

*The Best Place on Palmer Ranch*



**The Communications  
Committee  
Would Like To  
Wish Turtle Rock  
Residents  
And Their Families  
Very Happy  
December Holidays!**



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE... Page

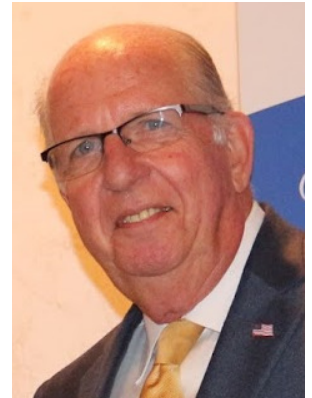
|                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| President's Message    | 2  |
| Treasurer's Report     | 3  |
| Sunstate Manager       | 4  |
| TROM Revision          | 5  |
| Chemical Collection    | 6  |
| TR Academy             | 7  |
| ARC Report             | 8  |
| Landscape Report       | 9  |
| Upcoming Events!       | 9  |
| TR Women's Club        | 10 |
| TR Men's Club          | 11 |
| Savannah's Halloween   | 11 |
| Library News           | 12 |
| Welcome Plans          | 13 |
| Palmer Ranch News      | 14 |
| Trolley Tour of Lights | 15 |



# *From our President....*



*Len Friedlander*



November is behind us, and with it our celebrations of our right to vote, honoring our veterans, and giving thanks for all we have received. I hope you participated in all three celebrations, and currently await the approaching holiday season of Chanukah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa.

I expect that by the time you read this column, the maelstrom surrounding the election results in Florida has been resolved and the next Florida Governor, Senator, and Agriculture Commissioner have been identified.

Speaking of elections – all of you should have received a letter from management in late October seeking nominees to fill three (3) vacancies on the upcoming 2019 Board of Governors. Enclosed in the letter was a Candidate Application Form for those who wish to self-nominate for a Board position. A copy is also available on the TR website. Completed applications must be submitted to TR Management not later than 4:00 pm, December 27, 2018.

Please take this opportunity to step up to serve your community, have a role in enhancing Turtle Rock, work with your neighbors to find solutions to vexing issues, and participate in ‘local’ government at the grass roots level (no pun intended). If you don’t want to serve at the Board of Governors level, please consider volunteering to serve on one of the committees.

The correspondence from management also informed you of the proposed budget for 2019 – to include the continuing quarterly assessment of \$400 for 2019 (which was passed by the Board at the November Board Meeting), and the Annual Members’ Meeting to be held on Tuesday February 5, 2019.

To bring you up to speed on the happenings at the November Board meeting —

- ♦ we expect the old bridge crossing the lake and leading to the nature trail to be removed and the new one installed in January;
- ♦ the Turtle Rock Owners Manual (TROM) review is proceeding apace with an expected updated version to be presented for Board consideration in January;
- ♦ the Traffic Safety Task Force is hosting a Town Hall meeting on the subject on December 13, beginning at 6:30pm in the Community Center.

I invite all homeowners to attend the Board Meetings (first Tuesday of the month) to stay abreast of Turtle Rock activities and issues.



**Wishing all of you a wonderful Holiday Season!**



# Report from the Treasurer



Financials for the period ending September 2018—

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| total receipts:        | \$102,997 (budget \$103,318)   |
| year-to-date receipts: | \$933,610 (budget \$929,861)   |
| total expenses Sept:   | \$ 86,676 (budget \$103,318), incl \$ 12,050 contribution to reserves. |
| expenses year-to-date: | \$865,385 (budget \$929,861), incl \$108,446 contribution to reserves. |

