OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR EAST LAKE WOODLANDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION





QUIET MONTH GENERALLY

by Keith Crank, Vice President

The month of January was a relatively quiet month in our community. We had several days of below average temperatures that might have kept many of our residents inside. But that has certainly changed in the first couple of weeks into February.

There were some disturbing incidents

that occurred recently that I would like to mention in my article this month. One incident that I found very disturbing was golf carts are driving on the sidewalks. One of our residents reported that two golf carts approached him from the rear and passed him startling him causing him to lose his balance and almost fall. Golf carts are NOT allowed on the sidewalks per East Lake Woodlands Community Association rules and regulations. Speaking of golf carts another incident that was brought to my attention was the sighting of several (6) young children on a golf cart. As a reminder to those who have personal golf carts and allow children to drive them that no one under the age of fourteen (14) can drive a golf cart. Parents please ensure that those driving the golf cart are legally able to do so and that the cart is not overloaded with passengers.

As you drive down our main roads, I would like for you to notice that all the roads in our community are marked with solid double yellow lines. Per Florida law vehicles are not allowed to pass other vehicles in the presence of solid double lines.

I would like to remind the owner of an older model blue Ford Explorer that these double lines prohibit passing. Unfortunately we still have members in our community who don't like to obey



our speed limits. On January 2, 2018 around 9:30 PM a patrol officer sighted a white Mercedes Benz coupe driving erratically north on Woodlands Boulevard at a high rate of speed. The patrol officer quickly did a U-turn in an attempt to get the tag number but was unable to do so before the vehicle left the community through the north gate onto East Lake road. Another incident was a driver who felt 39 mph in a 20 mph speed zone was appropriate. Unfortunately for the driver he was issued a citation and now will have to dig deep into his pocket to pay his speeding ticket. Neighbors it isn't necessary for us to just ignore our speed limits and stop signs.

By the time you receive this edition of the Heron construction on the Tampa Road and East Lake Road gatehouses may have already started. If not, the construction should start shortly and we will be inconvenienced to some extent at the entrances and exits of our community. There will be times that entrances and exits may be blocked and traffic diverted. PLEASE, during the construction period, be EXTRA ALERT as traffic situations could change on a daily basis. With a little patience and cooperation, we will get through the construction and our gatehouses will look much nicer and afford our gate officers much better working conditions.

As always, in an emergency call 911 immediately. Remember in an emergency time is a critical factor, which could save someone's life. Should you need to get in touch with the Pinellas County Sheriff's office the non-emergency number for them is 727-582-6200/6900. To contact our community patrol officers the number to call is 727-785-7384.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT by Susan Whitehead

The ELW Community Association Annual Meeting is being held on Tuesday, March 27th, 7:00pm at the East Lake Woodlands Country Club. The meeting is an important part of the ELWCA and is designed to update residents on the past year's accomplishments, current projects and financial health of the

association. It is also important for residents to attend to vote on amendments to our Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws. The text of these amendments, as well as a letter of explanation regarding them, should have been received by all members of the association. Please remember that if you cannot attend the meeting, your proxy must be received in the offices of Management & Associates by 4pm on Monday, March 26.

Because East Lake Woodlands is a private community, we are blessed with great opportunities and the accompanying responsibilities. We control much of our own destiny in a rapidly changing housing market. One area that the ELWCA is committed to is well-maintained roads and sidewalks. Two paving projects due to begin within a few weeks are portions of Sunflower and Woodlands Boulevard. The board also recently approved the renovation of the guardhouses at the North and South gates. We look at these areas as our first opportunity to make a good impression on future homebuyers and help all residents' secure higher home values.

While we are constantly evaluating our "curb appeal," the board also must insure that underlying safety and community wide systems are maintained. The largest project ever undertaken by the ELWCA has been the drainage work of the past year. While the initial scope of work has been completed, we have identified additional areas of concern that will be monitored and addressed in the years to come.

These and many other areas that the Community Association is responsible for will be topics of discussion at our annual meeting. Please mark your calendar and I look forward to seeing you there!

EAST LAKE WOODLANDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - MARCH 2018

HOA Publishers, Inc.

