
AROUND THE BEND

Your Willowbend Community Newsletter

Board of Directors Notes

There are no new updates on the Take 5 Oil Change development. The request to rezone the parcel has not been submitted yet. The lawyer fees are adding up quickly and the community will have to decide what our limit will be. If you haven't already done so, we urge every household to send a letter to our commissioner stating your opposition to this rezoning.

Thanks to Todd Currey for creating new forms to help capture new resident information as homes are purchased. This will greatly help the Welcome Committee to identify new residents and keep our directory up to date.

The fence repair at the Habitat entrance is on hold as the contractor is waiting on parts.

The Infrastructure Committee is requesting quotes from companies to perform quarterly repair on the community landscape lights. We have approximately 250 aging lights on the property.

The Board is exploring higher interest-bearing accounts for our reserve funds. The key will be finding accounts that will not tie up our funds for long periods of time.

We are currently requesting quotes to mulch the common areas and the front and sides of the homes.

The Board approved the Infrastructure Committee's request to replace 30 mailboxes throughout the community.

Quotes are being sought to paint the fence and columns at the rec center, street lights and mailbox posts.

Landscape Committee Notes

The Landscape Committee requested LMP provide the results of the soil samples taken from different areas within the community. The analysis was done in an effort to improve the quality of our grass and its ability to grow. LMP proposed bi-annual treatments of the soil, but the Board could not justify the \$38K recurring annual cost. LMP reduced their price to \$24K and this was also rejected by the Board.

The Committee is urging all homeowners, when placing large items out for trash pickup, to not put them on the grass. Sod replacement is a huge expense every year and putting these items on the grass is a quick way to kill it.

New irrigation control boxes are being installed by LMP and will be wi-fi enabled to begin upgrading the system.

Community palm tree trimming is complete. A light trim to Crepe myrtles will be done on those between or touching structures. A knuckle cut will not be done unless requested.

Recreation Committee Notes

The committee is still exploring repairs to the pickleball fence and adding a security camera covering that area.

The timer switch controlling the pickle ball court lights has been replaced.

The pool ladder has been replaced as well as one of our two pool pump motors due to failed bearings.

The fitness center equipment and cardio machines underwent cleaning and maintenance.

All findings from the Health Department pool inspections have been answered and closed.

Crepe Myrtle: The Tree of 100 Days



The crepe myrtle's roots (no pun intended) date back to China, where it was called "Pai Jih Hung," which means a hundred days red and is still known today as "the tree of one hundred days" because of its beautiful, long-lasting summer blooms.

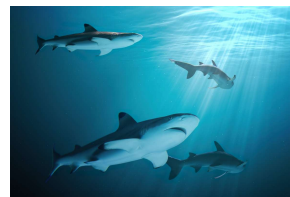
The crepe myrtle is not considered a true myrtle – an evergreen shrub – but retains the name due to its similar leaf shape. The "crepe" refers to how the flowers appear crinkled like crepe paper. Crepe myrtle is a group of roughly 50 tree and shrub cultivars in the genus *agerstroemia*. There is great diversity among these plants – some are deciduous. In contrast, others are evergreen; sizes range from barely one-foot-tall dwarf varieties to towering giants that can grow taller than 100 feet. What they share and make all crepe myrtles distinct and desirable in landscaping is their stunning frilly, crinkled, or rippled blooms and peeling bark that gives textural distinction to their trunks and stems as well. Flower colors range from deep purple to lavender, ivory, bright white, pale pink, magenta, and red.

Crepe myrtle is adaptable to many soil conditions but prefers well-drained ones. Like any newly planted tree, regular watering is critical for establishment. Crepe myrtles are extremely drought tolerant in the second growing season.

Unless the plant has grown out of control, light trimming is all that's needed to eliminate the weaker stems and encourage flower-producing new shoots. The heavy pruning of branches back to limbs thicker than thumb size may delay flowering for months, possibly even until the following year.

Severe pruning, where large trunks are cut short, will encourage a lot of stem growth, which must mature before flowering can occur. In comparison, a yearly light trimming may result in flowering shoots as early as the end of May.

Did you Know? Shark Attacks Threaten the Internet



If shark attacks give you the chills, you're not alone. And the people over at Google can sympathize thanks to the fact that they deal with shark attacks that threaten the internet. And this isn't a new problem. Back in 1987, *The New York Times* reported that this was an issue with phone lines at the time due to the fact that "sharks have shown an inexplicable taste for the new fiber-optic cables that are being strung along the ocean floor linking the United States, Europe, and Japan."

Odds and Ends

The new Infrastructure Committee has been established with the members being Ray Taylor, Doug and Diane Dalen and Janet Kaplan. Thanks for volunteering!

Regina Schacht desperately needs hosts for the community wine tastings. She says, "Come on! Someone is thinking of hosting. I can feel it! Don't be shy!!! I can help with the whole thing!! You just go get the wines and the glasses will be passed on to you. It's very simple!!" If you are interested in hosting or becoming involved in this event contact Regina at willowbendwinetasters@gmail.com.

Can you believe that we are only a month away from hurricane season again? This is the time to start thinking about making your preparations. I'll have more information in my next edition.

Roof cleaning notices are going out and residents are responding to Sentry. If your roof is due to be cleaned, please schedule it and provide the required documentation to Sheri. If you are looking for a company,

I recently used Rip Tide Soft Wash. They did a fantastic job and never stepped on the roof. This is not an endorsement by the Board, just my positive