



INSIDE this ISSUE... Page

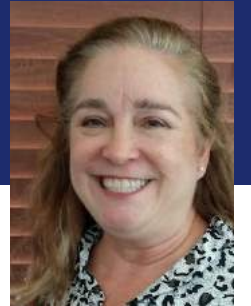
President's Message	1-2
Treasurer's Report	2
Management: CAM Corner	3-4
Traffic Safety TF	4
What's Reclaimed Water?	5-6
Rails 2 Trails, Part 2	7
Natural Assets Cttee	8-9
ARC	10
If It Walks Like a Duck...	11-12
Avoid Dryer Vent Fires!	13
Families' Club	14
Book of the Month	14
TR Women's Club	15
TR Men's Club	15
Landscape Committee	16
Welcome New Neighbor	16
Chalk Art	16
Classifieds—Wanted	17
Information	17

TURTLE TALK proof readers
check articles for errors in
spelling, punctuation, gram-
mar, and sentence structure.

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



President's Message



Deirdre Cronin

It's hard to believe that it's August and school begins again soon. I hope summer has given you time to reconnect with family and friends and perhaps enjoy some travel.

There is a great deal to share with you now and over the coming months about the recent survey of Turtle Rock homeowners. I remain extremely gratified by the response so many homeowners showed in completing the survey, generating comments, and volunteering to serve on committees and task forces. I want to thank each of my fellow governors for committing to analyze the results and focus their work efforts on the feedback so well expressed by our constituents.

Because we want to ensure that the Board is more fully aligned with HOA members' interests while also working within the restrictions and strictures placed on us by Florida statutes and the Turtle Rock governing documents, the Board met for two hours on 11 July in an open forum "workshop," which allowed the Board to work "in the sunshine." This workshop had the sole purpose of introducing and discussing survey results and developing an action plan for the Board to explore residents' concerns and suggestions. Each Board member was provided with anecdotal and statistical data and a pre-workshop assignment. The assignment included identifying three overall impressions of the survey results and three specific areas that need improvement. Five of the seven Board members participated, and thirteen HOA members observed either in person or via Zoom.

The results of our work were consistent among the Board of Governors. We knew that HOA members wanted to be heard, and the survey provided a forum for just that. We all agree that better communication is important, and we agreed on some immediate next steps.

- ♦ First, the Board agreed to reach out to approximately 50 individuals who expressed an interest in feedback or an ongoing conversation. Those names have been divided among the Board and calls are being made. If you do not receive a call, please email:

Continued on page 2

President's Message, Continued

President@myturtlerock.com

- ♦ Second, all the data, statistical and anecdotal, have been sent to each committee and task force chair by the designated Board Liaison. The data were sent with a request that their committees hold a meeting specifically to dive into the data, determine how their work can bring about positive change, write an article for the newsletter addressing this, and report back to the Board in September with recommendations. Sunstate Management has been asked to mirror this task.
- ♦ Third, the Board has asked the chairs of the Academy, committees, and task forces to reach out to the 22 people who expressed an interest in serving the community.
- ♦ Last, the Board knows it has work of its own to do. The Board has agreed to meet "in workshop" again on Friday, 5 August, at 2:00 pm. The agenda will be communicated, as usual, via e-blast and posted on the bulletin board at the Community Center, and HOA members are welcome to observe via Zoom or in person. The format does not al-

low for resident comments, but as with the July workshop, attendees are welcome to send in comments later. The purpose of this session is to refine the feedback received from the survey, committees, task forces and follow-up phone calls and emails sent by governors and committee chairs to draw up a strategic plan for the future.

It is challenging to also improve a process that has all committees working, increasingly collaboratively, as we do the important task of fulfilling our current agenda. However, this is absolutely the way we want to govern. Over the coming months, we hope to share more of our efforts and the data that drive it.

I encourage each of you to attend Board meetings, always held the first Tuesday of the month at the Community Center and via Zoom at 6:30 pm. Ninety-Three (93) percent of the 515 survey respondents awarded our beautiful Turtle Rock community a 5- or 4-star rating. While this is something to be celebrated, there is always more work to be done!



Treasurer's Report

Year-To-Date Ending:

June 30, 2022

	Actual	Budget
Assessments and other income	\$ 774,454	\$ 765,669
Operating Expenses**:		
General and Administrative	\$ 204,204	\$ 201,745
Common Grounds	90,159	105,942
Access Control/Gatehouse	163,346	157,393
Facilities Maintenance	52,075	73,700
Utilities	44,401	42,341

** Expenses were \$2332 less than revenues in June

Reserves:

Contribution	\$ 184,559	\$ 184,559
Expense: Site Improvements	6,783	

\$5960 for new air conditioning system at south gatehouse; \$823 sign materials

Assessments:

Outstanding HOA Fees	
(to 90 days)	\$ 5,565
(91+ days)	<u>2,762</u>
Total	\$ 8,327

CAM CORNER

By: Lisa Vignola, LCAM (Licensed Community Association Manager)



Greetings Turtle Rock!

