



# Turtle Rock Newsletter

*The Best Place on Palmer Ranch*

**September 2021**

## President's Message

INSIDE this ISSUE...	Page
President's Message	1-2
Mailbox Update	2
Treasurer's Report	3
Management Report	4
What on earth is the FIRM?	5
Communications	6-7
ARC Report	8-9
Around the Rock	10
Natural Assets Comm.	11-12
On The Ranch News: Ponds	13
Turtle Rock Academy	14
TR Women's Club	15
TR Men's Club	16
Landscape and Grounds	17
Bird Notes	18
Young Families' Group	19
From the West Corner of...	19
Guest Columnist	20
Information	21

**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.**

Greetings Turtle Rock:

Good things are continuing in our community:

The Mailbox Taskforce reports that the remaining materials have arrived by and mailbox replacement has resumed.

The Natural Assets Committee reports that new aquatic plants have been planted in ponds that are not scheduled for shoreline restoration, the first LMZ trimming has been completed, and shoreline restoration has been completed on two ponds. Restoration of the Sabal Lake Pond is scheduled to start in September.

The FIRM (previously called the Finance Committee, please see the article pg 5) is starting the

2022 budget process. The committee's goal is to present a budget to the Board that

does not require an increase in dues in 2022.

I want to thank all of the people who volunteer to work on the Board, committees and task forces. They all put in untold hours of work to keep our community beautiful and safe while keeping our HOA dues some of the lowest in Palmer Ranch. We will soon appoint a nominating committee for the annual election of new Board members, and we always need new committee and task force members. I encourage you to consider volunteering to



**David Bryan**

## President's Message, Continued

serve in some capacity. If interested, please contact me or any Board or committee member to learn more about how you can help.

### August Board Actions

The Board approved the Natural Assets Committee's proposal for \$3,650.00 (\$5,000.00 budgeted) to have Crosscreek Environmental remove invasive Melaleuca trees from wetland #54.

The Board adopted a "Clean Slate Resolution" relative to driveways. Per the Turtle Rock Covenants and TROM the only permitted driveway surfaces are concrete, bricks, or pavers. However, due to inconsistent enforcement over the years, as many as 70 driveways have been painted,

stained or had a stamped overlay applied. Going forward as of August 3, 2021 this restriction will be strictly enforced and no new painted, stained or overlaid driveway surfaces will be allowed. Existing painted, stained or overlaid driveways will be "grandfathered" but must be kept in acceptable condition and no recoating or repair is to be done without prior approval by the Architectural Review Committee.

### Next Board of Governors Meeting: September 7, 2021 at 6:30pm in the clubhouse

Limited seating will be available; the meeting will also be available on ZOOM. Log in and a call-in phone number will be provided by email. Please plan to attend.



## Mailbox Update

By Roberta Maloney



### Mailbox installation resumed late August!

By now, only a few streets are left to complete: Meadow Rush Loop, Deerbrook Cir, Wildflower & Little Brook Courts, Nice Way, Sabal Lake Circle, and finally the Savannah neighborhood.

Approximately two weeks following the installation, Bloomings will lay sod around the base of your new mailbox, the only planting allowed at the base of the mailboxes. Please make sure that there are no stones, mulch or plantings around the base in order that the sod can be properly laid, and that the sod is regularly watered if we are not getting rain.

#### **Friendly reminders:**

- Please remove all landscaping & hardscaping (not sod) within a 3.5 foot radius of your mailbox.
- Do not touch the mail post the day of installation so the cement can set.
- We have coordinated with the US Postal Service to hold your mail for one or two days while your mailbox is being installed.

If you have questions, please call Kathy Wells, 941-544-3508.



# Treasurer's Report

By Robert Oram



## YTD Ending July 31, 2021

	Actual	Budget
Assessments and other income	\$ 855,860.53	\$ 853,700.16
<b>Operating Expenses*</b>		
General and Administrative	\$ 221,963.18	\$ 240,181.70
Common Grounds	104,628.50	125,698.43
Access Control/Gatehouse	151,641.26	157,841.84
Facilities Maintenance	89,793.57	113,020.86
Utilities	45,718.37	48,416.68

\*Actuals are lower because several maintenance and other expenditures have been deferred to later in the year.

## Reserve Expenses

Contribution	\$ 168,540.75	\$ 168,540.75
Site Improvements	- 140,628.77	
Furn. Fixtures & Equip.	-21,218.46*	

\* \$10,226 for new golf cart — Razor Golf Carts

## Assessments

Outstanding HOA Fees	\$19,029.82 (1-90 days)
	<u>5,578.50 (90+ days)</u>
Total	\$24,608.32

# Management Report

By Bob Kresnik, Sunstate



I'm happy that the Turtle Rock governors have given me the opportunity to provide management service here at Turtle Rock. I'm really looking forward to meeting all the residents.

