

# TURTLE ROCK NEWSLETTER



## *From our President....*

*Len Friedlander*

I hope all of you had a wonderful Holiday Season and this newsletter finds you free of gift-wrappings, Christmas decorations, headaches and hangovers, and prepared to take on the New Year with all it has in store for us.

Passing on a few items of note from the December Board Meeting:

- The Chairperson of the ARC - Christa Friedlander - will be stepping down Feb 1, 2019 after nine years of service;
- The Landscape/Grounds Committee is, in addition to their work with Bloomings and our Community Manager, looking into the feasibility, and possible location, of a "Dog Park" within Turtle Rock.
- The Communications Committee, in addition to publishing the community newsletter, is seeking additional methodologies for providing timely information to the community.

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publishing the community newsletter, is seeking additional methodologies for providing timely information to the community.

- The Turtle Rock Owners Manual (TROM) Update Committee is continuing their work, and received permission/funding to hire someone to format the revised document. Their next meeting will be Jan 4, 2019.

- The Traffic Safety Town Hall meeting was scheduled for (and took place) Dec 13, 2018.

- A homeowner request for car tarpaulins/covers on vehicles parked in driveways was referred to the TROM Update Committee for their consideration and recommendation.

We in Turtle Rock are naturally looking forward to a few events scheduled in the January and February time frame—the installation of the replacement bridge in January (delayed from the original installation date in December); a "Meet the Candidates Night" in January (if required); and the Annual Homeowners Meeting in February. The meeting is an essential ingredient in the organization and administration of our community association, and an opportunity for homeowners to provide their input on items of import and interest.

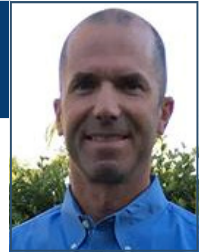
There are three (3) Governor positions that will be open effective February 5: one open position, and the terms of Larry Winer and Len Friedlander are ending. We have received just two self-nominations, so there will be no Meet the Candidates Night as there will not be a formal election. You will be receiving a letter shortly from our Community Manager, Ed, notifying you of the two self-nominated candidates for the Board, who will automatically become board members during the Annual Homeowner Meeting on February 5. The letter will also provide you with the meeting agenda, along with a proxy form to use for your submission if you will not be attending the meeting. Please comply with the request to complete the proxy-- we must conduct this meeting with a quorum of the membership, and if there are an insufficient number of attendees/proxies, we will have to repeat the exercise (at additional cost) until the meeting is conducted.

Please comply with the requests in the letter as we must have this meeting, and if there are an insufficient number of attendees/proxies, we will have to repeat the exercise (at additional cost) until the meeting is conducted.

Once again, I offer my Best Wishes to you and your families for a wonderful, happy and healthy New Year. I look forward to seeing you at our Annual Homeowner Meeting on Tuesday February 5, 2019.



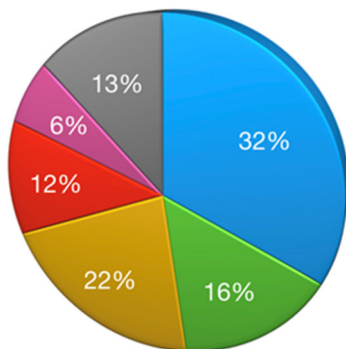
## Report from the Treasurer



For the period ending October 2018—

total receipts:	\$ 103,070 (budget \$103,318)
year-to-date receipts:	\$1,036,680 (budget \$1,033,178)
total expenses:	\$ 93,076 (budget \$103,318), including \$12,050 to reserves
expenses year-to-date:	\$ 958,460 (budget \$1,033,178), including \$120,495 to reserves
total assessments y-t-d:	\$ 784,681, with \$26,252 total assessments outstanding.

At the December 4 board meeting, the Board of Governors approved the procurement of new trash and recycling receptacles for the common areas (funding was approved at a prior meeting). The pedestrian bridge had been expected to be installed by the end of December, but the contractor has informed management that the date has been pushed back to the first part of January.

