

Heron

East Lake Woodlands

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WWW.EASTLAKEWOODLANDS.COM



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Susan Whitehead

If you haven't already, you will soon hear the unmistakable hum of heavy equipment as it makes its way through East Lake Woodlands on its way to refurbish our drainage system over the next six months or so. The ELW Board of Directors recently took the necessary steps to obtain bank financing. Janet Peterson, our treasurer, spent many hours to secure the very best terms possible. The special assessment notice that was recently mailed was the

necessary component required to guarantee the loan and will provide the funds to pay back the loan as required. I speak for the entire board when I say that we are continually committed to protecting our community physically, fiscally and legally.

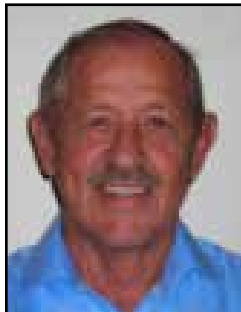
Drainage chairman Jack Picker and his committee developed a contract that created a framework of specific and certifiable tasks that will allow us to verify work completed and authorize payment accordingly. As work progresses, we will update you through our website and in the Heron regarding what has been accomplished.

As the work moves through the community, we ask that you please be cognizant of workers and equipment. They will be moving frequently and we'll all need to exercise a little more caution when travelling on roads, sidewalks and other areas. Parents, if your children are anything like my three boys were, they will be fascinated by the machinery and the work they will be doing! PLEASE, make sure that your children (ok, and the adults), stay away from the work areas. There will certainly be dangerous conditions in spots and we want to make sure that everyone stays safe.

Thank you again for your continued support of this important project for our community.

SCHOOLS OUT

by Keith Crank, Vice President



School is out for the summer and now the kids who have been stuck in those cramped classrooms over the past months are free. They will be looking for new things to do and moving around the community much more.

They will be going from their homes to camps within the neighborhood or going to see their friends. Most of them will be riding their bicycles so we as adults must become more aware and take extra care. Parents please talk to your kids that they must be extra careful when going from one place to another.

It is beyond me why drivers in our community continue to run stop signs and speed throughout

the community. A citation was issued for a driver who felt it was okay to go 52 mph in a 30 mph zone. This citation will not only hit this driver's pocket for the cost of the ticket but it will mean points on his license and probably an increase in his insurance premiums. The deputies who patrol the neighborhood seem to be issuing more citations rather than giving warnings as they have done in the past. Drivers we must control ourselves and stop at stop signs and SLOW down. It's not worth the cost of the consequences that follow a citation.

Recently there are young people who think it is okay to jump on the many monument walls throughout the neighborhood. This is considered an act of vandalism and can carry some severe penalties. The most important aspect of this act though is these children could fall off the walls and severely hurt themselves. Parents please speak with your children and let them know the seriousness of this situation. Let's all be safe and enjoy the summer.

Many of us will be going on vacation for the summer and I would strongly suggest that you take advantage of service provided by the controlled access patrol to check on your homes while you are on vacation and enjoying the time you have with your family. As always should anyone have an emergency call 911. The number for our controlled access patrol officers is 727-785-7384. The non-emergency number for the Pinellas County sheriff's office is 727-582-6900. Should you have an emergency call 911 first and foremost, then should you think you need the controlled access patrol officers call them. I say this because time is key in an emergency situation.

OUTSIDE THE GATES

by Richard Corrigan, Director ELWCA



We are keeping an eye on the way your county government spends your money. On November 7 of this year you will get a chance to vote on an important source of revenue for the county when the Penny for Pinellas renewal goes on the ballot. Voters will decide whether the Penny is renewed for 10 years, from 2020-2030. The Penny funds projects aimed at providing County residents with improved roads, bridges and trails, water quality and flood prevention, a safe secure community, preservation of parks and our environment and other projects that improve the local area. The County website has a great page on the Penny for Pinellas that explains how it was developed and how it can be used. Extracting a brief overview from that page here are some basics:

"WHAT IS THE PENNY FOR PINELLAS?"

- 1-percent sales tax paid by everyone who spends money in the County
- 1/3 paid for by tourists and seasonal visitors
- All Penny funds are collected in Pinellas and build a better Pinellas
- Shared between the County and 24 cities

Continued on page 3

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RESIDENT

The new ELWCA communication policy was implemented to ensure that all board members review and weigh in on issues that require a board response. A written letter is required in these specific cases to create a paper trail that cannot be altered, unlike emails. Emails are always welcome for any communication, criticism or acclaim, that do not require a board response. We have also recently changed our policy in listing director's personal emails to a united Community Association email address, Board@eastlakewoodlands.com. All of these emails will be forwarded to an appropriate director or manager for review and response if needed and the entire board will have the opportunity to review at the monthly BOD meeting.

