



# Turtle Rock Newsletter

The Best Place on Palmer Ranch

July, 2020

Congratulations to our winner

**Michael Pitoniak**



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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.**

Michael solved the word puzzle 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 July 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.

Since the last board meeting, Turtle Rock has opened all of our facilities for use by residents only, guests are not allowed. Turtle Rock requests that you continue to follow the CDC recommendation of social distancing. Our new pool furniture is not available so if you are going to the pool you will need to bring your own chairs until further notice.

Turtle Rock association has sent out many eblasts about the proposed development at the NW corner of Palmer Ranch Parkway and Honore. Four people, including myself, spoke in opposition to the development. With so little opposition at the meeting, on June 18, the Sarasota County Planning Committee approved a rezoning and site plan for the development of the property. The proposed development is a 232 unit apartment complex for 55 and over residents. The rezoning request changed the current designation from Commercial Neighborhood, CN, to Residential Multi-Family 3, RMF-3. RMF-3 zoning allows for up to 13 units per acre. ***The building site plan approved will allow for the development of up to 25 units per acre. All of the surrounding residential communities were opposed. We now need to take our opposition to this rezoning and site plan to the Sarasota Board of County Commissioners.***

### June Board of Governors Meeting

**The actions taken at the May Board of Governors meeting were:**

1. Approve the Landscape Committee recommendation to terminate the current cleaning service company and to engage Rebecca's Cleaning, Chores and More.
2. Approved committee meeting minutes from ARC, Communication, Landscape, and Access Control.
3. Committee and Task Force Reports.

**The Board of Governors discussed the following items at the June meeting:**

1. The Landscape Committee recommendations for updating the plantings at the north and south gates and the new flooring for the community center.
2. The Access Control Task Force presented a comprehensive analysis of two alternatives for improving our current community access. One option is to continue to use the existing manned entry and enhance the process with additional cameras and a driver's license reader at both gates. Second option is moving to a combined manned/virtual gate attendant arrangement. The cost analysis shows option 1 would cost approximately \$420/year/home plus \$20,000 one-time investment. Option 2 would cost approximately \$265/year/home plus \$160,000 one-time investment.
3. The Pond Committee provided an implantation plan and will begin looking for vendors to start the stabilization of our ponds. The major impact/change will be asking each homeowner living on a pond, to not cut the lawn 3 feet from the pond and create a Low Maintenance Zone (LMZ). This area will be allowed to grow to a height of 12 inches and then the HOA will contract to have that area of the lawn trimmed to maintain the 12 inches. Please see the article in the last newsletter for more detail.

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 our neighbors 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.**

**Submitted by Russ Gill**



# Report From The Treasurer



**Period Ending May 2020**

	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Total Receipts	\$111,433	\$111,634
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
General and Administrative	\$28,964	\$32,902
Common Grounds	\$11,210*	\$15,936
Access Control	\$21,459	\$21,617
Facilities Maintenance	\$ 11,741	\$13,820
Utilities	\$ 7,718^	\$ 7,325

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

^Reclaimed Irrigation Water expense was over budget due to unusually dry weather

## Reserve Expenses

Contribution	\$20,035	\$20,035
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**Service** - Pool Heat Pump Compressor Replacement **\$2,598**

**Tennis Courts** - Deposit for Tennis Court Refurbishment **\$20,717**

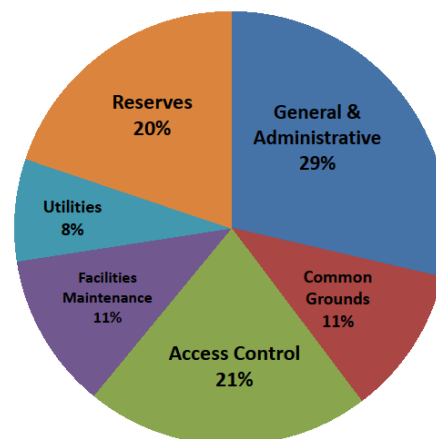
## Assessments

Total Collected \$101,067

Total Outstanding \$18,160

(Previous Month \$36,344)

**MAY 2020 EXPENSE BREAKDOWN**



**Submitted by John M Burke**

## Manager's Message



I know July 4th, the day we celebrate the Declaration of Independence, will be done a little different this year. Please remember, there is no use of fireworks allowed in Turtle Rock. Have fun, be respectful of your neighbors and most of all be safe.

