



Turtle Rock Newsletter

The Best Place on Palmer Ranch

April, 2020

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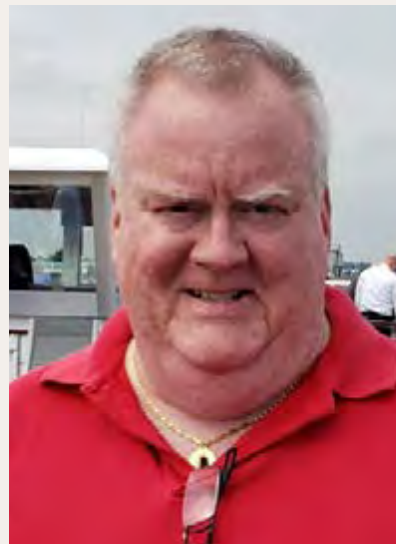
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The Turtle Rock Newsletter proof readers check articles for errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar, and sentence structure.

The author of each article is responsible for the factual accuracy of his or her article.

Congratulations to our winner

James Whalen



James found the word
"disambiguate" in the
March Newsletter and his
name was drawn to receive
a \$25 gift card to Publix,
donated by:



**Full Service Pool
Maintenance**

**Owned and operated
by TR Residents**



A Letter from the President

As I write this message the April Board of Governors meeting will be held via conference call. Only essential HOA business will be conducted telephonically because of the COVID-19 outbreak. Turtle Rock Residents will be invited to listen in. The phone number will be provided at a later date. Please keep abreast of the COVID-19 conditions by following the CDC and Florida Department of Health websites.

We had a full house and a full agenda for the March Homeowners' Association (HOA) Board meeting. There were many topics discussed and some items approved.

The **Landscape and Grounds Committee's** recommendation for the resurfacing of the basketball and tennis courts along with replacing the fencing material and the tennis court awning was approved. The committee also recommended and the Board approved applying mulch to community common grounds twice per year.

The **Landscape and Grounds Committee** also recommended replacing the Community Center flooring. There was discussion about the impact on acoustics if a wood appearing hard surface were to be installed. The committee will continue to investigate the options available. The Board expects to discuss acoustics briefly at the April meeting, but any vote on this will not take place until the COVID 19 emergency conditions have been lifted.

The **Pond Task Force** provided an update on their continuing investigations. They are developing a recommendation for the Board and will include:

1. Behind homes backing into water, implement an onshore buffer zone of taller grass. This will eliminate the use of heavy mowers next to the shoreline and grass clippings entering the pond.
2. Remove all Tilapia from the ponds by having them netted and removed from Turtle Rock.
3. Plant and maintain aquatic plants along the shore line to reduce water/wind erosion.
4. Begin repairing badly eroded shorelines.

The **Access Control Task Force** provided an update on their investigation and the direction their recommendation will take. This generated the most discussion at the meeting. The discussion included what hours should have a gate attendant on premise and what hours a remote gate attendant was appropriate; should the HOA make a change to a remote gate attendant model; what change would there be for residents and their guests; how secure is the remote gate attendant model; and other topics. If you missed the presentation by Envera on February 20 please go to the link <https://enverasystems.com> to see how the system works; the Task Force will be recommending implementation of the Automatic License Plate Recognition system. For residents there is no change, you would enter through the resident gate as always.

Continued on page 3...

Presidents Letter Continued...

For your regular guests the system would recognize their license plate number and the gate will open for them. For all other guests that do not have a license plate number registered with the system they would need to talk to the gate attendant whether the attendant was physically present or remote. Speaking to a remote attendant would be similar to ordering at a restaurant drive up window. The Board expects to briefly discuss this at the April meeting but any vote will not take place until the emergency conditions have been lifted. The Task Force is working on a recommendation that is expected to include:

1. Signing a contract with Envera to install the automatic license plate recognition system
2. The system would be the same for both the North and South gates.
3. Gate attendants on the premises from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Monday through Saturday and 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Sunday.

If the proposal is approved the Task Force would then work with Envera to design the orders the gate attendants would use to greet and process all guest or commercial vehicles attempting to enter Turtle Rock. These gate orders are called post orders and would be the same if the attendant was physically present or remote.

