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

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

## President's Message



Deirdre Cronin

At the beginning of the May board meeting I announced a pause on board consideration of NEW initiatives—proposals to the board and discretionary spending—as we evaluate our current avenues of communication, explore new ways to communicate, and survey the community. All previously voted and approved decisions will stand. Committees and Task forces continue their work.

In order to better understand what aspects of Turtle Rock Community are important to our members, Grace Sammon led the project to develop a survey that included input from the Communication Committee and the Board. The survey is now ready for distribution! The information you provide helps us determine areas that need changes or improvements. In addition to the answer options, any comments you provide are also encouraged and welcomed. We look forward to hearing from you! Please click the link and complete the survey by JUNE 15:  
[https://bit.ly/TR\\_SURVEY\\_2022](https://bit.ly/TR_SURVEY_2022)

Two new Task Forces were appointed to: a) evaluate Attended Gates, and b) evaluate Honore border security, sight and sound.

And finally, since Bob Kresnick left Sunstate, Ed Olsen came back as interim on-site manager. A swift and successful search for a new permanent on-site manager ensued, and I am pleased to announce this resulted in the selection of Lisa Vignioli, who has already started.



Please join us at our next Board meeting starting at 6:30 on June 7, in person at the Community Center or via Zoom.

# Management Report

By: Ed Olson, Sunstate Management Group, Inc (SMGI)



Memorial Day is upon us, and July 4<sup>th</sup> is right around the corner. Summer is here, and the hot muggy days and afternoon thunder showers remind us we should enjoy days when it's cool out.

I am back in the office for a while and around the community. Thank you to all of you who called or came in to welcome me back. Please stop in or call any time.

There are a lot of projects going on this year, including the annual cleaning of the Turtle Rock sidewalks that took place last month. The curbs were also cleaned, and they look great. The south entrance fountain that had electrical power supply issues should be back in service, and the nature trail signs, as well as bridge repair projects, are underway.

There have also been some ongoing issues with the preserves, wetlands, and mesic hammocks. These areas are protected by county regulations that dictate what can and cannot be done in them. They include, but are not limited to, cutting, planting, and dumping— including yard waste and palm fronds— all of which is strictly prohibited. Please talk to your landscape people about these regulations also.

The June Board of Governor's meeting on the 7th will be held in person, by Zoom, and conference call. The agenda and invitation will be posted and emailed. I hope everyone will attend.

A lot of homeowners within the community are having hurricane windows and doors, or shutters, installed. With hurricane season starting June 1, I thought it would be a good time to remind everyone about the guidelines for shutters from the Turtle Rock Owner's Manual (TROM). This document can be found on our website under the Community Association Tab, drop-down "Documents"

[https://  
www.myturtlerock.com/  
community-assoc/  
documents/](https://www.myturtlerock.com/community-assoc/documents/)

This is a searchable document! Info about use of shutters can be found on pg 24, III B 5:

## **b) Hurricane shutters:**

The purpose of hurricane shutters and related products is to protect an owner's residence (specifically the windows and doors) from wind and storm damage. It is generally recognized that hurricane season begins on June 1 and ends on November 30.

Hurricane shutters and protective products may **not** be used as general security devices, which means they can only be installed or otherwise engaged when a severe storm is imminent. In accordance with Sarasota County guidelines, owners may install or engage the shutters and related protective hurricane products only 72 hours preceding any such severe storm, tornado, tropical storm or named hurricane, and must remove or otherwise disengage them within 72 hours after such a storm. All products installed must conform to the requirements adopted by the Board of Governors and must be approved by the ARC. In order to obtain ARC approval, owners must submit product information, color and fabric samples, a site plan of the proposed installation, and copies of the contractor's license and insurance information together with the application. Clear panels (Lexan) are recommended since they may be kept in place throughout the entire storm season.

