

Turtle Rock Newsletter

The Best Place on Palmer Ranch

March 2021

Congratulations to our winner

Allyn Violet

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She found the hidden word "puissant" 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

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.

A Letter from the President

Greetings Turtle Rock:

I am David Bryan, newly elected president of the Turtle Rock Board of Governors. It is my privilege to serve as your President and to work with the Board, committees and task forces to maintain Turtle Rock as one of the premier communities on Palmer Ranch. I have been on the Board for two years and during that time there have been many improvements such as the repaving of the tennis and basketball courts, upgraded LED lighting for tennis, basketball courts and clubhouse parking lot and numerous upgrades to common area landscape. In addition, last year's Board approved and funded the installation of new mailboxes and a multi-year retention pond shoreline restoration plan including the addition of aquatic plants where needed.

Jodi Cunnison, David Tarlton and Russ Gill completed their term on the Board. Jodi served as Secretary and was liaison to the landscape committee and mailbox task-force. David served as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer and was liaison to the communication committee. Russ served as President. They each played a big part in the success of the Board and they will be missed.

February Annual Association Meeting

The first order of business was the election to replace three departing Board members. Bob Oram, Lew Lyon and Patrick Murphy were elected to 3-year terms on the Turtle Rock Board of Governors.

The second order of business for the new Board was to elect officers. David Bryan was elected President, Deirdre Cronin was elected Vice President, Lew Lyon was elected Secretary and Bob Oram was elected Treasurer, and Curt Gilroy was appointed Assistant Treasurer. The architectural review committee and the hearing panel were approved for the new term.

The March Board of Governors meeting will be held via ZOOM video conference. Log-in and a call-in phone number will be provided by email.

March 2, 2021 is the next Board of Governors meeting. Please attend.



Report From The Treasurer



Period Ending January 31, 2021

	Actual	Budget
Income		
Assessments and other income	\$121,874.37	\$121,957.16
Operating Expenses		
General and Administrative	34,716.60	34,311.70
Common Grounds	26,632.58*	17,956.93
Access Control/Gatehouse	19,952.69	22,548.84
Facilities Maintenance	7,586.40**	16,145.86
Utilities	5,440.08	6,916.68
*Increased expense was for \$11,825 for mulch approved by board and not budgeted.		
**Reduced expense was \$5,283.34 for wetlands maintenance.		
Reserve Expenses		
Contribution	\$24,077.25	\$24,077.25
Site Improvements	- 24,823.50	
Furn. Fixtures & Equip.	- 3,826.80	
Assessments		
Outstanding HOA Fees longer)	29,220.95(\$3370.78 30 days or	

Submitted by Bob Oram

Manager's Message



With March here, there are a lot of things going on in the community. The Board and all of the Task Forces and Committees are working hard to keep Turtle Rock the best place to live in Palmer Ranch.

The Annual Members Meeting was held on the 2nd of February. A big thank you to everyone who participated. Welcome to Lew Lyon and Patrick Murphy, and welcome back to Bob Oram, your newest board members. Along with the new President, David Bryan, new Vice President, Deirdre Cronin, new Secretary, Lew Lyon, new Treasurer, Bob Oram and new Assistant Treasurer Curt Gilroy, this should be a busy year. Thank you, Russ Gill, last year's president, Jodi Cunnison and David Tarlton for your dedication, service and guidance.

Remember the Turtle Rock Owner's Manual is there to answer almost any question you can think of about the do's and don'ts here at Turtle Rock. You can find this and other information at myturtlerock.com. It states in the TROM that garage doors must be kept closed except for ingress and egress. This is important for numerous reasons, the most being your security. Even though this is a gated community, and Turtle Rock does everything possible to discourage theft or vandalism, everyone must be diligent to make sure your home is secure. Also please lock your cars.

The Trash to Treasure garage sale and the Chemical Collection Day were both huge successes. These two events have been scheduled in February for a number of years and there are a large number of homeowners who participate in them. 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

The Annual Turtle Rock “Trash to Treasure” sale was a tremendous success!



Michael S. Wentzel
PHOTOGRAPHY

Many thanks to our volunteer
Newsletter photographer

Michael S. Wentzel
michaelswimages.com

@msw_images



Landscape and Grounds Committee



The Committee met with Shane Battle and Jay Perez (Blooming's Client Development Manager) on February 10th.

