

# **Turtle Rock Newsletter**

# The Best Place on Palmer Ranch

# June, 2020 Congratulations to our winner Kathrin Harris



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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.

Kathrin solved the word puzzle
(answer on last page)
and her 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 June Board of Governors meeting will likely be held via video conference as social distancing will probably still be in effect. The link for the video conference and a call in phone number will be provided when the email invitation is sent.

Turtle Rock will continue to follow the recommendations of Sarasota County with regards to opening facilities. Since the May Board of Governors meeting Sarasota County has opened their tennis courts and Turtle Rock has done the same. However, basketball courts and pools remain closed. When Sarasota County reopens their basketball courts and pools, Turtle Rock will open ours as well.

### **May Board of Governors Meeting**

During the States of Emergency, the Board of Governors will take actions necessary to maintain Turtle Rock. The actions taken at the May Board of Governors meeting were:

- 1. Approve the Pond Committee to move forward with the removal of the tilapia from the ponds. This will be done by netting the tilapia.
- 2. Move forward with previously approved projects. The cleaning of the common area sidewalks, and the resurfacing of the basketball and tennis courts and the upgrading of the lighting for the courts has been scheduled.
  - 3. Apply mulch in Turtle Rock common areas scheduled to start this week.

Most of the committees and task forces did not meet during the month. The two exceptions were the ARC and the Communication Committee. Both groups continue to provide essential services for our community.

# The Board of Governors discussed the following items at the May meeting:

- 1. The Landscape Committee is updating the contract with Bloomings for our landscape services. The current contract was established in 2012 and is in need of updating.
- 2. Turtle Rock Association using an online process to obtain homeowners' input. It would be a one-time online data gathering process to determine what activities/projects the residents of Turtle Rock would like the community to undertake. There was discussion about the level of participation to an online survey/questionnaire and the concern that the process would only be performed once. Because of these concerns the Board tabled the project until the fall.

As I walk and bike in the neighborhood I see a lot of our neighbors out walking and practicing social distancing. With the increased number of people walking, the only way to adhere to social distancing is to walk in the bike lanes and sometimes in the roadways. This makes it imperative that ALL residents and guests drive slowly and use extra caution. I continue to see people speeding, PLEASE SLOW DOWN. Stay safe and keep abreast of the COVID-19 conditions by following the CDC and Florida Department of Health websites.

**Submitted by Russ Gill** 



# **Report From The Treasurer**



# Period Ending April 2020

Actual

**Budget** 

| Income                     |            |           |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Total Receipts             | \$111,263  | \$111,635 |
| <b>Operating Expenses</b>  |            |           |
| General and Administrative | \$29,380   | \$32,902  |
| Common Grounds             | \$10,815*  | \$15,936  |
| Access Control             | \$28,940^  | \$21,617  |
| Facilities Maintenance     | \$ 6,763** | \$13,820  |
| Utilities                  | \$ 6,558   | \$ 7,325  |

<sup>\*</sup>No expenses were incurred for Turf Maintenance, Mulch, and Tree/Shrub Trimming

# **Reserve Expenses**

Contribution \$20,035 \$20,035

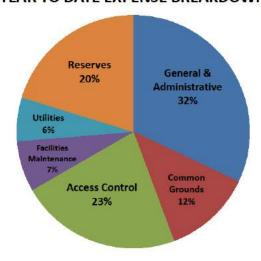
No direct expenses were incurred in April 2020

### Assessments

Total Collected \$101,067 Total Outstanding \$36,344 (Previous Month \$14,630)

### **Submitted by John M Burke**

### YEAR TO DATE EXPENSE BREAKDOWN



<sup>^</sup>Three Gate Attendant Contract payments were made in April 2020

<sup>\*\*</sup>No expense was incurred for Wetlands Maintenance

# Manager's Message



Memorial Day has come and gone, and July 4th is right around the corner. Summer is here, and the hot muggy days and afternoon thunder showers remind us of why we must enjoy the days when it is cool out. It has been 70 days since everything closed and I hope things will get back to normal soon.

Management is back in the office without walk-in traffic. Please call me any time. The projects started last week with the annual cleaning of the Turtle Rock Blvd. sidewalks. The curbs were also cleaned this year and they look great. The mulch and the palm trimming should start soon. The lighting, fencing and resurfacing of the tennis and basketball courts should start the first of June.

The June Board of Governor's meeting will be held by Zoom and conference call. The agenda and invitation will be posted and emailed. I hope everyone will attend.

