

Volume 17 | Issue 3 | 2017

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**SUMMER IS ALMOST HERE** By Keith Crank, Vice President & Chairman, Controlled Access Committee

Summer is just around the corner, which means warmer weather and a lot more activity on our streets. We are going to be seeing many more cyclists along with more pedestrians out for a leisurely stroll or a good work out. As drivers we must ensure that we give both the cyclists and pedestrians plenty of room as we pass them. Cyclists, remember you must obey all the rules

of the road the same as drivers. Runners and walkers should always run or walk against vehicle traffic.

I was out for a ride on my bike the other day and to my dismay I noticed a lot of cigarette butts on the shoulder next to the road. As all of us know we are well below our average rainfall for the year and we are entering the wildfire season. Smokers please do not toss your cigarette butts out the window. They could be blown by the air surrounding the car into a brush pile, ignite and create a real catastrophe. The undergrowth throughout the community is extremely dry and very susceptible to the slightest spark. None of us want to have happen in our community what recently happened in Polk county where several homes were destroyed and over 2000 acres burned. I know many of the newer vehicles don't have ash trays any longer but they do have tons of cup holders where a cup with water could be used as the ash tray.

At a recent controlled access committee meeting it was brought to our attention that thieves have devised a new way to enter our cars even though they are locked. If you use your key fob to lock your doors and an unscrupulous person is around they can now copy your code and later open your car doors. This is almost like the skimmers found at gas stations that can read your credit cards even though it is in your wallet in your pocket or purse. I either lock my doors by using the button inside the car or in my case I have a button on the outside of the door which can be used to lock the doors. These thieves usually are found at large gathering places like shopping malls or large parking lots. Just be aware that it is possible and be



EAST LAKE WOODLANDS RESIDENT ECRWSS EAST STD US POSTAGE PAID TAMPA, FL PERMIT #1502 ECRWSS As always call 911 for ALL emergencies. The non-emergency number for the sheriff's office is 727-582-6200. Should you need to contact our community patrol officers the number is 727-785-7384. In the case of trouble it might be a good idea that the aforementioned numbers be programmed into our personal phones.



## **2017 ELECTION AND UNBOUND INFORMATION** *By Jaime L. Soderland-Ballard, MBA, PCAM*

The Eastlake Woodlands Community Association will be holding it's annual meeting on March 29th at the Country Club. By now you should have received the necessary information regarding this meeting. Please return your proxies to ensure that we will have a quorum to conduct the annual meeting. I also wanted to mention that

Judy Fosbrook and I will be meeting with all unbound and non-member associations on March 23, 2017 to answer questions and to also put to bed any rumors that have been flying around regarding their agreements with the Community Association.



#### PRESIDENTS MESSAGE Judy Fosbrook, President

It's election time again. By the time you read this, you will have received your ballot and, hopefully returned it so it can be counted. Profiles of the candidates should have been mailed with your ballot.

It has been a challenging year for your ELWCA Board, and I want to express my thanks for the efforts of the Drainage Chairman, Jack Picker, and his committee.

They have spent many hours working with the engineers to present a sensible solution to potential bidders. They have also answered questions both in person and online to individuals and HOAs who requested information for their specific area. Our treasurer, Janet Peterson, deserves our praise also for her time spent working with various banks in order for us to obtain the necessary funding at the best terms.

A big thank you also needs to go to the Legal Committee and its chairman, Dick Corrigan. They have provided valuable assistance to our attorneys working on the current lawsuit. Hopefully they will have news of a settlement in the near future.

The other members of your Board have been equally busy. Pam and her landscaping committee have been zealous in keeping our landscape contractor adhering to their requirements. Controlled Access guided by Keith Crank has received much praise from the County Sheriff for the work they do in East Lake. Roads Chairman, Chuck Fairman, has had a relatively quiet year, for a change. Of course, you wouldn't be reading this message if it weren't for the work of our editor, Jeff Hunt. Susan Whitehead, our Insurance chairman, has made sure that we are always in compliance with our adjusters and their companies.

It is my privilege to work with them all.



**TAX FRAUD** by Judy Gauron,

Controlled Access Committee

For criminals, the tax fraud business is booming.

As you prepare to file your taxes for 2016, be vigilant and protect yourself from possible fraud.

• Protect your W-2s - Possession of a W-2 makes it very easy for criminals to steal your

identity and file a false return using the personal information provided on the form.