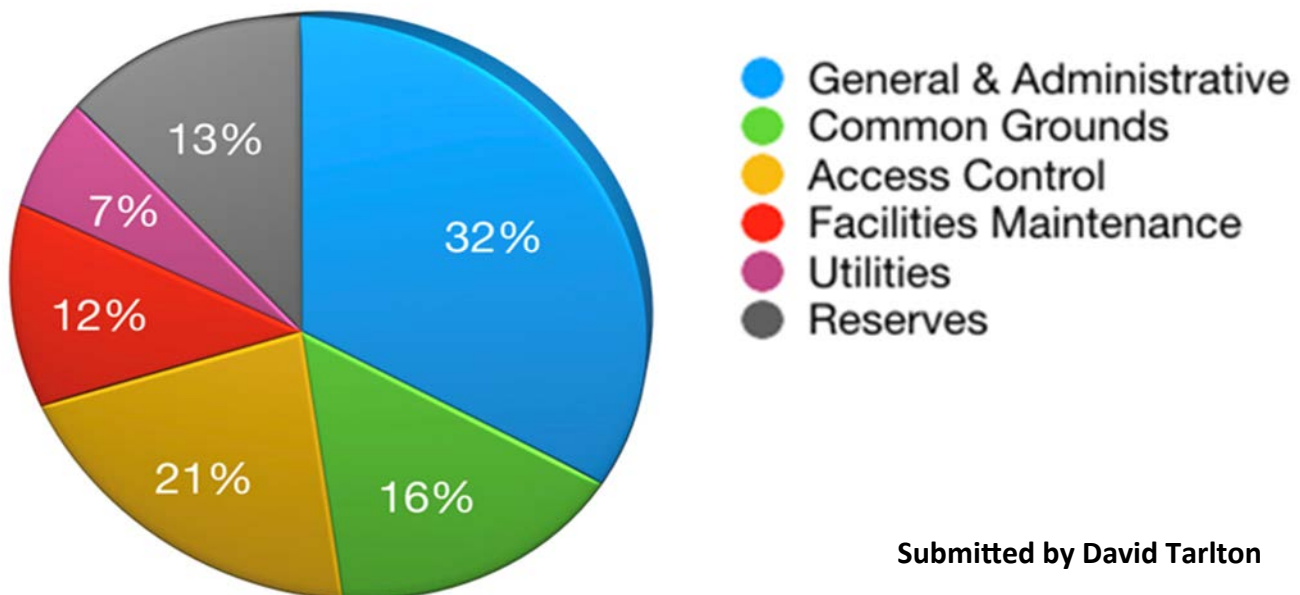
Total assessments collected to date were \$706,215, and total assessments outstanding are \$8,406.

At the November 6 board meeting, the Board of Governors approved the 2019 budget. A copy of the approved budget will be mailed to all Turtle Rock homeowners on or before January 1, 2019. The board approved the following expenses:

\$3,250 for pressure cleaning sidewalks on TR Blvd and common area sidewalks;  
\$5,600 to Stantec for a follow-up treatment of invasive species nuisance vegetation;  
\$1,296 for installation of shrubs along Honore to close out bare spots;  
\$1,446 to install colorful shade tolerant plantings in bare areas between the pool and community center.

The pie chart below shows the breakdown of all expenses by category as of 09/31/2018.

Turtle Rock YTD Expenses



Submitted by David Tarlton

# Manager's Message



Ahhhh...December – cooler weather is here, Thanksgiving has passed, and everyone is preparing for the Holidays. I want to let everyone know what's happening around the community.

- The ARC committee has had a busy year and has done an excellent job helping everyone with the various projects to be accomplished. Please remember to fill out your applications.
- The accounts receivable is at its lowest amount since Sunstate started. Thank you to everyone that continues to send in their assessments on time. The new coupon books will be sent out the second week of December.
- The pedestrian bridge will be replaced in January, so the nature trail access will be restored. Stantec will be finishing up the clearing of the invasive trees and its maintenance work in that area during December.
- Joe Holme, our IT person, is updating our camera system for the gates and community center, along with the servers.
- Compliance around the community seems to be improving, however, there are still a lot of dirty roofs, mailboxes, sidewalks and driveways. Please be proactive, take a critical look at your home's exterior, and do any necessary cleaning before a letter arrives from our office.
- All new and not so new owners in the community should be familiar with the Turtle Rock Owner's Manual that contains not only the rules we live by, but also useful information and various forms. You can find this and other information at [www.myturtlerock.com](http://www.myturtlerock.com).
- The landscape committee and I are working with Bloomings to make sure we stay on top of everything that needs to be done. I am also working closely with Aquagenix on our community's storm water ponds. They have come up with a new formula to help combat the ever-growing Vallisneria (eel grass) and so far, it is working well.
- We are planning for the upcoming Trash to Treasure garage sale and the Chemical Collection Day. These have been scheduled for February 23<sup>rd</sup> for the garage sale and the 26<sup>th</sup> for the chemical collection day. We are looking for a few volunteers to help with the organization of these two popular events.

