

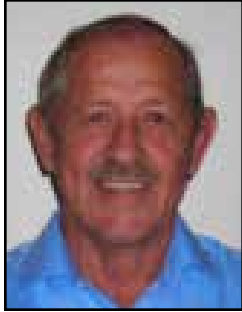
Heron

East Lake Woodlands



Volume 17 | Issue 7 | 2017

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THANK YOU JUDY GAURON

by Keith Crank

I want to take this opportunity to personally thank Judy Gauron for all that she has done for the Controlled Access committee and our community. Judy joined the Controlled Access committee in 1995 and then went on to serve in various positions on the East Lake Community Association Board of Directors including serving as president. Judy recently

resigned from the Controlled Access committee for personal reasons.

One of her greatest attributes was that when she took on a project it was done with complete abandonment. Her articles in the Heron were always well written and very informative. We are all going to miss your exuberant personality and that beautiful ever-present smile. Your dedication and hard work for our community will sorely be missed by all of us. Once again thank you for the 22 years of unselfish service to our community. As you wrote me recently "I enjoyed every day of it."



Here's wishing you all the best in the future. **THANK YOU JUDY.**

School is out, summer is here and everyone is outdoors enjoying themselves. As a word of caution, if you ride your bicycles on the sidewalks within the community please be aware that pedestrians using the sidewalks have the right of way. Bicyclists please remember that you must adhere to Rules of the Road when riding your bikes in our community. You are considered a vehicle just as a car or truck. You need to remember that if you are riding side by side and vehicles approach from the rear, you must go single file as to not impede the traffic behind you. Drivers remember that you must give bicyclists a minimum of three (3) feet when you pass them and remember if you are pulling a boat or trailer you must allow for that also. Let's all just be courteous and careful.

At our recent Board meeting on June 13, 2017, Deputy Phillip Love of the Pinellas County Sheriff's office gave a short presentation about some of the concerns surrounding our community. His greatest concern was the fact that there has recently been an uptick in car burglaries and cautioned everyone to ensure that their vehicles are locked and all valuables should be removed. Another suggestion was for the valuables we have in our homes they should be photographed and for items that have serial numbers always write them down so if your house is broken into the sheriff's office will have a greater chance of recovering them from pawn shops or other sources and returning them to you. A short period of Q & A followed and those in attendance seemed to learn something to help protect their homes.

ALWAYS call 911 in case of an emergency. Should you need the assistance of the community patrol officers you can call 727-785-7384.

The non-emergency number for Pinellas County Sheriff deputies is 727-582-6900.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Susan Whitehead



I am happy to report that our first regularly scheduled board meeting that was held in the evening was well attended. Approximately 50 residents came to the ELW Country Club (which is about 49 more than usually show up!) and shared their thoughts and questions on a variety of topics. There were two agenda items under old business that were discussed, the split rail fence along Sunflower and commercial workers on Sunday and holidays. New business included the appointment of an ad hoc community disaster response committee. Director level reports were also given.

The board was concerned about the current appearance of the split rail fence and we weighed the pros and cons of repairing versus removal. The removal of the fence would be around \$6,000 while repair is only about \$7 per rail. In addition, many of us enjoy the look of a rustic ranch, which of course is the history of this area. Repairs will be made to fence.

Currently the ELWCA has a policy that instructs the gate house officers to turn away any commercial vehicle on Sundays and holidays. The board discussed whether or not it would be more prudent for individual HOA's to set their own policy and fines if necessary. Many residents in attendance voiced their concerns over the issue including noise levels, emergency work, interior work, and companies doing estimates. At a resident's suggestion, the board agreed to review noise ordinances within Pinellas County and other communities and to review this policy at another board meeting.

ELWCA board member, Paul Burmeister and our community manager, Jaime Soderland recently attended a seminar on community disaster response as well as conferred with a private disaster relief company in anticipation of upgrading our current plan that is in place. At the board meeting Paul Burmeister was voted in as the leader of an ad hoc committee to oversee this.

We were thankful to have Deputy Love of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department speak at our meeting regarding neighborhood safety. Both he and Deputy Howard have remarked how lucky we are to live in a gated community because it makes their jobs much easier by providing an extra layer of security. Outside the gates, Pinellas County is seeing a rash of car break ins. Deputy Love stressed the importance of putting valuables in your trunk and most importantly, locking your car doors wherever you are. Because of the increased input of residents, we were also able to pinpoint areas within the community that need additional monitoring by both the Sheriff's department and ELW Controlled Access officers.

Thanks to all who came to the June board meeting. It is vital and helpful to all of us serving to have your input. As you have seen in our calendar, these evening meetings are being held every other month. For the remainder of the year the evening meetings are scheduled in August and October. We may need to adjust the December meeting simply for lack of meeting space in the very busy holiday season. We look forward to seeing more of you at the next meeting!