•**Don't wait until the last minute** -Typically, those committing fraud file early. By filing early, the IRS will be alerted should someone try and file a fraudulent claim in your name.

• **Protect your child's identity** - If a criminal has your child's social security number, they can attempt to falsely claim them as a dependent.

• Protect your data - If you use tax software to file your returns, be sure to keep all of your personal information on a separate drive rather than on your personal computer where it can easily be hacked.



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# EAST LAKE WOODLANDS COMMUNITY PATROL REPORT

Tampa Road Gate 727-785-7384 or North Gate 727-785-1465

# January 2017

•	
Patrol Officers responded to	59 calls
Emergency Calls	0
<b>Complaint Calls</b> (Noise, speeders, solicitors,Domestic disputes, trespass, fireworks, suspicious persons/cars)	27
Parking Violations	62
Irrigation Calls	6
Motor Vehicle/ Pedestrian Accidents	6
<b>Crimes Reported</b> (Vandalism to mailboxes, gates, grass damage, stolen bikes, dumping, all other criminal activity)	5
Miscellaneous/Other (Welfare checks, pets, wildlife, all others)	15
The Sheriff monitored 33 hours during January 2017	
Performed 3 Hours of Presence/Visibility.	
Citations 6, Warnings 35	
Top speed: 48/30 MPH.	



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# OUTSIDE THE GATES

by Richard Corrigan, Director ELWCA

Following up on last week's column, I did check with the county commissioners office and discovered the following information about low flying aircraft. The town of Safety Harbor and the commissioner's office have been having regular meetings with Clearwater - St. Petersburg Airport (PIE) regarding low flying aircraft. East Lake and Oldsmar are welcome to participate in these

meetings. The agreement reached is that aircraft will maintain an altitude of between 2,600 feet and 3,000 feet when approaching PIE. East Lake is in the flight path for landings at PIE and these altitudes are to be maintained over East Lake. If you believe that an aircraft is lower than 2,600 feet (about 1/2 of a mile) as it passes over your subdivision, get as much information on the aircraft as you can (time, direction, estimated altitude, tail number, etc.) and we can help you establish a dialogue with PIE about the incident as well as inform other administrative parties (county commissioners, FAA, etc.) Note that aircraft departing PIE to the north generally follow a flight pattern that takes them on an angle about 30 degrees to the east or west of due north. I can obtain the departure guidance provided to pilots if anyone is interested.

Speaking of the county commissioners, as you may have seen in recent news articles they have allocated to 28 projects the \$7.1 million in funds received by Pinellas County from the BP settlement fund as a result of the Deepwater Horizon spill. Among distributions that impact the North county are:

#### • Pinellas County Housing Trust Fund

BP funds awarded: \$1 million Additional funds needed: n/a Project: Affordable housing units countywide.

• **Pinellas County | stormwater/sewage** BP funds awarded: \$1 million Additional funds needed: n/a

Project: address countywide stormwater and sewer infrastructure issues (we will push to see North county gets some of this funding).

#### • East Lake Community Library

BP funds awarded: \$350,000 Additional funds needed: \$0 Project: A new parking lot

### Community Service Association Palm Harbor

BP funds awarded: \$294,000 Additional funds needed: n/a Project: 2 acres will be developed for athletic fields.

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# • Pinellas County | sports parks

BP funds awarded: \$284,000 Additional funds needed: n/a

### • City of Dunedin

BP funds awarded: \$250,000 Additional funds needed: \$1,150,000 Project: 8 acres of land to be placed in conservation

### • Pinellas County | rescue boats

BP funds awarded: \$250,000 Additional funds needed: n/a Project: The county will use these funds to buy a rescue boat for East Lake and supplement the purchase of a boat for the city of St. Pete Beach.

#### • Downtown Palm Harbor Merchants Association

BP funds awarded: \$222,000 Additional funds needed: n/a Project: 66 street lights

### • City of Safety Harbor

BP funds awarded: up to \$250,000 Additional funds needed: up to \$250,000 Project: a new bridge near Philippe Park,

### **Project:** Be Safe,

Project: a Coast Guard Auxiliary training Center on Ft Harrison Ave.

