




# Turtle Talk

## February 2023

### BOG BRIEF

#### Actions from the January 10 Board Meeting

By: Kathrin Harris, Board Treasurer

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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.

Our ANNUAL MEMBER Meeting will take place February 7, starting at 6:30pm in the Community Center. You may also join via Zoom. We will host Palmer Ranch Community Manager Tracy Smith, who will provide information on Palmer Ranch. The agenda is the counting of ballots for election of two Board members, as well as any discussion topics that members wish to bring up. However, as of this date, we **DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH PROXIES** to conduct a meeting!! We **NEED** you to complete your proxies!! If we do not get 30% of the membership to participate in person or by proxy (that's 228 units!), the meeting must be rescheduled, requiring another mailing that will cost about \$2000.



Several owners have returned their votes in the BLUE BALLOT envelope that was not inside the return envelope that requires the return address to be noted. This is our way of assuring that only vote vote per

unit is cast. The dual envelope system assures anonymity, because once the unit address from the outer envelope has been noted, the contents are separated and put into a container for the counting of ballots during the meeting. Ballots will be generic and not marked in any fashion, the envelopes only opened by the Election Committee for counting. If you are in need of either a pink proxy or blue ballot with envelope, please visit the office or contact management: [communitymanager@myturtlerock.com](mailto:communitymanager@myturtlerock.com) 941-780-9855

On to the actions of the January Board meeting:

- approved funds not to exceed \$4500 to mechanically remove excess vegetation from certain ponds; funding to come from operating account: Waterway Maintenance;
- approved fining of violation per manager's compliance report;
- approved initiating the speeding violation process according

Continued on page 2

# BOG BRIEF, Continued

to the TROM compliance procedure, while continuing to add data into the ABDI database to allow proper verification;

- approved the latest bid for \$23,500 for community-wide sidewalk repairs, which includes pouring three pads for benches, from Howell Construction, to be paid from the sidewalk repair Reserve Fund line item;
- approved “A-Z” revised bid for foot bridge repair, again pending Natural Assets Committee review and approval.

Updates on other items:

- Landscape – Mulch to be put down January 23 -25. Straightening of the street signs and mailboxes will be done by Forsite; need to take inventory of signs and mailboxes that need straightening in order to get a proposal. Some trees blown down by Hurricane Ian will need to be replaced; the committee is considering proposals.
- New Manager – Nanette Thomas is our new CAM; Lynn Lakel is bringing her up to speed on Turtle Rock. Alvina will remain on property as Administrative Assistant, and the rest of the

Sunstate team will continue back-office support.

- New fountain – with a new spray pattern has been installed and working well.
- Pool Heater – Symbiont, original pool heater installation company, is working to determine the scope of the problem to repair the issue that appears to be a leak in the compressor.
- Trash to Treasure – Trash to Treasure is February 11<sup>th</sup>. If you would like your address added to the map to be handed out at gate during the event, email [letstalkturtlerock@gmail.com](mailto:letstalkturtlerock@gmail.com)
- Hazardous Waste Pickup – scheduled for February 21 has been changed to 10am – 12pm to avoid morning school bus pickups.
- Nominations Committee – There are four owners running for the Board of Governors. A Meet the Candidates Night was hosted on January 24 at the Community Center starting at 6:30 pm, in person and with Zoom link.

PLEASE NOTE: the next Board meeting will be scheduled during the Organizational Meeting of the Board scheduled for February 7.



Did you notice that Turtle Rock has its own dedicated flashing crosswalk signal? Thanks to the efforts of several communities and Palmer Ranch, the county decided this was a necessary measure with the continued increase in the overall amount of traffic along Palmer Ranch Pkwy.

**But you NEED TO PUSH THE BUTTON to make it do its job!!**

Just like the flashing lights for the Legacy Trail crossing on Central Sarasota, it will not work until you activate it!

Please adhere to the posted speed limit of 25 mph and remind your visitors, vendors, and contractors to drive the speed limit as well. Thank you for doing your part to keep Turtle Rock a safe place to live and play.



# Meet the Candidates Night

Took place January 24 at the Community Center— standing room only!



Over 50 residents attended this event, either in person or via Zoom. Seen on top from left to right: Nominating Committee members Dodie Neuhauser, Ken Rosemann, and Deirdre Cronin; and Board Candidates Russ Gill, Phil Grayton, Lutz Hoffman, and Slava Burdman.

If you have not yet voted, their applications are available on the home page of the Turtle Rock website (top right), and the bios they submitted are on the following pages. THANK you to an excellent group of owners who stepped up willing to serve their community!



A note regarding ballots: we have received 46 envelopes BLUE BALLOT (or just hand written BALLOT) without being placed inside a return envelope that includes identifying information on them. If you have returned your ballot without a cover envelope that includes your Turtle Rock address, **THEY CANNOT BE COUNTED** because we can't attribute them to an address. We need to make sure only one vote is submitted per address, and without addresses on outer envelopes (not on the Ballot envelope), we can't ensure that. If this pertains to you, please stop by the Community Center and get a new package so your valuable vote can be resubmitted and counted.