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

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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.

EASTLAKE WOODLANDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

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

May 2017

Alarm Calls/911 Hang Up	1
Emergency Calls	2
Complaint Calls (Noise, speeders, solicitors, domestic disputes, trespass, fireworks, suspicious persons)	29
Parking Violations	56
Irrigation Calls	4
Motor Vehicle/ Pedestrian Accidents	9
Crimes Reported (Vandalism to mailboxes, gates, grass damage, stolen bikes, dumping, all other criminal activity)	5
Miscellaneous/Other (Welfare checks, pets, wildlife, all others)	40

The Sheriff monitored 30 hours during May 2017

Performed 3 Hours of Presence/Visibility.

Citations 14, Warnings 37

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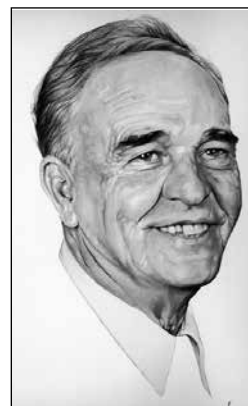


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ELW HELPING HANDS

by Susan Whitehead



I've been lucky enough to be part of a wonderful book club for the past 16 years. Besides the FABULOUS books that we read, I get to spend time with a great "Circle of Friends" (the official name of our book club). Last year, as we approached "the season," (August – May), we hit upon a thought. What could our circle of friends do to make our community a little better?

We decided that for the first time in our history we would collect dues each month and at the end of the year we would donate the entire proceeds. One caveat, we would never say how much the dues would be. Each month a box would appear at our meetings and everyone would discreetly put in whatever they could at the time. So, we purchased a small locked box that had a slit in it for deposits, gave the box to one member and the key to another.

As the end of the year approached, we solicited nominations for where our money should go. In the end, it was obvious. We would donate everything to the Pinellas County Schools Fill the Bus project. The goal of Fill the Bus is to provide 30,000 books to the Book Bus that makes summer stops at all of the schools with Summer Bridge students. These students get to board the bus and choose brand new books to take home and keep for their very own. As every reader knows, there is nothing quite like that new book smell and the promise of a new story!

At our book club's final meeting in May the box and key appeared at the table. The excitement was building! How much had our little band of friends collected? I can honestly say that we were shocked and thrilled to find out that after counting our table of ones, fives, tens and twenty's we had almost \$700! We feel that if through these books we inspire even one child to become greater than they ever thought possible, it's money well spent.

And so, what can your little group do? When we work together, it doesn't take much to make an impact in our community. Send me your stories; I'd love to share them. If your organization needs volunteers, please let me know and I can share that as well. You can contact me at board@eastlakewoodlands.com



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OUTSIDE THE GATES

by Richard Corrigan, Director ELWCA



While Central Florida has been suffering a drought over the past 4 months, now thankfully over, up in Tallahassee our state legislatures have been facing a deluge—of bills that is. During the recent legislative session over 1900 bills were filed by the Florida House and Senate (an interesting note: House Bills are have an uneven number, while Senate Bills have an even number). After reconciliation 234 bills, or 12.6%, were passed by both Houses and sent to Governor Scott's desk for signature or veto by end of the legislative year on June 30. The Governor has line item veto over budget items but not over other bills which he can either accept or reject.

The legislative session was marked by a lot of high profile issues including Governor Scott's support of Enterprise Florida and Visit Florida and the continued debate over these issues led to a 3 day "Special Session" that ended June 9. The session included discussion on not only those issues, with money approved for job incentives (Enterprise Florida) and tourism marketing (Visit Florida – important for Pinellas County), but also a re-write of the state budget to include a boost to spending for public schools and based on the recent announcement in Orlando buy the Governor, more support for Charter Schools.

The special session did end Friday, with last-minute deals that included a surprising \$50 million for improvements to the Herbert Hoover Dike at Lake Okeechobee as well as the new reservoir south of the lake. Another unexpected development was the inclusion of a bill to implement medical marijuana, in response to a ballot amendment passed last November. Everything should be clear by July 1 when the new \$83 Billion State Budget goes into effect and Governor Scott has cleared his desk of all pending bills.

The Tampa Bay area currently has a lot of clout in the State Capitol, with Richard Corcoran of Land of Lakes now Speaker of the House and Jack Latvala a very senior member of the Senate. While these representatives guide the agenda it is interesting to see what the rank and file members are focusing on and how that is reflected in the bills they introduce. There certainly was a pre-occupation with guns—at least 13 bills were introduced focusing on topics from clarification of "Stand Your Ground" language to concealed carry laws and where weapons could be carried—the legislative chambers remained excluded of course, but a lot other venues were considered including school campuses, (no) and theaters (yes). Another topic with a lot of discussion was Criminal Justice with the Death Penalty leading the list (requires unanimous jury recommendation) to rules on body cams and DUI considered. The DUI issue had a related issue with grocery stores now allowed to sell liquor instead of offering this product from a standalone facility (the longstanding Liquor Wall law).

