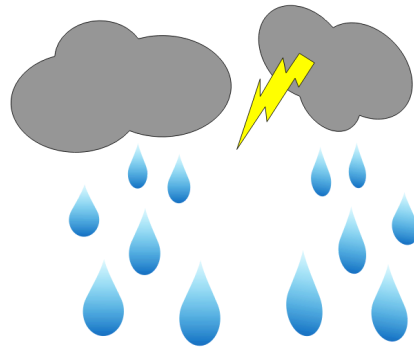
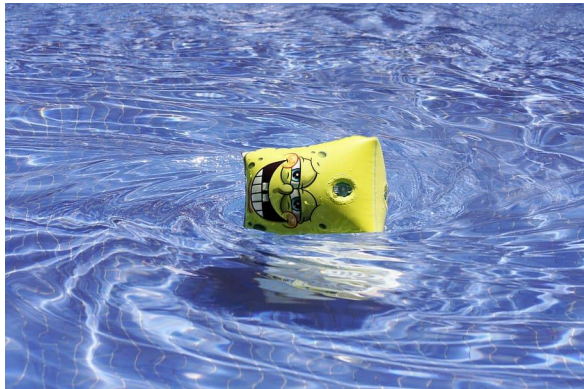


SAVING THE COLD AND WET QUINTET



Our HOA spent a lot of time in 2023 talking about leaks, planning to fix them, fixing them, fixing the effects of the leaking--it seemed like the entire Quintet was a sponge.

And then, this year, it got worse. The crippling storms that began on January 12 produced winds that felled branches and entire trees, cut off electricity for days, stopped elevators, dropped indoor temperatures to a teeth-chattering level and froze pipes. When they unfroze, the water gushed and broke out, flooded our garages, buildings 1 and 2, plus, sadly, our clubhouse.



Fortunately, the fire department was onsite to discover the errant water and turn it off. Then a heroic team broke work hours to mop, tighten valves, and yell for help. Our office manager Maria Correa was on the phone with board chairman Faupel at one in the morning, giving instructions on where to find keys, knobs, handles and controls for various functions. Our new maintenance tech Roberto turned up with his Bluestone supervisor Chris Hill, who swung into action pushing water off the halls. Pedro Correa got the buildings and walkways cleaned up and hosed out.

It was extraordinary work from all, we are all grateful for the quick and willing help. Maria, Pedro, and Bluestone were all on top of it. Soggy elements ---carpet and some walls-- have already been removed from the clubhouse, and renovation is underway. Now we're wading through insurance paperwork to pay for it.



In other storm-related sentiments, the Q News couldn't help but notice that neighbors were checking on each other, loaning out candles, sharing heat from battery-operated fireplaces, and offering rides in their 4WD vehicles. It made us think that people who live alone would be wise to befriend a neighbor and trade extra keys in the aftermath of the next disaster, big or small.



Thanks to the efforts of so many who care, our six spongy buildings survived the worst winter in years, and are now happily drying out.

We can only hope that February will bring some sort of solace, and hot dry towels.