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www.EastLakeWoodlands.com**ELW COMMUNITY ASSOC. INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS****Susan Whitehead, President**

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EASTLAKE WOODLANDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Tuesday May 9th 8:00 AM	Management & Associates
Tuesday June 13th 6:30 PM	East Lake Woodlands Country Club <i>Guest speaker: Pinellas County Deputy Love addressing community security concerns</i>
Tuesday July 11th 8:00 AM	Management & Associates
Tuesday August 8th 6:30 PM	East Lake Woodlands Country Club
Tuesday September 12th 8:00 AM	Management & Associates
Tuesday October 10th 6:30 PM	East Lake Woodlands Country Club
Tuesday November 14th 8:00 AM	Management & Associates
Tuesday December 12th 8:00 AM	Management & Associates

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

EAST LAKE WOODLANDS COMMUNITY PATROL REPORT

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

April 2017

Alarm Calls/911 Hang Up	2
Emergency Calls	0
Complaint Calls (Noise, speeders, solicitors, domestic disputes, trespass, fireworks, suspicious persons)	22
Parking Violations	60
Irrigation Calls	4
Motor Vehicle/ Pedestrian Accidents	2
Crimes Reported (Vandalism to mailboxes, gates, grass damage, stolen bikes, dumping, all other criminal activity)	1
Miscellaneous/Other (Welfare checks, pets, wildlife, all others)	17

The Sheriff monitored 33 hours during April 2017

Performed 3 Hours of Presence/Visibility.

Citations 9, Warnings 45

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Outside the Gates ... continued from page 1

- Funds long-term, capital investments such as improved roads, bridges and trails, water quality and flood prevention, public safety equipment and vehicles, fire stations, parks and environmental land acquisition, and land for housing that is accessible to our citizens at all income levels.
- Not a new tax; the Penny has been in effect since 1990

The Penny makes it possible to do more capital projects without relying on property taxes. Prior to the Penny for Pinellas, property owners paid for projects with property taxes. The Penny generates the equivalent of 2.4 mills of property taxes (\$240 on a home with a taxable value of \$100,000). Without the Penny, the County and cities would rely more heavily on other funding sources such as property taxes to fund these projects or many would have to be delayed or not completed. As a sales tax, it is not collected on such purchases as groceries and medications and is only applied to the first \$5,000 of a single purchase"

You may recall that Pinellas County got a share of the BP settlement and North County did pretty well in receiving an allocation of those funds. The Penny is much bigger and, of course is not a onetime windfall. We reported on the projects to be funded by the BP settlement in a previous edition of the Heron.

In April, The Council of North County Neighborhoods (CNCN) held a forum on Penny for Pinellas at the East Lake Woodlands Country Club. Two specific projects seeking a cut of the Penny proceeds were out in force requesting County Commissioner support. The East Lake Library did its usual good job of promoting an expansion of this heavily used but undersized facility on East Lake Rd. They have great plans for the site and are looking at an expansion that will not only benefit the library and its users but also provide some benefits for the adjacent elementary school. If you have not been to the Library recently stop by and look at the model and architectural drawings that give a great overview of the planned expansion. And pick up a good summer read while you are there.

This expansion was supported by a general call for more community meeting and recreational space in North County and particularly East Lake. Looking at the great job Palm Harbor has done in expanding its Community Center as well as associated facilities such as Harbor Hall, it is clear that East Lake needs some facilities to accommodate its residents meeting needs as well as other uses. The Library, with an expanded parking lot and increased interior space would be an ideal location for some community facilities.

On the environmental side, East Lake Woodlands' Pam Brown made an excellent presentation on the need for Brooker Creek Preserve to purchase, rather than lease, a mulcher/mower designed to deal with undergrowth and tree waste in the Preserve. Looking at the current fire situation in Pasco and the high risk of fire hazard the dry season brings to East Lake, this is almost a no-brainer. Take a look at a map of North County and see how Brooker Creek Preserve parallels all the development along East Lake Road right down to Tampa Road. We will talk about the flood risk from the same acreage in a future article.

If you have a project or an idea that you think could benefit North Pinellas our your particular area let us know as the County Commissioners are gathering ideas as they weigh the potential use of funds in upcoming years, assuming the referendum passes in November.

Not to ignore our number one everyday issue, TRAFFIC, even with the snowbirds flown away, this is still an issue most of us deal with on a repeated basis. How many of you time your trips to Costco, for example, so you don't have to come home on McMullen Booth at 5:00PM? CNCN is holding a forum on June 17 at 7:00PM at Harbor Hall in Palm Harbor to discuss traffic issues and to hear from the County and the Florida DOT on what plans they have for the area. If you have not visited that part of Palm Harbor lately, go over, attend the meeting, and visit one of the newly opened restaurants or watering holes in the historic district. Just make sure to bring a designated driver.

EAST LAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY SPECIAL EVENTS FOR JUNE 2017!

by *Patty Ann Wieczorek, Reference Librarian at East Lake Community Library*

Grand Opening of the Children's Garden

Sat, Jun 3, 10am-12pm

Join us for a ribbon cutting ceremony, children's activities, free refreshments, event keepsakes, a butterfly release, & free plants from our Reading Garden!

Getting Started with Etsy

Tues, Jun 13, 3-5pm

Tara Jacobsen will be going over all the bits & pieces about getting your new Etsy store up & running. This is a beginner class & there will be a Q&A session where you can ask anything!

Middle School Meet-Up: Kindness Rocks Project

Wed, Jun 14, 3:30-5:30pm

Turn a plain garden stone into a Kindness Rock! We'll use paint & other supplies to create a simple, yet meaningful, project to be used for a random act of kindness. Please register!