Additional funds needed: \$250,000

#### Clearwater Ferry

BP funds awarded: \$80,000 | Additional funds needed: n/a Project: subsidy funds to operate the ferry over to Clearwater Beach

### • Palm Harbor Chamber of Commerce

BP funds awarded: \$78,000 Additional funds needed: n/a Project: Facilities and equipment upgrades.

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# MARCH MADNESS

by Jeff Hunt, Chairman of Communications *Committee* 

I've always thought the month of March has a lot going for it. 1) The first day of Spring. Renewal. A chance to begin anew. 2) Daylight Savings Time begins. More daylight. Get out there. 3) Spring Training. Rays baseball. Hope is eternal. 4) National Pi Day. 3.141592653.... or as I prefer, National Pie Day. 5) St. Patrick's Day. Green beer. Leprechauns. Did I say Green

Beer ? Did I say Leprechauns ? 6) National Puppy Day. Furry. Ball. Of Love. And while these are only a few examples of what March can do for you, please repeat after me......68.32.16.8.4.1.

March will also bring you the East Lake Woodlands Community Association Annual Meeting and Election this year on Wednesday March 29th. The meeting will be held at the East Lake Woodlands Country Club and begins at 6pm. Please mark your calendar, plan on attending and be sure to vote. Puppies are welcome but please no leprechauns.

Locally, March brings a big day of horse racing at Tampa Bay Downs on Saturday the 11th. Ruth Eckerd Hall has a full schedule with one of my personal favorites Norah Jones gracing the stage on the 7th. Or, if you feel like getting your Ya-Ya's in the Wa-Wa you can head over to Adventure Island whose 2017 season opens on March 19th.

But now back to the Madness because that's where March starts for me. According to an article written by Brendan Koerner who is a contributing editor at Wired and a columnist for Gizmodo, the term March Madness traces back to Illinois' statewide high-school basketball tournament, which began in 1908. In 1939, an official with the Illinois High School Association, Henry V. Porter, penned an article called "March Madness" for the organization's in-house magazine. "A little March madness may compliment and contribute to sanity and help keep society on an even keel," he wrote. Three years later, he followed up with a poem, "Basketball Ides of March", which read in part: "A sharp shooting mite is king tonight/ The Madness of March is running." If you are interested you can read the rest of Brendan's article at Slate.com. Oh and by the way, March 21st just happens to be World Poetry Day.

So, whether your team just gets into the Big Dance field of 68, survives into the round of 32, advances to the Sweet 16, fights into the Elite 8, crashes the Final Four or is crowned National Champion, please understand that a little Madness is okay this time of year. Don't let anyone suggest you're crazy for yelling at your television. Or let someone suggest that you've filled out one too many office pool brackets for the tournament. Or let those around you deny that Selection Sunday should be a national holiday. But most of all, don't let nobody stop you from enjoying the Madness !!!

"There really are only two plays: Romeo and Juliet, and put the darn ball in the basket." - Abe Lemons -



HISTORICAL BITS AND PIECES By Paul J.H. Leaser

# **A METAMORPHOSIS**

The comic strips that I read and enjoyed (Some 80 years ago) have either disappeared or, in some cases, been reborn: Popeye, Flash Gordon, Dick Tracy, Tarzan, Mutt and Jeff,

Blondie. New comics have replaced most:

Pickles, Luhan, Peanuts, Donnesburry.

I still enjoy the comic strips, whether by habit or to "escape" the news and the commercials and mundane programs.

Actually, the comic strips are a part of our history and still enjoy the recognition of being an innovative and creative culture.

Comics are essentially narrative art told in successive drawings enclosing "ballooned" dialoge.



# AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Diane Mongiello

Meet 'Mike" and 'Molly'. They are "Clowns" who live in a beautiful, watery neighborhood within our East Lake Community. However, this neighborhood is inhabited by living coral, a giant clam, starfish, shrimp and an eclectic array of aquatic cousins, as shown in the photographs below:





Eric Miller, the neighborhood 'maintenance man' assures me that, although they do have day and night lighting and occasional thunder, it never rains in this Florida neighborhood!

If you would like your special pet to be showcased in the Heron, please contact Diane Mongiello @ mongiellod@yahoo.com

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# 4 WAYS TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR WALL SPACE

By Sally Giar

6

There are dozens of ways to give your room some character. You can lay down an area rug, choose stylish pieces of furniture and adorn with accessories throughout the space. But none of these adjustments will completely bring your room together if the walls are bare.