Over my three months here I can say I've enjoyed meeting all of you and learning from all of you. So many homeowners have stopped in to share their history inside Turtle Rock and also to share their vision of their future here.

The question I've been asked the most this month was, "Why doesn't the **TROM** address Pedestrians using the Bike Lane?" A valid concern, as there are many Pedestrians walking solo, in groups, or with dogs and babies in the Bike Lane of our roadways! As you may be aware, there have been collisions before, and one must exercise extreme caution, especially around corners and curves, as it is critical to avoid any more disasters. While **TRCA** cannot enforce this law in the **TROM**, please be aware of **FL Statute 316.130** (below), as it reminds our Community that we have beautiful, safe sidewalks for all of our Pedestrians.

Pedestrians must use sidewalks when available:

s. 316.130 – Pedestrians; Traffic Regulations

- (3) *Where sidewalks are provided, no pedestrian shall, unless required by other circumstances, walk along and upon the portion of a roadway paved for vehicular travel.*
- (4) *Where sidewalks are not provided, any pedestrian walking along and upon a highway shall, when practicable, walk only on the shoulder on the left side of the roadway.*

For your own safety, please choose to use our sidewalks, not the roadways or the boulevard bike lanes.

I had wanted to introduce myself in the July newsletter, but somehow the message did not arrive with our editor. I have been your manager, employed by Sunstate Association Management, since mid May. While I am onsite full-time, here from 8:30 – 4:30 Monday through

Friday, I often need to meet with vendors, do compliance checks, or otherwise be out on property. I recommend you make an appointment to be sure I am there.

I have over eighteen years of experience in Property Management, with the last seven years being LCAM as an On-site Manager focusing on Home Owners Associations. My portfolio has included large master-planned communities, gated communities, and new-construction large-scale communities. Major attributes that I bring to you are financial guidance, transparency of operations, maintenance planning, committee start-up and support, and the ability to provide excellent customer service.

I was born in *Vignola*, Italy —yes, just like my last name! My very large, extended family moved to Chicago when I was three years old; my husband, young son, and I moved to Sarasota in 2002. During my career I have received several *Manager of the Year* awards and have been recognized for my unparalleled level of service. I have received awards for innovative development and implementation of ideas, but there is been no greater reward than meeting my husband and watching our son graduate college last year! As an *Empty-Nester*, I am very excited to begin this new chapter with you, as I have found myself with a lot of free time to spend on the water with our Stand-Up Paddle Boards and, of course, to devote to serving at the pleasure of your Board.

Some have even gotten to meet **Indominous Rex!** If you have not, please stop in as she is my Service Dog-in-Training. We call her **Rexy**, and she is a five month old Siberian Husky. On days when she is not in K9 Service

Continued on page 4

CAM CORNER, Continued

Training, she can be found in the **CAM** office awaiting Tummy Rubs from anyone who offers! I thank Turtle Rock for embracing her as much as it has me.

I'm looking forward to meeting all of you and helping Turtle Rock realize its vision to become the best version of itself!

Lisa Vignola, LCAM

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Traffic Safety Task Force — UPDATE

Please remind your guests, including contractors, to drive the posted speed limit when they are in our community. Under Turtle Rock's governing documents and the TROM, only the owners will receive emails and letters for the non-compliance of Turtle Rock's rules by themselves or their guests. See Turtle Rock Declarations, Article 4, Sections 4.05 and 4.08, and TROM Secs. IV.(C) and VII(H).

Two traffic cameras approved by the Board of Governors on March 1, 2022, were installed, calibrated, and tested since late June on north and southbound Turtle Rock Boulevard. They have been operating in a "MONITORING" status. Management gathered data from these cameras that was shared with the community via e-blast on July 29. From midnight, June 21, through noon, July 29, a total of **4,006** vehicles have been identified as driving *over* the posted speed 25 mph limit. This figure breaks down as follows:

- 1,440 were traveling under 35 mph;
- 2,290 were traveling over 35 mph;
- 254 were traveling over 40 mph; and
- 22 were traveling over 45 mph!

On August 15, 2022, the status of the cameras will be changed to "ACTIVE" meaning that if an owner or guest(s) are found to be going over the 25 mph speed limit, the owner will receive an email warning. The second time the owner or guest(s) do not obey the speed limit within a 12-month period, the owner will receive a letter and be fined \$50; and the third time the speed limit is exceeded by the owner or guest within a 12-month period, the owner will receive a letter and be fined \$100 with possible revocation of bar code privileges for thirty days.

A total of four new stop signs will be installed at two intersections: Benchmark and Turtle Rock Boulevard (north and south) and Sweetmeadow Circle and Nice Way (east and west) as soon as the stop-bar striping is completed. We will keep you updated on the status of these new signs.

Thank you for keeping Turtle Rock a safe community!



