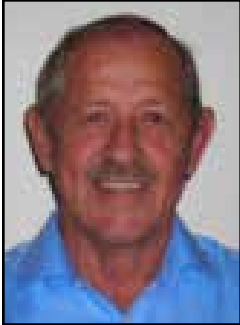


Heron

East Lake Woodlands

Volume 18 | Issue 02 | 2018

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SPRING IS AROUND THE CORNER

by Keith Crank, Vice President

I have to apologize for missing the deadline for last month's Heron. I was under the weather but back up and running now. Allow me to wish everyone a belated Happy and Prosperous New Year. Hope everyone made it through the holidays safe and sound.

I was at our neighborhood Wal-Mart a couple of weeks ago just after dusk and noticed a middle aged gentleman decked out in his black cycling outfit. I said to myself I hope this gentleman wasn't riding his bicycle at this time of the evening. Lo and behold as I was driving on Woodlands Drive who do I see but this gentleman on his bike, which had no lights on the rear or the front. Firstly not having working lights on one's bicycle is against Florida statutes and secondly to be wearing dark clothing without any reflective devices at night is just wrong to my way of thinking. When I ride my bike I want to be seen whether it is during the day or at night. After that incident I have noticed several bicyclists wearing dark clothing at night. I guess it might be because of the colder weather and most of our heavier clothing is darker. Please may I suggest wearing lighter colored clothing especially at night so drivers readily see you? Another thing I would like for bicyclists to be aware of is that the pedestrians on our sidewalks have the right of way and bicyclists who ride on our sidewalks must give way to the them. Remember bicyclists are subject to the same "rules of the road" as everyone else and can be issued citations or warnings for infractions such as running stop signs. Be smart and be safe.

I am extremely happy to report that the month of December was a very quiet month in respect to the controlled access patrols and the deputy sheriffs who patrol our community. Citations are down but many of us still roll through the stop signs. Please take that extra three seconds and come to a complete stop and hopefully avoid a warning or citation for running a stop sign. Not worth it.

There have recently been some changes made by Allied Universal to the top echelon of officers working in East Lake Woodlands. Major Flaherty was promoted to a position at corporate and Lieutenant Wendy Griffith took his place. Congratulations to both and wish you the best in your new positions.

In December the longest standing member of the Controlled Access committee, Mr. Don Edwards, tendered his resignation. Not only was Don on this committee but also was a member of the East Lake Woodlands Community Association Board of Directors for several years. I took over Controlled Access when Don resigned from the board but he agreed to stay on while I became familiar with my new position. I have always considered Don a friend and will miss him and his words of wisdom. Thank you sir.

Should you have an emergency always call 911 for assistance. For assistance from our patrol officers call 727-785-7384. The non-emergency numbers for the Pinellas County Sheriff's office are 727-582-6200 or 727-582-6900.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Susan Whitehead

Managing a community of almost 4,000 homes is daunting. We have miles and miles of roads and sidewalks, huge swathes of landscaping, a drainage system larger than most towns, all enclosed within walls, fences, and gates to protect our way of life. Add to this a complex legal structure that has been laughingly described as "quirky" and you understand why I use the word daunting!

As I noted last month, we are a community of 53 separate neighborhoods which fall within the East Lake Woodlands boundaries. Out of these, 34 are legally "bound" to the community association documents, meaning that they were created after June 1, 1983 when the community association (ELWCA) was formed. These bound associations are legally required to cover the cost of maintaining East Lake Woodlands common areas.

The remaining 19 neighborhoods, or associations, were created prior to June 1, 1983 and are not legally bound to the community association documents. They have no legal mandate to contribute to the cost of maintaining the East Lake Woodlands common areas.

Now we come to the category of VERY SPECIAL NEIGHBORHOODS. These are a group of Unbound associations that are CONTRACT MEMBERS of the ELWCA. They agreed to voluntarily sign a contract to join and collectively will contribute over \$265,000 this year toward the expense of maintaining our community. They are neighbors who enhance our social fabric with a generosity of talents, friendship, and being. I would like to thank each and every resident of these communities for being such a vital part East Lake Woodlands!