727-403-5506 5420 Pioneer Park Blvd. Suite C Tampa, FL, 33634

Submit articles to: www.HOApub.com

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EAST LAKE WOODLANDS COMMUNITY PATROL REPORT

Tampa Road Gate 727-785-7384

or North Gate 727-785-1465

JANUARY 2017

Alarm Calls/911 Hang Up	0
Emergency Calls	0
Complaint Calls (Noise, speeders, solicitors, domestic disputes, trespass, fireworks, suspicious persons)	24
Parking Violations	45
Irrigation Calls	3
Motor Vehicle/ Pedestrian Accidents	4
Crimes Reported (Vandalism to mailboxes, gates, grass damage, stolen bikes, dumping, all other criminal activity)	4
Miscellaneous/Other (Welfare checks, pets, wildlife, all others)	41
The Sheriff monitored 36 hours during January 2017	
Performed 4 Hours of Presence/Visibility.	
Citations 4, Warnings 54, Vehicles Stopped 58	

Top speed: 39/20 MPH.

2018 EASTLAKE WOODLANDS

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

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

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AREA RUGS: THE FINISHING TOUCH by Sally Giar

Have you ever finished decorating a room in your home and it still seems like something's missing? As if there's one final piece of decor that could potentially bring the room together, but you can't quite put your finger on it? Here's a hint: Look down. If your hardwood - or fully carpeted - floors seem dull or too exposed, perhaps an area rug is the finishing touch you need.

Not sure if the investment is worth it? Here are four reasons you should own an area rug:

1. TO TIE EVERYTHING TOGETHER

You can easily address that "something's missing" feeling you have after decorating your space by placing an area rug in the room. This piece of decor can tie the room together by bringing furniture ends to a common meeting point, and also by creating an overall cozy feeling in the atmosphere.

2. TO ADD A NEW ELEMENT OF STYLE

Does your room seem dull and lacking in style? With an area rug, you can make a statement where it matters most. If you're not interested in going big and bold with wall colors, furniture or lighting fixtures, make it happen with a colorful area rug. This piece of decor can help bring out your wild and creative side.

3. TO BRING COMFORT TO THE SPACE

While hardwood floors are timeless when it comes to style, they can fall flat in the comfort department. An area rug can help make your guests feel more comfortable on a cold winter's day, and more relaxed when you want to spend the night in, curled up on the couch.

4. TO MAKE A CHANGE WITHOUT GOING PERMANENT

Perhaps you're looking for a simple way to make a big statement

EAST LAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY MARCH 2018 SPECIAL EVENTS

by Patty Ann Wieczorek, Reference & Marketing Librarian

GENTLE YOGA WITH DAWN

Thurs., March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 12-1pm

Gentle Yoga with Dawn LaCross has moved to an offsite location during the library construction. It is offered at the Yoga Shakti Center for Wellness, 2625 Keystone Road, Suite A-2, in Tarpon Springs. No registration is required but a \$5 donation is requested. Minimum age: 16 years old.

FREE TECH SUPPORT

Mon., March 5, 12, 19, 26, from 4-6pm Tues., March 6, 13, 20, 27, from 5-7pm Wed., March 7, 14, 21, 28, from 5-7pm

Is your Smartphone smarter than you? Overdrive driving you crazy? Just can't figure out where that "Cloud" is? Let our Teen Tech Team help you! Stop by for FREE tech advice - no appointment necessary! Please bring your own device!

BARNYARD PETTING ZOO Sat., March 10, 10am-12pm

Goats, chickens, sheep, & other animals will take over our front lawn! Join us for springtime fun & learn about animals! Pony rides will also be offered from 11am-12pm (for children less



in your home without committing to any serious renovations. Investing in a fully carpeted living room may transform the space, but it's going to take a lot of time, effort and funds to achieve. By purchasing a stylish area rug instead, you can still make a statement in your home, but it won't cost you nearly as much. Additionally, it's not a permanent change - area rugs can be moved around a space, or even to a different room. Plus, you can take them with you if you move into a different home! All of these reasons make it a worthy, versatile investment in the long run.