A lot of homeowners are installing hurricane windows, doors and shutters. With hurricane season starting today, I thought it would be a good time to remind everyone about the guidelines from the **Turtle Rock Homeowners' Manual**.

### b) Hurricane shutters:

The purpose of hurricane shutters and related products is to protect an owner's residence (specifically the windows and doors) from wind and storm damage. It is generally recognized that hurricane season begins on June 1 and ends on November 30.

Hurricane shutters and protective products may not be used as general security devices, which means they can only be installed ... when a severe storm is imminent. In accordance with Sarasota County guidelines, owners may install or engage the shutters and related protective hurricane products only 72 hours preceding any such severe storm, tornado, tropical storm or named hurricane, and must remove ... them within 72 hours after such a storm. All products installed must conform to the requirements adopted by the Board of Governors and must be approved by the ARC. In order to obtain ARC approval owners must submit product information, color and fabric samples, a site plan of the proposed installation, and copies of the contractor's license and insurance information together with the application. Clear panels (Lexan) are recommended since they may be kept in place throughout the entire storm season.

As always please e-mail or call me with any questions or concerns.

# Landscape and Grounds Committee



The Committee hasn't met for several months due to the Covid 19 pandemic. However, we are planning to meet on May 27th on the back patio of the community center, while keeping socially distant and following the guidelines of the CDC.

There will be several issues to discuss including:

- 1. The progress of the resurfacing of the community tennis and basketball courts. The Board of Governors at the May 5th Board meeting has given the green light to have this previously approved project move forward.
- 2. A new cleaning company needs to be hired to take care of our Turtle Rock community property, including the community center, community pool area and guard houses. The current company has been dropping the ball.
- 3. The Pond Committee would like to have Bloomings begin trimming the buffer zones around the preserves as per the Pond Committee's recommendations. David Bryan, their Board liaison, will be attending the May 27th meeting to discuss with Bloomings any potential cost involved.
- 4. Russ Gill, President of the Board of Governors, along with Joan Howe and Curt Gilroy, cochairs of the Landscaping Committee, have been working on rewriting a new contract with Bloomings.
- 5. Ongoing community property maintenance issues will be discussed with Bloomings.
- 6. Replacement of the community center flooring will continue to be addressed in conjunction with adding sound proofing panels to mitigate the noise.

Hoping everyone in our Turtle Rock community is staying healthy and safe!

# **Jodi Cunnison**

# Architectural Review Committee (ARC)



May has proved to be a very busy month for the ARC. By mid-month, there are already 20 applications for home improvements. Now that many residents have been staying at home and sheltering in place, homeowners have taken the opportunity to inspect their homes and property and engage in home improvements. As we have remarked before, these improvements not only enhance the value of individual property, but also improve the overall look of the community. The ARC members thank all of you for taking the time to file applications and also for working with us when compromises are suggested and changes are necessary.

Unfortunately, there seems to be a number of homeowners who have undertaken projects without ARC approval. Others have finished a project and ask for ARC approval after the event. These homeowners may be subject to fines which are levied by the Homeowners' Association. Recent examples include installing a generator, cutting down trees, installing new outside lighting, and ordering roof tiles. In some cases, homeowners are relatively new to the community and are unfamiliar with the Turtle Rock Owners' Manual (TROM).

The ARC urges all homeowners to read the TROM which contains a wealth of information about living in Turtle Rock. We live in a deed-restricted community which brings with it a host of rules and regulations with which we all must abide. The TROM is available on line and also in hard copy from the management office.

The Architectural Review Committee is the only committee that is established as part of the Turtle Rock official documents (covenants), and it exemplifies the importance the developers placed on the appearance and upkeep of the homes here. I want to thank the members of the Committee for their monthly drive-arounds to visit homes and the meetings that take place to evaluate applications. We have continued our operations during the Covid-19 epidemic, as we practice social distancing, wear masks, and take separate vehicles for our inspections. Thank you, Committee Members.

**Submitted by Curt Gilroy** 

# Turtle Rock Men's Club



We to hope that everyone is well and continuing to abide by the CDC's recommended guidelines. If you are in need of assistance, don't hesitate to email us at, turtlerockmensclub@gmail.com or contact me directly. We are all in this together and must do whatever is necessary to help each other through these trying times.

\*\*\*\*

We wish the following a **Happy June Birthday!** 

If I have missed anyone, email me and I will update the TRMC website.

Jack Cox, Denny Miller, Lou Schwartz



\*\*\*\*

If you know of someone who may be interested in joining the Men's Club, please have them contact me and I will be glad to assist them in the process of joining. During these trying times, that process can be accomplished virtually. The Club meets once a month, usually on the third Wednesday, at a fine Sarasota restaurant.