ELWCA CONTRACT MEMBERS

Cluster 1	Patio Homes
Cluster 3	Woodlands Estates
Cluster 4	Cypress 1
Cluster 5	Cypress 3

*Editors note: Please see Susan's Related Article on page 10.

MONTHLY MEETING PRESS RELEASE

by Vincenza DiLiberti, President

THE DAUGHTERS OF ITALY LODGE #2825 (Clearwater chapter of the Order Sons and Daughters of Italy in America - OSIA) will have their monthly meeting on Thursday, February 22, at their new meeting place, Heritage United Methodist Church, 2680 Landmark Dr. Clearwater, FL 33761 (corner of Landmark Dr and SR 580). Italian and non-Italian women are invited to attend; dessert is served at 6PM followed by a short general meeting and a cultural program.

For more information, please contact Vincenza DiLiberti at 455-1521 or vincenzad@verizon.net. Visit the lodge's website: www.daughtersofitaly.com for more information on their activities as well as follow them on Facebook – Daughters of Italy Lodge #2825.

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**EAST LAKE WOODLANDS
COMMUNITY PATROL REPORT**

Tampa Road Gate 727-785-7384

or North Gate 727-785-1465

DECEMBER 2017**Alarm Calls/911 Hang Up** 0**Emergency Calls** 0**Complaint Calls** 11
(Noise, speeders, solicitors, domestic disputes, trespass, fireworks, suspicious persons)**Parking Violations** 48**Irrigation Calls** 2**Motor Vehicle/ Pedestrian Accidents** 1**Crimes Reported** 2
(Vandalism to mailboxes, gates, grass damage, stolen bikes, dumping, all other criminal activity)**Miscellaneous/Other** 20
(Welfare checks, pets, wildlife, all others)**The Sheriff monitored 33 hours during December 2017****Performed 0 Hours of Presence/Visibility.****Citations 2, Warnings 51, Vehicles Stopped 57****Top speed: 44/30 MPH.****2018 EASTLAKE WOODLANDS
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE**

February 13th 8:00am	Management & Associates
March 13th 6:30pm	East Lake Woodlands Country Club
April 10th 8:00am	Management & Associates
May 8th 6:30pm	East Lake Woodlands Country Club
June 12th. 8:00am	Management & Associates
July 10th. 6:30pm	East Lake Woodlands Country Club
August 14th 8:00am	Management & Associates
September 11th 6:30pm	East Lake Woodlands Country Club
October 9th 8:00am	Management & Associates
November 13th 6:30pm	East Lake Woodlands Country Club
December 11th 8:00am	Management & Associates

*All meetings are the second Tuesday of each month.

Presidents/Nominating Committee to meet
at 6:00pm January 16th at ELWCC

Annual Meeting/Election March 27th 7:00pm ELWCC

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LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE: AT HOME!

by Sally Giar

With a little thought and planning, the lighting in the activity areas of your home can be made more efficient and attractive. But the right choice of fixture, the proper lamp (and bulb), placement, and height all have major effect on the results. When it all comes together, beauty, comfort and convenience can be added to every area of your home.

Four basic types of lighting are often used together to provide desired functionality and flexibility. **AMBIENT LIGHTING** illuminates the entire room and should create a warm and inviting look. It should be relatively low level to avoid glare and dreariness. The amount needed is also affected by natural light sources, wall/floor/ceiling colors, and ceiling light. **TASK OR FOCAL LIGHTING** is for reading, cooking, desk work, etc. and should be cooler in tone. It should be carefully placed to avoid shadows or glare to minimize eye strain. **ACCENT LIGHTING** illuminates and highlights architectural features or objects in a room. **DECORATIVE LIGHTING** attracts attention to itself as an object. Examples are chandeliers or sconces. Decorative shades can make any lamp a decorative piece, as well.

