



# Turtle Rock Newsletter

*The Best Place on Palmer Ranch*

**December, 2020**

**Congratulations to our winner**

**Mary Ann Gates**

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**In 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.**



She found the hidden word 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

December's Board of Governors meeting will be held via video conference. The link for the video conference and a call in phone number was provided in a previous email invitation.

### **November Board of Governors Meeting**



Actions approved at the November Board of Governors meeting were:

Approved the Landscape Committee recommendations to remove and replace declining shrubs and plants in Turtle Rock.

Approved the 2021 budget and quarterly dues of \$480.

Approved minutes from ARC, Communications, Landscape/Grounds, Ponds and Nominating Committees.

The Board of Governors discussed the following items at the November meeting:

Putting a top dressing of mulch down along Turtle Rock Blvd.

A discussion concerning the upcoming Sarasota County Board of County Commission (BCC), meeting on November 17 on the proposed development for the corner of Palmer Ranch Parkway and Honore. On November 17, the BCC approved the proposed development by a 5-0 vote. I want to personally thank all of the people who signed the petition and the many people who attended the BCC meeting, especially those who spoke in opposition to the development.

The Turtle Rock Board hopes everyone had a good Thanksgiving and wishes you a happy holiday season.

### **January Board of Governors Meeting, January 5**

**Russ Gill**  
**President, TRA**





## Report From The Treasurer

**Period Ending October 31 2020**



	Actual	Budget
<b>Income</b>		
Total Receipts	\$111,441	\$111,635

### **Operating Expenses**

General and Administrative	\$36,505	\$32,902
Common Grounds	\$10,990	\$15,936
Access Control	\$28,774	\$21,617
Facilities Maintenance	\$6,242	\$13,820
Utilities	\$5,664	\$7,325

Increased expense was incurred for Residents Counsel Legal Fees

No expenses were incurred for Mulch and Tree & Shrub Trimming

Increased expense was incurred due to billing cycle

No expense was incurred for Wetlands Maintenance

### **Reserve Expenses**

Contribution	\$20,035	\$20,035
ABDi – Automatic License Plate Recognition System Installation Deposit	\$5,706	
ABDi - Gate House Server Replacement & Software Upgrade Deposit	\$6,070	
ASAP Mailbox –Single Mailbox Replacement Deposit	\$70,811	
ASAP Mailbox - Double Mailbox Replacement Deposit	\$5,400	
Sonic Shield - Community Center Clubhouse Acoustic Tile Installation Final Payment	\$725	

### **Assessments**

Total Collected \$101,067

Total Outstanding \$33,474 (Previous Month \$12,894)

**Submitted by John M Burke, Treasurer**



## Manager's Message



As you read this newsletter, we are now into December. Cooler weather is here, Thanksgiving has passed, and everyone is preparing for the December holidays. It will be a strange holiday season, but please stay safe and follow the CDC guidelines. I wanted to let everyone know what's happening around the community.

The self-nominating applications for the Board of Governors have been mailed out. If you want to serve on the Board, please fill out the application and mail or bring it into the office. The applications must be in the office no later than December 24<sup>th</sup>.

Turtle Rock's Board of Governors, committees and task forces have had a busy year and have done an excellent job. When you see one of the many members, please thank them for the hard work they have put in.

The new coupon books will be sent out the second week of December, so please be looking for them.

Compliance around the community seems to be improving, however there are still a lot of basketball goals left out overnight, garage doors left open and trucks in driveways. Please be proactive.

All new and not so new owners in the community should be familiar with the Turtle Rock Owners Manual. You can find this and other information at [www.myturtlerock.com](http://www.myturtlerock.com).

We are planning for the upcoming Trash to Treasure garage sale and the Chemical Collection Day. The tentative scheduled dates are, February 13<sup>rd</sup> for the garage sale and February 23<sup>re</sup> for the chemical collection day. We are looking for a couple of volunteers to help with the organization of these two popular events.

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

Thank you,

**Ed Olson**  
**Vice President/LCAM**  
**Sunstate Management**  
**941-870-9855**  
**edward@sunstatemanagement.com**



# Landscape and Grounds Committee



## Landscape and Grounds Committee update for November 2020

The Committee, along with Ed Olson, met with Shane Battle from Bloomings at the community center on November 17.

