

Palm Aire  
Communities Council

# Newsletter

Fall, 2019



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## WHAT ARE THEY BUILDING ACROSS FROM WHITFIELD?



Many Palm Aire residents have been wondering what is being built on the Tabernacle Church property across University Parkway near the Whitfield intersection. Well, when complete it will be Watercrest Sarasota, a 198 unit luxury senior living campus comprised of 72 independent living, 96 assisted living and 30 memory care apartments with, according to the company building the complex, "...resort-style service and world-class care."

Watercrest Senior Living Group and United Properties purchased the property from the 750-member Tabernacle Church which still owns a sprawling amount of acreage between University and Desoto Road, and the church has used the proceeds for their own expansion. Although the purchase price is not known, the church did announce a groundbreaking party for a new facility and \$7 million expansion project a few years ago.

With multiple senior living communities in development across the southeast, Watercrest says they are setting new standards of quality for seniors and their families by developing upscale senior living communities.

The architecture designed by LifeBUILT will include approximately nine mostly three-story buildings featuring a stunning promenade, fireplace, a signature water wall, pool, spa, salon spa, grand balconies, outdoor living spaces and a "Market Street Plaza" with a beer and wine bistro. According to CEO Marc Vorkapich, "We are offering an unparalleled experience which mirrors the upscale amenities and enriching lifestyle seniors are accustomed to enjoying while ensuring their safety through exceptional standards of care."

*Continued on page 15*



# Some Thoughts from the President's Desk

Fall, 2019  
PACC: Palm Aire Communities Council

Over the last many months the Palm Aire Community Council (PACCI) Board and the Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU) Committee have been working with Manatee County to secure a new landscape maintenance contract for the maintenance of the county-owned right-of-ways within the Palm Aire Community.

We had to extend the previous contract because of the process involved with putting the contract out to bid. I now know why I never pursued a career with any level of government. The process was detailed and time-consuming.

The contract was awarded to Hunter Landscape once again since they were the lowest bidder. The new contract is for three years, a shorter timeframe than in the past, with the possibility of renewing for an additional two years.

We, the MSTU Committee, have met with the county employees vested with the responsibility to oversee and administer the landscape contract. Our goal was to put into place checks and balances to assure all conditions of the contract are met.

The landscape contract is on PACCI's website for review. I encourage community representatives to review the contract as it

pertains to each community and advise of questions/concerns.

The county has completed the project to raise the tree canopies along Whitfield Avenue. The work crews did a very nice job. We have received positive feedback from the community regarding the improvement to the overall appearance of Whitfield Avenue.

Your PACCI Board wishes all a Happy Thanksgiving and Holiday Season, as well as a Happy and Healthy New Year.



Barbara Robinson,  
President

## The Palm Aire Communities

|                         |                      |                    |
|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Avista                  | Conservatory Estates | Golf Pointe        |
| Broadmoor Pines         | Desoto Woods         | Lakeside Woods     |
| Club Villas I           | Eagle Creek          | The Links          |
| Club Villas II          | Eagle Creek Villas   | Misty Oaks         |
| Clubside                | Fox Pointe           | Pine Trace         |
| Condo B                 | Fairway Lakes        | Rosewood           |
| Condo C (Fairway Point) | Fairway Six          | Timberlake Village |
| Condo D                 | Gardens              | Woodlake Villas    |

## The Palm Aire Communities Council Newsletter

Published by PACC, Incorporated  
<http://www.pacc1.com>  
Newsletter Committee: Barbara Robinson,  
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You can view the newsletter online at  
[https://issuu.com/danreeves/docs/2019\\_fall\\_newsletter](https://issuu.com/danreeves/docs/2019_fall_newsletter)



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**From 7719 Broadmoor Pines**

**...simply persistent.**

# The Brown Pelican

by John Grey

Everyone knows something about Pelicans. (We've added one in flight on our front page masthead.) They are very large, stocky seabirds with a long bill and thick neck that has a throat pouch that stretches. We know they are near saltwater but they also are seen at Palm Aire regularly. Most of my photos of pelicans were taken at #7 Lakes. All others were at Sarasota Bay.



Pelican's wings are very long, up to 84" and broad, when gliding they are bowed. Body size is about 4 feet and weighing about 30 lbs. Adult color is gray-brown with yellow heads and white necks. In breeding, plumage all brown color

turns rich looking dark-reddish brown. Pelicans showing all brown color are immature. Both male and female look the same.