What Is RECLAIMED Water— and where does it come from??

By: Bob Violet, Chair, Landscape and Maintenance Committee, Somerset HOA

Have you ever wondered where your reclaimed water comes from and how it's processed by the County to be safe for irrigating your lawns and plantings? Reclaimed water has been safely used since 1929 with no known cases of illnesses or allergies. The water is safe for irrigation but not to drink!

Sarasota County Public Utilities operates three regional water reclamation treatment facilities (WRTFs) which treat millions of gallons of wastewater daily. Wastewater from homes and businesses is pumped through an underground network of purple/pink pipes and lift stations--99.9% is water and only 0.1% are solids. So, to dispel rumors, Turtle Rock's retention ponds do not provide irrigation water!

All County treatment plants are regulated by



Central County Utilities (CCU) off McIntosh Rd. The Legacy Trail is visible along the right, and the bottom left corner shows bordering Deer Creek Villa homes

the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Wastewater goes through a screening process, which removes larger deposits like coffee grounds, paper, seeds and similar items. The wastewater is then introduced to a "biological process" that uses bacteria to consume remaining solids in the wastewater. From there wastewater is separated from solids in a settling tank after which it goes over a weir (a low dam)

to sand filters to remove very small particles. The wastewater then flows to a chlorine contact chamber where disinfection takes place. This is where the wastewater is completed, and water is safe to use for irrigation purposes. Traces of pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) are present in reclaimed water that will not harm humans or wildlife. The dewatered bio-solids are transported later to a FDEP-approved composting facility.

Following these processes, water is transferred to holding ponds for distribution to users, including Turtle Rock residents. Turtle Rock's reclaimed water comes from the Bee Ridge WRTF located at 5550 Lorraine Road. It operates 24/7 and was constructed in 1994 and can treat 12 million gallons of wastewater a day. Occasionally, the Bee Ridge WRF produces excess reclaimed water which can be transported to an injection site/aquifer located on McIntosh Road, but a few breaches have occurred when holding ponds overflowed resulting in an environmental discharge. Summer rains add to this problem. This type of discharge is not permitted by the FDEP.

Continued on page 6

RECLAIMED Water, Continued

While several short-term steps have been undertaken, like pumping excess water to the injection site, a long-term solution called conversion to Advance Water Treatment (AWT) is in the works and should be completed by the end of 2023. The new facility will not only process more reclaimed water and avoid an environmental event but will also dramatically reduce the level of nitrogen and phosphorous in the irrigation water we receive. This means cleaner water on our lawns and shrubs.

When you get your next water bill from the County you will notice that the largest component of the bill is Wastewater Processing. Your quarterly assessments to Turtle Rock HOA covers irrigation water to your homes, Turtle Rock common areas, as well as common areas to Palmer Ranch*. Irrigation water saves us from using potable water, our most precious resource, to water our lawns. Without the right amount of water, life as we know it dies. We are fortunate, despite a few interruptions, to have the water we need to keep our precious landscapes in Turtle Rock healthy. For more information, I urge you to “Google” Sarasota County’s Reclaimed Water Facilities. I want to thank Sarasota County’s Reclaimed Water staff for their support in writing this article.

Additional information from Kathrin Harris, writing as Palmer Ranch representative:

More Background —

* Association Dues for reclaimed water per the approved 2022 budgets:

Turtle Rock

\$54000 / 758 = \$71.24/year
(less than 20¢ per day)

Palmer Ranch

\$53050 / 13000 = \$4.08/year
(around 1¢ per day)

When Palmer Ranch (PR) was being developed, the wastewater facility along McIntosh Rd belonged to PR Development. It was capable of “digesting” 2 million gallons of sewage/day, and built specifically to supply irrigation to the golf courses of Prestancia and Stoneybrook. Early subdivisions within PR do NOT enjoy the reclaimed irrigation water for their homes! For comparison, many homes in Stoneybrook who still do not enjoy reclaimed irrigation water pay around \$350/month for potable water during dry spring months, roughly \$150-250 more per month than many single family homes pay monthly for potable water. Makes our \$0.20/day pretty welcome!

The county purchased the facility in 2002, and has expanded it to process up to 10 million gallons/day. The project completed last summer to enlarge the irrigation mains that run along Palmer Ranch Pkwy between McIntosh and Honore did much to improve pressure. So what about those subdivisions going in farther south on Honore— will they also reap the benefits of reclaimed water? Yes, but not in the way older subdivisions within Palmer Ranch do. Similar to the arrangement with Cobblestone, the CCU will pump water into retention ponds along and within those communities, and the communities will be responsible for pressurizing their system by pumping reclaimed water to homes and common areas. The same holds true for the soon to be beautified medians along Honore from *The Isles* south to the Bay Street roundabout, and from there along Bay Street to the Legacy Trail crossing. Palmer Ranch will invest in a pump station, irrigation infrastructure, and additional landscaping to bring that area on par with the rest of the Ranch. Although funds have been reserved for this effort for years, recent price increases make this a million dollar plus project that all PR residents will offset.