A new manager is always expected to bring about changes that improve the community. One change: gate pass stickers are no longer processed at the North gate, but instead by management at the CC office (8500 Turtle Rock Blvd). Please call the office, (941) 870-9855, to make an appointment for your sticker, as I'm in and out of the office daily during office hours.

You will need to complete a bar code form for your sticker. There are two ways to obtain the form: request one at the office, or from the Turtle Rock website, "myturtlerock.com." Click on *Welcome Basket*, and select bar code form from the list of links below. The cost is \$20.00 per vehicle sticker. Please bring the vehicle, the vehicle registration, and your driver's license to your appointment. The process takes about five minutes. The office hours are Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm.

I would also like to address the way some residents are speeding and/or running stop signs within Turtle Rock. This inconsiderate vehicle operation caused a recent accident the evening of August 12th. Gate pass stickers are a privilege, and can be suspended or permanently revoked. Please consider the safety of your fellow neighbors, and the example you are setting for the younger drivers.

Another change to take place is the care and maintenance of the sidewalk that runs parallel with the street in front of homes. The Association has taken over the responsibility for its care and maintenance, including repair and periodic power washing. Owners are still responsible for the driveway and walkway leading to the front door.

Communication is an important tool of success. We desire a transmission of communication by email and the U.S. Postal system. Obviously, email is much quicker than snail mail. If you know someone who does not receive Association emails, please encourage them to sign up, allowing valuable information to everyone in an expeditious manner. Send email information to **communitymanager@myturtlerock.com**.

In closing, I'm proud to say that more projects are being considered to bring about change that will create a more user-friendly environment for all residents.

I will continue to update you in the monthly newsletter, along with periodic Flash Emails.

Thank you,

**Bob Kresnik, CAM**  
Sunstate Management

**Cell: 941-870-9855   TR office: 941-921-3865**  
**communitymanager@myturtlerock.com**

# What on earth is the *FIRM*?

By Melody Barackman, Chairperson



Most of us remember *The Firm*, a movie thriller, based on a popular novel by John Grisham, about a newly-hired associate who uncovers the corruption of his boutique law firm.

More recently, you may have heard the Board talk about the FIRM during Board meetings, but I can assure you, there is no connection between Turtle Rock's FIRM and the movie. So, where did this FIRM come from and what are they talking about?

The history goes back to 2020, when the Board was faced with the financial challenges of funding new mailboxes, shoreline restoration, and erosion mitigation projects, while at the same time recognizing its surpluses from the Legacy Trail settlement had run out. To find a solution, they established the Finance Committee to study the issues and develop a budget and reserve funding plan for 2021 that could accommodate these important initiatives.

Since that time, the committee's role has expanded from assisting the Treasurer in managing Turtle Rock's finances to also managing its capital investments, including roads and site improvements, and its risk management concerns, both insurable and self-insured. Thus, the new name: Finance, Investments, and Risk Management Committee, now known as the FIRM, was born.

Currently, the committee is made up of the President, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and two other volunteers with extensive financial and business backgrounds.

One recent area of consideration has been the FIRM's recommendation to the Board to repair all sidewalks throughout the entire community, where a trip hazard may be of concern, thereby relieving homeowners of that responsibility for sidewalks in front of their property. The Board approved a resolution to repair sidewalk defects, such as gaps, cracks, chips, displacement, holes, or other defects that follow the standards established by the *Americans with Disabilities Act* of 1/4 inch or greater displacement or gap as a defect subject to repair for accessibility purposes. With significant help from Sunstate Management, sidewalks that meet the criteria were recently identified, and the FIRM is now vetting the vendors who have submitted quotes to make the recommended repairs. We hope a vendor can be recommended to the Board in time for the September board meeting, and if approved, repairs can begin shortly thereafter.

Stay tuned.



# Communications Committee

Angela Hilton Calvo & Grace Sammon



Angela Hilton Calvo, Chair



Grace Sammon, Secretary



There's a lot going on around Turtle Rock from pond maintenance, to painting the entrance signs, to new plantings at the en-

trance ways and along Honore Avenue. Some of it is mentioned in other parts of this newsletter. Since the Communications Committee's primary mandate is to communicate Board of Governor activities, we'll highlight some of them here.

**The Turtle Rock Owner's Manual (TROM)** is being re-written to up-date and streamline the policies and allowable practices within our Deed Restricted community. Look for a final version sometime this Fall after the Board approves all the changes. Whether a long-time resident or a new member of our community, you will want to familiarize yourself with the changes. Please see the next page for a checklist you can use to check your home for some of the most common violations.



## New Community Feature — The Welcome Desk!

"Back in the day" there was always a receptionist at the Community Center, complete with separate office. Under the Sunstate Management contract, the Board chose to have that feature go away. The result is that our manager's work flow is frequently interrupted, and he has less time to concentrate on primary duties while providing services to residents. The Communications

Committee and Welcome Team have proposed a new feature to our Board Liaison Patrick Murphy, and we've gotten approval to move forward!