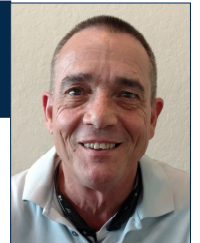


*The pie chart shows the breakdown of all expenses by category as of 10/31/2018.*

- General & Administrative
- Common Grounds
- Access Control
- Facilities Maintenance
- Utilities
- Reserves

Submitted by David Tarlton

## Manager's Message



Christmas and New Year's Eve have come and gone, and everyone is wondering how long you can keep those resolutions going. I wanted to keep everyone updated on what is happening around the neighborhood.

The Annual Members Meeting notice will be mailed out soon. Please send in your proxy right away, even if you plan on attending. This will ensure that a quorum will be reached, and the association can hold the meeting.

You should have received your new coupon book for the 2019 assessments. If not, please call the management office so we can reorder one for you.

The pedestrian bridge installation has been moved to the middle of January. This was due to some unforeseen production delays.

Compliance around the community seems to be improving, however there are still a lot of dirty roofs, mailboxes, sidewalks and driveways. Please be proactive. I have also been receiving more calls about people not picking up after their pets. This shows a blatant disregard for your community and neighbors. Please don't be that person! Turtle Rock provides bags and waste stations around

the community for everyone's convenience.

Remember, the Turtle Rock Owner's Manual is there to answer almost any question you can think of about the do's and don'ts here at Turtle Rock. You can find this and other information at [www.myturtlerock.com](http://www.myturtlerock.com).

We are planning for the upcoming Trash to Treasure garage sale and the Chemical Collection Day. These have been scheduled for **February 16th** for the garage sale, and ten days later on the **26th** for the chemical collection day. We are still looking for a couple of volunteers to help with the organization of these two popular events.

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

Thank you,

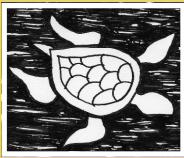
**Ed Olson**

Vice President/LCAM

Sunstate Management

941-870-9855

[edward@sunstatemanagement.com](mailto:edward@sunstatemanagement.com)



# Turtle Rock Academy Lecture Series

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

## December TR Academy Speaker Suggests Ways to Protect our *Natural Assets*

**Ken Brinker**, chairman of the Palmer Ranch Natural Assets Committee, pointed out that what we are doing in Turtle Rock affects our ponds, and eventually the Gulf. Everyone who lives in Turtle Rock lives near a watershed. All our waters are interconnected storm water retention ponds. What goes into our ponds affects the fish, gators, mollusks, birds and animals who live in or use the water.

What can we homeowners do to protect our environment?

**Runoff** can be mitigated. A 1-inch rain produces 1200 gallons of runoff from a 2000 square foot roof. Turning downspouts to release water onto land instead of down a driveway or walkway allows that water to be absorbed into the aquifer. The gray water we use to irrigate in Turtle Rock contains nutrients that feed algae growth in our ponds. Check irrigation heads to be sure they are watering only grass and not the street or lake. If there is a lot of water leaving the lawn or landscaping, cut back on the time each section of your yard is watered.

**Bank erosion** of our retention ponds can be mitigated by leaving a **buffer strip** of higher grass next to ponds. Taller grass will grow deeper roots and prevent the bank from eroding. Adding **aquatic plants** on the littoral shelves located within certain areas of our ponds will

also help, as well as providing nurseries for fish and places for baby ducks to shelter and birds to find food. Another easy, no-cost measure is to **not spray** the edges of the ponds. The spray contaminates the water, killing the plants that are securing the bank while continuing through the watershed into the Gulf.

Commercial mowers compact the ground, create ruts near ponds, and often throw grass clippings into the ponds which create excess nutrients. Ask your lawn company to mow so that **grass clippings** are thrown up onto your lawn, which is also good for the lawn!

Create **Rings of Responsibility** around our ponds. This is a 10 foot area from the pond into our yards where no fertilizer, pesticide or herbicide is used.

