

June



Turtle Talk

June 2024

President's Message

By: Grace Boehm, Board President



INSIDE this ISSUE...

President's Message	1 -2
Treasurer's Report	3
Bank Fraud Update	4
Manager's Message	5
Blood Drive	6
Natural Assets	7
Women's Club	8
Men's Club	9
From the West Corner	10
TROM Trivia	11
Trom Trivia Answers	12

TURTLE TALK proof readers check articles for errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar, and sentence structure.

The author of each article is responsible for the factual accuracy.

Thank you to everyone who attended the special board meeting on May 16th and the regularly scheduled board meeting on May 30th. Whether in person or on Zoom, I appreciate you taking time to participate.

On May 16th, the board acted to fill the vacancies caused by Russ Gill's resignation. We appointed Ehren McGeehan, the fourth candidate in the election, to the remainder of Russ' term. We elected me to fill Russ' role as President and elected Curt Gilroy to assume the role of Secretary, my former role.

At the meeting on May 30th, the board made several important decisions.

We approved a request to replace patches of turf outside the community center. The original cost was estimated to be \$1520 but the Landscape Committee reviewed the turf conditions and recommended the patching could be much less extensive and therefore much less expensive (\$300). In addition, the board approved the removal and replacement of a hedge along Turtle Rock Boulevard at the south end of the community, at a cost of \$4900.

Continued on p.2

2024 Board of Governors



Grace Boehm 908-415-2051
President
president@myturtlerock.com



Kathrin Harris 941-228-4588
Vice President
vp@myturtlerock.com



Susan Birkenmaier 708 203-2746
Treasurer
treasurer@myturtlerock.com



Curt Gilroy 703-577-4841
Secretary
secretary@myturtlerock.com



Rick Myerburg 412 889-2572
Governor
Governor2@myturtlerock..com



Phil Grayton 978-828-2781
Governor
Governor3@myturtlerock.com



Ehren McGeehan 651-216-1116
Governor
Governor1@myturtlerock.com

Board meetings will be held the LAST Thursday of each month starting at 6:30pm during 2024.

President's Message continued.

We also approved the Treasurer's and the FIRRM's recommendation to appoint Centennial Bank as the bank for the Association. This provides much more control over our funds and is a great step forward. The board is also asking the FIRRM to refine and publish our compliance policies to ensure consistent enforcement and wider awareness of the compliance policies and how they are enforced.

Finally, we appointed Ehren McGeehan to the role of board liaison to the FIRRM.

The Landscape Committee recommended the formation of a task force to consider how best to meet the needs of the pickleball players in Turtle Rock. This is a complicated and important issue for the community and we need volunteers who hold various opinions and perspectives to come up with the best solution for the community. If you are interested in volunteering for this committee, please email Kathrin Harris at vp@myturtlerock.com.

Thank you to my fellow board members and members of the community who volunteer their time to make Turtle Rock a great place to live. And one final thank you to Russ Gill for all he did during his tenure on the board and as president.

Grace Boehm

Treasurer's Report

By: Susan Birkenmaier, Ed.D.



Year-to-Date Ending	April, 2024		
	Actual	Budget	Percent collected/spent
Income: Assessments and other	\$ 628,096*	\$1,886,504	33.29%*
Expenses:			
General and Administrative	\$ 186,938	\$516,250	36.21%
Common Grounds	86,274	277,948	31.04%
Access Control/Gatehouse	101,772	391,037	26.03%
Facilities Maintenance	30,723	157,270	19.54%
Utilities	26,159	88,100	29.69%
Reserves Contributions	155,300	465,899	33.33%
Total Expenses	\$ 587,166	\$1,896,504	30.96%
Income over expenses y-t-d	\$ 40,930		

This report reflects financial transactions as recorded under the accrual method of accounting.

◆ Fraudulent activities have been classified as accounts receivable on the financial statements. As of April 30, 2024 \$1,600 remains outstanding as unrecovered funds.

◆ Assessments: Outstanding HOA Fees— (1st Qtr dues became payable in January)

(0-90 days) \$ 9,617

(91+ days) \$ 6,963

Total \$16,580 — February collections reduced account receivables by \$24,816 from January 2024

All missing funds have been returned to our account

For more detailed monthly and annual financial information, dating back to 2015, please visit our website-Myturtlerock.com Resident Only tab. This is a password protected section; please email letstalkturtlerock@gmail.com, and request the PW by providing your name has been and TR address.

