(35		
38				1	37		F		1		38	1.0		1
39				40			1			41				1
42			43						44					
		45			1			40				47	48	4
50	51			-		52	53					54		
55	1				58	(E				1	57			
58					59						60		1	T
61	1	1	1		62	1	1				63	1	1	1

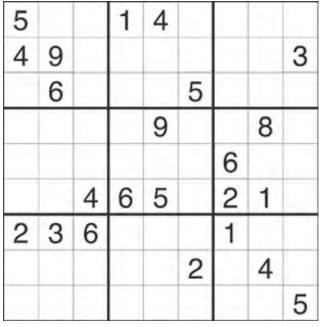
- 46. Capable of being molded
- 50. Rise
- 52. Author Mark
- 54. Actress Lupino
- 55. Clue
- 56. A distinctive characteristic 30. Prima donna problems
- 58. Ancient Peruvian
- 59. Overgrown with ivy
- 60. Conspiracy
- 61. Rind
- 62. Fixes
- 63. Abominable Snowman

Down

- 1. Throbs
- 2. A small farm
- 3. Devilfish
- 4. Conceit
- 5. Horse barn
- 6. Spasm
- 7. Murres
- 8. Castrating
- 9. Precious stone
- 10. A colony of rabbits 11. A tying score
- 12. Totes
- 13. Ardor
- 18. Full of ruts

- 22. Russian emperor 24. Unusual
- 26. Assist in crime
- 28. Pee
- 29. Pizzazz
- 31. French for "state"
- 32. Anagram of "mail"
- 33. Amount emitted
- 34. Producing an effect
- 37. Disparage
- 38. Lock openers
- 40. Unit of cut wood
- 41. Keno
- 43. Not physical
- 44. Screens
- 46. Beeped
- 47. Name of a book
- 48. Fool
- 49. Desert plants
- 50. Transport commercially 51. Prong
- 53. Large open farm wagon (archaic)
- 56. Not brilliant
- 57. Operative

Sudoku Puzzle



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Sudoku Puzzle Solution on page 3

Lakes Regional Library – February, 2019

15290 Bass Road, For (239) 533-4000	rt Myers	February 26	2 p.m.	
Pre-Register For Und	lerlined Ever	February 12	6 p.m.	
_				****
Teen Drop-in Activiti	es:	Crafting	Wednesday	
Monday			February 6, 13, 20, 27	10 a.m.
February 4,11,18,25	10 a.m.	Baby Rhyme Time	February 6, 13, 20, 27	11 a.m.
February 4,11,18,25	11 a.m.	Toddler Tales	February 13	2 p.m.
February 4, 18, 25	6 p.m. ****	English Cafe		
Tuesday February 5	10:30 a.m.	Very Hungry	February 20	2 p.m.
		Caterpillar Party	February 6, 13, 20, 27	4 p.m.
February 26	10:30 a.m.	Clay Play	-	-
February 12	1 p.m.	A Life of My Own:		****
		Meeting Eleanor	Thursday	
		Roosevelt	February 7	4 p.m.
February 26	2 p.m.	Coloring for Adults		

February 7	10:30
February 21	2 p.m.
•	
February 28	2 p.m.

Friday	
Triduy	****
Saturday	
e e	10
February 9	10 a.n
February 16	2 p.m.
February 23	2 p.m.
	February 21 February 28 Friday Saturday February 9 February 16

Potter

a.m.	Ants In Your Pants
	Preschool Dance
	<u>Party</u>
	Master Gardeners
	Stuffed Animal Pet
	Show
:	
:	
1.	Special Needs
	Storytime
	Kids Read Down Fine
	Make An Impact:
	Earn Service Hours
	At Your library



Sudoku Puzzle Solution from page 2

5	7	3	1	4	8	9	6	2
4	9	1	7	2	6	8	5	3
8	6	2	9	3	5	4	7	1
6	1	7	2	9	3	5	8	4
9	2	5	4	8	1	6	3	7
3	8	4	6	5	7	2	1	9
2	3	6	5	7	4	1	9	8
7	5	9	8	1	2	3	4	6
1	4	8	3	6	9	7	2	5