Please e-mail or call me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

**Ed Olson**

Vice President/LCAM  
Sunstate Management  
941-870-9855  
[edward@sunstatemanagement.com](mailto:edward@sunstatemanagement.com)





# **TURTLE ROCK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.**

# **OWNER'S MANUAL**



Community Information  
Rules and Regulations  
Architectural Review Committee Info & Req's  
Emergency Procedures Guidelines

## **Turtle Rock Owners' Manual (TROM) Rewrite**

**Everyone should have one... everyone needs to be familiar with it!**

The Turtle Rock (TR) Board of Governors (BOG) established at the September BOG meeting a committee to rewrite the TROM. The intent of the rewrite is to review the entire TROM with the following goals:

- ◆ remove duplicated text,
- ◆ clarify any ambiguous points, and
- ◆ add or remove requirements in order to align the TROM with the TR Declaration of Protective Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions, dated 3-22-1994, which is the original document filed with Sarasota County that established the Turtle Rock Association.

No rules or regulations can be imposed which are in contradiction with the Protective Covenants document unless 70% or more of the entire TR Association members vote to make the change.

The BOG President and the TR Management Company have made requests for any resident to send suggestions or comments to the Management Company concerning the TROM. Additionally, the meetings are posted and are held at the Community Center.

**Currently scheduled meeting are:**

**December 7 and January 4 at 1:00 and residents are welcome at the sessions.**

**The target date for the rewritten TROM is January 2019.**

**The new TROM will be distributed to all association members along with a list of any material changes made to the TROM. Watch for it!**

Submitted by Russ Gill

## Household Chemical Collection Event

Solvents • Lighter Fluid • Aerosol Cans • Nail Polish • Paint Thinner • Br • Varnish • Polyurethanes • Gasoline • Adhesive • Cleaners • Corrosives • Oven Cleaner • Drain Opener • Battery Acid • Caustics • Fertilizers • Cyanides • Toxic Substances • Insect Killer • Moth Balls • Propane Cylinders • Motor Oil • Thermometers • Fluorescent Bulbs • Household Batteries • Oil Filters • Computer Parts • Poisons • Furniture Stripper • Computers • Televisions •

## Turtle Rock

**Day: Tuesday**

**Date: February 26**

**10:00 am –**

**12:00pm**

**8500 Turtle Rock Blvd  
Sarasota, FL 34238  
(Clubhouse/Pool Area)**

### Types of Items accepted:

Aerosol Cans  
Paint Thinner & Solvents  
Automotive Products  
Adhesives & Glues  
Paint  
Cleaners  
Pool Chemicals  
Fertilizers  
Weed Killer  
Insect Killer  
Mercury  
Household Fire Extinguishers  
Propane Cylinders (BBQ size only)  
Small Rechargeable Batteries  
Fluorescent Bulbs  
Vehicle Batteries  
Motor Oil  
Oil Filters  
Electronics (No TV's or Monitors)

### Items we will **NOT** be accepting at this event:

Medications  
Needles or Syringes  
Ammunition  
Fireworks  
Flares  
Radioactive Materials  
Empty Containers >5 gallons  
Tires

This community collection event is for **Turtle Rock** Community residents. Proof of residency may be requested before the county accepts any waste.

The collection event is for residential generated waste only. Waste generated by businesses & other organizations will not be accepted but can receive information by contacting Brian Mangum at 735-6430.

Sarasota County reserves the right to limit the amount of waste accepted at any collection event.

Collection event hosted by Turtle Rock Community Association.

