

# Heron

East Lake Woodlands



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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Susan Whitehead

As I write this, I'm sitting in a cottage on the side of a mountain in Colorado Springs. I feel like I'm looking out of a tree house! It's June 9 and amazingly the temperature today was 57 degrees. 57 degrees! Now, I love Florida but, this has been a rare treat. East Lake Woodlands hosts a large number of snow birds and I can certainly understand the draw of spending the summer away from the heat and humidity.

My husband and I are only here for the week to watch our youngest son participate in the Junior Olympics. Next week I'll be sweating with the rest of you.

Oh, those gates. I wish there was a magic solution to keep them operating as designed but, it does not seem to be in the cards. The metro gate, (the one behind McDonalds), has been down for a while as we await word from the shopping center management on how to proceed with repairs. When the gate was installed years and years ago there were three small trees very nearby on the shopping center grounds. Over time, those trees grew into two towering pines and one huge oak tree. The roots of those trees encroached into the channels and operating system of the gates making one of them inoperable with the other not far behind. A repair of the gate system

as currently designed would be very costly so we're exploring other options such as restricting the access to only pedestrians, bikes and golf carts or changing the roller gates to another type of barrier system. The shopping center is an integral part of the decision so we wait for a response from their legal department. As soon as we receive word we will move forward.

Earlier this month we met with a Pinellas County engineer to discuss, among other things, the traffic directions, volume and lane markings at the Tampa Road/ELW Parkway intersection. This is the intersection at the south guardhouse in front of the AMC Theaters. We asked the county to do a traffic study and look into extending the timing of the green light when exiting East Lake Woodlands. Since Tampa Road is a main artery and heavily travelled there are certain times when this cannot be accommodated however, the county will look at extending the time when possible. We were also concerned about the increased traffic to and from the renovated shopping center across the street through this same signaled intersection. The county will make a recommendation for the lane directional designations based on the same traffic study. Once we have agreed on the pattern, the county will return to not only put up new signs but, to paint the designations in the lanes on both sides of the intersection.

On a final note, please be extra careful when driving through our neighborhoods. Children are out of school and having lots of fun riding bikes and running to each other's houses for swim parties. And while we teach them to look both ways, sometimes they simply forget. So, it's up to us to remember: Wise Up, Eyes Up!



## ABOVE AND BEYOND

by Keith Crank, Vice President

For this article I want to forgo my usual verbiage and praise a couple of people who went above and beyond as to what was required of them. As you may have noticed if you drive on East Lake Parkway near Turtle Creek and Diamond Crest there is a median island on the road. The landscaping crew has completely refurbished this island and we have received several compliments on its new appearance. On June 2, my neighbor told me he had ridden his bicycle past the island and said that many of the plants had been pulled out of the ground. I in turn asked Officer Tabitha Nix to drive to the island and take pictures of the damage. When she arrived at the island she noticed that many of the plants looked as if they had been a late night dinner for a family of deer. Officer Nix told me that almost all of the plants looked as if someone had trim the tops off the plants with a pair of scissors.

I said okay and our conversation ended. Around 11:00 AM I got a message from a fellow

board member concerning the island along with an accompanying photo. In the photo was Officer Nix and Mr. Luis Ramos, a resident of Turtle Creek, are shown replanting all the plants that had been pulled out of the ground. Officer Nix and Luis were doing something that neither one had to do. I personally want to thank them for what they did.

Mr. Ramos here's a big thank you from the ELWCA board for your help.

This is another example of how the dedication Officer Nix has shown to our community. She has on several occasions gone above and beyond while doing her patrolling duties throughout the community. There was another occasion where she aided a very confused elderly man back to his residence and worried wife. These are a couple examples of the many times that Officer Nix has shown her dedication to our community and her willingness to help our residents. I would like to express my thanks not only to Officer Nix, but also to all of the officers who are working in East Lake Woodlands.

Always call 911 for an emergency. The new phone number for the ELW patrol officer is 813-462-8971. For non-emergency Pinellas County Sheriff's deputy assistance please call 727-582-6200.



several compliments on

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## GATE STATUS REPORT

Dec 3, 2018	SUNTRUST: Outbound gate struck by commercial vehicle. Company disputing responsibility; awaiting response.
Dec 28, 2018	SUNFLOWER: Outbound gate struck by resident; awaiting payment.
May 11, 2019	TAMPA ROAD: Inbound gate struck by commercial vehicle. Invoices forwarded for payment.
June 7, 2019	WALMART GATE: Outbound gate intentionally damages. Florida Highway Patrol reviewing Wal Mart cameras.

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### “SIRI”, “ALEXA”, “ERICA” & “TORY”

by Paul Burmeister, Editor

*Editor's Note: Please note that any perception of an obsession with hair care products that may seem pervasive throughout this article and the fact that my personal hairline is “challenged” are strictly coincidental. Otherwise, I hope you enjoy this month's column.*

I doubt many people would disagree with the statement that we're living in the “Technology Age”. With incredible advances being made literally every single day that affect just about every facet of our lives, the innovations we're witnessing are staggering to say the very least.

Sadly though one of the greatest technological advances we seen in our lives is one that continuously seems to be overlooked and taken for granted. That said I'd like to remind everyone of the shopping mall directory which to some may appear to be an inanimate metal display object near a shopping plaza's entranceway but in reality should be recognized as at the fore front of artificial intelligence. Said another way, how is it that whenever you're trying to find a store's locale and approach any mall directory it not only knows where the specific store your looking for is it also knows that “**You Are Here**”. How does it know?