The Communications Committee is seeking volunteers from our community who would be willing to "staff" the "Welcome Desk" a few hours a week. The details of the job are still to be developed with the team and management. Basically, we are looking for someone who will welcome people to the Center, give out forms, answer basic questions, make copies, and allow the manager to get out on property and meet with vendors and others uninterrupted during the time volunteers are present. Of course, Bob Kresnick, our new manager, will also be available to all residents and owners. If you have been missing your corner office, want to be a welcoming greeter in the community, or are looking for a way to really help out in the day-to-day life of Turtle Rock, please contact Grace Sammon at [gmsammon@gmail.com](mailto:gmsammon@gmail.com) or Kathrin Harris at [kathrin2020@verizon.net](mailto:kathrin2020@verizon.net).

# Communications Committee, Continued

As indicated on the previous page, our Owner's Manual is being updated. Which brings us to **compliance**. Many residents have noticed that our management company, Sunstate, has stepped up its focus on compliance at the Board's request. Homes are either "in compliance" or "out of compliance" as they are assessed against the guidelines and rules within the TROM. To avoid getting a compliance notice that asks you to address a specific TROM violation on your property, and the potential notification of a fine being assessed, homeowners can do a quick check of their own property. While this is not a complete list, we have cited some of the most common violations. Power washing, you will see, is an important and almost ever-present violation within our community. A large percentage of the homes are in need of this treatment, typically needed every 2-3 years, while driveways require more frequent attention. Take a look at your property and see what needs to be addressed now.

Turtle Rock Resident Compliance Quick Check			
Yes/ No	Violation	Yes /No	Violation
	The driveway and walkways are in need of power washing (FYI: <i>side-walks</i> are now taken care of by the community)		There is a pick-up truck parked in the driveway at the residence overnight
	Trash cans put out prior to noon on Tues, or left out after 10pm Wednesdays.		The landscape beds have little or no mulch and are not edged.
	The roof is in need of power washing		Lawn has extensive weeds and/or brown spots
	Trash and/or recycling containers are visible from the street or a neighbor's home		The landscape beds have dead or dying plants or insufficient plantings and bare spots
	Pots, garden ornaments, or other "hardscape" items are located beyond the overhang at the front of the home		The air conditioning and/or the pool equipment is visible from the street (not applicable in Somerset)
	Play equipment is left outside (Please note: basketball hoops must be brought in at night)		RE the new mailboxes - any material other than sod surrounds the base (no stones or plantings)

Your neighbors appreciate your being proactive to addressing the possible violations, and your Association appreciates that management will not need to write as many violation notices about these small issues.



# ARC Report

By Michelle van Schouwen



## Flowering Trees for Turtle Rock Homes

How could Turtle Rock yards look any prettier? Well, consider adding a flowering tree. If you have an available spot in your front or back yard, here are just a few regionally appropriate options to consider. *For smaller spaces:*

**Pink/purple trumpet tree** (*Tabebuia impetiginosa*), smaller cousin to the silver trumpet below, has lovely, trumpet-shaped blooms late winter to early spring. Grows to about 20 feet tall.



**Cassia** most often has yellow blooms. It's also available with pink, orange, red, or white blossoms (bloom seasons vary). It grows to about 15 feet tall. Cassia trees attract butterflies.



**Dwarf poinciana** (*Caesalpinia pulcherrima*) are available with red-orange, yellow, or dark pink flowers. Train it as a tree or shrub, six to 12 feet high. Butterflies will likely gather to enjoy this little beauty.



**Bottlebrush**, with red flowers that indeed resemble bottlebrushes, is in fact a shrub that can be grown as a small tree. It blooms intermittently during the year. Bottlebrush trees are available as "weeping" or "standard." Grows to 15 feet tall. A native Floridian!





# ARC Report, Continued



**Crape myrtle**, "the lilacs of the south," feature red, pink, white, lavender, or purple blossoms. Long clusters of small flowers bloom for up to three months starting early summer. Crape myrtles don't require the severe pruning you see along road medians. Varieties available four to 20 feet tall.

*Do you have room for a larger tree? Consider the following:*

**Silver trumpet tree** (*Tabebuia aurea*), commonly called "tree of gold" is the City of Sarasota's official tree. With vivid golden yellow blooms in early spring, it grows 20-45 feet tall and up to 15 feet wide.



← **Royal poinciana** (*Delonix regia*) has a broad crown of red blooms May through July. Left to its own devices, it can grow to 40 feet high with an even broader crown, but can be kept smaller with regular pruning. Must be kept ten feet away from roads and sidewalks to avoid root issues.

A local nursery or arborist can answer your questions and provide additional flowering tree ideas. Be sure to consult with the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) before planting. Thanks for your interest in beautifying Turtle Rock!

