

Photo by
Ginny Cheatham

INSIDE this ISSUE...

President's Message	1- 2-3
CAM corner	3
Treasurer's Report	4-5
Waste collection	6
Garage Sale	7
Candidates	8-9
From the West	10
Women's Club	11
Men's Club	12-13-14
T.R.O.M. Trivia	15
Chalk Art	15
Natural Resources	16
Your own Lane	17-18
Vodka	18
T.R.O.M. Answers	19

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.

Turtle Talk

February 2026

President's Message

By: Grace Boehm, Board President



The Turtle Rock Board of Governors meeting was held on January 29, 2026, in the community center and on Zoom. It was good to see so many residents in person, so thank you to everyone who was able to participate.

There were four funding requests presented to the Board at the meeting. The Honore Border Task Force requested funding for the planting project in the north zone. The Board approved engaging with Bloomings for the purchase of plants (\$49,712.00), irrigation improvements (\$22,725.00), a maintenance agreement (\$8,900.00), a fence (\$4,000.00) and a contingency fund (\$25,000). The contingency fund will only be spent if needed to address unanticipated conditions once the work is underway. The board also approved contracting with Precision Sidewalk Safety (not to exceed \$42,970.00) to use their patented technology to address several hundred locations where our sidewalks are not even. This is both a safety and an Americans with Disabilities Act concern. After thorough investigation of various options and suppliers, the Landscape Committee recommended replacement of the shell walkway at the Community Center and the construction of a new paver walkway near the basketball court. The Board approved contracting with Prime Pavers (\$74,310.50) to perform the work. Finally, the Landscape Committee also recommended plant removal and replanting as well as the application of Hydrex (\$7,890.00) with Bloomings (\$7,890.00). Thank you to the Honore Border Task Force and the Landscape Committee for your hard work and diligence.

2026 Board of Governors



Grace Boehm 908-415-2051

President

president@myturtlerock.com



Curt Gilroy 703-577-4841

Vice President

vp@myturtlerock.com



Susan Birkenmaier

708-203-2746

Treasurer

treasurer@myturtlerock.com



Karen Howe 315-632-2247

Secretary

secretary@myturtlerock.com



Rick Myerburg 412-889-2572

Governor

Governor2@myturtlerock.com



Ehren McGeehan 651-216-1116

Governor

Governor1@myturtlerock.com

Next Meeting will be March 26

Continued from page 2

The Board accepted the voluntary resignation of Governor Phil Grayton. The Board opted not to appoint a replacement at this time. Phil's term was set to expire and the upcoming election will address the vacancy. The board also did not replace Phil as the board liaison to the Honore Border Task Force. Susan Birkenmaier volunteered to perform those functions until the Organizational Meeting next month occurs and a permanent replacement is named. Thank you to Phil for your service on the Board over the last three years.

The proposed Community Safety Committee was approved by the Board, with Rick Myerburg volunteering to lead the effort of drafting a charter for Board review and recruiting members for the committee. If residents are interested in volunteering, please contact Rick at governor2@myturtlerock.com.

The new streetlights are being reconfigured to improve their performance. This work will be performed by Waldon Design at no incremental cost to the community. Waldon Design did request, through the Landscape Committee, that Turtle Rock split their final payment of \$56,776.84 into two payments: one of \$28,388.42 when the new parts arrive at Turtle Rock and one of \$28,388.42 when the work is complete and approved by the Landscape Committee. The Board approved this contract modification and the parts are expected to arrive in early February.

Continued on page 3

The Board also approved changes to the Lease Addendum Form to specify the associated fee that was approved by the Board in 2022 (\$250) and emphasize that the fee and lease information are to be provided to the community manager before the tenant takes occupancy of the property.

Most importantly, ballots and proxies for the upcoming election are being mailed now. Please complete the forms and return them to the Community Center either by mail or in person. Meet the Candidates Night is February 5 at 6:30PM in the Community Center and Zoom. Ballots and proxies must be received at the Community Center by February 26, 2026, at 6PM.

