



# The Voice

## Winter Newsletter



Volume 4, Issue 1

[www.ballantraecondoassoc.com/](http://www.ballantraecondoassoc.com/)

Winter 2020

### Social and Caring

### Board Notes

All the fun events and activities Ballantrae residents have recently enjoyed have been made possible and sponsored by our Board of Directors. The pandemic created challenges for everyone, but our Board members endorsed opportunities to participate in safe gatherings and spread some fun and joy.



We needed some art on this page, so why not include the accordion player at the **Oktoberfest**. The afternoon was definitely spirited with lots of "cheer" to be had.

A well-attended **Board Forum** held October 31 was a first for Ballantrae. Stay tuned for Forum #2. Everyone left with a Halloween goodie bag.

We are looking ahead to a somewhat scaled back St. Patrick's Day event included with the Board Forum and a second annual "Think Spring" decorating adventure!

There will be a second **Board Forum on March 13 at 2 p.m.**, where residents will gather by the shell path with members of the Ballantrae Board of Directors. On the agenda for the meeting are:

- Committee updates
- Life alert options for owners interested in additional personal health protection
- A presentation on what to watch out for when selecting vendors for your outside projects (air conditioning, shutters, gutters and downspouts, windows and screens, garage doors and residential skylights)
- A Q&A session offering owners an opportunity to discuss issues and concerns with board members, and other topics of interest to the community.

This season brings a long-overdue and major clean-up of our back lot and maintenance shed. For Lane, this means a significant segment of his time will be allocated to this activity. To date, three large dumpsters have been filled as the clean-up advances. The guard shack will be getting a little interior face lift as part of the project.

### Wildlife Crossing

Did anyone else catch a glimpse of the solo otter moving around Gleneagle building 8 in the afternoon late January? A dark object was crossing from Muirfield pond and was spotted running in bouncy strides past the picnic table. He continued carefully, pausing once or twice, before slipping into the Royal Birkdale pond.



David Strattord 7350 Royal Birkdale  
Tyler Frank 3726 Ballantrae Drive  
Arthur Velordi 7475 Carnoustie Drive  
Zoran Brakus 7443 Carnoustie Drive



## Wildlife Moments



Our multilingual neighbors are back! Have you been noticing the mockingbirds around Ballantrae? It is a wonderful blessing to have their music heralding the longer days of sun. They chortle their tunes abundantly in the daylight but, according to sources, only unmated males sing at night. Scientists have found that females are attracted to males that can make the most different sounds!

Florida's state bird (or one of them) was designated in 1927 by the state's Senate, which singled out the mockingbird's charm and the delight it has been to residents since the days of pioneers.



Scientific name: *Mimus polyglottis*. Latin for mimic, of course. Polyglots are "able to speak or write several languages; multilingual." The mockingbird imitates songs and calls of other species, as well as squeaky gates, pianos, sirens, barking dogs, etc. Each imitation is repeated two or three times, then another song is started, all in rapid succession. Research shows a mockingbird can have a repertoire of 200-plus sounds!

The feisty little birds may be 10 inches long – body and tail – with a 15-inch wingspan. The female can start a new brood while the male finishes feeding the previous brood and teaches them to fly.

A dense thorny shrub is ideal for their nest, near an open grassy area for feeding. The male chooses a high nearby perch where he can sing and fiercely defend his territory. The birds' primary diet is insects (beetles, ants, grasshoppers and spiders), berries and seed. The male also vocalizes to establish boundaries of his winter nesting site – frequently in a different locale from where they breed.



February 24	Michele Dicke
February 26	Fran Clymore
February 26	Tom Hull
March 10	Maurice Menager
March 20	Michael Pryszyk
March 22	Stan Valerga
March 27	Heather Appel
March 31	Marlene Valerga
April 1	Marilyn Miller
April 7	Pat Paulson
April 10	Kathy Hull

If you would like to have your name appear on the birthday lists, please email your info to Michele Dicke at [mdjustpray@gmail.com](mailto:mdjustpray@gmail.com)

## Pet Profile

Very friendly and animated, Chanel is a 7 year-old apricot miniature poodle who shares a home with Phyllis Distasio on Royal Birkdale. The pup likes her days to be orderly and knows when meals and bedtime should be, and her 5 o'clock walks with Dottie Kenyon.



After the loss of an older pet, Phyllis had determined there would be "no more dogs," but that decision didn't hold for long. A chance sighting on the internet conquered Phyllis's heart and subsequently brought a rainy Sunday drive to Venice with neighbor Carmen Garcia to gather the poodle from the breeder.

Chanel's life as a companion was sealed.