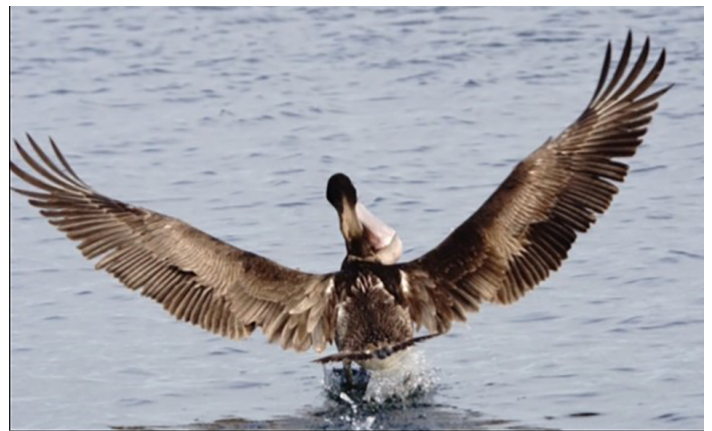
How they feed is unique. They sight prey close to the water surface. Then they dive from as high as 65 feet and hit the water, stunning the prey. They then scoop the dazed prey in the throat pouch, which fills with up to 2.6 gallons of water. I've heard various boat captains say that after 4 years of repeatedly hitting the water the pelicans become blind. Research shows otherwise! Pelicans tuck their heads and rotate their body to the left just before impact. This protects their trachea and esophagus which are on their right side of their neck. The average life span is 10-25 years, the oldest pelican lived 43 years. These birds do steal food and follow fishing boats looking for an easy meal.

Pelican food consists of schools of fish near the surface, mostly within 12 miles of the shoreline. Foods include menhaden, mullet, anchovies, herring and mollusk to name a few.

Habitat is mostly tropical waters. They are rarely seen inland—as mentioned many are seen on Lakes #7.

They nest in colonies of around 1000 pelicans. They are highly social birds all year long. As they fly we see them in a "V" formation or in single file just above the water. If not foraging for food, they are seen around jetties, docks, etc. Their long wings allow them to use updrafts for gliding. Wings beat is slow and deep and powerful just above the water. I'll again mention the large rookery just south of the Cortez bridge in Sarasota Bay. If you're on the water of Sarasota Bay you can see them there.

Nesting is on the ground or in trees. It's a nest of very dense vegetation and sticks. The female builds a nest in 7-10 days, the male brings all the materials. Physically the nest is 30 inches across and 9 inches high. Mid-winter they lay 2-4 eggs which incubate in 29-35 days. Of interest: incubation is done by pelican standing on the eggs. DDT in the 1960-70's caused soft shells which broke because of the weight of the bird and very thin shelled eggs, thus the birds numbers were very low until DDT was banned. The eggs are chalky white. Nesting period is from 77-84-days. When born the young are helpless with bare pink skin. Their eyes are open at birth. After 3 months the young start flying, they reach sexual maturity in 3-5 years.



A couple of facts: Some migrate and some don't but not far in any event. It is thought that any migration is to follow their food source. Louisiana made the pelican its state bird and it is the National bird of St. Kitts.

Sources:  
Cornell Labs  
All about [birds.com](http://birds.com)  
Nature Works  
National Geographic  
Audubon Field Book  
US Fish and Wildlife Service



## Clubside

by Barbara Robinson



A small and charming villa community, Clubside was developed in the late 1980s along the sixth fairway and green of Palm Aire Country Club's Lakes course. It is located at the corner of Whitfield Avenue and Timberlake Drive. The community consists of twelve buildings containing 64 two and three-bedroom villas.

All units include a lanai that either overlooks the golf course or a green belt vista. Clubside is home to year-round and seasonal residents. The homes have vaulted ceilings, expanded one-car garages and decorative awnings.

Clubside's buildings, property, and pool/spa area are beautifully maintained. The area is still somewhat rural—rabbits, exotic birds and an occasional snake are common sites. Because of our location, traffic is minimal.

The community's Social and Holiday committees organize several group activities each year, including a Holiday party and informal get-togethers on site. This maintenance-free association has a centrally located pool and gazebo for residents to enjoy.



## Rules! Rules! Rules!

The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews (R&A) and the United States Golf Association (USGA) have adopted some new rules for governing play. Most of these rules are for the enjoyment and pace of play of the game. Here are a few of those rules that will be used more often.

The first is leaving the pin in while you putt. Although purists may not come around to this as fast as others, it does help the player align their putt and also will help when you get a little aggressive with a long putt. The pin will help stop a ball, or at least, slow down a putt going too fast. Also downhill putts may be easier, as again, the pin will slow down putts going a bit too fast. Give it a try and see which way you like the pin!!

The second rule is one that is not in the rule book, but has been adopted by many clubs, under the USGA recommendation, and that is the Out Of Bounds rule. Normally, if you hit a ball out of bounds, you must take

stroke and distance penalty. You will have to go back to the tee and hit another ball. So if you hit the same distance ball off the tee for your second shot, in play this time, you are the same distance out if you were to take the point where the first ball last crossed the margin of the out of bounds line, take the ball over to the fairway, going no closer to the hole, measure two club lengths into the fairway and drop within the drop zone. At this point you will be hitting 4. This is the same as going back to the tee, hitting a second ball, and then you are hitting 4 as well. Saving time is what the R&A and the USGA are trying to do.

We can always do our part by being ready when it is our turn to play. Parking carts where both players are somewhat equidistant to their balls so both players may get out and be ready to play. There are a few other rules changes, which I will discuss in future newsletters, but these are the top two that will impact the pace of play the most. Enjoy your game!