Just as with furniture or window treatments, I always start with the function or purpose of a particular lighting need when working with clients. From there, the type of lighting is usually obvious, although there may be choices or a combination required. With the exception of chandeliers, most residential lighting requirements are met best with lamps rather than recessed or ceiling-mounted fixtures. Wonderful lamps are available today for any location or purpose: wall sconces, table lamps, accent lamps, floor lamps, desk lamps, and torchieres of every size and material add variety and interest to any décor.

Size counts, and so does placement. Chandeliers, for example, should not be much wider than half the width of a dining table, and hung so that the bottom is about 30-32" above the table top. Chandeliers for a foyer or staircase are a bit trickier, as they must be three-dimensionally proportional to 'look right' when hung.

There are many choices for task lighting, and your selection should depend upon some basic ergonomic considerations, i.e. where will

the task at hand be held? From where will the task be seen? Is glare a consideration? Lighting for a dresser or make-up table needs to light the face or head, without causing shadows or glaring into the eyes, color and intensity being particularly important for make-up application. Lighting for reading and many hand tasks should usually come from above and behind the user.

Finally, use accent lighting to highlight the wonderful, special features of any room, and to create the mood for entertaining and enjoyment in both daytime and night. Small halogen lamps can spark up any art, houseplant, or accessory, and can often add significantly to the overall ambient light, as well as the décor of your home. The choices available today are truly awesome and sometimes a bit mind-boggling. Give it some thought, and you'll reap the rewards of a successful lighting scheme in every room!



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THE SILVER FOLLIES REVUE

by Louise Garone, Dance Captain

The Pat Griebel Dancers of the Silver Follies will present Their annual 2 hour revue on Sunday March 11, 2018 at Heritage Springs Golf and Country Club theater at 11545 Robert Trent Jones Pky in Trinity.

Louise Garone, Dance Captain, is a resident of Wyndtree and has participated in the Revue for 15 years. The ladies tap and jazz dance to popular Hollywood and Broadway tunes along with singers and novelty surprises. This group dances during the year for charitable enterprises and private parties.

To obtain tickets contact Louise Garone 727-372-8057 or Pat Griebel 727-505-7152. Check us out on Facebook/Silver Follies Revue.



BACK TO COLLECTING

by Paul Leaser

IF IT LOOKS LIKE A DUCK

Decoys have been made in America for centuries, but most desired are those produced since the mid - 1800's.

On both factory and hand-made decoys, condition is the collectors major desire. cracked and checked paint actually enhance the collectability. You will find a name or a

date on the bottom of some examples, although carvers seldom signed or dated their work.

My own experiences with this collectible is in my appreciation of the art and of the interest of collectors in this areas. Decoys are another example of reminding us of our past and of the devotion in maintaining the products of those desires.



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**MAKING YOUR HOME AN
APPEALING HOUSE**

by Ernie DelBarba

Happy February and Happy Valentines Day from The McCaffery Team (Bob McCaffery, Ernie DelBarba, Ann Galatro, Joan Daly, Fonda Dillard and Claudia Preisig) of Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Florida Properties Group. We love helping people realize their real estate goals. Whether you are buying, selling, renting or investing, we want to

make sure your individual needs are being met while you are getting the best results. Paying attention to details is a strength of our team, and we know that in selling your home impressions are everything to potential buyers. With our team's assistance a buyer will never pass up your home because it doesn't show at its best in print and in person. Staging tips can make a difference in a buyer being able to see the positive features of a floorplan, and to see themselves living in your home. We will help you to be able to think of yourselves as the buyer and to use a needed critical eye when getting your home ready to go on the market. A realtor team interested in helping you sell your home, the McCaffery Team will give you every possible piece of constructive criticism, but we remain sensitive to your transition to the idea that this will not be your home anymore. At this point you will be closer to realizing your next dream or plan of the future, and we want to help you do it easily.

Curb appeal is at the top of the list of things that need a discerning and creative eye. A buyer may not even want to see the interior based on the exterior impression they get. I then must coax them to look past this first impression since something about the house drew them in to begin with. They see all the listing pictures before they set out to look at houses, but are more likely paying attention to the interior photos, so may overreact when they drive up. Oldsmar is offering a class on February 20, 2018, an Introduction to Florida-Friendly Landscaping. It will be an hour that will teach you the Nine Principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping. It will be held at the Oldsmar Fire Rescue and is worth checking out if you are thinking of selling and want to amp up your curb appeal, or just want to get some free tips on Florida landscaping to keep in mind for your future planning. The McCaffery Team is located within the walls of East Lake Woodlands and would like you to also keep us in mind when you choose a realtor.