High School Cupcake Wars

Fri, Jun 16, 6-8pm

Calling all teen chefs! Construct a cupcake creation somehow inspired by or related to a book. Registration required.

ELCL Author Showcase

Tues, Jun 20, 6:30-7:45pm

Ray Weaver, local author of crime thrillers like THE JUSTICE SERIES, will be here to talk about his latest book, THREE GREAT MEN!

Middle School Meet Up: Who Do You Think You Are?

Wed, Jun 21, 3:30-4:30pm

Learn genealogy search strategies to discover your family's origins & climb your family tree with genealogist Karin Fortin. (Grades 6-8)

Build a Family Tree: Introducing Genealogy

Wed, Jun 21, 6-7:30pm

Learn more about your family such as where they came from, when they came to the US, what their lives were like in the past, etc.

Creating Cooperative Kids

Wed, Jun 28, 6:30-7:30pm

This session with behavioral therapist Vicky Pitner introduces strategies to avoid power struggles, promote positive choices & create cooperation. Parents only. Registration req'd.

High School Open Mic Night

Fri, Jun 30, 6-8pm

Bring instruments, music stands, CDs, etc. It's ok if you don't have a special talent - cheer on local artists! Registration req'd.

EAST LAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY
4125 East Lake Road, Palm Harbor, FL 34685
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Lake Estates



KEEP KIDS SAFE AROUND WATER

by Judy Gauron,
Controlled Access Committee

Summer has arrived, temperatures are rising and what better way to keep the kids entertained and cool than an afternoon by the swimming pool, a trip to the beach or even a waterpark. A dark side of summer in the sun is that a sparkling pool or the inviting ocean waters can also be a summer hazard.

Unfortunately, when the temperature goes up, so can the number of accidental drowning involving children.

A moment of adult distraction can have tragic results. Of all law enforcement calls for service, a call to a home where a child has drowned is one of the most heartbreaking.

The loss of a child's life to drowning can be prevented with extra caution, common sense and inexpensive equipment.

Never leave your child alone in or near a pool or other body of water, not even for a moment.

Teaching a child to swim for sport, safety and survival is a must. Remember, even if they have mastered their swimming skills, nothing can replace proper supervision as the most important step to water safety. The same common sense approach applies while at the beach or waterpark, even when lifeguards are present.

It is always a good idea to learn CPR, especially if you are responsible for watching children around the pool or at the beach. Being CPR certified can prevent a serious poolside incident from becoming fatal.

Keep rescue equipment on hand and a phone nearby for emergencies. It is also important for pool owners to properly install and secure fences, screened enclosures and lock sliding glass doors to ensure that young children cannot wander into the water unsupervised. Remember a torn screen or doggie door can be an invitation to a curious toddler who will not always recognize the danger that may be waiting outside. An alarm system around the pool or pool access is another option.

Keep furniture away from safety fences to prevent children from climbing and reaching the pool. Also remove toys and floating objects from the pool when not in use so there is no temptation for a child to retrieve them and accidentally fall in.

You can go to the Florida's department of health website for information on how to protect children around the pool.

www.waterproofill.com



AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

by Diane Mongiello

Meet Patricia Buono

It appears that my 'fake news' recruitment article in last month's Heron worked! Please meet Patricia Buono, originally from New York, who has lived here in East Lake Woodlands for over 20 years. Although retired, she had always enjoyed photography, but her interest really grew once she and her husband started traveling. And travel they did. They visited sites in the United States, including the Grand Canyon, and have been to Europe numerous times, traveling to many cities and countries, including Italy, Venice, Rome, England, Switzerland, Greece, Paris, Aruba, Spain, and in March of this year they took a wonderful River Cruise to the Netherlands, Germany, France & Switzerland. At every location she found amazing sights to photograph and has an extensive gallery that she is willing to share with us!

Beginning this month, Patricia will host a monthly column entitled "This & That" showcasing photos (like this one from Paris) from somewhere in the world and interesting facts about the location and the equipment she used (for those photo buffs out there). She has also recently taken up acrylic painting and will be sharing her experiences in that arena with us as well. Please check this column out...she has an eye for beauty and we can travel the world through her eyes! Thank you, Patricia, for your willingness to share these wonderful photos, and your art, with us each month!



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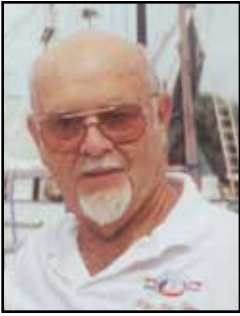


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HISTORICAL BITS AND PIECES

By Paul J.H. Leaser

ROUNDERS?

No! Baseball!! This American sport was conceived by General Abner Doubleday, right? Wrong!!

Actually, baseball, or "rounders" as it was originally called, dates back to the mid 1900's. The pitcher or "feeder" throws the ball to a "striker" who is declared out if he misses three pitches.

Baseball was promoted by A. G. Spalding, a sporting goods millionaire, who sponsored the game to make it our national sport. He conjured up some flimsy evidence supporting Doubleday as the person who not only designed but also named the sport in 1839. Abner received credit for the game because Spalding thought America needed its own game. Of course, it also bolstered the need for equipment, which Spalding sold.