**Bill Lansdowne**  
First Assistant Golf Professional,  
Palm Aire Country Club

# Cyclists and Motorists






By Jerry Swink

When you are out and about Friday mornings you may encounter a group or groups of cyclists. Every Friday cyclists that are members of the Sarasota Manatee Bicycle Club can be seen riding streets around Palm Aire. The groups are arranged by cyclist speed and kept to be small enough to coexist well with motorists. On other days of the week at other locations, cyclists from the Club can be seen enjoying fresh air, exercise, and camaraderie.

The Following are some recommendations from 2015 articles on the Edmunds.com website about motorists and cyclists coexisting with each other.

-  Bicycle riders on public roads have the same rights and responsibilities as motorists and are subject to the same rules and regulations.
-  Look carefully for bicyclists before turning left or right, merging into bicycle lanes and opening doors next to moving traffic. Respect the right of way of bicyclists because they are entitled to share the road with you.
-  Drivers who get impatient with bicyclists might want to stop for a moment and think about the human being on that bike. When drivers don't humanize cyclists this way, they often perceive riders as mere objects.
-  Consider the Benefits of Bicycling — for Drivers: One cyclist on the road is one less car. Well, he might be in my way temporarily. At least he is not in a vehicle and in my way the whole commute.
-  Spare Them the Right Hook: Drivers making right turns, especially, should watch out for cyclists. A cyclist may be a little behind and to the right of

you and may be planning to ride straight ahead. If you don't signal your right turn, you could wind up hitting each other. If you are trying to figure out if a nearby cyclist is planning to turn right, look for his raised left hand in a squared position, or an extended right hand.

-  Beware the Left Turn: A bike can easily get to 15- or 20 mph speeds. If in doubt, yield. Exercise the same caution as you would for an approaching vehicle.
-  Give Cyclists 3 Feet of Clearance: More than 20 states have passed laws requiring motorists to give bicycles on the roadway about 3 feet of space. Pass at a slow and consistent speed to avoid startling a cyclist.
-  If drivers only expect other cars on the road, they're setting themselves up for dangerous interactions.
-  Look Before You Exit Your Car. Before you open the door, look out the side-view mirror on the driver's side and be sure no one is approaching. A cyclist has no sure way to anticipate whether a driver is inside a parked car is about to open the door.
-  Bicyclists must stop for traffic signals and stop signs. Bicyclists should ride with the flow of traffic. Bicyclists should remember that they can be held liable in traffic mishaps.

***Jerry Swink is an avid bicyclist, a retired arborist and serves on our MSTU Committee***



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# Oysters to the Rescue

By Sandy Gilbert, START (Solutions to Avoid Red Tide)



**Volunteers planting shell**

As an organization with the Mission to work to reduce the excess nutrients in our waterways that feed red tide, START is using a number of nutrient-reducing programs to improve water quality in Sarasota Bay. One of the most successful efforts is our award-winning Gulf Coast Oyster Recycle and Renewal (GCORR) Program shown in action above. It's based on the knowledge that oysters are not only a tasty seafood treat, but are a key species of sea life that help reduce excess nutrients as they filter water through their system for food.

One oyster can filter between 9 and 50 gallons of seawater every day. A mature reef of oysters covering an acre in the waterway can filter millions of gallons of water. While oysters are native to the Gulf Coast area, over 90 % of them have been harvested over the years, first as a source of food and more recently, as a source of inexpensive fill for roadbeds for many of Florida's roadways. With their decline, we have also lost their ability to help purify our waterways from excess nutrients. The result is painfully obvious as we are frequently visited by a variety of harmful algal blooms (HABs) from Blue Green, Green and Brown algae to Red Tide that feeds on the excess nutrients.

To correct this imbalance in nature, Manatee County decided to use some of its Restore Act funding from the BP oil spill to bring back oysters to their natural habitat in the area. Following the lead of Robert Baugh with the Chiles Restaurant Group who worked with a very successful oyster recycling program in Charleston, South Car-

olina, START was chosen to apply as a non-profit organization to secure a grant from the Tampa Bay Estuary Program to launch the project. Using the Charleston prototype, Robert Baugh and volunteers from the Beach House, Mar Vista and The Sandbar restaurants collected shell from their diners and stored them in recycling bins. Using a trailer bought with the START grant, they hauled the shell to a storage area at Perico Preserve so the shell would be cured or dried in preparation to be placed in the water to form the base structure for a new oyster reef. By the end of 2018, the GCORR program kept 30 tons of shell that would have gone into landfills as garbage and converted it to the base for a new reef. The "fresh" shell from restaurants has also produced 23% more new oyster spat than the fossil shell dug up out east that is typically used to form new reefs.

As the administrator of the GCORR Program, START worked with the Gulf Shellfish Institute and the Florida Sea Grant Program to select the best locations for the new reefs, the Manatee County Department of Parks and Natural Resources to store the shell and help find volunteers to bag it in preparation for placement in the water as shown below at a recent volunteer event.