As the weather warms up and the kids look for things to do, boating and fishing are always a great way to waste away the summer. I have included the excerpts from the Turtle Rock Owner's Manual that tells us what is permissible and what is prohibited.

Ponds, waterways, preserves, and wetlands may be used by residents at their own risk with approved watercraft. Approved watercraft include canoes, kayaks, row boats, and paddle boats. Sailboats, paddleboards and sailboards are prohibited. The maximum length for watercraft is 16 feet. Watercraft may be powered by an electric motor, one horsepower or less. No other powered craft will be permitted. Watercraft in use are to remain 50 feet or more from the shoreline of all residences and are not to be used in a manner that causes a nuisance. No structures, docks, or moorings may be installed in a pond or waterway. It is the responsibility of the owner to ensure that watercraft are not used in, and do not traverse, preserves and mitigation corridors. The privilege to use the ponds and waterways may be revoked for violation of these policies by the Board of Governors.

*Please note:* Because alligators are present in all ponds, residents should be cautious along pond edges. If an alligator poses concern, becomes a nuisance, or displays aggressive behavior, call Turtle Rock Management.

The work on the tennis and basketball courts surface, lights and fencing will begin on July 6th. The work is scheduled to take about 4 weeks and these facilities will be closed.

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

Thank you,

Ed Olson

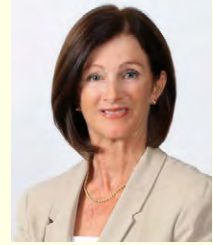
Vice President/LCAM

Sunstate Management

941-870-9855

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

# Landscape and Grounds Committee



The Committee met on May 27th with Ed Olson and Shane, from Bloomings. David Bryan, who is the Board of Governor's liaison for the Ponds Committee also attended.

As a preliminary matter David asked Shane whether there would be any extra costs incurred if Bloomings was to maintain a three-foot-wide buffer zone around the community ponds. In this buffer zone the vegetation would be allowed to grow 12-14 inches in height and Bloomings would be responsible for maintaining this height. The purpose of the buffer zone is to enable deeper root growth in the zone area which would deter erosion and help prevent fertilizer run off into our ponds. Shane confirmed that Bloomings would not charge anything for doing this in the 2020 calendar year.

The chairs of the Landscape Committee, Joan Howe and Curt Gilroy along with our TR president, Russ Gill have been working on updating the terms of the contract that Bloomings has with Turtle Rock. The updated version was presented to Shane for review.

The Committee then went through the list of ongoing maintenance items and asked Shane to do the following:

- \* Trim all community shrubbery and fill in dead/dying shrubbery with 3 gallon viburnum plants.

- \* Turtle Rock palm trees to be trimmed during the week of June 8th and mulch is to be applied after that.

Shane confirmed that slow release fertilizer was applied in May. He further indicated that there was no point applying Hydretain to the turf (which is used in drought situations) as we have had so much rain.

Shane recommended refurbishing the SE and SW corners of the northern Sable Lake Circle intersection with Turtle Rock Blvd. The plantings to be used are yet to be decided.

**Continued on next page...**



# Landscape and Grounds Committee

## Cont'd...

Shane recommended refurbishing the landscaping in the medians at both the south and north guard houses, along with the median inside the north entry. The Landscape Committee agreed with Shane's proposal and recommended this to the Board of Governors at the June meeting. The recommendation was approved by the Board.

The Landscape Committee also asked Shane to make proposals to have the following work done: refurbish the west side of the south guard house entrance and clean up the bed on the east side of that entrance; remove Duranta in median just south of clubhouse; replace Magnolia tree located just inside south gate; replace approximately 300 lineal feet of the dying hedge along the far north end along Somerset. Shane will get back to the Committee next month with his proposals.

The Landscape Committee recommended to the Board of Governors at the June Board meeting that a yellow Jacaranda tree be installed in the area where the oak tree was removed on Central Sarasota Blvd. The Board gave its approval for this.

Research is still being done regarding a sound dampening solution for the community center. The Committee feels that Luxury Vinyl Plank flooring is the best flooring alternative for the community center and will be combining their final proposal to the Board with a sound dampening proposal.

The tennis court resurfacing project should begin in June. We can't wait to see the final results!

A new cleaning company has been hired to take care of the community pool area, community center and guard houses. The Committee interviewed a few applicants and decided on Rebecca's Cleaning. They will begin in July.