But sprucing up the vertical space in your home doesn't have to be a huge production – even the most simplistic décor scheme can make a significant statement.

What are you waiting for? It's time to reach out to a professional for some decorating advice. He or she can help you make these adjustments for making the most of your empty walls:

#### **1. RECONSIDER YOUR WINDOW TREATMENTS**

This one takes thinking outside of the box: Use your windows as leverage for sprucing up your walls by investing in new drapery or another type of window treatment. Your design consultant can give you pointers on which option and color can best give the space character while satisfying both function and design needs.

## 2. CREATE YOUR OWN ART GALLERY

Give your vertical space a personalized touch by filling it with wall décor to create your very own art gallery. First, print and frame your most cherished photos. Then, hang them beside a collection of your favorite pieces of wall art. Your decorator can also help you fill in the spaces with some of our own art. The variety will mix things up and add depth to your space.

#### 3. SKIP THE PAINT – TRY WALLPAPER

Are you tired of the same old paint job your bedroom has had for years? Are you finally ready to cover those white walls? Don't just consider a new hue – think upgraded texture or finish. Wallpaper allows you to break the normal limits and add some excitement to your space with ease. Your personal decorator can show you dozens of available choices and advise which would look best.

#### 4. GIVE YOUR WALL SOME DIMENSION

Perhaps the color and texture of your walls look just fine. Maybe you just need to add a shelving unit to reinvent your design scheme. This is an easy way to transform the space with style and functionality in mind. You can display a wall of novels or flowers, or mix things up and showcase both. If you're not sure what to display, don't worry – your personal decorator will give you the guidance you need to make the most style-oriented decision.

Bringing your walls to life is simple, it just takes some organized planning.



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## **BIRD OF THE MONTH** SOUTHERN SEA LIONS ANDTHE FALKLAND ISLANDS By Jake Jacoby

The Falkland Islands are located in the South Atlantic Ocean on the Patagonian Shelf and lie some 300 miles east of South America's southern Patagonian coast. In addition to the two main islands of East and West Falklands, some 776

smaller islands are also contained in the archipelago. The Falklands are a British Overseas Territory, but they have internal self-governance with their own government, money, postage, and taxes, etc. The United Kingdom provides for their national defense and for their foreign affairs. In 2012, the population was approximately 3,000 which primarily consisted of nativeborn Falkland Islanders, the majority of which were of British descent and all of the islanders are British citizens. Most of the population resides on East Falkland where the capital, Stanley, is located. Please see the map below that shows the islands and the places I visited which noted below.



The Southern Sea Lion is also called the South American Sea Lion and the Patagonian Sea Lion. I was able to observe and photograph these sea lions on Bleaker Island in the Falklands during a recent photography workshop in November/December 2016. Watching the Southern Sea Lions up close and personal in their natural environment, was truly one of the many exciting highlights of this workshop. The workshop was operated by Naturescapes and led by Greg Downing. Please see their website for more information at www.naturescapes.net.

The Southern Sea Lion is the classic example of what the name implies. The mature males have a very large head with a well-developed mane, making them the most lionesque of the eared seals. They are literally twice the size and weight of the females with adult males growing over 9-feet and weighing almost 800-pounds. Southern Sea Lions normally live for about 20-years in the wild.

# Ask for our Quarterly Market Outlook report.



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Southern Sea Lions prefer to breed on beaches made of sand, but are known to breed on gravel, rocky, or pebble beaches, as well. The beach in the Falklands where we found the sea lions was composed of both sand and large rocks. Southern Sea Lions consume numerous species of fishes, including hake and anchovies. In the Falklands, they primarily feed on cephalopods,

such as Shortfin Squid, Patagonian Squid and Octopus. In turn, the sea lions themselves are preyed upon by Killer Whales and sharks.

Female Southern Sea Lions reach sexual maturity at 4-to-6 years and

males at 5-to-6 years. However, males will not achieve territorial status until they are 9-to-10 years old. Mating occurs between August and December, and the pups are born between December and February. Males arrive first in order to establish and defend a territory. But, after the females arrive on scene, the males will spend most of their time defending them rather than the territory itself. A male will aggressively herd all of the females



within his territory and then defend them from both neighbors and intruders. On rocky beaches (like in the Falklands), males establish territories where females go to cool off in the water and the males will then keep them there until they are in estrus. Males are usually able to keep around 3-females in their harem, but some have as many as 18.



