



Turtle Rock Newsletter

May, 2019 The Best Place on Palmer Ranch

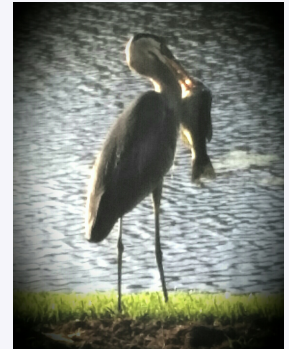


A Place to Call Home

Beautiful trees, plants, turtles, alligators,
oh my
You want to see birds just look to the sky
No reason to look too far as nature
abounds
At night just listen for all the sounds

Small ponds, large ponds all full of fish
One might see almost any creature they wish
Look to the ground, pond, or sky
The beauty and color will fill the eye

Manmade beauty also will be seen
As homes and doors all so serene
Each home adds its own little touch
Makes us love where we live so much



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walking, running, biking and so much more help us all
enjoy all things outdoor

Tennis, swimming, basketball, and maybe pickle ball
There is a reason for us all to live here, big or small

One could go on and on to describe this place
The simplicity and the attraction of the slow pace
Please thank those who watch over it all and take stock
They used one of our creatures and named us "Turtle Rock"

Text and Photos by Roy Baker
All photos taken in Turtle Rock





A Letter from the President

At the last board meeting David Tarlton shared the findings of the Traffic Task Force. The board voted to post the report on the TR website and to email a copy to residents. I'm hoping you all have received a copy and taken the time to review it. Your feedback is important to the board. We plan further discussion at the board meeting on May 7th so please plan to attend so your voice may be heard.

Also, on the agenda for May will be a report by Curt Gilroy of the recommendations from the Street Sign task force. As a reminder the board approved new signs in 2017 but tabled it when it was discovered we needed to replace the bridge crossing the pond by the Community Center. Some of those recommendations dovetail with the Traffic Task force recommendations.

I want to thank all the people that are serving on the various task forces including those that joined the Pond Task Force at our March meeting. We're all volunteers and are serving to improve our community. Your support and encouragement are much appreciated.

Submitted by Bob Oram





Report From The Treasurer



For the period ending February 2019:

| | Actual | Budget |
|------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Total Receipts | \$106,768 | \$106,132 |
| Expenses | | |
| General and Admin | \$ 30,556 | \$ 32,950 |
| Common Grounds | \$ 14,815 | \$ 14,815 |
| Access Control | \$ 19,344 | \$ 20,725 |
| Facilities Maintenance | \$ 2,650 | \$ 13,325 ** |
| Utilities | \$ 5,953 | \$ 7,325 |

** Facilities Maintenance budget variance explanation:

- quarterly waterway and wetlands maintenance budgeted

Reserve Contribution \$16,992

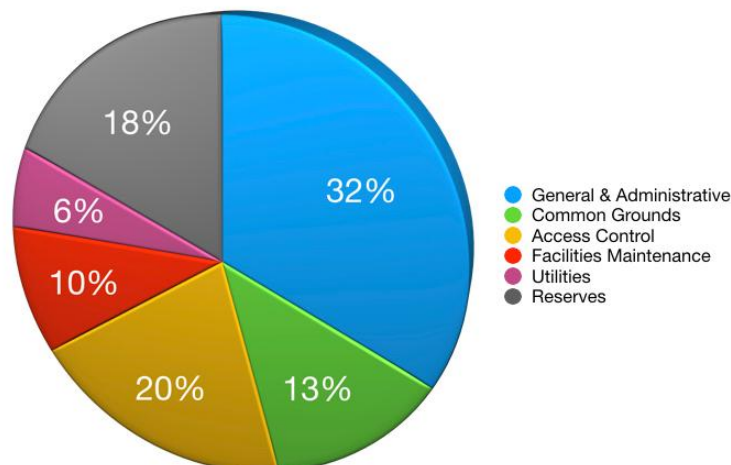
Reserve expenses for the period include \$4,250 final bill for sidewalk grinding on Turtle Rock Blvd.