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A MARATHON PACE

by Jeff Hunt, Editor

Twenty six point two. I'm sending out a big tip of the achievement hat to East Lake Woodlands and Creekside resident Kathy Gasparini in this month's edition of the Heron. Kathy recently completed the 25th Anniversary Disney Marathon on January 7th at Walt Disney World in Orlando. Running in only her

second marathon, she finished the distance with her good friend Nancy over the course that wound through the 4 major parks of Disney World.

Kathy has lived in ELW since 1994 with her husband Ben and six children. She credits her husband Ben with getting her started in running while they were both in college and he was an avid runner. She also gives thanks to her friend Nancy who had missed the 2017 Disney marathon and suggested they run together in the 2018 event. While this was only her second marathon, Kathy prefers to run the 13.1 mile distance of the half marathon. She has completed 10 of those events and is looking forward to her next race, the BDR (Best Damn Race) in Safety Harbor on February 3rd.

The 2018 Disney marathon started at a chilly 41 degrees with 25,000 runners. The first runners began at 5:30AM with Kathy's corral releasing her on the course at 6:15AM. Runners were so tightly packed at the start that it took almost 2 miles before Kathy was able to freely maneuver around other participants. While about 50% of the runners wore costumes as they ran, Kathy and friend were forced to modify their outfits due to the cold temperature at the early start. Kathy said her favorite costumes belonged to 2 guys dressed as flamingos. The two friends race ended around 5 hours later and the temperature clocking in at 61 degrees.

If you are thinking about running in any distance race in the future, Kathy gave me some tips that were helpful for her. First, find a friend to train and run with as you prepare for your race. Not only does this help you train when you may not feel like doing so, it will make race day much more fun. Second, invest in some cordless ear buds and listen to your favorite music while you run. Third, and most important in Kathy's mind is pace yourself. Don't try and run the whole race in the beginning. For instance, Kathy's strategy was to pace herself at a 12 minute mile for the first half of the marathon, then pick up the pace in the second half of the race. Finally, do some cross training if possible so the running doesn't become monotonous. She likes to attend Camp Gladiator at the East Lake Woodlands Country Club three days a week.

Kathy tells me she is already planning to run in next year's Disney marathon. She is even considering running in a 50K race in the immediate future. Yet she doesn't even see her accomplishments of completing marathons and half marathons as anything that spectacular. She says you just have to have fun running. And learn how to pace yourself.

"I've learned that finishing a marathon isn't just an athletic achievement. It's a state of mind; a state of mind that says anything is possible."

John Hanc



NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTED

by Jaime L. Soderland-Ballard, PCAM

The following volunteers were appointed to the Nominating Committee.

Paul Burmeister	Community Association	727-786-5425
Theron McCoy	Silverthorne	727-784-9148
Ronald Geisheimer	Patio Homes	727-812-6144
Brian Geoghegan	Cypress Estates I	727-253-4804
Reva Berger	Cross Creek	727-772-6545

There are five (5) positions up for election for a two year term. If you wish to be considered as a candidate, please contact one of the Nominating Committee members or contact me and I will forward information to them. The Committee will interview candidates and submit a report to the ELWCA Board no later than February 13th with their slate of proposed candidates and any other candidates nominated by petition. The vacancies are open to all members who reside in East Lake Woodlands at least six (6) months of the year.

In addition to the potential candidates that the Nominating Committee selects for consideration, they will consider any candidate nominated by petition delivered to Management and Associates on or before February 12, 2018. To be valid, this petition must be signed by at least five (5) members (other than the nominee) and must include brief biographical information regarding the candidate's qualifications and experience, and a signed statement by the candidate that he/she is willing and able to serve as a director. Should the Nominating Committee not endorse such a petition candidate, the candidate's name will nevertheless be included on the ballot as a petition candidate, unless the candidate requests his/her name be withdrawn.