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There is an unpleasant increase in pet waste littering areas along our sidewalks. One resident found a messy pile right on their freshly power-washed driveway! Imagine how annoyed you would be! And it's important to scoop the poop as it can spread disease to the surrounding wildlife as well as to our pets and, in some cases, can be transmitted to humans. **PLEASE have the courtesy of picking up after your dog!**

# BOARD CANDIDATES

The following owners self-nominated to serve on the Board of Governors from February 2023 to February 2026. The candidates have been vetted by the committee for being up to date on dues and without violations.



## **Slava Burdman**

*5124 Redbriar Ct.*

We moved to Turtle Rock a year ago. I own two businesses-- a consulting firm for smaller Life-Sci companies. I support their planning and modeling efforts. It is a virtual business mostly with clients located up North in the Boston Area and West Coast (SD and SF). I've been running it for the last 15 years. I also have a small R/E business and a number of apartments and houses I invested in both here in FL and up north in the Boston Area. I have managers I hired to support that business. I also help my wife Elena manage her Injectable Aesthetics business here in Sarasota from the Business/Finance standpoint.

Prior to moving to Turtle Rock, we did not live in deed restricted communities, so while this is new to us, we are learning to live within the restrictions and guidelines. I do appreciate the positive benefits, though, i.e. security (knowing my kids can walk the dog late at night and not having to worry) and the uniformity of the neighborhood. Knowing we live among like-minded families with similar values is really comfortable. We made a lot of friends since moving into Turtle Rock last summer and have enjoyed spending time at social gatherings with our neighbors.

I don't think TR has been "poorly" managed, after all, we are really enjoying being here. I think just like any other business, it's important to stay focused on the positive and clean up whatever needs to be adjusted. Being flexible and responsive is very important when dealing with people. My philosophy is collaboration and engagement. I think we should use modern technology more in soliciting all members' feedback on important decisions like safety, traffic, grounds management, etc. It does not cost much, but has a meaningful impact.



## **Russ Gill**

*Wildflower Ct.*

We moved into Turtle Rock in April 2015. I have been on the Communications Committee, the TROM rewrite task force and the Declarations rewrite task force. I served as a

member of the Board of Governors in 2019, and as President in 2020.

I have my BS Mathematics from MSU, MBA from U Detroit Mercy. I worked 29 years in the Information Technology (IT) organization for Michigan Bell, which later became part of the regional telephone company, Ameritech. My responsibilities included managing the IT Technical Training Center; managing computer operations, and the IT technical support staff. After retirement, I worked for an IT consulting firm for 10 years. During this part of my career, I met with CIOs and CFOs to evaluate their IT environments and make recommendations to improve their financial and operational efficiency. If the client wanted to use an external service provider to accomplish the efficiencies, I would develop service contracts and negotiate the contracts on behalf of the client.

I volunteer at Selby Gardens for special events; I've been an AARP volunteer federal income tax preparer since 2010. I have been on the board of every homeowner or condo association where we have lived. In Michigan, I was a member of our homeowner's association for a number of years and President for 2 years. In Florida when we lived on Longboat Key, I was a member of our condo association board for 5 years, as well as chair of the landscape/grounds committee.

# Nominating Committee, Continued



**Philip Grayton**

*5117 Brooksbend Cir*

Originally from Danvers, Massachusetts, a town on the north shore 22 miles north of Boston, I relocated to Turtle Rock October 2021 with my wife Elena, and son Matthew. In my

professional career I have worked in medical research, an analytical laboratory, analytical equipment sales, regional management of sales in Asia Pacific, and owned my own business in financial services and insurance. I am currently working with two divisions of a company that partners with medical groups and hospitals to provide novel medical diagnostic capabilities, and with individual homeowners to provide home solar solutions that are alternative to most current offerings. I have also coached boys and girls youth and travel soccer, and boys high school soccer through the varsity level, and have played soccer and tennis for many years.

I bring a unique perspective on situation analysis and problem solving based on over 30 years in the service sector working with clients at all levels and a broad range of backgrounds. I offer to apply this experience to challenges such as those experienced the past year at Turtle Rock. In conversations with my neighbors and fellow dog owners, issues such as street lighting concerns, trash day pickup of trash and recycling, and questions about the cost and quality of common area landscaping (i.e. branches from the hurricane that FEMA rejected due to placement were still present at the end of the year on areas maintained by the current contractor). Inter-committee communications, budgetary control, speed control issues, regulatory compliance, and possible alternate approaches (to what's currently in place) have also been significant topics that deserve additional attention. My approach is to look not only for near term solutions, but also at long term effectiveness with a focus on the future benefit to the Turtle Rock community.