Southern Sea Lion mothers remain with their newborn pups for nearly a week before starting a routine of taking 3-day foraging trips and coming



back to nurse their pups. They will act aggressively to other females that come close to their pups, as well as alien pups that try to get milk from them. Pups first enter the water at about 4-weeks and are weaned at about 12-months. This is the same time that the mother will normally give birth to a new pup. Pups will gradually spend more time in the nearshore surf in order to develop their swimming skills.

Please see my favorite photographs at www. flickr.com/jake\_jacoby



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by Courtney Smith, Membership Director at East Lake Woodlands Country Club

Greetings residents of East Lake Woodlands Community! We hope you all are enjoying this very mild winter, and are taking full advantage of one of the main reasons you live in Florida. We can report that the Club's calendar has been full, and we've already had TWO COMMUNITY EVENTS in 2017! Back in January we had a huge turnout for our Annual Chili/Salsa Bowl, and in February we hosted the 2nd Annual Junk in the Trunk Community Rummage Sale. These events are so fun for us because it's a great chance to meet our neighbors who might not be a part of the Club yet, and also to bring some local benefit to the residents of our great community. Thank you to those who came out!

ELWCC is continuing to grow, and more and more Members are joining from the community. There has been a noticeable increase in the number of families with kids joining, and as a result something new to the Club this year is a more robust KIDS CLUB! Every week on either Friday or Saturday we are hosting a Kid's Club, and this program is paired with one of our adult events so more parents get a chance to use the Club. The activities include:

#### Kids in the Kitchen

#### Night at the Zoo

Virtual Fitness (Kids Yoga, Martial Arts, and Dance)

Painting Class

#### MORE

The golf courses are in amazing shape, the NEW Fitness Center is showing tremendous usage, the Compass Grill continues to grow year over year, and we can't wait to host POOL PARTIES this summer at our New Resort Style Pool! Also, COMING SOON we are renovating our banquet space in the main clubhouse with new carpet, new chairs, paint, and window treatments. Whether you are a Member or Resident this newly renovated space is available to you are a wenter of reesten business meetings, and other private events. We are targeting this project being completed by Mid-May, and if you are interested in a tour please contact Private Event Director Ashley McCormick at 727-784-8576 ext:14

#### **COMMUNITY EVENTS COMING SOON!**

Throughout the year ELWCCC holds several community events that

EVERYONE is invited to, and below are several great events coming up in the next few months.

SPRING OPEN HOUSE / EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA -Saturday, April 15th from 12pm – 3pm. Easter Egg Hunt, Visit with the Easter Bunny, Mini Golf, Free Food & Drinks and a Chance to Meet your Club Managers and Committees! FREE to the Community!

Charity Classic Golf Tournament - Friday, March 31st with Honor Guard at 12:30pm and Shotgun start at 1:00pm. \$50 includes 18 holes of golf with prizes, refreshments, cart and dinner. Proceeds benefit K9 Partners for Patriots, Augie's Quest/ALSTDI and Employee Partners Care Foundation.

Charity Classic Dueling Pianos – Saturday, April 1st at 6:00pm. \$60 includes a complimentary cocktail, fabulous dinner stations, live and silent auction and a fun, interactive dueling piano show! Proceeds benefit K9 Partners for Patriots, Augie's Quest/ALSTDI and Employee Partners Care Foundation.



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East Lake Woodlands Country Cla

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# **REAL ESTATE TODAY!**

Hugh A. Lichter, M.A. REALTOR®, Century 21 East Lake Realty

We are now into 2017, and sales trends for the end of 2016 have now been compiled.

In general, we had a great 2016. We had good increases in sales, sales prices, and property values, in general.

Distressed sales, meaning short sales and foreclosed properties, now are a far less significant portion of our sales activity and will impact less and less on our market, based on current trends. Foreclosed, or bank owned property sales are down 46.9% from the previous year and short sales are down 37.4%.

Any thoughts that folks may have of coming to Florida and getting a "steal of a lifetime" are now over. Any anecdotal stories they may have or relate about "Florida is a fire sale and my cousin just got a McMansion for the price of a bungalow" is simply "bunk". Sure, there may be instances of estate sales or one or two "lucky events", but this is not in any way the norm today.