Best wishes for a healthy summer,

Jodi Cunnison

# Architectural Review Committee (ARC)



If you get a chance, next time you are heading by Nice Way, take a minute and drive (slowly) through Somerset.\* Somerset, one of the two maintenance-free communities in Turtle Rock, adopted a color palette for the exterior of its homes. Painting is well underway and the community looks fresh. Savannah, the other maintenance-free community, also has a color palette from which residents may choose when homes need repainting. In the case of Somerset, all 66 homes are being repainted at this time. The street looks great!

Each of these communities has their own Architectural Review Committee (ARC). Approvals for changes in those communities go first to the individual ARCs and, when approved, come before the overarching Turtle Rock ARC. The collaboration and support between the chairpersons of the ARCs and the committee members is strong, greatly appreciated, and results in a positive look to our entire community. Thanks to Chuck Barackman, the ARC chair in Somerset (and on the Turtle Rock ARC) and to Patty Fleming and Karen Hewitt, co-chairs of the Savannah ARC, for so much cooperation. As they leave the Savannah ARC, we look forward to working with their replacements, Vickie Johnson, Kim Louria, and Nancy McIver.

In other news, the torrential rains we had earlier in the month have resulted in many residents experiencing roof failures and water damage. **While roof repairs do not need to come before the ARC, roof replacements must be approved.** The ARC will work with owners on an expedited basis in these cases and, indeed, we approved 4 such replacements in the last 2 weeks.

The regular work of the ARC, which involves the review of applications, the monthly drive-around for new and completed projects, and working with owners to get to “yes” on their projects continues. This past month of May we reviewed 40 homeowner applications, 7 of which were for new roofs and 10 for new hurricane windows and/or shutters. Of the 13 new applications for June so far, we have 5 for new roofs and 3 for hurricane windows. Over the last 3 months, we have had 3 applications for generator installations. ARC application due dates and meetings for summer and fall are posted below.

**Continued on next page...**

# Architectural Review Committee (ARC)

## contd...

As always, if the ARC can assist you prior to your application in any area related to the exterior of your home, please contact me or Ed Olson, our Turtle Rock manager. We enjoy meeting and working with fellow residents and owners. Just as the three ARCs work together, together we can continue to maintain and enhance Turtle Rock as a pristine living community.

\*Please note that Somerset has specific street traffic signs for entering and turns that need to be observed.

### ARC SCHEDULE FOR 2020

#### APPLICATION DUE

JULY 15

AUGUST 15

SEPTEMBER 15

OCTOBER 15

NOVEMBER 15

DECEMBER 15

#### ARC MEETING

JULY 28

AUGUST 25

SEPTEMBER 29

OCTOBER 27

NOVEMBER 24

DECEMBER 22

**Applications will not be accepted after the listed due date**

**Submitted by Curt Gilroy**



# ***Turtle Rock Men's Club***



While there has been some easing of restaurant guidelines for diners, we are not yet ready to resume Men's Club monthly luncheons abnegations. We are, however, interested in your suggestions of restaurants you would like the Club to book for a luncheon meeting.

Email your suggestions to [turtlerockmensclub@gmail.com](mailto:turtlerockmensclub@gmail.com).

\*\*\*\*\*

We wish the following a

**Happy July Birthday!**



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

Joe Andrews, Neil DeLorenzo, Harry Hopes, Bill Kozlowski

Ralph Placzek, David Silberstein, George Straschnov

\*\*\*\*\*

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.

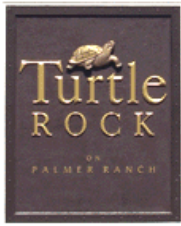
**Stay safe and help one another!**

**Submitted by:**

**Ken Rosemann**

**[kenrosemann1231@gmail.com](mailto:kenrosemann1231@gmail.com)**

**314-482-3649**



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

As we enter into the summer months, the Turtle Rock Women's Club activities during "normal circumstances" tends to slow down since many of our members are seasonal. Our June and July luncheons are cancelled and we are currently in conversation with the restaurants awaiting decisions for August and September. Some of our members are excited to resume these normal gatherings while some are not. We are taking all of the member suggestions into consideration as we are all doing our best to support one another in these uncertain times.

In the meantime, our book clubs and board meetings have been "gathering" via zoom and members have shared some of the great hobbies and projects they've been doing during quarantine.