The date of the Annual Meeting will be on Tuesday March 27th at 7:00 P.M. at the East Lake Woodlands Country Club.



OUTSIDE THE GATES

by Richard Corrigan

After several trips to the courthouse in St. Petersburg, there is finally some information to release on the state of the lawsuit brought against the ELW Community Association.

The good news is the lawsuit brought by Cross Pointe against the Community Association has been settled and the appeal period has passed so the settlement is final.

Based on historical precedent and the deliberations of the judge the two sides were able to agree on a settlement document which will be in effect going forward. There were no significant changes in the way the Community Association must operate, and has operated, based on the precedents established in previous court cases and the procedures as outlined in our By-Laws and other governing documents.

Two changes that were accepted were the Community Association agreeing to be subject to Florida Statute 720, which governs certain tasks and obligation of the association to act like an HOA in reporting etc., and a confirmation that all Members are welcome to and should not be excluded from Community Association meetings, something that was never really in dispute.

Unfortunately, the lawsuit delayed and hindered certain actions the Board was planning to undertake and caused unnecessary delay and expense in certain projects such as the drainage project. In the future we would hope that HOAs or CAs would bring issues to the Board for discussion.

East Lake Woodlands has a complex, if not convoluted, history and sometimes a simple discussion can eliminate concerns or at least shed some light on why things are the way they are. If discussion cannot solve the problem, there are many dispute resolution vehicles, outside of legal action, that may result in a solution or compromise. Most of all we encourage dialogue between your Board and the Community Association on matters both good and bad, so we can all work to build a better community.

Significantly closer to home, the County Commission has confirmed that work on flyovers on Route 19 at the junctions of both Curlew Road and Tampa Road. Discussions continue flyovers further north, including Alderman and Nebraska. Significant concerns have been raised by both residential and business groups on these potential projects. Whatever the outcome you can be sure there will be increased traffic diverted to East Lake Rd for an extended period beginning in 2019. I understand several cruise lines offer 2-year cruises around the world. My concern is how will I get to the Brooklyn Bakery at Lucky Dill? Happy Motoring.

BUILDING A BETTER "COMMUNITY"

by www.myhoa.com



According to the Community Associations Institute (CAI), community associations are arguably the most representative and responsive form of democracy found in America today. Residents of a community freely elect neighbors to serve on a board of directors of that community. Other owners or residents may serve on committees specifically tasked with overseeing association matters such as finances, security, architectural review and landscaping.

In addition to the primary responsibilities of the board, a responsive community association board must go beyond prudent business management to foster harmony and enjoyment of the community association life-style among residents. It is suggested that community associations have numerous committees devoted to social events, charitable activities, public service initiatives, safety issues, environmental responsibility and special member services. Effective community associations build community spirit through activities such as dances, fund raising drives, holiday parties with contests such as an award to the best decorated unit, etc., voter registration drives, enhanced accommodations for elderly or disabled residents, neighborhood watch programs, Earth Day celebrations and neighborhood beautification projects.

Effective communication through newsletters and, increasingly, association web sites ensure that members are informed of community events in addition to financial decisions and rules.



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ANIMAL OF THE MONTH CHEETAH

by Jake Jacoby

Cats are the ultimate hunters. They have a strong, muscular body with forward-facing eyes, razor-sharp teeth, and sharp claws. They have quick reflexes and keen senses. Most eat nothing but meat; many live alone; and they are often active at night. Cats are land dwellers, but all can climb and many are good swimmers. There are three groups of cats: the great cats, the small cats, and the Cheetah. Lions, tigers, leopards, and jaguars are the great cats. The small cats include lynxes, bobcats, and ocelots. The Cheetah stands alone. Great cats are grouped together because they roar. They cannot purr like the small cats or the Cheetah.