**Oyster bagging**

With the success of the GCORR Program, START was asked to expand the effort to include more participating restaurants. To do that we needed to use professional carting of the shell to handle the larger volume that would be too difficult to handle for volunteers working with a small trailer. Earlier this year, Waste Pro USA agreed to

take on the project and we were able to expand from three to eleven restaurants. This will bring the programs annual tonnage of saved shell up to nearly 80 tons of shell that will be kept out of landfills and used for new oyster habitat.



**Shuck 'N Save Logo**

The unique GCORR Program is not supported by a government or other subsidy. The participating Shuck 'N Save restaurants pay their own extra garbage fee of \$2,300 a year to participate in the program. This makes GCORR the largest self-sustained program in the state. So the next time you decide to go out to have a good seafood meal, be sure to try one of the following Shuck 'N Save restaurants: The four Anna Maria Oyster Bars, The Beach House in Bradenton Beach, The Grove in Lakewood Ranch, Mar Vista Dockside Restaurant on Longboat Key, Pier 22 in Bradenton, The Sandbar on Anna Maria Island, and the Seafood Shack and Swordfish Grill in Cortez. You'll be glad you did and you'll know you are helping to start a new oyster reef like the one shown below.



**Oyster Reef**

For more information about START, visit our website at [start1.org](http://start1.org). To schedule a screening of our Red Tide & You Presentation for your neighborhood or service club, contact us at [colleen@start1.org](mailto:colleen@start1.org)

# All Faiths Food Bank—On a mission to end hunger

By Julie Sawyer

Many of us recent, and some not so recent, retirees find ourselves searching for meaningful ways to fill our daily schedules. Having worked 8–5 for many years, this new concept of "Free Time" can be exhilarating, and at the same time daunting. Some of us golf or play tennis, some find social groups to join and of course there is the ever-present threat of out-of-town friends and relatives dropping in for a week or three to keep us busy.



If, like me, you are pondering a way to spend some of that free time, let me recommend volunteering at the All Faiths Food Bank. I found this rewarding opportunity through the lovely people who make up the Palm Aire Country Club—Special Interest Group, PACC SIG. However, you do not have to belong to the PACC to volunteer at AFFB. Victoria, their Volunteer Coordinator, is very good at her job and always has a warm welcome for new recruits. You can email Victoria at <https://>

[www.allfaithsfoodbank.org/volunteer/](http://www.allfaithsfoodbank.org/volunteer/)

My first experience with the AFFB was the 27th annual Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive on May 11th this year. You may recall receiving a printed shopping bag in your mailbox, filling it with food from your pantry and setting it out for your letter carrier to pick up on Saturday morning. Ever wonder what happens to that food? Well, there is a coordinated effort between the carriers, the post office branches and the food bank. I happened to be assigned to the downtown post office that day. Along with my fellow volunteers, we gathered in a shaded parking lot close to the P.O. and unloaded the donations from the mail trucks into huge cardboard bins that were then transported to the AFFB off Fruitville Road.



In my next opportunity to work with the AFFB, I encountered those very same cardboard bins sitting on pallets in the food bank ware-

house. This time our task was to sort the donated food into categories, by first checking the expiration date and then placing the can, box, or bottle into the appropriate bin. What fun we had! It reminded me of a treasure hunt and our three-hour work window flew by.

The All Faiths Food Bank was founded in 1989 and has been a Certified member of Feeding America since 1990. Some of the programs facilitated by the AFFB are Backpacks for Children, School Pantries, Mobile Farm Markets, Mobile Pantries, Partner Agencies and Nutrition Education. In 2018, 10.5 million pounds of food was distributed to children, families, seniors and veterans. As you can see, they are always in need of volunteers. *Their commendable mission is to provide healthy solutions to end hunger in our community.* Now, who wouldn't want to become a Hunger Hero and a part of that valiant effort? Did I mention you get a really cool lime green t-shirt?



## 4 facts

1. A 1998 Florida law *requires* all state-funded day-care centers and preschools to play classical music for the children. "I want all the kids in the state of Florida to be the best and brightest," state senator Bill Turner said. The so-called Mozart effect has been debunked, but the law holds.
2. South Florida is the only place on earth where alligators and crocodiles coexist in the wild. Crocodiles exist both in freshwater and saltwater, whereas alligators prefer freshwater environments. The Florida Everglades is where both alligators and crocodiles live in the same environment.
3. Sarasota, Florida, is home to what may be the only Amish and Mennonite beach resort in the world. These "snow-bird" religious orders started coming here in the 1920s.
4. No matter where you live in Florida, you are never more than 60 miles from saltwater.



# A Note from Manatee County Commissioner Vanessa Baugh

Fall, 2019

PACC: Palm Aire Communities Council

Hello Palm Aire Residents!



By now I expect most of you have heard at least something about the proposed stormwater fee by the county. Over the past year, County Commissioners have spent countless hours during several public meetings learning about our local stormwater utility system, a large network of underground pipes,

roadside drainage ditches, retention ponds and more. The County has worked for almost 30 years but we have never had a dedicated fee to maintain it or a way to pay for improvements to make the area more flood-resistant. As a result, we regularly have County residents impacted by rising storm waters come to our meetings asking the commission to help.

