

A little history about Paradise Pines

To talk about Paradise Pines we need to start with the adjacent community of Paradise Lakes.

Fred Bischoff lived at Lake Como Family Nudist Resort but dreamed of a creating a place of his own. He wanted a place that would allow the members to have clothing-optional choices.

His dream became a purchase on April 11, 1980. A grand opening ceremony for Paradise Lakes was held on Aug. 16, 1980.

In May of 1999, Fred sold his interest in Paradise Lakes to Joe Lettelleir and his partners.

On July 11, 2007, Lettelleir sold the naturist facility to John Forier, who bought it "to just have fun." Paradise Lakes withdrew from The American Association of Nude Recreation (AANR) in 2009 due to sexually explicit advertisement.

On Nov. 20, 2011, John Forier was killed in a car accident in Texas.

Patti and Jerry Buchanan announced their purchase of Paradise Lakes Resort on Sept. 22, 2012, and are the current owners.

This brings us to Paradise Pines. During the time that Joe Lettelleir owned Paradise Lakes, he purchased Whispering Pines Travel Trailer Park (our current location). The mortgage for that was recorded 12/23/02. The endeavor was not well capitalized when construction began in early 2003. The road, water, sewer and road contractor failed to complete the work and departed, apparently taking a considerable sum of money Joe had advanced him. This left Joe in such a position that he had to give away a number of developed lots to another contractor who completed the work. One of these lots is still owned by the men today since the majority of lots have been sold. During 2003, lots 74-81 were tent sites without any sewer, although, within three years they were developed into standard RV lots.

The condo association was formed in 10/10/03 and the docs filed in 2004. The clubhouse and lot work were completed in early 2005 and the first lots sold went to Fred N. on 3/8/05 and Richard B. on 3/16/05.

Sales were steady throughout 2005 and Joe felt that enough lots were in the hands of owners so on 2/25/06 he released control of the park to the first PPRVP Board. The first President was Fred N.

However, at this point, the clubhouse was still owned by Joe L. We had an easement for access to the restrooms, laundry and mailboxes, but technically, Joe controlled the other side of the clubhouse and locked it up on any pretext. That did happen.

Fred N. served until 2008 when he was succeeded as president of the board by John G. Yet, Fred retained his seat on the board.

2008 was a tumultuous year when there were questions raised about 718 and financial issues so two members of the board were recalled and replaced - although never found guilty of anything. The majority of the 718 challenges were found without merit, and the remaining challenge to the petanque court was put to a member vote and approved. Considerable club funds were expended defending the various challenges and a special member assessment had to be made to pay the legal fees. As with the vast majority of Florida 718 cases, the entire process left the club broke and the lawyers rich. The water meters were installed during this time, but afterwards found to be illegal for the park, resulting in yet another lawsuit.

John G. resigned mid-term and Jay W. was elected as president to complete his term. John G. was elected again in 2009. Fallout from the previous year resulted in John G. resigning again and Ken R. replacing him. Frivolous lawsuits continued during this period, which restricted the club's ability to establish required reserve accounts as all extra funds were being diverted to legal fees.

Jackie P. was elected president in 2010 followed by Bob L. in 2011. It was during Bob L's time that positive things began to happen. Lawsuits were settled and accounts were finally set up for reserves. The pool and pavilion were constructed and then the clubhouse was purchased. In 2013 the pool was paid off. The clubhouse will be paid off in Aug. 2016.