Total Assessments Collected \$73,526

Total Assessments Outstanding \$20,261 (previous month was \$29,209)

The pie chart below shows the breakdown of all expenses by category as of February 28, 2019.

Turtle Rock YTD Expenses



Manager's Message



May is here, cool nights pleasant days, it reminds us all why we are here. I wanted to keep everyone updated on what is happening around the neighborhood.

The new plantings around the community center and the community look great. The palms have been trimmed and the mulch has been put down along Turtle Rock Blvd.

The storm water retention ponds are a balancing act that is ongoing. Because ponds are the filtration system for the storm water runoff, vegetation is a key component for filtering nutrients and pollutants out of the water. A common statement I hear quite often is "It did not look like this 20 years ago". Today's view of the ponds offers a better perspective as to what they were designed to be. Our ponds and littoral areas are healthy and in good condition due to diligent maintenance, Mother Nature and our superb contractors. Turtle Rock waterways are considered to be some of the healthiest in all of Sarasota County.

I have received a plethora of phone calls and e-mails about the Traffic Safety Study. Speaking of safety, I am receiving a lot of complaints about cars being parked on the street overnight.

The Turtle Rock Owner ' s Manual states that any vehicle parked on the street between the hours of 2:00 and 6:00 a.m. are in violation of the rules.

It is dangerous and inconsiderate any time of the day or night. Dangerous because it makes it hard to see, inconsiderate because your neighbors have a hard time pulling in or out of their driveways.

We had the first blood drive here in Turtle Rock with the Suncoast Blood Bank. Sue with the Blood Bank said it was a real success. We hope to have another one this summer and hope everyone will contribute. Trivia fact: 1 unit of blood will save 3 lives.

As always 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

Architectural Review Committee (ARC)



The ARC continues to be active, dealing with between 20 and 30 new applications for exterior home improvements and landscaping projects each month. We visit each of these homes on the 4th Saturday of the month which can take over two hours. New application forms are available on line and from Management at the community center. In addition to new applications, there are also between 10 and 20 projects that are finished and need a “final” approval each month. We meet the following Tuesday to consider all applications, and management sends out the ARC’s decision letters later that week.

This is a good time to remember, for all of you who have completed your projects, to fill out and sign the form that states that “the work has been completed to your satisfaction and is now ready for final inspection by the ARC.” This form was sent to you by Management when the project was first approved. Unfortunately, the ARC has a backlog of projects for which no form has been submitted. Oftentimes, homeowners forget to send back the form, and sometimes projects (although approved) are never begun for whatever reason. Kindly check your records if you fall into either of these categories, fill out the form if you have not, and send to Management.

The ARC always tries to expedite new applications throughout the year for emergency situations such as leaking roofs. Feel free to contact management if you need to expedite a particular emergency project.

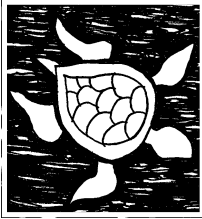
**Thank you for continuing your home beautification projects
that make our Turtle Rock community such a wonderful place to live.**

Curt Gilroy, Chairman

FREE COMMUNITY RESOURCES

The Sarasota County UF/IFAS Extension conducts free Homeowner Irrigation System Checks for all Sarasota County residents.

During your scheduled appointment, the UF/IFAS team will check for leaks and clogs, broken or damaged heads, calibration rates and more. Once your system is evaluated they will provide suggestions on how you can save money by saving water. Follow this link; https://ufl.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6tZI9NhvzYOnUvb to learn more and schedule and appointment for this valuable free service.