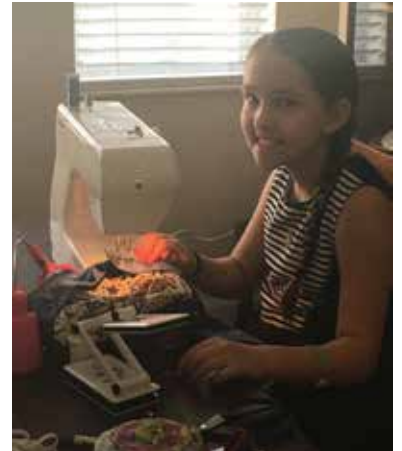
Interestingly, A. G. Spalding had been a star pitcher for Boston and Chicago and later became manager, and then owner, of the Chicago team before going into the sporting goods business.



ELW HELPING HANDS

by Susan Whitehead

One of my favorite families in our ELW community is the Breaux family. Dad, Tim, is the sole parent to Sydney, 10 and Kate, 13. Even while managing an extremely active household on his own, Tim still manages to serve on his HOA board and is always willing to lend a hand at church and school. This activism encourages his daughters to also be loving and giving. The family lost a very special mother and wife, Angela, to breast cancer 8 years ago. This terrible loss recently motivated Sydney to complete a service project in her honor.



Why did you do a service project?

SYDNEY: Everyone in my 5th grade class at Westlake Christian was asked to a community service project. I decided to make skullcaps and donate them to Moffitt Cancer Hospital in Tampa.

How did you come up with your plan to help patients at Moffitt Cancer Center?

SYDNEY: I wanted to do this because I thought it would be something cool to do and I had a connection with the idea.

Did anyone help you with your project?

SYDNEY: My grandma helped me with sewing, my dad helped me with transportation and making sure it was ok to go to Moffitt, and Mrs. Whitehead helped me with my final project presentation.

When did you start?

SYDNEY: I started this project about a month into school and I gave my final presentation in April.

How did you find the patients to give the caps to?

SYDNEY: When we got to the hospital we found the nice lady that my dad had been talking to on the phone and she showed us around. When we found patients with caps or hats (because they get cold easily during treatment) we would ask if they wanted a skullcap.

What was your favorite part?

SYDNEY: My favorite part was when the patients were putting on the caps that I made and then they would say that it fit nice.

What is your advice to anyone who wants to help others?

SYDNEY: My advice to others is that every act makes a difference if it's from helping your grandma around the house or cleaning up the beaches. They will all make a difference in our community!

I would love to share other stories of "helping hands" from our community! If you have a story suggestion, please email me at Board@eastlakewoodlands.com

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THIS AND THAT - SWITZERLAND

by Patricia Buono



As I begin sharing my amazing journeys to Europe as well as our beautiful United States, I would like to thank Diane and Jeff for this opportunity!

My first trip abroad was to Switzerland with a co-worker and her church group. I was recently widowed and this was exactly what I needed! Fall and Christmas are my favorite times of the year so the fact that I would be going to a snowy country was exciting!

We landed in Munich, after a grueling 8 hour flight and boarded a comfortable touring bus for a 3 hour trip up the Alps where we checked into a cozy hotel in the tiny but beautiful town of Grindelwald. Our room overlooked the beautiful Alps where every house resembled a cuckoo clock, which seemed to be a mandatory requirement!



In order to get to Interlaken and Lucerne we had to take a very long and very slow train ride up the Alps. Such breathtaking views! Unfortunately, the temperature was unseasonably warm for March in the Alps and I had not experienced the beautiful snow fall which I much anticipated witnessing! Early the morning before our departure I heard people laughing and shouting outside our window. It had snowed during the night and Grindelwald looked like a winter wonderland post card! Alas, my trip was complete. Several of my fellow travelers had never experienced the beauty of snow, so they were even more excited than I was, if you can believe that!

Should you ever have the opportunity to visit Switzerland, take it! It was definitely worth the long and tiring flight!



ACTIVIST FROM AL GORE'S CLIMATE REALITY PROJECT TO SPEAK IN TRINITY

by Melissa Doff (Board Member)

Wednesday – June 28th

The Trinity Democratic Club welcomes Colin Rice, leader and activist from The Climate Reality Project. Founded by former Vice President Al Gore, the non-profit organization is dedicated to building a more sustainable future for our planet through increased awareness of global warming's dangers, while also mobilizing grassroots action and providing solutions to the climate crisis around the world.



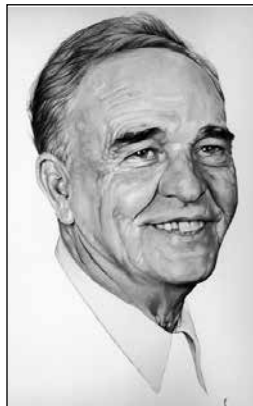
The Climate Reality Project

The meeting starts at 6:30 PM at Fox Hollow Golf Club, 10050 Robert Trent Jones Parkway, Trinity. Please join us starting at 5:00 pm for dinner/Happy Hour (self-pay) with food/drinks also available during the meeting.