**Lutz Hoffmann**

*5115 Glade Fern Ct.*

I am applying as candidate for the open Board seat. I have lived in the Turtle Rock community since April 2022. I just love the area and would be able to offer great advice to help our community flourish. I can apply common sense decisions that will help all members of our community and alleviate any concerns of our residents. I had previously served on the Anchorage Condominium Association Board, Siesta Key, for two years while being a resident there. I am a retired law enforcement officer with over 29 years of service. I have a four-year college degree from New York Institute of Technology, and a two-year degree from Suffolk County Community College in accounting. Thank you in advance for your



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# CAM CORNER

By: Nanette Thomas, Community Association Manager



**Nanette Thomas**  
Sunstate Management  
Communitymanag-  
er@myturtlerock.com  
941-870-9855  
941-921-3808 fax

Please, let me introduce myself. My name is Nanette Thomas and I am the New Community Manager here at Turtle Rock. I started on January 3, 2023. I come to you with 10 years of experience at my last community. In my short amount of time here, I have seen the dedication of the Board and committees: that is truly what makes a community thrive! It's all about team work. Thank you for all of the warm welcomes and I look forward to serving this community!



## Treasurer's Report

By: Kathrin Harris



**Year-To-Date Ending:** December 31, 2022

	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Diff</b>
<b>Income:</b> Assessments and other	\$ 1,539,983	\$ 1,531,337	+\$8,650
<b>Expenses:</b>			
General and Administrative	\$ 405,318	\$ 403,470	+\$ 1,848
Common Grounds	273,489	211,883	+\$61,605 *
Access Control/Gatehouse	330,124	314,786	+\$15,338 **
Facilities Maintenance	103,614	147,400	(\$43,786)
Utilities	76,849	84,681	(\$ 7,832)
Reserves Contribution ***	338,357	338,357	
Totals	\$ 1,435,774	\$ 1,403,726	\$ 18,527 NET over income

\* \$61,590 directly related to Hurricane Ian cleanup

\*\* Overage due mainly to Repair & IT expenses related to gates, which are over twice amount budgeted

\*\*\* Reserve expenses: \$8076 — 50% deposit on south entrance pond fountain

**Assessments:** Outstanding HOA Fees—

(0-90 days) \$898 ( 91+ days) \$8,032 Total \$8,930 (approx. \$4000 improvement from Nov 30)

For more detailed monthly and annual financial information, dating back to 2015, please visit our website's Resident Only page: <https://www.myturtlerock.com/community-assoc/residents-only-v2/>  
This is a password protected section; please email letstalkturtlerock@gmail.com, and request the PW by providing your name and TR address.

# Mark Your Calendars!

## TURTLE ROCK'S ANNUAL



**February 11 from 8—11:30am**

at individual homes

***NO fee required to participate!*** To include your address on the community maps handed to shoppers at the gate showing participant sellers' addresses, simply email your name, phone # and address to [letstalkturtlerock@gmail.com](mailto:letstalkturtlerock@gmail.com) ***no later than February 4, 2023***

Turtle Rock will place an ad in local newspapers and Palmer Ranch will include information in their monthly newsletter to advertise the event.

Please Note: owners are responsible for their own sale



**Sarasota county-sponsored  
Hazardous Waste Pick-up**

**February 21, 2023**

**10am — 12pm**

**Volunteers are needed to help with  
traffic flow, greet, and unload**

### Types of items accepted

- Adhesives and glue
- Aerosols
- Antifreeze
- Automotive products
- Cleaners
- Electronics
- Fertilizers
- Fluorescent lamps
- Gasoline
- Household fire extinguishers
- Mercury
- Motor oil
- Oil filters
- Paint
- Pesticides
- Pool chemicals
- Propane cylinders
- Rechargeable batteries
- Solvents and thinners
- Vehicle batteries



*Turtle Rock Families Club*

# VALENTINE'S EXCHANGE

FEBRUARY  
12TH

2-4 PM

TR CLUBHOUSE

♥ please bring a dessert or kid-  
friendly snack ♥



# Turtle Rock IRRIGATION 101

By: Patty Fleming, Guest Columnist

Turtle Rock is one of the few communities that provides reclaimed water for home irrigation, and we are very fortunate to have this cost-saving service available to us.

## **BUT WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT?**

**Sarasota County RESPONSIBILITY:** Maintaining lines that provide reclaimed water to Turtle Rock and notifying the community if there is a disruption of service. They may be called upon to evaluate irrigation problems or to locate mainline shutoff valves. Cost is charged to the community, funded by our Quarterly Dues. The cost per 1000 gallons is just \$0.46 (compare that with up to \$13.27 per 1000 gallons!), and our annual \$55,000 budget equates to \$6.04/month for each home. Can you imagine how much your potable water bill would be?

**Turtle Rock RESPONSIBILITY:** Paying the monthly reclaimed water bills and keeping the infrastructure under roadways/sidewalks operable. This responsibility ends at each home's shut-off valve in the front yard. It is possible they may intercede on a case-by-case basis for emergencies only. For homeowners who are snowbirds, please ensure that the Property Manager has the contact information for your home watcher company when you're absent and not reachable in an emergency.

