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# AROUND THE BEND

## Your Willowbend Community Newsletter

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Hello neighbors I'm Paul McClain your newly elected Board Secretary and I'd like to welcome you to the first edition of our new community newsletter. One of my frustrations with many of the communities I've lived in has been a lack of communication. To start I'd like to provide information and updates from the Board and Committees in a single document. But I think it would only fill so much space and would be a pretty boring newsletter. The old adage "If it ain't broken don't fix it" doesn't apply since we don't currently have a newsletter. We've got a blank page to create and mold the document we want. This is where I need your help. What would you like to see? What would be helpful? What was great about a newsletter from your previous communities or workplaces? Remember, we have many new homeowners in the community. What information do you wish you had received when you moved in? Please help the Board and community make this newsletter interesting, beneficial and fun. Send your ideas to me at [willowbendsecretary1@gmail.com](mailto:willowbendsecretary1@gmail.com). Thanks!

### 2022 HOA Board

Historically we have many residents who leave in the month of August. So, as we have done in the past, there will be no Board meeting in August. The Board will announce the date, time and place of the September in the near future.

Here are your Willowbend board members:

Stephen Meuler, President

Joe Trentacoste, Vice President

Scott Brundrett, Treasurer

Paul McClain, Secretary

John Santiago, Director at Large

We're looking forward to serving this great community over the next year and with your help making Willowbend a community we can continue to be very proud of.

### Ganoderma in the Neighborhood



As you've probably heard we have Ganoderma Fungus affecting palms in our neighborhood. What is it exactly?

Ganoderma is a fungus that causes a wood-decaying infection that occurs through tree wounds. It attacks large roots and the base of the trunk but can extend up the trunk a few feet as well.

Treatment requires removal of the tree and grinding of the stump. From personal experience comparing quotes, I found Simply Trees to be an excellent company with the best price. This is not an endorsement from the board just simply passing on helpful information.

## BE SURE TO SUBMIT YOUR ARC!

The ACR committee is composed of Dutch Leonard, Debbie Metsky, Debbie Tinney and Tom Wichowski. ACR's are REQUIRED for all landscape and hardscape changes by homeowners.

The form contains a lot of information that needs to be read and absorbed prior to submission of your ACR. Debbie M. and Debbie T. will be working on cleaning up the form to better serve you. Look for this in the Fall.

Please remember to use the Florida Friendly plant list and the paint list approved by Willowbend's HOA when submitting an ACR. For new residents please become familiar with this system and when to use it. Doing work without submitting the ACR may result in a fine by the Association as well as additional cost to the homeowner for any necessary repair work for damage to items such as irrigation or landscaping.

Resource: The University of Florida has an FFL plant guide app that is available for download. <https://ffl.iafs.ufl.edu>



## LANDSCAPE NEWS

Your Landscape Committee has been revamped. The Committee is now headed by co-chairs Debbie Metsky and Debbie Tinney. Additional members are Alberta Alese, Tom Wichowski and our Chief Consultant Emeritus Dutch Leonard.

The Board of Directors and Landscape Committee have gone all in on sod replacement in areas sorely needing it at the front of homes. This is a costly endeavor we are striving to manage with the help of LMP who was able to provide us sod at an extremely competitive price.

Crane Prairie residents will be the next recipients of sod replacement followed by Thornapple, Luminary and Latitude. The process requires removal of the old sod, fresh soil, and then laying the new sod; this is done in conjunction with cleaning and adjusting sprinkler heads and adjusting watering times.

This is an arduous task and is subject to weather delays, so please be patient. Beginning in September, the time for any resident who would like to discuss a landscape issue with the committee should meet at the playground gazebo between 10:00 and 10:30 AM. Prior to that the committee will be busy and unavailable.

Did you know there was a prehistoric dragonfly that's wings spanned more than two feet?

More than 300 million years ago, the *Meganeura* established itself as the largest known flying insect to ever exist on Earth. The dragonfly-like creature had a wingspan that stretched around 2.5 feet. The bugs were also big enough to hunt prey like frogs and newts, which it could eat with its teeth-like mandibles.

This is information provided by LMP in their monthly newsletter.

#### WHAT'S GROWING ON MY PALM?



Goldfoot Fern is found throughout Florida, growing on Cabbage Palms and other plants and brings a tropical look with it. It often grows in the boot jacks, where it is an epiphyte.

Epiphytes grow upon another plant but are not parasitic. Golden polypody reproduces asexually with its wind-dispersed spores. The leaves are up to four feet long and two feet wide with many long lobes. The golden-colored stems grow through the boots of Cabbage Palms and are half an inch thick. The fronds of golden polypody are large and deeply lobed. Each frond can have up to 35 pinnae (leaflets or segments). Each pinna is bright green or bluish-green with a wavy margin. Golden polypody gets its moisture and nutrients from the air, rain, and debris that accumulates in the boot jacks. It is a fern with many creeping rhizomes (creeping rootstalks) that are covered in golden-brown scales.

There's no evidence the fern and its fungal friends penetrate the living tissue of the palm or cause it any harm, so enjoy!

#### CRIME PREVENTION

Tony Nacinovich

Congratulations Willowbend residents! The county Sheriff's department reports that our community has been crime free for the past two years and beyond! That statistic is attributable to your vigilance and being part of our crime prevention team.

One problem we haven't solved is that of unsafe driving, drivers running stop signs and speeding through the community. Most of offenders are residents. Take the pledge and drive safely in our Willowbend. School starts the week of August 8. Our children will be out again and we want them all to be able to travel to and from school without fear of injury because of a motorist.

If you're not receiving Willowbend Crime Prevention emails, sign up. Send me your name, contact information and email address: [willowbend.crime.prevention@gmail.com](mailto:willowbend.crime.prevention@gmail.com). You'll only receive email with pertinent information concerning any threats to our community. You'll better understand how to keep your home safe and secure.

As economic conditions deteriorate, crime is inclined to increase. We're not immune but I'll keep you informed. You'll know what to do when it knocks at your door.