Thank you for a productive 2025. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as a Governor and President. **The next Board meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 26, 2026, at 6:30PM at the community center and on Zoom.**

Cam Corner

by Nanette Thomas, Community Association Manager

Please mark your calendar for these important dates!

**Thursday, February 5, 2026
Meet the Candidates Night.**

This will be a great opportunity for them to introduce themselves and to voice their views on issues facing Turtle Rock. The candidates' Bios are included in this Newsletter, in mailings you will receive, and posted on the Turtle Rock Website. Your proxy, ballot, envelopes and directions will be included in this mailing.

There are only two board positions open for this election. Educating yourself on the candidates will help in making the decision as to who you feel will best serve the interest of our community.

**Thursday, February 26, 2026
6:30**

Turtle Rock Annual Meeting and Election.



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

2026 Board of Governor Candidates

Brief Bios as submitted by each candidate



Jeffrey Costa

Redbriar Court

My wife Michelle, our dog Maude, and I purchased our first Florida residence in Stoneybrook in 2017. After visiting friends in Turtle Rock, we immediately knew this was the community we wanted to call home. We moved to Turtle Rock in 2020 (seasonally) and became full-time residents in 2025. What initially drew us to Turtle Rock was the beautifully maintained, mature landscaping and the overall aesthetic of the community. Coming from a non-deed restricted neighborhood, we were especially pleased to become part of a deed restricted community that values standards, consistency, and long-term preservation. Professionally, I spent 35 years (combined) in Quality Assurance for Crane Currency and General Dynamics. I have extensive experience in government contracting and regulatory compliance, supporting highly regulated manufacturing environments. I led multi-functional quality and production teams, driving operational efficiency. I had Treasury Department and Department of Defense clearance.

While in Massachusetts, I also owned a residential renovation business. I designed projects, developed budgets and timelines, and performed renovations. I hold a Massachusetts Construction Supervisor's License.

I welcome the opportunity to serve the Turtle Rock community and help ensure our neighborhood remains a desirable place for families to live. I would place primary emphasis on transparency, accountability, and ensuring that all community improvements are guided by sound, principled decision-making.



Doug Lind

Meadow Rush Loop

I was born and grew up on a farm in Vermillion South Dakota where I attended high school and college, graduating from the University of South Dakota in 1975. In 1971, I started Lind Excavating, a small service company, to help pay college expenses. After graduating, the business continued to grow, and I moved the base of operations to Rapid City, SD. Since then, Lind-Exco has become a highly respected regional civil/highway construction and development company that continues to thrive and grow today under the name of LEI.

My wife Penny and I began our Florida adventure in Spring Hill, a small community north of Tampa, in 2015. We moved to Sarasota in 2019, first locating in Stoney Brook Golf and Country Club, before moving to Turtle Rock in January of 2022. While I was working, I served on numerous boards in leadership positions. I served as District Governor of Rotary International in 2021. After retiring, I've been able to become more involved in community activities, committees and volunteering.

My desire to serve my community arose as I saw a need for expertise in identifying and planning out our aging infrastructure. My background in civil infrastructure development and construction, as well as my experience in project planning, pricing, and coordination and implementation will be helpful in maintaining and improving site systems in Turtle Rock.

I love the Lord. Penny and I serve at church weekly. I enjoy golf, music, walks with Fancy and Gracie (our Boston Terriers), gym time, traveling with my wife to new and different places, and hanging with our friends and neighbors! I feel very blessed to be living the life that I have. I humbly ask that you support me with your vote. I look forward to many more years of helping to support and improve life in Turtle Rock and helping others whenever I can. Penny and I LOVE living in Turtle Rock! Thank you!

2026 Board of Governor Candidates

Brief Bios as submitted by each candidate



Ehren McGeehan

Deerbrook Circle

Ehren is an experienced executive and community-focused leader who brings a thoughtful, balanced approach to homeowner association governance. With over 20 years of leadership experience in financial services, Ehren offers strong skills in financial oversight, strategic planning, risk management, and consensus-building—capabilities well suited to supporting a well-run, transparent HOA.