R2R — Rails to Trails — Part 2

by Kathrin Harris

When a firm of attorneys based in Washington, DC wrote to our Board of Governors' president in 2007 asking us to join a class action suit against the government, all of us on the Board found the notion pointless: why would anyone owe us money for property we didn't think we owned or had any rights to? But we, the Board, figured why not...what could it hurt?

After six years of legal battle (without much effort on Turtle Rock's part), the attorney prevailed, and we— along with many other property owners along the 13-mile section of former railway— were reimbursed for loss of use of the trail's easement. The settlement for our roughly 1.4 miles was valued at just over \$1.7 million, of which the attorney took 1/3 for his years-long effort.

Although the association is a not-for-profit, we are not a tax-exempt 501c3. Often, a land owner purchases other land using the compensation received (for the taking of private lands for public use), thus avoiding tax on the gain. However, this was obviously not an option for Turtle Rock. Initially, we paid income taxes to the state of Florida, and assumed we would owe the IRS 35% of our roughly \$1.2 million of gains. However, to the rescue came our then Board President Doug Smith, an Iowa corporate tax attorney, who felt there was legal precedent to avoid capital gains tax. Our CPA was not able to advise, so Doug convinced the Board to hire a Florida licensed corporate tax attorney to provide advice. And the nominal fees paid to the attorney were returned a hundred-fold: the attorney was of the opinion that new capital assets to the existing property would satisfy the requirement to offset gains, thus avoiding all tax. A few years later, the original Washington, DC attorney firm prevailed

in retrieving the fees it charged Turtle Rock from the US government as loser in the case. Bottom line: Turtle Rock netted over \$1.7 million from the suit we all assumed was a frivolous tort.

So what happened to the \$1.7 million— how was it spent on capital improvements? Several things, such as:

- ◊ repaving of all our roadways about a year or two ahead of schedule
- ◊ complete revamping of the Community Center, including impact windows and doors, removing walls, relocating the kitchen, adding a storage closet, new flooring, refurbished bathrooms, and built-in cabinets
- ◊ the outdoor exercise equipment was added
- ◊ the playground area got new equipment
- ◊ the pool got a geothermal heater
- ◊ additional light posts were installed throughout the community
- ◊ the gatehouses were equipped with impact windows and doors
- ◊ the rest was dedicated to the reserves.

This prefunding for the future of all line items in our reserves is what allowed the Association to keep our dues structure steady for many years. As operating budgets increased due to inflation, the reserve expense was minimal since so much of it had already been completed. Additionally, \$300K had been added for landscape improvements, monies that were used much later to offset the cost of new street signage, pond restoration efforts, and the mailbox project.

With the addition of so many capital improvements comes the requirement to reserve for their eventual replacement. Along with recent high inflation, our reserve budget will require a hefty increase paid into it. All those working to draft the 2023 budget will have difficult work to assure we remain financially sound, yet keep dues from skyrocketing.



Natural Assets Committee

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About Our Ponds



This is the first in an occasional series of FAQs for both new residents and longtime neighbors. Included are links for further reading.

Why do we have so many stormwater retention ponds?

The primary function of our retention ponds is flood control. Our 31 retention ponds collect and filter stormwater runoff as well as providing habitat for fish, birds, turtles, alligators, and other freshwater life – and beauty for residents. Learn more:

[Turtle Rock Pond Management: A Brief Policy Summary](#)

How do the retention ponds function?

Our ponds are designed to minimize the danger of flooding from heavy summer rains and storms. Their water comes from rain, including what drains into the ponds from swales between lots. A network of wetlands and water flow devices controls the flow into, between, and out of ponds. The water drains into Catfish Creek, which empties into Little Sarasota Bay near Vamo, and into South Creek, which joins Little Sarasota Bay south of Blackburn Bridge. Learn more:

[Flood Prevention – How our Retention Pond System Works](#), pages 9-10.

What are those plants growing in the ponds?

Native aquatic plants grow on the shallow littoral shelves of many of the ponds. This may include a broad area (often away from homes) as well as a narrower strip adjacent to shorelines near homes.

Do the aquatic plants serve a purpose?

Yes! Aquatic plants efficiently

filter pond water and improve its quality. 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. That's why the Palmer Ranch Environmental Technical Manual requires a littoral shelf of no less than thirty percent of each stormwater retention pond or series of inter-

connected ponds. It also requires that at least three beneficial native species be maintained throughout each littoral zone.

Turtle Rock monitors plants and removes invasive plants, algae, and overgrowth when necessary. Learn more:

[Ponds Management Policy Brief](#)

How does Turtle Rock protect birds and wildlife?