Crossword Solution from page 2

А	С	Μ	Е		S	Т	U	N	G		W	Е	L	D
С	R	Α	G		Т	н	R	Е	Е		A	Q	U	A
Н	0	N	0	R	Α	R	1	U	M		R	U	G	S
Е	F	Т		U	В	0	A	Т		Т	R	А	S	Н
S	Т	A	R	Т	L	E		Е	A	S	Е	L		
			А	Т	Е	1.1	U	R	В	Α	N	Î	Ζ	Е
Е	Μ	E	R	Y		С	R	1	Е	R		Ζ	1	G
T	A	M	E		S	A	1	N	T		K	E	N	0
A	L			С	L	U	N	G		В	E	R	G	S
Т	11	\mathbf{T}_{i}	М	0	U	S	E		В	E	Y			
		T	Е	R	R	A		Ρ	L	Α	S	Т	1	C
S	Т	A	N	D		Т	W	A	1	N	(C)	T	D	A
Н	1	N	Т		D	1	A	G	N	0	S	Т	1	С
1	N	C	Α		ΞĒ.	V	1	E	D		P	L	0	T
Ρ	E	E	L		M	E	N	D	S		Y	E	Т	1





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Valentine Sandwich Cookies -

This recipe makes 17, 3-inch sandwich cookies and 17, 1 1/2-inch heart-shaped cookies. You'll need a 3-inch heart-shaped cutter and a 1 1/2-inch heart-shaped cutter. Frost with Pink Valentine Frosting.

Ingredients

• 1 cup butter

- 1 1/2 cups confectioners' sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract (optional)
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar

Directions

1. In a large bowl, cream together butter and confectioners' sugar. Beat in egg, vanilla and almond extract. Mix well.

2. In a medium bowl, stir together flour, baking soda and cream of tartar; blend into the butter mixture. Divide dough



into thirds and shape into balls.

3. Working with one-third of dough at a time, roll out dough into desired thickness on a lightly floured surface. For each heart sandwich cookie, cut out two 3-inch hearts. Cut out the center of one of the 3-inch hearts with the 1 1/2-inch cutter.

4. Place each piece separately on an ungreased cookie sheet, 1 to 2 inches apart. Bake in a preheated, 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) oven until lightly browned (7 to 8 minutes for 1/4inch thick cookies). Cool completely on wire rack. Frost bottom cookie with Pink Valentine Frosting and place an open centered cookie on top to form the sandwich. Also frost the small 1 1/2inch hearts and serve as separate cookies.

Pink Valentine Frosting

Ingredients

- 1 cup sifted confectioners' sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 tablespoon water
- 2 drops red food coloring

Directions

1. Blend sugar, salt and flavoring. Add just enough water to make it easy to spread. Add 2 drops red food coloring and mix well.

Town & River Neighbors

Let's Get To Know Each Other!

I am collecting your stories for publication in our newsletter and website to feature you and your interests!

Own a local business? Story to share? *Helpful tip? Home for sale/sold?* Special skill? *Favorite recipe? Favorite restaurant?* Activity in town? Upcoming event/fundraiser?

... or anything else you'd like to share with your neighbors?

Please submit information and photos to: secv@ townandriverfl.com.

Upcoming Sections

Pet Corner - Here's the spot to brag on your beloved four-legged family member! Tell us why your pet is the best and send a photo!

In The Biz – We are looking to feature local businesses that are owned by our neighbors. You never know, you might find a new client or customer!

Helpful Tips – What's your favorite tip/life hack? This can be anything from helpful life hacks to silly things like opening a bottle of wine without a wine opener.

Questions For The Board - Do you have a question or tip for a board member?

Featured - Nominate a neighbor (or yourself) for "The Featured _____." This can be anything from special person, act of kindness, landscaped yard, holiday decorations, classic car, crafts, etc.

Favorites - Tell us your favorite: restaurant, local activity, cocktail/wine/beer, fishing spot/tackle, vacation spot, movie/book.



Loree Guidobono, is a Graduate Gemologist, appraiser, designer and jewelry expert with 29 years of experience. She holds a Graduate Gemologist (G.G.) from the Gemological Institute of America (G.I.A.). Certified Gemologist (C.G.) from the American

Recipes – Share a favorite or family recipe. Events – Let us know about an upcoming local event

or fundraiser, book club, game night or club. Share A Skill – Do you have a special skill? Host an event to share/teach and show off your special talent. This can be anything from cake decorating to casting a fishing net to anything you'd like to teach your neighbors!

Real Estate – Let us know of homes currently for sale,

Welcome - to a new neighbor, new baby, new spouse, new pet or new boat. Introduce us to your newly welcomed Town & River addition.

casseroles, ham, salads, and an array of desserts.

We all enjoyed a visit by two dolphins and a manatee in the canal behind the clubhouse. It's good to know that some of our aquatic friends have survived the red tide and green slime of 2018.

Matt Shultz won the 50/50 raffle. Cecilia Bourdon led the group in the club's traditional Yankee swap in which recycled gifts from past holidays that are no longer needed were exchanged for others. Some of the gifts reappear every year, much to the amusement of all.



