

Happy Earth Day  
April 22, 2022  
"Invest in our Planet"



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**The *Turtle Talk* proof readers check articles for errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar, and sentence structure.**

**The author of each article is responsible for the factual accuracy.**



# Turtle Talk

## April 2022

The **April 5** Board meeting was preceded by a special presentation! Curt Gilroy, former TR Board member and retiree from the Pentagon, presented Board president Deirdre Cronin and Turtle Rock with a very special United States flag. Now encased in a beautiful glass and wood display case, this flag was flown over the Pentagon on November 11, 2021 specifically in honor of Turtle Rock veterans. Curt thanked TR veterans from all branches of our military, recognizing the importance of their service. The flag will be displayed in the community center hanging on a wall next to the dedication letter from the Asst. Secretary of Defence thanking Turtle Rock veterans for their service.



Additionally, Curt then thanked Deirdre Cronin, US Navy Commander (retired), specifically for her exemplary service and transferred to her a special coin. A military tradition, senior officers, civilians, and commands often have their own coins, which may be given out to recognized individuals on special occasions. These occasions might be a high-level meeting/briefing, accomplishment of an important mission, a special thank-you for a particular service, and to instill pride and esprit de corps.

# President's Message

By: Deirdre Cronin



I am so excited about our new Board of Governors who are working hard to understand the needs of our beautiful community. I am also encouraged to see and hear from new people who actively share their more diverse perspectives on ways to positively impact our community.

There is a lot of heavy lifting needed, and it currently falls on the shoulders of a small group of Governors and committee members. We have a lot of exciting and important opportunities to make improvements across a wide array of projects.

From making our Board and governance more effective and streamlined, to preserving the natural beauty and integrity of our environment, while thinking ahead to create succession plans and documents for the next generation of volunteers, there are a lot of wheels in motion.

At times, it seems those wheels turn more slowly than we might like. Perhaps someone named the Association "Turtle" Rock for a reason nearly 30 years ago. However, the more people we can engage, the faster those wheels will turn, the faster progress will be made. There are over 750 homes in our community, and I am confident that there is large group of residents with a broad set of skills, knowledge and experience who will come forward and share their gifts for the betterment of the community. More volunteers = faster progress + better solutions.

If you are interested in the community and learning more about how you can contribute, please email

[communitymanager@myturtlerock.com](mailto:communitymanager@myturtlerock.com)

with your name, address, and best phone number to reach you and the office will get your message to the right board member or committee chair. I look forward to your help and support and working together in the future.

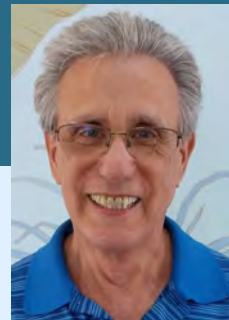


Editor's note: The bronze turtles that are visible on some rocks at our south entrance lake are actually placed on a natural limestone rock formation discovered while excavation for the development of our community began in 1993. The limestone has the shape of a tall cylinder that reaches far into the ground. It always seemed to have turtles sunbathing on it, so was the inspiration for our community's name!



# Management Report

By: Bob Kresnik, Sunstate



Resident updates!

**The new fountain** in the pond next to the community center has been installed. After some electrical issues, it is now functional.

**Email Communication:** since I started at Turtle Rock last July, some owners have told me that they are not receiving the monthly Newsletter or Eblast emails that we are sending. We have discovered that some have by accident, or unknowingly, unsubscribed to these updates, or we may not have entered your email information correctly. If you have unsubscribed twice, we are unable to enter that same email address, and a new email address will need to be created and provided to the manager. If you have not been receiving the newsletter, please contact management.

**The South gate** now has a license plate reader and is operating properly. The call box is working fine and will be spruced up to improve its appearance. Remember, if you approach the gate going too fast, it may not be able to read your sticker number and the gate won't open.

**Community Center (CC) visits:** if you have business with management, the best hours are Monday thru Friday from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Both Bob and Lynn are there during those hours for your benefit. Bob is then there until 4:30 PM, but often in and out of the office with emergencies, contractor meetings, and inspections.

**Sidewalks:** the association is currently doing a one-time review of all sidewalks in Turtle Rock. The areas to be corrected are marked green if they need to be ground down, and orange if the area needs to be cut out and replaced. We are only focusing on trip hazards. If your sidewalk is cracked, you should consider replacing that section. If you notice a trip hazard that we missed, please leave us a specific message of its location so it can be inspected.