Other issues affecting homeowners were various homestead exemptions, (passed) and restrictions on Vacation Rentals (failed but retained at county level – Air BnB anyone) and, of course, legislation implementing rules on the solar rooftop constitutional amendment passed last November. Finally, a few laws on HOA and Condominium Association governance were passed, mostly attempting to prevent abuses as were discovered in Miami-Dade in recent years. See your association management for details.

The North County area of Pinellas County (and part of western Hillsborough) is represented by two dynamic young representatives, Jim Grant and Chris Sprowls and both Jack Latvala in the Senate and his son, Chris, a representative from Clearwater, have a lot of input into what legislation gets passed and how it impacts residents of North County. You will have the opportunity to meet with them at the Legislative Briefing sponsored by the Council of North County Neighborhoods (CNCN) and the Palm Harbor Chamber of Commerce on Monday, July 17 at 7:00 PM, currently scheduled for Harbor Hall. Make it a point to attend and make your voice heard about what is important to you and how your concerns can be addressed in next years' legislative session.

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Cluster 2
Cluster 3
Condo 5
Cross Creek
Cypress 1
ELW Community Assn.
Enclave
Greenhaven 1
Greenhaven 2
Greenhaven 3 & 4
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Quail Forest
Silverthorne
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Woodlands Estates
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Condo 4
Condo 7
Creekside
Turtle Creek 1 & 2

Associa Gulf Coast (813) 963-6400

Condo 3

Caliber Management 727-796-1996

Condo 1
Condo 6

Citadel Management 727-938-7730

Cypress 3
Woodlake Run 1, 2 & 3

Jim Nobles 727-447-8949

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The Cove at East Lake Woodlands

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Lake Estates



DRAINAGE PROJECT UPDATE

By Jaime L. Soderland-Ballard, MBA, PCAM

Eastlake Woodlands Community Association has executed the contract to start the drainage project. The project will be commencing on June 26, 2017. Most of this work will be done on the golf course or in areas that may not be visible. We have put measures in place to ensure that work is being completed Monday through Thursday as stated in the contract. If

work will be done behind owner's homes we will do our best to advise the President of that community so communication gets to the owners and they are not alarmed. If you have any questions at all please feel free to contact me. You can see the map and channels being repaired on the ELW website. There will also be a map in the pro shop at the Club that will show where work is being done in real time. Please note that work areas are subject to change due to weather.

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

by Diane Mongiello



Recently, ELW Condo Association V lost three very good neighbors to illness. Ellie Caldwell and Norma Minuti had been long time members of the Board and served on various committees for as long as they were able. Glen Kuehnle, (affectionately called Junior) although mentally challenged, did whatever he could for the neighborhood including surveying the neighborhood on his daily walks, picking up and discarding any branches or garbage he saw, and reporting items of concern to the Board. To honor these three good neighbors, the Board decided to plant a memorial tree. The community of neighbors thought they should personally contribute to the cost of the tree rather than have the entire cost simply come out of Association funds and over \$600 dollars was quickly collected.

The Board wanted a special tree—one that was as outstanding as the three residents it memorialized. After much research, the Rainbow Eucalyptus was selected.

The Rainbow Eucalyptus Tree is a unique and ornamental tree that will grow in any area where there is normally no frost in winter. It is grown for its extraordinary bark, which shows multiple colors of green, red, blue and orange. The bark falls off in strips, constantly revealing new areas in a rainbow of changing color patterns. Rainbow eucalyptus grows quite large in areas like the Philippines and Hawaii and in the continental U.S., Rainbow Eucalyptus grows to a height of 100 to 125 feet in the frost-free climates found in Hawaii, California, Texas and Florida. Once established, the tree grows 3 feet per season without supplemental fertilizer, although it needs regular watering when rainfall is insufficient. Although the tree's color isn't as intense outside its native range, Rainbow Eucalyptus bark color makes it one of the most amazingly colorful trees you can grow.

The community of Condo V is confident this outstanding tree will remind us of these three outstanding neighbors for many years to come!

THE FLORIDA BAR TO DISCUSS CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMISSION

by Melissa Doff

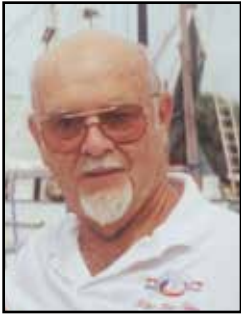
Wednesday – July 26th

The Trinity Democratic Club welcomes Attorney Sacha Dyson, Vice-Chair of The Florida Bar's Constitutional Judiciary Committee, as guest speaker on Wednesday, July 26. Committed to public service and civic education, she will give the "Benchmark Presentation: Every 20 Years" explaining Florida's Constitution Revision Commission and the 37 appointees selected to propose changes to become amendments to Florida's Constitution, the process by which these amendments get placed on the 2018 General Election Ballot and how Florida voters can participate to make their voices heard.