Plant more **Florida native plants** which will attract bees and butterflies.

Some of these suggestions can be done by individual homeowners. Others require community management implementation. Brinker said his committee is working on a Best Practices brochure that will be available to all Palmer Ranch Communities.



## ROAD RESURFACING ON SAWYER LOOP & NORTHRIDGE ROADS

Sarasota County started work a few weeks ago and crews will be continuing to resurface the roadways of Sawyer Loop and Northridge Road throughout the month January. Please use caution when driving in these areas!

Roadway Schedule/Activity:

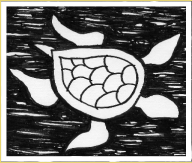
### Sawyer Loop

- Jan 3—9: mill and resurface; two-way traffic with stop and go flagmen.
- Jan 10—14: resurface Friction; wo-way traffic with stop and go flagmen.
- Final Striping to follow after 14 days from final paving.

### Northridge

- Jan 15 & 16: resurface Friction; two-way traffic with stop and go flagmen.
- Final Striping to follow after 14 days from final paving





# Turtle Rock Academy Lecture Series

## SPRING 2019 Program Schedule

*All Programs take place in the Community Center starting at 2pm and end at 3pm*

**January 10<sup>th</sup>**

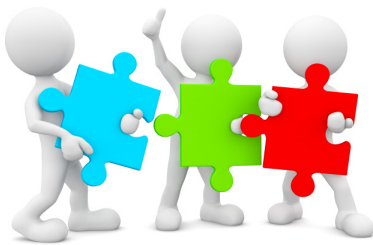


### Virtual Reality:

*What is it? How is it created? What can it do?*

**Morgan Woolverton** is a professor at the Ringling College of Art and Design. He earned a B.F.A. from Hampshire College and an M.F.A. in Studio Arts from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He is an artist and game developer with over 20 years of experience. Ringling is the first college in the U.S. to offer a bachelor's degree in virtual reality.

**February 14<sup>th</sup>**



### Improv for Better Relationships:

*A Refresher Course with FST Improv*

Since it's Valentine's Day, we are going to get a refresher course on how to take better care of the ones we hold dear. This will be a fun, somewhat interactive program with lots of laughs. FST Improv was started in 2001 by Rebecca Hopkins and has been entertaining audiences on the Suncoast of Florida ever since. In 2014, former ImprovBoston Artistic Director **Will Luera** was hired as the FST Director, adding a variety of new shows including long-form favorites *When X meet Y*, *We're Doomed*, and the *More You Know*.

**March 14<sup>th</sup>**

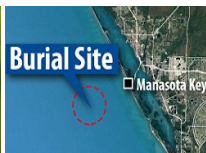


Artificial Intelligence

### Artificial Intelligence: An Introduction to our Future

**Dr. Alex Beavers** is a 40 year veteran high-technology executive, entrepreneur and author. His professional background includes being the Executive Director in charge of clean tech commercialization at the Stanford Research Institute. His books include *Roadmap to the e-Factory* and *The Digital Horizon: Hopeful or Hopeless*. He is currently teaching a course on A.I. through the Ringling OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute).

**April 11<sup>th</sup>**



### The Manasota Key Offshore Site

The new discovery of a unique 7000 year old archaeological site located off Manasota Key has excited archaeologists, historians of Indian culture and residents of Southwest Florida in the past year. **John McCarthy**, the Executive Director of the Gulf Coast Heritage Association and Historic Spanish Point in Osprey, will share what has been learned about this important site and let us know how we can help protect it. John worked 33 years with the Sarasota County Government, having served as Environmental Specialist, County Historian, and Director of Parks and Recreation.

# Architectural Review Committee (ARC)

Dear Neighbor,

You have done all the right things! You have applied to the ARC for approval of your exterior improvement projects. You have submitted all the required brochures, plans, contractor's information and samples and carefully observed the posted ARC schedule.