  
**Sarasota County**

**For  
Further  
Information  
Call:  
861-1531.**

## Turtle Rock's 7th Annual



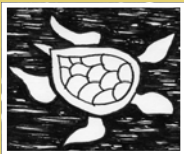
## Feb 23, 2019

Sell from the comfort of you driveway!

To participate and get on the map handed to all visitors, complete form (available in office) and pay \$5.

This event is scheduled to occur right before the hazardous waste collection, so as you gather your sale items you can unearth your chemical waste products also. Your home and garage will thank you!





# Turtle Rock Academy Lecture Series

*Serving the TR Community through education, information and entertainment*

Photos by Gisela Vaughan

## November Program: Violin Speaker Hits High Notes

An enthusiastic group of Turtle Rockers were treated to a fact-filled and fun talk by Everett Hendrixon of *The Violin Shop* in Sarasota. Everett began with history: Nicolo Amati created the first real violin in the late 1600's. Stradivari, probably the best known maker of high quality violins, was the "Steve Jobs" of violin makers because he was so very demanding. Stradivari created 1,000 violins in his lifetime, of which 650 exist today.



Creators of handmade violins are called "luthiers," because the predecessor of the violin was the



lute. Luthiers make their own varnish, select and test the wood they use, and make the blades for the tools they use. The best wood used in violins comes from south facing trees in south facing forests in Europe. Spruce is used for the tops and maple is used for the sides and backs of violins. These woods are selected and then aged for about 10 years before they are used.

The benefits of learning to play a violin are many. Because it is fretless, it requires focus to play. It increases memory, attention span, coordination, better posture, self-esteem and relieves stress, anxiety and depression. Playing the violin teaches you to move on and not dwell on mistakes.

*The Violin Shop* has committed to providing 50 new violins, and two to four weeks of luthier training, to skilled artisans associated with the Linares Music School for Children in southern Chile. The shop is also in the process of creating The Suncoast Fine Arts Alliance, which will fund luthier and music schools as well as help public school orchestras raise money for their needs.



Many Turtle Rockers stayed afterwards to talk with Everett and share their stories of playing the violin. Everett also briefly played each of the violins he brought so that their different sounds could be enjoyed.

Submitted By Janet Smith

## Looking ahead to December's Academy program:

On December 13th, the Academy welcomes **Ken Brinker**, the president of the Palmer Ranch Association Natural Assets Committee. Our water, vegetation, and animal life (including ourselves) live in a closed system. Ken will discuss the Palmer Ranch Natural Assets mission, the Stonybrook Natural Assets program and results, our storm water management system, and community environmental stewardship and responsibilities, explaining how our community can engage in enhancing the water, landscapes and animal life we enjoy in Turtle Rock.

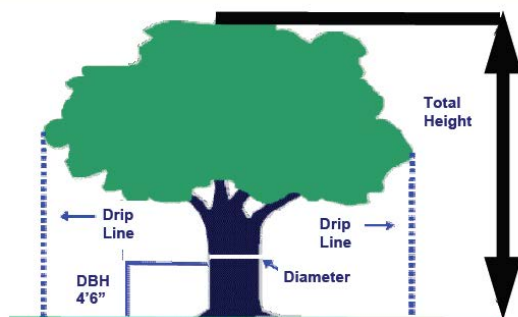


# Architectural Review Committee (ARC)

Every so often, you will hear someone talk about Grand Trees. Or perhaps you read an article about some hapless resident running afoul of a County Ordinance regulating the removal of a Grand Tree? Just what is considered a “Grand Tree”? The formula to determine this comes from the county and is shown below. Our community is relatively young, therefore most of our trees on private lots are considered to be “young.” However, if your builder was able to save an older, established tree you may be fortunate enough to be the proud owner of a GRAND TREE!