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

Ed Olson

Vice President/LCAM

Sunstate Management

941-870-9855; TR office: 941-921-3865  
[edward@sunstatemanagement.com](mailto:edward@sunstatemanagement.com)



# Treasurer's Report

By: Robert Oram



## Year-To-Date Ending:

March 31

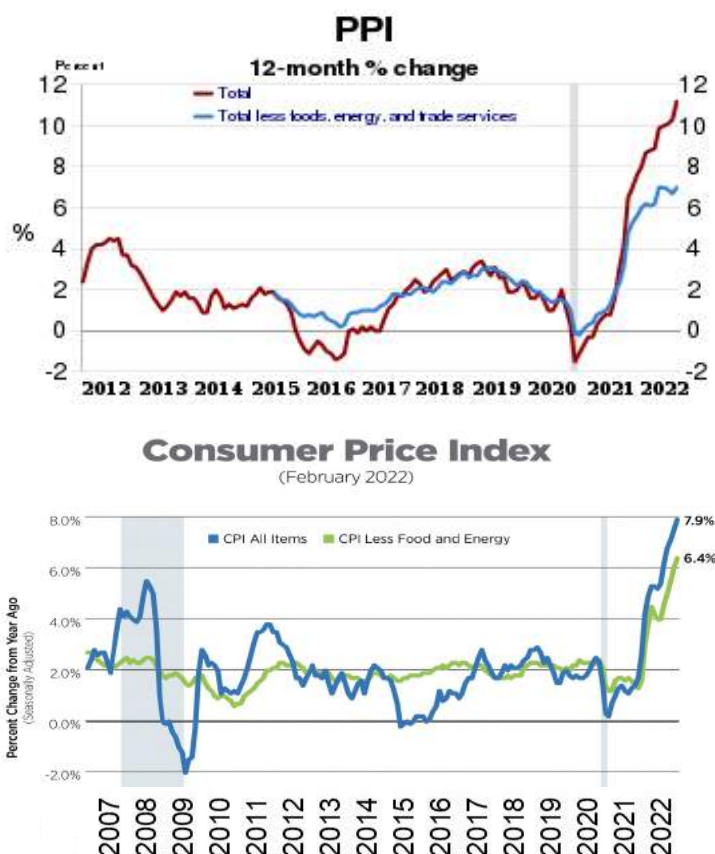
April 30, 2022

|                                 | Actual                    | Budget     | Actual                  | Budget                        |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Assessments and other income    | \$ 382,118                | \$ 382,834 | \$ 519,127              | \$ 510,446                    |
| <b>Operating Expenses:</b>      |                           |            |                         |                               |
| General and Administrative      | \$ 102,134                | \$ 100,868 | \$ 133,843              | \$ 134,490                    |
| Common Grounds                  | 45,090                    | 52,971     | 58,560                  | 70,728                        |
| Access Control/Gatehouse        | 86,988                    | 78,697     | 111,922                 | 104,929                       |
| Facilities Maintenance          | 23,999                    | 36,850     | 31,702                  | 49,133                        |
| Utilities                       | 22,523                    | 21,170     | 30,415                  | 28,227                        |
| Note to expenses:               | exceeded budget by \$9822 |            | below budget by \$20965 |                               |
| <b>Reserves:</b>                |                           |            |                         |                               |
| Contribution                    | \$ 92,279                 | \$ 92,279  | \$ 123,039              | \$ 123,039                    |
| Expense: Site Improvements      |                           |            | 15,417                  | (fountain; footbridge)        |
| Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment |                           |            | 21,818                  | (TrafficLogix, speed cameras) |
| <b>Assessments:</b>             |                           |            |                         |                               |
| Outstanding HOA Fees(1-90 days) | \$ 6,527                  |            | \$ 24,540               |                               |
| (91+ days)                      | 4,178                     |            | 7,780                   |                               |
| Total                           | \$ 10,705                 |            | \$ 32,248               |                               |

## What will inflation mean for our 2023 Dues?

Within in the next few months, the Board and management will begin the budget process for 2023, reaching out to our vendors for bids on their charges for 2023. With inflation at 40-year highs, we are using the PPI\* number and anticipating increases in the 10% range. The Board will work with our vendors to find ways to save money without jeopardizing the overall look and function of our community. Discretionary items are a very small part of our budget, yet we will look to save money where possible. It is very important that all residents are informed well in advance of the budget process. Please call me, Bob Oram—Treasurer (941-924-5170) or Melody Barackman—Chair of the FIRM (757-692-9886) with your questions.