Several ongoing projects were reviewed with Shane. He confirmed that before the end of this calendar year Bloomings would replace the dying Duranta at the south entrance and in the median just south of the community center, remove the declining hedge along the backside of the tennis courts and replace it with dwarf Podocarpus, replace the damaged street corner turf along Turtle Rock Blvd, and relandscape both the west and east corners of south Sabal Lake Circle and Turtle Rock Blvd. Top dressing of the mulch along Turtle Rock Blvd will also be done. Shane also agreed to clean up the debris around the south gate and to give the area a trim to create a uniform look. Bloomings is currently in the process of applying fertilization and pest control, along with seeding barren areas along the Blvd.

Bloomings was reminded to leave a two foot un-mowed strip around all ponds in common areas. Some Committee members will be taking a monthly walk with Shane down Turtle Rock Blvd to determine what, if anything, needs to be done. The first date was set for December 10<sup>th</sup>. Ed Olson reported that he hasn't received a date yet from the tree trimmer to have the oak trees trimmed along the Blvd. He will keep the Committee posted.

The Committee will be recommending to the Board of Governors to approve the funding for the purchase and installation of three 6 foot park benches in Turtle Rock. One bench would be located immediately south of the community center overlooking the pond, one would be located between the pool house and the community center, and one would be located adjacent to the butterfly garden.

The Committee is also busy getting the upcoming holiday decorations ready. Members of the Committee will be getting together on November 24 to work on the holiday wreaths, garland and bows.

**Enjoy this beautiful cool weather!!**

**Jodi Cunnison**





# Architectural Review Committee (ARC)



The ARC experienced another busy period this past month with over 30 applications from residents for home and property improvements. New roofs and exterior painting continue to dominate home renovations as our properties age. However, we have noticed an increase in applications for tree removals, particularly for trees that were planted in an inappropriate place by the developers or simply trees that have grown too large – particularly oaks. A number of residents are so sorry to have to remove some of these large trees. Since in most cases trees need to be replaced in order to meet the minimum number as specified in the Turtle Rock Owners' Manual, we are often asked about appropriate replacements that will provide the shade, stature, and beauty of the oaks.

The recommendation is an easy one. Plant a Shady Lady (or Black Olive) tree. It has become the “go-to” substitute for oaks and other trees. They are attractive in so many ways (although there no olives for your martini!). They are hardy, do not have roots that spread and become obtrusive, and have lush layers of leaves in attractive zig-zag patterns that some say mimic a bonsai look. As a result, Shady Ladies are one of the most beautiful and popular shade trees in southern Florida.



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# Architectural Review Committee (ARC) Cont'd



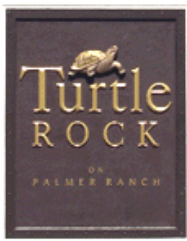
Developers are planting them in place of oaks, and you can see them in rows along Honore Avenue heading south from Central Sarasota Parkway. Bloomings, Turtle Rock's landscape company, is planting them in our common areas. But there are also some wonderful examples on private property within Turtle Rock.

These trees mature in a beautiful, well-shaped rounded acquiesce crown, having much smaller leaves than an oak. They are also not a messy tree, as their leaves are very small and do not leave "leaf litter." Because they are not huge trees, they would work very well in our Turtle Rock landscapes. They are moderate growers and can reach about 30 feet at maturity providing amazing shade and a delightfully layered look. Shady Ladies like sun, are salt tolerant, and are basically evergreen – maintaining dark green leaves nearly all year.

They should be planted 15 feet from the house, but roots are really not a problem so the tree can be planted as close as 6 feet from a driveway, although you will have to trim lower branches as the tree matures to allow for foot or vehicle traffic. They are also great "snowbird" trees as they require very little care.