Change in HOA Banking Services

Throughout the past few months, the Board and FIRRM have determined that our current banking arrangement does not meet our needs. We have been frustrated and disappointed with the Truist Bank lack of responsiveness and urgency for our concerns. Thus, in early April a Request for Quotes for Banking Services was sent out to find a new bank that can best support the TR HOA needs. Five banks were contacted to secure the most efficient and effective banking services while maintaining sufficient liquidity and protection of all the HOA funds.

Two banks replied with a comprehensive response for all services requested. New and enhanced banking services will include:

- Interest paid on the operating bank account
- Temporary investment of funds (sweeps) not needed for immediate vendor payments
- Approval/verification of all payment demands on the operating checking account
- On-line, view only bank account access for HOA Board members
- Active HOA banking division led by a bank officer who holds a Community Association Manager license
- Cash management assistance

Both banks were interviewed to determine the benefits of working with each institution. Based on the response review, interviews and follow-up conversations the FIRRM has recommended Centennial Bank as our future banking partner. The Board has approved entering into a banking agreement with Centennial Bank. Implementation with Centennial Bank will begin in early June.

For now, there is no impact on residents other than improved security and interest income. Lockbox/Assessment payment processing will not change at this time. All funds collected through the current payment processing will be transferred on receipt to the new bank.

New payment information will be sent to residents this fall along with information on the 2025 assessment fees.

Submitted by Susan Birkenmaier, Treasurer

Cam Corner

by Nanette Thomas, Community Association Manager

This month many maintenance items have happened. The sidewalks and curbing throughout the community have been cleaned, both entrances to Turtle Rock have been pressure washed and the gate posts have been cleaned, primed and re-painted and new reflectors have been installed. The street drainage gutters have all been sanded, primed and repainted throughout the community, there were about 200 total. The outfall box grates (near basketball courts) have been replaced.

Compliance April 29 – May 30, 2024

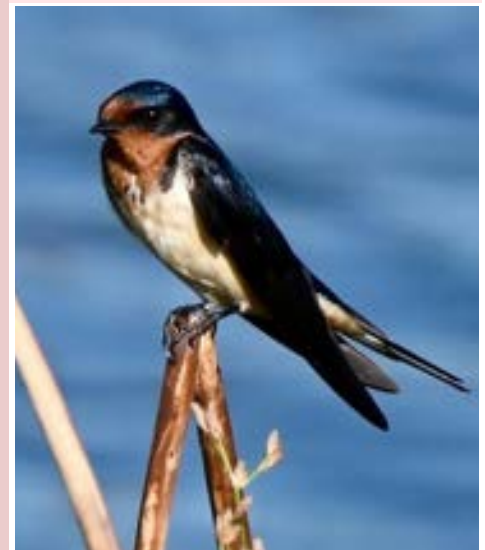
- 23 New violation letters sent out
 - 4 Violations have been closed
- 26 Violations currently on Hold
- 39 Violations currently in progress

Compliance Open Issues :

- Roof Cleaning : 16
- Driveway Cleaning : 11
- Pick-up Truck Parking : 15
- Pots in landscape, not ARC approved: 4
- Nuisance pets: 1
- Trash/recycle bin storage: 2
- Landscape edging not ARC approved: 1
- Nuisance speeding/driving: 1
- Home exterior fascia: 1
- Mulch needed: 3
- Garage door maintenance: 1
- Recreational Vehicles: 3
- Tree requirement: 4
- Outside Nuisance structures: 1
- Hurricane Shutters: 1



Nanette Thomas, LCAM
Turtle Rock Community Association
Civix Property Manager
8500 Turtle Rock Boulevard
Sarasota, FL 34238
Turtle Rock Office.: 941-921-3865



Photograph by Ginny Cheatham This is a barn swallow seen last week on Pond 18. Year round resident!



Turtle Rock hosted the Big Red Bus for a blood drive on May 17th. Darcy Bessette, the coordinator from One Blood, wrote to thank Nanette and Nan for coordinating the drive, and also to thank all the donors who came out that day. She shared the following information:

The recent blood drive resulted in 19 units of blood. That's a great start as we projected a goal of 10 units!!!

Each donation can save up to three lives so that means 57 patients could benefit from the lifesaving efforts of blood donors at Turtle Rock.

The blood donated at our blood drive was likely transfused into a patient within 48 to 72 hours. The turnaround is that fast and is that constant.