\* PPI is a measure of inflation from the perspective of producers, while CPI is a measure of the total value of goods and services consumers have bought over a specified period.



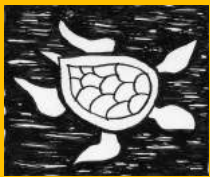
# Communications Committee



Are you in the loop? Thanks to Patty Fleming, the opportunity is there. She has volunteered untold hours verifying owners' email addresses and knocking on doors to obtain missing ones. Due to her efforts, 98 percent of Turtle Rock households (741 to be exact) are currently able to receive official correspondence from the Association, such as e-blast updates and newsletters. Thank you, Patty!

The goal of the Communication Committee is to facilitate communication in such a way that residents are informed, and allow them to have a voice. This newsletter is our primary method of communication, and we solicit your contributions each month. In the near future, the Board of Governors will email a survey to determine areas of interest for the community at large, including content for the newsletter. Once results are compiled, they will be shown in the newsletter.

The Communications Committee is also pleased to report that, after having spoken about their concerns at a recent Board meeting, two residents have chosen to be a voice on our committee. They have shown an interest in how and why decisions are made, and the Florida statutes regulating HOAs under which our Board operates. Steve Jones has joined the committee, and Ryan Ginter will be serving in an advisory capacity as his schedule allows. Both of these men have skills and insights in the area of technology to contribute.



## Turtle Rock Academy Lectures

By: Bette Mills, Chair

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.



# Natural Assets Committee

## Turtle Rock Pond Management: A Brief Policy Summary

Turtle Rock Natural Assets Committee has a mandate from the Board of Governors to monitor and manage the community's 31 stormwater retention ponds.

The primary function of these ponds is flood control. The committee helps to ensure the retention ponds function as designed by Sarasota County in conjunction with Palmer Ranch Master Development Plan to promote ecologically healthier ponds. The committee also strives to mitigate shoreline erosion behind homes.

Key to these efforts is planting and maintaining aquatic plants on littoral shelves and along pond shorelines; maintaining grass borders known as low maintenance zones (LMZs); and in severe cases of erosion, shoreline restoration.

**Aquatic plants:** Aquatic plants efficiently filter pond water and improve its quality. The Palmer Ranch Environmental Technical Manual requires a littoral shelf of no less than thirty percent of each stormwater retention pond or series of interconnected ponds. It also requires that at least three beneficial native species be maintained throughout each littoral zone. Having aquatic plants supports the food chain, allowing birds and other wildlife to live in and near the ponds. Pond plants help mitigate algae blooms, too.



**LMZs:** Current research specifies that an approximately two-foot-wide LMZ maintained at approximately 8-12 inches high reduces runoff and shoreline erosion. The committee maintains

these specifications for Turtle Rock's LMZs.

**Shoreline erosion restoration:** The first phase of the shoreline restoration program is underway. The committee has categorized erosion based on recorded vertical drop-off measurements (Tiers 1-3). The most severe (Tier 1) are being addressed. Only those portions of shoreline that are badly eroded have been or will be recommended for restoration.

**Challenges:** Algae blooms, fish die-offs beyond natural attrition, or growth of non-native or invasive plants such as cattails are reviewed and removed as needed. Existing plant growth on littoral shelves is largely required to meet county standards and committee specifications for healthy ponds. Floating vegetation is often mistaken for grass clippings, when it is more likely to be beneficial native tape grass that has been severed by fish nibbling near the base of the stems.



**Treatment:** The committee is mindful of the types and quantities of chemical treatment our vendors use, and such treatment is applied only when needed to control invasive plants. Having aquatic plants in place *reduces* the need for chemical treatment. Turtle Rock pond vendors also employ manual removal of plant matter when appropriate.