Consider this scenario; I'm driving by the mall when it dawns on me that I should stop and buy some “volumizing shampoo”. Once inside, I start looking for the store that sells soap and hair care products and decide to avail myself of the mall's directory. Somehow the directory immediately recognizes me and says: “**You Are Here**”. It's amazing that the directory knows it me even though we never met before.

A week later, I'm driving past a different mall when I begin to ponder if it's possible to attach hair extensions to a bald head and do a “comb over”. Although I personally would have no use for hair extensions and comb overs aren't conducive to windy days and swimming, out of curiosity I decide to stop into the mall and look for a kiosk selling them. Again, I decide to avail myself of the mall's directory and somehow it immediately recognizes me and says: “**You Are Here**”.



Now here's where things kind of get a little scary and you might start to wonder; is “big brother” watching us”? I'm driving by a totally different mall with obviously way too much free time on my hands when I begin to wonder if the Hair Club for Men has retail outlets. Again, I avail myself of the mall's directory and somehow a totally different mall's directory immediately recognizes me and says: “**You Are Here**”.

On another occasion I'm driving by another mall when I begin to ponder two things. The first is wow, there seems to be a disproportionate number of shopping malls around here. The second is I wonder if they have a kiosk that sells toupees that can give a sixty year old man a flowing mane that makes him look like “Fabio”. Not that I would have any need for a toupee myself and am only on a fact finding mission to potentially be helpful to my bald, follicle challenged friends, I avail myself of the mall's directory and somehow a totally different directory recognizes me and says: “**You Are Here**”.

And then there was the time I was driving past the mall and decided to stop in and buy my mom a “Chia Pet” for Christmas. Now before you start thinking I can't believe the handsome and debonair yet self-absorbed editor of *The Heron* would actually consider rubbing green “Chia Pet” paste all over his head to make his hair grow, I was actually there to buy the “Chia Pet” for my mom along with a “Billy Bass” singing fish for my dad. Once again, I availed myself of the mall's directory and somehow was immediately recognized and told: “**You Are Here**”. In hind sight, I'm not certain either parent appreciated their present as they both promptly asked if I had the gift receipts with me.

Now I can understand a shopping mall having a map depicting store locales only is not anything to be awed by but the fact anyone can approach the directory and it will tell them: “**You Are Here**” is impressive. Taken a step further, you don't need to make a reservation and tell the directory you're coming in advance, you may never have been in the mall before or you may have had a full head of hair the last time you were there and be completely bald head now and it will still know: “**You Are Here**”. Where else can you find that kind of technology?

Last, as impressive as mall directory technology is there are a few shortcomings I'm certain top product development engineers all over the world are working on at this very moment. For example:

*Continued on page 3*



“SIRI”, “ALEXA”, “ERICA” & “TORY” ... *continued from page 2*

the approach the directory uses of just blurting out “**You Are Here**” can come across as cold, curt and maybe even terse at times. Somehow there needs to be a more welcoming greeting like: “**Aloha, You Are Here**”. I’ve also noticed the directory doesn’t seem to have the ability to do plurals or regional dialects since I’ve never seen: “**You Both Are Here**”, “**You All Are Here**” or “**You Are Here and You Brought Your Posse Along**”. It also doesn’t seem to have the ability to do: “**Y’awl Are Here**”!

The other thing that I think is missing is the mall directory doesn’t have a name. When you think about some of the latest and trendiest technology introduced, the developers have given their products short, catchy names for marketing purposes while sadly the directory has been left to languish namelessly in empty malls. Considering Apple has “**Siri**”, Amazon has “**Alexa**” and Bank of America has a mobile App named “**Erica**”, maybe using “**Tory**”

would be an appropriate remedy to correcting a technological oversight and give mall directories everywhere the recognition they deserve. Who knows, maybe this one little change is the tipping point that stops the growing popularity of on-line shopping and bring consumers back to the mall.

I’m leaving now and going to the mall to have my bangs trimmed. Hopefully I won’t have any trouble finding the hair salon.

### NEW PHONE NUMBER FOR ROVER AND CONTROLLED ACCESS ASSISTANCE

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## 4 DIFFERENT WINDOW TREATMENTS TO CONSIDER THIS SUMMER

by Sally Giar

As Mother Nature kindly graces us with her presence this summer, it’s time to embrace more sunshine – especially as it shines into your home. This season, why not let the light in with a new set of gorgeous window treatments? The right arrangement can make your space feel more refreshed and cheerful. It might even save you some money on your energy bill.

One small adjustment to your windows can transform the room from floor to ceiling. It’s time to ditch the heavy drapery and opt for something more light and flowy. Consider filling your home with one – or more – of the following window treatment options this summer:

Mix things up and layer Roman shades under a pair of sheer curtains. Mix things up and layer Roman shades under a pair of sheer curtains.

### 1. SOFT SHEERS

Since sheer draperies make it easy for natural light to slip through, this option is perfect for that room in your home that relies on artificial lighting. Sheers are great because they can make a serious style statement without looking bulky or taking up too much wall space. They can complete a living space almost effortlessly. Choose sheers in hues that complement the room before making the investment.

“Lace curtains add a layer of elegance to a living space.”

### 2. LACE DRAPERIES

A similar choice to traditional sheers, lace draperies add a layer of elegance to a living space. Lace is a choice material for any living space, such as the family room or dining area. One space that can benefit from lace draperies is the bedroom; it’s the perfect adjustment to make this private room more polished and opulent if you’re in need of an update.