**Image credits:**

Pink/purple trumpet tree courtesy João Medeiros, [wikimediacommons.org](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tabebuia_aurea.jpg); Cassia tree courtesy Mokie, [wikimediacommons.org](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cassia.jpg); Dwarf poinciana tree courtesy Leon Brooks, [wikimediacommons.org](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Delonix_regia.jpg); Bottlebrush courtesy UF/IFAS Extension, Environmental Horticulture Dept; Crape myrtle tree on Macintosh Road courtesy Michelle van Schouwen; Silver trumpet tree Turtle Rock south gate courtesy M. van Schouwen; Royal poinciana tree on McIntosh Road courtesy M. van Schouwen

**ARC info for this month: REQUESTS DUE SEPTEMBER 15  
NEXT ARC MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 25**

# Around Turtle Rock

By Kathrin Harris, TR News Editor



## Have you been to the Turtle Rock Library??



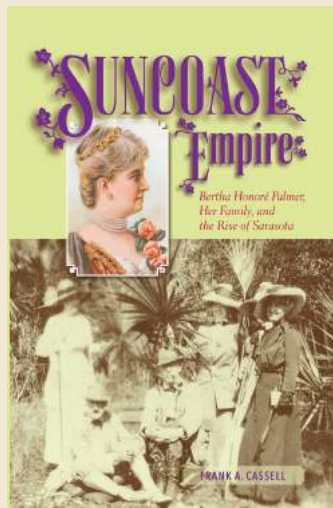
Since 2004, a group of volunteers has faithfully maintained the small lending library located in the community center. Started as an idea from resident Grace Cooney from the TR Women's Club, it began with a few hundred donated books that were initially located on shelves along one wall in the main room. When the community center was renovated in 2013, a specific room was modified to accommodate the expanding library.

The collection consists primarily of mystery, romance, historical, and contemporary fiction, with a few biographies. It also contains DVD movies and CD books. The collection typically houses approximately 750+ paperbacks and over 500 hardcover books, arranged alphabetically by author for easy access. All holdings are culled regularly by retired librarian Edie Wolf and her team of volunteer librarians — Pat Bass, Emily Miller, and Janet Smith — to make room for new donations, providing a steady supply of new books to choose from. If there is no room or there are doubles, books are donated to the Goodwill Book Store. The library is free to use by all residents on the honor system.



Article above adapted from TR News submissions by Edie Wolf

Books authored by Sarasota locals and TR residents are especially popular, the most recent addition being Grace Sammon's *The Eves*. Edie also provides periodic highlights of books currently available, which are often selected for discussion in on of the Turtle Rock Book Clubs. We'll feature one book each month here, starting with—



**Suncoast Empire: Bertha Honore Palmer, Her Family, and the Rise of Sarasota.** Non-fiction by local author Frank Cassell, 2017, 288 pp. In the early 20th century, Bertha Palmer was one of the best-known and wealthiest women in America: an art collector, women's rights advocate, businesswoman, owner of Chicago's Palmer House Hotel and elegant homes in Chicago, Paris, and London. In 1910, she traveled to the small and rough settlement called Sarasota. Here she invested in cattle and farming, creating communities out of marshlands, pine forests, and tropical jungles, choosing to spend much time each year here for the rest of her life. She excelled as a frontier entrepreneur and changed Sarasota forever.



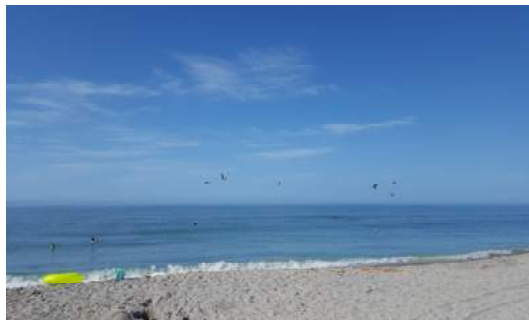


# Natural Assets Committee

By: Michelle van Schouwen, Secretary NAC



## Our Ponds, Our Bays, Our Gulf... Our Stewardship!



Here's hoping that the regional red tide will soon recede. We know red tide makes beach trips difficult, renders the air near outbreaks less healthy, and hurts local businesses, especially those near the water. But what can we do? The good news is that we at Turtle Rock *can* contribute to improving the health of our watershed, bays, and Gulf of Mexico.

As background, Turtle Rock is fortunate to have 31 connected stormwater retention ponds within its confines, the most of any community in Palmer Ranch. These retention ponds require vigilance to manage water quality, wildlife habitats, aquatic plantings, shoreline erosion, and water control to prevent flooding.

But the water in our retention ponds doesn't stay in our ponds forever. The Palmer Ranch newsletter, *On the Ranch*, recently explained what happens to that water. Most important to know is that much of it "flows into Little Sarasota Bay and, eventually, the Gulf of Mexico... almost 35% of the water in the Bay is from direct runoff."

Specifically, Turtle Rock stormwater runoff travels into Catfish Creek, which empties into Little Sarasota Bay near Vamo, and into South Creek, which joins Little Sarasota Bay south of Blackburn Bridge.