What we learned during those series of public workshops this year is that our stormwater utility is not performing the way it should. Crews have the resources to maintain the system only about half as often as it's really needed. For example, the storm pipes you see running alongside the roads are cleaned once every 17 years. The ditches that hold stormwater after a heavy rain get cleaned only every 20 years. Much of the maintenance our stormwater crews perform is reactive in response to public requests for help. To do

the job correctly stormwater crews really need the resources to be more proactive in maintaining the stormwater utility.

The Manatee County Commission authorized a consultant to study our stormwater system and to make recommendations for how to do a better job maintaining the system. We all agreed that the stormwater system needs to be maintained more often than the current standards allow. Cleaning canals once every 15 years does not cause local flooding on our roads, but if those canals and other parts of the system were cleaned more often water would recede more quickly after an intense storm.

I did not vote for this stormwater fee because I preferred to reduce millage to compensate homeowners for this fee and many of the neighborhoods in my district already pay a stormwater fee and there is no reduction showed for these residents. I feel that that is not fair to many residents out east. Also, I look at the rural areas in District 5 who really do not contribute to the flooding issue seen in other areas.

Please take the time to learn about the proposed stormwater fee by either visiting a special area of the county website [www.myanatee.org/stormwater](http://www.myanatee.org/stormwater) or by attending one of the information meetings we're holding through the County. There is a meeting scheduled for Nov. 12, 6-7:30 p.m. at Lakewood Ranch Town Hall. There will also be a meeting in Myakka which will soon be scheduled.

The Commission is scheduled to discuss this at our meeting on Dec. 10 and I'd like to hear from you before then.

## LAKWOOD RANCH AAA TRAVEL

Ladies, did you know that there is a special travel club for women? Yes, Lakewood Ranch AAA Travel has organized a travel group for women. Trips and groups are limited to 16 women per departure and are designed to cultivate experiences and friendship.

Destinations in 2020 are global in nature. Some examples are Vietnam, Japan, Sri Lanka, Greece, Australia and Spain.

### Upcoming Trips:

- Spotlight on NYC Holiday—December 9–13, 2019 which includes two shows, Radio City Music Hall, Ellis Island, 9/11 Memorial, shopping, cruise of New York Harbor and more. **SOLD OUT**
- Breast Cancer Awareness Cruise—February 8, 2020—Five nights on the Brilliance of the Seas out of Tampa.
- Girlfriend Getaway Cruise: February 21, 2020—Three nights on Navigator of the Seas out of Miami.
- For a complete list of departures, contact Lisa Edenfield at 931.756.0606 ext. 2225 or email at [ledenfield@autoclubgroup.aaa.com](mailto:ledenfield@autoclubgroup.aaa.com).

## Best Year Over Year Gains

The Realtor Association of Sarasota and Manatee, otherwise known as RASM, reports in September of 2019 we had the best year over year gains this year in the two county area with closed sales for single family homes. According to Florida REALTORS®, inventory decreased across the two-county area this month while price continued to increase.

The combined sold properties in the two counties increased by 17.1% from September 2018. In Sarasota County, single family home sales increased by 25.7% to 689 sales. Single family homes in Manatee County increased by 15.2% to 538 sales. Single family home sales report the highest year over year gain since November of 2016.

Condo sales increased in Sarasota County but decreased in

Manatee County. Sarasota condo sales were up to its highest percentage so far this year at 22.1% with 315 sales while Manatee County showed a decrease of 8.6% with 181 sales in September of 2019.

Prices continue to rise year over year. The median sales price for single family homes in Sarasota County increased by 6.4% to \$298,000 while Manatee County homes increased by 6.8% to \$315,000. Condo prices went up by 6.7% to \$199,000 in Manatee while Sarasota decreased by 1.8% to \$232,000.

It's always a good time to sell and with the mortgage rates still low buyers are more attracted to make a purchase. Rising sales prove the buyers are here. More listings were added to the market in September compared to last year. The rise in sales brings less inventory so the increase in inventory in September could help with supply from being outpaced by sales. With shrinking

inventory we can expect higher prices.

With the increased inventory in September, the supply of homes remains below 5.5 months of inventory keeping us in a sellers' market. 5.5 months being the benchmark for a balanced market.

Below is a sample of what has sold in Palm Aire over the past 6 months Sales for condos and single family homes for that period is 105 properties sold.



Julie Jacques, Realtor, GRI  
 Michael Saunders and Company  
 61 S. Blvd. of Presidents  
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 941.388.4447  
 juliejacques@michaelsaunders.com

### Condos, Villas Sold Since May 2019

|                             |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 7778 Eagle Creek Dr. #74    | \$145,000 |
| 8419 Gardens Dr.            | \$165,000 |
| 5621 Palm Aire Dr.          | \$225,000 |
| 6918 W. Country Club Dr. N. | \$253,000 |
| 5657 Avista Dr. #5658       | \$262,000 |

### Single Family Homes Sold Since May 2019

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| 5391 Creekside TRL.   | \$359,000 |
| 8122 Misty Oaks Blvd. | \$420,000 |
| 8106 Timber Lake LN.  | \$475,000 |
| 7420 Links CT.        | \$558,000 |
| 8058 Desoto Woods Dr. | \$900,000 |

Information provided by Matrix MLS System and sold by various Realtors.