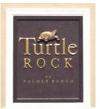
### Stay safe and help one another!

**Submitted by:** 

**Ken Rosemann** 

kenrosemann1231@gmail.com

314-482-3649



# Turtle Rock Women's Club

A message from Turtle Rock Women's Club President...

The Turtle Rock Women's Club (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

# What are you doing???



Some of us are going fishing...and catching a few!



David Tarlton



Captain Eric of Drag-on Charters



Some of us are hanging around eating.





Our local Screver, Donna Wolfson, is still at work.



# What are you doing continued...



Some of us are spending way too much time with jigsaw puzzles...



# Things to Do While Staying at Home

The project I set myself for 2020 is to scan, identify and file all the old photos I have collected in my family history research. The Stay-at-Home order has provided time to get this project underway. My printer/scanner is essential. Some of the things I've learned by doing are these:



Clean the glass with a washcloth and mild soap

Wipe dust off photos. Do not moisten.

Click on the scanning program on your computer. Click on "File".

Look at the options you have on the "File" page.

Most scanning programs have a range of sizes for scanning. Use the size closest to your photo size. If you scan a 3X5 photo on letter size, you will have difficulty seeing the photo as a file.

Even if you are scanning a B&W or sepia photo, use the color setting. This makes it is easier to manipulate the photo if you choose to do so in a photo editing program.

Type in the name of the file you want the photo to go to. For old photos, I chose to make files by person. Example: Meyer, Earl or Meyer, Earl Vivian

After you have scanned a photo, unclick the scan page and you will find the photo.

Identify each photo as you scan. Click "Rename" Type Meyer, Earl other people in photo, place, date, occasion. Be consistent with the information you enter. The beauty of scanning is that you can rescan the same photo to the file of another person or persons in the photo. Rename the photo with that person's name: Meyer, Vivian.

Once you have scanned all your photos of one person or family, create a file for each person in your "Pictures". Move all the photos of that person to their file.

You can then copy them to a memory stick or DVD or external memory to get them off your computer. Label memory stick if that is what you choose to store photos on.

**Submitted by Janet Smith** 

# What are you doing continued...

# JANE (Audrey) AND THE BEANSTALK

As we wait for the quarantine to lift, I decided to plant a few vegetables as I love to watch them grow. Along with tomatoes and beets, I thought green-pole beans would be fun to try.

My husband, Ron built a bean tower/trellis and placed it in our old recycling bin.

Beans were planted April 1st and quickly germinated in 5-7 days.

Pictured is how they looked as of May 4th. Looking forward to great stir fry meals in just a few weeks!



### **Balloons**

Hope to make this little verse short and sweet

Please, please, please as I try not to repeat

Balloons come in all colors and sizes

We also tether them so there are no surprises

Without our help they certainly would not exist

Add a little helium and tie them to our wrist

We all believe balloons were made to fly

They mysteriously break loose with a big sigh

Up, up they go to soar with fluffy clouds
They continue to rise, no matter the crowds
No matter how hard we try to catch up
This I know there's nowhere to go but up.

**Submitted by Roy Baker** 



# Attention 2020 graduates...

# We would like to honor all of our Turtle Rock 2020 graduates in the July Newsletter.



We invite you to send in a picture with your name and an explanation of what you have accomplished and/or your plans for the future.

Please send the photo in JPEG and the text in WORD to:

Judylbentz@yahoo.com



Please email your photo and information before June 15

# JUNE 3 rd DEADLINE TO MAKE YOUR VOICE COUNT!

Have you heard about the 232-apartment unit complex proposed, just outside the north end of Turtle Rock community, at the corner of Palmer Ranch Parkway and Honore?

Are you concerned about the additional traffic, additional density, additional speeding risks, additional strain on drinking water and other adverse impacts to natural resources or habitat?

Palmer Ranch Holding Company (Culverhouse) current owner of this land has entered into a contract to sell to A.G. Spanos Construction Company.

Sarasota County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing Thursday, June 4 at 5pm to consider the apartment complex plan proposed by the Spanos Company and their request to rezone the land (Palmer Ranch Parcel B8) from commercial to multi-family residential. Our local government needs to hear from you personally. How can you communicate your concerns?

# Submit written comments to planner@scgov.net by 12:00pm June 3,

Register for remote testimony via phone or internet.

Online comment forms are available at www.scgov.net/Publicinput through 12:00pm June 3, or

Attend public hearing on June 4 at 5pm at Sarasota County Administration Center, 1600 Ringling Blvd.

