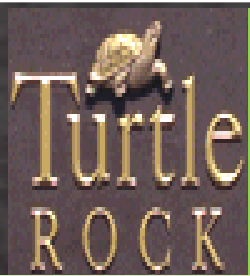


April 2025



A Duck on a Duck
By Ginny Cheatham



Turtle Talk April 2025



President's Message

By: Grace Boehm, Board President

We had a large crowd at the Board of Governors meeting on Thursday, March 27 where the Board took several important actions.

First, the Board took action to ratify three expenses that were time sensitive earlier in the month and couldn't wait for a Board meeting: the installation of a new HVAC system in the Community Center, an emergency irrigation system repair and the renewal of the Association's insurance policy. The HVAC system had been repaired several times in the past to postpone incurring the cost to replace it, but the unit was beyond economic repair. The irrigation leak was spilling reclaimed water into Turtle Rock Boulevard. The insurance had to be bound by its expiration date of March 24 and we didn't have the final quote until just before its expiration. Those costs were anticipated and budgeted for.

In addition, the Board approved the replacement of the hot water heater in the Community Center, which hasn't worked for some time. It is twenty + years old and also beyond economic repair. We also took action to replace dead or dying trees, shrubs and bushes along Turtle Rock Boulevard. Finally, the Board approved entering into a contract with Crosscreek Environmental to complete the shoreline restoration project in 2026 and 2027. The contract ensures the Association has a commitment on the price of these restorations until the project is completed. Again, these costs were anticipated and budgeted for. Continued on next page...

INSIDE this ISSUE...

President's Message	A
CAM report & Chalk Art	P
Spring Fling	R
Trivia Night	I
ARC Request	L
Landscape committee	*
Natural Assets	*
Animal Rescue	F
Entrance Lighting	O
Watchdog Report	O
Women's Club	L
Men's Club	S

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.

2025 Board of Governors



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Governor

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Next Meeting will be April 24

Continued... Curt Gilroy was appointed to represent Turtle Rock with the Palmer Ranch Master Association. The Board approved a resolution to open a credit card with Everence credit union. We weren't able to complete our previously approved resolution to open a credit card with our primary bank, Centennial, as they require at least one Board member to tie their credit rating with the Association's payment performance. Everence does not have that requirement. This also requires the Association to open a bank account at Everence, with no minimum balance required. Thank you to Susan Birkenmaier for finding this solution. We use our credit card for important things like registration for our website, paying for our Microsoft email accounts, ZOOM, Constant Contact, and other recurring expenses that require regular payment.

The Board also approved the members, chairs, and liaisons for all the Turtle Rock committees and task forces. All charters were also renewed, with the exception of the Gate Access Task Force. The Board asked the Gate Access team to review and update their charter. It is important to note that all committees must publish the minutes of their meetings according to the Turtle Rock Owners' Manual. Out of courtesy to all residents who might want to attend a committee or task force meeting, all meetings must also be posted.

Board meetings will continue to be the last Thursday of each month, with the exception of November and December to avoid conflicts with the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays

Grace

Cam Corner

by Nanette Thomas, Community Association Manager

Happy Spring.

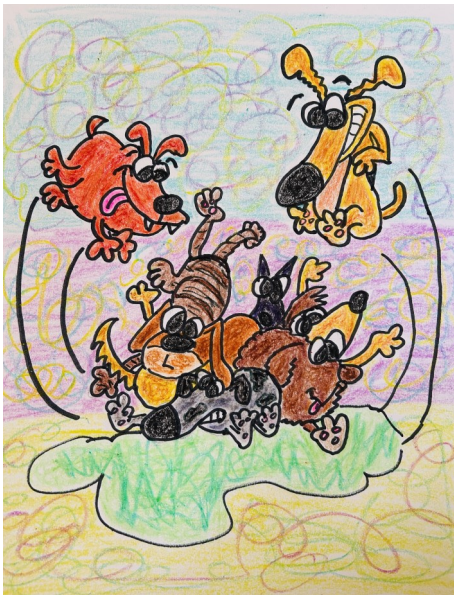
It's a great time to do your outside Spring Clean-up. Power washing your roof, driveway, and sidewalks, removing mildew from your exterior walls, removing weeds from your flower beds etc. These are all compliance issues that can lead to notices and/or fines. 37 Compliance issues are currently in process. The new Garbage and Recycle program have started this week. If you have any problems, FCC is the new Company and can be reached at 941-557-5040.

Mating Season is here for the Gators and they are on the move.

Please reference Turtle Rock's Gator Policy at myturtlerock.com., to stay informed.