### 3. ROMAN SHADES

If you’re looking to make a bigger presentation of your windows, roman shades make a great choice. This option can be a focal point in the room, acting as another piece of decor. Roman shades are ideal for rooms that get a lot of traffic during the day, as they can block a lot of light if it gets too bright for you and your guests. Additionally, they come in a variety of shades, styles and designs, so you can use them as a neutralizer in a room that’s eccentric, or vice versa.

### 4. WOOD BLINDS

Are you interested in taking a break from the curtains this summer? Wood blinds are a classic approach to window

treatments, and they can work with virtually almost any style depending on the paint color, stain or finish you choose. Wood blinds are not only stylish, but they’re also very functional and have the ability to block ample sunlight, so they can help keep your home comfortable and save on your cooling bill this summer. Wood blinds come in many light hues such as shades of white, which can turn a traditional kitchen into a beachside bistro, or a dull bedroom into a cozy cottage.

Wood blinds can turn your room into an oasis.

Choosing new window treatments can be an intimidating task, especially when you have a few rooms to take care of. Take the pressure off by working with a personal decorator from Decorating Den Interiors. We will come to your home to evaluate your living space, measure your windows and get an idea of the vibe you’re looking for in each room. From there, you can discuss your own ideas, personal style and what you hope to achieve by giving your windows a new look. The right window treatments can take all of your rooms to the next level this season of sunshine.

Your home deserves a refresh this summer! Call Decorating Den Interiors today to get the ball rolling.



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**PINELLAS HURRICANE  
GUIDE: INSURANCE**

by Doug Edwards

Not all insurance policies are created equal. Check your policy or talk to your agent to make sure you've got sufficient coverage and to determine if any home improvements would qualify for a discount on premiums.

- Home owner insurance policies DO NOT cover damage from rising flood waters or storm surge. If you own a home in a high risk flood zone, your mortgage company will likely require you to carry a separate flood policy.
- Anywhere it rains it can flood. About 25 percent of flood insurance claims occur outside of high risk flood zones. If your home is in a low or moderate risk area take advantage of a highly discounted Preferred Risk Flood Insurance Policy.
- A new policy takes 30 days to take effect, so don't delay. Purchase flood insurance for your home, business or rental. Assistance is available from Pinellas County Flood Insurance Advocates at [www.pinellascounty.org/flooding/advocates.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/flooding/advocates.htm).
- Understand your coverage. Your structure and your contents are covered separately on your flood policy. For details visit [www.iii.org/article/making-sure-your-home-properly-covered-disaster](http://www.iii.org/article/making-sure-your-home-properly-covered-disaster).

**HURRICANE WINDSTORM INSURANCE**

Check that your insurance policy covers damages from wind. Not all policies include this. Different carriers have different waiting periods so do you wait until a storm is approaching to purchase this.

**OTHER INSURANCE**

Consider insurance for mobile homes, cars, boats, and businesses to protect against storm damage and flooding. If you rent your home, be sure that you have insurance to cover the replacement of your personal property. Encourage your renters to have insurance policies for their belongings.

**HOME HARDENING**

Adding storm shutters, garage door braces and hurricane straps to the roof will make your home safer from wind damage and could lower your insurance costs.

**QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF**

- Do I know my evacuation zone?
- Do I know my flood zone?
- What are my deductibles?
- Should I get flood insurance?
- Do I have enough coverage to replace my home and belongings?
- Do I have loss-of-use coverage for temporary housing expenses?

**INSURANCE CLAIMS***Before the event:*

- Take photos or video and inventory your property. You will need this if you have to make a claim.
- Make sure you have all of your important documents together.
- Back your photos and documents electronically using cloud-based storage.

*After the event:*

- Take photos or video of the damage to document your losses for your insurance claim before you move any debris or remove damaged belongings.
- Make a list of damaged contents.
- File your insurance claims promptly. There are time limitations on submitting claims with many insurance companies.
- Do not sign an Assignment of Benefits. In Florida there's a rapidly growing scam in which some unscrupulous home repair vendors pressure homeowners to sign away the rights and benefits of their insurance policies as a condition of performing work. This practice has led to grossly inflated claims and an explosion of Assignment of Benefit lawsuits against insurers, which is driving up the cost of homeowners' coverage for consumers.





## OLDSMAR RANKS HIGH AS A SAFE PLACE TO LIVE

By Ernie Del Barba, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services

The city of Oldsmar was given a double thumbs up in an article in the Homes Section of the Tampa Bay Times on May 26, 2019 by Nick Stubbs for being the 8th safest city in Florida for 2019. This is according to the Safewise study to provide their "100 Safest Cities in America" results and rankings.

The McCaffery Team at Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Florida Properties Group (Bob McCaffery, Fonda Dillard, Joan Daly (Bilingual), Sharon Greenfield, Grace Rudawski (Bilingual), Claudia Preisig (Bilingual)) wants you to know that it is this type of ranking that helps significantly boost your real estate property values. The lead of our team, Bob McCaffery, was asked his opinions by Nick Stubbs about pricing, sold prices, demographics and appeal of Oldsmar properties because of his team's knowledge of the city and especially East Lake Woodlands. Bob told him that ELW being a gated community has helped it being one of the safer places to live in Oldsmar, and that the great schools are a big reason Oldsmar was given a high rating for being at the top of the list for Home-Shopping Buyers. Bob described the community as a "diverse mix of young families and singles, millennials and retirees, and one whose central location is its "strongest attraction", with "2 18-hole championship golf courses" to add to the international appeal East Lake Woodlands has to Buyers.