The meeting starts at 6:30 PM at Fox Hollow Golf & Country Club, 10050 Robert Trent Jones Parkway, Trinity. Doors open at 5:00 PM for dinner/Happy Hour (self-pay) with food/drinks also available throughout the meeting.

For questions: (727) 482-8709
trinitydems@earthlink.net
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AN OLD LADY'S POEM

by Paul Leaser

When an old lady died in the Geriatric Ward of Ashlaudie Hospital near Dundee, Scotland, it speared she had left nothing of any "value". Then a nurse going through her possessions found the following poem. The poem is an old lady's bequest to posterity.

What do you see, nurses, what do you see?
 Are you thinking when you are looking at me?
 A crabby old woman, not very wise,
 Uncertain of habit, with far-away eyes.
 Who dribbles her food and makes no reply.
 When you say in a loud voice - "I do wish you'd try"
 Who seems not to notice the things that you do.
 And forever is losing a stocking, or a shoe.
 Who unresisting or not, lets you do as you will,
 with bathing and feeding, the long day to fill.
 Is that what you are thinking?
 Is that what you see?

Then open your eye, nurse, you're not looking at me.
 I'll tell you who I am as I sit here so still,
 As I do at your bidding, as I eat at your will.
 I'm a small child of ten with a father and mother,
 Brothers and sisters, who love one another
 A young girl of sixteen with wings at her feet,
 Dreaming that soon now a lover she'll meet.
 A bride soon at twenty - my heart gives a leap,
 Remembering the vows that I promised to keep.
 At twenty - five now I have young of my own,
 Who need me to build a secure, happy home.
 A woman of thirty, my young grow fast,
 bound to each other, with ties that should last.
 At forty, my young sons have grown and are gone,
 But my man's beside me to see I don't mourn.
 At fifty, once more babies play round my knee,
 Again we know children, my loved one and me.
 Dark days are upon me, my husband is dead,
 I look to the future, I shudder with dread.
 For my young are all rearing young of their own,
 And I think of the years and the love that I've known.
 I'm an old woman now and nature is cruel...
 'Tis her jest to make old age look like a fool,
 The body it crumbles, grace and vigor depart.
 There is now a stone, where I once had a heart.
 But inside this old carcass a young girl still dwells,
 And now and again my battered heart swells.
 I remember the joys, I remember the pain,
 And I'm loving and living life over again,
 I think of the ten years, all too few...gone too fast,
 And accept the stark fact that nothing can last.
 So open your eyes, nurses, open and see,
 Not a crabby old woman, look closer...SEE ME!

6 STEPS TO GROW A GARDEN ANYWHERE



(BPT) - The benefits from gardening are endless - relaxation, fitness, family fun, delicious food and beautifying your lawn. Across the country, millions of people live in townhomes, apartments or single-family homes that seem to lack the outdoor space needed for a conventional garden. But the good news is that no matter where you live you can still create a garden that reflects your goals and is uniquely personal to you.

Raised bed gardens may be the perfect solution. This type of gardening is gaining popularity not only because it can be adjusted to fit any size requirements, but because it is prone to fewer weeds, reduced soil erosion and fewer soil challenges that can arise in areas where the ground is inherently sandy or clay-based. Raised bed gardens also offer you the opportunity to customize your garden bed with beautiful accents and decorations that will make it look as amazing as the food it produces.

Steps for growing veggies and herbs in a raised garden bed

Step 1: Prep your space.

Raised garden beds can be bought or built to fill whatever space you have available. Select a bed that works well with your space and prepare accordingly.

Step 2: Choose your soil.

Once you have your empty bed ready, choose your soil. Nature's Care Raised Bed Soil is ideal as this soil is specifically formulated with rich organic matter and high-quality nutrients that help give your plants the benefits they need with no mixing required. Once you add the soil, be sure to rake it so it is smooth and level.

Step 3: Preparing your bed.

Next, you can finalize what you want to plant. Spacing is essential here and you want to remember to place your plants close together for maximum yield. Bonnie Plants provides a number of delicious and colorful options, including basil, tomato, kale, hot peppers and more. Check out your local plant nurseries for a variety of Bonnie Plants to choose from.

Step 4: Planting.

Since plant spacing varies by plant type, read the back of the plant tag for proper plant spacing.

Step 5: Feed your plants.

Once your veggies and herbs are planted, apply a fertilizer such as Nature's Care Organic & Natural Raised Bed Plant Food to add essential nutrients to the soil and help your plants grow big and strong. Simply sprinkle and work into the soil, then treat your plants to water. Just like us, plants get hungry, so make sure you follow the directions on the label to determine when to reapply.