The *On the Ranch* article reminds readers that sea life, including "oysters, manatees, sea turtles, dolphins, many species of fish, waterfowl, hawks, bald eagles, osprey, and [seagrass] all require clean water." Unfortunately, because of human inputs, Catfish Creek and South Creek currently do not meet Florida water quality standards. Likewise, Little Sarasota Bay has too little dissolved oxygen and too much nitrogen and phosphorus. Scientists also know that nitrogen and phosphorus feed red tide, and that so-called "natural" red tide can be worsened when businesses and farms, residents, and municipalities add these nutrients to the bay and gulf.



*Continued on page 12*



# Natural Assets Committee, Continued

So, what can we as individuals do to make a positive difference?

- Adhere to Sarasota County fertilization regulations. These stipulate that no lawn may be fertilized between June 1 and September 30. At all other times, fertilizers with at least 50% of any nitrogen in “slow release” form may be used. Please also note that most of our lawns have ample nitrogen (from irrigation water) and phosphorus (from local soil composition).
- Minimize or avoid the use of lawn herbicides.
- If you live on a retention pond, protect and support your low maintenance zone (LMZ) and the work of the team that takes care of it.
- Avoid irrigation water waste, such as watering during rainy days, or allowing sprinklers to overspray into streets, gutters, or neighboring properties. Consider adding some drought-tolerant plantings to your landscape. The ARC can suggest some excellent options.
- Pick up your pet’s waste. Pet waste is a surprisingly big contributor to coastal pollution.

If you want to learn more about protecting and preserving our watershed, bays, and the Gulf of Mexico, check out these resources:

Understand our local watershed: <https://www.sarasota.wateratlas.usf.edu>  
enter “Little Sarasota Bay watershed” in the search box

Access red tide resources: <https://myfwc.com/research/redtide/>

Protect the Gulf of Mexico: <https://www.gulfpreserve.org/>



*Photos courtesy Michelle van Schouwen: Aqua waters at Turtle Beach, Seabirds near Venice Pier, Kayaking in Little Sarasota Bay. Logo Created by Barry Domenick, Turtle Rock Resident*



## **ON THE RANCH NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2021**

**[WWW.PALMERRANCH.NET](http://WWW.PALMERRANCH.NET)**

---

**Q: What happens to the water in our ponds?**

**A:** Most of it flows into Little Sarasota Bay and, eventually, the Gulf of Mexico.

All of Palmer Ranch's lakes and ponds are a part of a connected, man-made stormwater management system that is designed to help prevent flooding and maintain the Bay's water quality.

- Most of it evaporates—about 74%.
- The remainder flows into the Bay. Almost 35% of the water in the Bay is from direct runoff.

Our stormwater runoff flows into two creeks: Catfish Creek, which enters Little Sarasota Bay near Vamo, and South Creek, which flows through Oscar Scherer State Park and empties into the Bay south of Blackburn Bridge. We're part of the Little Sarasota Bay watershed—one of seven watersheds in Sarasota County.

A few facts about our watershed:

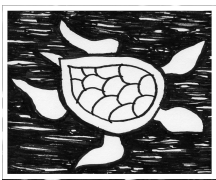
- It's 44 square miles, with 36 named lakes and ponds and eight named creeks and canals feeding into Little Sarasota Bay.
- It's home to oysters, manatees, sea turtles, dolphins, many species of fish, waterfowl, hawks, bald eagles, osprey, and much more.
- It has a healthy population of sea grass—nurseries of the ocean that support fish and shellfish and serve as food for manatees and sea turtles.
- Its creeks contain too little dissolved oxygen and too much nitrogen and phosphorous.
- Catfish Creek carries the largest amount of water in our watershed, and almost half the pollution load.
- The two creeks our stormwater ponds drain into—Catfish Creek and South Creek—do not currently meet Florida water quality standards.



*Roseate Spoonbill – Credit: Mark Vance*

From fertilizing to applying pesticides to picking up pet waste (or not), many things we do every day affect our watershed. To learn more, visit: the Sarasota County Water Atlas at <https://www.sarasota.wateratlas.usf.edu> and enter "Little Sarasota Bay watershed" in the site's search bar.





# Turtle Rock Academy Lecture Series

## The Turtle Rock Academy Committee is Ready for a Reboot

The Turtle Rock Academy is our in-community Life Long Learning program. It began in March of 2011 with a program on landscaping and ended in February of 2020 due to Covid-19 with a program by Videographer Laurence Siegal. In between, it has offered programs on Modern Sarasota Architecture, Robotic Surgery, Historic Spanish Point, Artificial Intelligence, the Violin, and Drones to name just a few. Another benefit of the Academy has been to bring people from different parts of our community together.

The committee that selects programs and speakers, and creates publicity, has waxed and waned over the years, but every committee member was interested in bringing educational and entertaining presentations to all members of the Turtle Rock community.

Many, many thanks to former Chairs **Janet Smith** and **James Vaughan** for their years of service to the Academy.

