

Turtle Talk

January 2026



President's Message

By: Grace Boehm, Board President



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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.

The last regular Turtle Rock Board of Governors for 2025 meeting was held on December 18, 2025, in the community center and on Zoom. The meeting was well attended in person, so thank you to everyone who was able to participate.

Sunstate has provided financial reports to the Board in which we have a high degree of confidence. This concludes the intensive effort to recreate the financials that were not managed well by Turtle Rock's previous management companies. With those financial records in place, we are able to invite residents to activate their new portals in Sunstate's Vantaca platform. Those residents who have a registered email on file should have received an invitation from Sunstate with the Subject "Important Information – Your New Login for Turtle Rock Community Association, Inc." If you haven't received it, or have any questions, please contact the office and let them know. If you haven't provided your email in the past, you will receive your invitation in the US Mail. That may take a little longer. These are the final steps in fully onboarding Turtle Rock to Sunstate.

There was only one funding request submitted for the Board's review this month. The Board approved a maintenance agreement for the quarterly inspection and maintenance of the fountains at the North Gate and South Gate. One fountain is old and the other is about to come out of the warranty period. The \$1,200 annual cost for these maintenance services will prevent or delay costly repairs in the future. The replacement of the shell walkway was tabled to allow the Landscape Committee to gather more information to provide to the Board

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Next Meeting will be January 29

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deciding what the appropriate solution is. The Board also approved entering into a contract with Savannah for tree maintenance in the future.

There were several changes to the committees and task forces at Turtle Rock. First, the Traffic Compliance Task Force wrapped up its work and the Board approved its dissolution. The Task Force fulfilled its charter, concluding that the percentage of vehicles that is speeding is small and enforcement is challenging with our current technology. The Task Force recommended the non-renewal of the software rental license, leaving the cameras in place for potential future use, and a communications campaign to remind drivers of the speed limits and the requirement to stop at all stop signs. Several community members voiced concerns that their personal experiences with drivers in Turtle Rock is problematic. The Board left open the possibility of convening a new task force in the future. The Board also accepted my resignation as the Board liaison to the Communications Committee and appointed Susan Birkenmaier to that role. Finally, Roger Molner was appointed to the Natural Assets Committee.

Thank you to everyone who generously donates their time and resources to Turtle Rock.

Continued on p.4

President's Message cont'd

As the year draws to a close, I want to personally thank the volunteers who give generously of their time and skills solely for the betterment of the community. Your energy and enthusiasm, as well as your knowledge and support, make Turtle Rock better every day. And thank you to everyone who has been patient with us as we worked through the issues with the management companies. I believe we are in a better position than we have been in a long time and I look forward to a productive and peaceful 2026.

I wish you all a peaceful and happy holiday season.

**The next Board meeting is scheduled for
January 29, 2026 at 6:30PM
at the community center and on Zoom.**

Cam Corner

by Nanette Thomas, Community Association Manager

I recently sent out an email regarding the rules of the road in Turtle Rock. Some thoughts to remember, if you are walking, walk on the sidewalk. If you are on a bike, ride in the bike lane. If you are in a car, abide by the speed limit and stop signs. These little things can help keep Turtle Rock safe for everyone!

Wishing you a Happy and
Healthy New Year!



**Nanette Thomas, LCAM
Turtle Rock Community
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Sarasota, FL 34238
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Treasurer's Report

By Susan Birkenmaier, Ed.D.

Year-to-Date Ending-Unaudited

October, 2025

	October YTD spent	Annual Budget Total	Percent collected/actual of annual budget
Income: Assessments and other	\$ 2,143,179	\$2,526,448	84.83%
Expenses:			
Access Control/Gatehouse	\$ 353,856	387,163	91.40%
Common Grounds	204,141	270,410	75.49%
Natural Assets Maintenance	70,975	99,460	71.36%
Facilities Maintenance	30,026	66,400	45.21%
General and Administrative	519,856	642,323	80.93%
Utilities	79,566	93,132	85.43%
Palmer Ranch Master Assn Dues	110,542	132,650	83.338%
<u>Reserves Contributions</u>	<u>695,758</u>	<u>834,910</u>	<u>83.33%</u>
Total Expenses	\$2,064,720	\$2,526,448	81.72%

Expense in excess of income y-t-d \$(78,559)

Percent of fiscal year lapsed 83.33%

This report reflects financial transactions as recorded under the accrual method of accounting.

For more detailed monthly and annual financial information, dating back to 2015, please visit our website- Myturtlerock.com Resident Only tab. This is a password protected section; please email trcommunications@myturtlerock.com, and request the password by providing your name and TR address.

Accounts Receivable

As of November 30, 2025, ninety-five homeowners are in arrears for dues payment. The outstanding dues owed total \$102,400 95. Late payment notices will be sent in early January.