Step 6: Harvest.

When your vegetables are ripe, it's time to harvest. All you need to do is rinse and then you are ready to enjoy your favorite recipe.

For more information on growing veggies and herbs in a raised bed garden and other gardening tips can tricks, visit NaturesCare.com.

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A MAGICAL FAMILY VACATION AWAITS AT FLORIDA'S SPACE COAST



(BPT) - When planning a Florida vacation for the entire family, two things typically first come to mind: winter getaway and busy theme park. Nothing wrong with that, but if you stop there, you're limiting your possibilities.

Along the state's Atlantic coast, there's another side of Florida that's waiting to be discovered. With extensive waters, diverse wildlife, enthralling history and countless fun things to do, this is a unique area that will have everyone in the family catching the spirit of adventure. For a vacation that delivers hands-on, memorable experiences, why not pack up the family and explore Florida's Space Coast?

Captivating waters

For starters, there are miles and miles of Atlantic shoreline to enjoy. Along the Space Coast, it's always a perfect time of year to pass the day at the beach. Rent a beach umbrella near the historic Cocoa Beach Pier and relax with a frozen drink while the kids play in the sparkling surf.

In the same area, you can also climb aboard for a two-hour boat tour operated by Island Boat Lines and piloted by a United States Coast Guard-certified captain. The tour winds through The Thousand Islands, which are a maze of trails and canals through mangrove islands and hidden hammocks. You'll learn from a professional naturalist who will point out some of the dolphins, manatees and coastal birds that are among the numerous wild creatures making their home in and around these captivating waters.

For something else that truly amazes, try a nighttime kayak tour on the Indian River Lagoon within the Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge. Dip your paddle, trail your fingers in the water or just watch for mullet swimming by—simple water movement activates a glow-in-the-dark trail of neon blue-green along the river surface. What you're seeing is plankton magic, or, more scientifically, "bioluminescent dinoflagellates" defending themselves against potential predators. Between that astonishing glow and the extraordinary view of the night sky enveloping the undisturbed refuge, your family members will feel like they've entered a portal of enchantment.

If you're interested in observing more nature in action, the Space Coast is home to the second-largest loggerhead nesting area in the world, with more than 15,000 sea turtle nests. At Carr National Wildlife Refuge, visitors can take a turtle walk to observe the nesting of these beautiful creatures and learn valuable information about conservation efforts.

Enter the cool zone

The Space Coast also features plenty of entertaining museums

THIS AND THAT – PINOT'S PALETTE

By Pat Buono

On our last trip to see relatives in Connecticut, we visited my husband's elderly Aunt and Uncle.

As we sat around the dining room table, I started to notice a number of paintings on every wall!

To my surprise, Aunt Marie had painted every one of them! At that point, I realized what my new hobby would be upon returning home.

At an Acrylic painting class that I was attending at Michaels, one of the girls mentioned Pinot's Palette, which is located at 3161 Curlew Road, behind Eve's Restaurant. My daughter and I have been there twice, and what a fun time we had.



Under new management, they supply everything needed in order to paint, drink and have fun! They recently began offering beer and wine, or you can BYOB. They supply paper plates, utensils, glasses, and instructions!

The class takes about 2 hours, and you will take home a beautiful 16"x20" acrylic painting!

So in short, you can paint, drink and make new friends in less than 3 hours. The staff is fun and friendly and makes the evening a memorable one!

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East Lake Woodlands

Continued on page 15



BIRD OF THE MONTH

OSPREY

By Jake Jacoby

The Osprey, also known as the Sea Hawk, Fish Eagle and Fish Hawk, is a true fish-eating bird of prey. It is a large raptor, reaching more than 2-feet in length and has a 6-foot wingspan. The Osprey tolerates a wide variety of habitats, nesting in any location near a body

of water that provides an adequate food supply. Ospreys are found on all continents except Antarctica.

The Osprey differs in several respects from other diurnal (active in daytime) birds of prey. They have closable nostrils to keep out water when they dive. Also their toes are of equal length, and their talons are rounded, rather than grooved. Ospreys and owls are the only raptors whose outer toe is reversible, allowing them to grasp their prey with two toes in front and two in the back. This is particularly helpful when they grab slippery fish and carry them to trees or nests to feed. Barbed pads on the soles of their feet also assist in carrying fish. In addition, they have backward-facing scales on their talons which act as barbs to help in holding their catch. When flying with fish, an Osprey lines up its catch head-first for less wind resistance.



Osprey in flight



Osprey with fish

partnership to raise their young. The female lays two to four eggs within a month, and relies on the size of the nest to conserve heat. The eggs are whitish with bold splotches of reddish-brown. The eggs are incubated for about 5-weeks to hatching. Osprey eggs do not hatch all at once. Rather, the first chick emerges up to five days before the last one. The older hatchling dominates its younger siblings, and can monopolize the food brought by the parents.