Turtle Rock Academy Lecture Series

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

The Manasota Key Site Is One of a Kind in the World

John McCarthy is the Executive Director of the Gulf Coast Heritage Foundation and Historic Spanish Point in Osprey Florida. His energy and enthusiasm for Florida and its history was immediately apparent as he explained the significance of the offshore ancient Indian burials.



7,000 years ago Florida was a much wider peninsula because of the ice age lowering sea levels. During this time Florida was drier and ancient Indians lived close to water sources. The Manasota Key Offshore Site was once a fresh water marsh possibly with a spring. These ancient Indians did not yet have pottery. They used conch and welk shells as tools. They used fibers to create ropes and mats. They buried their dead in on their side in a fetal position. They were placed on a woven platform with a similar platform over them and staked to the marsh floor. These stakes also indicated where the burials were for the tribe.

As the seas began to rise, the site was submerged only to be discovered about 10 years ago. The location was not officially established until two years ago. A group which includes the Seminole tribe was formed to oversee the site. Ocean currents are eroding the site into the ocean, so eventually, it will be gone. The Seminole tribe believes this is the way it should be. The bones of the buried have not been disturbed. The site is marked with a buoy. It is unlawful to dive to the site. There are multiple cameras trained on the site and if a boat goes over it or stops over it, 5 people are alerted and the police are called.

The Manasota Key Offshore Site is the only known one of its kind in the world. Two other underwater sites are in Denmark and Israel, but those burials are in clay not peat. McCarthy believes others are out there, but they haven't been discovered yet.

The Turtle Rock Academy will return October 10th.
See you there!

Text by Janet Smith, Photo by Gisela Vaughan

Landscape Committee Report



The Landscape and Grounds Committee met on March 27th to review ongoing projects and to talk about new ones. Shane from Bloomings Landscaping was there, along with Ed Olson, our property manager. The ongoing maintenance check list was reviewed with Shane and it was noted that dead plants were being replaced throughout Turtle Rock and new plants were being installed in the beds of the Community Center and in the vacant bed against the wall outside the north gate. Also mulching of the entire Turtle Rock common property took place in March, along with trimming of the palm trees. Starting in mid-April, Bloomings will begin weekly visits to our community to keep up with the summer mowing.



The Committee also discussed removing the boulders that sit in front of the Community Center and replacing them with two Christmas palms, in order to provide a more aesthetically pleasing look to the entrance of our Community Center. The boulders would be relocated to the north entrance of Turtle Rock. This recommendation was made to the Board of Governors at the April Board meeting and was approved.

The Landscape and Grounds Committee is working on a long-range plan for the beautification of our Turtle Rock community. The Committee's ongoing projects include obtaining final quotes to clean, repair and paint the interior of the Community Center, 2 guard stations and pool area, along with cleaning and painting all pergolas. In addition, the Committee continues to explore the enhancement of the community butterfly garden and also the possibility of trimming the trees that are on Turtle Rock common ground that line Turtle Rock Blvd. Due to the number of ongoing projects, the Committee has decided to meet twice per month over the course of the next few months.

**New committee members Diane Geramanis and Jan Merchant
were officially approved as members of the
Landscaping and Grounds Committee by the Board of Governors in April.
A big welcome to Diane and Jan,
who have already been helping out tremendously!**

Submitted by Jodi Cunnison

Traffic Safety Task Force

The Traffic Study Task Force presented a proposal to the Turtle Rock Board of Governors prior to the April 2 board meeting, and general overview was discussed during the meeting. The board decided to post the complete proposal to the Turtle Rock website for all residents to review prior to taking any action. The complete proposal was uploaded to the Turtle Rock community website immediately after the meeting, and management sent an email to all residents on April 4 with the following link:

<https://www.myturtlerock.com/files/home/traffic/TR%203B%20STF%20Proposal.pdf>

The proposal is the result of a months-long study of all traffic and safety issues within the community. The recommendations presented in the proposal are all passive initiatives viewed from the perspective of improved awareness, pedestrian walkability, and overall safety rather than general traffic enforcement.