Nanette Thomas, LCAM
Turtle Rock Community Association
8500 Turtle Rock Blvd
Sarasota, FL 34238
Turtle Rock Office.
941-921-3865



Chalk Art

Art By: Donna Wolfson



Kids in the Hood

Spring Fling

Join us for an evening of dining, dancing, and socializing with neighbors and friends, old and new at the Spring Fling.

Friday, April 25, 2025, 6-10 pm

Tickets: \$15.00 per person

At the Turtle Rock Community Center

6-7pm Dinner

Dinner includes wraps and sandwiches (with a vegetarian option), salads, dessert and water.

No liquor will be served, **BYOB!**

7-10 pm Dancing

Music will be provided by a local favorite, DJ Hinsome!

Seating is limited, reservations are required. Sorry, walk-ins cannot be accommodated. **To RSVP, make checks out to TRMC and deposit your check in the mailbox marked TRMC at the community center asap and no later than 4/18/25.**

Questions or comments should be sent to: turtlerockmensclub@gmail.com

- Hosted by the Turtle Rock Women's and Men's Clubs -



Trivia Night



Friday May 16

5:30-8:30


RSVP mbcordier@aol.com

Subs and chips

BYOB

\$5 paid at door

individuals and groups welcome



Architectural Review Committee

By Allison Derr

The Turtle Rock Architectural Review Committee (ARC) is looking for new members to be part of a cohesive, dedicated, and dynamic group interested in preserving the aesthetics and beauty of our community. ARC members approve, table, or deny homeowners' plans to make "...*exterior changes to their properties* that are in keeping with the requirements related to home ownership, maintenance, and compliance as described" in the Turtle Rock Owners' Manual (TROM). (See p. 10) The time commitment is about 8 hours per month, which includes approximately 3 hours on one Saturday per month and 5 or fewer additional hours per month on follow-ups, emergency applications, and communications with homeowners regarding and clarifying their applications.

Duties of committee members include:

- To review homeowner applications
- To participate in a monthly Saturday morning drive-around
- To meet after the monthly drive-around to discuss each application's adherence to TROM guidelines.
- To ascertain final completion of homeowners' projects and their adherence to the approved application.



If you are interested in becoming a member of the ARC, please submit your name, email, and phone number along with an explanation of why you wish to be part of the committee to Roberta Maloney, the ARC Chairperson, at rmaloney.somerset@comcast.net.

Landscape Committee Update

By Kurt Gilroy



New Little Library Installed in Serenity Garden

The Landscape Committee is thrilled to announce the installation of a new Little Library in the Serenity Garden along Turtle Rock Boulevard. This charming addition, generously donated by a resident, is in keeping with the nationwide Little Free Library network, a movement that promotes literacy, encourages book sharing, and builds community connections.

Nestled in the peaceful Serenity Garden along Turtle Rock Boulevard, the Little Library is open to residents of all ages. Its concept is delightfully simple: Take a book, leave a book, enjoy a book. It's free!

Whether you're looking for a new favorite story, passing along a beloved novel, or simply browsing, the Little Library invites everyone to participate in this spirit of sharing and discovery.

This new feature complements the long-established lending library in the Turtle Rock Community Center, providing even more opportunities for neighbors to exchange books and ideas. The Board of Governors unanimously approved the Little Library in November following a proposal from the Landscape Committee, who saw it as a wonderful way to enhance the beauty and utility of the Serenity Garden.

Little Free Libraries have become a beloved feature in neighborhoods nationwide with over 150,000 structures. They offer a place for people to connect over books while fostering a love of reading. With its convenient location, this library will surely become a gathering point for readers young and old.

Next time you're enjoying a walk along Turtle Rock Boulevard, stop by the Serenity Garden to see the new Little Library. Sit on the bench and read for a while. Whether you bring a book to share or take one home to enjoy, you'll be participating in a tradition that celebrates happy reading!



Natural Assets Committee

Michelle van Schouwen



Generous donor will match all contributions toward a new bench on Turtle Trail!

"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." – Dr. Jane Goodall

The Natural Assets Committee (NAC) recently started a fundraiser to procure a new bench for Turtle Trail. NAC wants to install the new bench adjacent to the trail, seven-tenths of a mile from the community center in the open grassy area after bridge #3. Visitors will be able to gaze at Pelican Pond (pond 4) and the woods beyond.

Now, a generous Turtle Rock resident who wished to remain anonymous has pledged to match all upcoming resident contributions for this bench. The bench will cost approximately \$1800 to purchase and install. Resident gifts of any amount will be gratefully accepted.

NAC will print names of contributors (not dollar amounts) in a future edition of Turtle Talk. If you prefer to give anonymously, please specify that. Checks should be made out to Turtle Rock Community Association, Inc. with "BENCH" written in the memo. They may be mailed to or dropped off at the community center.