**Remember that trees are a wonderful natural asset. Not only are they beautiful, create habitat for wildlife, and provide shade and coolness from our hot Florida sun, but they benefit the environment by helping to keep it free from toxins, supplying life on earth with nutrients and combatting the negative effects of harmful gasses that exist in it.**

**Submitted by Curt Gilroy**



## *Turtle Rock Women's Club*

The Turtle Rock Women's Club is trying creative ways to stay connected with our neighbors and friends while maintaining safe distancing practices. Our wonderfully creative Vice President Karen Howe organized a sunset happy hour that recently took place at Siesta Key beach. This event was open to all and we welcomed members, spouses and guests! We gathered at the Green Lifeguard station located near the end of the walkway from the main pavilion on Siesta Key. Members arrived in time to secure a good spot to watch the sunset and visit (safely) with friends and neighbors.



**Our next gathering will be held on Friday, December 11 at Nokomis Beach and we'd love for you to join us! Plan on meeting at the Pavillion by 5:00 pm in order to catch sunset at 5:30 pm. Please contact Karen Howe at [kmhowe001@yahoo.com](mailto:kmhowe001@yahoo.com) or 315-632-2247 for more information.**

We still have some of our social activities ongoing as well, such as water aerobics at the Community Center pool, golf and book clubs. If you'd like more information, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at [TurtleRockWomensClub@gmail.com](mailto:TurtleRockWomensClub@gmail.com) to find out more.

On behalf of the Board, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all our neighbors and friends a joyous and blessed holiday season!

**Submitted by Susan Neisler**



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



It would be an understatement to say 2020 has been an eventful year. A popular holiday ornament which reflects this unusual time is pictured below: “2020 the year we stayed home.”



As we bring the year to a close let us remember the true meaning of the holiday season. The love and joy of the season is about the love and joy we can choose to share with one another.

Whatever language you speak, holidays you celebrate, or wherever your travels may take you we wish you a safe and beautiful holiday season!

**Felices Fiestas! Joyeuses Fêtes! Prettige Feestdagen!**  
**Buone Feste! Hau'oli Lanui! Laethanta saoire sona!**  
**Frohe Feiertage! Boas Festas! Tanoshii kurisumasu wo!**  
**행복 휴일! Mutlu Bayramlar! Jie Ri Yu Kuai!**  
**Sawadee Pee Mai! Ii holide eximnandi! Happy Holidays!**

\*\*\*\*\*

We wish the following a **Happy December Birthday!** If I have missed anyone, email me and I will update the TRMC website.

**Scott Hain, Ken Hurley, Robert Jansse, Webster McDonald, Art Molesphini, Tappan Naag, Rick Pohlman, Michael Vespoli**

\*\*\*\*\*

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.

Stay safe and help one another!

**Submitted by Ken Rosemann**

# Birding Notes



It's that time of year again. Wood Storks are visiting the ponds of Turtle Rock. You can't miss these large (40 inch length, 5.5 lbs.) birds. They are mostly white with a bumpy, unfeathered black neck that climbs up to a smooth forehead and ends in a large de-curved bill. They forage in 6 to 12 inches of water around the edges of our ponds looking for small fish, invertebrates, amphibians and reptiles. Sometimes they spread one wing out to shade the water or dangle their toes just in the water to stir up food.



Wood Storks are social birds that nest in colonies in swamps or mangroves near standing water and good sources of food. Most seasons storks lay 2 to 5 eggs which take about 30 days to hatch. After 10 to 12 weeks, they are ready to fly. Juvenile Storks have a yellowish bill and dull, grayish-brown feathered head and neck.

There isn't a colony in Turtle Rock, but a group of about 20 storks hang out in the trees across Philippi Creek from Pinecraft Park. Usually they don't nest there.

Wood Storks soar much of the day. They fly with head forward and legs extended straight back. The white wings are edged with black. Whenever you see birds soaring high in the air, you might find a Wood Stork in the group.