So, what is the state of the real estate market in our area? Below is some great info on real estate activity in Pinellas County, where we have good tracking systems of sales data.

Overall mean sales price in Pinellas County was \$210,074 for all types of residential properties, versus \$180,000 the previous year. Overall average sales price was \$274,174 in 2016, versus \$242,000. So, the mean average increase was up 16.7% and the average increase was 13.2%.

Not too shabby!

Breaking this down into segments, the Median Sale Price for Single Family Homes was up 22.4% at \$274,974 this October, versus \$243,706 the previous year. The average days to contract decreased 19.4% from the previous year to 29 versus 36 days, and the average days to sell, meaning the actual time between the initial listing and the closing, decreased 6.3%. That means we went from 79 days to 74 days.

Breaking this down further into the Townhome/Condo market segment in 2016, the mean sales price rose from \$125,000 to \$136,000, for an 8.8% gain. The average Townhome/Condo sales price rose from \$191,148 to \$199,266. This represents a 4.24 gain over 2015.

We continue to have a limited inventory of new listings. This would typically portend a "seller's market", with less supply than demand. And, another important criteria, cash sales versus financed sales, are declining rapidly. We've gone from 42.4% cash sales in 2014 to 39.9% cash sales in 2015 to 31.9% cash sales in 2016.

As we all know by the traffic, lines at restaurants, and limited "specials" at local eateries, we are in the "snowbird" season, when we sell 60% of

the residential real estate versus 40% or so in the rest of the year. In every way, we hope this will continue to positively impact on our market and values.

Next month, we will have our annual "Crystal Ball" issue. The crystal ball is now in the shop, getting refurbished, retuned, and reprogrammed, so please be patient!

If you are even thinking of selling, you owe it to yourself to have a conversation with a real estate professional. We can give you sound advice and good, solid local market info that will greatly assist you. And, if you or someone you know is even thinking of buying, a real estate professional is best able to go over price, payment, location, and value information for this very large decision.

I would be happy to be that real estate professional for you, your friends, and your family!





Hugh Lichter Realtor®



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## **EAST LAKE WOODLANDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - MARCH 2017**

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Copies of six historic patents circa 1836-1907 \$35 - 727 785 7141

**5 sealed coins in case** honor Arnold Palmer's fifty years as a PGA Tour Pro.\$150 - 727 785-7141

Westlake village Villa.3/2/2 One of a kind.Totally remodeled.275k. - 727-744-5484

**Men's beach bicycle.** Used Huffy brand, 26" - \$50 - 727-254-1261

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**Executive Full Leather Plush** Conference High Back Chairs. Black. Five Available. - 727-787-8600

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Brunswick 9' professional pool table, 3 tier green lights, cue sticks. \$1900 -727-787-8600

**Porsche Boxster, 2001** Like new, senior ELW owner, 87,000.mi. \$10,750. -727-781-1578

White kitchen sink Deluxe 33"x19x8". Finish Biscuit,like new\$95. 727-474-7548 - 727-474-7548

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**NAR-ANON** -Are you effected by by someone's addiction? Do you keep trying to make things better and nothing helps? Join us Saturdays @ 10:00 A.M. 207 Buckingham Ave. East – Oldsmar (United Methodist Church) For additional meetings: naranonfl.org or call 1-888-947-8885

Alzheimer's Family Organization Are you a Primary Caregiver for someone with Alzheimer's Disease or other Dementia? You are not alone. Support Groups, Respite, Education, Wanderer's Bracelet or Pendant and additional tools for your support. 727-848-8888. **Recovery International** Abraham Low Self-Help system, a weekly support group for people suffering from anxiety, panic attacks and symptoms caused by fear and anger. Tuesdays, 1pm, Lake View Community Church, 475 East Lake Rd N., TS. 727-942-4095. Free, offerings appreciated.

Fixing your antique furniture, will 30+ years experience help? - 727-807-7252

#### **PETS & PET CARE**

Florida Poodle Rescue, Pinellas www. FloridaPoodleRescue.org. Rescued Animals in need of good homes. Suncoast Animal League, 1030 Pennsylvania Ave., Palm Harbor. 727-786-1330 www.suncoastanimaleague. org

Doodle Rescues: all kinds, ages and size poodle mixes waiting for new homes. www.DoodleRescue.org

Cats for adoption fully vetted/equp'd. e-mail=nanwzz@yahoo.com/call 7842608. - 727-784-2608

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The deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.