Initiatives proposed include:

- **Improvements to the Post Orders and visitor entry policies**
- **A Neighborhood Pace Car Program**
- **A Public Awareness Signs Campaign**
- **Improvements related to bus stop safety**
- **Improvements to crosswalk visibility, awareness and safety**

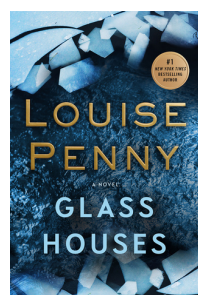
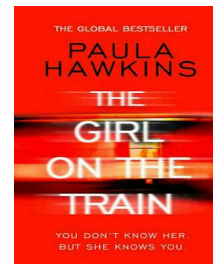


Turtle Rock Library



Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng (mystery) 297 pp. From the first sentence of this novel, we know that the oldest daughter of an interracial marriage has died. What follows is a story that explores alienation, achievement, race, gender, family, and identity as the police unravel what has happened to Lydia. The Chinese-American Lee family must uncover the sister and daughter that they hardly knew. This debut novel topped Amazon's Best Books of 2014.

The Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins (novel) 336 pp. This is a psychological thriller about a woman who becomes emotionally entangled in a murder investigation because of something she witnesses on her daily commute. It was written from the perspectives of three women whose lives interlink tragically.



Glass Houses by Louise Penny (mystery) 400 pp. From the moment the shadow of a mysterious figure falls over the Quebec village of Three Pines on a cold November day, Chief Superintendent of the Surete du Quebec, Armand Gamache, suspects the creature has deep roots and a dark purpose. When the figure vanishes overnight and a body is discovered, it falls to Gamache to determine if a debt has been paid or levied. Author's honors include six Agatha Awards

The Goldfinch by Donna Tart (novel) 771pp. Tells the story of Theo Decker, who emerges from a terrorist bombing motherless, abandoned by his father and in the possession of a prized Dutch painting. The story is populated with vivid characters. At its heart is the unwavering belief that come what may, art can save us by lifting us above ourselves.



The above books are recommendations from the Turtle Rock Women's Club Book Group. As of mid March they were all on the shelves of our library.

Our entire collection has been built from the donations of the residents. Due to space limitations, the TR Library Committee kindly requests that your donations be limited to novels and biographies.

Children's books and CDs are also gladly accepted.

Non-fiction titles can be donated to the Goodwill book store at 5831 Derek Ave (off McIntosh & Clark). Your cooperation is most appreciated.

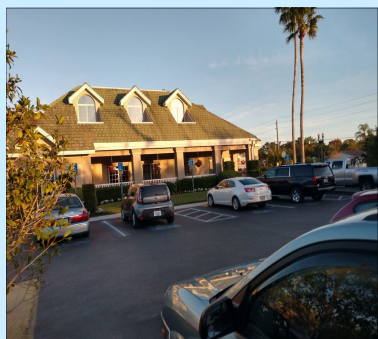
Submitted by our Faithful Librarian Edie Wolf

Turtle Rock Men's Club



The Turtle Rock Men's Club will kick off its Summer series of lunch meetings at noon on Wednesday 15th May, 2019, with a return to one of our favorite restaurants, Der Dutchman at 3713 Bahia Vista Street.

Specializing in made-from-scratch Amish and Mennonite dishes, the original Der Dutchman was opened in Walnut Creek, Ohio in 1969. Today the chain has expanded to 6 restaurants, 4 inns, 6 bakeries, 7 shops and a 500 seat theater, plus wholesale food supplies. All but two of them are located in Ohio. One of the exceptions is in Middlebury, Indiana and the other is the restaurant/bakery/shop combination located here in Sarasota.



Understandably, the Sarasota Der Dutchman is set right in the heart of the local Amish/Mennonite community. It was opened as Der Dutchman in 1985, underwent a name change to Dutch Heritage in 2001 and reverted to its original name in 2001.