Professionally, Ehren has led teams through growth and change, managed complex budgets, and partnered with diverse stakeholders to achieve shared objectives. He is known for listening first, encouraging open dialogue, and helping groups make informed, data-driven decisions that balance short-term needs with long-term community value.

Ehren currently serves as a Governor for Turtle Rock HOA and has prior board experience as Vice Chair of Gilda's Club Twin Cities and Treasurer for Lakes of Radisson HOA, where he supported responsible financial stewardship and effective governance practices for the 1800 unit association. He is committed to fostering a respectful, engaged community and ensuring residents' interests remain at the center of board decisions.



Michelle Robles, Esq.

Timber Chase Way

I moved to Turtle Rock in 2009, choosing it because I love the security provided by the gates and the required maintenance standards. I care about the transparency and accountability of the HOA, and maintaining the standards to protect property values. As a practicing attorney, my legal expertise can assist with rules and regulations.

I currently serve as Treasurer on the Board on a local Condo Association, as well as the Osprey/Nokomis Chamber of Commerce and Foundation. I am concerned about our antiquated rules, and children using motorized golf carts, scooters, e-bikes and skateboards on our streets. I am a team player, managing eight employees; I love to enhance goals using team input and efforts. I will bring legal insights and financial reporting strength to the Board. Two areas

that I believe need improvement are bringing rules and regs up to date, and oversight of property management companies. I am capable of making hard decisions on a daily basis, assisting clients in making difficult life decisions.

Four Candidates for two vacancies

Cast your ballot (voting for up to two) any time between now and the

Annual Member Meeting on February 26, 2026

See actual application forms with additional details on the TR website: www.myturtlerock.com

CANDIDATES NIGHT is scheduled for February 5, starting at 6:30pm

In the Community Center and via Zoom

Come meet your neighbors willing to serve on the Board and find out more about them!



Treasurer's Report

By Susan Birkenmaier, Ed.D.

Year-to-Date Ending (*Unaudited*)

December, 2025

	December YTD spent	Annual Budget Total	Percent collected/actual of annual budget
Income: Assessments and other	\$ 2,555,218	\$2,526,448	101.14%
Expenses:			
Access Control/Gatehouse	\$ 425,227	387,163	109.83%
Common Grounds	247,145	270,410	91.40%
Natural Assets Maintenance	87,345	99,460	87.82%
Facilities Maintenance	54,902	66,400	82.68%
General and Administrative	625,658	642,323	97.41%
Utilities	97,005	93,132	104.16%
Palmer Ranch Master Assn Dues	132,650	132,650	100.00%
Other-misc acct corrections	1,583	0	
<u>Reserves Contributions</u>	834,910	834,910	100.00%
 Total Expenses	\$2,506,424	\$2,526,448	99.21%

Expense in excess of income y-t-d \$ (48,793)

Percent of fiscal year lapsed 100.00%

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 December 31, 2025, seventy-nine homeowners are in arrears for dues payment.

The outstanding dues owed total \$82,596.

Treasures Report continued...

TURTLE ROCK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Reserve Balances
December 31, 2025

	Balance 1/1/25	YTD Contribution	YTD Allocation	YTD Expense	YTD Interest	Current Balance
1501 Roads	\$ 59,688.00	8,027.01	-	(4,210.00)	-	63,505.01
1502 Painting	125,021.00	25,404.99	-	-	-	150,425.99
1503 Building Components	164,529.00	18,918.00	-	(11,540.27)	-	171,906.73
1504 Site Improvements	857,532.00	515,388.99	-	(475,562.50)	-	897,358.49
1505 Roads & Parking	1,085,885.00	188,780.00	-	(4,000.00)	-	1,200,665.00
1506 Furn, Fixtures, & Equipment	146,327.00	68,391.00	-	(1,649.98)	-	213,068.02
1507 Interest - Unrealized Gains/Losses	23,526.00	-	-	-	(38,842.19)	(43,318.19)
1508 Unallocated Reserve Interest	211,955.00	-	-	-	-	211,955.00
1509 Reserve Interest	110,608.00	-	-	-	152,938.43	263,544.43
Total Reserves	\$ 2,765,067.00	834,989.99	-	(496,982.75)	88,296.24	3,189,110.48