Shane went through his list of completed projects. Top dressing of mulch on all common areas along Turtle Rock Boulevard has been completed. The boulevard hedges and Fakahatchee grasses were all cut back. Annuals have been installed at both the north and south bullnose entrances and they are growing well. The viburnum hedge along Honore Avenue has been cleaned up and trimmed, and it will be heavily fertilized to stimulate new growth. As part of the cleanup, vines and Brazilian peppers were removed, which will encourage better growth of the hedge. Cutback of ti plants, jatropha and hibiscus was also completed. A hibiscus tree has been installed along the wall at the south entry. Weed control, fertilizer and fungicide has also been applied in all common areas. The grass is greening up nicely!

Shane provided the Committee with a bid to remove the pittosporum and oleander along the eastern wall just inside the south gate, along with a bid to add 135 colorful plantings to the boulevard corners. Still to be provided is his design plan for revision of the south entrance beds. The failing shrubs along the back of the tennis courts will be removed and copperleaf plants will be installed to fill in the area. Also, Bloomings will be trimming the awabuki hedge along Central Sarasota Parkway in February and removing any dead shrubs and replacing them with new ones.

The elaeagnus shrubs along the northern portion of Nice Way has been removed and replaced with viburnum, which is still to mature and fill in. There was a gap in the vegetation which was being used by trespassers to enter Turtle Rock. Bloomings will be filling this gap with 3 cedar trees.

The community bench project is moving along nicely. The three concrete pads will be poured by the end of February, and installation of the benches will follow soon. Please remember that Turtle Rock residents are welcome to purchase a bench and dedicate it to the memory of a loved one. The Committee has created an information sheet to provide to prospective donors, which will be presented to the Board of Governors in March for approval.

The Committee is still working on a solution to the erosion along the sidewalk between Meadow Rush Loop and Timber Chase Way. Also, some tennis court repair items still need to be addressed by Stewart Tennis.

Submitted by Jodi Cunnison



Communications Committee

The Welcome Team is taking shape

After just a month of formal organization, we are excited to announce that the Welcome Team is really taking shape. With nearly 70 new homeowners a year added to our community, we think we have our work cut out for us.

First, we welcome Angela Hilton Calvo and Steve West to the Team. Both have lived here under two years. Their skill, ideas and excitement are already making a difference. At our last meeting we were able to confirm that an electronic “Welcome Basket” will be added to www.myturtlerock.com. At this site new owners and residents will be able to access everything from a “Quick Guide” to essential forms for gate access and Architectural Review Committee requests, as well as the Turtle Rock Owner’s Manual. In addition, the “Welcome Basket” will have information on Turtle Rock clubs and groups as well as County information on hurricanes.

With the addition of the new members, and with great cooperation from Management, we should be up and running shortly! We’ve developed a mechanism for Management to know more readily when homes go on the market and when they sell. Both of these will help with homes being sold “in compliance” so that new homeowners will not be surprised with any home violations. Most importantly, we will be able to personalize a welcome to new owners and add to the information already provided by Management.

A few items for consideration:

1. If you are new to our community, welcome! If you have questions or just want ways to connect, please contact either Emily Miller at 856-906-0379 or Grace Sammon at 301-332-4976.
2. If you would like to be part of the Communications Committee or the Welcome Team, please contact Patricia Tarlton at 865-765-6661.
3. If you are a homeowner who also owns a business, please contact Emily Miller at 856-906-0379. We know many of you, but not all of you. Many of you have already been very generous over the years with gifts, coupons, promotions, and the like. We would love to create a true Welcome Basket and personally greet each new member of our Home Owners’ Association. If you can help, we’d love to hear from you, and Emily will make it easy for you to participate.

It’s exciting to share all that Turtle Rock has to offer! Come join us!

Submitted by Grace Sammon

Architectural Review Committee (ARC)



Choosing Palms for Your Turtle Rock Home

Lucky us! Turtle Rock is in growing zone 10A, with dry winters and wet, hot summers. We can grow not only palms that tolerate cold but also varieties such as royal and silver palms that demand the warmer temperatures of southern Florida. Disease resistance and drought tolerance also play into which palms do best here. Soil conditions can generally be addressed through a specialized long-term fertilization program for your palms.

These are just some of many Sarasota-appropriate palms to consider for your Turtle Rock home. Heights listed are typical maximums, widths listed when notable.