If food is abundant, chicks share meals in relative harmony; however, when food is scarce, younger ones may starve to death. The newly hatched chicks weigh only about 2-ounces but grow rapidly and fledge in 8 to 10 weeks.

Bald Eagles are the only known predator of the Osprey taking both nestlings and adults. However, it is much more common for an eagle to harass an osprey with a fish until the osprey releases his catch and the eagle then takes it for itself.

I took most of these photographs on the Osprey Trail on Honeymoon Island in Dunedin, Florida. This year there were lots of nests along the trail and all were easily viewable while walking down the trail. The trail is pet friendly and is a wonderful area, only about 20 minutes west of East Lake Woodlands at the end of Curlew Road. It also has a picnic area with bathrooms and a children's playground at the trail-head.

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

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Osprey in flight

HOW TO BLEND CONTRASTING MATERIALS FOR HIGH-IMPACT DESIGN

(BPT) - The melding of contrasting materials throughout the home is a sophisticated way to add visual interest and depth to your design. Bold finishes coupled with muted color tones create an eye-catching statement, while natural wood combined with cool metal boasts a stunning blend of nature and machinery. From partnering unconventional textures to pairing deep wood tones with warm gold finishes, mixing materials in a space poses a refreshing take on luxury design for each room of the home.

TEXTURED CHARM

Incorporating different textures with furniture, textiles and accessories can add layers of visual and tactile appeal to a living space. Create an elegant, yet contemporary design by complementing white wooden floors with shag rugs and velvet accent pillows in neutral colors of blush and dusty blue on cream or light gray upholstery. The contrast of a coarse wool throw draped over a smooth leather chair quickly adds texture to a sitting room. For tabletop décor, brushed silver and wood statement pieces in tiered sizes radiate a deluxe aesthetic to draw the eye to a central gathering point.

EXPOSED MATERIALS

Exposed brick and wooden beams bring a modern, industrial vibe to any space, while doubling as focal points in a room. From urban-rustic to contemporary environments, the rugged masculinity of the exposed elements can be balanced by soft, feminine touches to suit a multitude of design preferences. Incorporate scalloped linens and delicate prints framed in brushed gold to instantly soften and brighten the room. Reinvigorate a traditional design statement by offsetting rich, jewel tones with a neutral or light color scheme and warm metals.

NATURALLY INSPIRED

The infusion of metal and natural accents into one space brings a clean, spa-like aesthetic to the home's oasis - the bath. Live plants and bamboo décor bring an element of the

natural environment into the space, enhancing the tranquil atmosphere. The teak wood accents with the chrome or nickel



handles in the Litze Bath Collection by Brizo exemplify a beautiful marriage of manmade and earthy details, evoking a unique sophistication.

SOPHISTICATED LUXURY

Deep wood tones combined with metallic and brass finishes bring refinement to any room, especially the kitchen. Darker grains, such as walnut and mahogany, emanate refined luxury, while cabinet hardware, backsplashes and modern barstools in bright metal finishes instantly capture the eye's attention. Adding hanging light fixtures in varying heights add depth and dimension. Complete the space with minimalist furniture, such as a sleek kitchen table and structural chairs stained in cocoa tones, to bring all pieces of the room together for a cohesive look that is both polished and inviting.

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

I am often asked “Ok, you’ve told me what not to spend money on if I want to sell my home, but what can I do easily and inexpensively and get the most ‘bang for the buck’?”

Here are just 8 small things you can do without breaking the bank and you’ll get a real boost when you go to sell!

Up the curb appeal: This is the “first impression” of your home to a potential buyer, so make sure your home’s exterior has “pop”! Trim shrubs, weed flower beds, remove and refresh any peeling paint, and keep the walkway clear. Plant a row of potted plants along the walkway, load in the mulch, or put a cheerful wreath to your front door.

De-clutter: Remove that pile of shoes from the entry, that stack of mail from the kitchen table, the tons of items stuck on the refrigerator door, and anything else that detracts from your home’s gorgeous features. Box up all those little knick-knacks so that the buyer can envision themselves in the home. Remove bulky furniture and open up the space.

Organize your closet: Storage space is a huge selling point, and if your closets are stuffed to the brim, buyers will think you don’t have enough of it. Rent a storage unit or box these in the garage until you move.

Clean: Be sure to clean every nook and cranny. Don’t forget overlooked areas, such as dusting the fireplace mantel and ceiling fan blades, polishing appliances and faucets, and washing the windows. A spotless home sells much quicker! And, pay attention to smells: Don’t cook bacon or kimchi the day of a showing! Bake some cookies or muffins or pop some popcorn, instead! Don’t bake? Light scented candles!

