COMMUNITY UPDATE

During the past year, the CDD has delivered key accomplishments to enhance the quality of our community. Improvements have been made to landscaping, pond maintenance and areas surrounding the Community Center. These will be summarized in this newsletter.

We want to welcome Paul Phillips of Covey Court to the Board. Paul has assumed Gene Rado’s seat. Gene stepped down earlier this year and we would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all his help and efforts while serving the Board.

We would also like to welcome Field Manager, Duane Smith, who was recruited by our property manager, Rizzetta and Company. Duane is an employee of Rizzetta. He is responsible for coordinating projects that are currently under way and to assure work is completed in a timely manner. It is also our expectation that Duane meets quality standards that have been set by the Board. Duane obtains bids from vendors for the Board’s approval and is responsible for end to end project completion. He is available to answer and resolve any questions residents may have, and as applicable, including issues surrounding our common areas and facilities. Duane also interfaces with vendors, ensuring work is completed in accordance to our contracts, resolving problems and providing feedback. Duane is on-site at the Community Center, Tuesday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and can be contacted at 941-756-2416.

Community Center Updates

- A new roof was installed on our Community Center. The roof was in disrepair and in need of replacement.
- Repairs of the Community Center grounds are under way.
- A new drainage system was installed to avoid flooding around the Center and pool.
• The pavers in the pool area were raised and resealed.
• 18-year-old furniture to be replaced.
• New maintenance company hired to improve water quality and cleanliness of pool.
• A new janitorial service was hired.

A new initiative for the Community Center is currently under implementation. It consists of a **new key card access system and camera security system** that will be monitored by a central facility. Over the next few months, residents will be provided **one (1) fob** per household for access to facilities in the Community Center including the pool, tennis and pickleball courts, and outdoor restrooms. This new system will ensure that our facilities are used by Preserve residents only and their guests. Residents must accompany their guests while using the facilities. The system will also enable us to monitor any violations, and the ability to disable the key card holder access to the facilities until the issue is resolved.

The postage size piece of land we have does not allow room for added amenities. Therefore, we need to ensure the facilities are available to our residents on a first come basis. Unfortunately, after years of keys being duplicated and homeowner changes, this measure was necessary.

The tennis and pickleball courts will be re-striped and a third pickleball court will be added. These are scheduled to be completed by September.

**Landscape**

The CDD is responsible for the upkeep of over 90 acres of common areas that require ongoing maintenance. A segment of Tara Boulevard from Tara Preserve Lane to Linger Lodge Rd. now has turf planted on it. This was something the developer did not complete.

• Irrigation upgrades are being done to protect new landscape from end to end.
• Removal of major encroachment from preserve areas to our common grounds was completed. Going forward, this will be done annually and off season.

• Gardens at all entrances were refreshed with new annuals. New annuals will be planted three times a year.
• Sunrise supervisor, Leroy Van, is on premise weekly overseeing workers and identifying areas that need attention.

**Pond Maintenance**

The CDD is responsible for the maintenance of 51 storm ponds. It is a complex system that protects our homes from flooding, keeps us out of the flood zone and saves us from flood insurance requirements.

Ponds require heavy treatment, especially in the summer. During the rainy season, excess nutrients and fertilizer flow into ponds and create algae. Extra treatments and weekly monitoring are increased at this time.

We will, for the first time, be conducting a trial in four of our most troublesome ponds by installing aeration systems to help reduce algae and the amount of chemicals used. All four systems will be operational this summer and will be evaluated for future consideration.

Board Supervisors spend a lot of time between meetings evaluating Community needs and listening to residents’ comments. Each member takes comments made by residents into consideration and, if further action is required, brings up the issue at the next meeting for resolution.

CDD supervisors cannot share thoughts or emails between meetings. It is considered a violation of Florida Sunshine Laws. This increases the time it takes to implement changes. We can only exchange ideas and make recommendations at our scheduled meetings. During our meetings, we must edit the financials, approve expenditures and make motions, which require a majority vote to move forward. This requirement makes it challenging to demonstrate results to residents in a timely manner.

**We want to thank residents for their understanding and support.**
ACCESS CARD POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Use of the District’s amenity areas is restricted to residents, members and their registered guests. Each Tara CDD household will be issued one (1) initial access key card at no charge. An additional key card can be purchased at a cost of $25.00. A lost key card can be replaced at a cost of $25.00 (non-refundable).

No more than two (2) key cards (issued to those 18 years or older) may be held by any resident or household member. The access key card system protects you and the facility from unapproved non-resident and non-member entry. Under no circumstance should a resident or member provide their access key card to an unapproved non-resident or non-member.

To obtain a key card, please visit the field supervisor’s office in the Community Center and complete or submit the registration form included in this newsletter. Please bring necessary ID as stated in form.

Access cards will be available for residents starting August 28, 2019 during office hours.

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING …

There has been concern about excessive vehicular speeding on our roads and suspicious or unknown individuals on our properties. If you see suspicious individual(s) and/or activity, take a photo with your cell phone and report it to the Manatee County Sheriff’s department. When taking a photo, it will be helpful to capture useful information such as license plates or facial profiles that can assist in investigation/resolution. For safety and security reasons, residents should not approach or engage people involved in illegal or suspicious activities.

We are now on Facebook

The Tara Preserve Facebook community (not associated with the Tara Preserve CDD), is a useful site for information and discussion about our community. Type “Tara Preserve Community” on the search field or visit:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/TaraPreserveCommunity/

Our Wildlife Neighbors

We are fortunate to live in a beautiful community surrounded by vast, undeveloped preserve lands. Wildlife—bobcat, deer, gopher tortoises, alligators, sandhill cranes, bald eagles, owls, and so on—make their home at the Preserve too. They have a right to their own space and need to be treated with respect.

Please be kind and considerate to the wildlife. Do not allow your pets to chase them. For your pet’s and your own safety, refrain from walking close to the water’s edge. Do not feed wildlife in or around the vicinity of ponds or engage them in any way.

During the summer months, wildlife can be especially active in the evening. You can find them on our roads. By observing the posted 30 mph speed limit along Tara Boulevard and slowing down, we may very well be saving their lives.

Safety on Our Roads

The 30-mph speed limit along Tara Boulevard is the law and we must abide to it. Unfortunately, numerous car accidents and fatalities have occurred over the years. In the interest of road safety for everyone, we ask all residents to please observe the speed limit. We also encourage you to advice visitors about observing speed limits.

We are communicating with Vanessa Baugh, our Manatee County Commissioner, to discuss the placement of a four way stop sign at the intersection of Tara Boulevard and Tailfeather Way/Strand Circle. We urge Preserve residents to email Vanessa (vanessa.baugh@mymanatee.org) and voice concerns regarding traffic speed and your support for these stop signs.