**Foxtail palm:
30' tall, green
crown chute,**



**Adonidia
(Christmas) palm:
12-20' tall, green
crown chute,
broad fronds; nice
in groups, Philip-
pines/Malaysia
native**



**Pygmy date/
Robellini palm: 6
-12' tall, grows
nicely in groups,
southeastern
Asia native**

Continued on next page...

Architectural Review Committee (ARC) contd'



Queen palm: 50' tall, 25' wide, requires excellent care, subject to disease and nutrient deficiencies, South American native



Sabal (cabbage) palm: 40-60' tall, native to Florida and elsewhere



Silver Bismark palm: 30+' tall, spread of 12-16 feet (best for larger yards), distinctive silver-blue foliage (FYI, an olive green variety exists, too), Madagascar native

Other good choices:

Alexander palm: 20-25' tall, good for narrow spaces, green crown chute; nice in groups, Australian native

Buccaneer (Florida cherry) palm : 10-25' tall, drought-tolerant, slow-growing, native to Florida and elsewhere

Chinese fan (Fountain) palm: 30+' tall, wide, native to East Asia

European fan palm: 10' tall, works in small spaces, slow growing – Europe's only native palm

Keys thatch palm: 25-30' tall, works in narrow spaces, native to Florida Keys and elsewhere

Lady palm: 6-15' tall and wide, grows in thick groups with slender stalks, South-eastern Asia native

Montgomery palm: 25-35' tall, native to the island of Vanuatu (South Pacific)

Paurotis (Everglades) palm: 30' tall, grows in wide clusters (to 20' wide), Florida native

Ribbon fan palm: 30' tall, slow grower, Australian native

Continued on next page

Architectural Review Committee (ARC) contd”

Royal palm: 50-70' tall, 20-25' wide (best for larger yards), majestic, native to south Florida and Cuba

Sylvester palm (silver date palm): 50' tall, India native

Coconut palms (not mentioned above) are tall and beautiful but require you to remove the large and potentially dangerous coconuts to avoid injuring people or animals. Likewise, Washingtonia palms are very tall and thin and also can be vulnerable to disease and breakage. If you have a Washingtonia palm you'd like to remove, please contact the ARC.

Ask the ARC, an arborist, or an experienced landscape professional about the best palms for your landscape. Follow recommendations for care and feeding, and consider an ongoing relationship with a good tree company that specializes in palms, to keep your palms in good health. Because palms are not trees (they are actually a form of grass) they require different fertilizer treatment than regular trees.

In a later article, we'll discuss common palm maladies and how to deal with them.

By Michelle van Schouwen

Secretary, Retention Pond Committee

Photo credits:

Adonidia (Christmas) palm: Image courtesy Michel Chauvet, [wikimediacommons.org](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Adonidia_digitalis.jpg)

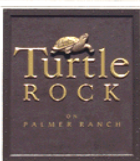
Foxtail palm: Image courtesy Donald Robear

Pygmy date (Robellini) palm: Patti Anderson, [Identifying Commonly Cultivated Palms, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/PPQ/bugwood.org)

Queen palm: Image courtesy Donald Robear

Sabal (cabbage) palm: Image courtesy thesix, Flickr

Silver Bismark palm: Image courtesy Mokie, [wikimedia-commons.org](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Silver_Bismark_palm.jpg)



Turtle Rock Women's Club

The Turtle Rock Women's Club is pleased to announce our first ever Zoom "luncheon" on Wednesday, March 3 from 11:30am – 12:30pm. Our presenter will be Kathryn Chelsey who will be portraying Bertha Honore Palmer, a familiar character to Palmer Ranch residents. Mrs. Palmer's life took her from the shores of Chicago, to Washington, D.C., a castle in England and then to the state of Florida. She has a tale to tell about her exploits and her challenges as she becomes one of the most influential women of her life and times.

After earning degrees in theatre, Ms. Chelsey taught the craft for 36 years and received many teaching and theatrical awards. Currently living in Florida, Kathryn continues her theatrical work as a playwright and performer currently portraying eight different women. The link for the Zoom Luncheon will be in the TRWC March newsletter.



Our new flag

While we are taking a break for March, the TRWC will be hosting another sunset gathering in April. We will meet at 7pm on Friday, April 23 at Caspersen Beach in Venice. The sunset is at 7:59 pm and the address is 4100 Harbor Drive, Venice, FL 34293. Look for the new TRWC flag flying by our group. As always, bring something to sit on and whatever snacks and beverages you want. No reservations required -- just show up! Please contact Karen Howe at kmhowe001@yahoo.com or 315-632-2247 for more information.

