OUR GOAL: $30,000 MET AT $34,556!

After setting the 2014 goal at $30,000, the East Lake Woodlands “Drive for a Cure” machine got to work. As you can see, we far exceeded our goal and raised an amazing $34556 in support of the Morton Plant Mease Mammography Program and the Florida Suncoast Affiliate of Susan G. Komen. Both organizations will use the funds donated here in the Tampa Bay area.

Fielding a grand total of 228 golfers, the East Lake Woodlands “Drive for a Cure” took place on February 28, 2014 at the East Lake Woodlands Country Club. The weather was glorious and everything ran like clockwork.

After play, time was taken to recognize the cancer survivors. It’s always good to see them at this event.

Then, on to dinner where opportunities were available for participation in the Chinese, silent and live auctions. All were a big success.

This success couldn’t have been accomplished without the help of the entire community from the publications who ran our articles and continue to check our website for pictures and updates at: www.eastlakewoodlands.com.

Thank you!

East Lake Woodlands “Drive for a Cure” 2015 is already in the works, so mark your calendars for Friday, February 27, 2015 for each area. I urge all of you to go to our web site frequently. It is: elwdriveforacure.com

In last month’s Heron, I indicated that I was going to write about the aging infrastructure of our community. I will hold off doing that until next month in order to share the update on the gates.

We will be re-installing the gates at the Tampa Road entrance and the Sun Bank entrance. Our goal is to have the gates activated sometime in early summer. There is a lot of work to be done at all the entrances in preparation for this. One reason for this is that the school buses currently have routes timed using the open entrances and exits. We have alerted the County of the changes for next school year, but we have assured them that they do not need to change the schedule for the remainder of this year.

Let’s start with the Tampa Road entrance which will require the most renovation and take the longest time. This entrance will require removing and re-aligning of the curb on the outside of the entrance lane as well as improving the paving and drainage there. Also, the island will have two lift arm gates installed and a reader and data line for the resident side. All of this will require closing the Tampa Road entrance for a few days while work is performed. You will receive advance notice when this will occur as well as the easiest detour routes. We hope to make these improvements as quickly as possible, and limit disruption to your daily routine.

The entrances at Sun Bank, Sunflower, the shopping center, and McDonalds will all be bar code activated gates. However, the exits for these gates will become a vehicle-activated loop which will open the exit gate, thus not requiring a bar code. This change will require re-activating the Sunflower exit loop and removing its reader as well as installing the loops and repaving that section of road at the other locations.

We will post on our web site information regarding the work scheduled for each area. I urge all of you to go to our web site frequently. It is: www.eastlakewoodlands.com.

This information was given out at our annual meeting last month. I want to thank all members who attended, voted, and supported our community.

Finally, your Board wishes all our residents a most joyous Easter and Passover season.

Judy Fosbrook, President
ELW COMMUNITY ASSOC., INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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<tr>
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<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Judy Fosbrook</td>
<td>President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:j.fosbrook@verizon.net">j.fosbrook@verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Kahn</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:howard.kahn@hotmail.com">howard.kahn@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keith Crank</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kwc131@verizon.net">kwc131@verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuck Fairman</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chuck@driveway.net">chuck@driveway.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pam Brown</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pamperedgardners@gmail.com">pamperedgardners@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald Edwards</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dedwards31@tampabay.rr.com">dedwards31@tampabay.rr.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeffrey Hunt</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jihunt0225@aol.com">jihunt0225@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Fernsler</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jf@fernsler.com">jf@fernsler.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Picker</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jackpicker@ymail.com">jackpicker@ymail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernadette Massaro</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bmassaro@mgmt-assoc.com">bmassaro@mgmt-assoc.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pam Brown</td>
<td>Chairman, Grounds/Irrigation</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pamperedgardners@gmail.com">pamperedgardners@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Fernsler</td>
<td>Chairman, Legal/Insurance</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jf@fernsler.com">jf@fernsler.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Picker</td>
<td>Chairman, Government Relations</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jackpicker@ymail.com">jackpicker@ymail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald Edwards</td>
<td>Chairman, Controlled Access</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dedwards31@tampabay.rr.com">dedwards31@tampabay.rr.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeffrey Hunt</td>
<td>Chairman, Communications</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jihunt0225@aol.com">jihunt0225@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Fernsler</td>
<td>Chairman, Lakes/Drainage</td>
<td><a href="mailto:howard.kahn@hotmail.com">howard.kahn@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judy Fosbrook</td>
<td>Chairman, Administrative</td>
<td><a href="mailto:j.fosbrook@verizon.net">j.fosbrook@verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Kahn</td>
<td>Chairman, Finance</td>
<td><a href="mailto:howard.kahn@hotmail.com">howard.kahn@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keith Crank</td>
<td>Chairman, Roads</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chuck@driveway.net">chuck@driveway.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pam Brown</td>
<td>Chairman, Grounds/Irrigation</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pamperedgardners@gmail.com">pamperedgardners@gmail.com</a></td>
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FROM THE EDITOR
By Jeff Hunt,

Plant Your Tree

I don’t know if you have been watching or not, but I’ve really enjoyed the first few episodes of the re-boot of the television series Cosmos. Neil deGrasse Tyson does a fantastic job putting our place in the universe in the proper perspective and relaying just how cosmically short of a time mankind as we know it has existed on planet Earth. Check it out. Carl Sagan would be proud. (I just can’t quit thinking, “Billions and Billions”).