The Cheetah is the world's fastest land animal and Africa's most endangered large cat. The name Cheetah comes from the Hindu word "Chita" meaning 'spotted one'. Cheetahs are carnivores preying primarily on antelopes and gazelles and are uniquely adapted for speed. They are capable of reaching speeds of 60 miles-per-hour in just over 3-seconds with a stride of 20-feet and are frequently referred to as the "Greyhound of cats". The Cheetah stands approximately 3-feet at the shoulder and the males' weight about 160-pounds. The females are solitary except when with cubs and smaller than the males. The males are sociable, forming small groups called "coalitions".

Adult Cheetahs are easily distinguished from other cats by their solid black spots. The color and spots are a form of camouflage which helps them hunt prey and hide from other predators. Distinctive black tear stripes run from the eyes of the Cheetah down to their mouth. The stripes are thought to protect the eyes from the sun's glare and it is believed that they have the same function as a rifle scope, helping Cheetahs focus on their prey because they hunt primarily during the day (diurnal). The big cats, lions, tigers, jaguars and leopards are nocturnal, so they hunt primarily at night.

Cheetahs are induced ovulators (they breed throughout the year) and females become sexually mature at about 2-years of age. Gestation is about 3-months and results in a litter of typically 3 to 5 cubs. Weaning occurs at 6-months and siblings tend to stay together for some time, typically one to 2 years with their Mother. Unfortunately, Cheetah cubs face higher mortality than most other mammals. Until they are about 3 months old, Cheetahs cubs have a thick silvery-grey mantle down their back. The mantle helps camouflage the cubs by imitating the look of an aggressive animal called a Honey Badger and this mimicry may help deter predators such as lions, hyenas, and eagles from attempting to kill them.

The Cheetah's foot pads are hard and less rounded than the other big cats. The pads function like tire treads providing them with increased traction in fast, sharp turns. The short blunt claws are semi-retractable and are closer to that of a dog than that of other cats. The claws work like the cleats of a track shoe to grip the ground for traction when running which helps increase their speed.

The Cheetah's spine is extremely flexible and is unique. It allows for more extension during running, and makes both its stride length and speed possible. The shoulder blade does not attach to the collar bone, which allows the shoulders to move freely. And, the hips pivot to allow the rear legs to stretch further apart when the body is fully extended. These unique features allow the Cheetah to achieve the 20-foot strides with four strides completed per second. There are two times in one stride when the Cheetah's body is completely off the ground; once with all four legs extended and once with all four legs bunched under the body.

The Cheetah's long muscular tail works like a rudder, stabilizing and acting as a counter-balance to its body weight. This allows sudden sharp turns during high speed chases. The tail is also thought to be a signaling device, helping young cubs follow their mothers in tall grass. The tip of the tail varies in color from white to black among individuals.



Cheetah Brothers



Cheetah in the grasslands



Cheetah Cub



Cheetah on the hunt



Cheetahs at rest

All of the above photographs were taken by me in September 2017 in the Kalahari Desert region of South Africa.

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

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PRUNING CRAPE MYRTLES

by Pam Brown (ELW resident)

This is the time of year when I start to see severely over-pruned Crape Myrtles. Southern Living magazine dubbed this practice "Crape Murder". Below is a reprint from the University of Florida/IFAS website; Solutions for Your Life (<http://solutionsforyourlife.ufl.edu/lawn-and-garden/crape-murder/>) that outlines the best way to prune these graceful trees to keep them healthy and beautiful.

STOP CRAPE MURDER!

INTRODUCTION

The crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*) is one of the most beautiful and popular flowering trees in Florida. Often called "the lilac of the South," this plant is tough, adaptable, and showy. Its blooms are large and long-lasting (up to one hundred days), and the tree has great fall color and attractive bark. Crape myrtles prefer a sunny, well-drained site and are relatively pest- and disease-free.

Many crape myrtle cultivars are available, ranging in size from miniatures to trees that grow to twenty feet or more. The crape myrtle is available in a wide array of flower colors including white, red, pink, and lavender.

It is important to select a cultivar that will be an appropriate mature size for the spot where you intend to plant it. Most local nurseries will label their plants with this information, which is just as important as flower color and bark appearance.