**Homeowner RESPONSIBILITY:** Ultimately, the responsibility for maintaining your irrigation system lies with you, the homeowner. You should have an irrigation company periodically service your system, just like you would your Air Conditioning system. As you most likely run your irrigation at night, it is difficult to identify a problem with the system zones until either plants dry out or you have a swamp. There could be issues with the popups/rotors, valves, or even piping that is cracked due to roots. A stuck valve can flood your yard as well as



your neighbor's quickly. Please read the next section.

*Do you know where your irrigation shut-off is located? This is very important!* On the curb in front of most homes in Turtle Rock, there is an "R" carved into the concrete, which denotes where the reclaimed water line and shut-off valve box is located. It is typically 5-8 feet on non-sidewalk, and 11-13 feet on sidewalk lots straight ahead in your yard from this mark. The cover is lavender/purple in color, while regular (potable) is typically green and located on the opposite property line,

marked with a "W" carved into the curb. These colors have faded over the decades and just look white.

Unfortunately, many valve covers have turf or plants over this box. *It is critical that you locate your box and, if necessary, remove all vegetation so that you have easy access to opening the box.* If you encounter a stuck valve,



Example of overgrown valve cover

Continued on page 10

# Turtle Rock IRRIGATION 101, Continued

you must be able to access this shutoff located in your irrigation box. If the shutoff is damaged or broken, you are responsible for its replacement. Any necessary repairs to the irrigation system, starting at the irrigation box, are the homeowner's responsibility. If anyone has advised you otherwise, they are wrong.

You have a choice— be proactive! Locate and clear the area adjacent to your irrigation box and hire an irrigation team to routinely evaluate your system for part failures, poor coverage, and even to correct irrigation times. If you choose to be reactive, be prepared to receive an expensive irrigation bill for an emergency call and infrastructure repairs. If they cannot locate and access your irrigation box, the only option is to shut off one of the main street valves, which will also cut all irrigation water to countless neighbors. Don't be that neighbor! Please know that many companies are on a month-plus waitlist.



This is an example of a serious problem waiting to happen: from the above-ground filter pictured here, it is evident that the valve box is to the right, between the filter and the sidewalk. But it is not only covered with soil, there is a palm seedling starting and bushes surrounding that. So how will one shut off water in an emergency?

## Around The Rock

By Kathrin Harris, TR News Editor



### **INVASIVE VEGETATION: a GROWING PROBLEM!!**

The photo on this page may not look like anything obnoxious, but this is actually a case of a photo is NOT 1000 worth of words. One needs to explain that this picture, and the one on the next page, shows examples of innocent little plants growing in an uncontrolled fashion to the point where



they take over. That's why they are called invasive. Since they are not native, they thrive in this Florida environment, pushing all other things out of their way as they reach for the sun. The photo here shows a rubber tree (aka *ficus elastica* native to Asia) that is about 9 feet in diameter at its base and about 40 feet tall, beginning to consume the wall it was planted close to, and threatening the pool cage

Continued on page 11

# Around The Rock – Invasives, Continued

and home in its proximity. This behemoth did not plant itself there...surely a homeowner some mere 10 or so years ago put a cute “little houseplant” in the ground, never realizing how fast or large it would quickly grow.

The photo on the left is what’s left of a Brazilian Pepper (aka *Schinus terebinthifolia* native to South America), taken down by the homeowners after they realized it was an invasive.

Within preserves, Turtle Rock is required to remove non-native, invasive vegetation, which comes in many varieties, but most prevalent are the peppers, which can be seen in many south Florida locations as a complete monoculture, drowning out all other plants around them and preventing wildlife from moving through their territory.

We need you to be vigilant of these fast-growing plants. They start out cute and innocent— stores sell the rubber trees as houseplants all the time, and they’re fine if kept inside away from sun and confined to a pot. But once put in the ground, they grow like mad. *Benjamina ficus* are similar, but with smaller leaves. Peppers



propagate quickly from their lovely red seeds, seen in clusters on the ends of branches all over southern Florida this time of year. Birds love these seeds, then deposit them everywhere. They then crop up just about anywhere that is not covered in asphalt, concrete, or

turf— namely, any landscape beds or hedges. Hedges are a particular favorite, and most landscaping companies just box-cut the bushes that grow here, never seeing the looming danger getting thicker and stronger with each passing month and continued trimming.

The invasives are taking over, and we all need to be on the lookout, removing them as soon as they are spotted! Peppers are the worst, followed by carrotwood, melaleuca, and ficus.



Pictured here is a Brazilian Pepper, outlined in white, hiding amongst a decorative bush (a jasmine) planted to hide utilities. While the landscapers keep trimming the pepper along with the other bush, the pepper base is already three times the size of the jasmine, yet less than 1/3 its age. Within 10 years, it can grow to a trunk girth of 25+ inches!