## Does Your Tree Qualify as a Grand Tree?

Grand Trees are determined by adding points calculated for the diameter, height and spread of a tree together. If the sum equals or is greater than the defined point total for your tree species, it is considered a Grand Tree.



| SPECIES OF TREES                                   | MINIMUM POINTS NEEDED |
|--|-----------------------|
| American elm ( <i>Ulmus americana</i> )            | 100                   |
| Bald cypress ( <i>Taxodium distichum</i> )         | 100                   |
| Hickory ( <i>Carya</i> spp.)                       | 100                   |
| Live oak ( <i>Quercus virginiana</i> )             | 100                   |
| Pine ( <i>Pinus</i> spp.)                          | 100                   |
| Red bay ( <i>Persea borbonia</i> )                 | 85                    |
| Sand live oak ( <i>Quercus geminata</i> )          | 80                    |
| Southern magnolia ( <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> )  | 80                    |
| Southern red cedar ( <i>Juniperus silicicola</i> ) | 90                    |
| Sugarberry ( <i>Celtis laevigata</i> )             | 95                    |
| Sweetbay ( <i>Magnolia virginiana</i> )            | 90                    |
| Sweetgum ( <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> )        | 100                   |

### HERE IS THE FORMULA

$$\text{diameter} + \text{height} + (\text{average spread}/4) = \text{total points}$$

#### DIAMETER

Measure around the trunk at a point 4.5 feet from the ground. Take this circumference measurement and divide it by 3.14 to get the trunk diameter. If a swelling, branch, or fork in the trunk occurs at 4.5 feet then measure the circumference below this point. Measure forked trees at the point below the fork where the circumference is least. You get 1 point for each diameter inch.

#### HEIGHT

From the highest point in the tree to the ground. Height is measured as the distance in feet between the base of the tree's trunk and the top most twig.

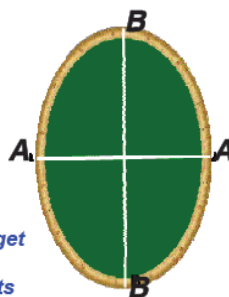
Height is usually much more difficult to measure than girth, especially given the extraordinary

size of most Grand Trees. Obviously, it is not feasible to climb a tree and drop a tape measure from the tip of the highest branch. Precise measurements require the use of a sophisticated instrument such as transit, hypsometer or relascope. Hand-held devices like an Abney level or clinometer can yield accurate data if used carefully. In the absence of such measuring tool, a rough estimate can be obtained by a simple manual sighting technique using a straight ruler, tape measure and a little trigonometry. You get 1 point for each foot of height.

- Average Spread = (AA+BB)/2**
- Divide the answer by 4 to get the points for the spread.
  - (Average Spread)/4 = Points

#### AVERAGE SPREAD

This is a combination of two measurements. Measure from one edge of the drip line to the opposite edge in one direction and then in a second direction. Add these two numbers and divide by 2. Now take the average spread and divide by four to get the number of points for the spread. You get 1 point for each 4 feet of average spread.



| MEASUREMENTS          | NUMBER OF POINTS             |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| DBH                   | One point per inch           |
| Height of Tree        | One point per foot           |
| Average canopy spread | One point per each four feet |

Many of the trees on our common areas are, in fact, GRAND TREES, having weathered both storms and development all around them. Many are dotted along our beautiful nature trail along the west side of our community. As always, if you are considering removing a tree on your property, please file an ARC application, and we will help guide you through the process.

Submitted by Christa Friedlander





## Landscape Committee

The Landscaping Committee meets monthly with Shane Battle, Blooming's Account Manager, to review the checklist of ongoing maintenance items. Due to the lack of rain in October, turf management continues to be of concern. Shane increased irrigation to those areas that are in need. Also, weed control was done by Blooming's in October, including treating the Apple Balsam vines that are intertwined throughout the hedges along Turtle Rock Blvd.

This month, Blooming's will begin cutting back and reducing the overall height of the awabuki viburnum hedge along Central Sarasota Parkway, installing the new plantings along the east wall of the north exit, and has already completed work on the pergola base enhancement project.

Members of the Committee took a drive down Turtle Rock Blvd together with Shane to specifically point out items that need addressing. Shane assured the Committee that he would look after our concerns. Committee members have visited the home of a Turtle Rock resident who has requested the Committee take another look at a tree located on Association property adjacent to her home that is giving her concern.