**Exterior work on your home** may need Architectural Review Committee (ARC) approval. This

could include tree planting, plant removal, and installation. The form can be found on the Turtle Rock Website,

<https://www.myturtlerock.com/> Click on the drop down for Community Association forms. You can also obtain the form at the CC office. The forms explain what documentation is required. If you have any questions, call your manager at 941-870-9855. The requests need to be received by management no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Applications are then processed, and management receives the decisions by the last week of the month; approvals are emailed or sent via USPS depending on whether or not we have your email address on file. *No work may begin before approval is received.* There are no specified paint or roof colors (Somerset and Savannah excluded), and each application is case by case. Make sure your application is complete as it will not be forwarded for consideration if any required items are missing.

**Fishing in Turtle Rock Ponds** is one of the perks of living at Turtle Rock. But there are a few rules you need to abide by. As a resident, you can fish in the ponds that are adjacent to Turtle Rock Blvd., adjacent to your home or on the ponds that are adjacent to the Turtle Rock Nature Trail. The bridge between the CC and the pool will take you to the Turtle Rock Nature Trail. You should not enter another resident's yard and fish from their pond bank without specific permission. When fishing from Turtle Rock Blvd. you can't park on the boulevard or on the grass area. You need to leave your vehicle on a side street and walk to your desired bank location that runs parallel with Turtle Rock Blvd. Please pick up your trash, and children should be supervised by an adult.

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

Your management Team,

**Bob Kresnik, CAM**  
**Lynn Lakel, CAM**  
**Sunstate Management**

Cell: **941-870-9855**  
TR office: **941-921-3865**  
Email: [communitymanager@myturtlerock.com](mailto:communitymanager@myturtlerock.com)



# Treasurer's Report

By: Robert Oram



## Year-To-Date Ending February 28, 2022

	Actual	Budget
Assessments and other income	\$ 254,940	\$ 255,223
<b>Operating Expenses*</b>		
General and Administrative	\$ 66,975	\$ 67,245
Common Grounds	28,840	35,314
Access Control/Gatehouse	50,217	52,464
Facilities Maintenance	14,324	14,114
Utilities		

Note: \* expenses were \$18,443 less than revenues year-to-date

### Reserve Expenses

Contribution	\$ 61,520	\$ 61,520
Site Improvements	- 2100*	

\* \$2,100 paid to F.R.LaCivita for removal/replacement of damaged curbs.

### Assessments

Outstanding HOA Fees:	\$ 11,784	(1-60 days)
	<u>4,715</u>	(60-90+ days)
Total	\$ 16,499	



# Turtle Rock Academy Lecture Series

By: Bette Mills, Chair



**APRIL 14 2 pm**

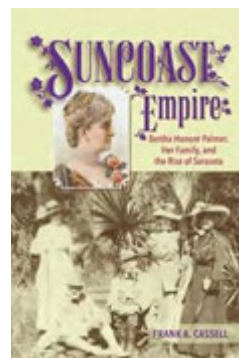
## Historic Spanish Point

John McCarthy, Vice President for Regional History of Marie Selby's Historic Spanish Point, will talk about this beautiful location that shows visitors how people lived and celebrated in earlier times. He will discuss the ancient Calusa Indians that first lived there to the pioneers that came to begin new lives in a land many had never dreamed existed, the bee keepers who sent bees all over the world, and the Cuban fishing rancheros that harvested mullet to send to Cuba. John is a native Floridian who attended

Pine View School in Sarasota, received his BS from Goshen College (Indiana), and worked with the Sarasota County Government for 32 years as Environmental Specialist, County Historian, and Director of Parks and Recreation. John is a frequent presenter of local history lectures and tours, and has been associated with Historic Spanish Point since 2017.

We will be giving away a special *door prize* at the conclusion of John's program: a hardcover copy of "**Suncoast Empire**," a historical

novel concentrating on the rise of Sarasota due to the efforts of Bertha Honore Palmer and her family. The book is authored by Frank Cassell, president and Professor Emeritus at the University of Pittsburgh-Greensburg, and an officer of the Sarasota County Historical Commission and the History and Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County.