Pepper leaves & seeds



Carrotwood & seeds



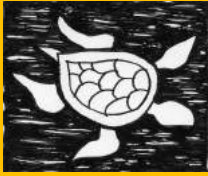
Melaleuca with flowers



Ficus Benjamina



Rubber tree ficus



# Turtle Rock Academy Lectures

By: Bette Blitzer Mills, Chair

2023 SEASON — all programs at 2pm



## February 9

*John McCarthy, Vice President*  
**Historic Spanish Point**

Marie Selby's Historic Spanish Point Vice President will talk about this beautiful location that shows visitors how people lived and celebrated in earlier times. 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.



## March 9

*Harold Mitchell,*  
*President & CEO*

### **The Elling Eide Center**

A surprise treasure just three miles from Turtle Rock is the 72 acre estate of the late (2012) Elling O. Eide. Mr. Eide, a world class collector of books and art on Chinese and Asian history and culture, turned his estate into a beautiful, tranquil place for visiting scholars who shared his passion, opening the extensive library only to them. The Elling Eide Center and Research Library is now open to the public, offering walking tours of the grounds and stunning residence housing the library. Mr. Mitchell will recount the fascinating history of the Eide Center and the Eide Family. Prepare to be engrossed in the amazing story.



## April 27

*Frederick Piccolo,*  
*CEO*

### **Sarasota International Airport**

Frederick Piccolo, President and CEO of the Sarasota Bradenton International Airport, will bring us up to date on all the transformations and improvements constantly taking place at our rapidly growing airport.

Mr. Piccolo has been the President and CEO of our airport since 1995, and has over 49 years of experience in the aviation industry. This will be a chance to hear an insider's view of the many changes at SRQ. A Q & A session will follow his presentation.



# T.R.O.M TRIVIA

By Steve Jones and Diane Geramanis

So what, exactly, is a TROM?? It stands for **Turtle Rock Owner's Manual**, and it provides the rules we choose to live by. It bases those rules on the Declaration of Protective Covenants that the developer set up when Turtle Rock was first conceived, and may be fine-tuned or modified by the Board as long as it is not in contradiction to the Declaration. It is an all-inclusive document that will provide answers to most any question you may have about living in Turtle Rock. It also includes forms and an appendix to help you navigate through it.

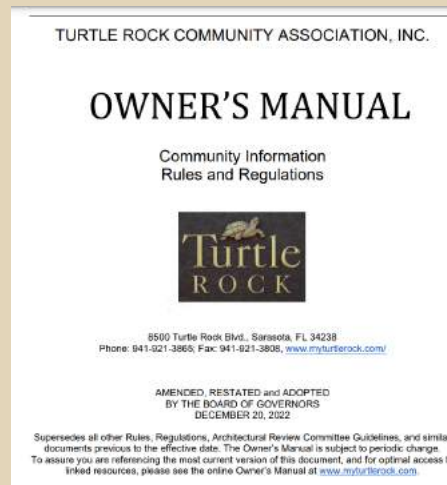
Each month, a selection of topics is brought up to help you test your knowledge of our rules. Here is this month's:

All the below are "True or False?"

1. I have a Ford 150 pick-up truck. It's my personal vehicle, and I'm retired and only use it to get around. It is, therefore, the same as a passenger vehicle and all the same rules apply.
2. My daughter, who lives with us, has her own car. She is not on the deed to our house, and not an owner. Only those individuals who actually own a home here in Turtle Rock need to register their car with the association.
3. Owners may rent their homes for a period of no less than three months. We're snowbirds and only come here about two months a year. So we can rent our home 3 times for a period of 3 months each.

See answers on Page 15.

Yet another topic from the TROM has been of concern recently: a rise in sightings of golf carts on our streets, bike lanes, or even sidewalks. Although they offer an efficient method of transportation, unless they are registered with



the DOT and follow traffic rules on our streets, golf carts are not allowed. Here is what the TROM says about these (found on p. 39 & 40 under C. Use of Roads ) -

- **Only motorized vehicles that are properly licensed and registered will be allowed on the Turtle Rock common areas, except for Turtle Rock's maintenance and compli-**

**ance vehicles used in the community, with the approval of the property manager (e.g. the Turtle Rock utility vehicle, yard maintenance vehicles, and preserve/pond maintenance vehicles while in use for the intended purpose).**

**For example, mopeds, motorized scooters, motorized toys, electric skateboards, motorbikes, and golf carts that cannot be licensed in Sarasota County are not allowed on any Turtle Rock sidewalk, road, unpaved common area, or preserve.**

- **Only motorized vehicles providing mobility for handicapped operators will be allowed on Turtle Rock sidewalks and crossing areas, (e.g. electric wheelchairs or scooters).**

**No motorized vehicle may be ridden on the Turtle Rock nature trail, sidewalks, or other non-paved area in Turtle Rock, except approved vehicles for handicapped operators.**

If you want to investigate before cheating and looking on pg 15, the answers can be found in the online TROM:

<https://www.myturtlerock.com/files/documents/TR%20Owners%20Manual%202022-12-20%20v1.pdf>

# Household Hazardous Waste COLLECTION EVENT

Sarasota County  
Hazardous Waste and  
Turtle Rock  
are hosting a household  
hazardous waste  
collection event.