**Turtle Rock's Annual
Garage Sale**

SATURDAY FEB 28, 2026

ALSO

Sarasota County

CHEMICAL Pick-up

Thursday Feb. 24, 2026

From The West Corner Of...

Steve West, Resident Columnist



The humble penny might not seem like much, but producing one actually costs more than it's worth. According to the U.S. Mint, making a single penny costs 3.69 cents in 2025 — about 3 cents for production and the rest for administrative costs and distribution. This helps explain why the U.S. ended production of the penny on November 12, 2025. While the billions of 1-cent coins still in circulation will remain legal tender, no new ones will be minted, marking the end of the penny's 232-year run.

The penny isn't the only coin that costs more to produce than its face value: In 2024, making a nickel cost 13.78 cents, but far fewer of them are made than pennies. The decision to discontinue the penny was debated for decades. People against the change argued that the low-denomination coin still supported lower-income families and charities, while those who wanted the penny gone saw it as a financial and environmental burden on the country. As of 2025, there were estimated to be 300 billion 1-cent coins in existence in the U.S. — or more than 800 pennies per person.



From our family to
yours-
A Happy,
Peaceful New Year!!!

Donna Wolfson

Communications Committee

by Kim Weiser, Chair



On Friday December 12th, Sunstate employees helped Turtle Rock residents to automatically set up ACH payments of their 2026 dues. Susan Birkenmaier (TR treasurer) and Pam Paterson (TR assistant treasurer) greeted residents at the clubhouse and were on hand to assist. Around 30 people dropped in to receive help over a two hour period. Have you set up your payment yet?

If you need assistance setting up your 2026 dues payments or, If you have any questions or concerns regarding your account balance, please don't hesitate to reach out to our Accounts Receivables team at:

info@sunstatemanagement.com
or call us at 941-870-4920, extension 215.



Turtle Rock Women's Club

By Lisa Taverna

The Power of the Podium: Why Speakers Matter at the Turtle Rock Women's Club Luncheons

Women's luncheons have long been more than a meal shared among colleagues, friends, or community members. At the heart of these gatherings is often a speaker—someone whose story, expertise, or perspective transforms a pleasant afternoon into a moment of connection, inspiration, and growth. With the right speaker at the podium, a simple lunch can become an empowering experience that uplifts, educates, and inspires every woman in the room.

We have had great speakers at this year's luncheons. Hope you can join us in future luncheons & hear one of the speakers. In the end, a memorable women's luncheon isn't just about the menu or the venue—it's about the message. If you would like to learn more about our speakers & attend a luncheon, please send an email to turtlerockwomensclub@gmail.com.

- 10/2025: SPARCC (Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center)
- 11/2025: Women's Health
- 01/2026: Ringling College Office of Lifelong Learning
- 02/2026: Palmer Ranch Board
- 03/2026: Ringling College of Art & Design



Dan Deems, MD, PhD, a Healthcare Innovator whose main interest is the reversal of aging spoke at the November luncheon.

Turtle Rock Men's Club

By Ken Rosemann

Mark Your Calendars!

January 21st – 12 pm, Annual Meeting, New China Buffet, introduction of Board for 2025

Jeff Fasick, President	Fred Howe, Vice President	Ken Rosemann, Secretary
Richard Miller, Treasurer	Ron Contillo, Activities	Chris Foust, Bylaws
Bob Arnet, Speakers	Bill Kozlowski, Membership	Doug Lind, Restaurants

January 24th – 6-9:30 pm, Music Bingo at the Community Center – Limited to 60 adults. Reserve your seat by placing a check for \$5 in the Community Center mail box.

February 18th – 12 pm Men's club Luncheon – Location to be determined.
Guest Speaker, Bob Horne, Principal, Toburn Partners,
'Transformation of the Sarasota Square Mall'

March 18th – 12 pm Men's club Luncheon – Location to be determined.
Guest Speaker, Mark Vengroff, CEO & Managing Partner, One Stop Housing,
'Affordable Housing in Sarasota'

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 TRMCGolf@gmail.com for more information.



We wish the following a Happy Birthday! If I have missed anyone, email me and I will update the TRMC website. Terry Cooney, Doug Cordier, Chris Foust, Kyle Gingras, Fred Howe, Keith Jones, Chris Lauria, Andy Leung, Chris Neisler, Tore Nordal, Rick Ryan

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.