Covid-19 has provided a break and an opportunity for a new committee to be formed to carry on the Board-recognized Academy. We are thrilled to announce that **Bette Blitzer Mills** has graciously agreed to serve as the new Chair. Living on Nice Way with her husband Bill, Bette is a member of the Women's Club and one of the Turtle Rock Book Clubs. She is very excited to be able to lend her talents to keeping this important community program alive! If you are interested in working with Bette to bring quality Academy programs to the community, please email her at [billandbette@gmail.com](mailto:billandbette@gmail.com).



The cover of the TR News July 2013 edition featured the various programs sponsored by the TR Academy.





# Turtle Rock Women's Club

By Jean Contillo



The Turtle Rock Women's Club had a great time at *Turtles on Little Sarasota Bay* in August. As you can tell from all of those smiles, we are so happy to gather for luncheons again! Our next luncheon takes place today at *Miguel's* on Siesta Key, but be sure to check the TRWC newsletter for upcoming luncheon dates, locations and RSVP deadlines.



Many of our ongoing activities are back in full swing. In addition to Water Aerobics, Bunco, Mahjong and both day and evening Book Clubs, Duplicate Bridge and our Knit and Stitch Group have started back up. The TRWC newsletter has more details.

**Mark your calendars!** Our Mix & Mingle event is scheduled for **October 30** at the Community Center and promises a good time of Halloween fun.

If you'd like more information on membership or activities, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at [TurtleRockWomensClub@gmail.com](mailto:TurtleRockWomensClub@gmail.com).



# Turtle Rock Men's Club

By: Ken Rosemann

The Men's Club is once again holding monthly luncheons. This month we'll be meeting at Turtles on Little Sarasota Bay. Future locations and dates will be announced soon. Be sure to check the Turtle Rock newsletter for updates.

## SAVE THE DATE

**September 15th - Noon Luncheon - Turtles on Little Sarasota Bay,  
8875 Midnight Pass Road, Siesta Key**

\*\*\*\*\*

We are pleased to have Jim Flora, Guardian ad Litem, from the Children's Guardian Fund join us and enlighten us on CGF's role in aiding children in state care. If you haven't heard of the CGF, I think you'll be impressed by the important advocacy work they do for foster children.

\*\*\*\*\*

The cost of the lunch is \$26.00, checks payable to "John Adams".

Here are the menu options you may choose from:

- 1) Grilled Grouper with Key Lime Beurre Blanc Sauce \***
- 2) Chicken Breast with Mango-Kiwi Salsa \***
- 3) Filet Mignon, 6 oz \***
- 4) Primavera Pasta**

\* all entrees, except the pasta, are served with Seasonal Potatoes and Vegetable Medley

**Dessert - Key Lime Pie**

**All meals include water, soft drinks, tea and coffee. A cash bar will be available.**

If you would like to attend, and did not already receive an email invitation, you can reply to [turtlerockmensclub@gmail.com](mailto:turtlerockmensclub@gmail.com) with your menu choice. We must receive your email reply by Sunday, September 12th, as we must let the restaurant know our selections.

\*\*\*\*\*



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

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

**Bob Arnet, Ron Contillo, Ron Knox,  
Bill Ludwig, Doug Smith, James Vaughan**

\*\*\*\*\*

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.



# Landscape & Grounds

By Jodi Cunnison



The Committee members Curt Gilroy, Kathrin Harris and Jodi Cunnison, along with Bob Kresnick, our new property manager, met with Shane from Bloomings on August 11<sup>th</sup>.

Shane indicated that Bloomings would be installing the Areca palms behind Nice Way and along Honore Avenue during the upcoming week; this has been completed. He also indicated that sod installation around the currently installed mailboxes would be resuming— also completed. A reminder to please water this sod for a while until it is established. Bloomings will begin the ripping out of old shrubs and replanting of the south gate entry landscaping during the early part of September, followed by plantings along the south entry wall. The guava trees between the line of Royal palms in both entrance islands will be trimmed within the next few weeks. Lastly, the tall Awabuki hedge along Central Sarasota Parkway will be trimmed and cleared of invasive plants sometime this fall.

The Committee noted that the two **Do Not Feed the Alligator** signs have arrived and it is to be decided where to post them along Turtle Rock Blvd. Also, sidewalk repair bids have been received and our manager Bob Kresnick is waiting to receive refer-

ences from the various vendors. Bob is also going to schedule power washing for both the north and south gate entrances. As a final matter, painting of the welcome signs, along with touch up painting of the lamppost bases, will begin shortly.

## Seen Around The Rock

A couple enjoys a rest and lovely view on one of our recently installed benches. A total of five benches (and several backless ones) are placed along the Boulevard sidewalk and community center offering walkers a respite with a view, often under shade trees.





# BIRD NOTES

By Janet Smith



## The Mourning Dove

No matter where you are in the US, parts of Mexico and Canada, you will find Mourning Doves. This pigeon-like bird is about 12 inches from bill to tail tip with a small head, brown and gray coloring with black spots on its wings and a long slender tail. They have a blue-white eye ring and reddish feet and toes.



