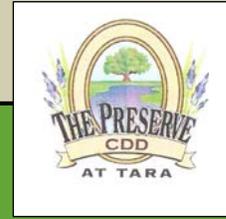


Tara CDD Newsletter



Tara CDD 1

Preserve Community Center
7340 Tara Preserve Lane
Bradenton, FL 34203
941-756-2416
fieldmanager@taracdd.org
www.taracdd.org

Jim Kaluk, Field Manager
(at the Community Center)

Office Hours:

Mon to Fri: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
fieldmanager@taracdd.org

Board of Supervisors

Eugene Rado, *Chairman*
Dan Powers, *Vice Chairman*
Darby Connor
Joseph A. Mojica
Dave Woodhouse

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CHAIRMAN'S VIEW

Gene Rado

Five years ago, my wife Linda and I moved to Tara Preserve. The community appealed to us and we loved the way it looked. As the years went by, a noticeable deterioration in appearance started to take its toll. Over the past year, Sunrise Landcare was hired to manage our landscaping. During that time, the beauty of our community has gradually been restored. While there is still much to be done, we are pleased with the progress.

We have started addressing the encroachment problem of Brazilian Peppers and other invasive species that continue to plague our community. An overview on plans and progress updates is addressed separately in this Newsletter (and future Newsletters as needed). A few months ago, we transitioned our Community Garden vendor to Sunrise Landcare, replacing Gardens by Allison. It has made a noticeable difference! Our gardens now enjoy an array of colorful annuals and are more visually appealing to the eye. We are also saving money in the process, approximately 50% with the new vendor. To maintain a clean and fresh look, the flower beds and garden plants will be rotated three times per year.

Recently, we encountered problems with some of our weirs due to the rainstorm preceding Hurricane Irma. Rick Schappacher, our District Engineer, inspected the weirs and offered recommendations for the problem areas. All repairs have been completed.

Our thanks to Jim Kaluk, Dave Woodhouse, and Joe Mojica for updating our Emergency (Hurricane) Planning Guide. The guide is an invaluable resource for both residents and the CDD. It documents emergency preparations in detail, and provides useful information regarding home insurance, pets, residents with special needs, and more. The guide can be viewed/downloaded from taracdd.org and clicking on Documents/District Rules and Policies/Tara Emergency Plan. We strongly recommend residents to download and review the guide.

At our January Board meeting, we approved a proposal from Custom Reserves to update the Community Capital Reserve Study. This is an important issue for any community and the study will be of great assistance during the budget process later this year.

On a sad note, Beth Bond, former Vice Chair of the Board, passed away on January 1, 2018. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her husband Mike Dunn and their family. Beth was a wonderful woman who served on the Board from November 2010 to November 2015 and contributed greatly during her term.

LANDSCAPE

Darby Connor

Ongoing efforts led by Sunrise Landcare to clean up and remove encroachment on common grounds during the off-season, and especially after Hurricane Irma, continues. Most residents have benefited from noticeable improvements behind their homes following work performed by Sunrise. At a meeting held in January, the Board of Supervisors voted in favor of proceeding with further removal of invasive species such as the Brazilian Pepper tree. This was deemed necessary by the Board due to years of increased growth. Another factor guiding the Board's decision was the large amounts of debris scattered throughout our community after Hurricane Irma.

Following the Board's decision, a contract to perform the scope of services required was awarded to Sunrise. The contract supports deployment of the latest technology, a new method utilizing a forestry shredder for debris removal. The new methodology is more advantageous than manually intensive labor. It is efficient and does not require a large work force to manually perform tasks typically required to cut and truck debris to a landfill site. And it reduces our cost. The first trial area for the scope of work to be performed has been approved. Spanning nearly a mile, the area covers the entire length on the west side of Tara Blvd to Linger Lodge Rd. The

defined area is not adjacent to homeowner properties, and hence is well suited for trial purposes. The removal of invasive plants and dead foliage/debris will yield a gain of five to 10 feet of common ground from the sidewalk. Additionally, during the first quarter, Sunrise will also prune approximately 500 palm trees on common grounds.

Upon completion, the Board shall decide if they will continue this effort on CDD property behind homes and throughout the community. An assessment will be made should competitive bids from vendors be required for such services until the project is finalized.