The McCaffery Team office is in your community and cares about the safety and prosperity of ELW, so we are participating in the Metropolitan Ministries Backpacks of HOPE Drive to collect much needed school supplies for local students in need. Our office can receive your donations all the time, but our team wants to help make it easier for you to donate by picking up donated items on Saturday, July 20, 2019. Your household will be receiving a mailing from our team members with a list of the most needed student supplies for their new year, and a list of most needed food items for the Food Drive.

We will also have the list of items in our office if you would like to pick one up. You can leave the items in a bag in front of your front door, garage, or any spot that is visible from the street. We want to make Backpacks of HOPE a huge success this year with your help to make sure these local area children have all they need to start their student year with some enthusiasm and feeling prepared to start learning like their other classmates. Our great school ranking can only go up by helping all students in our surrounding areas of Oldsmar.

And please feel free to stop by our office to discuss your real estate needs and leasing information, or visit [www.TheMcCafferyTeam.com](http://www.TheMcCafferyTeam.com).

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## ELWCA BUDGET TIME! HELP WANTED

By Connie Hillman, Treasurer & Chairman of the Finance Committee of ELW

Summer begins the budget season for ELWCA. First tasks are reviewing contracts and rebidding those that have expired, gathering estimates for planned 2020 projects and contacting vendors such as utilities and insurance for any anticipated increases in price. In early September the gathered expense numbers are put together with income and, if necessary, maintenance fee increases are determined. Every effort is made to keep any increase if needed to a minimum. During the remainder of September and early October the budget is reviewed and cuts are made where possible. The 2020 budget will be approved at the October Board meeting (Tuesday, October 15 this year).

The Board would like to increase interest and input from the association's members and we sure could use the help of 1 or 2 interested people. Is there anyone out there who would like to assist with the 2020 ELWCA budget process in late September and early October?

If you have some spare time and would like to help, please send us an email ([board@eastlakewoodlands.com](mailto:board@eastlakewoodlands.com)) with the following information:

- Your name
- Your association name
- Your position on a local board and years of service (if applicable)
- Your September/October availability to assist in the budgeting process
- Your contact information (email, phone number)

Thanks in advance for your consideration.



## Thanks Mr. McCaffery-

Mr. McCaffery and his real estate team helped my Mom and Dad find us a new home in Tampa Bay. Your new friend, Sara....

The McCaffery Team can help you and your family find a new home in Tampa Bay. Call Bob McCaffery today at 727-331-8257 for additional information. Please tell Bob, Sara sent them.



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## BIRD OF THE MONTH SWALLOW-TAILED KITE

by Jake Jacoby

The Swallow-tailed Kite is, without question, one of the most beautiful “birds of prey”. It has a unique shape, beautiful black and white plumage, a deeply forked tail (that looks like an open pair of scissors), and is extraordinarily graceful in flight. In Spanish, the bird’s name is the “Scissor-tailed Hawk”. The sexes are indistinguishable by plumage or size (sexually monomorphic).

Hanging motionless in the air, swooping and gliding, rolling upside down and then zooming high in the air with scarcely a motion of its wings, the Swallow-tailed Kite is truly a joy to watch. At one time it was a common sight in much of the Southeast U.S., but today due to habitat loss it is found mostly in Florida and a few other areas of the Deep South.

The Swallow-tailed Kite rarely flaps its wings while flying, but it almost continuously rotates its tail, often to as much as 90-degrees. This is done in order to hold a certain heading, make a sharp turn, or trace tight circles while drifting across the sky. In my opinion, the Swallow-tailed Kite is the most adept and acrobatic flier of all the raptors.

Courtship may involve aerial chases by both sexes and the male may feed the female in flight. These kites require tall trees for nesting and both adults will work together to build the nest in the tallest tree available, sometimes more than 60 feet above the ground. Their nest is composed of small sticks, lined with soft lichens and Spanish moss. They continuously replenish the nest material on top of the nest in order to keep it clean, fresh and free from avian parasites.

In Florida, a large colony of Swallow-tailed Kites can be found every year near Fish-eating Creek, which is privately owned and close to Lake Okeechobee. This colony normally consists of as many as 2,000 birds. They prefer the high Pine or Cypress Trees in this area where they can nest in the tree tops. I previously found several hundred in central Florida, South of Ocala, where they were hunting exclusively on insects, attracted by the ripening melons in the farmlands below. Swallow-tailed Kites are extremely maneuverable in flight and catch insects and feed on them in the air. They catch much of their food by swooping low over trees or lower growth, and then picking small creatures from the twigs or leaves

without pausing. They also drink on the wing like a swallow, swooping low to snatch water from the surface of a river, lake or pond.



*Captured Prey in the Talons*

One to two eggs are laid in the nest that are white and marked with dark brown spots. Incubation is done by both parents, for about one month. The first egg is usually much larger than the second one and has a greater chance of survival. Also, when 2 eggs are laid, the first chick that hatches will usually kill the second chick when it hatches; while this may seem cruel, it will greatly improve the chances of survival for the first chick that is born. During the first week after hatching, the young are brooded almost continuously by the female. The male will bring food to the nest, and the female will then feed it to the chick. After two to three weeks, the female will periodically leave the nest to hunt and will bring food back to the nest. The chick will fly in five to six weeks after hatching. While they nest in Florida in the summer (normally April, May, June and July), they migrate every year to South America for the winter – mostly to Brazil and Argentina, which interestingly, have the same South Latitude (28-degrees) as the Tampabay area has in the North. This amazing round-trip migration is approximately 10,000 miles. While most bird species that have an unsuccessful first hatching due to predation, weather or disease, etc., will many times have another mating and attempt to raise another family. Swallow-tailed Kites do not have this luxury as they must leave on their long migration and the chicks must be ready to go in late July or early August or be left behind; so, for this species, one strike and you’re out!