Expense Details

1501 Roads

4/14/25 - Ranach Plumbing - \$1,336
5/26/25 - Gopher Roofing - Community Center roof repair - \$2,800
Total \$ 4,136.00

1502 Painting

Total \$ -

1503 Building Components

1/28/25 - Davy's Fan City - \$1,730.27
3/23/25 - Cool Today - \$9,807
Total \$ 11,538.27

1504 Site Improvements

1/10/25 - Crosscreek - Light fixture repairs on tennis courts - \$2,700
2/6/25 - Stevens Tennis Court & Fencing - \$3,300
3/10/25 - Outdoor Lighting Perspectives - Lighting down payment - \$12,783
3/6/25 - Stanley & Smith Group - \$115,000
3/4/25 - Lumière Solar - \$21,750
4/6/25 - Lawson Courts - Pickleball Courts - \$1,600
4/23/25 - Crosscreek - \$48,620
5/2/25 - Outdoor Lighting Perspectives - Lighting project payment - \$29,627
5/6/25 - Schatz Landscape Design - \$3,000
5/7/25 - Greenstoppe Landscape - \$40,900
5/7/25 - Outdoor Lighting Perspectives - Lighting project payment - \$29,627
6/6/25 - Crosscreek - Coconut Fiber Mulching & Sed - \$4,050
7/1/25 - Outdoor Lighting - Voided payment? - \$(29,627)
7/3/25 - Lumière Solar - \$21,750
7/23/25 - Invasion Design - \$75,000
8/1/25 - Lawson Courts - Void Pickleball Courts entry from 4/6/25 - Duplicate entry - \$(1,600)
10/20/25 - Lumière Solar - Street Lights Project progress payment - \$20,100
11/1/25 - Crosscreek Environmental - Pond #1 fill project deposit - \$21,445.75
11/3/25 - Invasion Design - x20 Spare units for street lights - \$11,980
11/11/25 - Lumière Solar - Street Lights Project progress payment - \$13,050
11/14/25 - Crosscreek Environmental - Pond #1 fill project remaining required deposit - \$21,445.75
11/30/25 - Venice Electric - New conduit run & circuit for GFI outlet to basketball court lamp post - \$4,500 (Recloses Inv 651137 dated 9/23/25)
12/15/25 - Lumière Solar - Street Lights Project Change Order payment - \$4,350
Total \$ 405,982.50

1505 Roads & Parking

8/28/25 - AWC Home Solutions - \$4,000
Total \$ 4,000.00

1506 Furn, Fixtures, & Equipment

11/30/25 - Rapid Solutions IT - New coil box - South gate - \$4,12.00 (Recloses Inv 1504 dated 3/29/25)
11/30/25 - Rapid Solutions IT - New CC with cameras and junction box - \$4,237.48 (Recloses Inv 1504 dated 3/29/25)
Total \$ 5,359.48

Household Hazardous Waste COLLECTION EVENT

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

Tuesday, 24FEB2026
From 10am - 12pm
8500 Turtle Rock Blvd
Sarasota, FL 34238

COLLECTION TO TAKE PLACE AT:

Clubhouse/Pool Area

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

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

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

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

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

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



TURTLE ROCK'S ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

**Saturday,
February 28**

**8:00 am -
2:00 pm**



SIGN UP NOW BY EMAIL

TRCOMMUNICATIONS@MYTURTLEROCK.COM

From The West Corner Of...

Steve West, Resident Columnist



Instructions Before Visiting Earth

In the event that you wake up and find your soul separated from source and manifest into material form, don't panic. Your condition is only temporary. You have been selected for the opportunity of human incarnation.

This 3D simulation is designed to break up the monotony of eternity by giving you a fully immersive experience as a distinct ego identity. Your body will serve as your physical avatar as you navigate a dense and dramatic reality.

There will be many distractions causing you to forget your true nature and origin. You will experience a range of emotions from joy to loneliness to despair. But remember - no matter what trials and traumas you encounter, your soul remains perfectly safe.