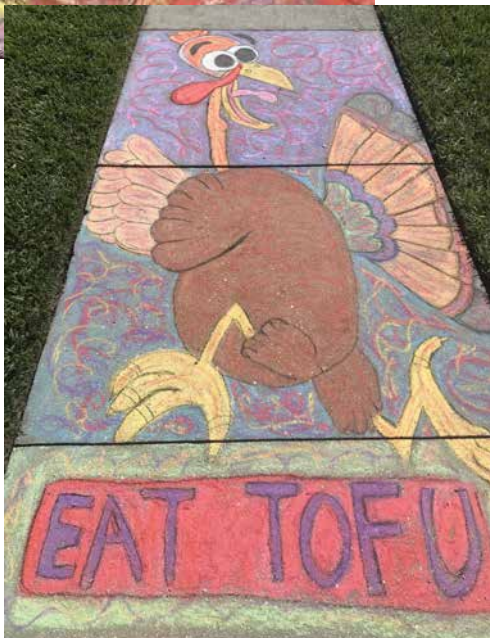
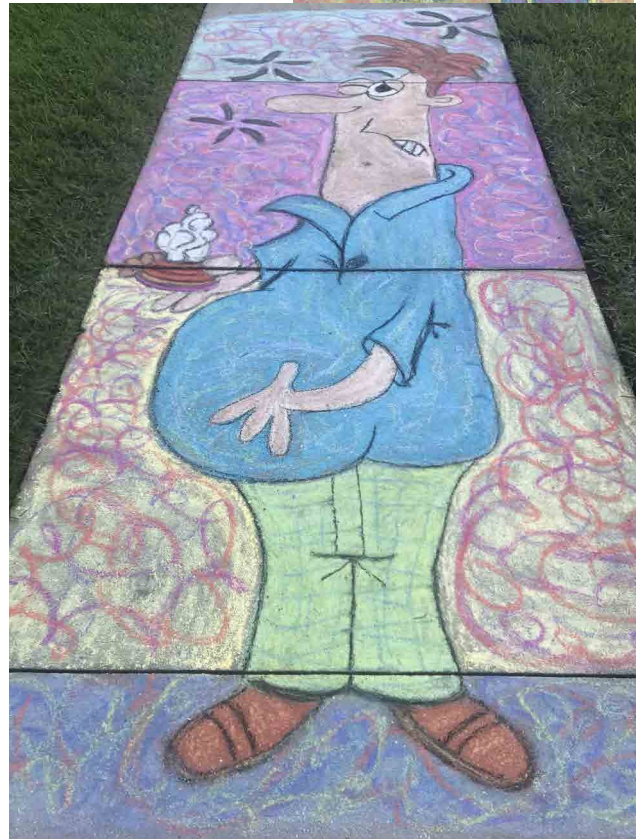
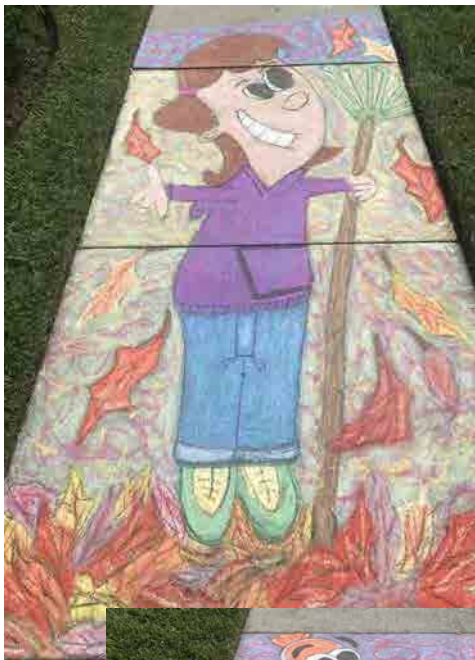


**Submitted by Janet Smith**

**printed with permission from Sarasota Audubon Society**



# Donna Wolfson...



**Hope your  
thanksgiving  
was fulfilling!**

# Mailbox Task Force Report



The **Mailbox Task Force** is excited to announce that the new mailboxes are coming to your front yard in early 2021! They are no longer on display inside the community center since the contractor is using them at a new job. The **white double box** will be installed in Savannah, and the **black single** one in rest of Turtle Rock.

They have been ordered, and **installation will begin in the first quarter of 2021**. As stated in last month's newsletter, the total cost of the mailboxes will be **funded 100% by the Association**, thus avoiding any special assessment to the homeowners! They will be the only acceptable mailboxes going forward.