You have received your letter of approval, the job is done, and you are happy with the outcome.

But have you forgotten that the lower part of the letter printed in red asks that you sign and return it to the manager with the completion date of your project so that the ARC can schedule a final approval visit and close your file?

By not doing so, you have obligated management to send a follow-up letter to you to find out if your project has been completed, delayed, or cancelled. Re-

sponding to this letter and providing the requested information is your last chance to apply for final approval or let management know that your plans have not progressed as you had hoped.

What happens if again you do not respond? Your application package will be added to your master file with the notation that your project did not receive final ARC approval and may not be in compliance with Turtle Rock's documents.

Please remember, a notation like this in your master file could negatively impact the future sale of your home should the buyer inquire if it is in compliance with Turtle Rock Rules and Regulations.

As always, the ARC thanks you for helping to keep Turtle Rock beautiful!

**Submitted by Christa Friedlander**



## Landscape Committee

The Landscaping Committee met on November 28<sup>th</sup> and December 19<sup>th</sup> to review the ongoing maintenance checklist with Shane Battle, the Account Manager from Bloomings. The condition of grass throughout Turtle Rock has improved with sod laid in many areas, and Bloomings will continue to treat other areas with plugs or additional sod. Bloomings has also replaced some of the new plantings, including along the east side of the north entrance wall. The Awabuki hedge along Central Sarasota Parkway has been cut back to about 8 ft height. It's a bit skimpy now, but will fill in nicely with the spring growing season. The approved plantings around the Community Center will be delayed until after the new community bridge is installed to prevent any damage to the plants.

The Committee also discussed several new projects, such as requesting extending the sidewalk running along Central Sarasota Parkway east of Turtle

Rock Blvd, adding extra hedge plantings along Honore Avenue, planting more trees along Turtle Rock Blvd, and renovating the butterfly garden.

Lori Smith and Erika Haslett, residents of Turtle Rock, approached the Committee with the idea of creating a dog park in the community. Potential sites suggested were the land behind the tennis courts and children's playground, and also the land across the pond from Community Center located in the Conservation area. The Committee members walked both locations and will further explore the possibility of creating a dog park. Approval from the County would be needed if the dog park is located on the land located in the Conservation area.

The Committee is planning on organizing a community effort to pull out the Spanish Moss from the hedges and trees along Turtle Rock Blvd. A date of January 19 has been selected, and an email will be sent out to the community asking for volunteers to help with this. This would be a great opportunity for teens to earn some volunteer hours and families to spend time together outdoors!!

The Landscaping Committee hopes that everyone had a wonderful holiday!

**Submitted by Jodi Cunnison**



# 20th ANNUAL Trolley Tour of Lights — Neighborhood spirit is alive and well!

Over **150** people came through the Community Center on the cool and clear evening of December 22 to mingle with neighbors and hop onto the trolley to admire the holiday light displays. All four time slots sold out completely, which turned out to be quite a problem when the trolley had less seats than anticipated. But with good cheer and accommodating attitudes, families squeezed children on laps, and dads volunteered to stand at the front to guide the trolley driver through our winding streets. Several made the ultimate sacrifice by giving up their seat altogether and remaining in the community center. Plenty of delicious food was brought to share, and tables/chairs (set up by residents who arrived early and volunteered their help—thanks!) offered a place to take a load off and socialize. Another table was set up with crafts for the youngsters.

On the trolley, resident Cole McOmber (8th grade) and his friend Alex Ind (7th grade) entertained riders by singing carols, and telling holiday-related jokes or riddles. The boys donated their time from 5:30 to 8:15— they deserve a big thanks for their efforts!

Attempting to navigate six miles of our roads to pass by as many homes as possible turned out to be quite a challenge to complete within 25 minutes. By the time the “7:30” trolley began to load it, was already 7:45pm. Riders were handed maps which offered nine selected or self-nominated homes for consideration for best décor. 71 tally-marks were recorded — and the winner is...