Bloomings put forward two proposals requested by the Committee, which were supported by the Committee and subsequently approved by the Board of Governors at the November 6<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- the dead vines along Honore border will be hand-pulled and the bare spots subsequently filled with a native shrub "Simpson Stopper";
- the failing turf located in the Community Center area will be removed and replaced with colorful plantings and mulch (this will occur only after the pedestrian bridge at the CC has been installed).

On a final note, the Landscaping Committee will be asking volunteers to help pull out the Spanish Moss that is intertwined in the hedges and trees along Turtle Rock Blvd. This is something that the residents of Turtle Rock can participate in, as it is not part of Blooming's work contract. A date will be selected at the next Committee meeting and notice will be sent out to the community.

**Submitted by Jodi Cunnison**

## ➡ Upcoming Neighborhood Events ⬅



### Traffic Safety Town Hall Meeting

**December 13 at 6:30 pm** in the Community Center

Look for an email announcement on Dec 3, along with a meeting agenda.



### TR's 20th Annual Trolley Tour of Lights & Potluck Reception

**Saturday, Dec 22 5:30—8:30pm** at the CC

Look for more details on page 15, via email, on bulletin boards, and at entrances. Tour the neighborhood and vote on YOUR favorite decorated home! RSVP for your trolley time slot (every half hour starting at 6:00). Trolley SPONSORED by Claude Pierre of CP Realty International.



# ***Turtle Rock Women's Club***

Submitted by: Grace Cooney

**The Turtle Rock Women's Club is a social club open to women that reside in the Turtle Rock Community.**

Our luncheons/meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at one of the local restaurants in Sarasota with a speaker of interest at most meetings. Annual membership dues are just \$15, and all luncheons or other events are voluntary participation. We also have some evening events, and offer many Interest Groups. Information is available on the Turtle Rock website, or please call or email Membership Chair Angela Pierre: 321-3994 angelacpierre@gmail.com

## **Fashionable Ladies at our November luncheon: Fashion Show held at The Oaks CC**







# Turtle Rock Men's Club

Submitted by: Jim Cerny

The men of Turtle Rock get together for a luncheon every month. The December luncheon will take place

**December 12 (Wednesday) at Mattison's 41** starting at noon.

Reservations and menu selection are required in advance, so please look for the "sandwich board" poster at the entrances to Turtle Rock and check your email before the lunch. If you are coming for the first time, please call Mike Geramanis on 630-212-7003 to make your reservation. All members receive an email reminder with the menu choices to make in advance.

At our luncheon meeting of October 17, we had a great talk by Sarasota Fire Chief Hartly who explained the jobs of the fire and rescue personnel. Did you know that their routine response to a 911 call is UNDER five minutes?! Chief Hartly also took the time to answer all of our questions, but then had to leave to send more personnel to the Florida area hit by hurricane Michael. We certainly have some very dedicated and well-trained fire and emergency personnel in our county!



**Questions about the Men's Club?**

**Please call Jim Cerny on 941-926-7888**

**And Happy Holidays to all!**

## Halloween Happenings

While many residents came to the Community Center to grab dinner from the food truck, show off costumes, and play some games with kids prior heading out for Trick or Treats, several Savannah residents decided to enjoy each other's company in glorious sunshine, sharing snacks and drinks that everyone brought to their community entrance marker prior to handing out candy to roving kids after dark. What FUN!





# Turtle Rock



## ***A More Detailed Look at the Contents of our Turtle Rock Library***

### ***What are Turtle Rockers Reading These Days??***

***By Edie Wolf, TR Librarian***

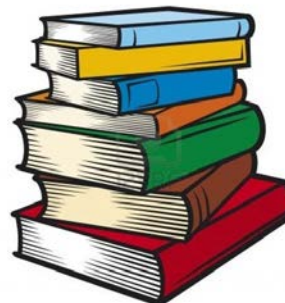
Mysteries, action thrillers with spies, crime novels and the like continue to be popular items with Turtle Rock residents. Judging both by our donations and circulation, the following authors are in high demand: Stuart Woods, James Patterson, Lee Child, Dean Koontz, Clive Cussler and Jonathan and Faye Kellerman. John Grisham's legal thrillers are also among the perennial favorites.