## Looking Ahead... at next season in 2023!



In **January**, Sarasota resident *Sharon Preston-Folta* will share her story growing up as the daughter of Louis Armstrong. Her documentary film, "Little Satchmo," is playing at film festivals around the world this year. Preston-Folta was born in 1955. Her mother, Lucille "Sweets" Preston, was a performer from Harlem, New York, and was romantically involved with Armstrong for many years, but he was married to someone else — his fourth wife Lucille Armstrong. Preston-Folta said the world-famous musician and cultural icon felt like he couldn't publicly acknowledge a child born from an affair, but privately, she was part of Armstrong's life.





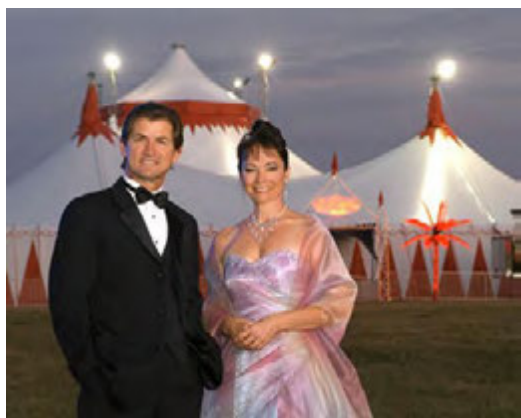
# Turtle Rock Academy Lecture Series

March Program a Huge Hit!



Dolly Jacobs, daughter of famed Ringling clown, Lou Jacobs, and internationally known aerialist, presented a behind the scenes picture of the early days of the circus in Sarasota to a delighted crowd at the March Turtle Rock Academy lecture. In addition to lots of vintage circus memorabilia, she showed rare film footage taken by her father that was a delight to see. After viewing some of the footage of the daring stunts she performed, Dolly told of harrowing incidents on the ropes, her many injuries, and occasional brush with death during a performance.

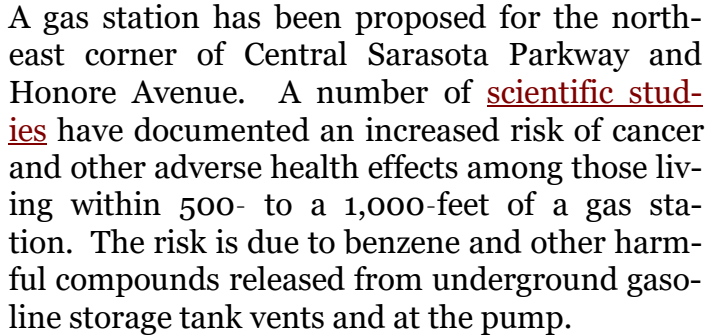
Dolly, along with her aerialist husband, Pedro Reis, founded the Circus Arts Conservatory, which supports the Sailor Circus, an institution initiated by Sarasota High School in the 1940's that teaches circus arts to children under age 18. She explained the many programs the CAC offers to the schools in Sarasota. It was an informative and entertaining hour.



Seen wearing the clown noses Dolly brought are Charlotte Jones (above, left), Grace Sammon and Curt Gilroy (above right), and Academy member Kathy Myerburg (below left) and Chair Bette Blitzzer Mills (below right).



## Sandhill Preserve Healthy Neighborhoods Alliance



**Proposed Circle K Gas Station Site & Potential Health Effect Areas**

**Legend**

- 1000-Foot Possible Adverse Health Effects Zone
- 500-Foot Probable Adverse Health Effects Zone

Tundra View Neighborhood

Sandy Hollow Neighborhood

Sandy Hollow Neighborhood

Vineyards at Silver Oak Neighborhood

Circle K Gas Station

Google Earth

0 1000

Unfortunately, neither local nor Florida state laws require measures that can prevent the adverse health effects. The only measure which is effective is to guide new gas stations to sites that are at least 500 feet from the nearest home. As shown in the aerial below, numerous homes

A number of cities and counties have enacted new gas station public health safety zones. The Sandhill Preserve Healthy Neighborhoods Alliance was established to lead an effort to urge the Sarasota County Commissioners to require this protection measure.

In the petition, we urge the Sarasota Commissioners to

require that new gas station sites be at least 500 feet from a home, including the one proposed for Central Sarasota Parkway and Honore Avenue. Since initiated on March 9, 2022, over **2,500** Palmer Ranch area residents have signed the petition. The public health safety zone will not preclude new gas stations in Sarasota County, and will not affect existing gas stations. Instead, it will guide new stations to locations where we can enjoy the benefits these businesses provide without jeopardizing the health of our neighbors. Given that the number of gas stations has declining for decades – a trend that will continue in the future – it makes sense to locate new stations to the best locations.