At times you may feel lost or afraid. This is totally normal. If you ever need guidance, simply slow down your busy mind and bring your awareness to the quiet place inside yourself.

On this planet, nothing is permanent. People and things will come and go. You will fall in love and form sentimental attachments only to lose everything you hold dear.

So cling to nothing too tightly, even yourself, and when it's time to let go, let go with grace, for nothing is owned, only borrowed.

As you walk among the people on the planet, try to be a good guest.

Tread lightly. Remember that you are only visiting. Don't make a mess. Listen more than you speak. Give more than you take.

Don't keep your soft heart locked inside a glass cage, protected from wear and tear.

You'll never make it out alive and time passes quickly. So come back with some battle scars and good stories to tell.

By James McCrae

Turtle Rock Women's Club

By Lisa Taverna

Learn More about Development in Palmer Ranch

Join us at the February Turtle Rock Women's Club Luncheon. Tracy Smith, the community manager for the Palmer Ranch Master Association will speak. She will talk about Palmer Ranch and will offer an opportunity to answer your questions about the Ranch, the projects the Master Association is currently working on, and any other topics you'd like answers to.

What Does the Master Association Do?

Officially, the purpose of the Master Association is enforcement of the covenants, monitoring functions including governmental requirements of the development, maintaining & enhancing the Master Association, common area landscape including public road & drainage rights of way, as well as additional responsibilities further defined in the Declaration of Protective Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions for Palmer Ranch.

Technically, the Master Association enhances & maintains the common areas of Palmer Ranch, which are County roadways.

Details

February 4, 2026

@Matteson's City Grille

@11:30

RSVP:turtlerockwomensclub@gmail.com

Turtle Rock Men's Club

Special message from the President

Golf Anyone?

A Turtle Rock Golf Group Invitation

The Turtle Rock Men's Club *golf group is opening their golf group roster to all Turtle Rock residents (men and women) and their guests.*

The Turtle Rock Golf Group (TRGG) plays at Misty Creek Country Club every Tuesday at 8:56, 9:04, and 9:12.

We have a group agreement with Misty Creek Country Club to play for \$85 per person in January, and \$99 per person in February and March.

This is a \$30 savings compared to their standard rack rate (street rate) of \$115 in January, and \$129 in February and March.

If you would like to be added to the TRGG roster and receive weekly registration notifications, please send your contact information (name, email, address, and phone) to this email address: trmc.golf@gmail.com

Please let me know if you have any questions about this invitation.

Jeff Fasick

Turtle Rock Men's Club President

trmc.golf@gmail.com

Turtle Rock Men's Club

By Ken Rosemann

Mark Your Calendars!

February 13th – 11 am – All residents are invited to a guided tour of The Patriot Plaza at The Sarasota National Cemetery, 9810 State Road 72. Carpooling at TRCC at 10:15 am, leaving at 10:30 am. ([Patriot Plaza - sarasotaarts.org](http://Patriot%20Plaza%20-sarasotaarts.org))

February 18th – 12 pm – Member Luncheon at Kolucan's – 6644 Gateway Avenue
Guest speaker – Bob Horne, Principal, Torburn Partners
“Transformation of the Sarasota Square Mall”

March 16th – Ed Smith Stadium Oriole Spring Training Game. (See flyer on next page)

March 18th – Member Luncheon at Tuscany Nokomis Guest speaker – Mark Vengroff, CEO & Managing Partner, One Stop Housing
“Affordable Housing in Sarasota”

March 28th – Murder Mystery Trolley- A 90-minute interactive tour, solve the mystery of the Circus Queen's murder in a fun, circus-themed theatrical show aboard the trolley. More information to follow.

Annual Membership

Your 2026 annual dues are due. If you haven't already done so, pay your dues by placing a \$20.00 check made out to, Turtle Rock Men's Club, in the Men's Club mailbox at the Community Center.

Weekly Golf Outing

Open to all residents. If you are an avid 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 February Birthday!** If I have missed anyone, email me and I will update the TRMC website. Jeff Fasick, Len Friedlander, Bob Lingard, Larry Nelson, Michael Pitoniak, Ken Rosemann



If you know of someone who may be interested in joining the Men's Club, have them call or text Fred Howe at, 315-402-5936 or send a message to turtlerock-mensclub@gmail.com, and he will be glad to assist them in the process of joining.