The Swallow-tailed Kite was chosen as the symbol for Florida’s “Great Florida Birding Trail” and is seen on the signs marking this trail throughout the state.

Swallow-tailed Kite prey includes flying insects, birds, and also small vertebrates including snakes, frogs, and lizards. Adults feed mostly on large insects at most times of the year including dragonflies, wasps, beetles, cicadas, grasshoppers, and many others.

Swallow-tailed Kite predators include the Bald Eagle and the Great Horned Owl.



*Swallow-tailed Kite*



*Aerial Hunting*



*Eating on the Fly*



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## NEWS FROM EAST LAKE FIRE RESCUE

by Tom Jamison, Fire Chief

East Lake Fire Rescue was recently named Florida's 2019 District of the Year by the Florida Association of Special Districts ([www.fasd.com](http://www.fasd.com)). Special Districts are mission critical, local community

units that address specific community needs and provide and maintain single-focused infrastructure and services, such as water and road management, fire rescue and safety, health care services, community development, housing and more. There are more than 1,200 special districts in the state.

East Lake Fire Rescue's Fire and Life Safety Educator Claudia Faiola was named as Florida's 2019 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year by the Florida Association of Fire and Life Safety Educators (FAFLSE). Claudia is in her fourth year with the East Lake Fire District, and in that time has proven herself to be a leader in her profession. Claudia was recently appointed as the National Fire Protection Association's Public Education Network Representative for the State of Florida.

Claudia has a bachelor's degree in Public Safety Administration, is a state - certified Fire and Life Safety Educator, CPR instructor and Child Passenger Safety Technician.

East Lake Fire Rescue: Meet your Fire Department

The East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control District, aka East Lake Fire Rescue serves the residents in unincorporated areas of northeast Pinellas county. Our service area covers 33 square miles, from the Pasco County line to the north, the Hillsborough county line to the east, down the middle

of the Brooker Creek preserve to Tampa Road and Lake Tarpon to the west. Our response area has about 33,000 residents. Service is provided from three fire stations – Station house 56 at the East Lake Road entrance to East Lake Woodlands, Station 57 off Tarpon Lake Boulevard in Lansbrook and Station 58 off Keystone Road east of East Lake Road.

Each station is staffed 24 hours a day with highly trained firefighter paramedics who are ready to handle a wide range of emergencies, from fires to car crashes, heart attacks to falls. We also have a very active education and prevention division to identify and reduce community risk. You can find out more about our district and the services we offer at our website: [www.elfr.org](http://www.elfr.org). You can also follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, YouTube and LinkedIn!

## 2019 EASTLAKE WOODLANDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

August 20th	8:00am	Management & Associates
September 17th	6:30pm	East Lake Woodlands Country Club
October 15th	8:00am	Management & Associates
November 19th	6:30pm	East Lake Woodlands Country Club
December 17th	8:00am	Management & Associates

Management & Associates office is located at:  
720 Brooker Creek Blvd Suite 206 Oldsmar, FL 34677



## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR ELWCA MANAGER

by Debi Hudrlik, AMS, CMCA

Good day ELW residents, I hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer!

As you may recall, in last month's issue of The Heron, ELWCA President Susan Whitehead, Controlled Access Chairman Keith Crank and I each addressed vehicular damage to the gates controlling access to

our community. Since then, there have been several additional gate collisions, some of which sadly appear to have been intentional.

Fortunately, in some of the cases eye witnesses were able to provide vehicle descriptions and license plate numbers. In other situations the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) was called and a review of cameras in specific locations took place to obtain pertinent information, investigate the incident(s) and pursue the motorists.

One incident being investigated occurred on Friday, June 7th when our security officer found that the Walmart exit gate had been compromised. There was significant damage to the gate which appeared to be intentional. The exit gate was blocked by cones and caution tape and the service provider was contacted. Throughout the day, the inbound gate was operational, and I stationed myself nearby to monitor the location until the service technician arrived. At one point during the morning, I witnessed a motor vehicle attempting to exit the community into the Walmart parking lot via the inbound gate. Due to the amount of time it took an incoming vehicle to clear, the inbound gate began to close before the exiting vehicle could make it through, and the driver had to back up and exit through a different gate. For your own well-being as well as the safety of others, please enter and exit our community by using the appropriate lanes.

Later that same day, I was stationed near the SunTrust gate and witnessed several vehicles traveling at inappropriate speeds on Woodlands Parkway attempting to get through the exit gate while it was still open from a previously exiting vehicle. In 2 instances the vehicles narrowly missed damaging the gates because the motorists were driving too fast and operating un-safely while not providing the gate sufficient time to re-set. Regrettably, there have times in the past when other drivers were not as fortunate as the vehicles I witnessed. In those instances significant damage was done to the motorist's vehicles and the drivers were also held responsible for the costs of the gate repairs.

Recognizing we never want to see residents and/or guests attempting to use the entrance gate as an exit from the community, or to enter and/or exit the community by following another vehicle too closely, I'd like to provide a brief overview of how the gate opening mechanisms work which will hopefully be helpful to all.

When entering or exiting the community, the "loops" in the roadway will not allow the gates to close on a vehicle as long as the vehicle is proceeding slowly and is within the "loop area". If you vehicle is outside the "loop area" and there is quite a distance between you and the vehicle in front of you, and you step on the gas attempting to make it through an open gate, chances are very high that the gate is going to begin to close and potentially strike your vehicle. Note that the "loops" are located in the roadway as you are immediately approaching the gate from the either the inbound or out-bound direction. Additionally, there are no "loops" after you pass the gate. Consequently a vehicle exiting through the entrance gate is not going to activate the "loop" to keep the gate open because there is no "loop", and the gate is going to close.