While it may come across as a simple piece of decor, choosing the perfect area rug can be an intimidating venture. If you need help finding one that fits your space, get in touch with us. We will come to your home for a free consultation to evaluate the room's size, style and atmosphere to provide area rug recommendations. There's no need to stress about bringing your space together. We can help you complete any room in your home!



than 140lbs). No registration!

COFFEE & CONVERSATION WITH THE DIRECTOR

Thurs., March 15; 12-1pm Mon., March 26: 9:30-10:30am

Come talk about the building expansion, favorite books, programs & services, or anything else libraryrelated with our Director, Lois Eannel.

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT Fri., March 16, 6-9pm



Attention Parents: Take part in this great opportunity to enjoy a night out while your school-aged children (K-6) have fun with games & activities at the library! Cost is \$10 per child. Registration required. Proceeds support our Teen Advisory

Board & their efforts in designing the new Teen Room!

FTRI-AMPLIFIED PHONES FREE FOR HEARING **IMPAIRED FL RESIDENTS** Wed., March 21, 10am-12pm

(FTRI) Florida Telecommunication Relay, Inc., will be here to provide FREE amplified telephones to FL residents who have mild, moderate, or severe hearing **FTRI Relay**, Inc. loss or who are speech impaired.



COFFEE Conversation

E.L.W. MANAGEMENT COMPANIES

Management & Assocs. 813-433-2000 Aberdeen Cluster 1 Cluster 3 Cross Creek ELW Community Assn. Enclave Greenhaven 1 Greenhaven 2 Greenhaven 3 & 4 Pinewinds Pinnacle Silverthorne St Andrews Woodlands Estates Woods Landing Worthington

Ameri-Tech Prop. Mgmt. 727-726-8000 Creekside Turtle Creek 1 & 2 *Citadel Management* 727-938-7730 Cypress 3 Woodlake Run 1, 2 & 3

Jim Nobles 727-447-8949 Stonebriar

First Choice Management 727-785-8887 Preserve Woodridge Green

Innovative Community Mgmt. 727-938-3700 Muirfield

Elite Property Mgmt. 727-224-1871 The Meadows Hunter's Crossing

Progressive Mgmt.

727-773-9542 Cypress 1 Cluster 4 Cluster 5 Heatherwood/Laurel Oaks Patio Homes

Property Group of Cent. Fla.

727-771-7753 Diamond Crest Isleworth

Resource Management 727-796-5900 Deerpath Hunter's Trail

Sentry Management 727-799-8982 Kingsmill Cypress I Turtle Creek 3 & 4

Holiday Isles Prop. Mgmt. 727-548-9402 Cross Pointe

Self-Managed Avenel Lake Shore Vista Warwick Hills The Cove at East Lake Woodlands

As of 09/19/2017



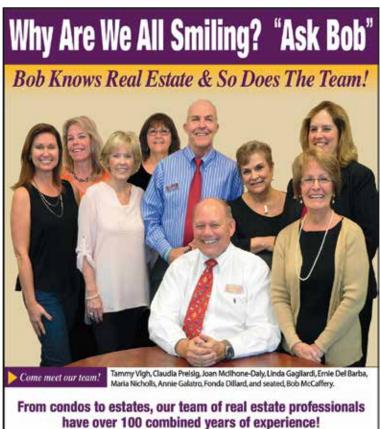
DO YOU KNOW YOUR HOME'S VALUE? by Ernie DelBarba

After recently getting my fathers home ready for listing I realized once how fortunate it was for me to have all the information there was to know about the property from watching him care for and maintain it over the years. After his passing I nor my siblings could legally fill out the required property disclosure because I did not

live there. And after having to thoroughly clean and stage the home I became more familiar with what exactly was there for sale. It being in East Lake Woodlands with all the community has to offer was a consideration when pricing.