# GROWING FRUIT IN CONTAINERS

Pam Brown, ELW Resident

Growing fruit in the yard here in the Woodlands can be a challenge due to the number of critters that wander into our yards from the many conservation areas and the Brooker Creek Preserve. But, if you have a screen enclosure with plenty of full sun, a wide variety of fruit crops can be grown in containers with some degree of

success. Unfortunately, some of these plants will not be as attractive or grow and fruit as well as those grown under optimal conditions in the ground. In addition, many will likely require pollinators. This will necessitate a way to get them outside when they are in bloom and then bring them back inside the screen once fruit starts to form.



Large containers (18 - 20 gallons at least) made from plastic, metal, terracotta, ceramic, or wood can be used. Old whiskey barrels cut in half are an excellent size. The container should have adequate holes in the bottom for drainage of excess water. You might also want to add a sturdy set of plant wheels to allow for easily moving the plant and container. Having used both plastic and metal based wheels, I recommend only using metal based wheels. The plastic ones do not stand up under the weight of the container. Cover the drainage holes of the container with a piece of screen mesh to prevent the soil

from washing out, and then add a one to two inch layer of river gravel (not marble chips) on top of the screen to facilitate drainage.

Commercial potting soils are suitable for growing fruit trees. If the soil seems too heavy to promote good drainage, you can add a bit of builder's sand or perlite. The potting soil should be loose to permit adequate but not excessive drainage. Blueberries are different. They require soil with an acid pH (4.0 - 5.5) which is hard to achieve here in Pinellas County. Mixing one half milled pine bark into the potting soil helps to acidify the soil. I grow dwarf blueberries (Sunshine Blue) in containers inside my pool screened enclosure and have been very successful. I do run them outside on my wooden deck when they are in full bloom to allow for bee pollination and bring them back inside when the berries start to form.

Partially fill the container with soil so that when the plant is added, the top of the soil level will be three to four inches below the rim to allow for watering. If you are not using wheels, the container should be placed where they will remain before filling. Place the plant in the partiallyfilled container and add soil along with water around the sides of the



plant. Do not add soil over the root ball.

Water thoroughly but do not fertilize until you see new leaves emerging. You can also add a one to two inch layer of organic mulch to the container. Mulch will moderate soil temperatures, aid in weed control, and add organic matter to the soil.

Over and under watering are the two most common reasons that plants in containers fail to thrive. Allow the top one inch of soil to dry before watering. Apply water until water drains from the bottom of the pot. When the weather is hot and dry you might need to water daily depending on the size of the plant. The soil in plastic, metal, and ceramic containers generally stays wet longer than it does in wood or clay containers,



which allows water to evaporate through the sides. Cool weather generally slows plant growth and thus reduces the plant's need for moisture, so watering should be less frequent during cool weather.

Tropical and subtropical fruit trees cannot tolerate freezing temperatures for very long. Some will be killed back to the soil by mild freezes while only small twigs will be killed on others. Some root damage can occur because the root system is not as well insulated from cold in a container as it would be in the ground.

The fertilizer you choose should contain nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium in balanced proportions (ex. 6-6-6) and should include lesser amounts or traces of magnesium, iron, manganese, zinc and copper. Slow release fertilizer is usually best. You might notice a white crust forming on the soil or container. This indicates a problem of salt accumulation that could be due to excess fertilization and/or water that contains soluble salts. This salt can be leached from the container by slowly running water through the container for several minutes. This will move the excess salts through the soil and out the drainage holes.

Some fruits that can be grown successfully in containers include: Banana (Musa spp.), Barbados Cherry (Malpighia emarginata), Natal



plum (Carissa macrocarpa), Carambola (Averrhoa carambola), Guava (Psidium guajava), Papaya (Carica papaya), Pineapple (Ananas comosus), Blueberry - Southern Highbush varieties (Vaccinium spp.), Fig (Ficus carica), Strawberry (Fragaria x ananassa), Calamondin (Fortunella japónica), Kumquat (Fortunella spp.), Meyer Lemon (Citrus x Meyeri) and Key Lime (Citrus x aurantiifolia).