NAC thanks all Turtle Rock residents for their ongoing support of Turtle Trail and all the natural assets of our community.

Article by Michelle van Schouwen, Secretary, Natural Assets Committee
Logo created by Barry Domenick, Turtle Rock Resident

Photos courtesy Melody Barackman (trail through woods and marker at proposed bench site) and Michelle van Schouwen (pond views from the site and sample bench).



Continued on next page...

Coexisting with Alligators

Residents may sometimes see an alligator cruising in a pond or sunbathing on shore. Alligators, which descended from the same common ancestor as dinosaurs, are technically reptiles but are in fact more closely related to birds, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. Alligators have existed for approximately 85 million years. They were here well before us. Early last century, humans hunted alligators nearly to extinction. They are now federally protected by the Endangered Species Act as a Threatened species and as a Federally-designated Threatened species by Florida's Endangered and Threatened Species Rule. We now share our state with about 1.3 million alligators. In Florida, serious injuries from alligators are rare. Nevertheless, living safely with our ancient alligator neighbors relies on taking common-sense precautions:

- Don't feed them. In fact, it is illegal to do so. Alligators are generally afraid of people, but feeding them can cause them to lose that important fear (and put them in danger of being "removed"; more about that below).
- Don't walk to the edge of ponds when you can avoid it, and do not bring small children or dogs near slanting shorelines. Keep pets on a leash. Watch for alligators relaxing nearby and give them plenty of space.
- Don't swim or wade in the ponds.
- Leave the alligators alone. Know that they are mostly active between dusk and dawn and during mating season typically April-June in Florida. **During this time they may travel from pond to pond or occupy different areas than typical, always your best course of action is to stay away.**

When a resident asks to have an alligator removed, they are typically asked how the alligator is being aggressive. Generally, a non-aggressive alligator **will** be left in peace.

If the resident still wants the alligator to be **"removed," it is in fact killed and then sold for its meat and hide – it is not simply relocated.** Please consider Turtle Rock's alligators as wildlife to be admired and respected. If a problem arises, call the Turtle Rock Office.

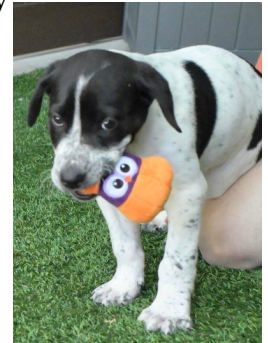
Photo credit: Jean Beauforthas released this "Alligator" image under Public Domain license.

Logo Created by Barry Domenick,
Turtle Rock Resident
Article by Michelle van Schouwen,
Secretary
Ponds Committee, updated
April 1, 2025.

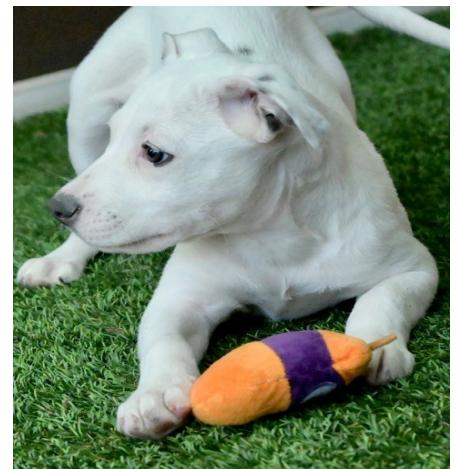




“Nate’s Honor Animal Rescue on Lorraine Road, a non-profit organization, rescues dogs and cats providing veterinary care, housing in a pet-friendly environment, and offering adoption. Nate's achieves a 99% save rate (anything more than 90% is defined as a “no-kill shelter.”). Currently, they have mostly dogs, but they are actively expanding with new construction that will double their dog capacity and also allow them to house cats (including creating “catios” for outside entertainment!). Their set-up is amazing with dog cottages, covered pavilions for volunteers to work with the puppies, a dog swimming pool, and a ton of fresh air. People can volunteer, donate, and/or adopt. Their website is: nateshonoranimalrescue.org.



**Article and Photos
by
Ginny Cheatham**





Landscape Committee

By Kathrin Harris



Our NEW Entrance Lighting

Have you noticed that when you enter our community at night that not just the flag and signs are lit, but also the columns (even inside on the walkway underneath!), the palms, the medians, and even the oaks on either sides of our entrances? This is all thanks to Outdoor Lighting Perspectives, the contractor who worked nearly a month to get all the new infrastructure operational. The entire system is now all low voltage LED, synched to the same color temperature (even the bulbs in the gatehouses were changed to match the warm glow), and completely covered for any issues for two years free of charge. Thereafter, they are fully warranted for a small annual maintenance fee.