8500 Turtle Rock Blvd  
Sarasota, FL 34238

## COLLECTION TO TAKE PLACE AT:

Clubhouse/Pool Area

Tuesday, February 21 10am—12pm

### ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

- Ammunition
- Empty containers (>5 gal)
- Fireworks
- Flares
- Medications
- Needles or syringes
- Radioactive materials
- Tires

### SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- Place materials in vehicle trunk.
- Remain in your vehicle.
- Staff will unload materials.
- No walk-ups accepted.

### TYPES OF ITEMS ACCEPTED

- Adhesives and glues
- Aerosols
- Antifreeze
- Automotive products
- Cleaners
- Electronics
- Fertilizers
- Fluorescent lamps
- Gasoline
- Household fire extinguishers
- Mercury
- Motor oil
- Oil filters
- Paint
- Pesticides
- Pool chemicals
- Propane cylinders
- Rechargeable batteries
- Solvents and thinners
- Vehicle batteries

This event is only for residents in The Turtle Rock Community  
Proof of residency may be requested before any waste is accepted. Sarasota  
County may limit the amount of waste collected. No commercial or other  
organizational waste will be accepted.

**Think before you throw...  
No matter where you go.**



  
Sarasota County



Created by Sarasota County Communications 12.8.21

# From the WEST Corner of...

By: Steve West



## Groundhog Day, February 2, 2023

The first Groundhog Day celebration in Punxsutawney was the brainchild of local newspaper editor Clymer Freas, who sold a group of businessmen and groundhog hunters—known collectively as the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club—on the idea.

The men trekked to a site called Gobbler’s Knob, where the inaugural groundhog became the bearer of bad news when he saw his shadow. Legend has it that if Phil sees his shadow on February 2, the winter chill will continue. Oddly, if the weather is cloudy and he doesn’t see his shadow, we can expect warmer temperatures and early spring.

Nowadays, the yearly festivities in Punxsutawney are presided over by a band of local dignitaries known as the Inner Circle. Its members wear top hats and conduct the official proceedings in the Pennsylvania Dutch dialect. They supposedly speak to the groundhog in “Groundhogese.”

Every February 2, the borough of Punxsutawney that’s home to some 6,000 people has tens of thousands of spectators who attend Groundhog Day events. But how accurate are groundhogs?

While sunny winter days are indeed associated with colder, drier air, we probably shouldn’t trade in our meteorologists for groundhogs just yet. Studies by the National Climatic Data Center and the Canadian weather service have yielded a dismal success rate of around 50 percent for Punxsutawney Phil.

Staten Island Chuck, on the other hand, is reportedly accurate almost 80 percent of the time.

### *Groundhog Facts:*

Also known as woodchucks, groundhogs belong to a group of large ground squirrels known as marmots. They grow up to 25 inches long and can live for 10 years in captivity. According to legend, Punxsutawney Phil is more than 125 years old thanks to the magical punch

he imbibes every summer.

Groundhogs spend the winter hibernating in their burrows, significantly reducing their metabolic rate and body temperature; by February, they can lose as much as half their weight.

When they’re out and about, the bristly rodents eat succulent plants, wild berries and insects—and they don’t mind helping themselves to garden vegetables or agricultural crops.



## TROM Trivia answers from Page 11

1. FALSE. TROM Sec. IV, D states: No trucks, or other such vehicles, may be parked at any time upon any portion of a lot unless parked within a garage and totally out of view.
2. FALSE. TROM Sec. IV, B states: All vehicles that are a part of a household must be registered with the association.
3. FALSE. TROM Sec. V, B states: Homeowners may not enter into more than two leases in any calendar year.



# Turtle Rock Women's Club

It's a new year and the beginning of some new events for the TRWC. Last month we introduced the concept of a "pop-up" event. This is a short notice, spontaneous gathering that requires very little planning and organization. Just show up and have a good time! It was a great afternoon enjoying a movie at the Sarasota Cinebistro movie theater. Stay tuned for more pop-up events such as walks, informal gatherings or any other spur of the moment gathering that may occur.

TRWC membership continues to grow, and we are now 160 members strong! To support our growth, we are recruiting volunteers to support new members in getting established and building friendships in the community. Volunteers will meet new TRWC members and extend goodwill, friendship and personal invitations to club events.



## Turtle Rock Men's Club

**Scheduled Luncheon Meetings—** Mark your calendar !

**February 15<sup>th</sup>** Beckham's in the Plaza at Palmer Ranch

**March 14<sup>th</sup>** Mellow Mushroom

NOTE: this luncheon will be on the second Tuesday instead of the third Wednesday.