***If you are interested in learning more about becoming a member of the Turtle Rock Women's Club please email us at [turtlerockwomensclub@gmail.com](mailto:turtlerockwomensclub@gmail.com)***



**During quarantine,  
Karen Howe has been  
sewing face masks for  
family and friends.**

**Continued on next page...**

# ***Turtle Rock Women's Club cont'd...***



**Karen Hewitt has been busy  
baking and sewing!**



**Cynthia McDonald has  
been spending time  
creating these  
incredible sketches.**

**Submitted by Susan Neisler**



## **Mailbox Task Force Report**



You did not hear from us in the June newsletter, since the task force had been unable to meet or conduct any business. We now want to let you know that the group is alive and well, and we met on June 18 to discuss this very important project.

We will be presenting a recommendation to the Board of Governors at the July 7th meeting. Please join the meeting via your phone or computer to hear about the plans for this important improvement to the appearance of our community. Also, since the community center is open again, drop in and take a close-up look at the proposed mailboxes. They are attractive, sturdy and low-maintenance. Think how much better your curb appeal will be with this in front of your house, instead of the run-down, dirty, unattractive box and post we all have now.

And please, spread the word to your neighbors and let them know how you feel about the importance of this upgrade. We will all benefit.



**Again, the Task Force would like to point out 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)**

**\*It will greatly improve the appearance of our community, and therefore increase your home value.**

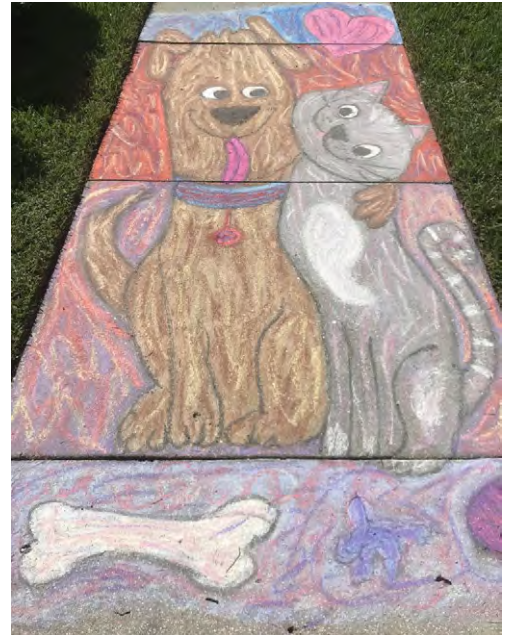
**Please send any comments or questions to [communications@myturtlerock.com](mailto:communications@myturtlerock.com)**

**Submitted by Roberta Maloney**

# What are you doing???



Three cheers for Donna Wolfson  
still at work.



## Some of us want to “EAT OUT”

*Sure, we want to eat out, even now, and by out we mean OUT. We want to be outside in the air, away from the germs. How many places around here let us do that? A lot, it turns out. For example (in no particular order and far from a complete list):*

The Rosemary

Garden Room Cafe' at Shoogie Boogies

O'leary's Tiki Bar & Grill

Mattison's City Grille Downtown

Pop's Sunset Grill

C'est La VieShore St. Armands

Sunnyside Café

Patrick's 1481

Duval's Fresh. Local. Seafood.

Le Colonne Restaurant

Claytons Siesta Grille

Columbia Restaurant

Owen's Fish Camp

Evie's Spanish Point

Café L'Europe

Dockside

Old Salty Dog

Marina Jack's

Tommy Bahama Restaurant

Crab & Fin Restaurant

SarasotaFresh Start Café

Mandeville Beer Garden

Station 400

Walt's Fish Market Restaurant

Hob Nob Drive In Restaurant

Evie's Tavern & Grill

First Watch

Pelican Alley

Waterside Too

The Parrot Patio Bar & Grill

Captain Eddies Seafood

Turtles

Ophelias

**Isn't Sarasota a great place to work, to live,  
to play and to eat? Enjoy!**

**Let us know if you have any favorites.**

**Submitted by Paula Griffin**



## For Your Information...



On Memorial Day, Curt Gilroy of Park Shore Lane, participated in “Taps Across America.” At three pm that afternoon, buglers and trumpeters took to their driveways, front porches, and the like to play taps in honor of America’s fallen men and women. Great Job Curt!

Submitted by Grace Sammon

This picture, taken by Vicky Wright, was sent to us by Kay Consigny. Her friend took this picture in McKenzie Conservation Area Spokane Washington.