On April 22nd this year we’ll all have a chance to celebrate the 44th annual Earth Day. The day has different meanings to a wide number of people. Some might think it means clean air and water. Some may imagine acting to solve climate change. Others may pause to enjoy the warmth of the sun and the big blue sky. While others may think of hippies, Greenpeace and tree-huggers. Then some might just plant a tree.

As you ponder what kind of tree you might plant this year, I’d like to break away and mention a few other things this month. First item on my list is our new ELWCA website. If you have forgotten or maybe never even visited the site it can be found at: www.eastlakewoodlands.com/. With quite a bit of help from Jessie Scannavino of Management and Associates, the new website has been brought out of the 1980’s and has a much improved look. Next time you have a chance, please give our new site a “test drive” and let me or Bernadette Massaro know what you think. We look forward to your ideas and suggestions.

The second item on my list is the new sidewalk that was just installed and runs from the North Gate to the existing sidewalk in front of Cross Pointe. I think it looks very nice and adds value and safety to our ELW Community. The second part of this phase of sidewalk improvements should be completed later this year and will bring the sidewalk down past Aberdeen, Preserve and Heatherwood and connect with ELW Parkway. Special thanks to ELWCA Board member Chuck Fairman for his expertise in keeping this on-going project on track.

The last item I’ve got on my list is the re-installation of controlled access gates at all main entrance (and exit) points of our ELW Community. If you haven’t heard, this process should begin sometime in June and will require a good bit of construction, road work, etc. over the course of a few months. This is a big “win” for everyone that lives in ELW. I would personally like to thank current and past ELWCA Board members that have helped make this possible. But I would specifically like to acknowledge the efforts of our President Judy Fosbrook and Bernadette Massaro our ELWCA Manager. Their efforts over the last 4+ years have truly been outstanding. They have worked with several individual ELW communities, various lawyers, county planners and administrators, the Pinellas county court system and the Pinellas County Commission and gosh knows who else to make this happen. Many times it looked like we might never have a completely gated community again, but their commitment and determination has made it possible.

So, back to what kind of tree you might plant.......while each of us could physically plant a tree in the ground and watch it grow, what I want you to think about this year is the metaphorical planting of a tree in your community for Earth Day. What one “tree” could each of us plant this year and then watch it grow? What “tree” can you plant that might grow to provide “shade” or “cleaner air” for future generations? How would you nurture your “tree” and make it grow? Give it some thought and go plant your “tree”. The Earth will be better for it and just think, all your friends will be able to say, There goes one of those “tree” huggers.

Jeff

P.S.—Special Thank You to County Commissioner Susan Latvala for her support in helping bring the gates back into ELW!
The greater Palm Harbor and Eastlake areas have fallen victim to home burglaries, car burglaries and auto theft within the last four months. Eastlake Woodlands was not immune to these crimes; three home burglaries have been reported since December 2013.

How can we safeguard our homes and vehicles? We need to become more aware of our surroundings, observe and report suspicious people, be proactive by becoming a Neighborhood Watch Community.

The most important element of every Neighborhood Watch program is a system of communication. Every group will have a Chairperson and Co-Chairperson. Neighbors who have agreed to take an active role within their neighborhood will play an active part in the success of the program.

The Sheriff monitored

CONTROLLED ACCESS
By Don Edwards, Chairman
Controlled Access

Last reporting period there were a minimal number of calls requesting a response by ELW Security. One call concerned a person net-fishing. This person is a poacher and is a person of interest for the Sheriff’s Department. If you see this person net-fishing, please advise the Sheriff’s Department by calling 582-6200.

A photo of the person actually fishing would be most helpful. The number of calls concerning suspicious persons and suspicious vehicles have really declined. Hopefully this is an indication that procedures to keep these intrusions into our community from happening are working. If you see something suspicious call ELW Security at 785-7384 and a rover will respond. Latest information from the Sheriff’s Department is they are continuing to investigate the home invasions in ELW Community and the North Pinellas area.

Everyone is reminded to be observant and report suspicious activity by calling ELW Security or the Sheriff’s Office.

Welfare checks on residents, pets etc.

Message from Sheriff Gualtieri

In Fiscal Year 2013 the Internal Revenue Service opened nearly 1,500 investigations into fraudulent tax return filings. This is a 66% increase over Fiscal Year 2012. For criminals, the tax fraud business is booming.

As you prepare to file your taxes for 2013, be vigilant and protect yourself from possible fraud.

• **Protect your W-2s** - Possession of a W-2 makes it very easy for criminals to steal your identity and file a false return using the personal information provided on the form.
  *Don’t wait until the last minute* - Typically, those committing fraud file early. By filing early, the IRS will be alerted should someone try and file a fraudulent claim in your name.

• **Protect your child’s identity** - If a criminal has your child’s social security number, they can attempt to falsely claim them as a dependent.

• **Protect your data** - If you use tax software to file your returns, be sure to keep all of your personal information on a separate drive rather than on your personal computer where it can easily be hacked.
The Red-shouldered Hawk is a common woodland hawk of medium size with a permanent, resident population throughout the State of Florida including the Florida Keys. They can be seen almost daily in East Lake Woodlands perched on signs, fence posts, trees, and soaring over the area – especially the golf courses.