Turtle Turtle Rock Men's Club

cont'd

REMINDER REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 06

The TURTLE ROCK MEN'S AND WOMEN'S Club would like to invite you, on a first come, first serve basis, to:

BOSTON RED SOX

VS.

BALTIMORE ORIOLES

Monday, March 16, 2026

Game starts at 6:05 p.m.

We have reserved 30 seats for our group!

Reserved Grandstand seats are in the shade between home and 1st base in Section 207.

Cost: \$28.00 per person.

Location: ED SMITH STADIUM

2700 12TH STREET, SARASOTA, FL 34237 click [here](#) for map

Phone: 941-893-6300

Registration: Please make checks payable to TRMC for the total amount due. The checks can be dropped off at the TRMC mailbox at the Community Center.

Arrangements will be made for you to pick up your tickets at a later date.

Registration Deadline: March 06, 2026

One of our original
Turtle Rock Families
sunning themselves at
Serenity Pond.

Photo courtesy of
Susan Birkenmaier



T.R.O.M. Trivia February 2026

1. Permanent fire containers such as fire pits must be located within the lanai encloser and its dimensions may not exceed what diameter and height?
2. My American flag is tattered and torn. To dispose of it properly, I can take it to...?
 - A. Lowe's
 - B. American Legion/VFW post
 - C. Ace Hardware
 - D. TR Community Center
3. The speed limit in all of Turtle Rock is 25 mph. True or False?

Answers on last page

**Happy Valentine's
Day**

Donna Wolfson





Natural Assets Committee

Michelle van Schouwen, Secretary



Heron Pond (pond 18) shoreline restoration

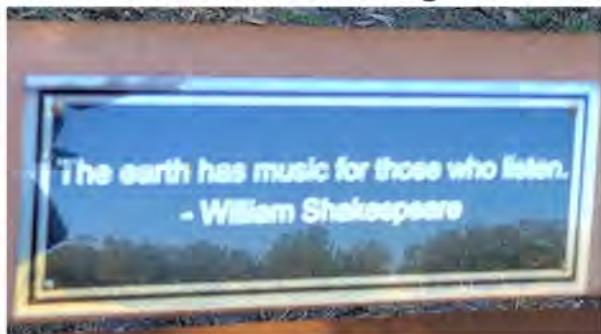


Turtle Rock is restoring shoreline integrity for 2,170 feet of Heron Pond behind Park Shore and Far Oak Circle. You may have seen vendor Crosscreek collecting sand from the pond bottom and installing Geotube® reinforcement along shores. The team is then installing new sod atop the Geotube, plus beneficial aquatic plants in adjacent littoral zones.

Drainage and other piping is being extended to the new shorelines as needed.

This work protects Turtle Rock property and reclaims eroded land behind houses. Assuring the success of the new shoreline is a shared responsibility between Turtle Rock and homeowners. Crosscreek will periodically employ a pump-and-wheelbarrow system to water along the new shore. Homeowners are asked to water the new sod regularly and to assist neighbors who need help.

Homeowners should allow the two feet of new grass closest to the pond to grow. It will become the new low maintenance zone (LMZ) and Crosscreek will clip it when needed. Meantime, homeowners' landscape teams should mow any old LMZ that is more than two feet from the new shoreline. Gratitude to all the homeowners who are making this investment a success for Turtle Rock.



New nature trail bench and plaque are complete – thanks, everyone.

Article and plaque photo by Michelle van Schouwen. Heron Pond photos by Ginny Cheatham. Logo by Barry Domenick.



Staying in Our Lanes — Literally

I spend a lot of time moving through Turtle Rock — driving, riding my bike, and walking the neighborhood. When you do that long enough, patterns start to emerge. Lately, I've been noticing behaviors around bikes, electric bikes, motorized bikes, and electric scooters that only seem harmless because nothing bad has happened yet.