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### Annual Membership

January is annual dues collection month. If you haven't already done so, send or deliver your \$20.00 dues to John Adams, 8247 Nice Way.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Beach Luau

The Men's Club, Women's Club, and Young Families' Group will kick off the start of Spring by sponsoring a **Beach Luau event on March 25<sup>th</sup>** at the Community Center. This event will be open to all residents. Further details including the menu will be shared with all residents within the next couple of weeks.



\*\*\*\*\*



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 February Birthday!** If I have missed anyone, email me and I will update the TRMC website.

**Chuck Barackman, Len Friedlander, Chuck Hendrickson, Bob Lingard, Larry Nelson, Michael Pitoniak, Ken Rosemann**

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 Rosemann ([kenrosemann1231@gmail.com](mailto:kenrosemann1231@gmail.com)), and I will be glad to assist them in the process of joining.



# Landscape & Grounds

By Jodi Cunnison



The Committee met at the Community Center on January 11, 2023. Present were Joan Howe, Curt Gilroy, Kathrin Harris, Emily Miller and Jodi Cunnison. Shane Battle from Bloomings also attended to report on the work planned for completion by Bloomings:

- Shane reported that Bloomings would prepare the community beds for mulching including removal of storm debris and spraying for weeds. Also, the dark brown shredded hardwood mulch (as opposed to the pine bark mulch) would be placed throughout the community in January. The Committee had previously decided to use the dark brown mulch as the Committee felt that was better quality mulch and provides an enhanced aesthetic appearance.
- Shane also reported that Bloomings would trim and clean up the plantings along Palmer Ranch Pkway East and add new plantings as needed. He also addressed the Awabuki hedge along Central Sarasota Pkway. Shane

will provide the Committee with a quote to change out the Maxi Jet micro irrigation system with straight filtered drips along Central Sarasota Pkwy, as this will help to keep the new plantings properly watered. Shane also provided the Committee with a quote to install plantings and repair the irrigation system on the southwest island of Far Oak Cir.

Other issues addressed by the Committee included:

- The status of the sidewalk repairs. The Board of Governors had approved a quote by Howell Concrete to have the repair work done.
- Management will see if Larry Mullen can straighten out the bent street signs and light poles that resulted from Hurricane Ian, and also fill in any necessary pot holes.
- The gold paint touch ups on the Turtle Rock signs will be done in February.

## CLASSIFIEDS and LOST & FOUND WANT—SELL—BORROW—LEND— RECYCLE



Vintage Minnesota sewing machine (Model C) made between 1900 - 1910 for Sears Roebuck & Co. with 5-drawer cabinet, original lock and key, instruction manual, and box of attachments. Very good condition. \$200

Contact Curt Gilroy  
703-577-4841  
[curtgilroy@gmail.com](mailto:curtgilroy@gmail.com)

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

# An Unwanted Visitor Is Relocated

The 4-legged intruder pictured below was an unwelcome sight in the garage of Joseph and Margaret Thilman of Timber Chase. They called our Manager, Nanette, who quickly called FL Fish & Wildlife, who in turn called a licensed trapper (whose full-time profession is actually in real estate).

The trapper wasted no time getting the 6-footer (just a juvenile) to latch onto a pipe threaded with a thick rope (the orange stick seen in his hand below). A bit of distraction made the gator let go, and the noose was tightened, and eventually the trapper was able to sit on top of the gator and wrap his snout with electrical tape. He'll

be released to a wildlife refuge in Port Charlotte. The trapper's only reimbursement for this service is \$30 from the state. While he could have sold it for processing of the meat, the reptile was too small, and apparently the hide is no longer worth much. Live free in your new home, little guy! The Sheriff also decided to make an appearance, but had already missed the show by the time he arrived.



# HISTORY of the NEWSLETTER

By Kathrin Harris, Newsletter Editor

The Turtle Rock Newsletter was originally started by a group of residents, working together with the Developer and management. It was a quarterly black & white publication, and it helped hundreds of newly moved-in owners feel part of a community. Ron Green, an original owner on Far Oak Circle, was part of a welcome team that introduced neighbors to the community, and quickly became the driving force behind the earliest newsletters. In 2005, with printing costs increasing, Ron called the Herald Tribune for help, and successfully brokered a deal where the H-T offered a lay-out artist and printed color newsletters at their expense. Every 3 months, the newsletter was stuffed into a copy of the H-T and distributed to all owners, an effort to increase circulation, and it worked. For years this arrangement helped us get news to the community, but ultimately the H-T cancelled their offer. Undaunted, Ron Green found a print shop that copied our newsletter for a reasonable cost, and ads were sold to offset this cost (in fact, often making money in the process!). Ron's assistant since 2006 was Kathrin Harris, who also took over coordinating volunteers who stuffed newsletter and inserts into plastic bags and divided the community by street for volunteers to deliver.

The April 2016 issue was the last hard copy printed, as Ron became unable to put together the newsletter he had doted on for nearly 18 years! Many thanks to him for his devoted work on the Turtle Rock Newsletter. After nearly two years of no newsletter, the BOG began to realize the importance of a communication link to the 758 households in Turtle Rock, and so approved the formation of the Communication Committee.