Fostering aquatic plants, maintaining a taller grass buffer (low maintenance zone) along



Continued on page 9

Natural Assets Committee, Continued

shorelines, protecting wetlands, and prudently managing any chemical treatments used in ponds are key ways Turtle Rock encourages our many species of birds to live, nest, or migrate through our community. Resident bird-watchers spot dozens of species – everything from bald eagles and barred owls to Carolina wrens, cardinals and many more – living beside us or dropping by as they migrate. Wildlife also benefits from our stewardship of preserves, ponds, wetlands, and nature trail.

What should I know about alligators?



In Florida, serious injuries from alligators are atypical. Nevertheless, living safely with our ancient alligator neighbors relies on taking common-sense precautions:

- don't feed them (in fact, it's illegal in the state of Florida),
- don't swim or wade in ponds,
- keep small children and dogs away from pond edges, and
- just leave the alligators alone.

Know that if you ask to have an alligator “removed,” it won't be moved, but killed and sold for meat and hide. Please consider Turtle Rock's alligators as wildlife to be admired and respected. Learn more:

[Coexisting with Alligators](#)

Can I fish? Can I boat?

Yes and yes. Fishing is permitted — but not behind other homeowners' houses unless you have permission. Turtle Rock recommends “catch and release,” because retention pond

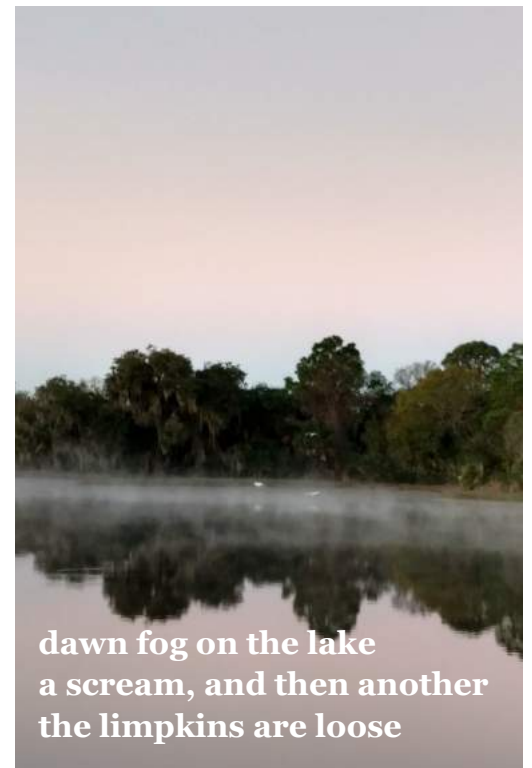
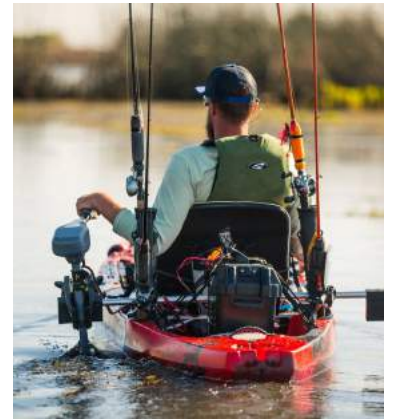
water may contain contaminants. Approved watercraft include canoes, kayaks, rowboats, and paddle boats. The maximum length for watercraft is 16 feet, and boats may be powered by an electric motor, one horsepower or less.

Turtle Rock now has its own kayak ramp, located behind the community center and pool area. Learn more:

[Kayak Launch](#), page 7

Images: Pond view, Michelle van Schouwen; roseate spoonbill, Donald Robear

Logo created by Barry Domenick, Turtle Rock Resident



dawn fog on the lake
a scream, and then another
the limpkins are loose

Architectural Review Committee

By Curt Gilroy, Chair



The Architectural Review Committee (ARC) continues to be busy month after month, as homeowners have been taking an interest in enhancing the look of their properties for the betterment of not only their homes, but of Turtle Rock in general. These improvements benefit us all as property values remain high, reflecting the desire for living in Turtle Rock.

The results from the recent Turtle Rock survey bear this out. Over 90 percent of Turtle Rock homeowners gave Turtle Rock a 4- or 5-star rating – with the majority rating us with 5 stars! This speaks volumes about how we think of our community. And the most important factor that came out of the survey – by far – was “overall community upkeep.” The Landscape Committee is working hard to keep the common areas looking good, but you as homeowners deserve so much credit for the interest you show in keeping your homes pristine. The ARC thanks you.



most popular application we receive. Tree removal and replacement is also happening more frequently. This is understandable as many of our beautiful oak trees have grown too large for our properties. The ARC has been recommending homeowners consider replacing their

oaks with a Black Olive (Shady Lady), a very attractive substitute without the invasive root structure.

Exterior painting is also prevalent among ARC applications, as is painting the lanai cage – with nearly all switching from the typical white cage to shades of bronze which blend so much better with the surrounding landscape. The remaining applications include new hurricane windows and doors, as well as gutters. Every month, we are receiving one or two applications for driveway and walkway pavers – a significant

contributor to one's home value.