Late winter is the optimal time to prune crape myrtles. The purpose of pruning is to create a canopy in which air can circulate and all branches receive sunlight.

CONSEQUENCES OF SEVERE PRUNING

Unfortunately, many homeowners and landscape professionals prune crape myrtle trees too severely. Topping--commonly called "crape murder"--can be very damaging and disfiguring to the tree. This practice results in a "witch's broom" appearance and a tree that is no longer in proportion.

Topping causes profuse growth at the site of the pruning, many sprouts at the base of the tree, and increases susceptibility to disease and insects. It encourages new growth that is too dense to allow air movement and light to reach the inner branches. Large "knobs" appear where trees have been trimmed repeatedly, and the topped tree has an unsightly appearance until new growth appears.

Although topping may result in larger blooms, those flowers will grow on thinner, weaker branches that will droop--especially after rain--and may even break. Topping may also shorten the life of your trees.

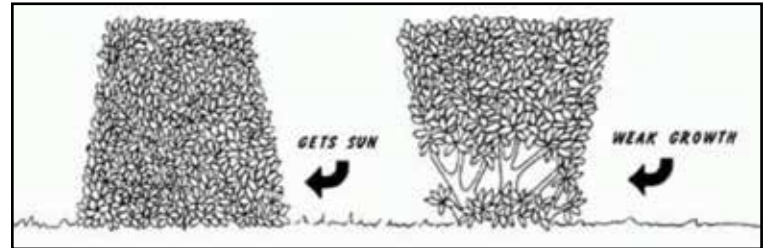
To properly prune crape myrtles, use the following techniques.

- Remove suckers from the bottom of the plant.
- Remove crossed, damaged, or diseased branches. For crossed branches, remove the weaker of the two limbs that are crossing or rubbing.
- Prune the tips of the branches to remove old flowers. If old blooms are removed, a second blooming may occur.
- Thin out small twiggy growth to allow air to better circulate in the canopy.

REHABILITATION

You have two options for rehabilitating a "murdered" crape myrtle.

THE FIRST METHOD is to choose the strongest two or three sprouts from each stub and remove all of the other sprouts. This will encourage the remaining sprouts to be stronger and the canopy



of the tree to be airier. If you follow this procedure for a couple of seasons, the tree is sure to be much improved in health and appearance.

THE SECOND--and more drastic--technique is to cut the tree back to within one to two inches of the ground while the tree is dormant. After two to three weeks of growth, select three to five of the most vigorous new shoots on each trunk and remove all others. Remove any new shoots that emerge later. Within three to five years, you will again have a natural-looking crape myrtle.

Spread the word among your friends and neighbors and eliminate crape murder. Use proper pruning techniques on your own trees, or ask your yard maintenance professionals about their pruning techniques. Remember to choose the appropriate size plant for the correct site, and prune very sparingly for beautiful crape myrtles in your yard.

Adapted from: Improper Pruning Damages Crape Myrtles (pdf) by Daniel E. Mullin (2/2002).

FEBRUARY LANDSCAPE CHORES

PRUNING SHRUBS: Late February to early March is a good time to shape up shrubs in the landscape. Removing up to 1/3 is an acceptable practice. Remember, for hedges; leave the top narrower than the bottom so that the whole plant gets sufficient light. This will help keep the bare trunks from developing that you sometimes see where the bottom of the hedge has no foliage. You might have had some plants that were damaged in the very cold weather we had in January. You can now prune these back to where new growth is emerging.

PREVENTING WEEDS IN LAWNS: Put down pre-emergent herbicide for weeds in your grass. The general rule of thumb is to apply pre-emergent herbicides mid-February for Central Florida. You want to apply the pre-emergent herbicide for four or five consecutive days before temperatures reach 65 to 70°F. We might have passed this window. Dithiopyr or Proflam are two pre-emergent herbicides that can be used to prevent crabgrass seeds from germinating. Pendimethalin, which is sold under a variety of names, also works well for controlling mature, actively-growing crabgrass and is safe when used at the recommended rate. Also, you shouldn't use a pre-emergent herbicide paired with a fertilizer ("weed and feed"). The right time of year for applying a pre-emergent lawn herbicide is the wrong time for lawn fertilizing. Lawns should not be fertilized until April.