Romance novels remain popular with a contingent of the women readers. Especially favored authors are Norma Roberts, Danielle Steel and Debbie Macomber.

Historical fiction is also quite popular with both men and women. Titles that come to mind are *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne, *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen, *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak, *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett, *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel Brown, and *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles.

I especially recommend the following books :

*Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese,  
*The Space Between Us* by Thrity Umrigar,  
*The Chaperone* by Laura Moriarty,  
*Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan,  
*Lilac Girls* by Martha Kelly.



Come visit the library inside the Community Center any time Mon-Fri from 8:30-4:30.

### **Holiday Humor....**

"I stopped believing in Santa Claus when I was six. Mother took me to see him in a department store and he asked for my autograph." ~ Shirley Temple

Why did they ask the turkey to join the band?  
— He had the drum sticks.

Families are like fudge .. mostly sweet with a few nuts.

How do we really know that Santa is a man?  
— Because no woman would ever wear the same outfit year after year.

Ha ha ha!!!  
Ha ha ha!!!  
Ha ha ha!!!



## Turtle Rock — a Welcoming Community!

As we welcome the holidays, I am reminded of how thankful I am to be living in Turtle Rock. Over the four years that our family has been living here, we have made great friends and have been warmly welcomed by all. Several months ago, I was approached by David Tarlton asking if I would head up a Turtle Rock Welcome Committee, which I proudly accepted.

At Turtle Rock we are not only a neighborhood, we are a community. A community of individuals and families from near and far. It is my personal goal to make everyone feel welcome here. Part of our plan for the coming year includes providing welcome gift packages for all new residents. Included in the welcome package will be a listing of all local businesses that are owned and operated by Turtle Rock residents. As such, if you live in Turtle Rock and own and operate a local business, we would like to know about it! Please send me an e-mail with your name, business name, and type of business so that I can provide you with additional details.

From my family to you and yours, best wishes for a wonderful holiday season.



Thank you,

**Glenn**

Glenn P. Scharf

[gscharf@scharfgroup.com](mailto:gscharf@scharfgroup.com)

### The Communication Committee

***The committee is looking for staff writers and photographers. If you have a knack for writing, have ideas for a monthly column, or are willing to take photos of interest to the community, please contact us at [communications@myturtlerock.com](mailto:communications@myturtlerock.com).***

**THANKS** for getting involved!

Committee Members:

Jim Cerny (Chairman), Patricia Tarlton, Kathrin Harris, Russ Gill, Judy Bentz, Glenn Scharf, and Ed Olson of Sunstate Management

Board Liaison: David Tarlton      Proofreader: Charlotte Jones

**Send Comments, Suggestions, and**

**Articles for consideration to:**

**[Communications@myturtlerock.com](mailto:communications@myturtlerock.com)**



On November 8, PR held its first annual Environmental Fair, during which many owners learned a great deal about what we all can do to protect and restore the beautiful environment within the Ranch — one of the reasons many of us moved here! Hosted by PRMPOA and PR's Natural Assets Committee, there were many experts who offered advice and information: UF/FAS Extension Service, Sarasota County's Neighborhood Services and NEST (Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship Team, among many others. If you missed this event, be sure to attend TR Academy's **December 13** program featuring Ken Brinker, Chairman of PR Natural Assets Committee, who will enlighten us about what is being done, and what we can do, to retain our wildlife and healthy lakes and wetlands within Turtle Rock!

Speaking of environment, I recently ran across an old TR News article that was written in 2012 by then-commissioner Jon Thaxton (now Senior VP of Community Investment at Gulfcoast Community Foundation). He wrote an entertaining article about a very different and rural side of the area just outside of the confines of Palmer Ranch. It is reprinted here:

## “Chickens, Gators, and Snakes”

By Jon Thaxton



Imagine the uproar that would result if a commercial chicken farm were proposed next to Palmer Ranch. Cries of “incompatibility,” noise and odor concerns, and talk of reduced property values would be sure to fill the air. But at one time Palmer Ranch did have a poultry business.