# Making Reservations by Blake Jones

Fall, 2019

PACC: Palm Aire Communities Council

Tiramisu is an authentic Italian restaurant in Bradenton. It is run by Luca and Monica a husband/wife team. It is not pretentious, not particularly fancy, and a great value.



For a long while, I would not tell anyone about this restaurant because it was small, crowded and had no bar to wait in if you didn't have a reservation. It was crowded because their food was great and inexpensive. That's a pretty good combination in my book!

But now it seems the word is out. And the good news is, in addition to me overcoming my selfishness of wanting to keep this place a secret, they have done well. This has enabled them to expand, almost doubling the size of their restaurant.

Their veal, both piccata and marsala are outstanding. Their eggplant entrees also get high marks. Home-made pasta is exceptional. I tried the Penne Monta-

nara on my last trip. It is a combination of sautéed penne pasta with mushrooms, fresh tomatoes, and mushrooms in a white cream sauce. Fantastic!

**A WORD OF CAUTION:** Don't use up all of your consumption capacity on dinner or you will be like me and not able to enjoy their great desserts until your second trip! As you might have guessed, their specialty is tiramisu. Usually, you will find a choice of at least two variations, which if you are following, might require a third trip. Excellent—and low cal too! Ha!

A trip to Tiramisu is highly recommended. If you go before THEY all get here, with the restaurant's new capacity, you might be able to walk in without reservations. But, I would call ahead just to be sure. Dunkin Donuts is not a good substitute for a fine authentic Italian meal.

Their location is easy to find. Just follow State Route 70 until it meets the legendary Tamiami Trail (Route 41). Tucked behind Dunkin Donuts you will find this gem.

Tiramisu Ristorante, 5215 14th Street West, Bradenton  
941.753.2800

Let me know what you think.

If you have some restaurants that are your personal favorites please let me know, I would love to check them out.

Blake Jones

is a real estate agent with Coldwell Banker  
a Broadmoor Pines resident a resident "Foodie".

## PACC Board Update

by Susan Romine,  
Secretary/Treasurer

As you will read in this issue, most of our meetings are to talk about the MSTU and landscaping. I will try to tell you what else we are doing.

### Website

We are getting feedback that the website needs to be brought into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We hear you and we agree. The first thing we are

doing is buying a name (or two) that will be easy for a search engine to find us. There are discussions with someone who has indicated that he may take the site and update for us so that it is more inviting.

President Barbara Robinson and I have gotten calls from people who find our names and numbers on the site, so the public is looking for us.

Since the Board Meeting, we bought two domain names: pal-mairecommunities.com and pal-

mairecommunitycouncil.com. For now, those names will point to our existing site.

### Stormwater Fees

Manatee County is finally getting serious about stormwater fees. I remember the subject being discussed over 40 years ago. Our own Jerry Swink is taking the lead on it for us and is keeping us advised. Right now, no public hearings are scheduled. These fees are proposed to be added to your ad valorem taxes.





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# The Palm Aire Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU)

Fall, 2019  
PACC: Palm Aire Communities Council

The MSTU Committee is a standing deliberative body for the Palm Aire Communities Council. Currently, its members are Barbara Robinson, Blake Jones, Leslie Stein, Susan Romine and Jerry Swink.

We are fortunate that Jerry serves on the committee because he is a certified arborist. The committee meets regularly, holds meetings with county representatives and reports its proceedings at each council meeting.

The committee has embarked on the Whitfield Enhancement Project (See our Spring, 2019 Newsletter,) and has talked landscape contractors to develop a plan. However, the contractors advised that they will not proceed since we do not have a dedicated water source. The only source there is at the island on Whitfield. The committee is working with commissioner Baugh to obtain a dedicate water source which may be a well.