In addition to reviewing ARC applications, the ARC members are here to assist homeowners in considering any aspect of exterior home improvement. Even if there is no immediate need to enhance a property, the ARC is available to consult with homeowners about possible future improvements. So, homeowners should feel free to call any of the ARC members for consultation.

The most prominent ARC applications continue to be for new roofs. Our community is nearly 30 years old, and some homes still have their original tile roofs. Also, our plants and shrubs are now tired and in need of replacement. Change of landscaping is the second

From time to time, the ARC receives notices that some homeowners undertake exterior projects without ARC approval. This happens most frequently with new residents who may be unaware of the rules in a deed restricted community and have not read the Turtle Rock Owners' Manual (TROM). The ARC encourages all homeowners to read the TROM and work with our Committee in defining and executing your projects.

Finally, the ARC wishes to thank you again for not only working with us, but for continuing efforts you make in maintaining and upgrading your properties to enhance the beauty of Turtle Rock.

If It Walks Like a Duck...

By: Ginny Cheatham of Sabal Lake Circle

You know the old joke, “if it walks like a duck and talks like a duck, then it’s a duck,” but do you know what *kind* of duck? And, is it really a duck? The *Sibley Guide to Birds* (2000) describes about 40 species of ducks, and local authorities estimate between 15-20 types can be found in our area of Florida. The Florida Mottled Duck is one of the few species of North American ducks that does not migrate, being what the experts call “endemic,” meaning it only

exists in Florida, according to 2017 blog written by the University of Florida. <https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/polkco/2017/09/19/common-ducks-in-central-florida/> (last visited 7/5/22). This same blog explains that Whistling Ducks and Wood Ducks do not build nests, preferring to reside in natural tree cavities, although they will also nest in boxes or marsh vegetation if housing is scarce. Although these, and other species of ducks, swim on our ponds, we often see some birds who are merely duck-like.

Can you tell which one is an imposter in the photos below?



If It Walks Like a Duck... Continued

Part bird, part submarine, the *Pied-billed Grebe* is common across much of North America, and while it may resemble a duck, it is NOT! This small brown bird has unusually thick bills that turn silver and black in summer. They are expert divers that inhabit sluggish rivers, freshwater marshes, lakes, and estuaries. They use their chunky bills to kill and eat large crustaceans along with a great variety of fish, amphibians, insects, and other invertebrates. Rarely seen in flight and often hidden amid vegetation, Pied-billed Grebes announce their presence with loud, far-reaching calls. Their distinctive very small body and comparatively large, blocky head is a good shape to look for.

Interesting facts about Pied-billed Grebes (added by Turtle Talk editor Kathrin Harris)—

- The Latin genus name for “grebe” means “feet at the buttocks”—an apt descriptor for these birds, whose feet are indeed located near their rear ends, helping propel them through water. Lobed (not webbed) toes further assist with swimming. Pied-billed Grebes pay for their aquatic prowess on land, where they walk awkwardly.
- chicks typically leave the nest the first day after hatching and spend much of their first week riding around on a parent’s back. They usually spend most of their first 3 weeks on or near the nest platform.
- They are fairly poor fliers and typically stay on the water—although rare individuals have managed to fly as far as the Hawaiian Islands, Europe, the Azores, and the Canary Islands.
- Trapping water in their feathers gives them great control over their buoyancy. They can sink deeply or stay just at or below the surface, exposing as much or as little of the body as they wish. The water-trapping ability may also aid in the pursuit of prey by reducing drag in turbulent water.
- Like other grebes, the Pied-billed Grebe eats large quantities of its own feathers. Feathers may at times fill up more than half of a grebe’s stomach, and they are sometimes fed to newly hatched chicks. The ingested plumage appears to form a sieve-like plug that prevents hard, potentially harmful prey parts from passing into the intestine, and it helps form indigestible items into pellets which they can regurgitate.
- When in danger, they sometimes make a dramatic “crash-dive” to get away. A crash-diving grebe pushes its body down with its wings thrust outward. Its tail and head disappears last, while the bird kicks water several feet into the air.



More Pied-billed Grebes for reference

AVOID Dryer Vent FIRES!

By: Patty Fleming of Deerbrook Circle

Just a heads up! There are over 3,000 dryer fires each year. When we purchased our home here in Turtle Rock, one of the first things we did was hire a professional to clean our dryer vent. I was shocked at what they found as shown in the photo. My guess, it had not been cleaned in years, if ever. Many of the homes here in Turtle Rock have interior utility rooms which force a dryer vent to pass vertically through a wall to the roof. It is a commonly ignored hidden danger to all homeowners. Please read the following information regarding the potential fire hazard that may be in your home and ways to prevent it. There are many local companies, some owned and manned by firemen, that provide a thorough cleaning for less than \$100. It is a small price to pay for safety and peace of mind.



