



The SCOOP!

Newsletter of the North River Shores Community

Volume XXXIV, No. 1

Jan/Feb 2009

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2009 NRSPOA Officers, Directors & Committee Chairpersons

Tom Lusty	President
	<i>The SCOOP</i> Editor
Hal Halliburton	V.P., Boat Ramp
	Deed Restrictions
Sean Fenniman.....	Treasurer
	Finance & Budget
	Insurance Liaison
Trish Littman	Secretary, <i>The SCOOP</i>
Bob Anderson	Social Committee
Colleen Patterson.....	Government
	& Public Relations
Chuck Wallenhorst	Maintenance
	Special Projects, Dredging
Mike Edwards	Nominating
Jeff Duckworth.....	Membership
	Covenants Sign-up
	Communications Monitor

2009 Board meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the following months: January, February, March, May, June, September and October. The Annual Membership meeting will be on Thursday, November 19, 2009. All meetings are held at the First Presbyterian Church on Pine Lake Drive. NRSPOA members are welcome to attend. Any member in good standing (all assessments paid) wishing to address the Board should call 692-3939 and leave a message no later than noon on Friday before the next scheduled meeting. Schedule changes are posted on our web site: www.northrivershoresfl.org. NRSPOA, Inc. does not have a physical office, but may be reached at 692-3939, which is both a voice and fax number.

The SCOOP is published six times a year by the North River Shores Property Owners' Association, Inc. Submissions can be sent to Tom Lusty at acabonactom@aol.com.

Do You Know Where Your Kids Are?

By Jeff Duckworth

This article addresses the recent surge of car break-ins, vandalism and thefts. Over the past few months, many people have reported vandalism to their homes (eggings), Christmas decorations, mail boxes and other personal property along with numerous incidents of theft including personal property, house and auto burglaries.

I personally have witnessed two separate incidents of teenagers approaching my residence. I was fortunate to have been alerted to their presence but was unsuccessful in being able to detain them for the police department. In both incidents, other neighbors were not as fortunate and had their cars burglarized or personal property taken. These two incidents took place during the holiday school break or on a weekend night between the hours of 1am and 4 am. The police responded to both incidents and had even brought the canine unit in an attempt to apprehend these kids. On one occasion, an officer did spot two teenagers at the hump-back bridge but unfortunately could not catch them. On both of these occasions, the suspects fled west into the neighborhood, not east toward US-1. After the second incident, the police said these teenagers are most likely local residents based on two facts: the direction they fled and being spotted in the neighborhood several hours

after the police had received the first report of suspicious activity. In addition, the incidents have followed a pattern of occurring on holiday breaks and weekends, leading the police to believe these are young adults or teenagers still enrolled in school.

Over the past decade this neighborhood has seen a substantial influx of younger families moving into our community to raise their children. As time passes, these kids have grown into teenagers and younger adults, as have mine. The challenge of raising small children becomes more consuming as they grow into adults. While some parents may think teens are more mature and independent, this age is the time when in certain aspects they require more supervision and input. Below are some tips provided by law enforcement.

1. Take the time to sit and talk with your kids. Discuss their obligations as young adults with regard to morals, values and consequences of their actions. Talk about peer pressure and what is right and wrong. A good line I once heard was as follows: If you participate in any activity that you cannot come home and tell me about, chances are it is not the type of thing you should be doing.

2. Know where your children are

Do you know, continued on page 9.

NRS Sewer Update

By Pete Meier

On January 7, 2009, Phil Keathley from Martin County Utilities updated us about the vacuum sewer project. The sewer for NRS (514 properties) plus the surrounding communities (about 200 additional residents) has been divided into two phases. Phase 1 contains those properties north of a line defined by the humped-back bridge canal to Half-Mile Lake (near the NRS entrance.) These properties include the north portion of NRS, Sylvan Shores and the Victory homes located around the Pine Lake Golf Course. No action has been taken on the Phase 2 project which includes the NRS homes south of the humped-back bridge canal including 51 homes in Sunset Estates.