Males are 15 to 23 inches long and weigh on average 1.2 pounds. Females are slightly larger at 19 to 24 inches long and weigh 1.5 pounds. The wingspan can range from 35 to 50 inches. Adults have brownish heads, reddish chests, and pale bellies with reddish bars. Their tails, which are quite long by hawk standards, are marked with narrow white bars. Red “shoulders” are visible when the birds are perched. Red-shouldered Hawks are sometimes confused with Red-tailed Hawks which are larger and more bulky. For every ten Red-shouldered Hawks in Florida, there is one Red-tailed Hawk. The opposite is true in northern climes.

Both Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks are known as buzzards in Europe, but hawks in North America.

While in forested areas, Red-shouldered Hawks typically wait on a perch and swoop down on prey. When in clearings, they sometimes fly low to surprise prey. Red-shouldered Hawks, like most raptors, have very sharp vision and reasonably good hearing, with talons capable of killing animals at least equal to their own size. They do not hunt by smell. Small mammals are typically the most important prey, especially rodents. Voles, gophers, frogs and mice are routinely taken along with rabbits and tree squirrels (which they find to be particularly yummy). Other prey can include amphibians, reptiles (especially small snakes), small birds and large insects. Many times you will see them on the golf course in the grass dinning on geckos. Often, they will also remove doves from bird feeders in our neighborhoods.

The breeding habits of the Red-shouldered Hawk are deciduous and mixed wooded areas (trees or large shrubs that lose their leaves), often near water. Like almost all raptors, the Red-shouldered Hawk is monogamous and territorial. While courting or defending territories, the distinctive, screaming “kee-aah” call (usually repeated three or four times) can be heard. Courtship displays occur on the breeding grounds, and involve soaring together in broad circles while calling, or soaring and diving toward one another.

The Red-shouldered Hawks’ mating season is between April and July. The breeding pair builds a stick nest in a major fork of a large tree. They often use the same nest year after year, refurbishing it annually with sticks in the spring. The clutch size is typically three to four eggs. The blotchy-marked eggs are often brown to lavender in color with incubation ranging from 28 to 33 days. Hatching is asynchronous, with up to 7 days between the first and last chick. The nestlings are altricial (helpless) and are brooded almost constantly by the female for at least a week. The young leave the nest at about 6-weeks but remain dependent on the parents until they are 4 to 5 months old. They will routinely continue to roost near the nest site until the following breeding season and will reach breeding maturity at 1 to 2 years of age.

A common cause of chick mortality is natural predation. Raccoons and large arboreal snakes (snakes that live primarily in trees) can predate eggs, hatchlings, fledging’s and occasionally incubating and brooding adults.

Although the American Crow often mobs the Red-shouldered Hawk, sometimes the relationship is not so one-sided. They may chase each other and try to steal food from each other. They may also both attack a Great Horned Owl and join forces to chase the owl out of the hawk’s territory.

All of the above photographs were taken by me in Pinellas County (including East Lake Woodlands) in 2013.
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EAST LAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY
APRIL 2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Submitted by Patty Ann Wieczorek 727-777-2665

Teen Programs:
- **Girl Talk - Be You-Nique:** The first and third Monday of the month from 6:00-7:00 pm. Girl Talk is a national program with a very simple premise: high school girls meet with middle-school girls to help with the triumphs and trials of early teenage years! This teen-to-teen mentoring program is open to all middle school girls - no registration is required.
- **Right Fit Foundation - Info for Your College-Bound Student:** Tuesday, April 29, from 7:00-7:45 pm. Join us where you will learn about information concerning your child’s college admission, loans, grants, etc. No registration is required.
- **Teen Council Meeting:** Every Monday from 4:00-5:00 pm. Gather with the ELCL Teen council to help coordinate events for the teens in our community. Bring a friend!
- **Teen Tutors:** Free assistance for students of all ages with Math, English, and Reading! Preregistration is required; please call for details.
- **Teen Volunteers Needed:** Any teens looking for hours for Bright Futures? Then, this is the place for you! Please call for details.