The **Mailbox Task Force** provided an update of their activities. They have selected a mailbox/post, a supplier and a contractor to remove the old posts and install the new posts. However, since the mailboxes and posts belong to the homeowner the HOA cannot replace them without a vote by the entire HOA membership transferring ownership and ongoing maintenance of the boxes/posts to the HOA. A poll of the people at the March HOA board meeting showed unanimous support for such action. Therefore, the Board will begin the process of changing the HOA documents to identify the mailboxes/posts as the HOA's responsibility. In order to accomplish this we will need a little more than 500 homeowners to vote yes to transfer ownership of the mailboxes/posts to the HOA. This will require the effort of the entire community to convince your neighbors to vote in the affirmative. Any homeowner that does not vote is considered a NO vote. This will be briefly discussed at the April Board meeting.

Finally, at the March HOA board meeting one new Committee was created, a permanent Pond Committee, and one new Task Force was created, Traffic Safety Task Force. If you would like to participate in either of these areas please contact **Dave Bryan at VP@myturtlerock.com** for the Pond Committee or **Deirdre Cronin at Governor1@myturtlerock.com** for the Traffic Task Force.

Through this newsletter I will attempt to keep everyone informed as to the activities the Board is undertaking on your behalf.

Submitted by Russ Gill

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Turtle Rock and Sunstate have been actively monitoring the responses regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Both the Governor of Florida and the President of the United States have declared a State of Emergency because of the spread of COVID-19. Out of an abundance of caution and to provide for the safety and health of Turtle Rock residences and guests, the Turtle Rock Board of Governors is taking the following actions and they will remain in place until the state and national State of Emergency have been lifted:

1. The Community Center will be closed;
2. The pool will be closed, (expanded to include basketball & tennis courts and outside exercise equipment).
3. The management company representative, Ed Olson, will work offsite and is available by phone at 941-822-9060.
4. All non-essential Home Owner Association (HOA) clubs, committees, task forces and board meetings will be suspended,
5. Essential meetings will be conducted telephonically.

If you are not feeling well we encourage you to stay home and take good care of yourself and contact your primary care physician, if necessary.

For the most current information on the COVID-19 please follow the recommendations and information at the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Florida Department of Health websites: CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> and Florida Department of Health: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-andconditions/COVID-19/>

**Updates will be posted on our website:
<http://www.myturtlerock.com>**



Report From The Treasurer



Period Ending February 2020

	Actual	Budget
Income		
Total Receipts	\$111,119	\$111,634

Operating Expenses

General and Administrative	\$31,023	\$32,902
Common Grounds	\$12,830*	\$15,936
Access Control	\$20,592	\$21,617
Facilities Maintenance	\$ 6,506**	\$13,820
Utilities	\$ 6,428	\$ 7,325

*No expenses were incurred for Mulch and Shoreline Maintenance

**No expenses were incurred for Wetlands Maintenance

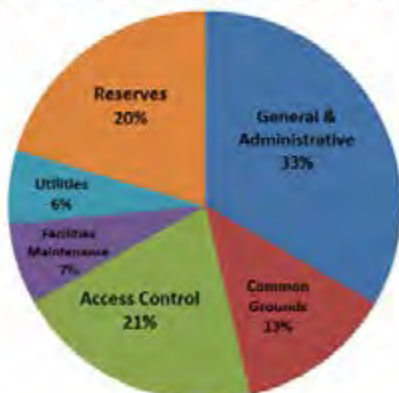
Reserve Expenses

Contribution	\$20,035	\$20,035
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Howell Concrete *Balance for Installation of Sidewalk Section at South Entrance* **\$1,700**

Florida Furniture & Patio *New Pool Deck Furniture* **\$6,042**

YEAR TO DATE EXPENSE BREAKDOWN



Assessments

Total Collected \$101,067

Total Outstanding \$27,717
(Previous Month \$36,089)

Submitted by John M Burke

Manager's Message



April is here, and the first quarter of the year is already in the books. Please make sure your second quarter assessments have been sent in. I wanted to keep everyone updated on what is happening around the neighborhood.

The Community Center, pool, tennis and basketball courts and exercise equipment are all closed. We ask that everyone adheres to this. Management is still providing all of the services needed without the walk-in traffic.

Please call me any time.

It has come to my attention that there are **rumors** running rampant through the community that a decision has already been made about the gates here at Turtle Rock. Let me assure everyone that they are just that, rumors. Everyone who attended the board meeting March 3rd knows that a long conversation about the gates took place, but no decisions were made.

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



What are you doing to keep busy, happy and sane during the “Stay at Home Order” ???