Members lined up to select yummy potluck dishes.







Fred was not excited to get a butterfly pin.



Longest Homeowner – We are looking to feature the longest resident of Town & River! Are you an original resident? Write in and tell us your story of building your home and how the community has changed over the decades!

Please submit information and photos to: secy@ townandriverfl.com.

I look forward to hearing from you! Please let me know if you have any questions.

> Thank you. Renee Notes, Secretary of Town & River Civic Association

upcoming listings and sold properties in Town & River.

Town & River Cruise Club from page 1

New Year's Day Brunch

By Adrienne and Ken Beebe

Members of the Town & River Cruise Club welcomed the first day of 2019 with a New Year's Day brunch. Held at the condominium clubhouse, the party included 26 attendees who enjoyed Bloody Marys and mimosas served up by bartender Bill Habershaw. The potluck menu included appetizers, delicious breakfast

Gem Society (A.G.S.). Main focus is on custom designing new or redesigning jewelry, and all jewelry evaluations

Contact Loree for a written evaluation of your fine jewelry pieces, new or updating existing appraisals.

3239.274.0448

 Estate planning · Collateral for a loan

Liquidation

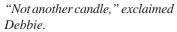
 Obtaining insurance Estate taxes following a death
Preparation for sale of item · Equitable distribution for divorce Charitable donations

FREE VERBAL APPRAISALS





Diane and Matt Shultz won the 50/50 drawing.





Diane Woodhouse was thrilled to see her Yankee swap gift.

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TOWN & RIVER CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC. OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS - as of December 20, 2018 www.TownandRiverFL.com

President	Mark Generales	239-676-5676	pres@townandriverfl.com
Vice President	Gary Hudson	239-481-7748	vp@townandriverfl.com
Secretary	Renee Notes	239-209-2072	secy@townandriverfl.com
Treasurer	Gary Hudson (interim)	239-481-7748	treas@townandriverfl.com

STREET ASSIGNMENTS	DIRECTOR	EMAIL PHONE NUMBER
Bal Isle Dr E Town & River Rd	Mark Generales (interim)	pres@townandriverfl.com 239-676-5676
Brevity Ln N Waterway Dr	Renee Notes	secy@townandriverfl.com 239-209-2072
Cal Cove Dr Cape View Dr Hatchee Vista Ln Jennifer Ln	Mark Generales (interim)	pres@townandriverfl.com 239-676-5676
Clarellen Dr Cypress Lake Dr	Marge Byrne	dir4@townandriverfl.com 239-482-8923
Cypress Lake Cr Joanna Cr Sand Spur Ln	Myriam Lentz	dir5@townandriverfl.com 239-225-8533
Deep Lagoon Ln Julie Ann Ct	Gary Hudson	vp@townandriverfl.com 239-481-7748
Erin Marie Ct S. Town & River Dr	Martha Smith	dir7@townandriverfl.com 239-671-6347
McGregor Blvd Wittman Dr	Terry Brady	dir8@townandriverfl.com 239-940-5656
N. Town & River Dr	Kay Gloris	dir9@townandriverfl.com 239-590-0602
Lake Committee	Renee Notes	secy@townandriverfl.com 239-209-2072
DOR Committee	Gary Hudson	treas@townandriverfl.com 239-481-7748
Architectural Review Committee	Gary Hudson	archreview@townandriverfl.com

Please contact the Director responsible for your street regarding any issues related to Town & River.

Owner Contact Information Request

Town & River Civic Association Inc. P.O. Box 07073 Fort Myers, FL 33919

For improved communications, please update your contact information. Please [PRINT] complete the following.

Name(s): ___

Town & River Address: ____

Full Time Resident: ____ Seasonal Resident: ____ My Property is Leased _____ If not full-time, other address, including zip:

Telephone Number(s): _____

Email Address:

Association members in good standing, who have submitted their contact information, and have agreed to have their contact information published in the online directory, will be issued a password to access the online directory. Otherwise, the information submitted is for board use only. If you agree to your contact information being included in a Town & River Directory, accessible by a password, please check either: _____ Yes or, _____No

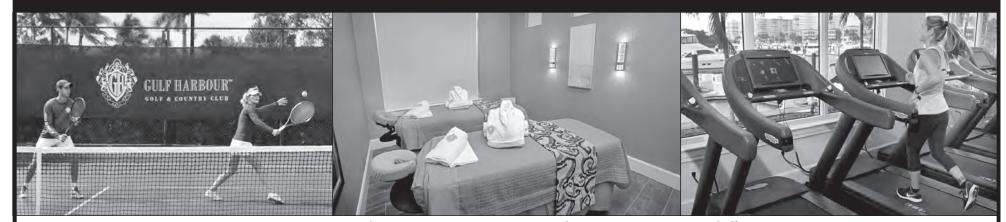
If "Yes", please check the information you agree to be included in the Directory: _Names ____Town & River Address ___Other Address ____Telephone Numbers ____Email Address