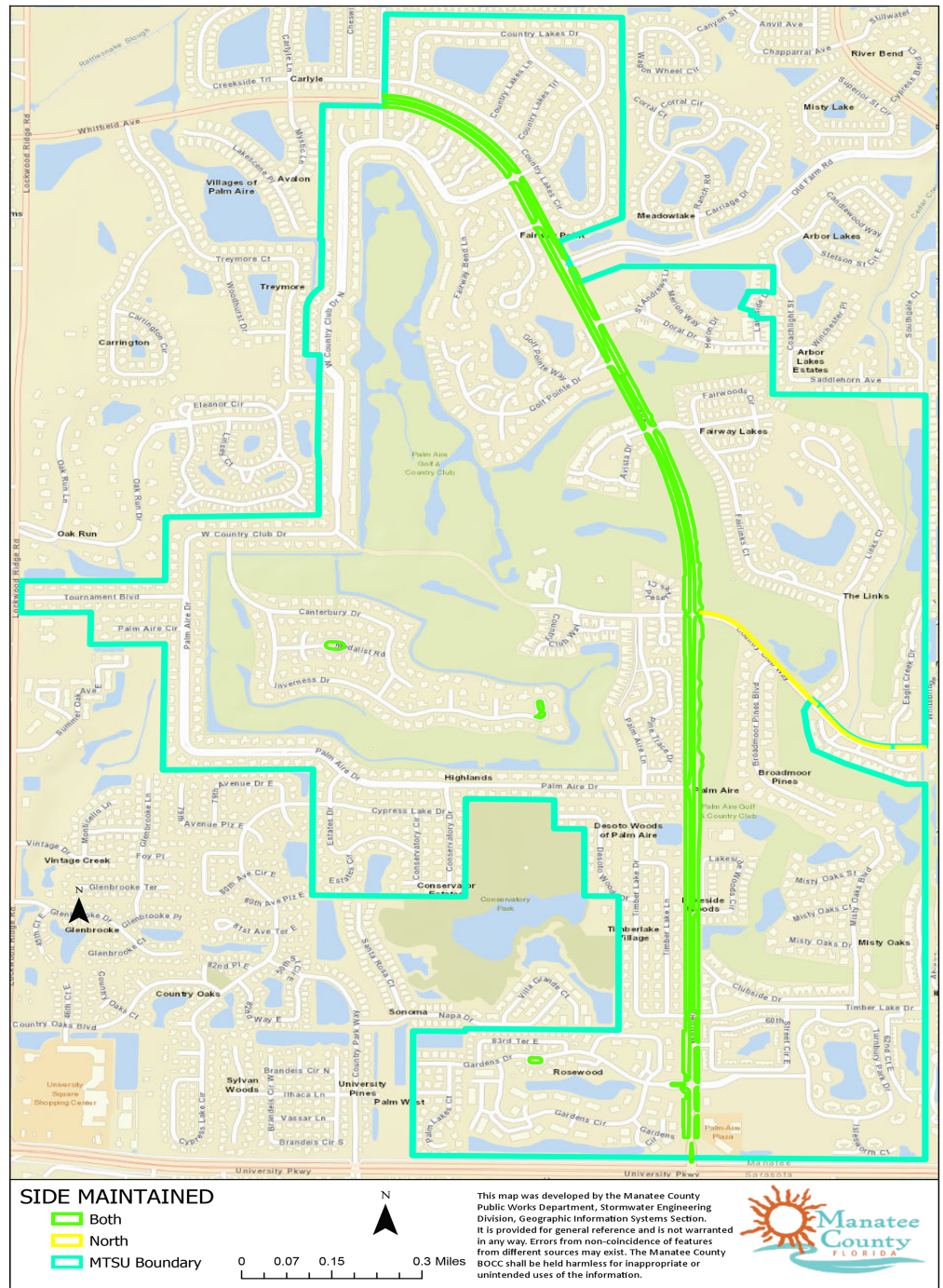
Recently, the county removed dead trees along Whitfield Road. Two of the four palms on the island at the University Parkway intersection died from an unknown disease and were removed. FPL trimmed the sycamore trees near the power lines and the county raised the canopy of the trees along Whitfield.

## MSTU Background.

Thirty-eight years ago the Palm Aire Community voted to establish a Palm Aire Municipal Service Taxing Unit. The map to the right shows our MSTU boundaries, the subdivisions it serves and the landscaping areas maintained through our taxes.

MSTUs are established by counties under the authority of state statutes. They are special districts that can be set up to serve as funding mechanisms to provide certain types of services and projects for specific geographic areas within a county. The legislature's reasoning is that some districts require services for which the entire county should not be charged.

The ordinance established that all home-owners pay taxes to maintain the county-owned property, right-of-ways, islands, etc., within



the Palm Aire community. This was done to provide more landscape maintenance services than Manatee County was prepared to provide.

The monies collected under Palm Aire's MSTU, which is included as part of property taxes, may only be used for landscape maintenance and enhancement. Specifically, Section 7 states "The services and facilities to be provided within the MSTU shall consist of the mainte-

nance and upkeep of existing landscape, and the replacement and enhancement of landscaping, along and located within the County right-of-way within the boundaries of the MSTU."

In the county budget, the funds are listed as the "Palm Aire Landscape MSTU Fund" and is collected at the rate of .2546 mills. This means if your home has a taxable assessed value of \$300,000, you will pay \$75.38 to this





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# Palm Identification—A Few Points for Beginners

by Peggy Dessaint

Fall, 2019

PACC: Palm Aire Communities Council

"But how on earth can you tell the difference? They're all green pointy things to me!" said my exasperated friend from Manhattan as I rattled off the names of palms in a Palm Aire neighborhood.