Without sounding like a broken record, we respectfully ask that everyone please slow down and proceed with caution when passing through the gates. For your own well-being as well as the safety of others, please also enter and exit our community by using the appropriate lanes and allowing the gates operating system to operate as expected.

On another topic, we have also received several calls and e-mails regarding the low water levels in the ponds. For those who may be new to the community, this is quite normal for this time of year. Typically, home owner demand for water skyrockets every March, April & May as new planting are placed and temperatures become warmer before we reach June and the start of the "rainy season". During this period of time and before consistent summer rains arrive the ponds, aquifer and reclaimed water facility cannot keep up with the demand and it is not unusual to see lakes and ponds at lower levels. As always, we ask everyone to be conscious of their water usage.

Additionally, we have also seen an increase in homeowners coming into our management office to purchase new and replacement bar codes. As stated previously, the bar codes have a limited life span. An older bar code that is faded from the sun and/or curling at the ends may not work properly and should be replaced. Please inspect your bar codes and replace them if necessary.

### HOMEOWNER POLL:

The Board of Directors is considering offering special meetings to discuss topics of interest to homeowners, such as:

- **POND MAINTENANCE** – A presentation on water levels, quality, erosion, invasive versus non-invasive plants, etc.
- **GATE OPERATIONS** – how the loop and bar code readers work, proper distances and tailgating, the different type of gates and the pros and cons
- **SECURITY OPERATIONS** – what are the duties and responsibilities of the Officers, how do they spend their time, how often do they drive the community, etc.
- **ELWCA & HOA'S** – collaborative efforts, duties and responsibilities of each, who you should contact, etc.

As I'm certain you'll agree, planning, scheduling and preparation associated with these meetings takes time and energy. In order to ensure we are addressing topics with interest throughout the community you think you would benefit from and would like to learn more about, please e-mail Mary Hunt at [mhunt@mgmt-assoc.com](mailto:mhunt@mgmt-assoc.com).

When responding, please type in the subject line ELWCA Homeowner Program and provide your name and the sub-association in which you reside. Please reply by July 31. Also, if you have other topics that you would like us to consider, please let us know!

Thanks for taking the time to read this information. I hope your summer continues to be enjoyable.

# COMPUTER PROBLEMS?



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## COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL SERVICES





## HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE – SHOULD WE PRUNE OUR TREES?

by Pam Brown (ELW resident)

This is a repeat of a previous article on hurricanes and tree pruning, but I see so many over pruned palms and poorly pruned trees that I feel it needs to be repeated each year. Tree companies are out and about offering to prune large trees and palms for hurricane season. Much of the pruning that is done by these roaming “tree surgeons” can actually create a tree in more danger of failing in high winds than providing protection. The University of Florida has conducted a lot of research on the proper way to prune trees and the way that trees behave in high winds.

Let’s look at palms since they are so often improperly pruned. When green fronds are removed, the palm is weakened. And, when all but a few of the fronds are removed in what is commonly called “hurricane pruning”, the palm is in more danger of failing in high wind. The lower, fronds are mature, hardened fronds that protect the newer, more fragile fronds near the growing bud of the palm. Without the mature fronds for protection, the top of the palm is more likely to sustain wind damage during hurricanes or other high wind events. In addition, when this type of pruning is continued over time, the palm is weakened and may develop nutrient deficiencies and eventually decline and die. According to Dr. Ed Gilman of the University of Florida, palms are pruned primarily for people reasons and not the health of the palm. It is perfectly acceptable to remove dead fronds, blooms and fruit. And, I find that when a live frond is hanging too low over the sidewalk, just cutting off the tip end of the frond will make it light enough to spring up out of the way of pedestrians. For more information see the University of Florida publication Pruning Palms <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/pruning-palms.shtml> and <http://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/pruning/pruning-palms.html>

Removing the frond bases that remain attached to the trunk with a chainsaw creates wounds where insects or disease can enter and is not a good practice. In addition, several fatal palm diseases can be carried from palm to palm by pruning tools that have not been cleaned properly. Ask anyone pruning your palms to clean their tools with diluted bleach or 70% alcohol before pruning in your landscape and in between each palm pruned while in your yard.

Be cautious with the pruning of large shade trees. The common malpractice of removing many or all interior low branches is considered over-thinning or “lions-tailing”. Dr. Gilman states that “When people prune trees in this abusive manner, excessive live tissue is removed from the tree and no structural pruning is performed. This creates poor form and numerous wounds, and the tree becomes more prone to failure especially if there are few trees nearby. Old trees can decline as a result of removing too much of the leaf canopy. The best practice is to remove no more than ten percent of the live foliage on mature trees.”



Hurricane pruned palms



Oak with properly trimmed canopy

Reducing the amount of foliage on the ends of the branches, and thus the weight, is a better practice to reduce risk of branch and tree failure during high winds. The canopy can be opened up without removing all of the interior branches and attached foliage. An arborist certified by the International Society for Arboriculture is trained in the proper way to prune and protect trees. However, all certified arborists are not equal. When requesting a quote from an arborist, ask to see their ISA certification card, proof of liability insurance (ask for this no matter who you hire), references, and also ask if they will be with their crew when the work is done. You might even go to look at some trees that they have pruned. You can find certified arborists in our area on the Internet at: <https://www.treesaregood.org/findanarborist/arboristsearch> For University of Florida information on tree pruning on the Internet, see Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs at: <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/pruning.shtml> If you plan to plant new trees, you can find information on selection in another UF publication: Selecting Southeastern Coastal Plain Tree Species for Wind Resistance: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FR/FR17400.pdf>

Trees add considerably to property value and keeping them healthy while providing protection from damage to your home is a delicate balance that requires planning and caution. Please do your homework before allowing just anyone with a truck and a chain saw access to your trees.