**The Big Red Bus will be back on Friday, August 2, 2024.
Mark your calendars!**

She also shared some comments they have received from recipients of donated blood. These comments came through their "Message My Donor" program, where blood recipients or their families can send a message to the donor who selflessly gave their blood to help others. In case you think it doesn't matter -

Dear Donor, thank you so much for your contribution. My mother received countless blood and platelets due to her untreatable and advanced form of blood cancer. These donations of blood and especially platelets were her life-line in the final weeks when her body could not produce more. Every infusion gave her a little precious extra time with my sister and me. Before Mom passed, she gave me your donor tag and asked me to thank you on her behalf. We are forever filled with gratitude for generous donors like you who give so selflessly.

Your gift is keeping me alive. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart. I have a condition called aplastic anemia, which basically means that my bone marrow has been unable to produce healthy blood. I am undergoing treatment and until it fixes my problem, I am dependent on transfusions. I have given blood many, many times in my life, but never imagined that I would need transfusions. Please keep giving! And of course, I will start giving again as soon as I am able. Thank you!

Hello, I wanted to take the time to thank you for your donation. Not to put it lightly but, it literally saved my life. I had a baby and shortly after, I hemorrhaged very badly and lost over half my blood volume, leaving me unable to hold my baby on his first day. But here we are, over a month later and I am healthy and have a happy and healthy baby. Thank you for your donation. Because of you, I am able to sit here and hold my baby while writing this message. Thank you again, God bless you:)



Natural Assets Committee

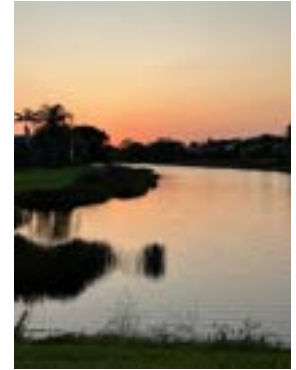
By: Michelle van Schouwen, Secretary NAC



Photos tell the story of our ponds

Waiting... and waiting... for rain.

Turtle Rock is experiencing very dry weather at the time of this writing. When conditions approach drought levels, Turtle Rock storm-water retention ponds show the strain. Banks are wider, water is lower, and previously hidden plants may show up in the shallows and along the banks. If the water is particularly warm, oxygen levels tend to be reduced, and some fish may die. NAC monitors conditions and takes measures to maintain pond appearance and health. But just as NAC has postponed the installation of 3,000 new aquatic plants until pond levels and weather improve, the team also exercises restraint in assigning vendors work that may prove to be unnecessary once water levels rise. On the positive side, the ponds should have ample capacity for major summer storms.



Sunset at Long Pond (pond 25)

Photo by Nancy Tomb

Dancing sandhill crane at Heron Pond (pond 18)

Photo from Sammon/Gilroy



NAC wants to publish some of your photos of Turtle Rock ponds over the next several months. If you'd like to participate, please email a favorite image (under 5 mb) to mvanschouwen@gmail.com (or email a link to your image in Google Photos with permissions set to include "edit" so that NAC can download and publish). Include both your name and the name of the pond, plus an image title if you wish. NAC looks forward to celebrating Turtle Rock ponds with you throughout the year.



Otters on the move at Turtle Corner (pond 9)

Photos by Melody Barackman

Logo created by Barry Domenick, Turtle Rock Resident

Turtle Rock Women's Club

Co Presidents of the TRWC Joan Miller & Suzanne Placzek

*The **Turtle Rock Women's Club** is active throughout the year, including the summer months. Here are some of our ongoing activities. If you'd like to join the club or have any questions regarding our events or activities, please reach out to us at: turtlerockwomensclub@gmail.com We'd love to hear from you!*

WATER AEROBICS



Liz Sprison leads a group exercise at our Community Pool on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-10:30am. If you would like to join, please contact Liz at 941587-25 or esprison@gmail.com

TENNIS



Our tennis group meets on Tuesday mornings at 8:30 am on the courts. We look forward to members joining us and enjoying some fun playing tennis. Please contact Liz DeLuca at 203-912-1404 or delucaliz@yahoo.com

PICKLEBALL



Want to have fun playing America's fastest growing sport? We are currently meeting for open play sessions on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. All levels are welcome. To be added to texts and email list, contact Polly Fasick at pfasick@gmail.com or 410-218-7753.

MAHJONGG

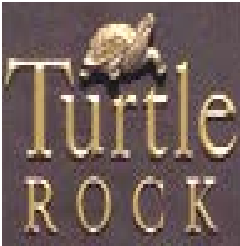


A fun and challenging tile game, played at TRCC on Mondays from 1-4pm. Call Judy Bentz at 412 848-0950 or judybentz@yahoo.com. All levels are welcome.