Where do you start when you don't know what you're even looking at? So, it was time to get back to basics. When trying to figure out how to identify a palm, a good place to start is with the type of leaf ("frond") and the type of trunk. Fruits are also very helpful for identification, but they're not always present. So most of the time it's easier to work with the leaves and trunks. See Table 1 and Table 2 below for several of the most common landscape palms in this area.

| Table 1<br>Palms With Fan Type Leaves  |  |                |
|--|--|----------------|
| Solitary Trunk   |  | Clumping Trunk |
| Bismarck   |  | European Fan   |
| Cabbage  |  | Lady           |
| Chinese Fan  |  | Paurotis       |
| Washington   |  | Saw Palmetto   |
| Crownshaft   |  |                |
| These palms grow without a crownshaft. On the solitary trunks, look for "boots." |  |                |

## Palm Leaves

A palm leaf is shaped either like a fan or a feather. Fan-shaped leaves more also called palmate leaves, are like your hand with all the points extending outward from one point at the base. Fans come in all sizes and shapes. Some are flatter, like saw palmetto or European fan palms. Other fans are somewhat distorted

because they recurve or arch back on themselves, like our native cabbage palm.

Feather type leaves, also called pinnate leaves, are just like a feather with all the leaflets growing perpendicular to a midrib ("rachis"). They also come in all sizes and shapes. For example, the foxtail has leaflets growing all around the midrib and it looks bushy, just like a fox's tail. Others have leaflets in one flat plain and



## Palm Trunks

A palm trunk has two ways of growing: either solitary or clumping. Palms with solitary trunks stand-alone and they "stay in place." On the other hand, clumping palms produce an abundance of suckers and are forever spreading outward. Left alone, they turn into dense thickets which can be useful for privacy and physical barriers. In more confined landscapes, regular pruning is required to keep the suckers in check.

Palm trunks also have distinguishing features that help with identification. For example, some have a smooth crownshaft that sits on top of the trunk just below the leaves. These are leaf bases that wrap around one another. Palms with these are considered "self-pruning" because the leaves fall off on their own and don't hang on for months looking messy. The royal palm is famous for its beautiful crownshaft and self-pruning habit. Just be aware that when their leaves fall, they're heavy. So beware below!

The queen palm is widely used in residential landscapes and, from afar, may look similar to a royal palm. But up close it's easy to see that it doesn't have a crownshaft. As a matter of fact, sometimes it's called "the poor man's royal palm."

One other trunk characteristic that helps with palm identification, and is also confusing, is the presence or absence of "boots." These are the bases of leaf stems that remain on trunks. In some palms, they stay attached for many months or years. In

| Table 2<br>Palms With Feather Type Leaves |                    |                |              |
|---|--------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Solitary Trunk                            |                    | Clumping Trunk |              |
| Canary Island Date                        |                    | Areca          |              |
| Coconut                                   |                    | Fishtail       |              |
| Foxtail                                   |                    | Senegal Date   |              |
| Pygmy Date                                |                    |                |              |
| Queen                                     |                    |                |              |
| Royal                                     |                    |                |              |
| Crownshaft                                |                    | Crownshaft     |              |
| With                                      | Without            | With           | Without      |
| Foxtail                                   | Coconut            | Areca          | Fishtail     |
| Royal                                     | Pygmy Date         |                | Senegal Date |
|   | Queen              |                |              |
|   | Canary Island Date |                |              |

are more stiff such as the Pygmy Island date palm.

The stems or petioles below the fan or feather also have some key identification features. For example, the petiole of the cabbage palm is very smooth along edges, while that of the Washington palm has sharp brown canine-like spines all up and down the edges. You need gloves to handle this one





others, they slough off quickly exposing a bare trunk. In yet others, like the cabbage palm, a few slough off here and there over many years. And there is always landscape crews with saws that remove them- no wonder it's hard to figure out what you're looking at.

**Brain Teaser**

Is the Pygmy Date Palm a solitary or clumping palm? It's really a palm with a solitary trunk; it doesn't send out suckers. Palm growers usually put two or three young pygmy dates in a pot so they grow together in a "clump" or cluster. This is a horticultural creation that results in lovely palm clusters seen throughout Florida landscapes.



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**Continued from front page.**

The one bedroom one bathroom apartments will range in size, 650 or 750 square feet; according to some sources will rent for \$5,000 to \$6,000 a month. The company has not officially announced the rates.

There will be varied dining options; all provided by an on-site chef. Dining will be available restaurant style, in the bistro, alfresco or private dining.

The company has numerous luxury senior living communities throughout the south-east in Florida, Virginia, Georgia and South Carolina. It is scheduled for completion by Summer 2020.



by Dan Reeves

Artist's conception of Watercrest



**Dan's World View Cartoon.**

With each edition of our newsletter, I take the opportunity to share one of my cartoons expressing a view of the world or world view, whichever.

I've always admired Edward Hopper's oil painting, *Nighthawks*, which portrays lonely people in the dark hours of the night as viewed through the diner's large glass window back in 1942. Now on view at the Art Institute of Chicago, it has gained fame throughout the world and is his most famous painting.

I thought I would bring it up-to-date by adding a ubiquitous sign of today's times by painting in a "Free WiFi sign on the window.



Palm Aire  
Communities Council

# Newsletter

Fall, 2019



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