### PINELLAS COUNTY FERTILIZER ORDINANCE

Remember that Pinellas County has a fertilizer ordinance prohibiting the application of fertilizer containing Nitrogen or Phosphorus (the first two of the three numbers on the fertilizer bag) during the rainy season from June 1st through September 30th. This ban helps keep fertilizer which can lead to algae blooms out of our waterways. You can purchase “summer blends” that contain Potassium and micro-nutrients that can be used during this time. Iron can be added to help green up your grass and has the added advantage of not producing succulent new growth that attracts chinch bugs and other lawn feeding insects. I have had several people tell me that they can just go to Lowe’s over the Hillsborough County line and buy any regular fertilizer that contains Nitrogen since they do not have this ban. Keep in mind that applying this is breaking the law and you can be fined if caught. Ongoing research has shown that the ban is working. Areas of Tampa Bay adjacent to Pinellas County are showing an increase in growth of sea grass and also a reduction of algae blooms.

Master Gardeners are available to help with your plant or landscape questions at the Palm Harbor Library each Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. This is a free service of Pinellas County Extension and the University of Florida.





## BACK TO COLLECTING PHILLIBERUMENTISTS

by Paul J.H. Leaser

Matchbook cover collectors value the colorful covers and unusual shapes and sizes and design of these “still – available” safety devices.

The need for match safes was eliminated by the invention of the safety match.

Most sought-after matchbook covers are those of unusual shape, size or design. Collectors acquire match books that are provided by hotel and motels. “VIP” covers which show famous people are highly desirable.

Political covers, athletic, automobile, World War II, commemoratives, etc., etc. make for a large and varied field for collectors.

Being a “non-smoker”, I guess that I never joined the ranks of these collectibles, but I appreciate the “zest” of these collectors.



## EAST LAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY JULY 2019 SPECIAL EVENTS

by Patty Ann Wiczorek, Reference & Marketing Librarian

### DROP-IN TECH HELP

Every Tuesday, 12:30-2:30pm

Thurs., July 11, 18, 25, 5:30-7:30pm

Every Saturday, 12:30-2:30pm

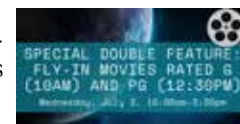
Do you have technology questions? Meet one-on-one with IT Specialist, Matt, who will help you find answers to questions about mobile devices, websites, downloading, e-readers, and much more. Remember to bring any usernames and passwords you might need so we can work successfully together. No registration.

### SPECIAL DOUBLE FEATURE: FLY-IN MOVIES

**RATED G (10AM) AND PG (12:30PM)**

Wednesday, July 3, 10am-3:30pm

Special Double Feature: Far Out, Fly-In Movies are about space! All families welcome. No registration.



### SIZZLIN' SUMMERTIME BBQ

Wednesday, July 3, 11:30am-1:30pm

The Library Director is donning her chef's hat and firing up the grill to celebrate Independence Day. Come by the library between 11:30-1:30 for hot dogs, chips, and soft drinks or water for a total of only \$4.00. Extra hot dogs only \$1 each and we will have vegan options. Why not have lunch at the library while you watch one or both of our out-of-this-world double feature movies in the Community Room?!



### ELCL AUTHOR SHOWCASE: MEET DON BRUNS!

Tuesday, July 16, 6:30-7:45pm

USA Today bestselling author Don Bruns writes three different series of novels, one New Orleans based; one a Caribbean series; and one an eclectic “stuff” series, a total of 15 books so far.

### JEDI ACADEMY (FOR CHILDREN)

Friday, July 19, 2-2:45pm (Session I) &  
3-3:45pm (Session II)



Join Master Craig from Taekwondo Center of Excellence for a physical training session centered around the force and the innate power of positive thinking and personal responsibility. Please register.

### SHOOTING STAR SPECIALS FOR TEENS FINALE (AGES 13-18)

Friday, July 26, 6-8pm

Join us for a stellar night to Summer Reading! Rolling Games Video will be here with their Game Bus and Laser Tag! Registration required!



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## PREP YOUR HOME FOR SUMMER GATHERINGS

by Family Features

When temperatures rise, it's time for sun dresses, cranking up the grill and entertaining. Spending time with your loved ones during the warm months can make for some of the best memories of the season, which is why it's important to take simple steps to de-stress, declutter and refresh your home before your guests arrive.

### REFRESH YOUR HOME

Our homes are reflections of who we are, and Renuzit Snuggle helps create a welcoming environment for friends and family. With Renuzit Snuggle, you can welcome guests into your home all summer long with fresh scents like Linen Escape, Relaxing Lavender or Enchanting Tropical. It's crucial to have an air freshener that is long lasting and easy to use, so you never have to worry about lighting candles just before your guests arrive. Welcome them in with the inviting scent of snuggly freshness, available in Plug-In Scented Oils, Gel Cone Air Fresheners and Fabric Refresher Sprays.

### STOCK UP ON SUMMER SUPPLIES

One of the main causes of stress when prepping for friends and family to arrive is ensuring you have everything on-hand to make your gathering a success. Consider buying summer hosting essentials like paper plates, cups and utensils in bulk to help save time and ensure you're fully stocked for guests all summer long. Having extra snacks and supplies ready to go can also provide peace of mind when it's time for any last-minute party-prep.