What are the activities that Turtle Rockers are doing to keep themselves busy and healthy in these strange times?

Please let us know so we can print them in the Newsletter and share with others. It could be an entire article, or a few sentences. It could be silly, sarcastic or serious. Just let us all know how things are going. How are you spending your time? We'd love to hear from YOU!

Send your comments to: *Judylbentz@yahoo.com*.

ACCESS CONTROL TASK FORCE REPORT

As a follow-up to comments that were made at the March 3rd Board of Governors Meeting, I thought it would be helpful to give a recap of how the Task Force arrived at its decision to recommend Envera.

As was explained at previous meetings, the current system has several moving parts, none of which are totally responsible for monitoring visitor access. Those components are:

- *Allied Universal, Inc.: A large security staffing firm
- *Applications by Design, Inc. (ABDI): A custom software provider
- *Joe Holme: A Sarasota based independent IT maintenance contractor
- *Various Independent Contractors: Hired as needed to repair gatehouse, barrier arm, and other issues

As the Task Force began its diligence, it was evident early on that Turtle Rock's equipment is at end of life and in dire need of replacement. The Task Force met individually with Allied Universal, ABDi, and Joe Holme to gather input on updating our current system. Based on their input, the Task Force concluded that there was a need to look at other suppliers and technologies.

Three companies were deemed worthy of further consideration:

- *Envera Systems, Inc. (Envera)
- *TEM Systems (TEM)
- *Rapid Security Solutions (RSS)

After meeting with representatives of all three organizations, it became clear that Envera was in class by itself in terms of technological innovation, market share, and growth.

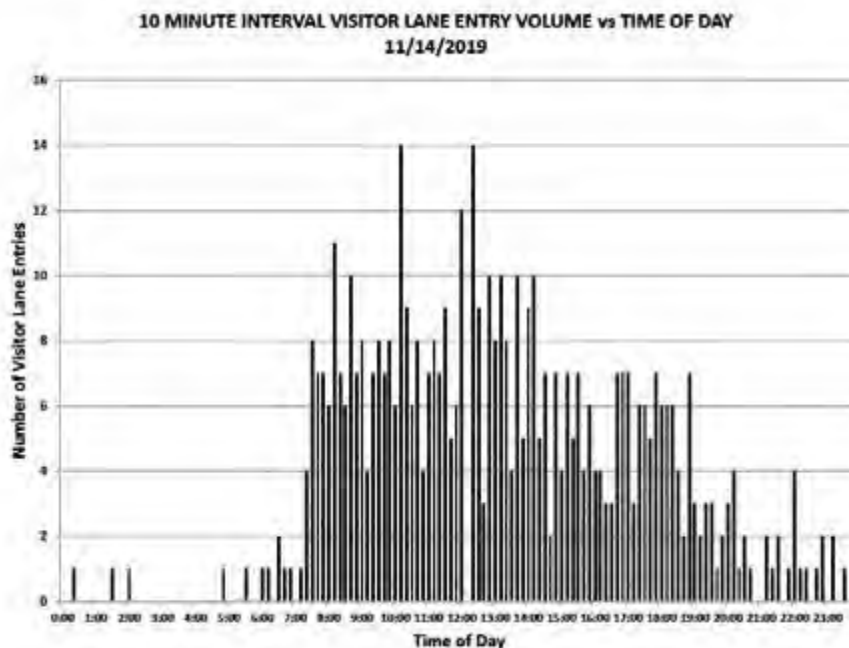
Important tasks then needed to be tackled. The first was to visit Envera's corporate office and view their operation. Because they have live attendants monitoring community entrances across Florida 24 hours a day, it was important that we see how they staff for varying workloads around the clock.

Continued on page 8

ACCESS CONTROL TASK FORCE REPORT ...cont'd

Second, Task Force members visited Envera communities to speak with gate attendants and property managers. Visits were made to Stoneybrook, Sandhill Preserve, Esplanade, Laurel Oak, The Concession, and several others. All the communities had positive comments regarding Envera's technology and responsiveness.

Last, Turtle Rock gate attendant workflow was examined. A histogram of visitor lane entries is provided below for a typical weekday. Turtle Rock's access control IT system requires telephone message and visitor lane entry information to be hand entered by gate attendants. Data accuracy can therefore be impacted during periods of peak volume. Also, as the entry data histogram clearly depicts, visitor traffic is minimal during late evening and overnight hours. Envera's system provides the option to employ virtual gate attendants 24/7/365. The need for Turtle Rock to continue to employ and budget for onsite gate attendants during late evening and overnight hours is an issue the Board of Governors will address going forward.