Adult Programs
- **Antique Appraisal Fair:** Saturday, April 12, from 9:30 am-1:30 pm. Friends of East Lake Library are hosting their third antique appraisal fair at the library. Bring your trinkets and treasures ($5 per item disposition or 3 items for $10) and all proceeds will benefit the Children’s Area project.
- **Author Showcase:** The third Tuesday of every month from 6:30-7:45 pm. This month’s presenter is Tim Dorsey, author of Florida crime capers like Hammerhead Ranch Motel, The Stingray Shuffle, Pineapple Grenade, and his new novel, Tiger Shrimp Tango. No registration is required.
- **Edward Jones Financial Workshop:** Standing Guard - Protect What You've Worked for. Thursday, April 10, from 12:30-1:30 pm. The Edward Jones Foundations of Investing series continues with Jeff Mizner, CFP®, AAMS®, who will reveal trends and insights to help put your concerns about the economy and the stock market into perspective. Lunch will be provided and registration is required by calling Kristin at 727-787-1419.
- **ELCL Advisory Board Meeting:** The second Tuesday of every month from 6:00-8:00 pm. This meeting is open to the public.
- **ELCL Friends of the Library Meeting:** The first Tuesday of every month from 6:30-7:30 pm. New Members are always welcome! ESOL Tutoring: Free assistance with learning English as a second language. Please call to register.
- **Family Drum Circle:** Saturday, April 19, from 1:30-3:00 pm. This family drum circle, presented by Steve and Giving Tree Music, is a fun and interactive program for all ages. Please register.
- **Farmers’ Market:** Every Saturday of every month, from 9:00 am-2:00 pm. Food, crafts, homemade items, and holiday gifts at our downtown market. Rain or shine! No registration is required.
- **Fiber Arts Group:** Wednesday, April 23, from 6:00-7:30 pm. Share your needle arts skills and bring any projects you are working on. Enjoy quality time “stitched” with tips and new ideas. No registration is required.
- **Florida Plants Education:** Thursday, April 16, from 10:30 am-12:00 pm. Join a UF/IFAS Pinellas County Extension specialist and examine the basics of Florida plant identification, from using simple keys to identifying critical characteristics that will help any would-be botanist in the field. The class is free and open to the public, no registration required.
- **Fraud Prevention Program:** Thursday, April 17, from 1:00-2:00 pm. Please join AARP and the East Lake Community Library for the Fraud Prevention Program where you will learn the do’s and don’ts in protecting yourself against this crime. Registration is required.
- **Lapsit:** Every Tuesday from 10:00-10:30 am. Infant/caregiver bonding - stories, lap bouncing and fingerplays! No registration is required.
- **Legos for Readiness:** Saturday, April 19, from 9:30-11:30 am. Children, ages 18 months and up, please join Miss Susan and Miss Daniele for springtime fun where you will make bunny crafts, plant a springtime seed, decorate your pot and other fun surprises! Please register and wear your crafty clothes!
- **Lego Club:** First and third Wednesday of every month from 3:00-4:15 pm. Lego Club - 4th Grade and Up. This month’s selection is Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption by Laura Hillenbrand. For more information on the author, please go to: http://laurahillenbrandbooks.com. No registration is required.
- **Story Circle:** Tuesday, April 22, from 5:45-6:45 pm. This seminar highlights the evolution of Social Security, when to file for maximum benefits, when early filing makes sense and there will be time for any questions you may have. No registration is required.
- **Teen Tutors:** Free assistance for students of all ages with Math, English, and Reading! Preregistration is required; please call for details.
- **Teen Volunteers Needed:** Any teens looking for hours for Bright Futures? Then, this is the place for you! Please call for details.

Thrilling Tales: The first Thursday of every month from 1:00-2:00 pm. Join Library Director, Lois Eannell, for a selection of compelling stories from a well-known and lesser-known short story authors for your listening pleasure. In celebration of April Fools’ Day, April’s selections are “Just a Little Impractical Joke” by Richard Stark (pseudonym for Donald Westlake) and “Death by Misadventure” by Wenzell Brown.

Writers’ Critique Group: Every fourth Monday from 6:00-7:45 pm. A monthly workshop for writers of all levels. Read excerpts of your works in progress and receive helpful feedback. No registration is required.

**Book Clubs**
- **ELCL Book Club:** The first Wednesday of every month from 1:00-3:00 pm. This month’s selection is Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption by Laura Hillenbrand. For more information on the author, please go to: http://laurahillenbrandbooks.com. No registration is required.

**Computer Classes**
- **Basic Computer Classes with Kevin:** Every Saturday from 2:00-4:00 pm. Please call to register.
- **Computer Chat with Paul:** The first and third Friday of every month from 1:00-3:00 pm. Computer instructor, Paul, will be here to help with your computer issues and questions with one-on-one assistance. Preregistration is required.

**Children’s Programs**
- **Crafty Corner:** Saturday, April 26, from 3:00-4:30 pm. A monthly craft or activity for children ages 3 and up. Please register and please wear play clothes as it may get messy.
- **Family Drum Circle:** Saturday, April 19, from 1:30-3:00 pm. This family drum circle, presented by Steve and Giving Tree Music, is a fun and interactive program for all ages. Please register.

**Fiber Arts for Kids:** The second Wednesday of every month from 3:00-4:00 pm.
- **Fabric art projects for children, ages 7-14, include needlework, knitting, embroidery, crocheting, and quilting! Please register.
- **Food, crafts, homemade items, and holiday gifts at our downtown market. Rain or shine! No registration is required.

**Movie for Kids:** Thursday, April 24, from 3:30-5:00 pm. Enjoy the day off from school with a movie! Movie will be appropriate for school age children. No registration is required.

**Story Circle:** The first Thursday of every month from 1:00-3:00 pm. Stories & Silly fun for preschoolers, ages 3 to 5 (pre-K) get ready to read through songs, stories, and games. No registration is required.

**Stories & Sillyness:** The last Wednesday of the month from 1:00-3:00 pm. Stories & Silly fun for preschoolers, ages 3 to 5 (pre-K) get ready to read through songs, stories, and games. No registration is required.