Open up the home: Open the window blinds and drapes to let in natural light (and turn on floor or table lamps to illuminate areas that are dim). A bright, cheery room looks bigger and more inviting. Potted plants or a few pretty buds in a vase can help bring energy into a space.

It’s the little things!: Set aside a weekend to tighten those loose doorknobs, fix that leaky faucet, and do touch-up painting. Kitchen/baths a bit outdated? Replace the fixtures, faucets, door/drawer pulls and hinges.

Turn the bathroom into a spa: Create the feel of a relaxing, luxurious bath—for less than \$30. Stack a few pretty washcloths tied with ribbon, add some candles and orchids, and buy bathmats and towels in coordinating tones. And, lower the toilet seat! When it comes to both showing and photographing your home, this little trick can make a surprising difference!

“Staging”: Help your buyers see themselves in your home by adding deliberate “vignettes” that showcase how your home can be lived in. An inviting armchair and a tray with a coffee cup and book on it can turn that empty corner into a reading nook. Pretty soaps in a decorative tray can make your tiny half bath more appealing. Highlight focal points. Draw buyers’ eyes toward any special features with bright colors or accents such as plants. A pop of red from a throw pillow can draw buyers’ attention to that lovely window seat. A striking fern on the mantel can show off your fireplace.

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.

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

Hugh A. Lichter, MA, Century 21 East Lake Realty, at 727-421-5010.



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HYDROPONIC VEGETABLE GARDENING

by Pam Brown, ELW resident

Hydroponic gardening or gardening without soil has been around for probably several thousand years. The word hydroponics is derived from the Greek words "hydro" - of water and "ponos" - labor. Some hydroponic systems use just water with dissolved nutrients and others use a medium to hold the roots that allows the nutrient solution to drain over the root system.

There are several advantages of using hydroponics to grow vegetables over conventional soil based gardening. There is an accelerated growth rate with hydroponics and also the possibility of a greater yield. Since the nutrients are dissolved in water and ample oxygen is also available to the roots the plants will absorb nutrients faster and in greater amounts leading to larger and much healthier plants.

Considerably less water is used with hydroponic gardening since the excess nutrient solutions are collected and reused. In addition, fewer pesticides are also used.

As mentioned above, several hydroponic methods use a growing medium to support the root system and to allow the nutrient solution to trickle through. There are a number of products that can be used and the type will depend on the type of hydroponic system used.



Perlite growing system



Tower growing system

Some common mediums include; light expanded clay aggregate, expanded shale, horticultural grade Rockwool, perlite, vermiculite and sand. Expanded clay aggregates and shale are very stable and usually do not change the pH of the nutrient solution. Rockwool has a pH of 7.8 and it can raise the pH of the nutrient solution and it cannot be used over and over. Perlite, vermiculite and sand usually do not change the pH of the nutrient solution, but they do not drain quite as well as the previously mentioned mediums.

The nutrient solutions used will contain all the elements that a plant would normally get from soil. They come in a concentrated form both granular and liquid and are available in hydroponic supply stores. The liquid is a bit more expensive, but will be easier to measure and dissolves immediately into the water.

Just like with soil, the pH of the growing medium should be maintained between 5.8 and 6.8 with a pH of 6.3 being ideal. It will be necessary to check the pH of the nutrient solution. There are pH testing kits that are inexpensive and easy to use. When pH values are outside the desired range the plants will not be able to absorb some of the important nutrients.

There are a number of different types of hydroponic systems available and they can be either active or passive. Active systems use a pump to move the nutrient solution and provide oxygenation to the roots. Passive systems use a wicking system to provide the



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nutrients to the roots. You can purchase systems that are already to use or there are many plans for building your own system.

We have a great resource for hydroponic gardening here in Pinellas County. Simply Hydroponics & Organics located at 7949 Ulmerton Rd, Largo, FL 33771. <http://www.simplyhydro.com/>. They have an extensive store of all things hydroponic and their website contains a wealth of information about using hydroponics. Check out the "Hydroponic University" on their website. You will find answers to almost any questions about growing with hydroponics.

A resident of Turtle Creek, Ed Paikoff, has embraced hydroponics and created quite a garden inside his pool enclosure. He has been perfecting his hydroponic growing systems for about six years. He started with manufactured hydroponic towers and still uses them, but he branched into building his own system that uses perlite as the growing medium. I have attached some pictures from his garden which has some spectacular vegetable plants growing. He has beautiful giant Lacinato kale and Swiss chard plants that would be the envy of any gardener.

Hydroponic gardening could be the wave of the future as the world population grows and soils become degraded. It is already being used all over the world and is a very popular hobby as well.



Ed in his garden

A magical family vacation awaits at Florida's Space Coast ... continued from page 6

and other indoor attractions and activities that will get you out of the sun, without sacrificing the fun. In Palm Shores, don't miss the challenges and rollicking good times at Adventure HQ, which has tons of inspired and wacky climbing tests that kids can't resist. (Who wouldn't want to try scaling a beanstalk?)

