



SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

PAINTING OF VILLAS WEST OF CRUISE AND WHALE BAY DRIVES

After several months of planning and coordination, repainting of the villas in the southwest corner of Watercrest has begun. If the weather cooperates, all villas west of Whale Bay Way and Cruise Drive should be painted by mid-October. While painting is under way, there may be some congestion in this part of our neighborhood. Drivers are encouraged to avoid this area if possible, and to be extra careful if it is necessary to pass through.

PROPOSED BLACKBURN COURT PROJECT

As recently communicated via Eblast, Watercrest continues to monitor the activities of Sarasota County related to the proposed development of the lands on the south side of Venice Avenue East, opposite the Watercrest south gate. Background material has been distributed by Sunstate Property Management, and several Watercrest residents have documented their concerns and opposition to this initiative. The next meeting of the Sarasota Planning Commission on this topic is scheduled at the South Sarasota Annex, 4000 S. Tamiami Trail, Venice, FL **at 5:00 p.m. Thursday, September 4, 2025**. Interested Watercrest residents are encouraged to attend and voice their concerns.

LANDSCAPING UPDATE

The mowing of the grass outside the north fence and west wall has been completed by our contractor. In addition, Sarasota county has done an excellent job of cutting down all of the growth in the drainage ditch outside the north fence.



Contracts have been finalized for the pruning of hardwood trees in the front and back yards of Haze and Nearpoint Drives (we will be pruning hardwoods on two streets every year). In addition, quotes have been finalized to trim back the Brazilian peppers and trim trees outside the east fence. More information will be distributed once these projects have been scheduled.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

We are well into the hurricane season, but September and October have historically been the months that cause greatest concern for Watercrest residents. The Board of Directors encourages every resident

to review their personal plans and circumstances so that they are ready for the next storm. The Watercrest Community Hurricane Binder can be found at the bottom of the “Documents” tab on our web site: <https://home.sunstatemanagement.com/community/documents/a/105/f/6857>

HOLIDAY GIVING

Many Watercrest residents are already preparing for our annual Holiday Giving activities in support of the 110 residents at Capri Care Health & Rehabilitation Center, 1450 East Venice Avenue.

To kick off the new season, Watercrest volunteers are invited to a meeting at the home of Barbara Grella, 19328 Bluff Drive, 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 9, 2025. For more information about what’s needed most this year, contact Barb Grella at 941-218-4962 (landline), 860-685-8789 (cell) or w.grella@snet.net. Some Watercrest residents have already been shopping and collecting material for the program. If you can bring those items to the meeting, it will enhance our discussion and promote some creative ideas.

STREET SAFETY

Watercrest residents are reminded that everyone has a responsibility to use our streets and sidewalks with care and with respect for others. **The speed limit is 15 mph**, and this applies to all vehicles of every type. Any vehicle operated on Watercrest streets after dark must be equipped with and use headlights and taillights. Traffic signs must be observed and followed. Pedestrians are encouraged to use the sidewalks using marked crosswalks. In every case, vehicle operators and pedestrians must use care and be constantly aware of their surroundings and take proper action when approaching pedestrians and vehicles.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)

Owners contemplating changes to the exterior of their homes are required to submit an ARC request to watercrest.arc.assistant.chair@gmail.com. The Committee meets twice a month to decide on applications. You can find an ARC request form on mywatercrest.com, under the Community Association tab/Forms/Architectural Review Request. Be sure to avoid delays or denials by including all pertinent supporting documentation, such as plot plan/marked survey, photos, diagrams, contractor license and liability, materials and colors to be used – as indicated on the ARC request form itself.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Watercrest Board of Directors Meeting: Thursday, September 11 at 6:00 p.m., at the Jacaranda Public Library and on Zoom.

Architectural Review Committee: Thursday, September 4 & Thursday, September 18 – both at 10:30 a.m. in the Guardhouse and on Zoom.