DUPLICATE BRIDGE



Duplicate Bridge is played at the Community Center on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month from 1-4 pm. If you'd like to play please contact Pat Bass at 941-412-7885



Turtle Rock Men's Club

By Ken Rosemann

This year's annual fundraiser for the All Faiths Food Bank Campaign Against Summer Hunger raised \$2,200.00. This program provides meals for some 40,000 children during the summer months when they are not provided meals in school. Because this donation is eligible for a corporate match, it resulted in a wonderful gift for the children of Sarasota **\$4,400.00**

The Food Bank also has a Backpack Program that provides pre-packed "backpacks" for weekly distribution to children for weekends and during holidays/school breaks. The program is targeted toward children who are living in households that are at risk of food insecurity. This year the Men's Club is volunteering their time to stuff those backpacks.

If you are available on June 10th, from 1:00 to 3:30 pm to stuff backpacks, please contact Richard Miller for details at, richardmillertv@gmail.com.

Gentlemen, thank you for demonstrating what a great organization and community we are all a part of.

Summer Luncheon Hiatus

Because many of our members return North for the summer, formal luncheons will be suspended until September. The Board, however, will be meeting for an informal meeting and luncheon in June, July and August and will invite Members looking for an afternoon of camaraderie to join them. Further information will be sent out closer to the date of each luncheon.

Weekly Golf Outing

If you are a golfer, consider joining your neighbors for a round at Serenoa Golf Club each Thursday morning. Send an email to TRMCGolf@gmail.com to sign up or for more information.

June Birthdays

We wish the following a **Happy Birthday!** If I have missed anyone, email me and I will update the TRMC website.

**Jeffery Costa, Jack Cox, Doug Lind, Denny Miller,
Richard Miller, Lou Schwartz**



If you know of someone who may be interested in joining the Men's Club, please have them call or text Bill Kozlowski at 630-373-7829 or turtlerockmensclub@gmail.com.

From The West Corner Of...

By: Steve West, Resident Columnist



The Deadliest animal on earth.

Which animal counts as the most dangerous in the world depends on which metric you're using, but going by pure annual body count, mosquitoes win by a large margin. By transmitting severe diseases such as malaria, dengue fever, Zika virus, and West Nile virus as they feed on human blood, the tiny pests are responsible for around 725,000 deaths each year.

Certain mosquitoes even prefer humans to other animals and, unsurprisingly, these insects end up being the ones that tend to spread diseases that affect humans. It's not just semantics: Mosquitoes have been called the world's deadliest animal by both the CDC and the Gates Foundation .

Some argue that mosquitoes should be disqualified from the list because they don't exactly attack humans, per se — they don't turn to deliberate violence because of a perceived threat, and technically it's the pathogens they carry that are doing the killing — but the issue of mosquito culpability is perhaps more of an existential quibble.

A wise person once said, "Mosquitoes are God's way of telling us... flies aren't so bad."

TROM Trivia June 2024

Editor's Note: The *Turtle Rock Owner's Manual* provides the rules we choose to live by. Each month, *Turtle Talk* contributor Steve West picks random subjects to quiz readers about. Here are this month's...



1

Answers on last page

1. Ground mounted flag poles may be up to 20' high and display an American flag no larger than 3' by 5'. True or False?
2. Watercraft may be used in our ponds including canoes, kayaks, rowboats, and paddle boats. No boats powered by electric or fuel are permitted. True or False?
3. Private use of the community center is available to residents at no charge; however, a security deposit is required. True or False?

Answers to TROM TRIVIA

1. False. While there is a standard for the height of a ground flag pole, there is no specification as to the size of the flag.

(TROM III, C, 5)

2. False. Electric motors 1 horsepower or less are permitted.

(TROM II, C, 2)

3. False. An hourly fee is also required. (TROM II, D, 6)

“Sometimes the questions are complicated and the answers are simple.” – Dr. Seuss

The Newsletter Team

The Communications Committee is always interested in input from the community.

If you have a knack for writing, have ideas for a monthly column, or are willing to take photos of interest to the community, please contact us.

Send comments, suggestions and articles for consideration to:
letstalkturtlerock@gmail.com

(Text must be in Word, Photos as JPEG.) THANKS for getting involved!

Committee Members

Kim Weiser, Chair

Donna McCarthy & Pat Rotondo, Welcome Team

Diane Geramanis, Recording Secretary

Penny Lind & Judy Bentz, Special Projects

Cean Cerny, Tech Support

Board Liaison: Grace Boehm

Newsletter Staff

Judy Bentz, Turtle Talk Editor

Steve West Contributing Writer

Proofreaders: Charlotte Jones and Grace Boehm