Whether you are a golfer or tennis player or not, the beautiful facilities available help to elevate your home price values. Wouldn't it be a beneficial idea to have a professional real estate agent that knows Oldsmar and East Lake Woodlands help you to know the true value of your home? The McCaffery Team at Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, Florida Properties Group is in the professional plaza across from East Lake Woodlands Golf Club. Bob McCaffery, Fonda Dillard, Ann Galatro, Joan Daly, Claudia Preisig and myself have the experience in the Tampa Bay area and especially in your neighborhood. If you lease your home or have an idea to do so, we can also help you with our expertise in property management. Maybe you have an idea to buy a property with the intention to lease, we can help you to learn what is attractive to the leasing public. Our team at Berkshire Hathaway has a Certified Relocation Specialist and has brought broader insight to the McCaffery Team members as to how homes are valued.

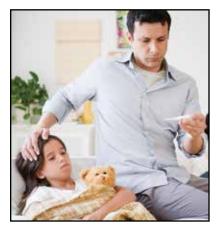
Technology has given us the ability to give you a quick evaluation of your property based on numbers and statistics, and we are always pleased to give you a general idea. If you then become serious about putting your home on the market, giving you complete accuracy on your list price will require an on-site visit to your home. New listings are down between 6-7% since last year and inventory is low, average sale price has increased between 9-10%, and the preferred indicator by many, the average median price, has increased 7.9%. If you've had any ideas about listing your home, now is a great time to do it. Please call or e-mail us with any questions you might have and think of us when you are interviewing real estate agents for any of your needs. March is a good month to enjoy many events in Oldsmar and appreciate all that the city provides. The Oldsmar Days and Nights Festival that runs for 3 days starting on the 23rd at the R.E. Olds Park. Admission is free and there will be classic cars, carnival and midway, classic rock and roll bands, a parade and much more. You won't want to miss this popular annual event that is right in your own back yard.



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE MCCAFFERY TEAM. WE KNOW REAL ESTATE. Team McCaffery works from East Lake Woodlands' only Real Estate Office/Oldsmar



6 WAYS TO FIGHT THE FLU



(Family Features) As temperatures drop, the spread of cold and flu germs rises. Start the year off healthy and be sure to rid your home of lingering germs that may be hiding in places you don't expect.

"I always recommend the flu shot - especially when officials are predicting a harsh flu season like this year - good nutrition and plenty of sleep, but there are other healthy habits we can all develop to help keep

ourselves and those around us stay healthy during cold and flu season," said Dr. Tanya Altmann, pediatrician, best-selling author and founder of Calabasas Pediatrics. "Vaccination is important, but there are other preventative measures that we should all keep in mind."

These tips from the experts at Clorox can help you prevent the spread of germs:

- 1. **GET VACCINATED.** Even though it's well into cold and flu season, it's still important to get a flu shot if you haven't already. Vaccination is the first step in flu prevention. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend a yearly flu virus vaccination even if the vaccine's efficacy fluctuates for almost everyone 6 months and older.
- 2. **KEEP HANDS WASHED**: Hands touch so many things throughout the day. It's important to wash your hands often, including after using the bathroom and before preparing or serving food. Germs can spread by touching your eyes, nose or mouth after coming in contact with a contaminated surface. Those areas are common entry points to the body for germs, so try not to touch your face or eat until you wash your hands.
- 3. STAY HOME IF YOU'RE SICK: Even though you may not want to

miss work or school, it's important to stay home to prevent the spread of illnesses to those around you. Even at home, make sure to cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue to prevent the spread of germs to your loved ones. Lastly, try your best to make good use of your time off from work or school to rest, relax, eat well and recover from illnesses.

- 4. FOLLOW HEALTH GUIDELINES: It's important to eat right (fill up with fresh fruit and veggies, vitamin D and probiotics), get some exercise (at least 30 minutes a day of moderate intensity) and get plenty of sleep (at least 8 hours per night) to help boost your body's ability to fight the effects of cold and flu viruses.
- 5. **BE AWARE OF YOUR ENVIRONMENT:** Be aware of illnesses going around in your community to take extra precautions to avoid them or to know when to seek medical attention if you do get sick.
- 6. **DISINFECT HARD SURFACES**: Disinfection is a key step to help prevent the spread of cold and flu germs. The CDC recommends disinfecting frequently touched, hard surfaces, such as doorknobs, refrigerator handles, light switches and faucets, with an EPA-registered disinfectant like Clorox Disinfecting Wipes. They help kill 99.9 percent of germs that can live for up to 48 hours on hard, non-porous surfaces.