For further information contact Alliance co-chair Paul Heggie ([pheggie13@gmail.com](mailto:pheggie13@gmail.com)).







# Natural Assets Committee

By: Michelle van Schouwen, Secretary NAC



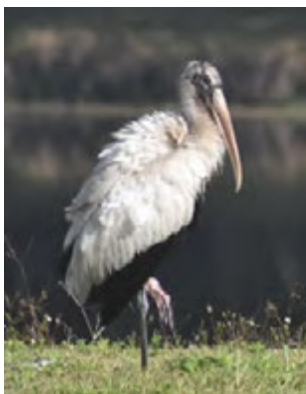
## On balance: Pond management, pond ecology

An overarching challenge that the Natural Assets Committee addresses is balancing an array of needs in managing Turtle Rock's 31 stormwater retention ponds.

A few considerations we keep in mind:

The primary function of the ponds is, and must be, flood control.

- ◆ We work to minimize shoreline erosion that reduces the amount of land behind homes (see last month's article). Restoration for severe erosion, aquatic plants on littoral shelves, and the grass borders known as low maintenance zones (LMZs) are key to this effort.
- ◆ Aquatic plants efficiently filter the water and improve its quality. They are important to natural pond health. Many pond plants help mitigate algae blooms, too.
- ◆ Having aquatic plants supports the food chain, allowing birds and other wildlife to live in and near the ponds. Birds, for example, need natural places including ponds rich in diversity to roost, feed, and raise their young.
- ◆ Not every "grass clipping" sighting turns out to be waste from lawns. Florida-native tape grass naturally grows in ponds. Fish nibble at it, often low on the stems, and break it off. The loose strands can float to the pond



surface. According to [UF/IFAS](#), "There are several uses for tape grass. Restoration of the pond floor is a useful purpose. One of the benefits of tape grass is that it is a great oxygenator."

- ◆ Natural Assets works with Crosscreek Environmental Inc. to strike a balance between fostering useful plant life and having ponds overgrown with plants. As part of this work, we are mindful of what types and quantity of chemical treatment we use. Having pond plants in place in fact *reduces* the need for chemical treatment. We also manually remove plant matter when appropriate.
- ◆ 20 to 30 years ago, Florida stormwater retention ponds were in many cases less healthy than they are today. Cleaner, more natural ponds are better for humans, animals, and our streams, bays, and gulf. If you'd like to read more about best practices to maintain healthy ponds in our area, visit [UF/IFAS Extension Healthy Ponds](#).

Thanks for all you do to support our stormwater retention ponds.

*Images:*

*Wood stork courtesy Donald Robear, Tape grass courtesy UF/IFAS*

*Logo, above, created by Barry Domenick, Turtle Rock Resident*



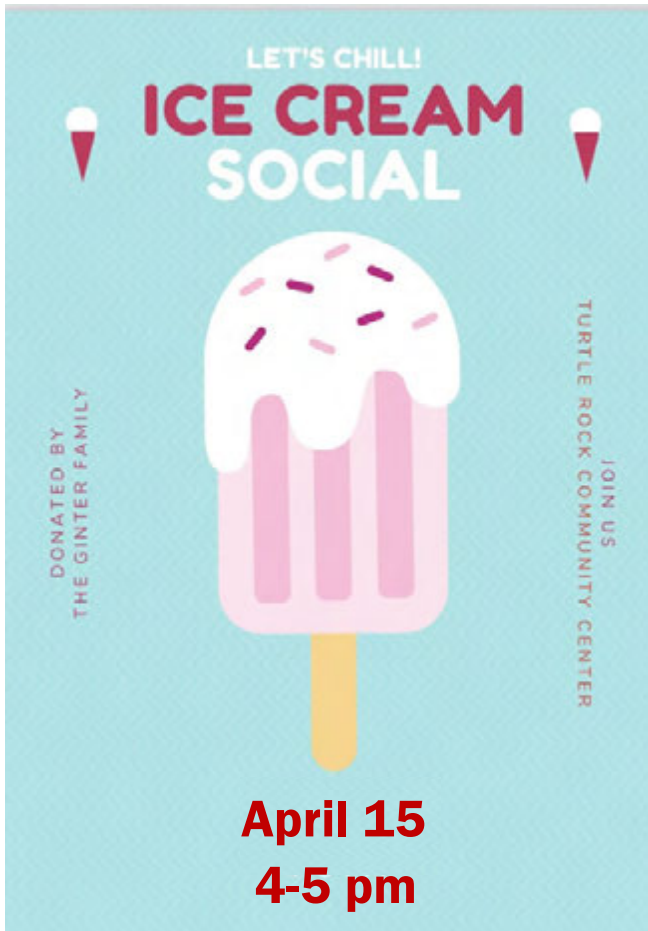


# Young Families' Group

By: Jennifer Wick



Two fun Friday events coming up this month!!