We wish all a Happy and Healthy 2026

Gate Access Update

by Ken Rosemann

- The Task Force has distributed a Scope of Work to four vendors: Envera, EntranceIQ, Allied and LiftMaster. Each vendor has requested an on-site walkthrough to review the current gate system, associated technology, and supporting equipment that may need to be updated or reconfigured prior to submitting a proposal.
- Walkthroughs will be scheduled with two Task Force members present, and findings will be reported back to the full Task Force. Vendors have been asked to include options that would allow residents to control gate access for their guests upon arrival. Depending on scheduling, the goal is to complete all walkthroughs by the end of January.
- The Task Force is aware that while the gate system itself is functional, the supporting back-of-house areas, equipment layout, and organization are inconsistent and will likely need to be addressed as part of any comprehensive modernization or improvement effort. Feedback from vendors to date has been consistent with this understanding and will be evaluated further once all vendor information is received.
- The resident gate access survey will be posted on the myturtlerock website for residents to view. Additional updates will be provided as walkthroughs are completed and the Task Force continues its review.

Watchdog Report

Although I cannot find any additional information to confirm this recently printed scam, it may well be worth mentioning as its repercussions, if true, could be substantial.



The Bait Carriage: The perpetrators will place a large baby carriage at an intersection where there is a stop sign or traffic light. Inside the carriage lies a microphone emitting the loud cries of a baby. An unsuspecting driver with his/her window down hears the cries and pulls over to investigate. Their car is naturally left on, and when the driver approaches the carriage, the perps steal the car or rob the driver. Scary, if true. But now you know.

1. The tennis courts are to be used only for the playing tennis. No pets are allowed on the court both for their own safety and out of respect for others. Correct tennis shoes (not street shoes) are the only footwear allowed on the tennis courts. The hours of use are 8:00 am to 10:00 pm daily, including week-ends. Use is on a first come-first-use basis.

Due to recent changes, there is an incorrect rule in the above statement. What is it?

2. According to the Sarasota County Ordinance regarding fires, there is one assigned day in the Fall when burning leaf piles is allowed. True or False? If true, what is the month and day?
3. Restrictions on flags are very specific. Political flags are permitted for ONE day, and that is the election day for that particular candidate. True or False?

Answers on last page



Gus Says...

“What da ya mean??

I AM smiling!!! “



Natural Assets Committee

Michelle van Schouwen , Secretary



Exploring the great outdoors in 2026

Happy new year from the Natural Assets Committee (NAC). As 2026 begins, the team wants to share just a few of our favorite nearby outdoor experiences.



Coreopsis, roseate spoonbills

Myakka River State Park: One of Florida’s largest state parks (37,000+ acres) is just 20 minutes away. Walk the trails, picnic, experience the treetop canopy walk, or simply drive through miles of scenic Florida wilderness. It’s a “don’t miss” opportunity.

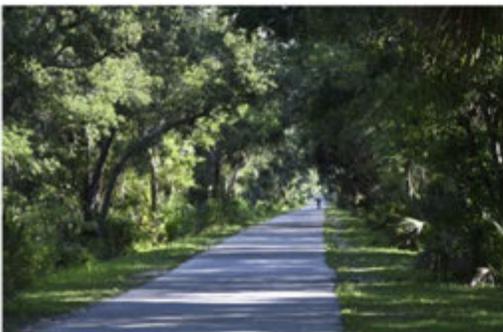


Myakka River State Park

Red Bug Slough Preserve: This 72-acre Sarasota County Park offers scenic trails, fishing, a playground, and picnic shelter. Dogs on leash are welcome.



Red Bug Slough Preserve



Legacy Trail

Legacy Trail: Just west of Turtle Rock, Legacy Trail is a 23-mile-long, multi-use trail extending from downtown Sarasota to Venice, with “spurs” for side trips. Ideal for biking or walking.

Continued next page

The Celery Fields: 400 acres of public preserve, Sarasota's Celery Fields is recognized as a birding destination, with an Audubon Nature Center, a boardwalk, and an observation hill and short trails popular with runners and walkers. Arrive early for the best bird sightings.

T. Mabry Carlton Jr. Memorial Reserve: Nearly 25,000 acres of wilderness in Venice FL, the preserve boasts hiking, biking, and even horseback riding (bring your own horse!) through pine flatwoods, prairies, and wetlands.

Culverhouse Park and Community Garden: Culverhouse Community Garden provides garden plots for \$40/year plus 16 hours of community work in the garden. Members grow vegetables and enjoy a group of both experienced and novice gardeners. The park has hiking trails, too.



The Celery Fields



Turtle Rock residents Michelle van Schouwen and Don Robear tend their garden plot at Culverhouse



Red-headed woodpecker, Carlton Reserve

Article by Michelle van Schouwen. Photos: Roseate spoonbills, Legacy Trail, Celery Fields, and Carlton Reserve by Ginny Cheatham. Coreopsis by Don Robear. Red Bug Slough courtesy Sarasota County. Gardeners by Susan Sprenger. Logo by Barry Domenick.