For questions: (727) 482-8709

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BIRD OF THE MONTH RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER

By Jake Jacoby

Red-bellied Woodpeckers are medium sized woodpeckers that are common in wooded areas in the Eastern U.S and Canada. They are quite common in East Lake Woodlands, particularly in the wooded areas surrounding the golf courses. You may see them wedge large nuts into bark

crevices, then whack them into manageable pieces using their beaks. They also use cracks in trees and fence posts to store food for later in the year, a habit they share with other woodpeckers.

Red-bellied Woodpeckers nest in cavities, and their nest holes are precious turf. They have been known to take over the nests of other birds, including the much smaller (and endangered) Red-cockaded Woodpecker. But more often they are themselves the victims of the aggressive European Starling. As many as half of all Red-bellied Woodpecker nests in some areas get invaded by starlings.

Sometimes, you might see a Red-bellied Woodpecker flying quickly and erratically through the woods, abruptly changing direction, alighting for an instant and immediately



Female Red-bellied Woodpecker



Male Red-bellied Woodpecker

taking off again, keeping up a quick chatter of calls. This odd behavior is believed to be a type of play that probably helps young birds practice the evasive action they may need some day to avoid predators.

A Red-bellied Woodpecker can stick out its tongue nearly 2-inches past the end of its beak. The tip is barbed and the bird's spit is sticky, making it

easier to snatch prey from deep crevices. Males have long, wider-tipped tongues than females, possibly allowing a breeding pair to forage in slightly different places within their territory and maximize their use of available food.

Red-bellied Woodpeckers often stick to main branches and trunks of trees, where they hunt for prey in classic woodpecker fashion, leaning away from the trunk and onto their stiff tail feathers as they search for food hiding in bark crevices. Red-bellied Woodpeckers mainly eat insects, spiders, and lots of ants. They also eat lots of plant material, such as acorns, nuts, and pine cones, as well as seeds extracted from annual and perennial plants and fruits, including oranges and mangoes. Occasionally they will eat lizards, other nesting birds, and even minnows.

When nesting, males choose the site and begin to excavate, then try to attract a female by calling and tapping softly on the wood around or in the cavity. When a female accepts, she taps along with the male, then helps put the finishing touches on the nest cavity. They are seasonally monogamous and usually bond for approximately 7-months.



Male Red-bellied Woodpecker



Red-bellied Woodpecker with grub

Female Red-bellied Woodpeckers lay their glossy white eggs, usually 4 in a clutch, at one-a-day intervals, on a bed of wood chips left over after excavating their nest cavity. Nest holes are generally 12-inches deep. Chicks are altricial at hatching; they are naked, and their eyes are shut. About 6 days after hatching, their eyes begin to open and claws appear. About the 12th day, feathers project from the skin and around the 15th day, the eyes open. By the end of three weeks, the young have all of their feathers and they leave the nest 24 to 27 days after hatching.

Nests are usually made in dead trees, dead limbs of live trees, and fence posts. The same pair may nest in the same tree year after year, but typically excavate a new cavity each year, often placing the new one beneath the one from the previous year.

Predators of adult Red-bellied Woodpeckers include birds of prey such as Sharp-shinned Hawks and Cooper's Hawks. Rat snakes and house cats are also known predators. Known predators of nestlings and eggs include Red-headed Woodpeckers, European Starlings, Pileated Woodpeckers, and Rat snakes.

The oldest known Red-bellied Woodpecker lived to be 12 years old.

Please see my favorite photographs at www.flickr.com/jake_jacoby

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SPEED, WATER, FIREWORKS AND OTHER POOP

by Jeff Hunt, Chairman of Communications Committee

The Summer season is already upon us even though it won't officially begin until the 21st. Some of my first thoughts about Summer include: a early morning walk on Honeymoon Island, a cookout with good friends, a nice summer vacation up North, air-conditioning is the best invention ever and Olaf from the movie Frozen singing, "In Summer". So however your mind works, here's hoping that whatever plans you may have this year make it the best Summer ever.

Around East Lake Woodlands this Summer, you can expect to see an increased emphasis on obeying the posted speed limits on Community Association roads. The ELWCA Controlled Access Committee will be working with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office to decrease speeding throughout ELW. Please do the right thing and respect the posted speed limits while driving in our Community.

Another point of emphasis this Summer is Water. While the last two years have produced record rainfall, we are currently (as of May 15th) in a drought situation in our area (and throughout most of the state). Please respect the watering restrictions that are in place for our area and Community. As we've all seen (especially the last few years) too much water can be a big problem but now we are all being reminded what not enough water looks like with the negative impact to our environment from wildfires across the state. Please do your part to help use our water intelligently.

It was reported to me in the last few weeks that some residents of a particular ELW community have been shooting off fireworks that have been landing in another community. While I've never thought of myself as the Fireworks Police, my first thought is how rude and unthoughtful of them. But my almost immediate second thought is we are in a drought situation and live in a Community named East Lake WOODLANDS!!! How unplugged would you have to be to live in a WOODLANDS Community that borders the Brooker Creek Preserve and be setting off fireworks in a drought situation

with wildfires burning throughout the state??? Please do what you can and protect our homes and Community by reporting this activity to the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office.

