

October 5, 2023

Tolomato Owners' Newsletter

Growing Pains and Omelets

The new Tolomato Owners website www.tolomatoowners.org launched and is gradually adding registered users (Tolomato owners and residents), and there is a decent sized audience who only read the postings.¹

Gladly, there have been only minor glitches and growing pains that we have worked through. We thank the website developers for their gracious efforts in providing what is fast becoming a wonderful open community medium. A "HELP" menu has been added to give people the steps necessary to post an article, blog and navigate the site and its features. As people feel more comfortable, we expect the default icons / avatars will be replaced with users' pictures, and we will begin to see more people adding their comments and questions to articles and blogs.

There is a palpable concern that if you sign up for a picnic or suggest something fun, you'll wind up on somebody's naughty list, or associated with the wrong local political group, apparently an undesirable situation. Let us say, most of us objected to our parents who loved us, telling us where and when we could have fun. Why then would we let people who don't care about us, dictate what we can do? Use our new website to have fun and meet old and new neighbors. If people don't want to enjoy the warmth and friendship of our campfire, it will be their loss.

Please understand that the act of registering as a user, or posting an article, only requires simple verification whereby the site administrator determines you are a Tolomato owner or resident. When you submit your comments or create a new blog, the administrator does a cursory review to make sure the post is not an auto-bot and that the post is civil. The goal of the site is to foster the exchange of information, discuss concerns, and to have fun. It is not a venue to treat people nastily. Be aware that when you submit a post for review, it does not instantly appear on the web site.

You can't make an omelet unless you crack a few eggs

As we begin October, we are reminded that the TIPOA Board of Director elections are a couple of months away. Tolomato residents need to feel that their interests are fairly represented, considered, and addressed to the betterment of our community. Our hopes of "unity in the community" have spiraled toward mistrust and hostility. The hard-hearted will blame the other side(s), but there is plenty of blame to share. We see our role during the 2024 election cycle as reporting on the issues affecting owners, and presenting any insight, in a thoughtful and informative way. Our reports coupled with the owners' ability to discuss issues on the web blogs, and directly with the actual candidates, should help owners make informed decisions when they vote at the annual meeting.

Most authorities will say you can't fix problems unless you recognize them. You can't recognize problems unless you debunk a few myths and gore the occasional sacred cow (a.k.a cracking eggs).

¹ In case you're wondering, we do not track who reads posts or where individuals may look.

Problems need exposure. They need scrutiny and your thoughts. Together, as an open community, we'll debunk those myths and deal with any bull.

Cracked Egg #1 - "No specific background or knowledge is required."

The current and past Board of Directors have advertised for ARB members, as an example, with the above skill set. One of the candidates said based on that criterion, he was "imminently qualified". Laughable? Yes, but somebody(s) thought a functioning ARB didn't need people with any qualifications. Similarly, do prospective Board members need qualifications? We think so. While much of the work is routine, they will be tasked with problems outside their comfort zones. They need the ability to look to each other for expertise, and the wisdom to know when they should include real experts.

Tolomato is alive with professional experts, but they are not available if they are alienated, or someone makes the mistake (like some politicians) that they know more than their electorate.

Cracked Egg #2 - Fresh and Refreshed Candidates – Real Change

In the next few days, candidate resumes will be forwarded and available on the web site. The 2024 Candidate link is: <https://www.tolomatoowners.org/index.php/island-news/board-candidates> Each of the candidates who ask, will have a blog where you can ask them questions, discuss with them any issues important to you or just chat. We expect the dialog to be courteous and truthful.

This is real change. While we can salute people that volunteer for various jobs, we will sponsor real candidates who stand up, provide their resumes, and make their expertise and volunteer efforts available for review for the entire duration of their elected term.... not just five minutes at the annual meeting. We expect candidates who offer themselves to the community will be responsive and learn from the open exchange. This is a grand experiment. Thoughtful owners will help make it successful.

We expect candidate accessibility will negate the last-minute nominations from the floor of the annual meeting. While we have had some good candidates in the past, we also had some that have been less than great. We want and deserve, responsive and capable Directors for our small community,

Cracked Egg #3 - Editorial Board Questions and more.

Years ago, newspapers brought candidates in, and asked them all kinds of questions, but mostly asked where they stood on the issues. We will reinvent the "editorial board" in probably a digital format and ask candidates questions. The questions and their responses will be captured and made available on the Tolomato Owners website for your review.

Stay tuned. We appreciate your attention. Should you have questions or comments please email tolomatoowners@gmail.com

Postscript – This newsletter is not affiliated with correspondence from the Tolomato Board of Directors. The newsletter is provided to all on the Tolomato Owners email list. Recent newsletters are available on the website and will be archived therein.