Architectural Review Committee

By James Vaughan



Keeping Our Community Beautiful and Safe Every month, the Turtle Rock Architectural Review Committee (ARC) meets to review homeowner requests for property improvements. This dedicated group of volunteers works hard to ensure our neighborhood maintains its high standards of beauty and safety, as outlined in the **Turtle Rock Owner's Manual (TROM)**.

What Does the ARC Do? The ARC is neither a compliance nor a policing committee. It strives to be objective and supportive, helping homeowners enhance their properties while keeping Turtle Rock a wonderful place to live. Its duties include:

1. Receiving and reviewing applications
2. Checking to see if the proposed work is in accordance with TROM guidelines and regulations, if it is safe and appropriate and within community standards.
3. Ascertaining if the work was completed as proposed and approved by the ARC

The ARC reviews a wide variety of requests, including:

- Repainting home exterior (the ARC does not get involved with what is done inside the house)
- Installing new roofs
- Replacing lanai cages
- Adding generators
- Removing or replacing trees
- Refreshing gardens
- Replacing windows and doors
- Updating driveways
- Adding outdoor lighting
- Altering existing structures

Why Is This Important? By carefully considering each request, the ARC helps preserve the aesthetic appeal of our community. Its decisions are guided by the community standards as outlined in the TROM, and votes on applications are almost always unanimous, reflecting a commitment to fairness and consistency by its Board appointed members.

What is the Homeowners Responsibility?

If you're planning an exterior home improvement project, submit your request to the ARC for review. Applications forms are available on the TR website or at the manager's office at the Community Center. Sometimes homeowners forget to read the TROM and start their project before submitting an application and receiving approval. This can result in fines or a request that the project be redone or both. The Turtle Rock Board of Governors makes the final decision.

Why are Applications Important? Even if your project seems minor, it is always best to submit an application. For example, if you are repainting your house with the same colors, you might think it is unnecessary to notify the ARC. However, the ARC needs written documentation of all new work on each house. Plus, changes like a new roof might mean the old paint color no longer matches your home's updated look. Submitting your application by the established due date ensures your project will be carefully considered and a decision will be rendered promptly. The ARC is here to help you improve your home while keeping Turtle Rock beautiful and harmonious.



Why I Think Wearing a Bike Helmet Is Still... Cool

I've been riding a bicycle since I was about five years old. I'm 80 now, and in between I've logged thousands of miles on two wheels — as a kid, a teenager, an adult, and now as a senior who still rides regularly here in Turtle Rock.

So when I talk about bike safety, it's not theoretical. It's personal.

I've also spent years gently reminding kids in our neighborhood to wear helmets. Not scolding — just talking. And I always tell them the same thing: wearing a helmet isn't un-cool. It actually says something good about you. It says you care about your safety, that you understand risk, and that you're taking responsibility for yourself.

Here's why I believe that so strongly.

The first serious fall I ever had happened at walking speed. I was turning right on a sidewalk, barely moving — maybe two miles an hour — when my front wheel caught a curb and stopped cold. I went down hard. My helmet cracked in two places. The crystal on my watch shattered.

I walked away without even a headache. Later, a doctor friend looked at the helmet and said something that stuck with me: *if you hadn't been wearing it, the outcome would almost certainly have been very different.* Severe head injury was a real possibility.

The second fall was right here in Turtle Rock. I was meeting friends for a 30-mile ride, distracted for just a moment, and clipped a curb near the tennis courts. I went over the handlebars. That helmet cracked in four places. My sunglasses jammed under my eye and I sported an impressive black eye for a while — but again, no lasting damage. In both cases, the helmet did exactly what it was designed to do. It sacrificed itself so I didn't have to.

I've also lost two friends to cycling accidents. One of them was a careful, experienced rider. He was in his own driveway, briefly got on his bike to test something, wasn't wearing a helmet — and hit his head. He was killed instantly. It was a brutal reminder that speed isn't the only danger. Gravity and pavement don't care how familiar the setting is.

So yes, I'll use the word *cool*, even if it dates me a bit. If there's a better word today — *smart, legit, responsible, on point* — take your pick. The point is the same. Wearing a helmet is a simple decision that can mean the difference between walking away and not walking away at all. If you see me riding, you'll always see one on my head. Not because I'm fearless — but because I'm not.

If you're a parent, grandparent, or neighbor talking to kids (or adults) about biking, feel free to borrow my line:

The coolest riders are the ones who get to keep riding.

Rick Myerburg, Turtle Rock Neighbor

T.R.O.M. Answers

1. One of the two tennis courts now serves a dual function: both tennis and pickleball.
2. False. No such ordinance, and no burning of any kind is allowed outside the lanai. (TROM II, E, 3)
3. False. No political flags are permitted. (TROM III, C, 5)



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!

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