Submitted by Ken Rosemann

Landscape and Grounds Committee



The Landscape and Grounds Committee met on February 19th with Shane Battle from Bloomings. Shane indicated that the pruning of the shrubs along Turtle Rock Blvd has now been done and the replacement of dead shrubs along Turtle Rock Blvd continues to be an ongoing project. Shane also indicated that the trimming of palms along Turtle Rock Blvd was to happen in March, along with the Spring cut back of appropriate species.

Currently Bloomings is contracted to mulch the common areas in Turtle Rock once per year in the Autumn. The Committee discussed adding an additional layer of mulch by Bloomings in the Spring, similar to what has been taking place by the Palmer Ranch Master Association. Shane indicated to add an additional “top dress” of mulch in the Spring would involve approximately 60% of the full volume of our normal mulch. The Committee recommended to the Board of Governors that the funding for this additional “top dress” layer of mulch be approved for 2020 and the Board approved this at the March meeting.

The Committee noted that normal water pressure for irrigation has now been restored, as the reclaim water pressure regulating valve has been replaced by the County.

The new community pool furniture has arrived and looks beautiful. All of the old furniture has been taken away by Turtle Rock residents. The Committee recommended purchasing 4 more small side tables to complete the community pool area, and the Board of Governors approved this expenditure at the March meeting.

Replacing the Community Center flooring continues to be a concern. At the March Board of Governors meeting, several residents expressed concern about the acoustics in the community center. The Committee will continue to research a solution to replacing the flooring, taking into consideration the acoustic issue.

A quote from Stewart Tennis Courts and Fencing was reviewed to have the tennis courts and basketball courts resurfaced, along with replacing the fencing and lighting and tennis court awning. The funds for this are to come from Reserves. The Committee recommended to the Board of Governors to accept the Stewart Fencing quote and the Board approved this at the March meeting.

Submitted by Jodi Cunnison

Architectural Review Committee (ARC)



The ARC experienced another heavy workload this past month of 14 new applications for exterior improvements to homes and landscapes. We are also in the process of approving final applications. The ARC would like to remind homeowners to fill out the “final” form and send it to the Management Office once the work has been completed.

As spring approaches and we begin to look at the outside of our homes, there is no better time to think about rejuvenating parts of our landscape. Mulch should be a top priority in late March or early April. Mulch keeps needed moisture around our plants, helps control weeds, and is an attractive feature of the property. It should be spread about 2” thick, but not around the stem or trunk of plants. I prefer dark brown mulch, but there are several varieties and colors. It is also important to remember that :

Stones are no substitute for mulch in beds. Stones may be used as an accent, but you must receive ARC approval before installing them.

If you are thinking of renovating your landscape in terms of shrubs and foundation plants for the beds, four examples come to mind. I recommend the following as they are low maintenance, very hardy in our Florida zone, can be pruned and shaped to your liking, and look lovely throughout the year.

The first is variegated **arboricola**, which has different shades of green leaves, and is a perfect foundation plant or a low hedge. It comes in an all-green variety as well.



The second is the dwarf **podocarpus**, an evergreen which has soft, textured, and deep green foliage. This plant can serve as a hedge or be planted as an individual specimen. There is a larger variety which can be used as a privacy screen for the lanai. Left untrimmed, it will become a beautiful tree.

The third is the **ixora**, which adds color to the landscape as it has large flower clusters in red, orange, yellow, and pink. It is also a low-growing plant.



Continued on page 11...

ARC Committee contd...

Finally, there is the **Croton**. This is the most popular foliage plant in Florida which has colorful leaves in orange, red, and green. There are several varieties of shaped leaves from which to choose.



These are only a small sample of the many lethologica plants available at the landscape nursery, but together as a “family,” these plants complement each other in texture, color, and growth patterns. The ARC suggests you visit your local nursery or ask your landscape gardener for their advice on these and the many other plants they have at this time of year.

Although ARC approval is not required for changes to existing beds (except for the removal of a tree), ARC approval is required if the size and “footprint” of the bed changes. As always, ARC members are happy to assist in any way we can.

