



Homeowners Association  
Newsletter

August-September 2016  
Vol. 4 Issue 5

## Safety and Security

Mosquitoes have been disease carriers for centuries. Malaria, which is transmitted by the anopheles mosquito, was described in China as long ago as 2700 BC. The realization in the late 1800s that mosquitoes were transmitters of malaria led to the introduction of window screens that were called "the most humane contribution the 19th century made to the preservation of sanity and good temper." Mosquitoes are vectors for the transmission of many diseases besides malaria including yellow fever, dengue fever, West Nile virus and most recently, the Zika virus.

The Zika virus is especially dangerous because while it may produce only mild symptoms in adults, it can also cause devastating birth defects. More information on mosquitoes in Florida can be obtained at the University of Florida Web site at [http://mosquito.ifas.ufl.edu/Mosquito\\_borne\\_Diseases.htm](http://mosquito.ifas.ufl.edu/Mosquito_borne_Diseases.htm).

Manatee County takes mosquito control very seriously. Its dedicated Web site at <http://www.manateemosquito.com/> describes the various measures being taken to control the mosquito population. There is also a spraying/fogging schedule with maps that show the areas, including Wisteria Park, currently receiving service.

In the meantime, Manatee County Mosquito Control district asks everyone to remember the three "D"s: **drain, dress and defend**. **Drain** any standing water in recycling containers, roof gutters, plant pots and saucers, etc. and drain and change the water in bird baths once or twice a week. If you are outside, **dress** in light-colored loose clothing that has long sleeves and pants. And **defend** yourself by using an approved insect repellent containing DEET, Picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus (PMD) or IR3535.

## 2016 Calendar of Events

September 29 (Monday) – **4:00 pm** Board  
October 24 (Monday) – **4:00 pm** Board  
*(ARC meetings are 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.*

## Landscape Lore 1

Nettled (forgive the pun) by the unimpressive plant displays\* at the entrances to Wisteria Park over the spring and summer, a group of energetic residents put forward a suggestion to organize a "green thumb" brigade to augment the landscaping with their own effort. The Board responded positively and as soon as the workers' compensation clause in Wisteria Park's new insurance policy takes effect on September 1, the green thumbs will have a green light. The group of volunteers will be putting forward a plan and planting schedule to the Architectural Review Committee that will ensure that Wisteria Park, Manatee County and Florida standards are met. If you want to express your inner horticulturalist and have fun digging in the dirt with your neighbors, please contact Maureen Hooper at [mhooper8530@gmail.com](mailto:mhooper8530@gmail.com) for more details.

\* Part of the problem besetting the plantings at the entrances to Wisteria Park was diseased soil that needed to be removed and left dormant for some time.

## Board Bits

The Board was delighted to welcome its newest member, Donna Burbidge, who responded to the call to join the Board until January 2017 to replace a member who had resigned. Donna brings a wealth of expertise to the Board. She holds an MBA from Wilmington University and has extensive market research and report writing experience.

An opportunity to stand for election to serve on the Board will come up in late January 2017 at the Wisteria Park Homeowners Association Annual General Meeting. If you are interested in serving on the Board, you may want to start thinking about it now.

Donna's first meeting of the Board on August introduced her to some of the current and ongoing issues faced by the Board. One of the most important was approving a new policy with Atlas Insurance that, among other things, protects against the loss of or damage to all of Wisteria Park's physical infrastructure including some elements that have not been covered up to now.

A number of other "housekeeping" items were also approved at the August meeting including the purchase of benches for the gazebo and play area and of acrylic table tops to replace the glass ones currently used in the pool

## A Word from the Editor

Board members are continuing work on a number of issues that are still "below the horizon". Here are a few:

- Landscape contractor bids,
- Rehabbing of street lamp, mail box and other posts and the mail boxes themselves,
- Reasons for the continuing fluctuation in the level of our pond near the north west corner of WP,
- Researching lower cost security alternatives for the pool, gazebo area,
- Insurance coverage review (inventory and appraisal work to be completed)

Some days, maintaining our house and grounds, 141 units at the same time is a challenge. Thanks to all those who have dedicated their time and energy to all this work!!

## 2016 Architectural Review Committee

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

## Landscape Lore 2

### Irrigation

Given the ageing of Wisteria Park's infrastructure, it is not surprising that some of the components of our irrigation systems are wearing out. Our landscaper's contract only provides for the adjustment and replacement of sprinkler heads. Repair or replacement of damaged underground irrigation lines and worn-out irrigation boxes is the responsibility of individual homeowners as noted in our letter sent in September 2014 about landscaping maintenance and in our January 2016 Newsletter. One of the first signs of irrigation break-down is distressed lawns. Wisteria Park's landscaper can help to identify problems and suggest solutions. If homeowners suspect they may have an irrigation problem, they should contact the Wisteria Park property manager, Steve Brockenshire at [steve@argusmgmt.com](mailto:steve@argusmgmt.com) or 941-927-6464, ext.

### Pool parties

The community pool and clubhouse area are frequently used for neighborly get-togethers and parties. The community pool, spa, clubhouse and children's play area are for the use of homeowners/residents and their guests only. If homeowners wish to use the pool area for a group event, e.g., birthday party, the Wisteria Park property manager must be informed two business days in advance with the following details: name and address of the responsible homeowner, the start and end time of the event and the number of people expected, including the number of children. All rules regarding use of the pool and spa are to be observed (children to be supervised by an adult, no children under the age of 12 in the spa, etc.). In the event that charges are incurred for security or cleaning after the event, the named homeowner will be billed. At no time will other homeowners be excluded from the pool, spa, clubhouse or play area.

## 2016 Board of Directors

Barbara Morsch – President  
Bob Harcourt – Treasurer  
Gail Larose – Secretary  
Mike Zelle – Member at Large  
Donna Burbidge – Member at Large

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## Question? - Contact our Community Association Manager

Steve Brockenshire – [steve@argusmgmt.com](mailto:steve@argusmgmt.com) or 941-927-6464, ext.  
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.