Club secretary, Jim Cerny, will send out notification of the May lunch to Club members shortly. There will be no food choices to make on this occasion because Der Dutchman features a buffet from which you can sample a wide variety of tasty dishes. If you are NOT yet a member of the Men's Club but would like to join us for this lunch you are very welcome to attend. Simply phone Jim Cerny on (941) 926-7888 to get details and make your reservation. Then, join your friends and neighbors for a delicious lunch, and afterwards browse the shop and bakery to select some pies, pastries and unique gifts to take home.

Submitted by Keith Jones

Don't Forget ...Turtle Rock Men's Club is looking for golfers to play on Thursday mornings at Serenoa Golf Course. We play seasonal or year round. Join us for a casual non competitive round as often as you are able. Some golfers stay for lunch which is optional. If interested please contact us at trmc.golf@gmail.com



Turtle Rock Women's Club

The TRWC is for all women residents in Turtle Rock.

A monthly meeting/luncheon is held in restaurants and Country Clubs in the area. Quarterly cocktail parties and interesting events are always planned.

**For information about the Turtle Rock Women's Club,
call Angela Pierre at 321-3994 or go to turtlerockwomen@aol.com**

Every three months we gather at the TR Community Center for a fun evening full of good food, conversation and friendship. Singles and couples attend, bringing a dish to share and their drink of choice. Our next cocktail Party is scheduled for June 9.

April Events and Happenings

In addition to our many regularly scheduled interest groups including Mahjong, Bunco, Bridge and Crafts and Book Groups we also offer an array of exercise classes Yoga, Golf, Tennis, Aqua Aerobics, Bowling and Aqua Zumba.

The club also organizes a monthly luncheon with guest speaker. The focus in April was on protecting the environment. Our speaker, Molly Holland; Sarasota County's Nest Coordinator provided a great overview on what we can do to lessen our environmental impact.

We hosted two tours in April. The first outing was a trip to the Koski Asolo Production studio where we explored the expansive facility where theatre sets and props are built and stored. What a treasure trove of fun things and a great time!



Our second outing was a joint program with the Men 's group. The destination was the PGT window factory in Venice where we learned how hurricane resistant windows and doors are built and tested. Watch for Photos next month!

Submitted by Grace Cooney & Jan Merchant

Turtle Rock Women's Club report cont'd

Our quarterly cocktail hour was also hosted in April where we welcomed over 50 residents for another fun and relaxing evening of good food, wine and conversation.



Join your TR Neighbors for an afternoon at

**Asolo, June 19, 2019, 1:30 pm Matinee
“Around the World in 80 Days”**

<https://www.asolorep.org/events/detail/around-the-world-in-eighty-days>

Meet at the TR club house at 12:00 noon to carpool or caravan. After the show, whoever is interested, will plan to go somewhere for Happy Hour (details to follow). We have reserved a group of 20 tickets on the Mezzanine level, Row 4 at a discount price of \$33.20 per person or \$66.40 per couple. We should be able to get more tickets if needed.

Please drop a check payable to **TR Women's Club** by Linda Ash's house at 4913 Sabal Lake Circle no later than **May 17, 2019**. No refunds after tickets have been purchased. Hearing Impaired technology is available. Questions, contact Linda Ash at linda.ash4@gmail.com

Name_____

Number of Tickets_____

News from Signage Task Force



New Turtle Rock Signage

Three years ago, the Board of Governors formed a task force to examine all street signs in Turtle Rock. The impetus behind this was concern among many residents that the street signs, stop signs, and other traffic signs were not visible enough (particularly at night) posing a significant safety hazard; nor were they consistent in location as some street corners were left without signs. Many residents thought that the current county signs were both unattractive and “cheap” looking. The task force noted that Turtle Rock is the only gated, deed-restricted community in Palmer Ranch that does not have custom designed, attractive signage.