Jan/Feb 2009: The drawings for all of the Phase 1 piping have been completed and are being reviewed by MC Utilities. The drawings for the vacuum building on the First Presbyterian Church property are nearly complete. The entire system will be finally reviewed by MC Professional Engineer Ted Robbins. Final site plan approval will be obtained from MC. Phase 1 will be submitted to the Florida DEP for final approval. Pricing will be obtained from qualified contractors.

March/April 2009: A public meeting will be held with all homes affected by Phase 1. Final costs should be known at this time for each homeowner. A \$3million grant has been approved for Phase I of the project, which should reduce the cost to homeowners by approximately 50%.

May/June 2009: The project will be presented to the MC Board of County Commissioners for final approval.

Construction should begin in June 2009 and take one year to complete (June 2010.) The entire construction must be completed before the DEP will issue an acceptance permit. Residential hookups to the system will begin after June 2010 for Phase 1.

In an earlier issue of *The SCOOP*, we reported that the South Florida Water Management District was developing a program to convert old abandoned septic tanks to cisterns for irrigation. The program is still in work. Glen Gareau, NRS resident and SFWM engineer, recently reported that a prototype cistern system is being built in Stuart. More information will be forthcoming on this program later in the 2009 year. The potential for grant money to help residents convert their septic tanks is still in development by the SFWMD.

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2008 Financial Summary

By Sean Fenniman

2008 was another good year for the Association from a financial perspective. We were able to operate the Association, keep our front entrance, parks and boat ramp maintained and reserve funds for future maintenance, dredging and other capital improvements.

With member annual assessments, non-member boat ramp user fees (reduced to \$175 in 2009) and donations from members and non-members alike, the Association has the financial means to continue to maintain and improve our beautiful neighborhood.

I give my thanks to all who have been diligent in paying your annual assessments. As I mentioned at the November Annual Meeting, I will not be as lenient this year (as I was in 2008) when collecting past due assessments. A late fee of \$25 will be charged as of February 1 and interest will begin accruing on that date as well. Non-payers will face small claims court action and will have to pay the assessment, late fee and interest, legal and court fees. I truly hope we don't have any members in this category.

NORTH RIVER SHORES PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC. 2008 ACTUALS COMPARED TO 2008 BUDGET

	2008 ACTUALS	2008 BUDGET	Difference \$	Difference %
INCOME (Sources of Funds):				
Assessments - Membership	\$ 68,460	\$ 69,375	\$ (915)	99%
Advertising	\$ 3,912	\$ 3,000	\$ 912	130%
Late Fees	\$ 899	\$ -	\$ 899	
Interest Earned	\$ 3,589	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,589	179%
Ramp Key Fees	\$ 480	\$ -	\$ 480	HI
Donations	\$ 4,980	\$ -	\$ 4,980	HI
Other Income	\$ 3,052	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,552	203%
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 85,372	\$ 75,875	\$ 9,497	113%

EXPENSES (Uses of Funds):

Administration	\$ 14,411	\$ 15,000	\$ (589)	96%
Deed Restriction Management*	\$ -	\$ 3,000	\$ (3,000)	0%
Legal & Professional	\$ 5,247	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,247	131%
Newsletter - Scoop	\$ 4,727	\$ 4,500	\$ 227	105%
Membership	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ (500)	0%
Insurance	\$ 6,825	\$ 6,000	\$ 825	114%
Office Supplies	\$ 426	\$ 500	\$ (74)	85%
Social Committee	\$ 639	\$ 3,000	\$ (2,361)	21%
Rent	\$ 808	\$ 700	\$ 108	115%
Electric	\$ 247	\$ 250	\$ (3)	99%
Water	\$ 610	\$ 600	\$ 10	102%
Phone	\$ 1,534	\$ 1,500	\$ 34	102%
Common Area Maint. & Imp.	\$ 7,841	\$ 5,525	\$ 2,316	142%
Ramp Keys	\$ -	\$ 800	\$ (800)	
Signs & Benches	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Boat Ramp	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Lawn Service	\$ 12,770	\$ 13,000	\$ (230)	98%
Miscellaneous	\$ 31	\$ 1,000	\$ (969)	3%
Tax Expense	\$ 75			
Boat Ramp Facilities	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ -	100%
Parks & Front Entrance	\$ 5,005	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,005	125%
Nowsaw Dredging*	\$ 11,975	\$ 8,000	\$ 3,975	150%
			\$ -	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 77,171	\$ 75,875	\$ 1,296	102%
			\$ -	
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$ 8,201	\$ -	\$ 8,201	

*The Board reduced the Deed Restriction budget by \$8,000 and moved it to the Nowsaw Dredging project

Free SCOOP Advertising — A Benefit of Membership

The Board of the North River Shores Property Owners Association (NRSPOA) has approved a recommendation that members of the NRSPOA in good standing can each place one free classified advertisement in each issue of *The SCOOP*.