**TARGET Family Yoga Story Time:** Saturday, April 19 & 26, from 9:30-10:30 am. Sponsored by TARGET, this children’s story time, for preschool and early elementary children and a parent or caregiver, is an hour of together time to share reading, learning letters and sounds, and learning some yoga related movement. No registration is required.

**Teddie Bear Family Story Time:** The last Wednesday of every month from 6:30-7:15 pm. An evening story time for families to hear great holiday, seasonal, and themed stories before bedtime - bring your teddy bears and wear your pajamas if you like! No registration is required.

**Teen Tutors:** Free assistance for students of all ages with Math, English, and Reading! Please register; please call for details.

**Tiny Tots Story Time:** Every Tuesday from 10:45-11:15 am. Fun stories and movement songs for toddlers, ages 18 months - 2 1/2 years old. No registration is required.
5 TIPS TO REDUCE THE COSTS OF COOLING YOUR HOME
Sandy Lucker - Air Doctor Air Conditioning and Heating, Inc.

Although we are still technically still in spring we Floridians know that hot summer weather is just around the corner. And while we may take air conditioning for granted, it’s generally an expensive luxury. Americans spend more than $22 billion a year on electricity to cool their homes with air conditioning — and use a whopping 183 billion kilowatt-hours, according to recent statistics from the U.S. Department of Energy. In Florida this can be 60% of the total energy use in your home. Here are some tips to save money this summer on your AC costs.

1. Use a programmable thermostat- These thermostats are relatively cheap and can be a big money saver. You program the schedule and the unit is automatically turned off during the times you are at work. You can also program it to adjust the temperature while you are sleeping and set it back to normal just before you get up. Many of the new programmable thermostats allow you to monitor and change settings from your smart phone.

2. Keep your filters clean – A dirty filter is an air conditioners greatest enemy. They starve the unit for air, cause them to freeze up and can damage the compressor. Keeping the filters clean and the registers unobstructed will add to the life and efficiency of your air conditioner.

3. Keep the area around the condensing unit clear of debris and bushes. This unit needs to breath and manufacturers recommend that a 12” zone free of everything must be maintained.

4. Have routine maintenance performed by a factory qualified service company. They will check connections, refrigerant levels, coil condition and operation of all safety to devices. This will avoid any problems before they become severe and will keep the unit operating efficiently.

5. Keep your equipment current – Running an antique air conditioner may seem like you escaped a major cost but in the long run costs you more money. Today’s AC systems operate on less than half the electrical power as those manufactured 10 years ago. They also use a new, more environmentally friendly (and cheaper) refrigerant.

Following the above tips will lower your energy bill and keep the air in your house clean and fresh. These tips were brought to you by Jim Lucker, Owner of Air Doctor Air Conditioning and Heating, Inc. Air Doctor can be reached at 727-821-1961.

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COLLECTIBLE BITS AND PIECES

By Paul J.H. Leaser, ELW Resident

RECOLLECTING

For the past ten years, I have “assailed” you with collecting articles—yes 10 years! The Oldsmar Community News, the East Lake Eagle, The Monitor, and of course The East Lake Heron. We have covered such topics as: Memories for Sale, which was Metro Goldwyn’s gigantic auction of its properties departments (I was there for two weeks of continual auctions). A World Of My Own allowed me a chance to elucidate my readers as to my entrance into the world of collecting.

The Poem That Saved a National Shrine, “Old Ironsides” by Oliver Wendell Holmes gave a passionate plea and created such indignation for its destruction, that the ship was saved and declared national memorial.

Florida In The Civil War revealed our states importance in the conflict; we were “worth our salt”. In The Heron, we have seen articles on Political Ribbons, Banks, and a piece as a tribute to early peddlers, whose every-day items have become our collectible antiques today. Fakes cautioned you to do your research if you are venturing into collecting rare and expensive items such as documents and art.

The world of early toys and weapons and the “Big Little Books” gave a variety of information, and perhaps a desire to collect them.

We turned to a period of patriotism in Of Men Of Valor, in which concentration was on biographies of famous heroes of our wards. And it gave me leave to tell you of a personal friend with whom I collected and never knew of his fame for many years; Col. Douglas “Duncan” Campbell, who was the first “ace” of World War I. Later, we paid tribute to him with a dinner on January 21, 2009 at our own East lake Woodlands Club.

Military items featured Gunpowder Flasks and my First Love, antique weapons, herein I shared with you my personal collection of Pennsylvania rifles and pistols.


I introduced you to King Bannerman and his castle on the Hudson River. The castle was a “storehouse” for military collectibles in the 1960’s. Vandals set fire to this iconic “warehouse” and ended the legend of the king of collecting.

Posters, “scratch art” (Scrimshaw) allowed me to share a prized powder horn from the 1700’s, which was a part of my own collection and now is an essential in my family’s inheritance.

Watches, Gals, Garters and Guns covered the “hide-away” weapons for protection in our past; Give Aways revealed the “treasures” of my youth; Orphan Annie, Tom Mix, Jack Armstrong, Charlie McCarthy, all contributed whistles, rings, compasses, etc., etc.

Shaving Mugs, Miniature Soldiers, Paper Weights, Eagle Head Swords, Aviation Art, Mettlach Steins and The Pipe brought us up to date.

Actually this is a very condensed list, but not a final one, hopefully... There are many more collectibles to be shared. They will undoubtedly out-last me!

