



Homeowners Association  
Newsletter

March-April 2015  
Vol. 3 Issue 2

### Goodbyes and Hellos!

April can be the cruellest month, especially when we say goodbye for the summer to our seasonal residents. We have also waved farewell to a number of long-term residents and wish them well in their new homes. On the plus side, we have gained some wonderful new neighbors. Welcome to all newcomers!

### 2015 Garage Sale



The cool inclement weather on Saturday, February 28 did little to dampen the spirits of residents and bargain hunters alike, many of whom arrived early and snapped up some of the treasures on offer. Many thanks to organizers Cheryl Soudijn and Rob Winsor for their help in making this Wisteria Park garage sale a success.

### A Word from the Editor

I am the "lucky" guy that gets to put his name on this news letter. I say lucky because a number of WPA people have contributed much effort to move forward on some of the events and issues mentioned in this newsletter:

- Jim Harley and Dede Beveridge spent a lot of hours on the phone with Manatee county on Live Oak Trees;
- Gail Larose and Barbara Morsch have invested huge amounts of time trying to figure out what to do with Ficus hedges;
- Maureen Hooper dreamed up and organized our Moon Walk;
- Cheryl Soudijn and Rob Winsor organized our Garage Sale.

This type of activism makes my job a cinch!!

### 2015 Calendar of Events

April 27 (Monday) 6:00 PM – ARC  
April 27 (Monday) 7:00 pm – Board

May 26 (Tuesday) – 7:00 pm – Board  
(ARC meetings on an as required basis through the summer)

Board and committee meetings are held at Christ Episcopal Church, 4030 Manatee Avenue West, Meeting Room #1

*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.*

Minutes of Annual and Board meetings are available on the Argus Management Web site. at <http://www.argusmgmt.com/>

### Name that Pond!

Wisteria Park boasts six retention ponds currently identified by number. The Social Committee is challenging homeowners to come up with better (and more memorable) names.

The winner, as judged by an impartial panel chaired by Maureen Hooper, will receive a prize of a small framed photo of the pond of their choice! Contact Maureen Hooper for more details at [mhooper8530@gmail.com](mailto:mhooper8530@gmail.com).



## Starry, starry night

A dozen and a half residents gathered on March 5 to stroll around the neighborhood in search of stars and to have a good look at the full moon. The clouds held off so that our "moonwalkers" were able to identify some of the main features of the early spring sky – Orion, (the hunter) and Sirius, (the dog star) as well as Aldebaran, an orange giant star in the constellation Taurus (the bull) about 150 light years away.



Keep an eye on the Newsletter for details on upcoming community events .

## Board Bits

One of the Board's main concerns over the past few months has been the condition of ficus hedges found on common areas as well as on homeowners' lots. Some of our hedges are in very good condition, but others have been badly damaged - most likely by white fly. The ARC and Board have been consulting Truscapes and other horticultural experts on this problem. We have learned... (See column to right below)

## 2015 Board of Directors

Barbara Morsch – President  
Blanca Moscoso – Vice President  
Bob Harcourt – Treasurer  
Gail Larose – Secretary  
Norman Abbott – Member at Large

## 2015 Architectural Review Committee

Norman Abbott – Chair  
Gail Larose – Secretary  
Barbara Morsch – Member at large

Wisteria Park  
Homeowners Association  
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Bob Harcourt, Editor

## Landscape Lore

Front yard oak trees have been a concern for Wisteria Park because of their potential for overgrowth and aggressive root systems. Manatee County has had a process in place (restrictive) for owners of 60 foot lots to remove and replace their trees, but no provisions for owners of 80 foot lots.

With some prodding by Board members Jim Harley and Dede Beveridge last summer, the County has now eased the barriers for oak tree removal and replacement on lots up to 80 feet wide. The range of acceptable replacement trees has been expanded to the following six: Red maple, Eagleston holly, Dahoon holly, Nellie Stevens holly, Walter's viburnum (tree form), 'Little Gem' magnolia and 'Shady Lady' black olive. Acceptable tree selection for lots over 80 feet is more restricted. Information can be found on the County Web site noted below. Trees must be removed within 90 days of County approval. The County has also eliminated their permit fee.

The basic procedure for removing a Live Oak tree is:

- select your arborist and choose a replacement tree;
- get a County permit. County information and forms can be found at:

<http://www.mymanatee.org/home/government/departments/building-and-development-services/environmental-review/articles/tree-removal.html>;

- Inform the ARC of your plan (ARC will agree on condition that the County approves).

An addendum to the Residential Community Design Guidelines reflecting these changes will be available soon on the Argus Management Web site.

## Board Bits (continued)

... that the recommended treatment for hedges in poor condition is cut-back of the trees, followed by careful and continuing application of Bayer Advanced Tree and Shrub Care to prevent the recurrence of white fly infestation. One of our homeowners has completed the heavy cut-back phase and is already seeing a lot of new growth. For ficus hedges in common areas, the Board will proceed with the 'cut-back and nurture' strategy over the next few months.

If a homeowner decides to remove a ficus hedge there are two replacements plants that could be considered: 'Awabuki' viburnum is fast-growing and Florida-friendly and another hedge plant choice is seagrape. A mature and well-maintained seagrape hedge can be seen at the northeast corner of 17th Avenue and 75th Street.

The ARC and Board will have more feedback in the next issue!

## Question? – Contact our Community Association Manager

Linda Chapman – [LChapman@argusmgmt.com](mailto:LChapman@argusmgmt.com) or 941-927-6464, ext. 134  
Visit Argus Management's website at [www.argusmgmt.com](http://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.