## For Your Information...contd.



A species of toxic toads is invading Florida backyards across the southern part of the state. The cane toad, also known as the bufo toad, is a poisonous amphibian that, can produce a milky white toxin on its back, a substance that is particularly dangerous to house pets. when provoked.

***If a pet bites, licks or even sniffs a cane toad, it could become sick and, if not treated, it could die.*** Symptoms of poisoning in pets include excessive drooling and extremely red gums, head-shaking, crying, loss of coordination and sometimes convulsions. If a dog bites or comes in contact with a cane toad, use a damp cloth or towel and wipe the inside of the dog's mouth to make sure no toxins were swallowed. Do not flush the dog's mouth with a hose. It could send toxins down the animal's throat.



Dogs should be taken to a veterinarian as soon as possible to treat symptoms such as seizures, heart problems such as arrhythmia and body temperatures that skyrocket, then plunge. The toxin could leave a dog or cat in serious distress or dead in as little as 15 minutes, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission.

They're tan to reddish-brown, dark brown or gray, and their backs are marked with dark spots, according to the University of Florida. They have warty skin.

Cane toads usually are 4-6 inches long, sometimes growing to 9½ inches. ***With very few exceptions, any toad in Florida that is larger than 4 inches is not native and almost certainly is an invasive cane toad, according to the University of Florida.*** The state's wildlife commission encourages homeowners to kill cane toads whenever possible. The University of Florida recommends euthanizing them by rubbing or spraying 20% benzocaine toothache gel or sunburn spray (not 5% lidocaine) on the toad. In a few minutes, it will become unconscious. Put the toad in a sealed plastic bag in the freezer for 24-48 hours to ensure it is humanely euthanized. Once the toad is dead, dispose of it in the trash; do not bury it.

The best trapping method is a net and a deep bucket with steep sides, according to the University of Florida. Make sure to put a board or lid on top of the bucket. The Florida wildlife commission recommends wearing latex, rubber or nitrile gloves to safely handle the toads. Source: Herald-Tribune, June 15, 2020

**Submitted by Julia Delp Hendrickson**



# Turtle Rock Ponds Management Program

## 20+ Years of Damaging Shoreline Erosion

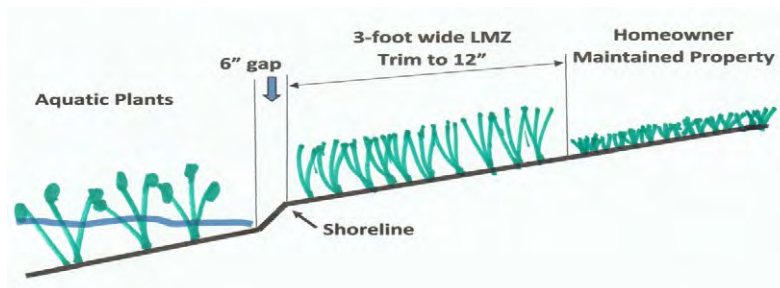
Our pond shorelines are showing visible signs of erosion damage. Delay of erosion control could require costly engineered remediation causing hefty increases in association fees. Algae grows faster in ponds when fed with fertilizer runoff. Using herbicides has damaging effects on beneficial plants and pond-dwellers. Natural Shorelines show few signs of erosion and limit nutrient run off into ponds. Wildlife and fish prefer a more natural shoreline and cleaner water.

## What Homeowners Can Do to Protect Shorelines

Create “Natural Shorelines” around ponds, to protect against erosion damage by establishing a three-foot Low Maintenance Zones (LMZs) on all pond shorelines adjacent to homes.

After several months of growth, trim LMZs to 12”. LMZs keep damage-causing mowing equipment off shorelines and reduce shoreline erosion and water runoff.

Limit fertilizer and irrigation to limit nutrient run-off into ponds and storm-water drains, as per Sarasota County guidelines.



**Ponds Committee will be monitoring ponds** to achieve an appropriate balance between aquatic plants and open water and to eradicate invasive vegetation.



**Let's protect our ponds, enjoy nature in balance, celebrate our wildlife friends, and keep property values strong.**



Submitted by Melody Barackman, Ponds Committee Chair  
Logo by Turtle Rock resident, Barry Domenick



# ACCESS CONTROL TASK FORCE

***The Task Force has finalized its research on Access Control and will continue to serve the Board until a resolution of this project is reached. If requested, the Task Force will assist in the writing of the "Post Orders", which are the Community standards for residents, guests, and vendors entering the Community.***

As a refresher, the following events led to this conclusion.