Finally I would like to thank many of you for your interest and comment; I welcome and appreciate them all.
SUITE DREAMS!
By Sally Giar

If your bedroom doesn’t offer you a respite from the hustle and bustle of the day, then now’s the time to transform it! It’s a new year, filled with wonderfully exciting and new possibilities. The time and money you consider investing now will definitely pay off in big dividends in your future. Especially, because your bedroom redecorating project might just mean that you’ll find yourself being just a little happier, a bit more joyful, and most importantly at peace with yourself and your surroundings.

Decorating your master bedroom is probably more fun than decorating any other room in your home! Why? Because it’s the one room in your home that you can truly allow your personality to shine! Remember, this is your space, and you deserve the best!

And, as with every decorating project, first things first! It’s important to develop a decorating plan that fits your needs, your lifestyle and most importantly your pocketbook!

Consider taking these three simple and easy steps!

Step #1: Begin your project by visualizing, and then listing, all the types of activities you’ll want to conduct in your “get-away” haven. Perhaps it’s writing thought-provoking entries in your daily journal; reading your favorite books; knitting; needlework; watching old romantic movies on your TV/DVD player; daily meditation; contemplating your plans for the next day - whatever the activity, think through what types of things will make you the happiest in your new master bedroom retreat.

Step #2: Look at your bedroom space with a “critical” eye. Ask yourself, can your bedroom, with your given amount of space, accommodate all of the activities you listed. While the answer is usually yes, you may still need to take advantage of some clever pre-planning.

Step #3: Think about “coloring your world” – especially your soon to be redesigned master bedroom. As with most all decorating projects, one of your first priorities is locking in a color scheme. Color sets the stage and provides harmony to everything else that will eventually find its way into your new bedroom. It’s the backdrop that surrounds all of your furnishings, fabrics and accessories, lighting – EVERYTHING!
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**LIVE OAK OR LAUREL OAK, CAN YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE?**

Pam Brown of Pampered Gardeners, LLC (ELW resident)

When you first notice them, a majestic Live Oak and a Laurel Oak may look like the same tree, but there are some important differences that could be very important to you and your landscape over the years. Both are Florida native trees.

First let’s look at the characteristics of each tree:

**Live Oak, Quercus virginiana** is a large, sprawling tree that grows to a mature height of 60 to 80 feet with a wide spreading canopy of 60 to 120 feet. It develops very strong wood that is quite resistant to decay. These trees can live for 300 years or more, are very tolerant to drought and are somewhat tolerant of salt. The leaves of the Live Oak have smooth edges that are sometimes toothed and are a lustrous green on top and pale green with very fine fuzz on the underside. Live Oaks will retain leaves until after the next year’s foliage starts to emerge, making it a true evergreen. Clusters of three to five acorns are found on long stalks attached to twigs. The mature bark is a deep red-brown and slightly furrowed vertically.

**Laurel Oak, Quercus laurifolia** is a tall, broad tree that grows to a height of 60 or more feet with a fairly symmetrical oval canopy spread of 40 to 60 feet. The fast growth rate results in relatively weak wood that is prone to break and decay. Laurel Oaks have a lifespan of 50 to 70 years when grown in ideal conditions, but 30 years is more common in urban plantings. These trees are moderately drought tolerant and have a low salt tolerance. The leaves of the Laurel Oak are smooth, narrow, shiny green on top and pale underneath with a yellow midrib. The margins of the leaves are either smooth or irregularly lobed. All of the previous year’s leaves usually are shed in the early spring before the tree blooms and new leaves sprout. Acorns are about one half inch long and found singly attached directly to the twig. The bark is a dark reddish-brown that becomes deeply fissured with age.

Now, why is this important for you and your landscape? Research at the University of Florida has shown that the Laurel Oak is very prone to failure in hurricane winds due to the weak wood and their tendency to decay. These trees may not be appropriate to plant near a home or other structure. Deep roots and a relatively short height in relation to crown spread, along with strong wood help the Live Oak withstand the high winds and strong storm surges that can bring trees down during hurricanes. For research details that include most tree varieties: [http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/documents/FR173.pdf](http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/documents/FR173.pdf).

To complicate this issue, many oaks that are grown from acorns could be hybrids or crosses of the laurel oak and live oak that show some characteristics of both species. If you are going to plant an oak and you want a live oak, it is probably best to pay a bit more for the tree and purchase one of the cloned live oak varieties available to insure that you are planting a true live oak. ‘Cathedral’ and ‘Highrise’ are two cloned cultivars that are available in Florida. These clones also tend to grow straighter trunks and not spread the canopy as much as wild live oaks.

Another tree that you will see is the Sand Live Oak, *Quercus geminata*. It is another evergreen or live oak that is a good bit smaller than *Quercus virginiana*. This oak grows in the dry sandy soils of coastal dunes, hardwood forests, mixed pine uplands, scrub, and sandhills. Many of the oak trees that you see in Safety Harbor are sand live oaks. Sand live oaks grow best in partial shade to full sun and generally will slowly reach 50 feet tall. The thick, leathery leaves range from 1½ to 2½ inches long. They are elliptical in shape with coarse veins and smooth margins that curl inward creating a cup-like appearance. This makes the individual leaves look like little boats. The upper surface of the leaf is dark green and the underside is a dull gray to almost whitish color. The bark is rough to the touch, dark brown, and deeply furrowed. Acorns are produced annually and appear in groups of 1 to 3 in the fall.