_____ Date: _____

Signature: ___



GULF HARBOUR YACHT & COUNTRY CLUB Very Few Memberships Remain



Where Playing In Paradise Is A Lifestyle **GOLF EQUITY MEMBERSHIP** SPORTS EQUITY MEMBERSHIP

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Word Scramble Solution from page 2

Love

Cards

Roses

Red
Arrow
Cupid

Chocolate Sweetheart Wedding



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- Replacement Filters & Ultraviolet Lights
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0 0

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0



Tony, Sr. • Founder & Owner

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Naples Showroom 7700 Trail Blvd Monday - Saturday 10AM to 4PM

Marco Island Showroom 601 E. Elkcam Circle Monday - Saturday 10AM to 4PM



Naples Premiere Showroom

6425 Naples Blvd Monday - Saturday 10AM to 4PM

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Town & River Civic Association Inc. Balance Sheet As of December 31, 2018

	Dec. 31, 18
Assets	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
First Citizens Bank- Operating	4,680.50
First Citizens Bank - MMS	29,853.12
Total Checking/Savings	34,533.62
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	6,459.19
Total Accounts Receivable	6,459.19
Other Current Assets	
Hartford Prepaid Insurance	251.50
Prepaid Expense	274.00
Total Other Current Assets	525.50
Total Current Assets	41,518.31
	y
Total Assets	41,518.31
Total Assets Liabilities & Equity	
Liabilities & Equity	
Liabilities & Equity Liabilities	
Liabilities & Equity Liabilities Current Liabilities	
Liabilities & Equity Liabilities Current Liabilities Other Current Liabilities	41,518.31
Liabilities & Equity Liabilities Current Liabilities Other Current Liabilities Pre-Paid Annual Dues	41,518.31 60.00
Liabilities & Equity Liabilities Current Liabilities Other Current Liabilities Pre-Paid Annual Dues Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>41,518.31</u> <u>60.00</u> <u>60.00</u>
Liabilities & Equity Liabilities Current Liabilities Other Current Liabilities Pre-Paid Annual Dues Total Other Current Liabilities Total Current Liabilities	<u>41,518.31</u> 60.00 60.00 60.00
Liabilities & Equity Liabilities Current Liabilities Other Current Liabilities Pre-Paid Annual Dues Total Other Current Liabilities Total Current Liabilities Total Liabilities	<u>41,518.31</u> 60.00 60.00 60.00
Liabilities & Equity Liabilities Current Liabilities Other Current Liabilities Pre-Paid Annual Dues Total Other Current Liabilities Total Current Liabilities Total Liabilities Equity	<u>41,518.31</u> <u>60.00</u> <u>60.00</u> <u>60.00</u> <u>60.00</u>
Liabilities & Equity Liabilities Current Liabilities Other Current Liabilities Pre-Paid Annual Dues Total Other Current Liabilities Total Current Liabilities Total Liabilities Equity Prior Year Fund Balance	<u>41,518.31</u> <u>60.00</u> <u>60.00</u> <u>60.00</u> <u>60.00</u> 54,429.03

Town & River Civic Association Inc. Profit And Loss December 2018

	Dec 18	Jan-Dec 18
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Income - Mandatory	0.00	5,280.00
Income -Voluntary	0.00	12,863.94
Total Income	0.00	18,143.94
Interest Income	1.27	14.92
Total Income	1.27	18,158.86
Expense		
Accounting fees	315.00	4,233.50
Advertising	929.90	2,869.94
Bank Fees	0.00	33.00
General Insurance	0.00	2,701.00
Hartford Insurance Expense	41.95	503.40
Aerial Photography	0.00	1,275.00
Legal Expense	0.00	10,100.66
Meeting Room Expense	0.00	693.88
Newspaper	142.22	1,404.78
Office Expense	0.00	100.00
Office Supplies	0.00	180.63
Postage Expense	-96.00	145.64
Printing	0.00	985.06
Repairs & Maintenance	0.00	159.00
Secretary Expense	0.00	2,217.38
Storage Expense	99.45	1,198.70
Utilities	43.72	525.32
Website Expense	0.00	1,875.75
Total Expense	1,476.24	31,202.64
Net Ordinary Income	-1,474.97	-13,043.78
Other Income/Expense		
Other Income		
Lake Maintenance		
& Repair Asessment	5,143.42	5,143.42
Late Fee Assessed	16.00	16.00
Total Other Income	5,159.42	5,159.42
Other Expense		
Lake Maintenance	182.00	3,414.76
Lake Utility	156.85	1,671.60
Total Other Expense	338.85	5,086.36
Net Other Income	4,820.57	73.06
Net Income	3,345.60	- <u>12,970.72</u>

