



# NEWSLETTER

June 2011

## New Board of Directors Elected at EEPOA Annual Meeting (See Updated Listing on Page 4)



### Spring Cleaning

Recently, you may have observed people scurrying around the main entrances. It is spring cleaning time. All of the entrances at 441, Old Dixie Hwy, and Lexington Parkway have had a new facelift. The brick walls have been power washed to remove mold and

staining. The White Caps have been cleaned and painted. On the backside of the walls at Old Dixie, rotting moldings have been removed and new stucco applied. All of the Back walls have had a new coat of paint. Another effort to maintain the beauty of our neighborhood - enjoy!! Rene Gosselin

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### Out with the Old, In with the New

Finally--The old wooden sign at the Richard Marks entrance has been removed. In the past few years the old sign had been repaired and painted many times. New boards were installed and expanding foam was used to patch the rotted holes, but despite these efforts the old sign needed replacement. Now, as you enter Errol from Old Dixie Hwy onto Richard Marks, there are two new signs flanking the entrance, each bearing the EEPOA logo. \*Special thanks to Rob from Trouble Free Lawn for removing the old signs .



### EEPOA DUES Update

**2011 annual dues were due on January 1, 2010.**

- Annual dues increased to \$203.50 for 2011.
- Unpaid Dues were delinquent on January 31st.
- A 3rd notice was sent during May of 2011.
- As of May 27th, a total of 255 dues (2011) were still unpaid.
- Lien fee is \$125.
- Approximately 120 "Outstanding Liens" from 2010 were turned over to the EEPOA attorneys for collection.

Please contact our office at 407-886-1333 with any questions regarding dues.



## Japan and the Earthquakes - By Dan O'Brien

***Dan O'Brien is a resident of Cambridge Commons, and was traveling in Tokyo during the recent earthquakes. Below is the article which is a compilation from the book he is currently writing.***

Traveling to Japan had been nearly a life-long dream, and became quite the adventure for this traveler who planned to spend 3 months researching a book and living the experience as well to make the information as authentic as possible. It would enable me to see a side of the Japanese people and culture rarely experienced by outsiders visiting Japan who normally would shop the Ginza area, or take advantage of the ample Tokyo night-life. I had no idea just what I was going to experience in the days and weeks to come!

Much to my surprise my "brand name" cell phone did not work in Japan (oh wonder of wonders!) and the ground was shaking upon arrival which is nearly an every-day occurrence for Japan, and especially Tokyo which sits upon 3 major seismic fault lines, and is ringed by mountains of ancient long dormant volcanoes. I had opted for staying in a guest house outside of Tokyo proper in a suburb called Kosuge, not far from the Ancient capital of Edo (the old name for Tokyo) and atop an ancient flattened bedrock tabletop just in case of earthquakes and far from Tokyo's center. Kosuge is situated 50 miles from downtown Tokyo as the crow flies, 65 miles from Tokyo Bay, 80 miles from the eastern coast, and sits between 2 major rivers with 50 foot high embankments. Brother, did I hit the jackpot as it was one of the safest places in the 125 square metropolitan Tokyo area, population 27.5 million! (\*<>\* WOW.)

Not even 3 days later there was a tremor of 3+ with a slight power outage. The guest house was older being built in the 1950's and made primarily of wood and plaster, which would be beneficial later on. I lost my PC that day. Portents of things to come...(LOL!). Little did I know what was coming, and that the research for the book I had come there for, was going to have to wait to be done for a little while longer.

While trying to get my PC repaired several days later.....there was a sound like Godzilla tearing a train into pieces. I had never heard metal fatigue before but recognized it immediately for what it was. Then all hell broke loose, and I do not mean that lightly. I had just dried off from a shower and had my clothes on in 2 seconds flat! I was out the door of the house in a flash and every neighbor was already there attempting to stay upright. The utility poles were whipping through the air like fishing rods young children play with for the first time before they learn that could put an eye out. Buildings were shaking to beat the band, and you could see the pavement bend like silly putty. The 3 tiered elevated road way behind the houses was making the Godzilla-like noise, but also moving the least as it was made to very high earthquake standards and moving on large plates. This lasted for exactly 63 seconds and then let up.

Before I knew what was happening, the neighbor catty-corner from the guest house (who had 5 children, 3 were hers, 2 she was watching) barked orders to all the neighbors faster than a freight train, grabbed the youngest child by the hand, and me by the other hand, looked over her shoulder to make sure all the others fell in line, and made a bee-line up our street with the children holding hands in-line behind her. Following the group was the octogenarian living next door to her and across from my house in his brown air-raid uniform now an earthquake uniform making sure no one was left behind. In less than a minute we were at the elementary school which had an immense open courtyard area for sports which doubled as the earthquake/disaster safe area. We no sooner arrived than the earthquake resumed only worse than before. It was difficult to remain standing and the old man ordered everyone to sit immediately, which they did. This went on for another 4 cycles and lasted for 6 minutes total until the all clear was given. \*All Japanese schools are horse shoe shaped to be clear areas just for these occasions, plus the Japanese stress exercise for all levels of school as well.