For detailed information on fruit that can be grown in Florida, please visit the University of Florida web site: Fruitscapes http://trec.ifas.ufl.edu/fruitscapes/index. shtml



# PROTECTING SENIORS ONLINE FROM SCAMS, HACKS AND TAX FRAUD

by NewsUSA

The vast majority of seniors today are using the Internet at least once a week to check email, pay bills online and keep in touch via social media. But all that time online puts them at risk for scams and hacks, such as tax fraud.

In fact, a new survey by Home Instead, Inc., franchisor of the Home Instead Senior Care network, found that 67 percent of surveyed older adults have been the victim of an online scam or hack.

Encouraging seniors to practice cyber security can go a long way toward protecting their identity and sensitive financial information. Home Instead collaborated with the National Cyber Security Alliance to create Protect Seniors Online, available at www.ProtectSeniorsOnline.com, a free resource that educates older adults about cybersecurity. Here, seniors can test their cybersecurity skills with the "Can You Spot an Online Scam?" quiz.

Older adults can take the following steps now to protect themselves online:

\*Password protect and secure devices, accounts. Lock all devices (including computers, tablets and smartphones) with secure passwords in case devices are lost or stolen.

\*Think before clicking. When faced with an urgent request - like emails asking for money — think before clicking or get a second opinion. Clicking on links is often how scammers get personal information. When in doubt, trash an unusual message.

\*Share with care. More than half (51 percent) of seniors surveyed by Home Instead use social media to stay connected. Use care when sharing personal information, adjust privacy settings to limit who can see your information, and turn off location sharing.

\*Use security software. Install anti-virus and anti-spyware software and program it to run regularly. And be wary of pop-up ads or emails, many of which contain malware that can infect computers.

\*Log out. Log out of apps and websites when you are finished. Leaving apps and websites open on computer screens could make you vulnerable to security and privacy risks.

\*Recommend support. Older adults who live alone may need help from a trusted source — such as a family member, tech-savvy friend or professional caregiver –to serve as a second set of eyes.

To explore additional Protect Seniors Online resources, including the interactive quiz, visit www.ProtectSeniorsOnline.com

A Home Instead office near you can be found by visiting www. homeinstead.com/state.



Watching your home while you're away. Call for FREE Estimates!







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EAST LAKE REAL ESTATE MARKET By Ernie Del Barba

First and fore most thank you to the people who took me up on my invitation to drop in or telephone our Berkshire Hathaway East Lake Office to say hello, and ask questions about the real estate market. Our team enjoyed meeting you, talking about your questions, and getting to know you. We hope your questions were

answered to your satisfaction and we look forward to meeting with you again. Our team's interactive website address is www.mccafferyteam. com and we hope you will use it to stay in touch.

The biggest misconception some of you had is that Berkshire Hathaway Home Services deals only in luxury properties or higher valued homes. Although it is true that our company is desirable and unsurpassed in total sales in these markets, our interest and expertise covers every price range. Our company does have high standards. There are expectations that the realtors in their employ be knowledgeable, well trained and professional. With many people currently getting their real estate licenses due to a stronger market picture, we are faced with competing realtors in an already competitive arena. It is more important than ever for Home Sellers to have experienced representation for their commission dollars, which will result from your interviews with your potential realtor. You deserve great representation even if you may not have a home to sell that is worth a million dollars. With us you aren't paying more for our services but should benefit from the Berkshire Hathaway reputation.

Our company is a true American one, grown strong by understanding the changing business world we live in and recognizing the strength of e-commerce today. We are encouraged to stay focused on the human side of customer service, to help you reach your goals while understanding your needs. The Berkshire Hathaway McCaffery Team is committed to the growth of East Lake Woodland property values. Earning your trust to help with your real estate needs, and to have your respect once you have worked with us are our main goals.

And don't forget to drop by one of your city events, the annual Oldsmar Days Festival at R.E. Olds Park starting March 31, 2017. It's one you shouldn't miss!

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Performances are: The Space, W Main St, Tampa. March 17 at 8pm, March 18 at 2pm and 8pm, March 19 at 2pm. Tickets are \$20 and are available at www.TheSpaceTampa.com

Additional performance: At the Palladium's Side Door, 253 Fifth Avenue N, St Petersburg. March 24 at 8pm. Tickets are \$20 and are available at www.MyPalladium.org

Contact Katie Wilcox at katie.mae.wilcox@gmail.com, or 727.637.3582

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