Submitted by Curt Gilroy

Mailbox Task Force



The Mailbox Task Force met again on March 12th. We discussed two options: 1) changing the Turtle Rock Owners' Manual to require the replacement of your mailbox with the new aluminum one (at your expense), and 2) updating the Association's restrictive covenants to transfer ownership of the mailboxes to the Homeowners' Association, which will assume all maintenance. The task force members decided that the most sensible and efficient way to proceed was with a recommendation to change the covenants. Such an endeavor will require a YES vote from no less than 506 Turtle Rock homeowners, so we will need your help to adopt this modification.

The plan was to present this recommendation to the Board of Governors at the April Board meeting and we requested to have the subject put on the agenda. Now that the Board meetings have been put on hold we have had to put our plans on hold as well.

We would like to point out again the advantages to the homeowners in having attractive, uniform, low maintenance mailboxes: There will be no more compliance regulations for your mailbox (which will be owned by Turtle Rock) and it will greatly improve the appearance of our community, and therefore increase your home value.

Compare the two photos (below). Vive la difference!



Please watch for an email blast that will be sent out to all homeowners in the future providing more details regarding this option. We hope to hold an information session regarding the mailboxes.

In the meantime, please send any comments or questions to :

communications@myturtlerock.com.

Submitted by Roberta Maloney



Turtle Rock Academy Lecture Series

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

**The Turtle Rock Academy sadly
announces cancellation of our April 8
presentation.**

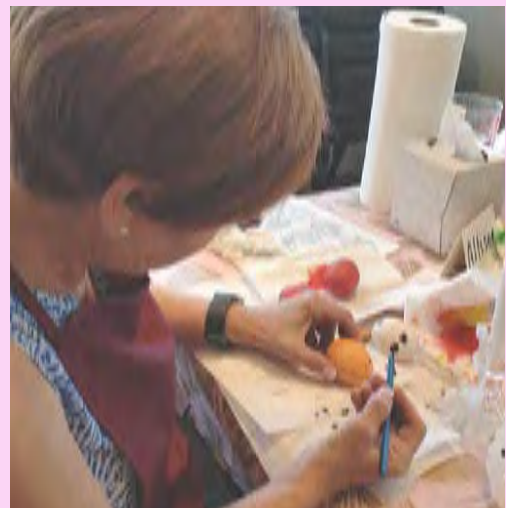
EGG CLASS FUN

On Saturday, March 14 , eight happy ladies gathered together to enjoy an afternoon of learning the ancient method of Ukrainian Egg decoration.



Great fun was had by all, even though there was an incident of a cracked egg! The ladies were all excited to learn, or in some cases re-learn the wax and dye method.

If you missed out on this year's class watch for it next year and join us for a great time.



Turtle Rock Men's Club



The Turtle Rock Men's Club, like most other organizations, took the necessary steps to limit its Members' public exposure by cancelling its Club lunches until further notice.

Members are encouraged to visit the health department and CDC websites for accurate information about COVID-19.

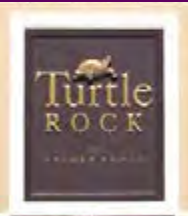
Members will be notified via email when activities are again able to be safely scheduled.

If you are interested in joining the Men's Club, please contact me and I'll be glad to assist you in the process. The Club meets once a month, usually on the third Wednesday, at a fine Sarasota restaurant. We look forward to having you join us.

Submitted by:

Ken Rosemann

kenrosemann1231@gmail.com



Turtle Rock Women's Club

TRWC Anniversary Luncheon

Pictured: Grace Cooney (2004 & 2005), Bev Moses (2009 & 2010), Pat Panet-Raymond (2013 & 2014), Janet Smith (2011 & 2012), Kim Weiser (2018 & 2019), Kathie Smith (2006 & 2007), Pat Bass (2007 & 2008), Cean Cerny (current President), Tina Pitonaik and Mary Ann Gates (2015 & 2016). Missing Margaret Brading (2001 – 2003) and Andrea Dulow (2016 & 2017)



20 years! It's amazing that the Turtle Rock Women's Club has been serving the residents of Turtle Rock since the last century!

And serve they have. Over the years the membership has grown to nearly two hundred, and members have participated in a WIDE range of activities, including monthly luncheons, special event parties, coffees and happy hours, tours to a wide variety of interesting places, fundraisers for local charities, special interest groups for golf, bowling, bridge, mahjong, Bunco, books, water aerobics, cooking, art, and more.