Finally, I'd like to address a topic that really stinks for me to mention.....POOP. Specifically dog POOP. More specifically, dog POOP that owners of dogs in ELW don't pick up when it is expelled into our Community. I'm not even going to get into the negative impact on our environment that a concerned resident wrote about in the April edition of the Heron. While I've never thought of myself as the POOP Police either, I'd lean more toward picking up the POOP and returning it to its rightful owner. Again, please do your part and pick up your POOP !!!

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-Wavy Gravy

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ALTERNATIVE WHITE WINE PAIRINGS FOR POPULAR SUMMER MEALS

by www.BrandPoint.com

(BPT) - Summer means long days, bountiful sunshine and fresh fare to tantalize the taste buds. Locally grown produce, grilled meats and seafood, and new takes on classic dishes like pizza and pasta make this the season to raise a glass and toast to family, friends and the sharing of delicious food.

White wine is a classic summer drink that never goes out of style. However, you may want to look beyond the traditional chardonnays and sauvignon blancs when creating the perfect pairings for your summer menus.

If you want alternative white wines for upcoming meal pairings, the following options are guaranteed to satisfy whether you're making an intimate meal for two or are hosting a large outdoor event.

Perfect pairing: Pinot gris and grilled poultry and seafood
Wine to try: Wairau River Pinot Gris 2015 Marlborough

Grilling poultry and seafood infuses amazing flavor, making it a popular main dish for summer dining. A pinot gris is a fantastic dry white wine that complements these types of dishes. With the rich fresh flavor of pear and green apple mingling with touches of spice, this wine adds weight to the palate and completes the dining experience.

Perfect pairing: Chenin blanc with salads and fresh vegetables
Wine to try: Protea Chenin Blanc 2016 Western Cape

Whether you regularly visit the farmers market, subscribe to a CSA or grow your own produce in a home garden, fresh vegetables are abundant throughout the summer season. When enjoying a luscious salad, pour yourself a glass of chenin blanc. This lively wine with notes of stone fruit have a light body that enhances without overwhelming fresh fare.

Perfect pairing: Garganega with shellfish, fish and white pizza
Wine to try: Anselmi San Vincenzo 2016 Veneto

Summer is the ideal time for new takes on favorite dishes. For example, try a white pizza for extraordinary, outside-the-box flavor. White pizza typically features a garlic sauce that is then topped with



loads of vegetables. This light take on pizza calls for a crisp, medium-bodied wine made from garganega grapes. (This dry variety is also a great option for shellfish and fish dishes.)

Perfect pairing: Carricante with pesto dishes and white fish ceviche
Wine to try: Alta Mora Etna Bianco 2015

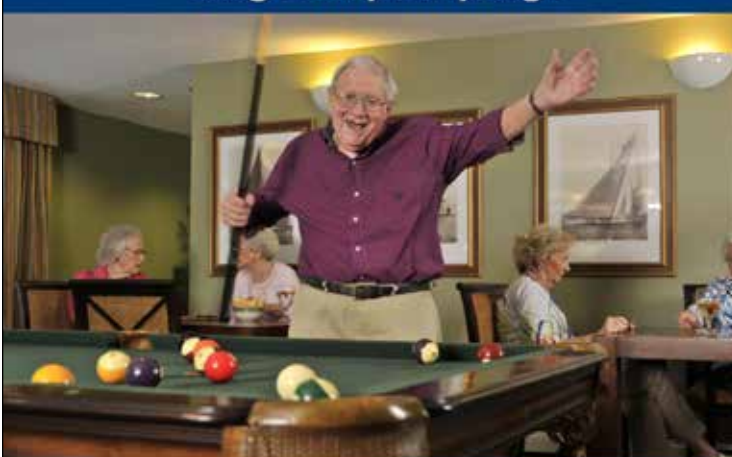
Wines made from the carricante grape are sure to please. Fresh and fruity, with touches of earthy minerality, this silky, full-bodied wine is a wonderful pair to the pesto dishes that are so popular during summertime. (Also ideal for seafood and shellfish, particularly fish ceviche.)

Perfect pairing: Falanghina with pasta made with citrus- and cream-based sauces
Wine to try: Feudi di San Gregorio Falanghina 2015

Inspired by warm weather, chefs often create a citrus- or cream-based pasta dish on their summer menus. You too can enjoy this quintessential summer trend by cooking your own recipe from the comfort of your home and then enjoying it with a big glass of Falanghina. Fresh and well-balanced, this wine blends flavors of flowers and fruit, and has a clean finish.

Need more inspiration? Try this recipe and visit www.uncorked.com/discovery-whites.html for the right wine pairings.

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It's hot out and your windows are now shut till the Fall with the air on and you are bored of your decor! So, what can you do to spruce things up for less than \$100?

Glad you asked! And there is no need to spend thousands like you see on the home improvement reality shows!

First, since we are now in the electronic age, turn a closet into a Home Office and add an extra room to your home! Just unhinge the closet door, remove the closet's hanging rod(s) and replace them with shelves. A deep shelf should be used for the actual desktop and place 2 shallow shelves above for storage.

What you need:

After measuring the closet's interior, get one 20" deep shelf for the desk surface, and two 12" deep shelves for above. They can cut $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick wood for you at any home improvement place. Just paint or stain them, get some metal standards, and shelf brackets.