### SPRUCE UP ACCESSORIES AND DECOR

Update your home's look by switching out accent pillows, throws or rugs for colorful or patterned options that can excite you and your guests. Buying all new items each season can get expensive, so consider reusing your current pillow inserts and picking out some new covers in bright summer colors to revamp your home's look.

### BRING THE OUTDOORS IN

Plants can add color and life into your spaces and create a warm and welcoming environment for your summer gatherings. Bring the outdoors in by adding a few succulents or an herb garden to your kitchen then consider a large, leafy houseplant for your living room. For added pops of color and detail, plant your flowers in fun, decorative pots.

For more information on scents to refresh your home, visit [renuzit.com](http://renuzit.com).

*Photo courtesy of Getty Images (woman fluffing pillow) #14764*  
Source: Renuzit.



## AVOIDING MAIL BOX THEFT

by myhoa.com

*Mail box theft is an ongoing problem in this day and age of sophisticated scanners and printers. Thieves are getting better and better at altering checks and changing credit card information for their own uses. You can help prevent much of this activity by taking the following steps:*

- Do not leave outgoing mail in your unlocked mailbox. It is safest to deposit mail inside your local post office. If you use a collection box, make sure to use one that is not full, and deposit mail shortly before the next scheduled pickup time. Do not let your mail sit in a collection box overnight, especially on weekends.
- Promptly pick up your incoming mail once it has been delivered to your mailbox.
- Arrange for your mail to be delivered to a Post Office box for a small fee.
- Have regular income checks deposited electronically into your bank account with "Direct Deposit" service. It is usually free of charge.
- Be observant of activities on your street, including those near your letter carrier, his/her vehicle, residential mailboxes, and collection boxes.
- Immediately report any suspicious persons or activity by calling 911 while suspects are still present! Remember, do not jeopardize your safety, but BE A GOOD WITNESS!
- The Postal Service pays rewards up to \$10,000 for information and services leading up to the arrest and conviction of mail thieves. Report suspects or crime information to Postal Inspectors, 24 hours a day at 626-405-1200.
- Promptly report nonreceipt of credit cards, checks and other valuable mail to the senders.
- Immediately notify the post office and mailers if you change your address. If you are going on vacation, notify the post office, or have a trusted friend or neighbor pick up your mail promptly after delivery.
- If your mail is stolen, you can take the following steps to avoid fraudulent use of your checking account by:
  1. Write in full the payee, memo, and amount portions, filling up each line completely.
  2. Use thick, dark ink to write your checks. Roller-ball, felt tip and fountain pens are best; ball point and permanent ink pens are most easily altered.
  3. Purchase checks through institutions that use tamper-resistant paper and ink.
- Join Neighborhood Watch. Remember, if you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem.

## VEHICLE BARCODES

If you need a barcode you must provide the following:

### OWNERS:

1. Proof of residency: Driver's license reflecting ELW address OR warranty deed OR closing statement
2. Vehicle registration for each vehicle requiring a barcode

### RENTERS:

1. Proof of residency: Copy of lease
2. Driver's license
3. Vehicle registration for each vehicle requiring a barcode

### PAYMENT

Payment for barcodes must be made with cash or check only. For additional questions please contact Mary Hunt at (813) 433-2014.

## SAMMY'S CUBANO SANDWICH

by Family Features

Cook time: 3 hours and 30 minutes • Servings: 6

### MOJO MARINADE:

- 3/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 cup cilantro, minced
- 3/4 cup orange juice
- 1/2 cup fresh squeezed lime juice
- 3 tablespoons fresh garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon fresh oregano, minced
- 2 teaspoons cumin, ground
- kosher salt, to taste
- coarse black pepper, to taste

### SANDWICH:

- 3 1/2 pounds pork shoulder or boneless pork butt
- 2 teaspoons Tabasco Chipotle Sauce
- 3 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 6 pieces Cuban bread or baguette (6 inches each), cut lengthwise
- 8 ounces deli ham, thinly sliced
- 1/2 pound swiss cheese, thinly sliced
- 24 dill pickle chips
- 4 tablespoons yellow mustard
- 1 cup unsalted butter
- 4 tablespoons reserved Mojo Marinade

#14668 Source: *Tabasco*

- To make Mojo Marinade: In bowl, whisk olive oil, cilantro, orange juice, lime juice, garlic, oregano, cumin, salt and pepper until incorporated. Adjust salt and pepper, to taste. Reserve 4 tablespoons marinade in separate bowl, cover and set aside in refrigerator.
- Place pork in large zip-top bag. Cover with Mojo Marinade and close bag. Place in roasting pan and refrigerate overnight.
- Heat oven to 450 F.
- Remove pork and marinade from bag and place in roasting pan. Cover with foil and cook in oven 45 minutes.
- After 45 minutes, reduce heat to 375 F, remove foil and cook 2 hours until internal temperature reaches 175 F and pork is fork tender at thickest part.
- Remove from oven and let rest 20 minutes before slicing.
- In small bowl, mix chipotle sauce and mayonnaise until fully incorporated.
- Spread mixture on bottom bread slice.
- On top bread slice, place two slices deli ham, 3-4 ounces roasted pork, two slices swiss cheese, 4-6 pickles and yellow mustard.
- Over medium-high heat, butter flat surface of griddle and add reserved Mojo Marinade while butter is melting.
- Place assembled sandwiches on griddle, pressing grill weight or heavy skillet on top of sandwiches.
- Cook until bottoms are golden brown and cheese is melted.



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