Its call, coooOOO-woo-woo, can be heard early in the morning or at dusk. Usually it is the male who calls.

When walking on the ground their heads go forward and backward. Their take off from the ground begins with a whinny or squeaky sound, like their wings need to be oiled. Once in the air they have been clocked at 55 mph and have been mistaken for falcons.

Mourning Doves mate for life. Their shallow nests can be on any horizontal surface. Both parents incubate two white eggs at a time for about 2 weeks. Both feed the chicks pigeon milk which resembles cottage cheese that is secreted from the crop lining. It is rich in protein and fat. Once the chicks leave the nest at about 15 days, they stay close and continue to be fed by the parents for another one or two weeks. Mourning Doves can have up to six broods per season.

Mourning Doves eat mostly seeds they find on the ground and store in their crop, an enlargement of the esophagus. They eat 12 to 20% of their body weight per day or about 71 calories. They regularly swallow grit to help with digestion.



Mourning Doves are the most widespread and abundant game bird in the United States. Every year about 20 million are harvested/shot, but they maintain a population of about 200 to 300 million because of their multiple broods.

# Young Families' Group

By: Jennifer Wick

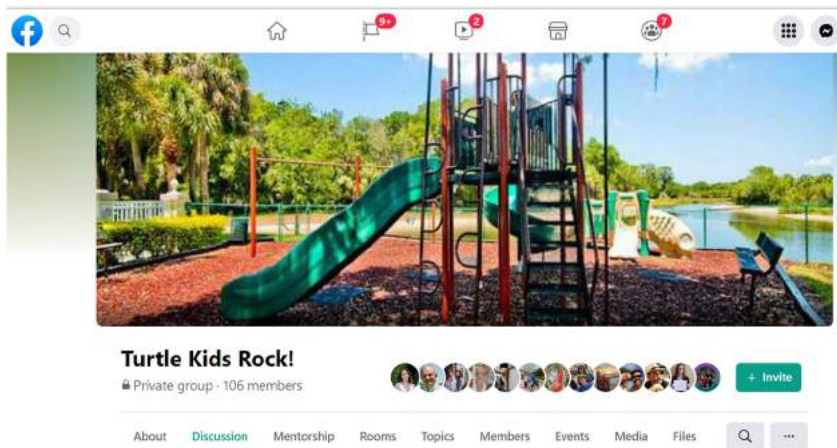


Hi, I'm Jennifer Wick and I will now be coordinating the Turtle Rock family group. My family and I have lived in this wonderful neighborhood for four years.

I look forward to planning some great events in the future alongside fellow neighbors Celeste Gibeau and Lindsay Niedenfuer.

Please make sure to sign up for our emails by writing to [turtlerockfamilies@gmail.com](mailto:turtlerockfamilies@gmail.com). Email us if you are interested in volunteering at future gatherings. Looking forward to a great year ahead!

Also, make sure to join the Turtle Kids Rock Facebook page, Turtle Kids Rock:



Welcome neighbors! This group is for all things kid-related in Turtle Rock. Propose meet-ups and play dates, discuss local favorite kid-friendly places or products, swap ideas & goods, or just connect with other neighbors. This is a closed group since it is kid-focused, but please pass the word along!

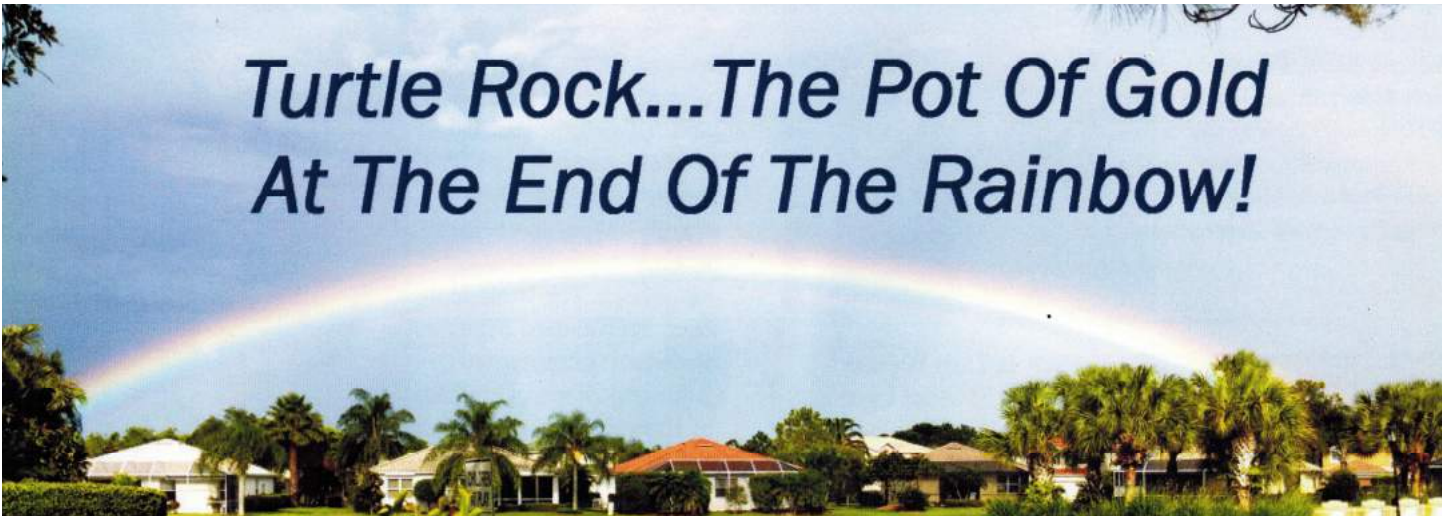
## From the West Corner of...