On March 4th, the club celebrated its 20th anniversary with a special luncheon at TPC Prestancia Golf Club. Nearly 80 members were greeted by a grand dining room with festive balloons and a display of memorabilia from the 20 years of the club's history.

Our past Presidents were recognized, we played a fun trivia game designed by our President Cean Cerny and Vice President Jean Contillo and to cap the event, a lovely display of door prizes donated by club members was awarded.

We thank everyone for their participation in this wonderful event and we're especially grateful to all our presidents for their insight, guidance and leadership that has inspired and enabled this club to successfully celebrate 20 years! (insert picture here).

The Turtle Rock Women's Club is a welcoming group open to all women residing in our lovely Turtle Rock Community. We offer a variety of programs and events designed to build friendships, educate and engage our members. We would love to have you join us, call Angela Pierre at 321-3994 or email turtlerockwomensclub@gmail.com.

Submitted by Susan Neisler

A message from Turtle Rock Women's Club Presi- dent...

The Turtle Rock Women's (TRWC) board is following the CDC guidelines and will cancel our activities until further notice.

When it is safe to gather again we will resume our activities and post notices of them.

In the meantime, let's band together and help each other through this. If anyone needs any help of any kind, please email us :
at **turtlerockwomensclub@gmail.com** or
call me **Cean at 941-266-2460**.

We would be happy to shop for you, run errands or just provide a friendly face if you are alone. We look forward to gathering again when this is over.

Submitted by Cean Cerny

Turtle Rock Young Families Group



Happy spring everyone, from the Turtle Rock Young Families Group! With Covid 19 among us we have decided to forgo having any major family gathering in March and April to ensure we all stay healthy. We hope you all take care and we can't wait to celebrate the end of the school year together in May. We are planning an end of school year gathering, most likely at the pool, in May. We will make this a pot luck barbeque with swimming and games for the kiddos! We hope this next month is a healthy and happy month for you all.

Have a great week and hope to see you at the end of school year celebration in May.

Courtney Knowles

8576 Great Meadow Dr.

904-305-8243

Cortny1996@aol.com

Palmer Ranch Natural Assets Committee Report

Q: Are the lakes and ponds in Palmer Ranch natural?

A: No

None of them is natural. They're man-made stormwater Retention ponds, part of a connected system designed to help prevent flooding and remove pollutants from our stormwater before it drains into creeks, Little Sarasota Bay, and the Gulf. Stormwater runoff is created when rain lands on roofs, driveways, streets, parking lots, and other surfaces that don't absorb water. This runoff flows directly into our ponds, which are like giant bowls that keep our streets and houses from flooding.

We're in one of the rainiest regions in North America, averaging about 53 inches of rainfall every year, versus 45 inches of precipitation in New York City and 36 inches in Chicago. About 60% of our rain falls in just four months, June through September. That's a massive load of water in a short period of time. In fact, in an average year, 861 billion gallons of water falls on Sarasota County. Before development, that load was handled by wetlands, which once covered over half the county and allowed rainwater to slowly seep into the ground and travel underground, by gravity, to the Bay. Development destroyed or altered much of those wetlands. Instead of getting absorbed into the ground, stormwater runoff rushed water into our creeks and Bays, carrying fertilizers, pesticides, motor oil and gas, animal waste, and other pollutants. Runoff is still the number-one source of water pollution in Florida.

Our stormwater ponds are a solution. They're designed to remove pollution through biological, chemical, and physical processes. The water in our system slowly drains from pond to pond, eventually making its way to Little Sarasota Bay. This mimics the natural landscape, which slowly released rainwater to Bay, maintaining healthy saltwater levels that support wildlife, including oysters. Our stormwater pond system was state-of-the-art when it was begun, in the 1990s, and is still considered a model in the state of Florida. When properly maintained with a 10-20 year clean out period, low-maintenance buffers at their shorelines, and native wetland plants in their shallows, our retention ponds make Palmer Ranch more livable, while minimizing our environmental impact on the Bay.

For more information on our watershed, stormwater ponds, and how to maintain stormwater ponds near your property, visit www.sarasota.wateratlas.usf.edu/upload/documents/Stormwater_Neighborhood.pdf and [http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/sfylifasufledu/sarasota/documents/pdf/water/2019 Water factsheet-SoremwaterPonds PRINT.pdf](http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/sfylifasufledu/sarasota/documents/pdf/water/2019%20Water%20factsheet-SoremwaterPonds%20PRINT.pdf).