The SCOOP is published bi-monthly and mailed first class to approximately 500 NRS property owners (NRSPOA members and non-members). The next issue, March/April, will be mailed on April 13th. The ad deadline for this issue is March 20th.

Your ad should be no longer than 30 words (200 characters with spaces). You can advertise your house, car, patio set, furniture, garage sale, whatever you want to sell.

Classified ad copy for the March/April issue should be e-mailed to Deanna Thurlow, Layout Artist, *The SCOOP* (dthurlow@comcast.net) by March 20, 2009. Please indicate "SCOOP Classified" in the subject line and include your name and phone number in the e-mail.

Copy deadlines for future issues are:

May/June – May 15

July/August – July 17

September/October – September 18

November/December – November 20

Community Classifieds

Babysitting by Avery Elizabeth —
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Resume and references. 692-4582

North River Shores Property Owners' Association

Minutes for Annual Meeting — 11/13/2008

Welcome and Introductions:

At 7:05 PM, NRSPOA President **Tom Lusty** called the meeting to order and welcomed Association members. After an Invocation by Pastor Doug LaPointe and the Pledge of Allegiance, Tom stated the meeting's objective is to conduct the Association's annual business in preparation for 2009. He summarized the rules of order for members wishing to address the meeting later.

Tom Lusty (President; Editor of *The SCOOP*) introduced the 2008 Board members and their committee assignments: **Hal Halliburton** (Vice President; deed restrictions and boat ramp), **Trish Littman** (Secretary; *The SCOOP*), **Sean Fenniman** (Treasurer; budget, finance and insurance), **Bob Anderson** (social events), **Jason Schwartz** (membership, covenants sign-up and communications), **Pete Meier** (government and public relations), **George Milne** (nominations), and **Chuck Wallenhorst** (maintenance, special projects and dredging).

Tom also recognized non-Board members for their outstanding volunteer work for the Association: **Suzy DiBartolo** (landscape maintenance and beautification), **Jan Stoorza** (phone communications), **Cathy Ellis** (NRSPOA historian), **Jim Rizzolo** (liaison to NRSPOA's Web Master), **Deanna Thurlow** (layout artist for *The SCOOP*), **Chris Meier** (editing *The SCOOP*), **Bob Wright** (boat ramp keys), **Colleen Patterson** and **Kathryn Kaidy** (temporary secretary, local community issues), **Fred and Jerry Felton** (Neighborhood Watch).

Announcements:

Tom Lusty announced that the year-end financial summary and minutes of this annual meeting will be published in the first 2009 issue of *The SCOOP*. He also invited members to volunteer for Neighborhood Watch, social events, and the initiative seeking business discounts for members.

New Business:

Three Board positions, each with a three-year term, will be open for 2009 because of expiring terms (Jason Schwartz, George Milne, and Pete Meier). The president introduced the slate of nominees for those

three positions: **Jeff Duckworth, Pete Meier, Colleen Patterson, and Mike Edwards**. He then called for nominations from the floor. When none came forward, Cathy Ellis made a motion, seconded by Richard Pontynen, to close nominations. The motion passed unanimously.

Opening discussion of the proposed 2009 budget, Treasurer Sean Fenniman noted no significant or unexpected expenses in 2008. The 2009 budget presumes payments from all 347 members eligible for assessments plus 29 non-member boat ramp users. He said if the proposed budget is approved, the annual assessment for 2009 will be only \$175 per member or ramp user, down from \$185 in 2008. Correcting some misinformation, Sean stressed dues are obligatory. He said members had a 7.5% non-payment rate in 2008. If all members pay their assessment, further reductions are possible in the future. He promised to be much less lenient with delinquent accounts in 2009. Responding to a question from Richard Pontynen, Sean said the POA cannot commingle annual fees from the members with annual boat ramp fees from the non-member boat ramp users.