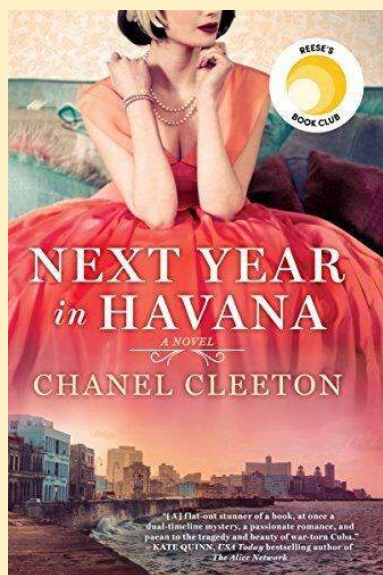


The original committee then consisted of Jim Cerny (Chair), Patricia Tarlton (secretary), Judy Bentz, Russ Gill, Kathrin Harris, with David Tarlton as Board liaison. The primary concern at that point was getting the Newsletter up and running. The first thing needed was an editor. Realizing that the editor gathers, edits, and lays out the newsletter rather than initiating articles, Judy agreed to take on the task. For the next three years or so with the help of the committee, she learned firsthand the difficult and time-consuming duties of editing. Not only did the newsletter need to disseminate information from the BOG, but include information from the residents of Turtle Rock. Gathering this information presented a challenge. It was

decided that the President and the Manager were both to write monthly reports, as well as requesting reports from each committee, Men's, Women's and Families' Clubs, the Librarian, and the Academy. Articles written by residents were also included— Diane Glynn, Paula Griffin, Janet Smith, and Donna Wolfson to name a few. Charlotte Jones began, and still is, proofreading of every issue. On August 1st of 2018, our first electronic Newsletter was published and distributed throughout the community via email.

Many thanks to all the Turtle Rock residents who have researched and written articles for publication, offered comments and suggestions, and contributed photos and graphics to enhance our efforts. We continue to welcome your input!! Send it to [letstalkturtlerock@gmail.com](mailto:letstalkturtlerock@gmail.com)

# Turtle Rock Library Feature Book of the Month



## Next Year in Havana

By Chanel Cleeton (historical novel) 361 pp

Full of forbidden passions, family secrets and a lot of courage and sacrifice, the novel alternates between the perspectives of 19-yr-old Elisa Perez in the late 1950's, to her granddaughter Marisol Ferrera in 2017. The daughter of a sugar baron, Elisa is part of Cuba's high society, where she is largely sheltered from the country's growing political unrest--until she embarks on a clandestine affair with a passionate revolutionary. Freelance writer Marisol Ferrera grew up hearing romantic stories of Cuba from her late grandmother Elisa, who was forced to flee with her family during the revolution. Elisa's last wish was for Marisol to scatter her ashes in the country of her birth. Arriving in Havana, Marisol comes face-to-face with the contrast of Cuba's tropical, timeless beauty and its perilous political climate. This book is both the story is a passionate romance and an educational voyage into the tragedy and beauty of war-torn Cuba.

### **INFORMATION about donating to the LIBRARY, managed by TRWC volunteers:**

The library is now accepting PICTURE PUZZLES! For book donations, please remember that we only take **Fiction** and biographies due to limited space. Make sure they are newer books and in good shape. Please do not drop off really old yellow paged paperbacks, Non Fiction, or instructional books. When this happens, our volunteers have to haul them away. You can drop these off at the Goodwill Book Store on Clark road just West of McIntosh. Also, the library is off-limits when the Community Center is rented out for parties.

## 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](mailto: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

Kathrin Harris, Turtle Talk Editor

Steve West, Contributing Writer

Donna McCarthy, Welcome Team Lead

Board Liaison: Deirdre Cronin

Proofreaders: Charlotte Jones and Grace Boehm

## Turtle Rock Data Base & Directory Information Update

Turtle Rock Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Data	Resident 1	Resident 2
Last Name		
First Name		
E-mail		
Best Phone Number		
License Plate Number		
Bar Code Number:		
<b>Emergency Contact</b>		
Name		
Relationship		
Phone Number		

**Additional household vehicles:**

License Plate Number:	License Plate Number:
Bar Code Number:	Bar Code Number:

The purpose of the information listed above is to verify the accuracy of Sunstate Management's data base and to update the information for the upcoming printing of the Turtle Rock resident directory. ***Unless you choose not to be included in the directory, your name, address, phone number, and email address will be included.***

Please initial next to all information you would like to have included in the directory:

\_\_\_\_\_ Name      \_\_\_\_\_ Address      \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number      \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address

\_\_\_\_\_ Please do not include any of my information in the directory

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

**Please return to Turtle Rock Community Center in person or by mail no later than January 20, 2023  
or scan & email to [pflamingcp@hotmail.com](mailto:pflamingcp@hotmail.com)**