*Natural Assets Committee, April 25, 2022*

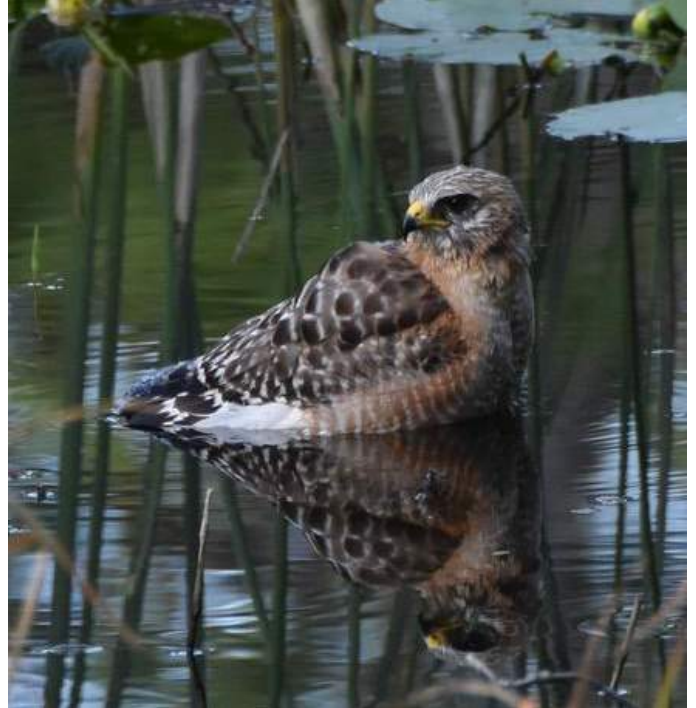
*Images: Heron in pickerelweed by Don Robear; pond by nature trail by Michelle van Schouwen.*

# Nature at its Finest

**Ginny Cheatham** and her husband have been living on Sabal Lake Circle for two years, during which time Ginny took up two hobbies—bird watching and photography—having no experience with either prior to moving to Sarasota. Turtle Rock is home to bi-peds beyond the human variety. Many species of birds live their lives here, engaging in the same type of daily activities as do their human neighbors. The photos below were all taken here in Turtle Rock within the last six months. A word of advice from Ginny regarding photographing wildlife, “Use a ‘zoom’ lens and don’t disturb the birds, especially those who are nesting or actively rearing the youngsters.”



**Purple Gallinule** getting in “steps” for exercise just off the boulevard at the south entrance.



**Red-shouldered Hawk** taking a bath by TR Blvd. just north of the tennis courts.



**Anhinga** eating a fish dinner at the edge of the Sabal Lake pond by TR Blvd.



**Sandhill Crane** mother teaching the kids how to swim in the large open water east of the island dividing the boulevard.

# Young Families' Group

By: Jennifer Wick



## *End of School Celebration at the Community Center—*



It was such a beautiful morning at Nokomis Beach today! It was great seeing everyone and meeting new neighbors! We will definitely have to continue it throughout the summer!





# PALMER RANCH NEWS

By Kathrin Harris, TR Representative



The Palmer Ranch Master Association Board of Trustees met May 19. Management informed that it is beginning the process of gathering expenses for 2023 in order to draft the 2023 annual budget. One area experiencing huge increases is insurance. Palmer Ranch will exceed their budgeted insurance costs for 2022 (Turtle Rock already had to approve increases that exceeded 2022 budgeted figures), and an additional 30+ percent increase is anticipated for the 2023 budget year.

Management also informed that there is currently a SURVEY that is soliciting opinions from members of Palmer Ranch. Results of this survey help the Board make decisions about how funds are prioritized. Management reported that to date, only 213 replies of the more than 14000 units currently paying dues have been registered. PLEASE follow the link on the right to participate in this 3-4 minute survey.

Palmer Ranch is in the (perhaps fortunate?) position that additional assessable units continue to be built, allowing steady dues despite cost increases. But that also means that the medians in the areas along this development (Honore Rd extension south of The Isles to the circle at Bay Street, and from there to just past the Legacy Trail) are intended to be improved in similar fashion as other streets within Palmer Ranch. As time marches on, inflation has more than doubled initial cost estimates for this effort. It's a good thing that the Master Association has carried over funds in the Enhancement budget line item for this upcoming expense.