Learn more about flu prevention at Clorox.com/FluFOMO.

Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Source: Clorox



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SPRINGING FORWARD

by Jeff Hunt, Editor

Your East Lake Woodlands Community Association (ELWCA) Board of Directors has spent the last few years undertaking projects designed to not only increase the desirability of living in East Lake Woodlands (ELW) but also promote a sense of Community among residents of each individual community within the physical external boundaries that define ELW.

It started a few years (8-10) ago with the determination of the ELWCA Board under the leadership of most recent past President Judy Fosbrook to make every effort to make our Community truly gated again. Certain Community gates had been left ordered in a open position due to litigation between the ELWCA and some individual community associations. This resulted in increased access to all our communities by non-residents which was a huge source of frustration to the majority of ELW residents. After a dogged multi-year effort lead by Judy and our past ELWCA manager Bernadette Massaro, we became truly gated again in September of 2014.

Next up on the agenda was the issue of sidewalks throughout the ELWCA. Many areas did not have any sidewalks at all. ELW residents in those places were forced to walk or jog in the street, which made navigating our roads more dangerous for both drivers and pedestrians alike. Other areas had sidewalks that weren't connected. While still other areas of sidewalks needed repairs. ELWCA is now connected throughout via sidewalks (or a pedestrian walking lane in a few places) which is really just a recent development in the 40+ year history of our Community.

Hand in hand with sidewalks, the ELWCA Board decided to install Community styled street signage throughout the entire roadway system managed by the ELWCA. We now have specifically colored and themed street signage that is integrated with the the design of our ELWCA website and our Community newsletter The Heron.

Speaking of our ELWCA website and our newsletter The Heron, both have undergone major upgrades over the last 8 to 10 years. When I joined the ELWCA Board our "website" was just a single information page with just basic info about ELW location, management company information and a one picture of the golf course. The Heron was a one woman ELW resident operation that was painstakingly difficult to produce every month. Currently our website includes a wealth of information about ELW. Meeting minutes, financial information, how to obtain a barcode for your car, Community rules and regulations along with much more are just a few clicks away at eastlakewoodlands.com. And our monthly newsletter The Heron now goes out to all ELW residents at no cost with a upgraded magazine look and unique resident inspired articles and advertisements.

Another project that I'm sure most residents are aware of began almost three years ago. The summer of 2015 brought over 22 inches of rain to our ELW Community in a very short period of time, exposing many flaws in our well constructed but under maintained stormwater drainage infrastructure. The ELWCA and individual communities were faced with difficult financial decisions to protect our homes from potential damage. As the restoration of the ELWCA Master Drainage system concludes this year, a maintenance plan will be in place to keep this vital piece of our Community operating in an optimal fashion.

Other important work that has occurred over the last few years includes the inspection, prioritizing and paving of all roads maintained by the ELWCA. The monthly inspection, maintenance, removal and replacement of our Community landscape. Continuous quality improvements to our Controlled Access program made possible by monthly meetings with Allied Universal, Pinellas county sheriff's deputies, Management & Associates and our Controlled Access committee. And while these projects and this work that has been done for our ELW Community over the last several years is by NO means ALL the effort that has been put in by residents serving on the ELWCA Board, it is indicative of the commitment and service given by your elected leadership for ALL ELW residents.

So, this year your ELWCA continues to Spring Forward with many more enhancements to our Community. By the time you read this the repaying of the second half of Woodlands Parkway and the final part of Sunflower Drive out to Tampa road should be complete. Also completed by this time will be the yearly sidewalk replacement project throughout our Community. The FIRST annual ELWCA golf tournament will be held March 24th with the generous help of the ELW Country Club. Just after that will be the unveiling of our updated ELWCA website which will become easier to maintain and use. Next you can expect to see a complete overhaul of both guard houses at the North Gate and Tampa Road entrances, followed by the addition of security cameras at those locations. Landscape improvements will begin at the start of summer rains with the planting of new trees to replace those lost recently to disease and old age. And finally, somewhere in the middle of all this, two new small monument type signs will be installed at our two main entrances to keep residents informed of events going on in our Community and the Country Club.