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The Pinellas Opera League has a new venue for our showings at the Safety Harbor Public Library, located at 101 2nd Ave. N., Safety Harbor, FL 34695, diagonally across the street from the Safety Harbor Spa. Parking is in the back of the library. The phone number is 727-724-1325. We will be meeting in meeting room A at 1:30 p.m.

Building opens at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday April 13th, (not this is the second Sunday of the month), we will be showing “Nabucco” by Giuseppe Verdi. Admission is free.

Richard Davidson
Publicity Chairman Pinellas Opera League
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GARDEN CLUBS

The Palm Harbor Garden Club meets 11:00am, Monday April 14th at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, 1555 Windmill Point Rd., Palm Harbor, FL. Doors open 10:30am.

Our guest, Tim Nehls, will speak about Roses.
Light refreshments served.
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The Garden Club of Tarpon Springs meets Mon.,11am, April 7th, at St. Timothy’s Lutheran Church, 812 E.Tarpon Ave., Tarpon Springs.

Barbara Walker of the Clearwater Audobon Society will present a program on Garden Birds.
All are welcome. Refreshments served.
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Mark your calendars – Thursday Feb 27th at 10 am. at the East Lake Fire/Rescue Building near the corner of Tarpon Lake Blvd and Village Center Drive.

John Little, who donated his skills and materials, will bring East Lake Library’s first “Little Free Library” and Jim McCarthy will be digging the hole to “plant” our first LFL. Three more Little Free Libraries will be coming soon to Lansbrook and Brooker Creek Preserve.

I anticipate it will take about 30 minutes – so if you’d like to stop by to be the first to “take a book- leave a book”—plan to stop by to join in the excitement.

Lois Eannel, Director
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“RAISE THE ROOF” AT YOUR PALM HARBOR LIBRARY

“When I first arrived at Palm Harbor Library, I found a supporting staff, a caring community and a leaking library building,” says Gene Coppola, Director of the Palm Harbor Library. “Actually, we became quite proficient with rounding up and placing down all required buckets within a few minutes of hearing the first drops of rain. But we knew this fun had to stop some time so, in 2002, the library received a new roof with five new AC units. We haven’t missed the buckets since.” Hopefully, the bucket brigade is gone for good and the Palm Harbor Library roof will last until 2022 when the warranty runs out. To make sure that the buckets don’t come out again, Director Gene Coppola is planning ahead to have the funds available when they are needed. In 2002, approximately $192,000 was spent on the new roof. Of course, nothing stays the same and it will cost a few pennies more this time. A ball park estimate to replace the roof could be as high as $340,000 -- and that’s not even including the air conditioning units!

Capital dollars for this project need to be raised over the next few years. To help fund the project, the Palm Harbor Library has kicked off a new annual fundraising effort called “Raise the Roof.” It’s an idea based on a successful 20+ year model developed by an upstate New York all-volunteer fire department. This is how it works:

The library sells 1,000 tickets for drawings at $50 each. To make it even more affordable, you can have up to five people share a single ticket! This will raise $50,000 of which 62% is prize money.

Here’s what you can win:
1st Place- $10,000
2nd Place- 5,000
3rd Place-  2,500
Ten winners at $750 each
15 winners at $400 each

In addition, if your ticket is selected for a prize, it will go back into the drawing for all other prizes -- you could win more than once! Total payout to ticket holders will be $31,000!

There is an administrative cost of $1,500 resulting with the library collecting $17,500 total for its roof/AC project. Not the entire amount needed, but it’s a start.

Please come help your Palm Harbor Library! It’s easy -- just fill out an application (available at the library or at www.palmharborlibrary.org), mail it in with your check payable to “Palm Harbor Library” and a ticket will be mailed to you. The drawings will be held Saturday, November 15 beginning at 2:00 pm at Palm Harbor Parks and Recreation Center, located on 16th Street off Nebraska Avenue. You do not need to be present to win. Come win cash and help us raise the roof!

For additional information about this project, please call 727.784.3332, Ext. 3006.
There is little that is more important than feeling secure in your own home. While we can only control a small bit of the world around us, here’s some basic information to keep a home safe.

The goal of securing your home is two-fold: protecting your possessions, but also protecting the people who live there. Security professionals advise the “deter, detect and delay” tactics listed below.

Check your doors, windows and all locks: Deadbolts and secure, steel outer doors are important, as are secure windows that lock. Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed to prevent access to windows and decks on upper floors. If a door or window is in an out-of-the-way place that is easily accessible, consider securing it with bars or an outer security door. Simply placing a piece of wood in sliding glass doors or windows can prevent entry.

Have adequate lighting: On the outside of your home, lighted entryways and flood lights with motion sensors ensure that everyone, including you and your neighbors can see who is entering your abode.

Create limited entries with a perimeter and gate: Gates and fences can provide a feeling of stable security or of paranoia, depending on how they are used. Tasteful fencing can create a feeling of “place” that provides a positive look and feel to your home, while also adding a deterrent and a delay to criminals.