The Board will be making sure the community is informed about the roll-out and progress of the project: The **Turtle Rock website** homepage will contain updates on a regular basis. To access, go to <http://www.myturtlerock.com>. Under the "**Community Association**" tab, click on "**Mailbox Task Force**" to see the latest information about the project.



**Continued on next page...**

# Mailbox Task Force Report contd...



Email Blasts may be sent out with periodic updates.

**If management does not have your current email address, please complete the form available in the community center or send your email to [pflemingcp@hotmail.com](mailto:pflemingcp@hotmail.com).**

It will be entered into Constant Contact for use by Sunstate Management Company only, kept secure and confidential.

**Notice Boards located throughout Turtle Rock** will be used to post updates with current information and status. As you walk about the community, please stop to check them out.

**Information Sessions will be held at the Community Center on  
Sunday December 6 from 1:30pm to 3:30pm and again on  
Saturday January 16 from 9:00am to 11:00am**

Task force members will be available to answer questions and provide current information. And you are always welcome to contact a Mailbox Task Force member with your questions: **David Bryan, Jodi Cunnison, Curt Gilroy, Kathrin Harris, Patti Fleming, Harry Hopes, Roberta Maloney, Bob Oram, and Kathy Wells.**

In preparation for the installation, it will be the **responsibility of homeowners to remove all landscaping and hardscaping surrounding their post.** You will be given ample lead time to do this. The new posts will be surrounded by a concrete donut, and new sod will be put down by the Association. No plantings will be allowed around the new posts; this will make maintenance easier and provide a uniform appearance.

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

**Submitted by Roberta Maloney**





# Turtle Rock Ponds Report

In coming weeks, Turtle Rock homeowners will start seeing new bursts of beauty and color along the littoral shelves (defined shallow areas close to shore) of several of our retention ponds. Turtle Rock, with the support of its Retention Pond Committee, is installing select aquatic plants in ponds 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 26, and 31 (see Ponds map pages 16-17) with more ponds to come.

Spike rush, arrowhead and pickerelweed will help protect pond shorelines from erosion and will enhance the overall health and appearance of ponds. In the Butterfly Pond (Pond 7) yellow canna and fragrant water lily will further the mission of attracting butterflies. Aquatic plantings work in concert with the low maintenance zones (LMZs) that pond-side homeowners have been creating along their shores.



**Pickerelweed**

[https://www.wildflower.org/gallery/result.php?id\\_image=25232](https://www.wildflower.org/gallery/result.php?id_image=25232)

Courtesy Harry Cliffe, Lady Bird Johnson



**Arrowhead**

[https://www.wildflower.org/gallery/result.php?id\\_image=36841](https://www.wildflower.org/gallery/result.php?id_image=36841)

Courtesy Carolyn Fannon, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

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# Turtle Rock Ponds Report contd...



**Yellow Canna**

[https://www.wildflower.org/gallery/result.php?id\\_image=11910](https://www.wildflower.org/gallery/result.php?id_image=11910)

Courtesy Joseph A. Marcus, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.



**Spike Rush**

[https://www.wildflower.org/gallery/result.php?id\\_image=12995](https://www.wildflower.org/gallery/result.php?id_image=12995)

Courtesy Joseph A. Marcus, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

The Pond Committee has worked with aquatic plant professionals and county officials to select plants that are native, will thrive but not take over the ponds and – last but not least – are visually appealing. This is a measured approach to pond management that will also involve monitoring and removing invasive plants as needed.

Thanks to Turtle Rock homeowners for your active involvement and support. The ponds project will continue with repair of the areas of most serious shoreline erosion, ongoing work on LMZs and aquatic plantings in additional ponds. We'll continue to communicate during the new year.