After reading my article this month, I hope each of you has a better understanding of the ELWCA Board of Directors work and commitment to keeping our Community operating in a manner that benefits the entire Community. I also continue to hope that a few more of you with time and talent might be inspired to serve on the ELWCA Board or one of our committees in the future. I look forward to seeing you all at our ELWCA Annual meeting on March 27th at the ELW Country Club.

"Earn your success based on service to others, not at the expense of others." --- H. Jackson Brown, Jr.





6



BIRD OF THE MONTH GREAT BLUE HERON

by Jake Jacoby

One of the most common birds seen in East Lake Woodlands is the majestic Great Blue Heron standing motionless as it scans for prey or wades in the retention ponds belly deep with long, deliberate strides. They may seem to move slowly but can strike like lightning

when they see a prey.

Great Blue Herons have specialized feathers on their chest that continually grow and fray. The herons comb the "power down" with a fringed claw on their middle toes, using the down like a washcloth to remove fish slime and other oils from their feathers as they preen. They are active hunters in daytime and at night. And, despite their impressive size, Great Blue Herons weigh only 5 to 6 pounds thanks in part to their hollow bones; a feature that all birds share.

Great Blue Herons live in both fresh and saltwater habitats where their primary food is fish. They also forage in grasslands and agricultural fields, where they stalk frogs, snakes and small mammals. They locate their food by sight and swallow it whole.

Most breeding colonies are located within 2 to 4 miles of feeding areas, often in isolated swamps or on islands, and near lakes and ponds. One area that I visit often to observe and photograph Great Blue Herons nesting is the Audubon Rookery in Venice, FL http://veniceaudubon.org/rookery. This rookery is free, open to the public and has a nice covered pavilion where you can have your lunch while you watch the nesting birds.

Male Great Blue Herons collect most of the nesting material, gathering sticks from the ground and nearby shrubs and trees, and presenting them to the female. She will then weave a platform and saucer-shaped nest cup, lining it with nesting material such as mangrove leaves, moss and small twigs.

Pairs are usually monogamous during a breeding season but they choose new partners each year. Great Blue Herons will defend feeding territories from other herons with dramatic displays in which the birds approach intruders with their head thrown back, wings outstretched, and bill pointing skyward.

The female lays 3 to 6 pale blue eggs from January to April. Eggs are laid at 2-day intervals and hatch in approximately 27-days in the order in which they were laid. Males normally incubate the eggs for about 10 hours a day, so the female will incubate for 14 hours or more and always during the nighttime. The first chick to hatch usually becomes more experienced in food handling and aggressive toward the other siblings. So the first chick usually grows more quickly and dominates the other chicks. Both parents will feed the chicks by regurgitating food. About 80 days after hatching, the young birds will take their first flight but stay with the nest for another 3 weeks or so before they strike out on their own.

I took all of these photographs in the Tampabay area this year. Please see my favorite photographs at www.flickr.com/jake_jacoby



Great Blue Heron with chick



Great Blue Herons on the nest



Great Blue Heron in flight



Searching for sushi



BACK TO COLLECTING PRINTS

by Paul J leaser

Of course, there are many fine, early prints to collect; Currier and Ives are probable the most-often -sought-after, as they are still to-be-found by collectors today.

I had a somewhat attraction to them 50 years ago, because of their wide selection of subject matter and attractiveness, and they were reasonably-priced (I actually bought many for 25 cents). Actually, also Currier and Ives advertised themselves as, "Publishers of Cheap and popular pictures; we appeal to patriotism, to love of family and devotion to home-ties, as well as reverence for middle-class virtues in general."

Condition is crucial in collecting prints; be sure that the print has not been trimmed. Minor stains are acceptable.

Today, the best places to acquire Carrier and Ives prints are: second-hand books shops, local auctions, community book sales, and estate sales.



6

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NEWS FROM THE LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE by Pam Brown (ELW resident)

I have had several people ask me if we are going to plant any trees to replace the dead pines that were removed. The Landscape Committee determined that we would start with twenty trees. There are four varieties with two being large trees and two small flowering ornamental trees. All are native

and drought tolerant.