Next, add a stained glass window to your bath! Stained glass makes any bathroom look elegant. If you can't find a window to fit perfectly, you can easily hang one from chains in front of the existing window.

What you need:

eBay store Bell Antique Mall has Art Deco products for under \$80 including shipping.

Now, add detail and dimension to a bedroom! Pump up the color and detail in your bedroom (or any other room) by installing a chair rail. Then, paint the wall below a soothing color. This project is an easy and inexpensive way to improve your home.

What you need:

Enough MDF moldings to wrap the walls of an 8-by-10-foot room and some paint, for less than \$100 per room!

Go ahead and boost your windows! Did you know you can make your windows look even bigger than they actually are? Use hanging drapes that go up to ceiling height to upsize small windows.

What you need:

One pair of 108-inch panel drapes in an accent color, about \$70 per window at JC Penny's or other home store.

Install a "Doorway Display" above any door! Create a unique look by installing a shelf above any doorway and paint it to match the trim or with an accent color. Add a touch of flair by displaying pottery or other types of décor on the shelf.

What you need:

After measuring from outside edge to outside edge of the door and trim, get a 1x6 in that length, which they will cut for you at any home improvement store. While there, get two 7-inch brackets. Then, you just paint, and all for about \$32 per door.

Easily install a wall-mount bedside table! You can easily de-clutter a bedroom by installing wall-mounted end tables on either side of your bed, using wood corbels as brackets, with a marble or ceramic tile on top.

What you need:

Two 6-7 inch oak Legacy hand-carved corbels, about \$80 online at Van Dykes Restorers. Then go to Floor and Décor and pick out a 7" or 8" by 16" marble or ceramic tile to place on top. Just use some adhesive like Gorilla tape to hold the shelf on the corbels, and all for less than \$100!

Remember: 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.

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DROUGHT IN THE LANDSCAPE

by Pam Brown, ELW resident

This year has started out being very unkind for plants in general. We had a very dry winter that turned into an extreme drought during the spring with much warmer than normal temperatures combined with low humidity and windy conditions. All of this sucks water out of the ground and away from our plants. And, as of this writing, East Lake

Water has turned off the water to the common irrigation system for lack of sufficient water. Pinellas County will probably impose watering restrictions as well. If you look around East Lake Woodlands, you will see lawns that have dead areas, along with dead plants and others wilting when it is close to the watering day. I can only hope that by the time you receive this newsletter we will once again be experiencing our summer rains. Unfortunately, it will take a good bit of rain to make up the current water deficit.

Here are some survival practices to put into place to help your landscape survive and hopefully recover from this challenging drought.

When drought conditions are persistent, apply water to highly visible areas first. Even though grass is drought sensitive, it should have low priority since it is cheaper to replace than trees and shrubs. Irrigate deeply at long intervals rather than watering frequently and shallowly. Deep watering improves drought resistance by promoting deeper, more extensive root systems. Depth of watering should be 6 to 12 inches for turf and bedding plants, and 12 inches for perennials, shrubs, and trees.

During drought the growth of grass will slow and you may not need to mow as often. When you do mow – mow the grass high being careful not to remove more than one third of the top leaf blade at any one mowing to reduce further stress on the grass. Most of us have St. Augustine grass or Bahia grass and both should be mowed at 3 ½ to 4 inches high. Mowing high encourages deep roots that are less susceptible to drought conditions. Keep mower blades sharpened to reduce stress. A leaf cut by a sharp mower blade will heal faster and require less water than a leaf torn by a dull blade. If you contract with a lawn service for your mowing, discuss this with them and require them to mow high with a sharp blade. Bahia grass is the grass used on the sides and some medians of the roadways. It is extremely drought tolerant and will turn brown when there is not sufficient water, but it

does not die. It will green up again when it gets adequate water. If your St. Augustine lawn turns brown, it is dead.

Use fertilizers and lawn chemicals carefully. Applying fertilizer can encourage rapid growth that cannot be sustained during drought. Most lawn chemicals need to be watered in and sufficient might not be available for this task.

Check your sprinkler system, clean the filters in the heads, and make adjustments to the coverage patterns so that all of your landscape is being watered. You should also calibrate your system to be sure that you are putting out at least ¾ to 1 inch of water in each zone. You can find detailed directions for calibration at: <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/IR00003389/00001>. Remember that watering in the early morning is best. There is less water loss from evaporation in the morning because of cooler temperatures and less wind. Watering in the evening can result in fungal growth that can severely damage lawn grass and landscape plants.

JUNE CHORES IN THE LANDSCAPE

Remember that Pinellas County has a Fertilizer Ordinance that prohibits using landscape fertilizer containing Nitrogen and Phosphorus from June 1 through September 30.

Weeds: It is too hot now to use herbicides to treat for weeds. These chemicals can damage or kill lawn grasses when the temperatures reach 85 degrees or above.

Hurricane season is here. Check trees for damaged or weak branches and prune them if needed. Hire an ISA-certified arborist to work on large trees. To find a certified arborist go to: <http://www.isa-arbor.com/findanarborist/findanarborist.aspx>. I suggest that you watch them prune your trees. You can get an idea of what is appropriate pruning by reviewing these two publications from the University of Florida: Developing a Preventative Pruning Program: Young Trees, and Developing a Preventative Pruning Program: Mature Trees <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/EP/EP31600.pdf>. If you do not agree with what they are doing, speak up - you are paying them to do the job. While on the subject of tree pruning, palms should have a nice full canopy. Removing all but three or four fronds is very damaging to the palm and actually can leave it more likely to be damaged by high winds. The University of Florida publication Pruning Palms <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/EP/EP44300.pdf> has excellent information about how palms should be pruned.

