



# WATERCREST Newsletter

Brought to you by your Watercrest Communication Committee

## VOLUNTEERS ROCK!

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October 2022 to today has seen many changes to our community, the least of which was the devastation brought on by Hurricane Ian. We were beaten up a bit but it brought our community closer together. We saw many of our neighbors come out in masse to help other neighbors in the immediate aftermath. These volunteers helped with clean up as well as aiding in identifying what needed to be done to get our community back on its feet. The community benefitted greatly from the volunteer effort and the community will always be grateful for all the help given.

The 2023 BOD also had a big job ahead of them as they took over the task of bringing our community back to a solid footing after the destruction caused by the hurricane and addressing a backlog of issues resulting from past neglect or delayed maintenance of our infrastructure. One of their first initiatives was to put out a call for neighborhood volunteers to join committees so they could tap into their ideas and energies to help us become a better, stronger, and more responsive community. Volunteerism is vital in a community like Watercrest. We now have an expanded and more robust list of Committees to help in this effort. In this newsletter we would like to say **Thank You** to those who volunteered and list the accomplishments of some of the newer committees added in 2023.

### November Meetings:

#### BOD:

Thurs 11/02/2023 6:00-8:00  
Jacaranda Library & Zoom

#### ARC:

Wed 11/08/2023 10:00 Guard  
House & Zoom

Wed 11/22/2023 10:00 Guard  
House & Zoom

**WELCOMING COMMITTEE:** The Watercrest Welcoming Committee (Patti Maxwell & Mike Sale) was established in January 2023 to insure that new residents are promptly greeted with reliable information concerning the unique features associated with living in Watercrest and it being a Florida Deed Restricted Community. To date the committee has monitored 29 active listings and met heads of 20 new households.

After a sale has closed, new residents are provided with a welcome letter that answers most of the predictable questions on the minds of new homeowners (e.g. entrance gates, amenity center, maintenance fees, ARC & Community Wide Standards information, etc.). Surprisingly, many new residents move in with home improvement projects already in mind as one of their first priorities. The Welcoming Committee in this case will provide them with helpful ARC tips and can even arrange a consultation with ARC.

**LANDSCAPING COMMITTEE:** Our Volunteers on the Landscaping Committee have also had a busy year. To date they have completed a significant number of new shrub replacement orders as well as 60 or more that were backlogged from previous years. They also coordinated the stump removal for the

more than 550 trees that were destroyed during Hurricane Ian. Their most recent projects have been the beautification and restoration of our entrances on East Venice Ave & Crestview, Tree trimming along Crestview and enhancement of the traffic circle. Their next assignment will be to develop a landscaping plan to complete the erosion project.

The transformation at the Venice Ave gate has been the most dramatic. The median showcases Ixora, copperleaf, and trinettes, while the sides are planted with Dwarf Firebrush that will add a splash of color. Dwarf Fire bush, a.k.a. Hummingbird Bush is native to Florida. They are drought tolerant and cold hardy. As it matures and forms its mature mound shape, this shrub will bloom on and off all year as it attracts butterflies and hummingbirds to its brightly-colored flowers. A job well done committee members Bob Tegowski, Sheryl Isenstein and Hope Schaefer.



**If you have original plantings that need replacing please complete a landscaping form. Be aware, however that plants added by owners themselves and not through our landscapers are not under warranty and must be replaced at owners expense.**

## GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO WAIT

The erosion project has now been completed except for the final landscaping phase. The erosion membrane is down, sod has been laid and the fence is being installed as we go to press. The Landscaping Committee has now been assigned the task of submitting a landscaping plan to the Board for their final approval. For those living along the north wall, this has been a long time coming. There was no lack of empathy for those affected but that did not make it any easier on our north wall residents.

There have been a series of false starts and bumps in the road for this project. Planning for this project started in 2021 and the process of gathering quotes was started in June 2022, before Ian came to town. The recovery from Ian took center stage for a bit causing a delay. Then In January 2023 the sitting Board reviewed the initial erosion plan, and they determined it was lacking. The method previously

proposed was less costly but was determined to be subpar and a quick, temporary fix at best. After consulting with the County and engineering professionals, the Board put out a request for bids on the new improved design. The consensus was that the initial erosion plan would need repairs sooner rather than later and would probably cost the community more in the long run to maintain. The new design was a much better fix. After that delay there were supply issues, Gopher turtle issues, weather issues, dog bites, acts of vandalism .... The list goes on. We can all breathe a collective sigh of relief that the end is in sight and thank our neighbors along the North Wall for hanging in there through it all.

### **HERE ARE SOME BEFORE AND AFTER SHOTS**



**Active community participation is vital in order to keep the community vibrant and well run . Do your part. Let your voices be heard and VOTE in all community elections. Those who complain the loudest are generally those who do not participate, so let your voices be heard by voting. Remember too, your Board is all volunteer. They cannot do everything alone. They need and rely on community volunteers to help get things done. Whether you are a full-time or part-time resident you are encouraged to participate. Just an hour of your time each week can make a big impact.**

**MARK YOUR CALANDERS: THE WATERCREST COMMUNITY WIDE YARD SALE WILL BE HELD SATURDAY JANUARY 13TH FROM 8:00 AM—2:00 PM**