For more information and free fire safety resources, visit: www.usfa.fema.gov

Clothes Dryer fire safety: it is important for people to know how to keep themselves safe from fire. The following are tips about clothes dryer fire safety.

Clothes Dryer Do's

Installation

- * Have your clothes dryer installed by a professional.
- * Make sure the correct electrical plug and outlet are used and that the dryer is connected properly.
- * Read manufacturers' instructions and warnings in use and care manuals that come with new dryers.

Cleaning

- * Clean the lint filter before and after each load of laundry. Don't forget to clean the back of the dryer where lint can build up. In addition, clean the lint filter with a nylon brush at least every six months or more often if it becomes clogged.
- * Clean lint out of the vent pipe every three months.
- * Have your dryer cleaned regularly by a professional, especially if it is taking longer than normal for clothes to dry.

Maintenance

- * Inspect the venting system behind the dryer to ensure it is not damaged or restricted.
- * Put a covering on outside wall dampers to keep out rain, snow and dirt.
- * Make sure the outdoor vent covering opens

when the dryer is on.

- * Replace coiled-wire foil or plastic venting with rigid, non-ribbed metal duct.
- * Have gas-powered dryers inspected every year by a professional to ensure that the gas line and connection are together and free of leaks.
- * Check regularly to make sure nests of small animals and insects are not blocking the outside vent.
- * Keep the area around the clothes dryer free of items that can burn.
- * If you will be away from home for an extended time, unplug or disconnect the dryer.

Clothes Dryer Do Not's--

- * Don't use a clothes dryer without a lint filter or with a lint filter that is loose, damaged or clogged.
- * Don't overload the dryer.
- * Don't use a wire screen or cloth to cover the wall damper. They can collect lint and clog the dryer vent.
- * Don't dry anything containing foam, rubber or plastic. An example of an item not to place in a dryer is a bathroom rug with a rubber backing.
- * Don't dry any item for which manufacturers' instructions state "dry away from heat."
- * Don't dry glass fiber materials (unless manufacturers' instructions allow).
- * Don't dry items that have come into contact with anything flammable like alcohol, cooking oils or gasoline. Dry them outdoors or in a well-ventilated room, away from heat.
- * Don't leave a clothes dryer running if you leave home or when you go to bed.

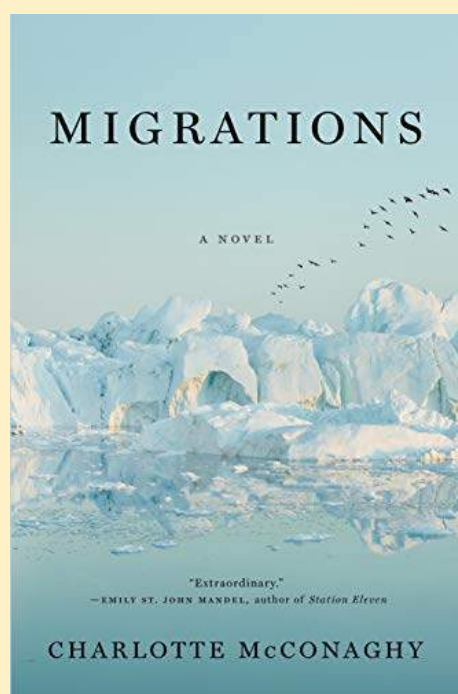
Young Families' Group

By: Jennifer Wick



Another great Turtle Rock gathering of families at the beach on July 24! We also hosted a pool party on July 31, too late to get photos for the newsletter. Check our Facebook Page: [TURTLEKIDSRock](#)

Turtle Rock Library Feature Book of the Month



Migrations

by Charlotte McConaghy (novel), 2021; 272 pp

Franny Stone has always been the kind of woman who is able to love but unable to stay. Leaving behind everything but her research gear, she arrives in Greenland with a singular purpose: to follow the last Arctic terns in the world on what might be their final migration to Antarctica. Franny talks her way onto a fishing boat, and she and the crew set sail, traveling ever further from shore and safety. But as Franny's history begins to unspool—a passionate love affair, an absent family, a devastating crime—it becomes clear that she is chasing more than just the birds. When Franny's dark secrets catch up with her, how much is she willing to risk for one more chance at redemption? Epic and intimate, heartbreaking and galvanizing, *Migrations* is an ode to a disappearing world and a breathtaking page-turner about the possibility of hope against all odds.



Turtle Rock Women's Club

Upcoming events:

August 3 luncheon— Chianti Ristorante Italiano
September 7 luncheon— Miguel's Restaurant
September 28 FOOD Truck Event with TR Men's Club at TRCC
October 5 luncheon— Grillsmith
October 15 Octoberfest at TRCC

The TR community offers a free fiction book library open to all residents. Please browse the donated collection and take any books you would like to read. Donations of fiction books (only) are also accepted. Just drop them off in the library room to the right of the main room inside the TRCC entrance. *Please no non-fiction books or autobiographies.*



Not a member of the Turtle Rock Women's Club? Email us at turtlerockwomensclub@gmail.com to receive our monthly newsletters and info about our club-sponsored events.