- May 7, 2019, the Board asked that a Task force be formed to address Access Control. The Task Force's charge was to evaluate the current system and make a recommendation as to how Access Control could be improved.
- At the February 4, 2020, Board Meeting, the Task Force recommended to the Board that the current system be replaced and upgraded by contracting with Envera Systems.
- February 20, 2020, an informational meeting for all residents was held to hear Envera Systems present their solution to Turtle Rock's Access Control issues.
- June 2, 2020, at the virtual Board meeting, John Burke, Board of Governors Liaison, gave an overview of his System Update Analysis. The report compares the current system to Envera's as if the two systems are interchangeable. They are not. The report also exhibits a cost comparison between the current manned system and a virtual, or unmanned Envera system. The Task Force did not specify that a new system would be unmanned.

***The Task Force was not charged with evaluating the manpower used to man the entrances, so no distinction was intended to be made between an Envera manned system and an Envera virtual, or unmanned system. Envera's technology is far superior to the current system and will capture activity entering and leaving the community regardless of the staffing at the gates.***

Continued on next page...

# Access Control Task Force cont'd...

Here are a few advantages that Envera Systems has over the current system.

- state of the art cameras that clearly capture vehicle and driver information-
- automated visitor/guest lists eliminating the need for manually tracking of guests
- automated license plate recognition that speeds up entry of visitors once they are in the system
- live attendant coverage of the Community Center parking lot, bridge, swimming pool and tennis courts
- a convenient app for residents to update guest lists as necessary by using their mobile device
- a turn-key business model where all equipment is maintained, updated or replaced for a monthly fee

**The question most often asked is, “can the current system be updated”?**

It can, but it will not answer the concerns of the residents that initiated this project. As the Task Force discovered, not all of the equipment is currently functioning properly, images being captured by the current cameras are not clear and are grainy, a computer server needs to be replaced, and the manual logging of information by the gate attendants is sporadic. The current system operates on software from Applications by Design, Inc. (ABDI). Maintenance of the software is Turtle Rock's responsibility. Updating that software would be a band-aid, not a solution. In addition, the equipment, cameras, gates, computers, etc., are Turtle Rock's responsibility to update and/or replace.

*Changing a system that will affect every homeowner is a major undertaking. If you would like to learn more about the Task Force's recommendation, contact any of the following and they will be happy to discuss this important issue with you,  
Patty Fleming, Michael Podolsky, Richard Rosano, John Burke, Ed Olson*

**Submitted by Ken Rosemann, Chairman**

## Turtle Rock Rocks, Gently



Rick Pohlman ( Timber Chase Way) couldn't afford a guitar in college, so his friends at school in Fairbanks, Alaska helped him out. They handed him an art installation that had been made from an old Danelectro guitar with paint dumped on it. He disassembled the art and rebuilt a guitar that sort of worked. Now Rick has numerous guitars, and as a retired manufacturing plant manager plays as half of the group, The A&R Band.



The A in the group is Andy Zirna, ( Wild Flower Court), a former factory manager who does vocals, drums, guitar and programming for the band. Andy got his first guitar as a birthday present when he was 12. His parents couldn't afford an amp (or so they said - probably didn't want to get one). So Andy built one by himself out of a kit, and it served him well right through college.

Both Andy and Rick (who are engineers) have been involved in music all their lives, though working and raising families took some time as well. They have been playing together for four years, since they discovered that they lived half a mile apart and loved the same music, which they describe as “electrified acoustic.” Think Eagles, Jimmy Buffett, Tom Petty—the kind of music you could listen to all night.

They've played for small and large private parties locally, and last summer you might have heard them on Sundays at the Sarasota Yacht Club, out by the pool. That's less likely in this time of Covid, but this will end, and the band will rise again.

So here's a note to all you parents of kids asking for a guitar (or drums). You never know where that first musical instrument will lead. It could be the first step in a lifetime of music.



**Submitted by Paula Griffin**



# Palmer Ranch Natural Assets Committee Report

## **Q: What can I do as a Palmer Ranch resident to minimize red tide?**

A: Although we still don't know what causes red tide, you can help by keeping our watershed healthy.

Red tides in Florida develop 10-40 miles offshore, away from man-made nutrient sources. Once red tide moves inshore, however, it can be fueled by nutrient pollution from urban and agricultural runoff.