The large trees are - Bald Cypress (Taxodium distichum) and Florida Maple (Acer saccharum var. floridum)—formerly Acer barbatum).

Bald Cypress has a pyramidal shape when young, but eventually develops into a broad-topped, spreading, open specimen when mature. Trees grow at a moderately fast rate, reaching 40 to 50 feet in about 15 to 25 years. It is capable of reaching 100 to 150 feet in height when grown in the best conditions. The pale green, needle-like leaves turn a brilliant coppery red in fall before dropping, but the bare branches and reddish gray, peeling bark provide landscape

interest during the winter. The trunk grows unusually thick toward the base, even on young trees. The small seeds are used by some birds and squirrels.

Florida Maple (Acer saccharum var. floridum)-formerly Acer barbatum)is no longer considered to be a separate species. The deciduous Florida maple reaches 50 to 60 feet in height but is most often seen at 20 to 30 feet. Leaves turn a muted yellow or orange before dropping in early winter. The canopy growth habit is round- to oval. The edges of the leaves turn under slightly, giving them a distinct appearance. The trunk on older specimens resembles that on the northern sugar maple, which is an attractive gray with longitudinal ribs. The fall color and the bright red early spring blooms and seeds make this a showy tree in the landscape

The small flowering ornamental trees are - Chickasaw plum (Prunus angustifolia) and Varnish Leaf (Dodonaea viscosa).

Chickasaw Plum forms a rounded mass of slender, thorny branches sprouting from a short trunk and growing to a small tree 25 feet tall and wide when fully mature. Before the leaves appear in spring, Chickasaw Plum is covered with small, white, fragrant flowers which make the trees quite decorative in the presence of other trees which are often still dormant. The 0.5-inch-diameter fruits which follow are red, ripening to yellow, and are extremely popular with wildlife and man. The plums can be either eaten fresh or used to make a delicious jelly.

Varnish Leaf has shiny green leaves with a varnished appearance that gives this plant its most widely used common name. It is a fast growing, broad-leaved, evergreen that can grow 10- to 15feet tall. The "varnished" leaves of this plant have a resinous coating that is a protection against water loss, and this allows the plants to be exceptionally



Bald cypress



Chickasaw plum in flower



Florida maple fall color



varnish leaf

drought tolerant. Margins of the leaves are often turned under. Greenish yellow flowers appear in the spring and fall. These flowers are without true petals and appear in terminal clusters that are 3 inches in length. The most outstanding part of this plant is the pendent fruit. These emerge green, turn yellow green, then pink and red, and finally brown as they mature. The three-parted seed pods have 3 or 4 rounded wings.

We will probably start planting later this spring when we have reliable rain.

All pictures are from University of Florida sites.

MARCH LANDSCAPE CHORES

You can start replacing declining winter annuals with spring to summer varieties like angelonia, gazania and salvia. Also consider some flowering perennials that will provide color all summer. My favorite is pentas. Caladium bulbs can also be planted now, but will most likely not sprout until sometime in April.

If you are into growing vegetables, warm-season crops, such as beans, peppers, squash, and others can be planted now. The UF Extension publication Vegetable Gardening in Florida: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_vegetable_gardening offers lots of information.

March is the month to prune. If you have plants that were damaged from the freezing temperatures we had in January, you should be seeing new growth emerging. Prune back to where you see this new growth. Prune azaleas just after plants finish blooming to shape or produce a fuller plant. Azaleas cannot be pruned after July 4 without sacrificing next year's bloom.

Fertilize palms, azaleas, camellias, and other ornamental shrubs if needed. University of Florida researchers recommend waiting until the first of April to fertilize lawn grasses.

Check your sprinkler systems for efficient water use. Irrigation will be necessary as we go into the warm and historically dry months of spring. The UF Extension publication Landscape Irrigation: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_landscape_irrigation has helpful information.

There is a Plant Clinic at the Palm Harbor Library where you can receive specific help with landscape or other plant problems. It is staffed by Master Gardener volunteers trained by the University of Florida who are there to support Pinellas County residents with Florida specific gardening solutions. They are

at the library on Wednesdays, 10am to 2pm, January through Mid-November.