Tom Lusty summarized the three ballots and one non-binding resolution open for vote. **Ballot #1**, a proposed amendment to Article II Section 2 of the Second Amended Bylaws for North River Shores, would remove current ambiguity in the way members in good standing are elected to serve on the NRSPOA Board of Directors. The new wording, approved by the current Board and reviewed by the POA attorney, continues the practice of voting "Yes" or "No" for each candidate. If approved by the membership, this amendment would take effect for this election. Tom added that all Bylaw amendments require a super quorum — 30% (or 98) of the 324 members presently eligible to vote. *Editor's Note: Ballot #1 passed, 91% yes to 9% no.*

Ballot #2, for election of three new Board members, each with a three-year term, presented the four candidates, their brief biographies, and boxes to vote "Yes" or "No" for each. *Editor's Note: Jeff Duckworth, Mike Edwards and Colleen Patterson were elected to the Board.*

Ballot #3 represented the vote for the proposed 2009 budget. *Editor's Note: the 2009 budget passed 97% yes to 3% no.*

The Non-binding Referendum asked whether members would support a change in the Covenants about the types of trucks permitted in NRS. Members would indicate their opinion about a focus on the appearance rather than on the weight of trucks. Tom stressed the referendum was not an actual vote, just guidance for the Board. *Editor's Note: the majority of members favored the non-binding referendum, 85% yes to 15% no.*

After the president repeated voting instructions, members who had not yet voted placed their sealed ballots in the official ballot box held by Jim Rizzolo.

Bob Wright was the first member to address the audience. An 11-year resident of NRS, former Board Vice President, and current volunteer guardian of the boat ramp keys, Bob is also a Martin County Sheriff. He cautioned members about rising crime rates during the economic downturn, advising residents to lock up vehicles, houses and boats. Bob urged attention to suspicious activities and to foreclosed homes, asking members not to be afraid to call 911 if they observe suspicious activity.

Jerry Felton described Neighborhood Watch (NW) as part of the Sheriff's department (NW is not part of the NRSPOA). NRS residents since about 1980, **Jerry** and **Fred** organize the schedule. She called Neighborhood Watch a "psychological" presence in our community; she also emphasized calling 911 rather than getting involved in anything unusual or suspicious. Jerry urged members to volunteer for about one hour once a month.

Bob Anderson, chairman of the Board's social committee, told members about the signs he posts around NRS reminding residents about upcoming NRSPOA events. He described upcoming events such as the Holiday Cookie Exchange, the winter "Snow Storm" January 9 in Lakeside Park, and the Mardi-Que community picnic in March. Bob also asked residents to volunteer for those events.

Tom Lusty thanked members for attending and participating in the annual meeting, and invited all to share the refreshments and sign up for various committees. Bob Wright made a motion to adjourn at 8:05 PM, seconded by Jim Rizzolo. A unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,
Trish Littman, Secretary

Neighborhood Watch Report

By Jerry and Fred Felton

Burglaries were the main topic of both the December and January NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH COMMUNITY meetings. Laura Passanesi, Community Programs Practitioner, emphasized

both house and car burglaries are occurring in Martin County. Laura hopes that you have written down the serial numbers of all your valuables such as TV sets and computers. Should these items be stolen, you have a better chance of retrieving them. It was also mentioned that items might even be returned to you after several years if you have given the police the serial numbers. If you have pictures of your stolen jewelry, you will have a higher chance of retrieval.

At the January 8 meeting, Detective Carlo Sciandra portrayed a thief and program attendees analyzed the situation. If you are a victim of a burglary, Detective Carlo emphasized how important it is to be observant of the thief's voice, height and weight. What the burglar is wearing is not important because the burglar can easily change his/her clothes. Detective Carlo also said NEVER be afraid to call 911. He said that we should consider asking Laura Passanesi to do a house safety evaluation. This service is free. You can make a reservation for this house safety evaluation by calling Laura at 320-4749.