Turtle Rock Men's Club

SAVE THE DATES

The Men's and Women's Clubs are collaborating on the co-hosting of two events:

A Food Truck Extravaganza

September 28th, 11 – 3PM

AND

An Oktoberfest Celebration

October 15th

More information and event details will be forthcoming on both events.



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 to sign up or for more information.



We wish the following a Happy Birthday in AUGUST!

Irv Broh, Michael Geramanis, Aaron King

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

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), and I will be glad to assist them in the process of joining.

Landscape & Grounds

By Jodi Cunnison



The Committee met with Shane Battle from Bloomings on July 13, 2022. Attending from the Committee were Curt Gilroy, Kathrin Harris, Diane Geramanis and Jodi Cunnison.

Shane gave the Committee an update as to Bloomings' progress:

- weed control has been occurring through spraying
- the Awabuki hedge along Central Sarasota Parkway has received new shrubs where ones had died, and will be trimmed to control the height and also to help the hedge fill out
- the hedge along the east side of Turtle Rock Blvd, between Benchmark and Sweetmeadow Circle, has been evaluated and recommended for removal and replacement plantings
- Magnolia trees along the Blvd have been deep

-treated with fertilizer.

- Plantings will be installed in the Blvd. median at Sable Lake Circle, along with the final plantings at the north end of the nature trail.
- minor tree trimming will occur along the Blvd in order to keep overhanging branches from hitting trucks that drive by. The major tree trimming will occur in the winter.

The Committee also reviewed the status of the funding for improvements to the butterfly garden, discussed the speed camera warning signs that were recently installed along the Blvd, and took note of the fact that tree roots were causing damage to the new tennis court surface. Management will be following up on the tree root issue.

Welcome Cttee

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!"

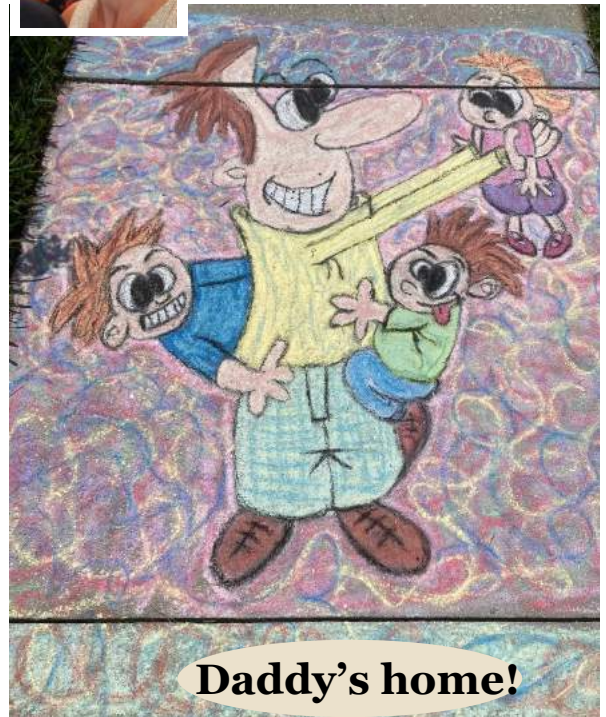
Our team is ready to meet and greet you whenever your busy schedule finds the time. Questions or curiosities about anything your new neighborhood brings? We have answers! There's even a little gift for you just to say we're so glad you chose us to be your neighbors and friends.

Our schedule is flexible! You can contact us at:

letstalkturtlerock@gmail.com

Chalk Art

Art By: Donna Wolfson



TURTLE ROCK

CLASSIFIEDS and LOST & FOUND

WANT—SELL—BORROW—LEND— RECYCLE

LOOKING FOR ANOTHER TURTLE ROCK HOME TO RENT—

We are a retired couple currently in our second year of renting in Turtle Rock (4921 Sabal Lake Circle). We have come to love Turtle Rock and its residents and are looking for another rental in Turtle Rock (our current owner is moving back). We could start anytime between now and 10/31/22. We are looking for: An unfurnished house with at least 3 bedrooms and a den or 4 bedrooms. At least two baths. A pool with heat. Annual rental (will consider multiple years). We will take great care of your home.

Please contact: Doug Frazier, doug.frazier1@icloud.com, 847-943-7538.

LOOKING FOR HELP WEEDING—

Is there a student in the neighborhood willing to earn some cash by weeding? We live on Glade Fern Ct. and would like you to get here by yourself. Please call Larry Winer: 941-726-5572

Residents: this section of Turtle Talk is available for YOU to place a notice free of charge!
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 Geramanis & 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 & Steve Jones, committee members

Sunstate liaison: Lisa Vignola, Community Manager

Board Liaison: Deirdre Cronin

Proofreader: Charlotte Jones