By: Steve West



The “*From The West Corner of...*” feature of the newsletter is taking a new shape. Each month we will have a theme which will feature community members’ stories, quips, and remembrances.

For October, the theme will be “**Fall Festivities**” — from Halloween to Sukkoth to Oktoberfest and more! Please send me your stories, traditions, or photos revolving around this theme to [3buzybeez@gmail.com](mailto:3buzybeez@gmail.com). Looking ahead, November’s theme will center around veterans.



# *Turtle Rock...The Pot Of Gold At The End Of The Rainbow!*

By: Alexandra Harris Amos, Guest Columnist

Turtle Rock—in the heart of 13000+ acre master planned Palmer Ranch development—is a unique and amazing community of 758 homes. Our 576 acres consist of many interconnected ponds, navigable via kayak or canoe, and natural hardwood and wetland preserves that harbor a vast variety of wildlife, all bordered on the west by our own 1.4 mile Nature Trail.

I grew up on Sabal Lake since the age of four. We paddled and portaged our canoe from the north end of TR to the south, we explored the Nature Trail and discovered wildflowers, an array of birds, lizards, snakes, came across the occasional bobcat or deer (and even feral hogs in the 90's), and all sizes of alligators. We fished for bass and cast-netted for tilapia for hours on end, and marveled at astounding sunsets over the slash pines.

The amenities in Turtle Rock may not compare to some of the newer communities that boast clubhouses with fitness centers, theatres, ballrooms, resort-style pools, but those we do have seem to work just fine for us. I spent many hours on our little playground, having birthday parties at the community pool, hanging out with friends on the bridge, taking tennis lessons, or playing basketball, often riding my bike to get around. We had treasure hunts and played hide and seek, sometimes startled by an alligator hanging around. Our community center (CC) has a prime location, its large windows looking south and west toward the fountain and preserve... great place to host a party!

Aside from the natural beauty within our gates, Turtle Rock is “green,” leading the way over 11 years ago to light our community with sustainable solar power. The pool has a geo-thermal heater, our CC and gate houses have thermopane, low-e, impact windows, and we maintain our preserves and lakes conscientiously using certified vendors. All this for a quarterly fee among the lowest in Palmer Ranch, even with the recent dues increase.

I studied in Ft Myers and have lived in Dallas for the past five years, but I will always consider Turtle Rock my *home*. The neighbors are friendly, there is a great mix of young families to retirees, plenty of social activities, along with a sense of community...and pride in it. Based on recent volume of sales here, others feel the same way: we live and work in paradise, and Turtle Rock is the pinnacle of that paradise!

*Editor's Postscript:* This article appeared on the cover of the July 2014 TR News. It was written by my daughter, who is currently moving back to Florida with her husband. Credit for the photo of the double rainbow goes to Tom Bass, also of Sabal Lake Circle.



# Outlandishly Inappropriate Word Contest



CONGRATULATIONS to **Carol Baker**, who found the inappropriate word last month and was drawn from all names who submitted the correct word. Carol has won a \$25 Publix gift card, courtesy of Mira Mar Pool Care.

The word was **BIBBLE**, hidden on page 15.

It is a verb that originates from the Middle English *bibben* (hence *bib*), meaning to eat and/or drink noisily, or 2) to tipple. It also stems from Yiddish, where it means to worry.



Bill Miller

941-926-POOL wcmiller33@gmail.com

We will give this exercise a rest for a while, and attempt to come up with a new activity to get residents involved.

## The Communication Committee

The committee wishes to thank *Patricia and David Tarlton* for their many years of service to the committee! They were instrumental in starting the committee, rekindling the newsletter, and have seen members come and go for nearly four years. With a great group of enthusiastic members bringing fresh ideas, they will step away from the committee for a while.

The committee is always interested in input from the community. 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

Angela Hilton Calvo, Chair

Grace Sammon, Secretary

Kathrin Harris, Newsletter Editor

Members Emily Miller, Steve West, Judy Bentz

Sunstate liaison: Bob Kresnik, Community Manager.

Board Liaison: Patrick Murphy

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.)