The Board voted to approve Stantec Engineering's bid to conduct Construction Management Services for this effort, which is the first step in

beginning the planned enhancements that include laying electric, irrigation lines, installing a pump for those lines, and installing landscaping.

The Board also voted to limit the number of members in each committee to a maximum of two from any given subdivision, mirroring the language for Board members. As a reminder, PR Board meetings (currently conducted by Zoom) are open for all members of Palmer Ranch.

The Master Association is currently hosting a survey to gather some insight into what is relevant to Palmer Ranch members. If you have not yet done so, PLEASE complete the Palmer Ranch survey:

**[https://  
www.surveymonkey  
.com/r/PRstrategic](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PRstrategic)**

# Traffic Safety Task Force

By: Allyn Violet, Secretary, Traffic Safety TF

You may have noticed some cones, spray paint, and flags along Turtle Rock Boulevard in the past few weeks. These markers were the early stages of the installation of the poles that will hold the new speed cameras approved by the Board of Governors on March 1, 2022.

The Traffic Safety Task Force selected the locations based on past speed studies, as well as confirmation from Sarasota County that there are no utility lines in these areas. The poles will now be installed, and the camera equipment will be mounted and calibrated by a team from TrafficLogix, the provider of the cameras. Testing



ing of the system will also be performed for a period of time, so of course no tickets will be issued during this trial period. The community will be notified by email in advance of when actual ticketing of speeding violations will commence.

Installation of the four Board-approved new stop signs at Turtle Rock Boulevard and Benchmark Court (north and south) and Nice Way and Sweetmeadow Circle (east and west) and their

poles, will also be begin soon. New stop bars on the roadway emphasizing these new stop locations will be painted



If we all drive the speed limit of 25 mph, the camera system will not change our lives—except to make them safer!

## Turtle Rock Library Feature Book of the Month



### **Finding Freedom: A Cook's Story; Remaking a Life from Scratch**

by Erin French (memoir), 2021; 304 pp

The owner of the *Lost Kitchen*, an internationally acclaimed restaurant located in rural Maine, reveals her life's journey that led to this moment in time as the lauded visionary of cooking and dining in a far-flung corner of rural America. Erin's journey was marked by challenges, obstacles and tragedy, making her runaway success in the culinary world all the more noteworthy. Says Erin, "If there's anything that I've learned, it's that all the hard times I've been through — the potholes, the challenges, the missteps — have actually shaped me, defined me, and forced me to look at myself closely to see if I had the ability to rise. I believe that you'll always find your greatest strength in your weakest moments if you allow yourself to dig deeper than you thought you could ever dig."



# Turtle Rock Men's Club

## A WORTHY CAUSE

At our April Luncheon, Denise Cotler, Chief Development Officer at All Faiths Food Bank, and one of our own neighbors here in Turtle Rock, spoke on the role they play in Sarasota County and the tremendous need they have for both monetary support and volunteers. Denise highlighted their annual Campaign Against Summer Hunger, which focuses on providing meals for some 40,000 children during the summer months.



**CAMPAIGN AGAINST  
SUMMER HUNGER**  
ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK

The Men's Club wanted to support this cause and made a \$100 donation. Individuals attending the luncheon contributed an additional \$225 for a total donation of \$325. After the luncheon, we learned that two anonymous Members donated an additional \$1,000, increasing the total donation to \$1,325. Because the donation was eligible for a corporate match, our Member's generosity resulted in a wonderful gift for the children of Sarasota. \$2,650! Thank you, gentlemen, for demonstrating what a great organization and community we are all a part of.

### Save The Date!

*June's Luncheon will be held on June 15<sup>th</sup> at **Pinchers** in Venice.*

Summer is upon us, and many of you have or will be heading North for the summer. As in the past, the Men's Club will be taking a hiatus from its monthly luncheons beginning in July. We hope everyone enjoys their summer! We will announce future luncheon meetings as the schedule is complete.