There's a simple system that helps shared spaces like ours work safely. Pedestrians expect sidewalks where they can walk safely and without fast-moving traffic. Drivers expect roads to be used by vehicles moving at roadway speeds. Cyclists rely on bike lanes being kept clear so they don't have to weave into traffic. When everyone uses the space designed for them, things tend to work the way they should.

Sidewalks are for people walking. * Roads are for cars.* Bike lanes are for bikes — including electric bikes.

When each of those stays in its lane, literally, movement is more predictable and safer for everyone. Problems start when faster or heavier traffic shows up where people aren't expecting it.

What I'm seeing more often now are bikes, electric bikes, motorized bikes, and electric scooters using sidewalks, sometimes at speeds pedestrians don't anticipate. I'm also seeing riders — especially younger ones — without helmets, and these devices being treated more like toys than what they really are: fast, heavy machines moving very close to people on foot. This isn't about young children learning to ride under adult supervision; it's about how faster bikes and scooters are being used once speed, weight, and independence enter the picture. Younger riders often underestimate speed and stopping distance, particularly on powered bikes and scooters. Combined with inexperience, that misjudgment can turn a small mistake into a serious injury.

Most of this isn't intentional. It's convenience. It's familiarity. It's the feeling that "nothing's happened before." But that's exactly how serious injuries begin — not with recklessness, but with assumptions. You don't need to be going fast. You don't need traffic. A driveway, a curb, a moment of distraction, or a pedestrian who doesn't hear you coming is enough. Add speed or weight, and the margin for error shrinks dramatically.

This isn't about calling anyone out or cracking down. It's about resetting what feels normal — helmets, riding in the right place, and slowing down where people walk. These aren't restrictions; they're simple ways a community looks out for itself.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page...

That same way of thinking applies beyond bike lanes. Safety in a community isn't one issue — it's a mindset. It shows up in how we walk, ride, drive, and think about shared spaces. Recognizing patterns early and addressing them thoughtfully sometimes means making choices that don't align perfectly with individual preferences, but serve a larger purpose: reducing risk before someone gets hurt, not after.

Parents, grandparents, and neighbors all help shape what kids think is acceptable by what we tolerate and what we model. If unsafe behavior quietly becomes the norm, eventually someone gets hurt — and by then it's too late to say we didn't see it coming.

We all want Turtle Rock to feel easy, safe, and neighborly — for walkers, riders, drivers, and kids alike. That only works when everyone understands how shared spaces are meant to be used, even when there isn't a sign spelling it out.

The safest communities aren't the strictest ones — they're the ones where everyone knows where they belong.

— Rick Myerburg, Turtle Rock neighbor

Vodka was used as currency in 1990s Russia.

The dissolution of the Soviet Union wasn't exactly a smooth process.

Hyperinflation soared as the economy contracted by nearly 50%, resulting in the once-mighty ruble becoming nearly worthless. Many Russians began exchanging American dollars, German marks, and British pounds for goods and services, a practice that was banned in 1993. As a result, a kind of barter system emerged in which one of the country's most reliable goods became a new currency: vodka.

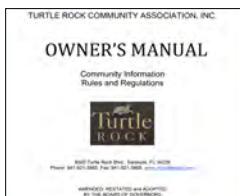
“A repairman will yawn if you offer 20 rubles to get the car fixed or a ceiling plugged,” a 1991 Baltimore Sun article explained about the “liquid currency.”

“But if you offer a bottle of vodka, the job gets done.” The practice waned as the economy slowly stabilized in the 21st century.

Steve West

T.R.O.M. Answers

1. Three feet in diameter and two feet in height. (TROM III, C, 3)
2. All four locations have boxes for your worn flags
3. False. Nice Way is 15 mph



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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Donna McCarthy & Charlotte Swann, Welcome Team

Penny Lind & Judy Bentz, Special Projects

Cean Cerny, Tech Support

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Board Liaison, Susan Birkenmaier

Newsletter Staff

Judy Bentz, Turtle Talk Editor

Steve West Contributing Writer

Proofreaders: Charlotte Jones, Grace Boehm & Ginny Cheatham