WINTER FLOWERS: Remove spent blooms and leggy growth from plants and fertilize with slow release fertilizer to coax a few more weeks of blooms from these flowers.



Correct crape myrtle pruning



Crape Murder

OPEN LETTER TO THE RESIDENTS OF: LAKE ESTATES, CLUSTER 2, CONDO 2, CONDO 3, CONDO 4, CONDO 5, CONDO 6

by Susan Whitehead

As residents of East Lake Woodlands you have the advantage of living in a lovely gated community. Beautifully landscaped entrances, well maintained roadways and sidewalks, gates and controlled access provide a safe setting that translates to a lower crime rate than surrounding areas and higher than average sales prices for homes and condos. In addition, by living in a gated community, homeowners can receive a discount on homeowner's insurance. As non-members of the community association you pay nothing for these benefits but, this obviously comes at a cost to other residents.

Much like your own associations, the ELWCA is constantly striving to contain expenses whenever possible. Each time a gate opens in East Lake Woodlands it costs money. Therefore, the Board of Directors has determined that the Association must limit the use of some of our gates. **Beginning on April 1, your use of gates by barcode will be limited to the Main Gate at Tampa Road (East Lake Woodlands Parkway) and to the "Suntrust" gate on Woodlands Parkway. Your existing barcode will continue to operate the gates at these two locations.** Access will not be available through the "convenience gates" located on Sunflower or behind the shopping center. While your barcode will not be operational at the North Gate on East Lake Road, you are welcome to use the regular visitor lane at this location. The Quail Forest gate will also be unavailable.

The limitation of access is legally valid according to legal counsel for ELWCA, since the "Gate Case," Circuit Court Case No. 96-5145, determined that only the two original access points, at the Tampa Road and Suntrust gate entrances, were necessary, and legally required, for ingress and egress for residents in your communities.

The Community Association regrets having to take this action, but the Board of Directors has the duty to act in the best interests of its members, and the Board has determined that the interests of the members are not being served by providing benefits to non-members without compensation.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in regard to these changes.

THEATER

If you're looking for amazing live theater may I suggest a fabulous and inexpensive way to spend an evening? Our local high schools produce top rate performances which are full of the next stars of tomorrow, many of them East Lake residents! For roughly \$10 - \$15 you can enjoy the thrills of plays and musicals filled with talent that most of us can only dream of. This is also an exciting way to introduce children and grandchildren to the joy of the arts. After most performances, characters are available in the lobby to meet their young fans. Check out these upcoming performances and please support local live theater!

East Lake High School

February 8, 9 School House Rock

March 8, 9, 10 Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Countryside High School

April 19, 20, 21 Nunsense: The Mega-Musical

Calvary Christian High School

April 23, 24 My Fair Lady

Clearwater Central Catholic

March 1, 2, 3 Bye Bye Birdie

Palm Harbor University High School

March 9, 10 Forever Plaid

April 19, 20, 21 The Drowsy Chaperone

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EAST LAKE WOODLANDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

The East Lake Woodlands Community Association in collaboration with East Lake Woodlands Country Club is pleased to announce:

“THE INAUGURAL EAST LAKE WOODLANDS COMMUNITY GOLF TOURNAMENT”

Scheduled for March 24th with a 1:00PM “Shot Gun Start”, all East Lake Woodlands residents are invited to participate with each community association encouraged to enter a team representing their HOA.

Since it is our intent to make this an annual event, winning team members will not only win prizes, they will also be the envy of their friends and have “Community Bragging Rights” for the next calendar year.

We are all fortunate to live in a premier community with two exceptional golf courses. This event is intended to build community spirit and camaraderie throughout East Lake Woodlands and participation in the East Lake Woodlands Club.

As ELWCC General Manager Dan Riker stated in last month’s Heron, “as the Club grows the Community grows and as the Community grows the Club grows”. We very much look forward to seeing you on the 24th.

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