The chickens were located just east of the Thaxton family home (now Roessler's restaurant) where the Silkwood Apartments are today, just west of the Huntington Point subdivision. The business was called the T-8 Egg Ranch; “T” for Thaxton, and “8” for the number of family members. We sold everything a chicken had to offer, white and brown eggs, poultry (dressed or live), manure fertilizer, and feathers; you name it, if it came from a chicken, we sold it.

The T-8 Egg Ranch had several thousand caged chickens, and a dozen or so free-range chickens that provided fertilized eggs for the Thaxton clan. We used a Volkswagen van to deliver eggs throughout the county and sold the other products from our home. Imagine how modern-day zoning code enforcement would deal with that operation!

At one point we diversified and began raising rabbits. We started off with just a couple for our family, but in no time — the rabbit's reputation is well deserved—we were selling rabbit products alongside our poultry products. My

most vivid memory of the chicken operation was dealing with the tons of manure that had to be shoveled, moved, treated, and packaged or disposed of. Beyond that, I'll spare you the repellent details.

One day, as I approached the small lake in our front yard, the pond where Roessler's now keeps the swans, I saw chicken feathers scattered along the shore. Evidently, one of the White Leghorn roosters had ventured into the ambush area of the 9' alligator that lived in the lake.

Before the chicken killing, we never minded the gator too much and swam in the same lake with him for years. Several times we called the game warden to capture him, but he proved too elusive for their limited trapping skills. Eating our rooster was bad enough, but then one day that gator made a big mistake: he chased after my father and my younger brother Ricky.

My mother was the most Christ-like, caring person I have ever known. And she was also skilled with a shotgun. The scream from my brother as he ran from the alligator was all “call-to-arms” for Mom. Without hesitation, Mom grabbed her Remington-Savage 20 gauge shotgun, a handful of #4 shells, and headed toward the alligator, now midway between the lake and the house.

Just as the gator rose up on all fours in preparation to charge again, Mom let him have it right between the eyes. It lay motionless. Not one to take unnecessary risks, Mom walked to within a few feet of the over-sized lizard and gave it to him again. Dad called the game warden and told them they could now safely capture the problematic reptile.

Speaking of reptiles, Palmer Ranch was once a haven for rattlesnakes, big ones — Eastern Diamond-Backs so big they had attitude problems! On occasion they would venture too close for comfort. We left them alone in the wild, but a 6 foot, 20 pound venomous snake as fat as a sewer pipe, with a strike strong enough to break bones, left an unsettling feeling when he ventured too close to home, especially at night. I became pretty good at curing the Rattlesnake skins, and collected the rattles to give as birthday gifts to my friends.

Once I tried to convince my mother to get creative when cooking rattlesnake meat, but she would have nothing of it. It was either deep fried or nothing. Since it did taste a bit like chicken when fried, I decided to try a chicken & rice recipe using snake meat. It tasted nothing like chicken. It tasted like a snake. Mom was right, deep fried or forget it.

The next time you are in Roessler's restaurant, you might imagine the inescapable sensory assault of thousands of chickens as you enter the porte-cochere, an alligator chasing a wedding party from the swan lake, or a traditionally plated (served over cheese grits) deep fried rattlesnake. Or, just enjoy the bouillabaisse.





# *Turtle Rock's 20th Annual Trolley Tour of Lights & Potluck Reception*

*Saturday, Dec. 22  
5:30—8:30pm at the CC*

*Sponsored by Turtle Rock Families Club  
and generously supported by CP Realty International*



*Trolley tours TR streets for 30 minutes at  
6:00, 6:30, 7:00, and 7:30pm*

*OPEN to ALL — Reserve your seat today!  
\$5/pp prepaid, bring dessert or appetizer*

*See TR's decorated homes & vote on your favorite!  
Winner may display the coveted "Best Décor" award  
Crafts for kids*

*Socialize with friends and neighbors at the CC before and after.  
Water and lemonade provided; feel free to BYOB*



*Winner of prior years' Best Décor award!*

***RSVP to**  
**kathrin2020@verizon.net***

*Deliver payment to  
4974 Sabal Lake Circle  
— box at front door  
**by Dec 19***

*Trolley courtesy  
**Claude Pierre**  
**CP Realty**  
**International***