Continued on page 13



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Drought in the Landscape ... continued from page 12

While walking my dog I have noticed a number of landscapes that contain the native Cycad "Coontie" (*Zamia floridana*) and they are currently producing seeds. This is a great drought tolerant plant, but one caution – the seeds from the female cones are extremely poisonous to dogs and cats and toxic to humans. I have Coontie in my yard and I remove both the male and female cones



Coontie seeds

once they appear so that seeds do not form. One or two seeds ingested by dogs or cats can be fatal, so be cautious when you see these plants, especially if the red-orange seeds are present (see pictures). The seeds of the King and also Queen Sago are just as poisonous.

Palms: Summer's warm, rainy months are the perfect time to plant palms. Make sure not to cover the trunk with soil. See Palms: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palms

Herbs: Plant heat-loving herbs, including basil, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary. Pinch back regularly to prevent flowering and enhance branching.

Vegetables: Plant okra, southern pea, calabaza, Malabar spinach, and sweet potato. It is too late to plant tomatoes

Pests: Monitor the landscape and garden weekly for harmful insects. Knowing which insects attack a plant can aid in identification and treatment. See Landscape Pest Management: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_pests



Male & female coontie cones



Coontie plant

and use an appropriate treatment. Keep lawn fertilizers away from the root zone. See Palm Care: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_palm_care

Pruning: Lightly prune summer-flowering shrubs, like hibiscus, oleander, and crape myrtle, during the warmer months because they bloom on new growth. Azaleas can still be pruned until the middle of next month without harming next spring's buds. See Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_tree_pruning



Sago seeds

Flowering plants: Some flowering plants that can take the heat include vinca (*Catharanthus roseus*), blanket flower (*Gaillardia* spp.), and narrow-leaf zinnia (*Zinnia angustifolia*). They reliably flower and are almost carefree during our oppressive summer heat. And, as an added bonus, it seems the deer do not like them.

Palms and cycads: Watch for nutrient deficiencies or other problems

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MAKING THE MOST OF A SMALL BEDROOM

By Sally Giar

Decorating a small bedroom might seem challenging, but there are so many simple ways to make the space equally functional and stylish.

First, make sure you stick to a strict color palette. Decorating with too many hues will make the room look more cramped and cluttered than it actually is.

Letting as much light in as possible is another simple way to open up the space. Dress the windows with sheer draperies instead of dark curtains.

And don't just decorate your walls with artwork. Consider hanging multiple large mirrors. It creates the illusion that there's double the amount of space.

How do you get away with storing your things with minimal space? A floor-to-ceiling fitted storage unit, that's how! Not only is it extremely functional, but it adds a hint of character and personalization to your room.

Freeing up the floor space in a small bedroom is key, so do it any chance you get. Take an innovative approach to your furniture, such as a hanging night stand or set of floating shelves. Consider a daybed with a pullout trundle.

See, making the most of a small bedroom is easy! If you're ready to free up the space in your small bedroom, get in touch with us today.



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HOA OR HOA-LITE

by Ernie Del Barba

It is rare in my real estate experience in Florida to participate in a transaction that does not involve a Home-Owners Association. It is difficult to find homes for Buyers where there are no HOA's or no deed restrictions. Those buyers that are willing to be more relaxed in expectations of what a neighborhood is supposed to be like are a good fit because to them it is the real Florida lifestyle, which means no restrictions. Parking is the major sought after reason for these communities, meaning that RV's, Boats, ATV's, Motorcycles, etc. are welcome and unrestricted in their placement. Even the lawn can become parking spaces, and maintenance of homes, color choices, landscaping are for the most part up to the individual homeowner. Don't think I am negative on non-deed restricted communities. As a kid, I remember movies like Bye-Bye Birdie where dancing and fun went on in these subdivisions all over the lawns, and parking was everywhere...and those homes had great amenities! In theory, it can work.

The HOA's are a necessity for homeowners and homebuyers that cannot live without some type of deed restrictions. This to insure them of some idea of what they can expect from their subdivision or community, and the rules and regulations can go from mild to almost rigid. A good idea when looking for an area to live in is to find out just where on the scale of involvement the HOA rests. The HOA is in place to work for the homeowner and oversee the management companies. As you know, the HOA board is usually made up of homeowners who have voluntarily offered their time so that things go well. The management companies answer the actual needs of the homeowner and attempt to do it efficiently and within their contracts. The McCaffery Team at Berkshire Hathaway's East Lake Office makes it a point to have the answers to your questions relating to individual HOA restrictions and requirements. We are curious what some of the questions and issues might be that have affected your homebuying experience, and effecting your choice to live HOA or HOA Lite. Which would you choose if you could do it again? The McCaffery Team appreciates this type of feedback and information that you provide.

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Bob McCaffery, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services- Florida Properties Group, inside East Lake Woodlands community

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