# Traffic Safety Task Force

By: Allyn Violet, Secretary, Traffic Safety TF

The Traffic Safety Task Force is pleased to announce that the Turtle Rock Board of Governors, at its meeting on March 1, 2022, approved a proposal for two LiDAR speed cameras with batteries and solar panels to be placed along Turtle Rock Boulevard, along with four new STOP signs to be placed at the intersection of

- Benchmark Court and Turtle Rock Boulevard (north and southbound), and
- Nice Way and Sweetmeadow Circle.

Also approved was the required software to interface the data received from the cameras with the gate access control system, and poles for mounting the cameras and signs. The cameras have been ordered and should arrive sometime in May. The STOP signs, poles for mounting all equipment and signage to be placed at both gates announcing speed cameras are expected to arrive within the month. Installation of the STOP signs will commence as soon as they are received. The cameras will be installed after the appropriate siting and utility locates have been performed. The Task Force is hoping to begin a trial period after the camer-



as and software “go live” to assure that all systems are working properly, and to give residents, visitors, and vendors time to adjust their driving habits. The camera system is the least invasive way to change driver behavior within our community without punishing all drivers with speed bumps, humps, or raised pavers with flashing signs.

The Traffic Safety Task Force was directed by the Board of Governors to assess the safety of the roads in Turtle Rock and make recommendations for the implementation of measures to reduce speeding and alter driver behavior to make our community a safer place for our all of children, pets, and wildlife, so we are still hard at work and meeting on a regular basis to continue studying other safety initiatives within Turtle Rock. These include methods to enforce compliance at STOP signs at all intersections and a study of the school bus stops and drop off/pick up times so the community can be made aware of the need to be extra vigilant when driving on Turtle Rock Boulevard during these times. We will also study whether there is a need for a new traffic pattern in the Community Center parking lot because we have observed and have been advised of many close calls and fender benders that have occurred there. Please remember the speed limit on all Turtle Rock streets is 25 MPH except for Nice Way, *which has a speed limit of 15 MPH*. Please remind your guests and vendors to drive the speed limit as well. Stay tuned for future updates!





# Communications Committee

## Help Desk Needs Your Help

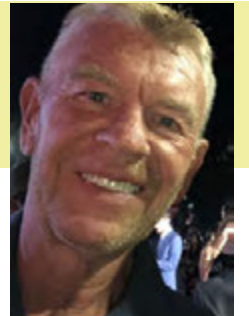


The new “Help Desk” is looking for volunteers to work at the desk at the Turtle Rock Community Center on Wednesday and Friday afternoons between 1:00 and 4:00 PM. It is a fun way to meet your neighbors and to help them with answers to their community related questions or to research the answers. This is especially helpful to newer neighbors — and we all can remember how overwhelming that time was! You do not need to know everything about Turtle Rock. You may even learn some things, too. I know I already have. We also assist Bob, our Property Manager.

Volunteer for as many sessions as your schedule allows. I have met some great neighbors who I can now call friends. Please contact me, Patty Fleming, at [pfflemingcp@hotmail.com](mailto:pfflemingcp@hotmail.com) if you are interested and tell me your availability.

## From the WEST Corner of...

By: Steve West, Resident Columnist



### Fellow Turtle Rockers, DON'T GET SCAMMED!

One of the newest scams out there is to be contacted via email or phone and asked to help out an organization, usually Veterans. You will be asked to purchase gift cards and be given instructions on whom to contact and how to forward the numbers on the cards. Often, you are asked to send the numbers by email or simply read them over the phone. The scammer will have made up some lie about being out of town or sick, and he, or the association he pretends to represent, will refund you the money by check after the transaction has been concluded. Of course, once you've given up the card numbers, he's gone, and you're out.

Be cautious of anyone who wants you to pur-

chase gift cards for anything. If the contact is through email, always look for misspellings, incorrect vocabulary and punctuation, and/or words left out in a sentence. Chances are your scammer has English as a second language.

Resist the urge to respond with vindictiveness. A response can put you in a category called “a mark”, and your email address can be sold to the next group of scammers.