Our stormwater ponds are designed to help remove nutrients and other pollutants from stormwater runoff before it empties into Little Sarasota Bay and the Gulf. But their effectiveness depends on us.

So be mindful of what you put into our watershed. The two biggest things you can do to reduce nutrient poisoning and avoid feeding red tide are:

Don't fertilize if rain is forecast in the next 48 hours

If you irrigate your lawn with reclaimed water, reduce the amount of nitrogen in your fertilizer by the amount of nitrogen in your reclaimed water (ask your community manager)

You can also help minimize red tide by:

- Using pesticides sparingly, and considering non-chemical treatments

- Planting native vegetation, which requires less water and produces less runoff

- Properly disposing hazardous materials such as gas, oil, paint, unused pool chemicals.

If you live on a stormwater pond, consider creating a low-maintenance zone at the pond's shoreline, including:

- A fertilizer-free zone at least 10 feet, and ideally 20 feet, from the shore.

- A vegetation zone two to six or more feet from the shore, with turf grass or native aquatic plants, grasses and rushes, groundcovers, wildflowers, shrubs, or trees, all allowed to grow to their optimum height. For turf grass, that's 12 inches of blade height.

Low-maintenance vegetation zones can reduce nutrients by as much as 50%. Consult with your homeowners association's property manager before making any changes to your stormwater pond shoreline.

For more on how to properly maintain your stormwater pond shoreline, including a list of appropriate native plants, visit <https://www.sarasota.wateratlas.usf.edu/upload/documents/LivingontheWatersEdgeFreshwater.pdf>.

And for more information on red tide in Sarasota County, visit the Official Water Quality Summit report at <https://www.scgov.net/home/showdocument?id=42805> and scroll to page 67. Or visit <https://myfwc.com/research/redtide/faq/>.

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

## Armchair Travel: Memorable Islands

*Here are some other islands for Armchair Traveling—also from my Favorite Memories File. We live in an amazing world.*

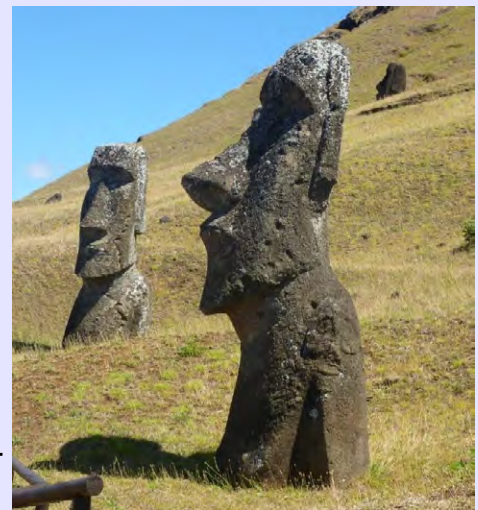
### **Easter Island**

Easter Island is a special territory of Chile, in the southeastern Pacific. I was lucky that the ship I was on was able to get close to the port (we took a tender from the ship). The two years before, the seas were too rough and the ship couldn't stop there. As soon as I stepped foot on the land, I felt it: an awareness that this is a place of great spirituality. We were greeted right off by a row of the famous statues, facing the sea. Our guide was a native of Easter Island, her family, for every known generation, had lived there. BTW, only natives of the island are allowed to own land on the island.

The famous statues date back to the 13th-16th centuries. The statuesque stone figures that represented the spirits of the islanders' ancestors were carved in the crater of an extinct volcano, where there was a good supply of the water needed for the carving. Once complete, the typically 13-foot tall and 14 ton figures were transported (there are conjectures on how this was done) from the crater, down the sides of the crater mountain, to the villages, where they were placed, looking away from the village, guarding and protecting it

Despite there being very few water and food sources, the island thrived—until a time when there was no rain and a great deal of suffering. Desperate and angry, feeling the ancestors had deserted them, villages turned on each other, fighting and toppling the statues. Just-carved statues that were being moved down the mountainside were left where they were. These are the ones (see photo) that today are half buried and lying prone on the mountainside.

Easter Island is mystical. You feel something ancient there. You feel...a strange, but not frightening "presence." It is the statues, of course, but something more that stays with you and is vivid whenever you recall your visit. I think it is the ancestors, still there, still watching.