Laura Passanesi also directs the "Citizens Academy" course. We took this class several years ago and highly recommend it. You will see the Sheriff's offices in action and learn more about Martin County. Call her if you are interested.



Recognizing Community Contributors — 2009

In May 2008, the Board established three gift categories to allow all NRS residents, whether members of the Association or not, to help pay for the maintenance of our beautiful community. These contributions are kept in a special fund used exclusively for the upkeep and improvement of our common areas – parks, entrance sign, plantings and boat ramp. We recognize all donors in *The SCOOP* issue immediately following receipt of the gift.

If you wish to help keep North River Shores an attractive place to live, please make your checks payable to NRSPOA, Inc. and mail to: NRSPOA, Inc., c/o The Rizzolo Group, 1958 SE Port St. Lucie Blvd, Port St. Lucie, FL 34952

Our thanks and appreciation to the following persons:

Silver Status: Non-members who gift an amount equal to the NRSPOA annual membership fee (currently \$175).
All NRSPOA members who have paid their dues are automatically Silver Status.

Gold Status: Any NRS property owner gifting \$100 to \$199 above the amount of the annual membership fee.

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Tom Lusty
 Don Parker
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Snow Storm Hits NRS

By Bob Anderson

A strange weather phenomenon hit NRS on the evening of January 9, 2009. At precisely 7 PM, Lake Park was hit with a significant snow event! Suddenly children of all ages appeared from nowhere and began reveling in the fresh snow fall. Snowballs flew and cheers of glee could be heard for blocks! For many of the younger in attendance, this would be the first time they ever saw snow.

Actually, this was a planned event. Cassidy Ice Company brought in and blew three tons of ice into snow for our enjoyment. Two tons were paid for by the NRSPOA, and one ton was sponsored by CSM Engineers. Please let us know if you enjoyed the event, and if you would like to see it again next year.



Boat Ramp Lock to Change for Members April 23

By Bob Wright, Boat Ramp Volunteer

From time to time the lock is changed for members at the boat ramp. Beginning on Thursday March 5th, there will be two locks on the member side. On Thursday April 23rd, the current lock will be removed and the key you now have will no longer work.

A Key exchange will be done at my home, each Thursday evening from 6 PM to 8 PM, between March 5th and April 23rd. My house is located at 1503 NW Spruce

Ridge Drive. The exchange will be easy to accomplish. Members who are in good standing will simply have to turn in their old key, confirm their contact information is correct and they will receive the new key and a sticker for their boat trailer.

If you have any questions, you can reach me at 919-5372.

Happy boating!!

Dredging the Boat Ramp Waterway — Update

By Chuck Wallenhorst

Every time I set a date for dredging, something happens to delay this undertaking! So far, paperwork for Florida's Environmental Protection Division has pushed back the starting date. We now have the proper DEP permits for dredging, not only for the canal, but also for the waterway at the entrance to the North Fork River.

The latest scoop — and it changes daily — is that the contractor, Palm City Dredge, will start work in the Nosaw (boat ramp) waterway the first week in February

2009. He estimates the job should be completed by the end of this month.

The fill from the dredging will be deposited, at no cost to the project, at several sites within the North River Shores boundaries. There may be times during the dredging operation that boat traffic using the waterway will be delayed. Hang in there, boaters! We will try our very best to keep you informed.

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Social Happenings

By Bob Anderson

As announced in the last two SCOOPs, our *Mardi-Que* community picnic will take place on March 7. We plan to kick off the event at 2 PM with a small (but hopefully lively) Mardi-Gras Parade from Lake Park around the neighborhood and on to Nosaw Park. The food and games are planned to begin there at 4. We are asking for volunteers to help with set up and take down, and to organize and run a few small games for the kids. We are also looking for a few residents to participate in the parade: People with an antique car or perhaps a convertible who would like to ride around the neighborhood and throw out Mardi-Gras beads. As of now no one has stepped forward. So, I am asking once again. This is a volunteer community organization: It is only as good as WE make it. I won't be able to do it all myself (nor do I want to). If we don't get some help, we may have to scale it back and just serve food. So, if you would like to see a fun-filled and lively event for us all to enjoy, please contact me and sign up to help. Call 692-2911 or email me at rhanderson@csmengineers.com.