Act now. Make your voice count!

# Palmer Ranch Natural Assets Committee Report

# Q: What wildlife do our lakes and ponds support?

A: A lot of wildlife depends on our lakes and ponds, which are actually man-made stormwater ponds designed to prevent flooding and remove pollutants before they enter our groundwater, creeks, estuaries, Bays, and the Gulf. This system mimics the natural Florida landscape, which was mostly wetlands.

We have many opportunities to improve our ponds and increase plant diversity and Florida wildlife. When properly maintained, stormwater ponds can provide great fishing, birding, and wildlife viewing.

### There are:

Over 35 species of migratory and resident birds, including ducks, roseate spoonbills, anhingas, egrets, osprey, and bald eagles

Bluegills, largemouth bass, and other gamefish

Frogs, turtles, non-poisonous snakes, and alligators

Blue-flag iris, white pond lilies, alligator flag, and over 100 other native aquatic plants



Great blue heron Credit: scgov.net

Continued on following page...

# Palmer Ranch Natural Assets Committee Report contd...

One of the best ways to improve wildlife habitat around stormwater ponds is to establish a low-maintenance zone, or buffer, along their shorelines. A buffer will also help stabilize the shoreline, preventing erosion and improving water quality.

# Does your nearest stormwater pond provide ideal habitat for wildlife?

You can rate it with our stormwater pond habitat assessment tool.

Download it to your tablet or computer at www.tinyurl.com/

StormwaterPondAssessment.

For more on properly maintaining stormwater ponds, including aquascaping plants, visit https://www.sarasota.wateratlas.usf.edu/upload/documents/LivingontheWatersEdgeFreshwater.pdf

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

Low-maintenance zone Credit: scgov.net

Submitted by Joe Polidoro, a member of the PR Natural Assets Committee and a T R resident.



# Armchair Travel; Great Beaches Beyond the Caribbean:

Since we can't travel right now, how about Armchair Traveling to some of the world's great beaches? Maybe add one or more to your bucket list? I'm giving you my personal notes; please Google for more detail and photos.

### Moorea

Moorea is a French Polynesian volcanic island near Tahiti. I found it to be stunningly beautiful, with beautiful beaches and lush forests. I like it much more than the popular destination-island, Bora Bora. I was on a World Cruise when we stopped here. I'd been singing songs from South Pacific for a couple of weeks. I learned that Bali Hai from the play/movie South Pacific is actually on Moorea, not Bora Bora, where the rest of action takes place. If you are interested in the South Pacific, I'd check out Moorea as an option to Bora Bora, Fiji, or Tahiti.

# The Seycelles

I knew nothing about these islands in the Indian Ocean off the coast of East Africa. They are an archipelago of 115 islands. I was on an excursion on a small boat that cruised between several of the islands, and I was struck by the incredible beauty of the water and beaches. I learned that the Seychelles are Europe's most popular playground—and no wonder. They are considered the "world's ultimate tropical paradise." All of the islands are granite—the only ones that exist in mid-ocean. Some are desert-like, others have huge palm forests; there are innumerable stunning beaches, resort hotels and everything you might dream of for an island vacation.

Continued on next page...

# **Great Beaches Continued ...**



### Phuket

Phuket is a popular beach resort; it's part of Thailand, at the southern tip of Thailand. And while it's known for its lovely beaches and resort offerings, I am going to digress here and tell you what I loved most: an elephant safari in a tropical forest. Waiting on a platform to climb aboard our elephants, we were greeted by an "ambassador" elephant, who waved her trunk, welcoming us. (Note, these are the smaller, Asian elephants.) I stroked her sweet face and told her she was beautiful, and she put her trunk in the palm of my hand. I felt three light puffs—puff, puff, puff—without doubt, kisses in my hand, and she had my heart then and forever. The ride itself, through

the forest, was magical. From what I saw, the elephants were very well cared for. I am horrified by abuses and hesitate recommending anything that might smack of abuse, but that ride and the elephant kisses are among my favorite travel memories.

(That's me perched behind my ex-husband in the photo!)

### **Mauritius**

Mauritius is an island nation in the Indian Ocean off the southeast coast of Africa. It's a popular tourist destination, with many luxury hotels and resorts. The downtown area and beaches are luxurious—but the rest of the island, when I was there are few years ago, is very poor. This island was once the habitat of the dodo, the now extinct flightless bird that weighed up to 50 pounds. I asked our guide what the economy was on the island. She said: "Money." Mauritius is the new Cayman Islands; it has become a premier investment hub and tax haven.

