



VILLA VOICE

Summer 2018

Reporting the News and Happenings around the
Bobcat Villas

🌀 SPECIAL HURRICANE EDITION 🌀

Hurricane season has arrived in Florida and there has already been a storm threat that swept up the Gulf Coast. Fortunately it didn't have an impact on the Bobcat Villas.

Hurricane season will only get more intense with the likelihood of storms developing and becoming a real threat to Florida's Gulf Coast - and to the Villas - as the summer progresses.

The Villa's Hurricane Task Force is issuing a warning to all Villa residents.

In the event of a hurricane on a route to affect the Villas, all objects must be removed from both the lanai and the adjoining paver patio area. Items left on the patio can quickly become a dangerous projectile that could damage your villa or that of your neighbors. This is especially true for your grills. While you may think they are heavy enough to stay put, a hurricane force wind can easily pick it up and send it hurling through windows or doors. Anything remaining in the lanai could also cause damage should winds blow out the screens, grab ahold of an object such as a chair or lamp and push it towards the sliding glass door. If that sliding door is breached, winds could whip into the unit and cause untold damage.

What should you do now?

Year-round residents/renters:

Have a plan in place identifying where you will move your outside objects and, if necessary, who will help you do so. Don't wait until the last minute. Hurricanes can be tracked for days in advance and if there is any possibility of one affecting the villas, move those items as soon as its route is determined. If you plan to leave the area when a hurricane nears, store your belongings before you go. It's better to re-assemble your outdoor space once the threat of a hurricane passes than to suffer the agony of serious damage to your belongings, villa or nearby structures.

Seasonal residents:

Did you leave anything on either your paver patio or lanai? Your grill, for example? If returning to Florida is impractical, contact your key holder for assistance. If he or she is unable or unwilling to help, see if a neighbor or other acquaintance can help. It's advisable to do so now and not wait until it's too late when others are unavailable or have already left the area. If you cannot find someone within the community to store your items, consider hiring a handyman. Your key holder can provide access to your unit and make sure the work is completed as instructed.

All residents/owners are encouraged to take action **now** to make sure you either have plans in place for preparing for a hurricane or have physically removed all items from your patio and lanai. Periodically all patios and lanais will be reviewed and in the case of seasonal or unoccupied units, owners will be contacted to remind them of the importance of preparing their patios and lanais for a hurricane event.

Installation of hurricane shutters

During last summer's hurricane threat, a number of residents had difficulty installing their shutters due to their size and weight. If you cannot find friends or neighbors to help, here are two sources to contact:

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Tamiani Painting, Jerry Kanigowski (941-726-3473). They will quote a price to install and take down your shutters based on your type and number of shutters. They do require a deposit to get on their hurricane shutter installation list that will be applied to the cost of their service. If the area is not affected by a hurricane, you can let your deposit carry over to the future or request a refund.

Daniel, Carol Dean's grandson, will assist Villa owners with the installation and removal of their hurricane shutters. Contact him for a quote at 941-585-5694.

Other ways to prepare for a hurricane:

A number of resources are available for area residents to find out how to prepare for a hurricane. Local newspapers produce guides to hurricane preparedness that are available at libraries, certain retail outlets and from the newspaper itself. The local media also announces locations of shelters for those who choose to remain in the area and "wait it out." Look for public conferences on hurricanes. Such gatherings will not only provide valuable information but will have vendors on hand with helpful products and services geared toward hurricane preparedness.

Throughout the year, the Villa's Hurricane Task Force has been meeting to discuss how Villa residents can be better prepared should a hurricane impact the Villas. In addition to the measures identified above, the Task Force's efforts to date include:

- Hosted a presentation on hurricane shutters for those interested in purchasing them for their villa. After a review of approved shutter types and hand-outs with shutters details and ball park costs, an extensive question-and-answer period allowed attendees to discuss their particular needs.

- Created a database of Villa year-round owners/residents, seasonal owners/residents and short and long term renters. This will assist with notifications should a hurricane become imminent.

- Identified existing services available to all residents including shelters, readily available guide books on hurricane preparedness and public forums.

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Thanks to the members of the Hurricane Task Force for taking the time this past year to discuss hurricane preparedness and what assistance can be provided to Villa residents:

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