A few of our special interest activities are ongoing as well. Water aerobics at the Community Center pool and the book clubs continue to meet.

Look for our updated 2021 Picture Directory coming to your inbox by mid-March. If you'd like more information on membership or activities, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at TurtleRockWomensClub@gmail.com to find out more.

Submitted by Jean Contillo

Turtle Rock Men's Club



We are still without a date as to when we will resume meetings and luncheons. However, the Women's Club continues to sponsor sunset gatherings at a local beach. Please see their newsletter for the date and location of the next gathering.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!
**The best luck of all is the luck
you make for yourself.**



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



**Garry Colautti, Geoff Copeland, Les
Gardi, Larry Johnsen, Craig Larson,
Jim Whalen**

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

Mailbox Task Force Report



As reported in the February newsletter, the installation of new mailboxes was anticipated to begin in early March. Due to an issue with the delivery of the new mailboxes, the contractor has informed us that installation will be delayed until late March or early April. We will continue to keep you informed through the Turtle Rock website and other communications.

Now you have even more time to remove all landscaping and hardscaping within a 3.5 ft. radius surrounding your post. Task Force members will be working with individual residents to determine what preparation is required and when it needs to be completed. Task Force members will later be checking with homeowners to see if the site is ready and if not, let them know that the landscaper (Bloomings) will perform the preparation and charge the homeowner for the work.

With the installation of new mailboxes, a few residents have asked about their ability to continue to fly flags from the new posts. While the Task Force originally thought this would be possible and worked very diligently with multiple vendors to make it happen, it is now clear that it is not feasible. There are several compelling technical reasons that impacted the decision. The possibility of a “sleeve” to adapt a flat flag holder to a round mailbox post was explored. The sleeve would not look attractive, would be costly, and would compromise the installation and warranty of the mailbox posts. However, the primary reason is that the mailboxes will not be the property of the homeowner.



Continued on next page

Mailbox Task Force Report contd

They will be owned by and maintained by the HOA; any attachment of flag holders and flags would negate all warranties and potentially the integrity of the posts and mailboxes. The Task Force recommends that homeowners wishing to fly flags purchase bourdon mounts for the sides of their homes from which to fly their flags.

We thank you for your patience with this beautification effort. It will definitely be worth the wait.

The Board and the Task Force will be making sure the community is informed about the roll-out and progress of the project. Please check out the information listed in the following:

The Turtle Rock Newsletter will have a monthly article to report the status and any issues.

Community Notice Boards located around Turtle Rock will be used.

Email Blasts from our Association Manager and BOG.

Please send any comments or questions to:
communications@myturtlerock.com.

Submitted by Roberta Maloney

Drawing on previous page by Turtle Rock artist Barry Domenick



Turtle Rock Ponds

Updated 2021 Turtle Rock Ponds Management Flyer

The Retention Pond Committee has updated a few details for pondside management. Pondside homeowners are instructed to grow the pondside low maintenance zone (LMZ) at a width of two feet rather than three. This LMZ can be allowed to grow naturally until Turtle Rock begins its new contract with Crosscreek Environmental in April. Going forward, Crosscreek will trim the LMZ to maintain a typical height of eight inches (with a height range of approximately 8-12 inches).

In the next few weeks pondside homeowners will receive a printed flyer and a letter to be shared with the homeowner's landscape maintenance provider, explaining best practices for pondside lawn care and LMZ management.

**Thank you for protecting and preserving
our ponds!**

Article submitted by Melody Barackman

Logo created by Turtle Rock resident, Barry Domenick



Bird Notes: Ibises

The Egyptians used the Ibis in their hieroglyphs, often as a symbol of the soul or a god. In many cultures they have been symbols of the soul leaving the body because birds spend time on earth and in the sky.

There are two Ibis in the coastal areas of Florida and the Caribbean: White and Glossy. We have both in Turtle Rock, although the White Ibis is more numerous. Both have downward curved bills, but the White Ibis' bill is a reddish orange which becomes more vibrant during mating season. Both feed in coastal marshes, flooded fields or shallow waters using their bills to probe in the soft mud for crayfish, snails, frogs or small fish. Both will also use sight to pick off an insect. White Ibis like to probe grassy areas after a rain for insects or worms. The adult White Ibis is white with black wing tips which are seen in flight. Their distinctive red bill and feet make them instantly identifiable.