**Logo Created by Barry Domenick, Turtle Rock Resident**  
**Michelle van Schouwen**  
**Secretary, Retention Pond Committee**



# A Holiday Tradition

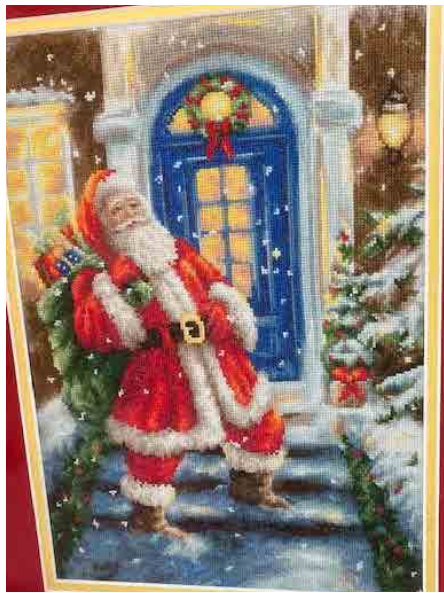
My Santa Wall comes into season at this time of year, of course. There are now 16 Santa cross-stitch works, 4 of them small. I just completed what is almost surely the last addition to the wall, pictured here. It's my favorite—and the most complex to stitch. There were 83 colors, 18 stitches per inch. It took close to a year to make it.



Continued on next page...



# A Holiday Tradition contd...



**Why Santa? The main reason is, I like him! He is cheerful and loves giving presents. I started what became a collection around 20 years ago, when I watched a friend cross-stitching and thought, I haven't done that in years. (I have knit, embroidered, and needle-pointed since college.) It was fall, and the needlework catalogs were filled with holiday themes. Santa caught my eye. My friend commented: "Choose one with a good face." Almost every year I came across a good face Santa and was compelled to stitch him, and so the collection has grown. It is a happy wall at any time of year! My plan is that it will eventually go to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.**

**Needlepoint and article by Diane Glynn**





# Happy Holidays

**I never thought  
I'd be the kind of  
person who'd  
wake up early in  
the morning to  
exercise ...**

**And I was right.**

**Apparently, it's  
only appropriate to  
say "Look at you!  
You got so big!"  
to children.  
Adults tend to get  
offended.**

**Guys I need your help.  
I'm in the middle of an  
argument with my wife  
and she just told me that  
I'm right. What the hell  
do I do next?!**



**One spelling  
mistake can  
destroy your life.  
A Husband sent this  
to his wife: I'm  
having a wonderful  
time wish you were  
her."**



# Turtle Rock Young Families Group

It's hard to believe Thanksgiving and the holiday season is upon us! First of all, I want to thank everyone who participated in the first ever Halloween Trunk or Treat. What a great night! We plan on continuing the fun every year! A special thanks to



**Mira Mar Pool Care (941-926-7665)**

**CP Realty International (941-685-8441) and**

**Alf Brand with Alf interactive ([alfinteractive.com](http://alfinteractive.com))** for your generous donations and designs to help make it a great socially distanced event!



**Continued on next page...**

## Turtle Rock Young Families Group contd...

**This year the Turtle Rock Landscaping committee and the Turtle Rock Young Families group** will be teaming up to spread some holiday cheer!



The landscaping committee has purchased some red bows for our light poles down Turtle Rock Blvd. and the young Families group will be spending some time to put them up! If you have a child/children and you would like to help put them up and have some treats after please plan on being at the community center on **Sunday, Dec. 6 at 2 pm!**

Our **Annual Turtle Rock Holiday Lights Trolley Ride**, unfortunately, will have to be cancelled this year due to the pandemic. In its place we will have a night of a scheduled **caravan through the neighborhood on Dec. 19 from 7-8:30** to see all the beautiful light displays! Each car will be given the map of the best route to take. Then we will all reassemble outside in front of the community center for some desserts brought by our neighbors and some hot chocolate.

You may sign up for a desert.

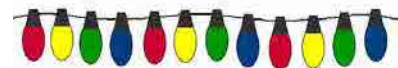
**Please bring only store bought deserts as to help limit any spreading of possible germs.**

Courtney Knowles

Turtle Rock Young Families Group

5119 Ridgelake Place.

[Cortny1996@aol.com](mailto:Cortny1996@aol.com)



Happy  
Holidays!

**Congratulations to**

**Mary Ann Gates**

**who was last month's winner.**

**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 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**

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)**