Captain Kevin's Fishing Report

By Captain Kevin Drennan

Captain Drennan has been a member of the NRSPOA for over ten years. Call him for inshore or offshore fishing trips at 692-9831.

After a week of cold weather, we were able to get out and fish. The water temperatures were way down but it helped to put us back in the winter fishing pattern. The Spanish mackerel returned to Peck's Lake in great numbers. We limited out in no time the other day. Bluefish are all around the inlet and we had a great time catching them on light tackle. The pompano bite, which had virtually disappeared, turned on again. Sailfish and dolphin are being caught in decent numbers once again. On a recent trip we were in acres of threadfin herring with jumbo jacks pounding through them. We had a rod bending time bringing these tough fish to the boat. The bottom bite at the Loran Tower has also been great. We limited out on vermilion snapper and had a bunch of nice sized porgies on our last trip there. Triggerfish and several small grouper were also in the mix. Look for pompano at the Stuart Causeway and on the flats near the St. Lucie inlet. Shrimp-tipped jigs or sand fleas will do the trick. Snook season opened February 1, so get out there and catch'em up.





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Do you know, continued from page 1.

and who they are with. If they are spending the night at a friend's house, contact the parents and be sure they will be under parental supervision while there.

3. Set parameters such as curfew hours as well as phone and computer use time restrictions.

4. This may be the hardest to imagine because it takes dedication and a bit of distraction from the parents routine. Tell your children that you will be checking on them at random periods of the night especially when they are have friends staying over or on weekends and then follow up by doing exactly that. Fluctuate the times that this is done and don't be afraid to do so more than once a night. Your children are smart. If this is done on a regular basis, they will not know when or how many times you may check on them, making it less likely that they will attempt to venture out in the middle of the night.

As parents we have an obligation to our children, ourselves, friends and neighbors to help guide our kids down the right path. As a neighbor, I encourage all parents to take the time to know where their kids are, what they are feeling and who they consider to be their friends. Parenting is a tough, full-time commitment that does not come with operating instructions. All we can hope for is the strength and desire to raise our children to the best of our ability.

I also spoke with the police department about how homeowners can better protect themselves against these types of crimes. Below are a few of their suggestions.

1. Do not leave valuables in your vehicles.
2. Lock your vehicle at all times both day and night.
3. Do not leave personal property out when not in use – such as bicycles, toys, fishing gear, etc.
4. Install motion detector lighting around the exterior of your house.
5. Install outdoor sensors that alert homeowners to the

presence of someone on your property.

6. Install digital security cameras. Today's technology allows for this type of protection at affordable prices. Digital systems allow up to 3 weeks of data storage for retrieval if needed.

7. Be diligent in your awareness of your surroundings.

8. Know and cooperate with your neighbors. Look out for each other.

I would like to thank all who elected me to represent our neighborhood as a NRSPOA Board member. I will do my best to help maintain the quality of living we enjoy in our beautiful community and I am grateful for the opportunity to do so.

Work-ing together, I believe we can maintain the type of neighborhood that brought us all to establish our homes in beautiful North River Shores. I wish each of you a happy, healthy and safe New Year!



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***The SCOOP* 2009 Deadlines**

Issue: _____ Due Dates-Articles & Ads: _____ Publish Dates:

Mar/Apr	March 20	April 13
May/June	May 15	June 8
Jul/Aug	July 17	August 10
Sep/Oct	September 18	October 12
Nov/Dec	November 20	December 14

Any member in good standing is encouraged to submit an article, with pictures if possible, or announcements of community activities to: Tom Lusty, Editor, *The SCOOP*, at acabonactom@aol.com or regular mail: 1759 NW River Trail, Stuart, FL 34994.

Donate Your 'Throw-Aways'

By Lou Tudor (for the Church Deacons)

Why not, with just a little effort, donate all your old newspapers, magazines and white paper to the North River Shores First Presbyterian Church? The church will use the resulting funds to help feed the hungry and homeless in our communities, among other viable charities. It's easy to put a box in the trunk of your car to collect your papers. A large re-cycle bin is located at the back of the church parking lot and is clearly marked. Please consider helping in this effort by driving in every week or so to make a deposit.

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