Adult White



Juvenile White

Both Ibises create a flat nest of sticks over water with a depression in the middle for 2 to 5 eggs. The White Ibis lays pale blue-green to white eggs and the Glossy Ibis lays pale blue or green eggs. After about 21 days, the eggs hatch. Both parents feed the young regurgitated food. Hatchlings begin flying at about 4 to 5 weeks, but it takes another 2 to 3 weeks for them to participate in sustained flight with their parents.

Juvenile Ibis have duller feathers which provide protection from Eagles, Osprey, fox and snakes. The Juvenile White Ibises have a brown back, streaky neck and white underparts. They are smaller than the adults and have shorter bills. During their first year, white feathers molt in.

Adult Glossy



Juvenile Glossy

Juvenile Glossy Ibises are a dull brown overall with some white streaking on the neck and dark underparts.

The adult Glossy Ibis is beautiful, especially during breeding season. It has a football shaped body with long legs. It is a rich chestnut color with green metallic wings. Breeding birds have dark facial skin with pale blue line from bill to eye which appears white.

In the next few months, look at the Ibis around you. See if you can spot the juveniles.

Submitted by Janet Smith

I took this photo of a wood stork in my back yard this evening. He was just outside my lanai door, so I walked slowly to him and opened the lanai screen door. He started to skitter away, so I sat on the grass to try to appear not so tall to him. He came walking back and stood only about 5 feet away from me, allowing me to take a bunch of photos of him up close. I really liked this one because I was able to capture the sunset right behind him at the same time. Anyway, I thought I would send you the photo, and then I thought I may as well include an article for the newsletter to go with the photo! **Submitted by David Tarlton**



Perhaps you have seen a large white bird soaring above, with its neck and legs outstretched and black flight feathers distinctly visible on its wings. When perched or walking, its neck is drawn in, giving it a humpbacked appearance. An adult will measure between up to 45 inches in length with a wingspan between 59"-69", weighing between 4 1/2 to 6 pounds. When you see one up close, you may wonder what you are looking at. With a head that is unfeathered and scaly and a beak that is long and slightly curved, it may seem to be a cross between a pelican and a vulture!

Wood storks frequently feed in groups with their heads down feeling for prey in open wetlands, though you may see them wandering alone in Turtle Rock waterways. When in groups, they often feed in lines. They fly with their heads and legs outstretched, soaring on thermals high in the sky like a raptor or vulture. Their diet is primarily fish and other aquatic invertebrates, but they will sometimes take seeds, amphibians, nestlings, and reptiles. You will see them walking slowly through our wetland areas with their bills in the water, feeling for prey. When they feel something on their bills, they will quickly snap them closed, swallowing the prey whole. To find prey they may also push their feet up and down in the water or flick their wings to startle prey.

Wood storks nest in trees above standing water - in cypress swamps, oaks in flooded impoundments, in mangroves, and in flooded areas with black gum and Australian pine. Males and females gather sticks from surrounding areas and build a large stick nest 3-5 feet wide. They line the nest with greenery that eventually gets covered in guano, which helps hold the nest together. Wood storks are uncommon in the United States. It is estimated that the global breeding population is 450,000. Because wood storks occur only in a small portion of the United States, the US Fish and Wildlife Service lists them as federally threatened.



Donna Wolfson...

**Still working hard to put a smile
on our face. Thanks Donna!**



Love is in the air



Yum Yum



Go Bucs

Who says we don't need new
mailboxes??

Luckily MacGyver was able
to work his magic and
keep this one in action.

The Editor



Congratulations to Allyn Violet.

She found the word “**puissant**” which means having great power or influence.

Find this month’s outlandishly inappropriate word in one of our many articles in this Newsletter 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.

THANKS for getting involved!

Committee Members and Newsletter Staff

Patricia Tarlton, David Tarlton, Angela Hutton, Grace Sammon, Emily Miller , Steve West, Judy Bentz and Ed Olson of Sunstate Management.

Staff Writers Paula Griffin, Diane Glynn

Board Liaison: TBD

Proofreader: Charlotte Jones

Send comments, suggestions and articles for consideration to:

communications@myturtlerock.com

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