Ways To Better Protect Yourself From Identity Theft

Presented by Jacqueline J. Lambros, Registered Principal

As we learned from the Equifax breach in 2017, we can fall victim to identity theft through no fault of our own. Although it isn't feasible to master every identity theft scenario, it's worth your time to learn more about the available identity theft tools

and services and how to initiate a recovery plan if you become a victim. Here, we review four remediation resources and services, focusing on the benefits and risks of each. These tools may be used concurrently.

Credit Monitoring

This service monitors your credit file for changes or suspicious activity. Credit monitoring can send alerts – typically via emails or text messages – if there are hard-credit inquiries about you or when new lines of credit are opened. If anything looks fishy, you can report the activity to the company holding that account and the major credit bureaus. At this stage, some incidents may be remediated.

Benefits

• Often, this service is free of charge after major breaches (e.g., Equifax, Anthem) when Social Security numbers (SSNs) have been exposed.

• Credit monitoring doesn't restrict your access to your credit file.

Risks

• Credit monitoring is **reactive**. You're notified **after** unauthorized activity has occurred.

• You must entrust another company with your SSN.

• Only credit is monitored; other accounts are not.

Fraud Alerts

A fraud alert is a cautionary note that you can have placed on your credit report. It tells credit lenders or service providers that you may have been a victim of identity theft, so they must verify with you before making changes to your credit. For example, if you apply for a credit card while you have a fraud alert in place, the credit card company may call you to verify that you were the one who submitted the application. Verification usually happens over the phone, but there is no standard means of verification defined by law.

Fraud alerts come in two flavors: **initial** fraud alerts, which last one year, and **extended** fraud alerts, which extend that time to seven years. To implement an extended fraud alert, you're required to file an identity theft report with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) first.

Benefits

• Fraud alerts are free and easy to set up.

• You can submit a request to one major credit bureau, which will notify the other two.

• Fraud alerts don't restrict your access to your credit file. *Risks*

• The verification process isn't clearly defined by law.

- Verification could delay credit changes.
- Existing accounts aren't protected.

Credit Freezes

This tool freezes credit files so that no one – including the individual who placed the freeze (i.e., you) – can open a new line of credit. Therefore, before opening a new line of credit,

you would need to unfreeze your credit file using a personal identification number (PIN) provided by the credit bureau. *Benefits*

• A security freeze is the most effective preventive measure because, without the PIN, no changes can be made to a credit file.

• As of September 2018, credit freezes are free to implement in all 50 states.

Risks

• The application process requires a separate submission to each credit bureau.

• A freeze restricts access to your own credit. You must unfreeze it to allow changes.

• It doesn't restrict access to existing accounts; fraudulent activity can still occur in those.

Identity Theft Protection Services

Identity theft protection services provide a suite of helpful tools and resources in one package. The better services offer real-time credit monitoring at all three major bureaus, customized account alerts for more than just credit, and a 24/7 call center.

Benefits

• These services combine the benefits of other tools (e.g., credit monitoring) in one place.

• If 24/7 support is available, it can guide you through the steps to mitigate the situation at any time.

• Some services can monitor other accounts, not just credit files.

Risks

• You must entrust another company with your SSN.

• These services can be costly.

• Quality may vary. Before subscribing, be sure to perform due diligence.

• Most vendors won't help with theft that occurred before you subscribed to their services.

Other Steps

A great starting point for victims of identity theft is identitytheft.gov. By following the site's simple prompts, you can select your identity theft situation, access guidance and resources specific to you, and file identity theft reports with the FTC.

Preventing A Second Theft. Maintaining healthy account hygiene can help prevent unauthorized activity in the future. Here are some tips:

• Change account passwords for all accounts that may have been compromised.

• Ensure that your **passwords are unique** for each account. That way, if one account is compromised, the attackers potentially can't access your other accounts.

• Enable **multifactor authentication**, which asks users to provide more than one form of identification to log into accounts. For example, in addition to entering a password, you would be prompted to access something you have, such as a smartphone or hardware token.

• If you suspect that your email accounts have been hacked, **review the mail-forwarding rules** and delete any you don't recognize. Attackers often add forwarding rules so that when accounts send or receive certain emails, the emails are forwarded – even after you've regained access and changed your passwords.

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