Right here in Turtle Rock such a scam is being perpetrated. The scammer may go by the name of David Bryan and claim to be the president of the Turtle Rock Community Organization which, of course, does not exist.

Be wary Turtle Rockers, never let your heart go before your head.

# Architectural Review Committee

By Curt Gilroy, Chair



The Architectural Review Committee (ARC) continues to be extremely busy with 37 new applications for home and landscape improvements in March. Since the beginning of the year, the ARC has averaged over 30 applications each month.

This past month was dominated by **painting** (home or lanai cage) – 30 percent of new applications; new **roofs** – 22 percent of the total number of applications; and **landscaping** (to include tree removals and replacements) – 22 percent of applications. Other applications included new doors and windows, garage doors, and pavers. We are seeing more applications for pavers as homeowners see these as significant enhancements to their property values.

But the ARC is also experiencing more examples of homeowners who are undertaking home and landscape improvements without ARC approval. We urge homeowners to read the Turtle Rock Homeowner's Manual so that changes to the exterior of their properties are approved beforehand. If they are not, it becomes a compliance violation. In addition, the ARC members may be able to provide helpful advice to homeowners with their applications. As I have said oftentimes, the ARC is always ready and willing to assist homeowners with their projects.

Perhaps the most subjective of home improvements is exterior painting. The ARC takes a holistic view of the curb appeal of the property when

looking at painting applications. House colors come in and out of fashion, and we strive to balance the preferences of homeowners – after all, it is your home – with how well the colors blend with the tile roof, driveway pavers (if relevant), and landscaping, as well as the overall look of the community.

You should all be aware that the new edition of the Turtle Rock Homeowners' Manual has now been approved by the Board and is available online. It will soon be available in hard copy at the Community Center. The ARC urges you to focus especially on the sections in Chapter III having to do with changes to the exterior of your home. Remember that nearly all changes to the exterior need ARC approval.

The ARC members want you to know that we sincerely appreciate the positive feedback we receive from you on our monthly drive-around. Finally, the ARC wishes to thank all homeowners for their patience in working with us as we strive together to maintain and upgrade your properties to enhance their beauty and that of Turtle Rock. ♦



This large Turtle Rock “resident” was seen sunbathing last month across the pond from the playground. Roger Reitz of Hanging Moss was walking his dog across the bridge at the community center and spotted this native inhabitant. Wanting to alert others to the possible threat of a potentially hungry gator, Roger sent this photo he took to the Turtle Talk editor.



# Landscape & Grounds

By Jodi Cunnison



The Landscape Committee met with Shane Battle from Bloomings on March 9<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center. Co-chairs Curt Gilroy and Joan Howe, along with members Diane Geramanis and Jodi Cunnison were in attendance.

Shane reviewed the work that has been completed by Bloomings, which included planting bougainvillea shrubs in the northern section of the Nature Trail at Palmer Ranch Parkway East. This was done to cut off access to the Trail by the public. Bloomings also completed the periodic clean up of palm fronds, branches and other debris along Turtle Rock Blvd.

The Committee discussed with Shane ongoing maintenance to be done by Bloomings, which includes:

- Completing the trimming of low hanging oak limbs along Turtle Rock Blvd

- Monitoring the oak leaf drop and scheduling the leaf cleanup later this spring

- Planting small Areca palms along Honore Avenue where previously planted viburnum shrubs have died. The Areca palms are sitting in storage and were from the Nice Way relandscaping project.



- Completion of the landscaping projects at the north guard house and at the SE corner of Sabal Lake and Turtle Rock Blvd.

The Committee asked Shane to come up with a landscape plan to enhance the entrance to the Community Center and also a plan to enhance

the bench area adjacent to the butterfly garden.

The Committee noted that the dying oak tree on Far Oak Circle has now been removed and Bloomings will plant a Shady Lady (Black Olive Tree) in its place.