The Board then asked the task force to explore costs, potential vendors, and signage designs. The task force met with several vendors, and selected one that was both most cost-effective and willing to work with the Board on the project. After visiting 16 communities with custom signage (14 of which were gated with private roads), the task force chose a street sign design that featured more readable and reflective gold lettering on a black background with the Turtle Rock logo. A picture of the proposed street sign/stop sign combination is shown above. The signage will also include improved announcement boards for events, as well as other traffic safety signs that announce children at play, curves in roads, vehicular speed, etc.

Because the Board had appropriated funds for the signage project last year (but put the project on hold pending the completion of the Community Center bridge), no new funds will be needed for this project. The Board will discuss the task force proposal at its June meeting.

Submitted by Curt Gilroy, Chairman

A Bridge Puzzle: Solution from April Newsletter

The Olympic sprinter and the high school track star cross together first (two minutes.) The Olympic sprinter rushes back light in hand (one minute). Then, the fifth grader and the kindergartner run across, with the light (10 minutes). The high school track star, waiting on the other side, rushes back with the flashlight to grab the Olympian (two minutes). Together, they run across just before the bridge collapses (two minutes, for a total of 17 minutes).

Only two 3 brave souls sent in the solution...

DeWitt & Dixie Platt and Mike Weisman congratulations, and thanks again to Terry Cooney!



*For Bees, the flower is the fountain of life.
For flowers, the Bee is the messenger of
love.*

Dennison Van Engelsdorp



We now have a
NEW FEATURE in our TR
Newsletter...

**LETTERS TO THE
EDITOR**

You can send your letter by
email to...

communications@myturtle
rock.com

...Or the old fashioned way by
writing on a real piece of paper
and dropping it in the black
mail box up by the Community
Center main door, no postage
needed.

Dear Editor,

**I have lots of great ideas for arti-
cle suggestions for the Newsletter.
How about an article about good
places to eat, movie reviews, local
sports teams, local attractions....etc.**

Sincerely, Big Idea Guy

Dear Guy,

Thanks for your suggestions for future articles
for our Newsletter. Here's how it works. You, the
reader, write an article and submit it to the Com-
munications Committee . If the Editor accepts the
article, it will be placed on a page with any photos
etc. that you include. We look forward to reading
your article.

The Editor

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.***

THANKS for getting involved!

Committee Members:

Jim Cerny, Patricia Tarlton, 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

(Text must be in Word, Photos as JPEG.)



**The following are excerpts from the Palmer Ranch Master Properties
Owners Association Article**

“Practical Maintenance Guidelines For Stormwater Ponds.”

One of the main purposes of a stormwater pond is to remove pollutants before they are transported to the Sarasota Bay. These ponds will never be pristine swimming or fishing lakes because their purpose is to trap and transform pollutants before they're transported downstream. Some algae and plants that homeowners sometimes find objectionable help provide this function.

Stormwater starts as clean rain and picks up pollutants as it flows. If you keep your landscape and ponds clean you can produce clean runoff.

**It is important to note that stormwater runoff is currently
considered the largest contributor
to degraded water quality in Florida.**

- *To help control erosion and filter out pollution establish a buffer or low maintenance zone of at least 3 feet around pond banks;**
- *Avoid applying fertilizer on hard surfaces like curbs, sidewalks and roads;**
- *Keep the use of all chemicals to a minimum;**
- *Keep grass clippings on lawns and off streets and sidewalks;**
- *Pick up pet waste to prevent harmful bacteria and organisms from entering waterways;**
- *Adjust fertilizer amount to account for the nutrients in reclaimed water.**
- *Keep irrigation off impervious surfaces and out of ponds and wetlands;**
- *Remember many pond problems result from poor general landscape maintenance practices;**
- *Develop a maintenance plan for the entire stormwater pond drainage system and maintain records of all work done.**

Submitted by Jodi Cunnison