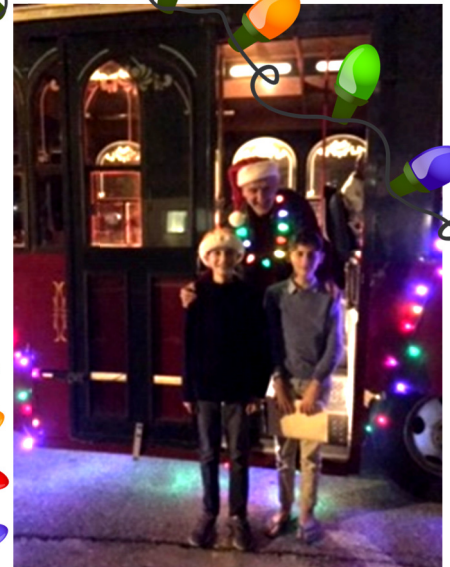
**4814 Sweetmeadow Circle**, decorated by Fred Wasik both front and back, which was also visible across the pond from along the Boulevard.

A close second went to 4764 Sweetmeadow Circle. In the chaos, not every family received a voting sheet, something we will work to address more smoothly next year. Congratulations to all those who spent so much time and effort to decorate! making the drive through our streets bright indeed!

A big thanks to all volunteers, and especially Melissa McOmber for organizing the entire event. Despite personal tragedy in her family, she managed to pull off another successful tour. This was the **LAST** time, however, as she is retiring from Families Club event organizing. **PLEASE** consider stepping up to help!!



The PEOPLE's FAVORITE this year: 4814 Sweetmeadow Circle



Pictured in front of the trolley (left to right): Cole McOmber (Ridgelake Place), Claude Pierre (Meadow Rush) who sponsored the trolley, and Alec Ind (formerly of Glade Fern)



Communications Cmtee member Judy Bentz pictured with her family. Judy and husband David were among those who volunteered to give up their seats so that children got to ride.



The above map is the route the trolley tried to follow to pass by the nominated homes. 71 riders voted by placing tally marks.

**Submitted by: Kathrin Harris**



## 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 • 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 16, 2019

Sell from the comfort of your 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!

# **WANTED!**

**The Turtle Rock Communications Committee is  
LOOKING FOR**

- . Business Owners**
- . Photographers**
- . High School Juniors  
interested in graphic design**
- . Families with school-aged  
children**
- . Volunteers looking to make a  
difference in the community**

**Please email  
*communications@myturtlerock.com*  
with your interests and we will  
follow up with additional  
information and  
opportunities.**





## 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.**

A monthly meeting/luncheon is held in restaurants and Country Clubs in the area, typically featuring a speaker of interest. Quarterly cocktail parties and interesting events are always planned. Dues are just \$15/year. For information about the Turtle Rock Women's Club, call Angela Pierre at 321-3994 or send and email to [turtlerockwomen@aol.com](mailto:turtlerockwomen@aol.com)

### TRWC 2019 Board:



Kim Weiser  
President



Jan Merchant  
1st VP



Susan Neisler  
2nd VP



Mary Beth Cordier  
Treasurer



Cean Cerny  
Secretary



Angela Pierre  
Membership



## Turtle Rock Men's Club

Submitted by: Jim Cerny

The men of Turtle Rock are welcome to join us for our monthly lunch. Starting out the new year, our lunch will be on Wednesday, **January 16** and will be at **Miguel's** restaurant on Siesta Key (turn left after crossing the bridge). If you are interested in coming to this lunch and have not attended one of our lunches before, please call Jim Cerny on 941-926-7888 to make your reservation. Current members are notified via email to make their menu selections in advance. Reservations are required. Come and meet other men of Turtle Rock, enjoy a good meal (almost a dinner), and learn what is happening in our neighborhood. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Cerny via email at [jimcerny123@gmail.com](mailto:jimcerny123@gmail.com). See you January 16.