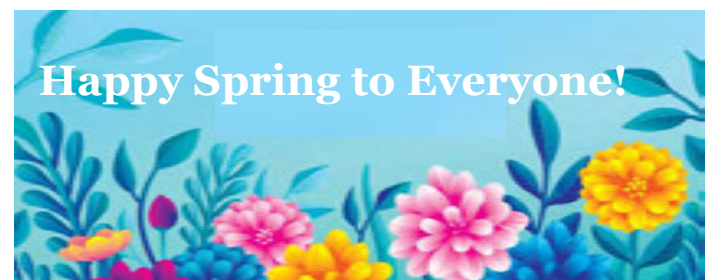
The Landscape Committee is pursuing the touching up of the gold paint on both entrance signs, since the recent repainting of our monument signs resulted in the gold lettering and

turtle looking quite dark and not as shiny gold as before. The fire hydrants throughout Turtle Rock are also looking shabby, and



the committee will contact the county about having these repainted (or allowing Turtle Rock to repaint them). Curt Gilroy will also continue to reach out to Stewart Tennis regarding uncompleted work on the tennis courts.

Finally, the committee discussed the Honore Avenue hedge. The Committee is aware of sight, sound and security concerns along Honore Ave, especially in light of the construction of the new shopping plaza. Several residents have spoken up about this situation and the Committee will be discussing this further.





# Turtle Rock Men's Club

The Men's Club is pleased to announce that Bob Arnett has agreed to serve as President of the Men's Club. Bob will assume his new role at the April luncheon. The following slate of Officers will work with Bob in his new role:

Bob Arnett, President  
Claude Pierre, Vice President  
John Adams, Treasurer  
Ken Rosemann, Secretary  
Doug Cordier, Luncheon Coordinator  
Fred Howe, Guest Speaker Coordinator  
Bill Kozlowski, Membership Coordinator

\*\*\*\*\*



**April 20th Luncheon** The April luncheon will be held at the Mellow Mushroom on Tamiami Trail. Denise Cotler, Chief Development Officer for the All Faiths Food Bank will be our guest speaker. The Food Bank's priority is to serve the neediest and most vulnerable first: children, seniors, veterans and those in crisis.

\*\*\*\*\*



SERENOA  
GOLF CLUB

**Weekly Golf Outing** If you are a golfer, consider joining your neighbors for a round at Serenoa Golf Club each Thursday morning. Send an email to [TRMCGolf@gmail.com](mailto:TRMCGolf@gmail.com) to sign up or for more information.

\*\*\*\*\*



**April Birthdays** We wish the following a Happy Birthday! If I have missed anyone, email me and I will update the TRMC website.  
Tim Derr, Val Dolorico, Barry Domenick

If you know of someone who may be interested in joining the Men's Club, please have them contact me, Ken Roseman, and I will be glad to assist them in the process of joining.



# Turtle Rock Women's Club

Our St. Patrick's Day themed **Mix & Mingle**, hosted by Meadow Rush Loop(ers), was a great time with over 50 party-goers...and that's no blarney! We celebrated all things Irish a bit early with tasty appetizers, delicious desserts and a variety of libations.



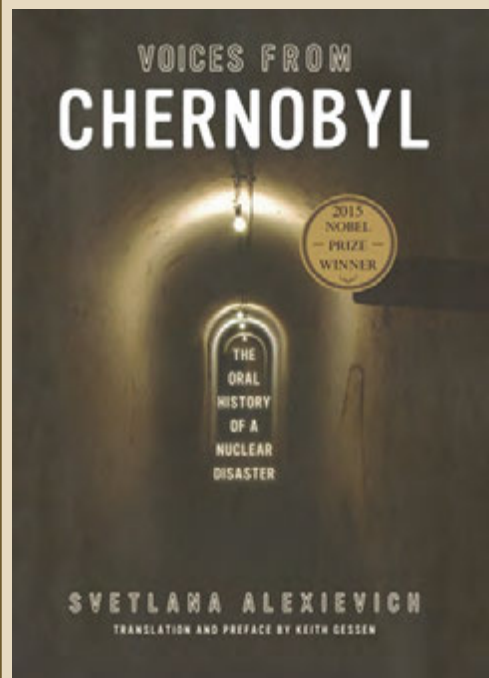
Don't forget about our newest ongoing activities:

**Monday Meet-Ups** are held every Monday, 10 am – 11:30 am at the Turtle Rock Community Center. All TR residents are welcome! Bring your own beverage and stop by to catch up with neighbors. No RSVP required.

**Turtle Rock Game Night** is the second Tuesday, 7 pm – 9 pm. Pack your games, beverages (and snacks if you like) and head to the Turtle Rock Community Center for evening of fun. Questions and reservations to Joan and Richard Miller. Phone or text Joan at 630-258-1821 or Richard at 630-235-1912.

Not a member of the Turtle Rock Women's Club? Email us at [turtlerockwomensclub@gmail.com](mailto:turtlerockwomensclub@gmail.com) to receive our monthly newsletters and news of club-sponsored events.