Be a friendly and observant neighbor: Neighborhoods with a “community watch” where each person is looking out for the next provide a sense of security. Generally people know each other and who lives where. Let neighbors know that you are crime conscious, and encourage them to be so, too.

Be discreet: While you do want neighbors to be informed to some degree, advertising more widely that you will be away from your home is less desirable. When seeking to find a house sitter or pet sitter, avoid advertising the dates of your travel.

Put on a good show: When you are going to be away from home for any period of time, one deterrent might be to make it look like someone is home. Often people who break in are simply looking to steal valuable items and prefer not to encounter people at all. Keep shades as they would normally be open or closed, and use timers to control lights and even music. Increasingly, “smart home” technology can enable homeowners to control the environment from a distance.

Get a dog: In addition to companionship, a dog could be an excellent deterrent to a burglar.

Get a security system: There are many types of systems with and without monitoring available. Some produce loud alarms that are designed to alert neighbors, others are silent and contact police. With the advent of inexpensive cameras, homeowners can set up video surveillance as well.

Get a safe: Using a home safe to secure valuables, guns and ammunition is an excellent idea. Consider using it to store important paperwork, like deeds, wills, other legal documents, social security cards, passports, as well as computer backups and photos.

Don’t leave your keys around: If a burglar sees a car in a garage or driveway and the keys are present, the temptation might be too much. Have a place for keys that is not well known or easily seen.

Having an eye for security can be like a game. The winning move is to create a home that provides you with a real feeling of security because you have addressed the issues.

If you are thinking of selling, you owe it to yourself to have a conversation with a real estate professional. We can give you sound advice and good, solid local market info that will greatly assist you.

And, if you or someone you know is even thinking of buying, a real estate professional is best able to go over price, payment, location, and value information for this very large decision.

I would be happy to be that real estate professional for you, your friends, and your family!


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4TH ANNUAL OLDSMAR CARES
GALA RAISES $66,500 FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Oldsmar, FL, February 21, 2014 - There was a lot of excitement in the air as we celebrated the Oldsmar Cares 4th Annual Wine and Food Gala. More than 500 people gathered at the Nielsen Ballroom eager to taste the delicious dishes prepared by fifteen area restaurants, bid on silent auction items, and sip craft beer, wine and our special drink the Sweetheart Gala-tini. The evening raised $66,500 with generous contributions from Diamond level sponsors including the City of Oldsmar, Nielsen, Oldsmar City Councilwoman Linda Norris, and Tampa Bay Downs. “We are proud to report a 20% increase over last year,” said David Wallace, Oldsmar Cares Gala co-Chair. “We have an amazing group of volunteers that work tirelessly all year to pull together a first class event.”

The sold out event surpassed expectations with the space at Nielsen transformed just hours before into an elegant Ballroom. The photo booth, donated by CCS Photography, and beer tasting and spin-the-wheel giveaway, provided by the Brass Tap, were both crowd pleasers. “No charity does more for the local community than Oldsmar Cares and that is why it’s my privilege to be here to support it,” said John Benincasa, Gala attendee.

This year twenty-one area restaurants and wine vendors delighted us with their signature dishes and wine tasting. The award for Best Food went to Salt Rock Tavern, Best Presentation went to Tampa Bay Cook’s Club, and Best Overall went to Amici’s Catering. “The restaurants outdid themselves again this year,” said Dan Saracki, Oldsmar Cares Gala co-Chair. “Oldsmar Cares gets people into the room but the variety of food and generous portions keep people coming back year after year.”

Oldsmar Mayor and US 105.5 radio personality Doug Bevis entertained the crowd as Master of Ceremonies and auctioneer. Oldsmar Council Members Linda Norris and Gabby McGee took turns at the microphone to auction off items like a Harley Davidson adventure weekend, a Saddlebrook golf and accommodation package, a 4-night getaway to a Highlands NC cottage, and a “Sunset St. Pete Style” package that included a BMW convertible rental and a stay at the Vinoy Renaissance Resort. 

One of the highlights of the evening was the drawing for the Grand Door Prize: dinner for two from all fifteen participating restaurants. That’s a night out every other day for a month for one lucky couple! It’s not surprising that the lucky winner shouted in delight when her name was called.

To view the 4th Annual Oldsmar Cares Wine and Food Gala video recap and photos visit www.oldsmarcares.org/gala.html.


Diamond Sponsors: City of Oldsmar, Nielsen, Oldsmar City Councilwoman Linda Norris, and Tampa Bay Downs.


Silver Sponsors: Sam and Sue Brandon, CSS Photography, Mercedes Benz of Tampa, Metro Bench, National Health Alliance, The Newhouse Media Group, Raymond James, Republic Services, and Zephyrhills Natural Spring Water.

Bronze Sponsors: Arthur Air, BankUnited, Dr. Mark Isenberg, Italiano Insurance, Moosehead Larger, Physicians Now, Jeff Taylor, Vology, and Zeigler Transmission and Auto Repair.

About Oldsmar Cares: 
Oldsmar Cares is a 501(c)(3) all volunteer organization with a mission to provide stop gap rent and utility assistance, a food pantry, and a clothes closet - all at no cost - to those in need in the greater Oldsmar area. Oldsmar Cares is located at 163 State Road 580 West, Oldsmar.
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