On March 14, a Grand Illumination social was held at the community center. Many curious neighbors came to enjoy refreshments and then admire the result. The Landscape Committee wishes to thank the Board for releasing funds that had been saved up for this purpose to make our community shine again! It has not gone unnoticed by other members of the greater Palmer Ranch community.



“Watchdog Report”

This is the latest, but not newest, scam via email. The sender will pretend to be from either UPS or FedEx. They will claim a lost or delayed package and compensation for your inconvenience. The "free" gift will include a series of choices, all attractive and all worth at least \$100. The scammer will attempt to get your credit card for "shipping and handling". Your cc will be charged for the s&h and, of course, you will never receive the "gift". The scammer now has your cc info and will use it for illegal purchases.



Be aware, USPS, UPS, nor Fedex never offers such compensation; they will not contact you by email. Also note the lack of any salutation that identifies you specifically (a dead give away we've discussed in the past). Do not click on the "Get Your Compensation Now" link.

Be vigilant my friends, scammers and rust never sleep.

A screenshot of a fraudulent email notification from FedEx. The email has a purple header with the FedEx logo. The main text is white on a white background. It reads: "We're Sorry - Your Package Appears to Be Delayed". Below this, it says "Dear," followed by a paragraph: "We regret to inform you that there's been an issue with the delivery of your recent FedEx shipment. We understand how frustrating this can be, and we're actively investigating what happened to ensure we provide you with the best possible resolution." Below the text is a small image of a brown cardboard box. Underneath the box, it says: "As an apology, we'd like to offer you a compensation product up to \$100 in value." At the bottom of the email is a purple footer with a white button that says "Get Your Compensation Now". At the very bottom, in small text, it says "This is an advertisement."

Turtle Rock Women's Club

Turtlerockwomensclub@gmail.com



The Turtle Rock Women's Club (TRWC) is a social club of Turtle Rock residents who hail from around the country and the world. TRWC gathers women of many interests and backgrounds, both professional and personal, for various monthly and seasonal activities. Water aerobics, book clubs, mahjong, game night and buncoco night are just a sampling of some of the monthly activities.

TRWC hosts luncheons at venues around the Sarasota area. The luncheons, which are always well attended, offer members a chance to enjoy good food, interesting guest speakers and the opportunity to meet other Turtle Rock neighbors. Membership in the TRWC is available at any time and costs only \$20 annually. Membership provides you with a monthly newsletter of all upcoming events the club is hosting, inclusion in the TRWC Facebook group and a membership directory so handy you'll be glad it can load onto your cell phone!

You're welcome to attend an activity as our guest. For details on attending an event, joining the club or if you have any questions, please email turtlerockwomensclub@gmail.com.

We'd enjoy hearing from you.

Welcome to the neighborhood!



Turtle Rock Men's Club

By Ken Rosemann

April Luncheon

Mark your calendar for the April 16th luncheon at the British Open Pub.

Our guest speaker will be Tracy Smith, Palmer Ranch Community Manager who will update us on our community's programs and events.

Annual Volunteer Program

On April 22nd, the men will be volunteering their time to stuff back packs at the All Faiths Food Bank to support the Campaign Against Summer Hunger. That program specifically focuses on providing meals for some 40,000 children during the summer months when they are not provided meals in school. If you are interested in donating two hours of your time, contact the turtlerockmensclub@gmail.com.

Spring Fling

Enjoy an evening of dining and dancing to usher in Spring at the Community Center. See attached flier for details.

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

Val Dolorico, Lutz Hoffmann, Jean-Claude Laurent



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.

Annual Membership

If you haven't already done so, place your \$20.00 check in the TRMC mailbox at the Community Center.

If you know of someone who may be interested in joining the Men's Club, please have them call or text Bill Kozlowski at, 630-373-7829 or **turtlerockmensclub@gmail.com**, and he will be glad to assist them in the process of joining.

For April Fool's Day I had several jokes
to share with you
about retired people,

but they just didn't work !

The Newsletter Team

The Communications 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.

Send comments, suggestions and articles for consideration to:

trcommunications@myturtlerock.com

(Text must be in Word, Photos as JPEG.) THANKS for getting involved!

Committee Members

Kim Weiser, Chair

Donna McCarthy & Charlotte Swann Welcome Team

Penny Lind & Judy Bentz, Special Projects

Cean Cerny, Tech Support

Jennifer Gaines, Graphic Arts

Board Liaison: Grace Boehm

Newsletter Staff

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Steve West Contributing Writer

Proofreaders: Charlotte Jones, Grace Boehm & Ginny Cheatham