Written by the Palmer Ranch Natural Assets Committee, a resident group dedicated to maintaining and improving our water, preserves, and common areas.

Submitted by Joe Polidoro, a member of the PR Natural Assets Committee

Turtle Rock Stories ...

the history of Turtle Rock as told by residents

Turtle Rock's Secret Weapon Rides a Bus

It was 1999. The hard part in choosing a home when Sheldon and Harriet Bloom decided to leave Pelican Cove was choosing which of the many developments springing up in Sarasota would be THE one. They looked at a lot of them, and put deposits down on quite a few, perhaps 20 or 30. After looking and looking, they found themselves standing in a model home on Sweetmeadow Circle.

The streets were easy to navigate. The variety of homes by different builders gave the area character. Across the street from the model there was a lot that backed up to a big, empty, sandy hole. It was destined to be a lovely long lake, but you couldn't see that then. Then something happened that marked a difference between Turtle Rock and other developments. A school bus full of kids came by. And the decision was made. Shelly had been a shop teacher. Having kids in the place they lived was important to both of them.

They selected that lot by the big hole, and Lee Wetherington built them a charming home with wall space for Harriet's collections, a shop for Shelly's projects, and a view of that lake. The location was convenient to art shows and opera, boats at Marina Jack's, and all of downtown. Friends were all around in the women's group and the men's group. Every day they saw bobcats, possum, armadillos, alligators, and oh so many birds. Harriet passed away but Sheldon stayed. He says, "We were very lucky. I still wake up every morning and look out...and it's beautiful." (And there are still lots of kids.)



Sheldon Bloom, 4688 Sweetmeadow Circle

Reported by Paula Griffin

Trip Tips, if you travel to ...

An Island Experience

Ann and Bill Mitchell took a break from the tourist season in Sarasota and traveled to Providenciales, commonly known as Provo, the most populated of the Turks and Caicos Islands, British Overseas Territories. According to Wikipedia, Providenciales is “one of the world’s top beach destinations. The diving and snorkeling is as convenient as it is stunning, thanks to miles of coral reef that’s easily accessible from the shore...its greatest attractions are miles of beautiful white-sand beaches.” The many resort hotels offer scuba diving, snorkeling, sailing, kitesurfing, and, of course, lounges for hanging out on the beach.

Ann’s thoughts on the island follow:

When we visit our home of twenty years in Sarasota, we often go on side trips to different places in the U.S. and the Caribbean. In the winter we are looking for guaranteed hot weather although in the past few years there hasn’t been much difference in the temperature.

Our choice this year was Providenciales, prompted by our daughter’s visit to Grand Turks last summer. She and her family had a week’s holiday in Grand Turks with a group of friends. They ended up having an unexpected stopover in Providenciales, and upon their return, they suggested to us that it might be a possibility for our winter mini break.

We drove to Fort Lauderdale where we got a direct flight on Southwest Airlines to Provo. Provo airport is small and dated, and the line in Immigration was long due to several flights arriving at the same time. During our visit, the majority of tourists were either American or Canadian. The U.S. dollar is the currency, and passports are required on entry.

We stayed for three nights in a beautiful hotel, the Seven Stars Resort & Spa. The hotel was adjacent to the beach and had two swimming pools (one was adults only). The beach was amazing, and the sea, a beautiful turquoise color. We had a lovely room with a terrace overlooking the beach. There was a mini kitchen which was convenient for making a light lunch.



Trip Tips contd...

The hotel had restaurants, but the first night the food was not to our taste. So, the other two nights we walked to nearby restaurants. The Bella Luna Pizzeria and the French restaurant Le Bouchon du Village were both very good. There was a supermarket a short walk away where we bought things for our lunch. There was little entertainment in the hotel other than some music in the late afternoons/early evenings; by 9.30 p.m. everyone had gone to bed! As for shopping, in the hotel there was a shop selling holiday items. Other nearby shops were very expensive or just had tourist tat.

It was easy to walk to most places, but we did rent a car one day to explore. We were first given an American car. This seemed strange, since in Provo you drive as you do in the U.K., on the “other side” of the road. An American car’s steering wheel, therefore, is on the “wrong” side of the car. We asked for a swap, as we are used to steering wheels on the right side of the car and driving on the same side of the road as we do in the U.K. The car was old and strangely had a dial with kilometers, indicating that it probably came from Australia or South Africa, where they drive on the left-hand side of the road but measure distance in kilometers.