Then head over to Port Canaveral's Exploration Tower to learn all about this area's rich history - from its earliest inhabitants to the arrival of the Spanish conquistadors and all the way to the men, women and machines behind our present-day space exploration—as told through interactive exhibits. Finally, take a walk among giant dinosaur skeletons and inspect a detailed replica of King Tut's shining tomb at the newly opened Museum of Dinosaurs and Ancient Cultures, in Cocoa Beach.

Amazing thrills

On the Space Coast, there's no need to stand in line for hours to experience thrills and excitement. For those who like their adventure high up in the trees, Brevard Zoo's Treetop Trek has zip lines, cool swings and three aerial obstacle courses perfect for kids and kids at heart. You can get your ticker racing another way by taking a go-kart for a spin at Andretti Thrill Park, which also features mini-golf and a ropes course.

For even more drama, an up-close encounter with the space program offers its own special kind of thrill, and the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex is simply jam-packed with a solid day's worth of jaw-dropping exhibits, including the rockets, shuttles and out-of-this-world astronaut stories that will capture the imagination.

For ideas and tips on planning your fun family vacation along Florida's Space Coast, visit visitspacecoast.com.



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INDEPENDENCE AND THE REAL ESTATE MARKET

by Charles Haynes

The Fourth of July is the main American Holiday that makes an impression on you at an early age, and not just because you were having a blast of fun, with everyone in celebratory mode all day and night long, the food and the fireworks. Everyone young and old seemed to agree about something, and that something was in the air wherever you went. Conversations could go from independence to battle history and to the freedoms in our country. As you got older you could join in the conversations and form opinions of your own to express. People spoke freely without worry that the young people might hear something, since they wanted us to hear all about it. Everyone agreed and appreciated what the day meant to us. It's the pride in our independence that they agreed about. I hope the day is still fun and memorable to your children and grandchildren.

An event that the McCaffery Team (Bob McCaffery, Fonda Dillard, Joan Daly, Ann Galatro, Maria Nichols, Claudia Preisig and myself) appreciates as realtors in being able to express our views as Americans and professionals, is the annual Great American Realtor Days (GARD). It is held in Tallahassee and is a two-day lobby of the state legislature for critical issues that affect the real estate industry as well as homeownership. This year, important topics were permanent property tax cap on non-homesteaded properties, affordable housing funding, property insurance reform, estoppel certificate reform, business rent tax.

Tax caps on non-homesteaded properties and property insurance reform can revive the falling numbers of people choosing Florida for second homes. Making sure that Estoppel Certificate fees stay reasonable is attention to ethical real estate related practices. The business rent tax might not seem to directly affect you, but thriving small businesses add to Florida's prosperity and so promotes property value growth and increase tourism, which is one of Florida's stronger industries. Affordable housing programs help to

encourage people to establish their lives here and raise families so that our communities and industries grow.

As realtors, we appreciate the effort of these lobbyists not only for their help in assuring fair business practices, but as an example that our independence as Americans allows the freedom to voice opinions and make things better and move forward with the times. Feel free to contact or visit our Berkshire Hathaway office in East Lake Woodlands for any of your real estate needs.

TERRIFIC WINDOW TREATMENT TIPS!

By Sally Giar

Strictly speaking, windows, along with walls, floors and ceilings, form the "shell" of any room. Your windows may be treated to blend unobtrusively into the background, or take center stage in your room's design. However you chose to treat your windows, they are really a decorating opportunity to help you set your room's mood and style.

Before you look into the wide range of possibilities, analyze your window needs and determine just what you want your window beauty treatment to do. Here are some terrific window treatment tips to help you along in the process!

Want to hide an unattractive view without shutting out sunlight? Why not try framing your windows with beautiful printed or textured sheer side panels?

Add some splash! Try accenting your window treatments with tiebacks, fringe or beads. It's not only a clever way to get an even more custom look, but will add a splash of the unexpected to your design.

Add some drama! Decorative rods, brackets and finials have expanded dramatically and beautifully in today's marketplace. From wood, to metal, to unusual materials, today's rod choices are varied, unlimited and gorgeous!

Large Room? Small Windows? By extending your window treatment side panels and top treatments beyond the edges of small windows, your room will actually appear just a bit larger and more expansive.

Small Room? Small Windows? Try to keep your window treatment design, and color simpler in style. You'll definitely find that your room will tend to appear larger.

Scrumptious Side Panels! Consider framing the beauty of your windows with scrumptious side panels. From silks, to tapestries, to sheer fabrics, side panels truly add beauty, flair and excitement to any window design.

Shady Shades! Never before have Roman shades been as popular as they are today! These beauty shades provide privacy in the most decorative of ways!

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