



Homeowners Association
Newsletter

April-May 2016
Vol. 4 Issue 3

Some Thoughts from the Editor

As April gets ready to close out I seem to be beset with degrees of nostalgia about leaving Wisteria Park for five or six months. It seems to be a blessing counting time, or maybe a time to pinch ourselves as a reminder of our good fortune here. Here is a bit of a catalogue:

- Our climate is the foundation.
- It gives our Northern family and friends a retreat from their unkind winter climes.
- Our ponds offer tranquility and beauty with their stalking egrets and herons, fishing ospreys, cormorants and anhingas, mating ducks and noisy frogs.
- The natural beauty and recreation provided by Robinson Preserve and DeSoto Monument – almost next door!
- Our “gem” to the west. Let’s hope for more years before the uniqueness of Anna Maria Island is lost.
- And last, but by no means least, all of the wonderful people we have gotten to know in the six (and a half) years we have been here.

While we will not be physically here this summer, I am looking forward to staying connected through this newsletter and will soon be counting the days down to the end of October and our return to our little piece of paradise!



2016 Calendar of Events

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

May 23 (Monday) – **4:00 pm** Board **PLEASE NOTE TIME**

(ARC meetings on an ‘as required’ basis, usually 30 minutes in advance of regular Board meetings)

- 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.

Landscape Lore

A “go to” Web site for many Florida horticulturalists and landscapers is the University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) Extension Services – [http:// solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/ lawn_and_garden](http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/lawn_and_garden). The site provides links to a number of authoritative articles written by IFAS professors and extension officers, one of which described hedge pruning as follows:

“Another technique that is used every two to three years on hedges in Florida is called “stooling”, a severe cutting where the hedge is essentially cut back to the ground. While this looks pretty shocking, in a few months the hedge will have flushed out again (ixora and hibiscus) just in time for returning snowbirds to enjoy with no one the wiser that it had been a bed of stubs two months earlier.”

This technique should result in stronger plants with larger flowers on the new growth that will spring up.” We look forward to lush hibiscus hedges over the summer!

Safety and Security

A number of Wisteria Park's homeowners will be leaving to head North over the next few weeks leaving their houses in the care of neighbors or house sitters. The Manatee County Sheriff's Office provides a "drive-by" service that can provide some additional peace of mind. A call to 941-747-3011, extension 2260 will ensure that Wisteria Park is on the list for random checks by sheriff's patrols.

Other safety measures include:

- Retrieving your spare key if you leave one outside under a mat or a rock;
- Unplugging electronic equipment – computers and TVs as well as toaster ovens and other appliances;
- Turning off water to the washer and leaving it open;
- Leaving an indoor light or two on a timer (but not on all the time). Some homeowners have also installed light-sensitive carriage lamps beside their garages like the pole lamps that come on at dusk and turn off at dawn;
- Arranging to stop mail or having someone collect it for you;
- Leaving a house and car key with a neighbor so that they can check for leaks or move your car in an emergency;
- Leaving curtains the way you normally do but moving expensive items out of sight of windows;
- Leaving air conditioning set to 80°F and 58 percent humidity.

It seems like common sense but be sure not to post messages on Facebook or Twitter that could alert criminals to the fact that you are not home. And don't change your voice mail reply either since callers only need to know you can't come to the phone.

A few common-sense precautions can make your summer worry-free.

2016 Board of Directors

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

Spring Cleaning



We're rolling up our sleeves! The Wisteria Park entrance monuments were repaired and cleaned last month and re-painting the Wisteria Park logo is on the agenda too (it started out as dark blue as the masthead shows). Freshly planted salvia in lavender and white complement the Wisteria Park "colors". Next to come will be the cleaning of the street gutters and curbs that become discolored with grime from irrigation and rain water. The pool and gazebo furniture are scheduled for some refurbishment too. Some of the green growth around the pool area has become overgrown and more extensive trimming is being assessed for appearance and security purposes.

Board Bits

Steve Brockenshire, our new Wisteria Park property manager at Argus Management, practiced insurance law in Windsor, Ontario before moving to Southwest Florida fifteen years ago. He also has extensive experience in mediation. He is currently the President of his own homeowners association, so knows first-hand what homeowners in Wisteria Park deal with on a daily basis. His good advice was very welcome at his first Board meeting in March.

The meeting was a particularly busy one with a number of items of old and new business to conduct as well as standing room only for homeowners. The Board decided to retain LaPensée Plumbing to maintain the pool and to "green light" the project to remove the ficus trees along the Mango Park boundary.

And good news – the Wisteria Park Homeowners Association received a clean audit review report for 2015! A copy of the report will be posted on our web page in the next few days.

2016 Architectural Review Committee

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

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Newsletter
Published Bi-monthly
Bob Harcourt, Editor

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.