\*\*\*\*\*



**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.

\*\*\*\*\*



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

**May:** Tom Bass, Jim Cerny, Al Guaspari, David Riccio,  
Tom Stumpek, Joe Thilman, Bill Tiffan, Tom Wentz

**June:** Jack Cox, Denny Miller, Richard Miller, Lou Schwartz

\*\*\*\*\*

If you are a new neighbor or know of someone who may be interested in joining the Men's Club, please have them contact me, Ken Roseman ([kenrosemann1231@gmail.com](mailto:kenrosemann1231@gmail.com)), and I will be glad to assist them in the process of joining.



# Turtle Rock Women's Club

The TRWC April luncheon at Rosemary & Thyme was well attended and everyone enjoyed a delicious meal in a new venue for us.



Eighteen members met at Selby Gardens for a self-guided tour of the gardens and the current Robert Mapplethorpe and Patti Smith: Flowers, Poetry and Light Exhibition. The weather was perfect and the gardens were beautiful! This photo was taken in front of one of the historic Banyan trees planted by the Selbys.



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 info about our club-sponsored events.

# Around The Rock

By: Michelle van Schouwen, Resident



## Quiet yards: Avoid excessive pool pump and air conditioning noise

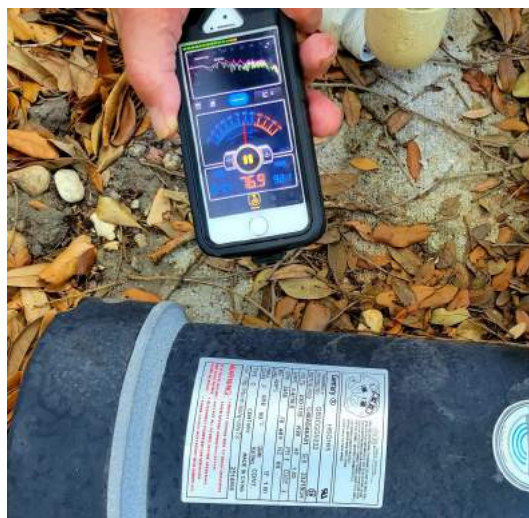
Florida pool pump/filtration systems and exterior air conditioner units work hard all year long, which means they get significant wear and tear. One danger is that they may start to create loud, unpleasant noise that will bother you or your neighbors, as well as pets — and even wildlife. When too loud, these appliances can violate Turtle Rock noise policies. Walk around your yard when the units are running. How do they sound?

### Pool pumps

When running well, pool pumps will make a humming sound, but it shouldn't be much more than a refrigerator makes. New variable-speed pumps are even quieter than older single-speed ones. But a number of conditions will make pool pumps unpleasantly loud:

- ♦ Running dry (not enough water in the pool) which will make a lot of noise and eventually ruin the pump
- ♦ Debris clogging the works, often causing a grinding noise
- ♦ Worn bearings
- ♦ Vibration of the pump system on its base
- ♦ Water leakage from the pump

Most pool pumps have a life expectancy of 8-12 years. Annual maintenance as well as a prompt call to a professional when you hear unusual sounds are important both to protect your pump and to maintain good relationships with your neighbors!



### Outside air conditioning units

Contemporary air conditioners should run very quietly. If you or your neighbors notice noise from yours, it's time to take action.

Causes may include:

- ♦ Broken or loose components, making banging or clanking sounds
- ♦ Thermostat or other control failure can cause frequent clicking
- ♦ Fan blades out of balance, a failing motor or blower, air filter in need of changing, or debris in the unit can cause a range of unusual noises, from banging to squealing to rattling

Again, annual service and an immediate call to your air conditioning professional when trouble arises will help you minimize problems as well as noise.

Turtle Rock's peaceful outdoor spaces rely on keeping system noise to a minimum, so we *all* benefit from each other's good maintenance of pool pumps and outside AC units.

