



Homeowners Association
Newsletter

June-July 2016
Vol. 4 Issue 4

Landscape Lore

Water

A number of homeowners have noticed dry patches in their lawns. One of the reasons may be a lack of regular rainfall. April is the driest month of the year in Manatee County and the County has just proclaimed April as "water conservation month". Another reason could be that the water pressure in our irrigation systems does not function at an optimal level when the County reduces water pressure in our area (see column to the right). On its Web site, the County is encouraging residents to restrict summer (June to September) irrigation to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch every two to three days and not to water during periods of rain. Information on the summer water conservation program is available at <https://www.mymanatee.org/home/government/departments/utilities/potable-water-system/summer-water-consrvtn.html>. This page also has "Contact Us" information in case you wish to contact the County about water pressure problems.

Trees

Manatee County has added a tree to its list of replacements for live oaks. The Japanese blueberry (*Elaeocarpus decipens*) is an alternative to the hollies (Dahoon, Eagleston, Nellie Stevens, etc.) often used for their attractive shape and low maintenance requirements. Like hollies, the Japanese blueberry is an evergreen tree, produces white flowers in the spring and small berries that last through the winter (red for hollies, blue for the blueberry). Easily pruned and drought tolerant, the Japanese blueberry will attain a maximum height of 30 feet.

Annuals at Wisteria Park entrances

After an attractive start, the white and lavender salvia planted to withstand the summer heat at the 17th and 21st avenue entrances seem to have succumbed to a disease that may be present in the soil. Since the plants were guaranteed, they will be replaced. Consideration is being given to replacing the annual bedding plants with a perennial garden of Florida-friendly plants suitable for the sites in question (sun/shade, low/no maintenance) that would provide an appealing welcome to Wisteria Park.

2016 Calendar of Events

June 27 (Monday) – **4:00 pm** Board **PLEASE NOTE TIME**

July 25 (Monday) – **4:00 pm** Board **PLEASE NOTE TIME**

Board and committee meetings are held at Christ Episcopal Church, 4030 Manatee Avenue West, Meeting Room #1. (*ARC meetings are on an 'as required' basis*)

All meeting notices and agendas are posted on the Argus website and on the Wisteria Park notice board at the community pool a minimum of 48 hours in advance.

Irrigation Water Pressure

May 10, 2016 6:30 am



May 10, 2016 7:14 am



Board Bits

Due to the unexpected pressure of work that is calling him away from Wisteria Park from time to time, Chris Boyhan has regretfully tendered his resignation from the Wisteria Park Homeowners Association Board of Directors. The Board will miss his common-sense approach to Wisteria Park business and his wealth of experience in dealing with Board matters.

If anyone in Wisteria Park is interested in joining the Board for the remainder of Chris's term (until the end of January 2017), please let Steve Brockenshire know by sending a short bio to steve@argusmgmt.com or by calling him at 941-927-6464, ext. 129.

The Board will take care of many housekeeping items at its postponed May meeting among which are the refurbishment of pool furniture and the cleaning of curbs announced in the last Newsletter. The Board will also discuss the painting of mailboxes and street signs, another inevitability of our maturing neighborhood. New security measures for the community pool area are also under active consideration, including a contract to install CCTV equipment.

Safety and Security

Yikes! We see TV stories about alligators in pools but it can happen to us too! If anyone sees or has a concern about an alligator in the neighborhood, call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 1-866-392-4286 and alert our manager Steve Brockenshire. More information is available at the FWC Web site at

<http://myfwc.com/media/152527/LivingwithCrocodiles.pdf>.

Intruders in our community pool area and around our ponds have prompted the Board to explore ways to enhance the security and privacy of Wisteria Park. Our streets are public thoroughfares maintained by the county and anyone can walk, drive or bike through our neighborhood. Visitors may not, however, trespass on private property, including common areas like the pool and playground as well as around the six retention ponds.

Consultation with the Manatee County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit, "no trespassing" signs around the more accessible ponds and a CCTV system in the pool and playground area are being considered as first steps in making Wisteria Park safe for all.

2016 Architectural Review Committee

Mike Zelle – Chair

Gail Larose – Secretary

Barbara Morsch – Member at large

Words from the Editor

Ahhhh -- I remember my thinking when I moved into my first townhouse/condo arrangement, on an Arnold Palmer golf course in IL. Everything was going to be taken care of, the grass would be manicured and the gardens prolific. The reality set in after seeing that the driveways and parking areas needed to be replaced and there was no money in the Reserve Fund! So started my career as a Board member. After 15 years here are a few take-aways:

- Working with a team-oriented, goal focused Board is going to be challenging but very satisfying at the end of the day,
- Most Board work is like managing your house. Only in our case, there are 144 of them,
- Most Board work is not "political",
- Board work requires patience, since our legislators have tied Homeowner Boards up in knots of process regulation,
- 15 years is far too long to be on a Board; participation needs to turn over regularly and everyone needs to be prepared to step up.

We have a Board vacancy now, and need to fill the slot as soon as possible – preferably with a full time resident from our "West Side". Please think about participating. Wisteria Park needs your talents!

Trash Talking

The Wisteria Park Rules and Regulations available on the Web site at <http://www.argusmgmt.com> (see below for log-in details) state that garbage, garden waste and trash containers must **not** be placed out for pick up sooner than 12 hours before the scheduled collection. And holidays shift the regular trash collection forward by a day.

This rule also applies to the kind of garden waste that has been observed curbside for a week or more before the regular pick up. And given the recent reports of animal activity in the neighborhood, it seems sensible to place garbage containers out on the morning of a pickup rather than leave them out overnight to attract unwanted visitors.

2016 Board of Directors

Barbara Morsch – President

Bob Harcourt – Treasurer

Gail Larose – Secretary

Mike Zelle – Member at Large

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Question? - Contact our Community Association Manager

Steve Brockenshire – steve@argusmgmt.com or 941-927-6464, ext.
Visit Argus Management's website at www.argusmgmt.com, click "Client Login", "Wisteria Park", and enter password "wpa" to access meeting agendas, minutes, financial reports, rules, forms and other community information.