



Homeowners Association
Newsletter

March 2016
Vol. 4 Issue 2

Landscape Lore

Wisteria Park is going through a period of renewal and replacement as it upgrades its landscaping to meet a number of ongoing challenges. Homeowners will notice that a lot of work is being done along the boundary with Mango Park as well as around the pool. Considerable time and effort has been spent, in large part by our Treasurer, in ensuring that the chosen option is cost-effective.

The enormous ficus hedge (195 ficus trees almost 50 feet tall) on pond number six, now familiarly called 'Mango Lake', will be taken out, something the County is encouraging communities to do, to be replaced by a screen of 'Graceful' non-invasive tightly clumping bamboo (*Bambusa gracilis*) and groups of 'Areca' (*Chrysalidocarpus lutescens*) palms, both Florida-friendly plants. The completion of the project should provide a better visual screen as well as better security (more on that on page two).

The second major project involves the removal of two enormous travelers palms (birds of paradise) on the west and east side of the pool. The pressure of the growth of these massive trees has broken the fence to the west and is warping fence sections on the east. Some viburnum hedging will need to be removed and irrigation lines capped to allow the arborists enough room to take out these extremely heavy plants. Once the site has been cleared and tidied, thought will be given to replacing the planting with less invasive plant material.

Work has also been ongoing to remove dead palms that have unfortunately succumbed to *fusarium* wilt and to trim those palms in the common areas and on the east side to prepare them for spring and summer growth.

Yes, it IS a jungle out there!

2016 Calendar of Events

March 28 (Monday) – 7:00 pm Board

April 25 (Monday) – 7:00 pm Board
(ARC meetings on an 'as required' basis)

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.

Remembering the Model A



Dave's Woody

Leslies' "Bumblebee"

Dave and Leslie Robbins moved from Anna Maria Island to Wisteria Park last spring. Through a chance encounter I found out about Dave's almost life-long fascination with Ford model A's. Dave is shown with his "Woody" station wagon; one of several Model A's he keeps at their summer home in Maine. Leslie uses her "Bumblebee" to load up her artist supplies and find sea / landscapes in Maine to paint.

Dave recently filled me in on a few details about these fascinating parts of automotive history.

- The Model A replaced the Model T in 1928;
- While in production until 1932, Ford sold close to 4.9 million; about 300 thousand remain in use today;

(continued on page two)

Safety and Security

The Board was dismayed to learn of the incursion of youngsters onto Wisteria Park property, mainly pond number six (Mango Lake), to fish. After a number of unfortunate confrontations, a very prominent 'Private Property' sign was posted on the fence at the western-most end of Wisteria Park on 21st Avenue NW. This now gives the Manatee County Sheriff's department a basis on which to pursue complaints about trespassers on Wisteria Park property.

The Association will have to adopt a new "no recreational use of ponds" rule to buttress its legal position against trespassing and to contain liability exposures.

Security is a community-wide issue and with this in mind, a meeting with a Manatee County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Deputy was arranged from which a number of recommendations resulted. The Board will be exploring a fresh landscape design for the pool area based on the concept of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) that will enhance the natural beauty of the site while providing improved security.

We are mindful that our streets are county roads and thus open to the public. Nonetheless, if you have cause to believe that non-residents are abusing the facilities reserved for homeowners or their guests, you are encouraged to call or e-mail our Manager, Iris Zieler immediately (see address below) or call the sheriff's office at 941-747-3011 to report the incident.

2016 Board of Directors

Barbara Morsch – President
Chris Boyhan – Vice President
Bob Harcourt – Treasurer
Gail Larose – Secretary
Mike Zelle – Member at Large

2016 Architectural Review Committee

Mike Zelle – Chair
Gail Larose – Secretary
Barbara Morsch – Member at Large

Wisteria Park
Homeowners Association
Newsletter
Published Bi-monthly
Bob Harcourt, Editor

Question? - Contact our Community Association Manager

Iris Zieler – iris@argusmgmt.com or 941-927-6464, ext. 128
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.

(continued from page one)

- The Model A had many sub-models, with names from the prosaic to the exotic, such as Tudor, Fordor, Phaeton, Cabriolet, Victoria and "Woody", a nick name for a station wagon;
- The car has a 40 hp engine and maxes out at 45 – 50 miles per hour;
- Today's gasoline must be doctored with additives so that it can work with the high compression ratio of the Model A engine.

Dave drove me around Wisteria Park. The skills needed to drive a Model A might rival what is required to operate the infotainment system in a modern car, but of a different type. For example, to start; open the spigot in the gravity powered line from the gas tank to the motor, operate the choke, manipulate the spark advance / retard lever, along with the manual accelerator lever to get the engine up and running. Driving is a breeze provided you can get the knack of a stubborn double clutching operation and don't mind wrestling with a very heavy steering wheel. Getting it into reverse: good luck!

Dave described Model A collectors as "Fixers" and "Drivers". Listening to him made it clear that he is a hybrid. His stories range from one of his Clubs that focused on restoring Model A's for all comers, to the many tours and shows he has participated in around the country.

Hope to see Dave and Leslie driving a Model A around Wisteria Park again soon!

Board Bits

New Board members jumped in with enthusiasm as the new Wisteria Park year began. A number of areas were assigned for further research and study and work is ongoing as the Board reviews its major expenditures to ensure the contracts it lets provide good value for money.

The Board would especially like to thank Ray King for his thorough and thoughtful report on East Side landscaping arrangements. A majority of survey respondents indicated a preference for Association provided landscaping services over individually purchased services, so the Board will continue to contract out general landscaping maintenance for East Side properties.