*Photo: Measuring pool pump noise on a free phone app, by Donald Robear (more about appliance decibel levels [here](#))*

# Update on I-75 noise Reduction

Speaking of excessive noise, the Florida Department of Transportation is busy working on the Diverging Diamond interchange at I-75 and Clark Road. In connection with this, hundreds of mature trees that helped muffle noise were removed. In an effort to offset the resulting privacy intrusion and noise offense, a sound barrier wall is being erected.



Clearly, those closest to the highway will enjoy some benefit from this, but there is plenty of research that suggests the sound levels merely a few hundred feet from the wall are as bad as if there were no wall.

The communities within Palmer Ranch who are right up against the highway (Arbor Lakes, Village Walk, Sandhill Preserve, The Isles, and Hammock Preserve) have long advocated for such a wall to run along I-75 between Clark Rd and the 681 connector. Lakes of Serenoa and Pat Neal, developer of Grand Park, both on the east side of I-75, are also pleading for a wall. The latest information on this from Village Walk HoA President Tom Cunningham—

“Update on our Sound Wall Proposal: As of May 20, we have secured a total of 2,712 signatures on our petition. I appreciate the support of various subdivisions in the pursuit of this wall, as it will have a major impact on the quality of life in Palmer Ranch.

Earlier this week, I had a conversation with our State Senator Joseph Gruters, who we met earlier this year on our proposal. Senator Gruters indicated he has discussed this need with FDOT on numerous occasions and is continuing to push our proposal forward to the heads of the Department. Additionally, he indicated he would attempt to solve this legislatively in 2023. The Senator also indicated he met

with Pat Neal of Neal Communities who is pushing the Sound Wall on the Eastern side of I 75. Further, I have discussed this proposal with David Anderson who is on the Board of Serenoa Lakes and is also working on this proposal on the Eastern side.

At this point, all parties are aware of our intentions and the Senator wants you to know he is pushing the Sound Wall.

We sincerely appreciate everyone’s support on this project and are confident that the petitions provide us with a solid proposal. You can be assured that we will keep everyone informed on our progress.

# Chalk Art

Art By: Donna Wolfson



“Up, Up and Away” for Paul & Rosemary Chomicki’s 4-year-old granddaughter, who always brings me chalk when she visits. She loves pink and purple!



**Donna:** “I do it because it makes people smile! People come from all over TR to see them. They walk or drive over. Grandparents bring their grandkids. I hear people laughing outside and taking photos to share with friends and family up North. So many people have left chalk in the mailbox or by the front door. I will continue to do it until it no longer makes people happy.”

“Caught by the skin of his teeth”— literally

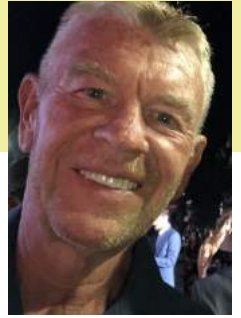
## TR CLASSIFIEDS and LOST & FOUND

**FOUND:** A men's bracelet was found at the basketball court. Please ask the owner to reach out to me at [pflemingcp@hotmail.com](mailto:pflemingcp@hotmail.com) or 219-616-0101 to identify.

Residents: this section of Turtle Talk is available for YOU to place a notice free of charge! PLEASE email [letstalkturtlerock@gmail.com](mailto:letstalkturtlerock@gmail.com) to place a classified announcement.

# From the WELCOME TEAM

By: Steve West



## Are YOU our new neighbor?

Did you recently move to Turtle Rock? Our Welcome Team tries its darndest to personally acknowledge all of our new residents, but, sometimes, our efforts fall short. If you are a relatively new arrival, we want to say,

***“Welcome to Turtle Rock!”***

Our team is ready to meet and greet you whenever your busy schedule finds the time. Questions or curiosities about anything your new neighborhood brings? We have answers! There’s even a little gift for you just to say we’re so glad you chose us to be your neighbors and friends.

Our schedule is flexible! You can contact us at: **letstalkturtlerock@gmail.com**

## 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: Ed Olson, Community Manager.

Board Liaison: Deirdre Cronin

Proofreader: Charlotte Jones