There is not much to see on the island, and driving around you don’t see much of the coastline. We were told that visitors can have a rented car delivered to their hotel, but the steering wheel might not be on the preferred side of the car.

Taxis are available, but they are quite expensive, as are hotels, restaurants, etc. Gasoline is \$5.45 per gallon.

One big problem we found was mosquitos. I suffered quite a bit! I strongly suggest bringing a mosquito repellent to Provo, as well as anti-itch cream.



To summarize, Providenciales/Provo is a beautiful island for a short, relaxing break in high class resort hotels. But if you are looking for sightseeing, shopping, and evening entertainment, it is not for you.

Diane Glynn—Reporter

I see people on TV my age mountain climbing, I'm thrilled when I can get my leg thru my underwear without losing my balance.



My husband and I just crunched the numbers on our retirement account. It's now time to figure out who will be wearing the mask and who will be driving the getaway car.

I guess I'm officially "old." I just spent ten minutes chasing an eye floater with a fly swatter.

Don't you think, after a certain age, tossing and turning in your sleep should be counted as exercise?

Newbies



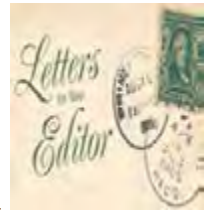
It was very early in the morning on Tuesday, March 24. The sun was just beginning to light the sky. We heard them before we saw them and realized that Turtle Rock had two new residents.

Two little balls of fluff walking with their parents by a pond. They were so tiny we almost missed seeing them.

Please be careful driving and watch out for them too!

The fine art of Rope Making

I grew up as a farm boy in northern Illinois and learned many things that by today's standards have become a lost art. One of those is the process of how rope is made. My dad was taught by his dad and my dad passed it on to me. My dad and I would demonstrate rope making at the county fair, pioneer day events, 4H clubs, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and other gatherings that were interested in learning how it was done in the "old days." Most farmers and ranchers needed to make halters, leads, and long ropes for pulleys as there was no hardware store or Home Depot nearby.



The stand I made to demonstrate rope making I take to pioneer day events, the most recent being the Hardee County Pioneer Days three-day event held in Zolfo Springs the last weekend of February. Over 100 kids of all ages from 5 to 95 participated in making their own souvenir rope by turning the crank and watching the magic of the "top"



move up the rope as the twine was twisting up. The kids could pick a color yarn to add to the twist. My valuable assistant (and wife) Kathy and I were also in Arcadia March 21st for their Pioneer Day located at the DeSoto Veterans Memorial Park and demonstrated to more kids of all ages.

The material used is sisal binder twine, but I use jute as well as other single to three ply twines. The machine is a 1911 New Era rope machine that can twist three strands. I also use a 1901 rope machine as well as a homemade 4 strand machine for smaller ropes and demonstrations. These are certainly antiques but all still work like new today.



The picture here shows our Sweetmeadow Circle neighbors, Lola, Liam and Landen Geske, each taking turns making their own ropes with my setup in the driveway as well as the setup in Hardee County.

With today's automation, rope making is reduced to fast machines using other synthetic materials that are stronger and resist abrasion but for centuries rope was hand made using natural fibers and were either twisted or braided. Keeping a bit of history alive and sharing that knowledge with others helps to educate others what it was like in the "bygone days."

Submitted by Gary and Kathy Wells

Congratulations to James who was last month's winner.

Are you missing out on the 25\$ Publix gift card ?

Just read or re-read the Newsletter to win !

Just locate the secret word hidden somewhere in this Newsletter, then send the word and the page and article you found it in to : **Communications@myturtlerock.com.**

Your name will be entered into a drawing to receive
the \$25.00 gift card,

Sponsored this month by Mira Mar Pool Care.

The Winner will be announced in the next Newsletter issue.

To find the secret word simply read each page carefully and when you notice an entirely inappropriate word, that doesn't belong in the article, then you've located the answer.

One entry per email please.

Good luck!

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!

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Jim Cerny, Patricia Tarlton, Judy Bentz and Ed Olson of Sunstate Management.

Staff Writers: 3~4 Places to Visit—Paula Griffin, Trips Tips— Diane Glynn

Board Liaison: David Tarlton

Proofreader: Charlotte Jones

Send comments, suggestions and articles for consideration to:

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