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## *Memorable Islands Continued...*

### **Pitcairn Island**

You may remember Pitcairn Island from Mutiny on the Bounty. Also located in the southern Pacific, it is said to be the smallest and most remote inhabited place in the world. My ship anchored off shore, and the residents (we were told all but one of them!) came by long boat to our ship. They brought with them hand-made items that they sold. We learned that all of the Pitcairn Islanders are descendants of Fletcher Christian and the Bounty mutineers!

### **Komodo Island**

Located in Indonesia, this is the home of the largest lizard on earth, typically around 10 feet long and weighing 300+ pounds. My ship took us to the island by tender. We were warned not to go if we had a cut that was still healing. The smell of blood could be lethal. No people live on the island. The guides arrive by boat each day. My knee was way too bad for me to go on a long walk, but I wanted to see the island, so I



hung out with some guides while tour groups went off to look for Komodos. One of the guides told me about the dragons—and then he led me to see two of them sleeping nearby. It was thrilling—especially when I learned from my returning shipmates that they hadn't seen a single Komodo dragon! Here's what I learned: the dragons are meat eaters, and cannibals. When their babies are born, the babies race up tree trunks and live in the trees until they're big enough to climb down and fend for themselves. If they fall out of the tree, they'll be eaten. While I was talking to the guide, two tourists started off down a path to a shop where they could buy postcards. Another guide raced after them, warning them that NO ONE could walk on Komodo Island without a guide, as the Komodo dragons could attack them. That's why the guides carry long forked wooden poles. I read there were thoughts of closing the island this year—too many tourists, but I don't think that has happened (yet).

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## *Memorable Islands Continued...*

### **Papua New Guinea**

PNG is located in the southwestern Pacific, north of Australia. I had read about it in Smithsonian magazine. This is where Michael Rockefeller (son of Nelson) disappeared in 1961—thought to have been killed and eaten by the tribespeople, who at that time still practiced headhunting and cannibalism. My ship had two ports scheduled for visits. I was happy I had decided not to get off the ship at the first port. The island looked so eerie—dark and forbidding. All I could think about was Michael Rockefeller.

I did get off at the second port, however, because I was interested in an excursion—I wanted to go to a demonstration of the native drums, music and dancing. En route, we passed lines of residents—many of them chewing betel nuts, their mouths and chins stained red from the juice. I saw wooden boards, with trees as poles on the sides, topped with large leaves—these were their sleeping quarters. This was clearly a



visit to a Third World country—and not comfortable, being a tourist in an air conditioned bus, driving by lines of natives, happy for the visitors bringing money into their economy. It is a mixed blessing being able to see these places—it's good that we help their economy, it's good that we expand our knowledge of the world, but it is heartbreaking to see how so many people are living in today's world. The music and dancing were joyous and memorable—especially seeing the children who took part.

**Submitted by Diane Glynn**



# Letter *From* The Editor



Just wanted to let you know that it seems we have more people who enter the “Find the Word” contest than the “Brain Teaser Questions.” With this July issue we will return to the “Find the Word” contest and offer \$25 gift certificate to Publix. Many thanks to friends at Mira Mar Poll Care ( a TR resident owned and operated company).

In the June issue we requested pictures of those students graduating but received no response. This could be our fault for waiting so long into the summer to highlight. We guess the celebrations are over: a belated congratulations to all.

The Communications Committee has been working for quite awhile to somehow start a Welcoming Program for our new residents. Houses are turning over rather quickly in our neighborhood and it would be great if we could somehow welcome our new neighbors and friends. If you have any ideas or would like to help, please contact us.

We had only 18 responses to last month’s survey. Of those who answered the vast majorities are owners, 4 are part time, one respondent has been here 6 month, 6 six years or less, 7 have lived here between 13 and 20 years, 4 have lived in TR for 20 or more years.

Finally, with next month’s issue of August 2020, we will begin our 3rd year of this version of the Turtle Rock Newsletter. I would like to thank everyone who took the time to send in pictures, articles, ideas and reports, our proofreaders, sponsors and our Board and Management personnel. Special appreciation goes out to our past, and present members of the Communications Committee for their patience, support and encouragement, when I agreed to “try” this assignment many months ago.

Sincerely,

*Judy Bentz*

Editor

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

We had only 8 participants in our Brain Teaser contest so this month we are going back to the WORD hunt. Find the outlandishly inappropriate word in one of our many articles and send your guess 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.

### **The Communication Committee**

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

**THANKS for getting involved!**

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

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