**Submitted by Diane Glynn** 

# Our Bird News ...

Our resident Sandhill Cranes are non-migratory. This is true for most of the Florida population. The males are usually larger than the females and they mate for life. Can you tell which is the male and which is the female in these photos? Florida Sandhill Cranes like freshwater wetlands which we have an abundance of with all the storm water retention ponds. They eat plants, grains, invertebrates, even small mammals, amphibians and reptiles.

Usually there are 2 eggs per nest which take a month to hatch. At two months, the colts become independent, but most colts will stay close to their parents for several months. At 2 years, they usually find a mate. Cranes can live up to 20 years.

Notice that "our" colts though growing rapidly, do not have the red head yet. That will develop as they mature. They have been seen most mornings where the preserve crosses Turtle Rock Blvd. They like to walk in the street for a while before crossing. Please be on the lookout when driving in this area. They are a protected bird. If one is injured, please call the Wildlife Center of Venice at 941-484-9657.







Paul Bienick had a sharp eye out for our resident Eagles and was able to get some great shots near Sweetmeadow Circle.



# Turtle Rock June Survey

In order to better serve the needs of the community of Turtle Rock, would you be willing to participate in a neighborhood Survey?

| Questions:  |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Do you own or rent your home? Check one  |  |  |
| 2. How many years have you owned or rented your home in Turtle Rock years?                                    |  |  |
| (If you rent in Turtle Rock every year, please total  |  |  |
| all of the years you have rented)   |  |  |
| 3. Are you a full time resident or part time resident in Turtle Rock?   |  |  |
| You may respond in one of two ways:   |  |  |
| 1. You can print this single page and turn in to the office mailbox next to the door of the Community Center. |  |  |
| 2. You can simply reply by email to:  |  |  |
| communications@myturtlerock.com.  |  |  |
| This survey will be entirely anonymous.   |  |  |
| Results will be posted in next Newsletter.  |  |  |

### Dear Editor,

I am concerned about bicycling in Turtle Rock and beyond. Here are some suggestions for a safe and enjoyable ride. ALWAYS wear a helmet (not just the kids). Always ride with traffic and obey traffic control signs. Signal when you intend to stop, slow or change directions. Call out "on your left" before passing a bicyclist or pedestrian to alert them.



### Riding in Turtle Rock.

I see children with and without their parents riding their bicycle without a helmet. Florida Law states, "A bicycle rider or passenger under 16 years of age must wear a bicycle helmet." A helmet can save you from a serious head injury or even death. People are also riding with headphones or listening devices and this is against the law. I see people riding against the traffic. This is a major factor in bicycle-motor vehicle crashes. If you are involved in an accident while riding on the wrong side of the road you will be found at fault and will be responsible for damage done and for your injury. Although we have a bicycle lane in Turtle Rock you may ride on the sidewalk but remember pedestrians have the right of way. Also, for the reason stated above ride with the traffic. I also observed people riding while pulling a pet on a leash. Although not illegal how safe a practice is this? Will your dog suddenly dart off after a squirrel and pull you off your bike?

### Riding on the trail.

As a former member of the Board of Directors and as a current member of the Ambassadors Patrol I have seen that bikers often fail to stop at the stop sign and press the warning lights when crossing Central Sarasota Parkway. We have had both auto accidents and bicycle accidents at this intersection. **Please press the pedestrian light**. If you don't want to touch the button, use your elbow. The trail can be crowded at times and we have riders who exceed the 15 MPH speed limit. We have had some serious accidents on the trail, here again wear your helmut.

Additionally, it's a good idea to have your cell phone with you, a tube and tools to change a flat tire. Carrying a form of identification is a good practice. If you see something serious like an accident or someone is sick on the trail you can call for help. The trail is marked with yellow location stickers. EMS has been trained to know where you are.

# **Riding during Covid-19**

Should you ride with a mask? That's your choice. Try to ride the trail when there are fewer people riding. After 4:00 PM seems to be better than early in the morning. If you find the trail is crowded then take a left on Bay Street and ride up to Honore which has very little traffic. Stay out of riders slip stream by giving them space. A rider who sneezes into the wind could be a hazard to those behind. Please follow the rules and we will all be safe and have fun!



Thank You,

A Concerned Resident

# Congratulations to Kathrin who was last month's winner.

(answer was the Norwegian drinks water, the Japanese owns a Zebra)

# This month's brain teaser is:

If you have a 7 minute hourglass and an 11 minute hourglass, how can you boil and egg in exactly 15 minutes?

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.

## **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 and Newsletter Staff

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:

communications@myturtlerock.com

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