## Turtle Rock Library Feature Book of the Month



**Voices from Chernobyl: The Oral History of a Nuclear Disaster** by Svetlana Alexievich  
(nonfiction) 240 pp

Alexievich documents the stories of ordinary people— from residents of the area surrounding the Chernobyl power plant to the first responders, and damage mitigators— to offer honest accounts of survivors of the world’s worst nuclear disaster to date. While the world has moved on to other equally horrifying issues of global impact, those affected by the meltdown in 1986 still live very much in its shadow.



## Chalk Art

Art By:  
Donna Wolfson



“Allergies: Us vs. Pollen”



# War in Ukraine has Turtle Rock neighbor asking for help!



My name is Oxana Dats, and I own a home at 8538 Park Shore Lane since 2016 with my husband Bogdan and our second daughter Angelina. I was born in Lviv, Ukraine, and immigrated to United States in 1995 with my husband and 6 years old daughter to New Jersey in 2014, then moved to Sarasota.

My father and step mom lived in Kiev. Over many years they visited us almost every year, and out of all places Sarasota is their "dreams come true" as for many of us. They have a tourist visa for multiple entries and that is how they were coming here many times.

No matter how good and nice it is here, they were always happy to go home to Kiev. They have more grandkids, their apartment, a small place with garden, car, garage. Even though the pension is about \$300 per month only, with our help they had enough for their needs. They speak the English language, have friends that live there, miss them, they watch television and follow their lives.

This February 24 when war started, many things changed for many in Ukraine and for all of us Ukrainians that are here. Exposures in Kiev, no transportation, military time, shortage of food, no gas, banks closed. The biggest was not to be able to go to the hospital if anything happened, as most bridges in the city are closed. There were trains out of city, but panic of people leaving, amount of people on the train made this not even an option for 78 and 88 years old couple, as they can not do this physically.

Thank God we were able to find someone from Ternopol who drove to Kiev, picked them up and drove them to Lviv, then next person took them from Lviv to Ukrainian-Polish border, put them on the bus to Warsaw Poland, from where they flew to Newark NJ on direct flight on March 13th. Five days on the route, two small suitcases at the end of their life. And only because they have tourist visas they were able to come to US. You can only imagine this trip. Thousands of stories.

We are so grateful to live in the best country in the world! We really love family and never forget who we are and where we came from. Also grateful for friends and neighbors who helped financially through this difficult time.

Now we need to find a place for a couple like my parents and all those others who come from Ukraine. There is no refugees assistance as of yet. People of Ukraine leave all they ever had and come here with hope to live. No one knows when this war will end and if they will be able to ever go back.

Thank you for allowing me to ask for help, as in these difficult times people with great hearts come together and help those in need. If by any chance you know anyone locally who is going away for summer, or perhaps has another small apartment that is empty, or maybe Mobile home, please let us know! We love our parents, we make room for them for visit and vacations, but this time it's not vacation.

I appreciate you all, my phone number is 973-449-3398. Thank you — Oxana



## TR CLASSIFIEDS and LOST & FOUND

### WANT—SELL—BORROW—LEND— RECYCLE

**FOUND:** rose gold-colored necklace at pool in March by Judy Bentz. She left it with our manager, Bob. Please contact him to identify it if is yours.

**UPDATE:** the wedding band that was found in the pool has been returned to its rightful owner!!

Looking for a pet- or baby-sitter? Maybe it's a service you offer and want to get the word out? Have a bike you want to sell or give away? Need to borrow a high-chair for visiting grandkids? Any or all of these kinds of things could be advertised HERE for FREE!

PLEASE email **letstalkturtlerock@gmail.com** to place a classified announcement.

## The Newsletter Team

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.

Also, if you have a gripe or a word of praise, let's hear it.

**Send comments, suggestions and articles for consideration to:**  
**letstalkturtlerock@gmail.com**

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

THANKS for getting involved!

### Committee Members and Newsletter Staff

Diane Geremanis & Kim Weiser, Co-Chairs

Dodie Neuhauser, Secretary

Kathrin Harris, Newsletter Editor

Patty Fleming, Help Desk Lead

Emily Miller, Special Projects

Steve West, Welcome Team Lead

Donna McCarthy, committee member

Sunstate liaison: Bob Kresnik, Community Manager.

Board Liaison: Grace Boehm

Proofreader: Charlotte Jones