We are seeking estimates and pricing to treat the stumps of invasive species with an herbicide to help reduce growth. This is an approved and preferred method as it does not use chemicals broadcast in the air to kill foliage.

Residents have noticed the flower beds in the community have been upgraded to provide more color and a neat appearance. Sunrise will plant annuals three times a year. The next replant is scheduled for mid-April and mid-August.

April marks the first anniversary of service for Sunrise. We remain hopeful and confident in their abilities to meet our service delivery expectations and standards. For this purpose, we shall be performing an onsite review of all common areas with Sunrise to identify areas that may need more attention. We thank all residents for their support, and hope actions taken by this Board has helped to improve and enhance the overall look of our community landscape.

FIELD MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Jim Kaluk

The year 2017 will be remembered as a year that gave us more than our fair share of torrential rain and Hurricane Irma. We were fortunate there were no casualties or bodily injuries and minimal property damage.

As we approach spring and summer, I encourage you and your family to participate in the activities at the Community Center and hope you continue to enjoy them year-round.

Weekday activities at the Community Center include:

Monday: Quilters, Card Night

Tuesday: Yoga, Mah Jongg

Wednesday: Bridge, Tara Wine Club

Thursday: Book Club, Free computer workshop

Friday: Yoga, Mah Jongg

Facilities available to residents outside the Community Center include the swimming pool, spa, tennis, and pickleball courts. The Community Center may be rented for private functions and social events.

The investment we made with the Solar Energy System continues to be instrumental with our conservation efforts. The pool temperature is set at a range of 85 to 88 degrees. The Spa is comfortably warm at 103 to 104 degrees. In the evenings, the tennis court lights are on from 6 to 9 p.m. In the summer months they will be illuminated from 7 to 9 p.m.

WHERE'S MY WALL?

Dan Powers

The Tara Preserve Committee for Highway Noise Abatement was formed in 2008, and comprised a number of residents from the Tara Preserve community including myself. The role of the committee was to act as Liaison between the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and Manatee County Government. In the role of Liaison, our primary goal was to seek a solution and secure relief from the noise pollution originating from Interstate Highway 75. Prior results from audible noise tests recorded readings of 65 to 70 decibels, a level deemed hazardous to the health of residents. With upcoming plans to widen and increase the number of existing lanes on the highway, the need for noise mitigation from the I-75 has become more critical.

In the intervening years, a solution was proposed which called for a 22 feet high noise barrier. In late spring 2017, residents were formally notified and solicited by the FDOT regarding its intent to construct a noise barrier. Surveys were sent out to the community. Residents of Tara Preserve expressed support for the proposal. In the interim, funding and design for the project was approved. Earlier this year, residents were again notified by the FDOT regarding plans for a redesign of the noise barrier. The revised design adds an additional barrier, provides better coverage, and is longer in length than the original plan. According to FDOT, homes closest to the highway will receive a reduction of at least 5 decibels or greater compared to noise levels without a barrier.

To view maps of the original/revised designs and specifications, please visit the Field Manager's office located at the Community Center.

JUDGE'S DECISION PENDING

Dave Woodhouse

Most of you are aware of Lincoln LLC's (the developer of Tara) intent to build out the parcel of land designated III-BB on the southwest corner of Tara Boulevard and State Road 70. Zoning options regarding permitted use include commercial and residential. At present, the developer is leaning towards a Walgreen Pharmacy. Supporting this development would entail filling in wetlands, building a one-way road providing access to the site from SR70, and constructing an exit road to Tara Boulevard. A second judicial hearing convened on February 9 from lawsuits filed under the Bert Harris Act. The Judge did not render a decision. Based on his questions and statements to both sides, he is leaning away from an either/or ruling and asked both legal teams for their conclusions based on the case as is. Both sides have about a week to respond prior to the Judge reconvening on the matter in early March. Because the Tara CDD is recognized as an official State agency, the Board of Supervisors cannot render an opinion on the merits of the case.

Tara Community Development District 1
7340 Tara Preserve Lane
Bradenton, FL 34203

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TARA CDD 1
7340 Tara Preserve Lane
Bradenton, FL 34203

PHONE:
941-756-2416

FAX:
941-756-2416

EMAIL:
fieldmanager@taracdd.org

Visit us at:
www.taracdd.org