When the all clear sounded, one of the ladies in our neighborhood who spoke English came over to me to practice her English and I practiced my Japanese as well, to tell me about the goings-on. The woman who grabbed me was the granddaughter of the air-raid warden octogenarian and a well respected person on the block as is her father of 88. She assumed (rightly of course) I did not know where to go to the evac-area. So she just took me under her wing like I was one of her kids (she was 26 and I am 57). There were 2 aftershocks that same day, and the ladies made sure that our group had food that they packed and brought so no one would be hungry. The young children practiced their English on me, and I my Japanese on them. To the Japanese, I take my hat off. They were always calm, polite, well mannered even when they were worried about relatives, especially the husbands who did not get home until well after 1/AM that morning due to power losses, wrecked trains and roadways, and never a cross word, or a raised voice. They even apologized that the earthquake inconvenienced me and ruined my trip. And not just one of them, everyone I met until I came home.... If that happened here in the USA, people would think you wanted to steal their luggage! LOL! **(Cont'd Next Page)**



## Japan and the Earthquakes (Cont'd).

Another interesting item that was truly amazing when the earthquake, power shortages, and tsunamis happened and the Police and National Defense Forces were asked to help, there was not a single firearm anywhere to be seen, nor a baton, not even a stun gun. They all pitched in and helped, politely. Apologizing that they did not get help, food, water, tents, and other supplies to the people fast enough. There were no riots, looting, fights, or any of the disgraceful behavior that marks so many disasters everywhere else, but especially in our own country. We live in the greatest country, but have so much to learn from their behavior towards one another during times of crisis. All food stuffs immediately became in short supply in every grocery store, but the Japanese offered the shortest goods to foreigners first to be polite and would go without themselves. It made shopping rather difficult at times, if you get my meaning.

There were 6 major earthquakes, 340+ aftershocks, 6 sets of tsunamis, 5 of 9 of Tokyo's gas refineries blew up, and 5 of 7 nuclear power generators blew just while I was there in Tokyo in a little over 3 weeks. The Japanese never lost their cool during that time that I ever know of, or saw first-hand, it was a truly remarkable trip because of that experience. The house being made of wood actually allowed it to bend and sway just like a sapling tree in the quakes, and the quakes were the book I believe I was there to write. Talk about Kismet (karma to the uninitiated)! - by Dan O'Brien

## Volunteers Needed for Habitat !

Many Errol Estate residents with a variety of skills and interests have found a great deal of satisfaction working as volunteers at Habitat for Humanity of Greater Apopka. "Habitat", located at 2001 N. Rock Springs Road, Apopka, is currently seeking volunteers to work with its staff and volunteers to support the "ReStore" (receiving and sorting donated items, organizing donations, setting up cozy and attractive room like furniture displays, supporting departments such as: house wares, lawn & garden, home improvement, etc.), Front Office (receptionist, helping receive and make calls, filing, data entry, special projects, etc), and serving on affiliate Committees. Committees include Family Selection & Support, Development, Land Acquisition and others. Training is available for volunteers.

**For more information, please e-mail or contact Kevin McFall, Executive Director, at 407-880-8881 or 407-880-8852.**



  
**ReStore**

## City to conduct "Apopka Citizen Public Safety Academy"

The City of Apopka will once again present a 12-week program that will give citizens a good understanding of the inner workings of the Apopka Police and Fire departments. Attendees will be exposed to Apopka's K-9 program, CSI, DEA, Traffic enforcement, Orange County Jail, SRT, and much more. Attendees will also become certified in CPR. You will also understand why Apopka received the ISO #1 fire rating, which is the highest rating available. Only a handful of cities in Florida have this distinction. The result is the lowest insurance rates available for Apopka citizens. On completion of the course there is a graduation and an opportunity to join the "Apopka Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association". The civilian group assists Apopka PD at many community events. ACPA members may patrol the city in Neighborhood Patrol cars (after receiving instruction on communications and operating procedures). If you are interested in applying, stop by the Apopka Police Department, 112 E. 6th Street and pick up an application. Applications are also available at the EEPOA office.



## Errol Estate Property Owners Association

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### EEPOA Office Hours

Mon.— Fri. 9:00AM-2:00PM  
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### Administrators

Janie Shimp & Bob Popp  
Please contact the office with  
any name or address changes.

The EEPOA Board meets at 7:00 PM on the third Thursday of every month at the country club

*Newsletter is published quarterly — December, Mar, June, and September*

*Please contact us with article suggestions.*

*This newsletter and previous editions can be viewed on-line at [www.eepoa.com](http://www.eepoa.com)*

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