### 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, Judy Bentz, Glenn Scharf, and Ed Olson of Sunstate Mgmt  
Board Liaison: David Tarlton      Proofreader: Charlotte Jones

**Send Comments, Suggestions, and**

**Articles for consideration to:**

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



Over three years ago (Nov 2015), the trustees of the Palmer Ranch Master Association board (numbering 16 total, comprised of 10 residential, 3 commercial, 2 recreational, and 1 declarant representative) unanimously voted to approve the construction of a community center for all of Palmer Ranch at the SE corner of Beneva and Palmer Ranch Pkwy. Site development and construction of a (relatively) basic building were anticipated to come in around \$1.7 million, a cost which was readily absorbed with the addition of thousands of new members in the various new neighborhoods.

Fast forward 37 months and miles of red tape, volunteer hours, paid professional hours and rising costs later, the trustees were informed at a special meeting of the board on December 19 that current estimates brought that figure to roughly \$3.8 million. I find it hard to believe that bringing in utilities, then constructing a basic 6800sf building with parking lot should cost \$559/sf! Armed with this outrageous figure, the board voted to NOT continue the construction at this time. While the approval of all required permits from the county and SWFWMD are within reach, the 13 trustees present at the special meeting could not justify spending this amount of money. The building was to have served two purposes:

- to bring the community together by offering space for social functions, interest groups, and member community board and committee meetings, and
- accommodate Palmer Ranch management offices.

The anticipated permit approvals for the actual building (a proposed 6800 sf functional facility with office and multi-purpose spaces) and parking lot will be valid for a full two years from the date they are issued, allowing the association to revisit initiating construction if anticipated costs decline over the next few years. If anyone has a general contracting background and is willing to serve on a task force to delve deeper into the actual costs of completing this worthwhile project, please contact Palmer Ranch community manager Tracy Smith at [tracy@palmerranch.net](mailto:tracy@palmerranch.net).

On a brighter note, during the same December meeting, the board voted unanimously to accept the proposed new contract between the Association and Sarasota county, which reimburses us for the "mow-and-blow" turf maintenance on the county-owned rights-of-way within Palmer Ranch. We are the only entity in the county who has such an agreement, and while it does not cover our total costs since we mow twice as often as the county's LOS (Level Of Service), it offsets these by roughly \$169000 per year. The contract will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for approval in January.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**

## Traffic Safety Task Force Town Hall

A town hall meeting was held on December 13th to discuss issues related to traffic safety within Turtle Rock. Moderator Sean King reviewed the introduction presentation and then opened the floor for resident comments. Sean did an excellent job of keeping the discussion on topic. Thirty-one residents attended and provided some useful discussion points and suggestions. Comments from residents included:

- ♦ Fedex and UPS delivery drivers are routinely seen speeding and barely acknowledging stop signs. Recommended that they all should be provided a notice from the guard house instructing them to obey the traffic rules.
- ♦ Gate attendants waving vehicles through without checking credentials.
- ♦ Speed detection and monitoring systems were discussed, and one resident noted that Laurel Oaks has an effective camouflaged portable speed detection system.
- ♦ Some residents advocated for an increase to the speed limit on Turtle Rock Boulevard, while others advocated for a reduction.
- ♦ Two residents asked for the task force and board to reconsider speed humps along Turtle Rock Boulevard or speed bumps at the stop signs.
- ♦ Nice Way turn restrictions were added in 2014 but not for Benchmark Court. Residents requested that the same no-left-turn restriction be added from Benchmark Court to Turtle Rock Boulevard.
- ♦ More than one resident asked for flashing stop signs at busy intersections.
- ♦ One-way traffic at the community center during bus stop times was a concept that was agreed upon by many.
- ♦ Additional road reflectors, better marked crosswalks, and illuminated crosswalks were suggested.
- ♦ A resident suggested a temporary rumble strip trial at the intersection of Park Shore Lane and Turtle Rock Boulevard.

The Task Force members would like to thank all Turtle Rock residents who attended the Town Hall meeting and will take into consideration all of the new resident input before presenting any recommendations to the Board of Governors.