WHAT CAN THEY DO FOR YOU?

- What is this plant and how do I care for it?
- What's wrong with my plant and how do I fix it? How do I treat for insects?
- What is the best way to ...
- Start a vegetable garden
- · Care for my orchid
- Plant my new tree / shrub/ perennial...
- Water my lawn
- I have a shady/ wet/ sunny/ dry/... spot in my yard – what should I plant there?
- I am re-doing my landscape, HELP!
- And more...



angelonia



caladium





FIND OUT THE TRUTH ABOUT TAP WATER

(Family Features) While the tap water you drink may look clean, it may contain harmful contaminants like lead, pesticides and industrial pollutants. These and others may be picked up on the journey from your water treatment plant through miles of pipes to your home.

To help clear up any misconceptions about what's really in your water, the experts at PUR offer this myth-busting advice:

MYTH: Living close to a fresh water source makes tap water safer to drink.

TRUTH: Even if you live close to a fresh water source, your water goes on a long journey through an often aging infrastructure before it reaches your tap. According to Environmental Health & Engineering, Inc., up to 10 million lead service lines are still in use in the country today, potentially allowing lead particles to enter into your water.

MYTH: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates all contaminants.

TRUTH: There are about 100,000 potential contaminants in drinking water. According to the EPA, its Safe Drinking Water Act only regulates 103. That means water that meets the government's safe drinking standards may not meet yours.

MYTH: All water filters are created equal.

TRUTH: While both pitcher and faucet filters remove unwanted contaminants, a faucet filter is usually a step up from a pitcher because it has a longer life and can remove even more contaminants, including lead. As every brand is different, it's important to check the types of contaminants each filter removes and confirm it is certified by NSF and the Water Quality Association for contamination reduction. Doing so can help you get the healthiest, cleanest tasting water possible.

MYTH: You can determine if tap water is safe to drink by how it looks, smells and tastes.

TRUTH: While your water might look, smell and taste clean, it



Amazing Opportunity to own 1 of only 4 Estate Lots with Private Gate in The Enclave. Built by Campagna Homes, this Private Retreat is nestled on 1.2 Acres with gorgeous views of Conservation and the Signature 16th Hole of the North Course. Exceptional features include Volume Ceilings, Alabaster Chandeliers, Bonus Room Plus Separate Office, Tile Roof Replaced in 2016 and Oversized 4-Car Garage, Offered at \$998,000.



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3474 Tampa Road Palm Harbor, FL 34684 could contain contaminants that are potentially harmful to your health, like lead, which is colorless, odorless and has no taste.

"Knowing what's in the water you drink and cook with is important, but determining the quality of your local water supply can seem daunting," said Keri Glassman, registered dietitian, nutritionist and PUR spokesperson. "Fortunately, there's a free online resource called KnowYourWater.com that allows users to type in any address to easily learn about lead and other possible contaminants in their water."

MYTH: Boiling water removes lead.

TRUTH: Boiling water may reduce bacteria found in the water, but will not remove lead. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the lead concentration of water can actually increase slightly when water is boiled because some of the water evaporates during the boiling process.

MYTH: Drinking filtered water is expensive.

TRUTH: Using a faucet filtration system for one year is comparable in cost to purchasing enough bottled water to last only two months. An option like the PUR Advanced Faucet Filtration System is an ondemand solution for filtered water right from the tap and is certified to reduce over 70 contaminants, including 99 percent of lead, 96 percent of mercury and 92 percent of certain pesticides.

Get your individual water quality report and learn more at KnowYourWater.com. Source: PUR



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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.





Inaugural East Lake Woodlands Community Golf Tournament Sponsored by East Lake Woodlands Country Club &

East Lake Woodlands Community Association

Saturday, March 24th

1pm Shotgun - South Course \$30/person – Golf, Dinner & Prizes!



RSVP by March 16th ELW Golf Shop (727) 784-7270 or stewart.mccomb@clubcorp.com

> Open to ALL East Lake Woodlands Residents

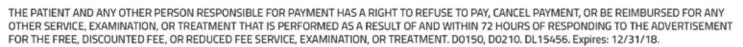


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