

CARROLLWOOD VILLAGE VOICE

A Legacy Community | "Best of the Best" award from Hillsborough County

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As we continue ahead in these unprecedented times, Suzanne and I would like to applaud our fellow Carrollwood Village residents and board members alike for remaining committed to kindness and the betterment of our community. There have been many examples of neighbors helping neighbors over the last few months and we can't thank everyone enough. The children are back to school, whether in person or virtually, and remaining positive and embracing change gracefully and having the important conversations with them is of the utmost importance to a positive resolution to everything that is happening around us.

Throughout our beautiful village you will notice homeowners taking pride in their properties by making improvements when necessary. I'd like to take a moment to remind everyone, as we are updating our properties and remodeling the exteriors, that ARC approval is required for all exterior improvements throughout all the phases, including exterior paint. You can find these guidelines online at www.CarrollwoodVillage.com and if there are any questions, please make sure you reach out to your ARC committee before the work is started.

Thank you for taking the time to read our community e-newsletter and for staying informed on the great things happening in and around our community. We encourage everyone who is interested to get involved and look forward to getting together with everyone soon!

Lindsey and Suzanne

Your contributions to the Carrollwood Village Voice and questions are welcome. Please email us at communications@carrollwoodvillage.com. We like to include articles in our Newsletter that reflect the opinions or ideas of our residents (please refrain from negative comments without a solution – we do not want this to be a place for airing complaints unless you have a solution). So take some time to put down your ideas down in writing and send to the email address listed above. When formulating your ideas/opinions, please keep the entire Village in your scope. We cannot address specific complaints at this email address.

Here's to hearing more from our Villagers!

A Message from the President of Phase III Regarding Speeding

Dear Carrollwood Village Neighbor,

As president of the Phase III Homeowners Association and as a member of the Village wide Traffic Calming Committee, I am very aware of all the accidents and numerous complaints about speeding in our neighborhood. We also receive complaints from residents who have received speeding tickets asking us to do something about that!! Let's be clear here, your Homeowners Association is not in any way sympathetic to people who speed in the Village.

The Village traffic calming committee was formed after a community survey back in the early 2000's and then a few years ago a second survey revealed that the number one concern in the Village was speeding traffic. Several of our residents have been killed in the Village by speeders. Two deaths most recently. That is devastating. Weekly we also see and pay for the damage of drivers going to fast stay on our curved roads, going up on to our sidewalks and medians, revealing the daily potential danger to pedestrians. The safety of our residents is your Homeowners Association's number one concern.

The Village is a high-risk area for pedestrians, cyclist and motorist with many people using our neighborhood as a "short – cut" to avoid heavy traffic and the traffic lights on the surrounding roads that are designed for a higher traffic count and speed limits. The county considers our roads essentially as a highway, whereas our Traffic Calming Committee continues to push for design changes in line with residential areas. To date we have only won long hard-fought small victories like the medians, lane narrowing and other changes. The county will not budge so the accidents and fatalities continue.

Recently we had a ticket complaint in the area on South Village around Clubhouse Drive. This is a particularly risky area with two lanes on each side. Just think about the folks living in the communities off this section of roadway (Whisper Sound to the West Village). These neighbors have to ingress and egress daily onto South Village in the face of high-speed risk takers. Also think of the many pedestrians and cyclists in the area. Our committee tried hard to reduce lanes in this area and have a merge lane for residents, but the county so far will not budge. (- it did not help, that unbelievably, we had folks from the Village show up at our meeting saying they were against this concept). We will continue the fight.

What we are left with is asking our Villagers to be traffic calming drivers. Drive the speed limit or below (as recommended at curves). I realize our modern cars make it hard to conceive that going 5-10 mph over the speed limit is not very fast, however in the physics of the accident world "moderate speeds" are 25-40 mph and "high speeds" are 40 mph and over. I was told by a traffic engineer long ago that there is an exponential increase in fatalities when speeds are increased from just from 35 to 40 mph. It's easy to get information on the web, information like: "Accidents that occur at 40 mph can cause irreparable damage to the brain, spinal cord, and delicate organs in the body."

Here's the other reality to speeding - the driver's brain needs time to process unpredictable events - like people pulling out of their subdivision, pedestrians or cars crossing the road, cars changing lanes, distracted drivers, etc. There is a lot of unpredictability and distractions along all our roads but especially South Village and West Village. At 43 mph you need to react to an event occurring 90 feet in front of you in one second (60 ft traveled in 1 second and another 30 feet to just stop your vehicle). That's if you're superhuman - even if you can react in 2 seconds that's over 120 feet of travel, in other words you will not stop in time to prevent an accident. Our cars make us feel so safe but the facts of accidents and fatalities tell another story.

I would also like to address the FHP and HCSO officers patrolling in the Village. This is strongly encouraged and requested by our Homeowners Associations. Phase I employs a State trooper. They pay for their presence - once the lights are on, the officer is off the HOA clock and on State time. (About 17000 tickets since its inception!) There have been 2 fatalities in the past 30 days; a car-pedestrian accident at Ehrlich and Burrington where the pedestrian was killed instantly and a fatality at South Village and Ehrlich where one of the drivers died of her injuries at the hospital. These scenes are horrifying for those injured and their families, those causing the injury, and the first responders.

One last note: Please do not expect drivers to stop as legally required at our cross walks. We have had 2 tragic pedestrian fatalities and many near misses. In addition to this violation and speeding, we also have an epidemic of people running stop signs! So pedestrians and parents and kids now at school bus stops, be extra alert.

If you have received a ticket, please don't complain to your board about this, instead channel the pain of getting that ticket into a positive by becoming a traffic calming resident driver. The official speed for roadways in the Village ranges from 25 mph to 35mph (30mph at every curve). For the sake of yourself your family and your neighbors, slow down, enjoy the beauty of our Village, look out for your neighbors and arrive home safely.

Bill West

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE & COMMUNITY STANDARDS

The Phase I and Phase III Board of Directors adopted “Community Standards” (Color Book Palette and Exterior Change Guidelines) a few years ago to help Homeowners thru the Architectural Review and Approval Process. All exterior improvements or alterations including additions, fresh paint, new roofing, fences, driveway and walkway pavers, doors, windows, mailboxes, landscaping and statues, design features, etc. need Architectural Review Committee approval. With technology this process is quick and very easy! Just go to the community website, Carrollwoodvillage.com and under the Resources tab you will find the information you need plus the instructions on how to submit your request online. If the committee has any questions, they will reach out to you. The turn around time for approval is typically quick if you stick to the selections in the guide.

The Architectural Committees and the Boards of Directors have a fiduciary responsibility to enforce this procedure and do not look upon a retro-active submission in a favorable light. The excuse of “We did not know” is not going to be acceptable. In the recent past, homeowners have had to replace roof shingles that were not approved, repaint houses, remove fences and front yard statues. The Architectural Committees and Boards of Directors are not in a position to “make exceptions” to the rules because the changes have already been made. Their decisions must be the same decision for any homeowner making that change. Just because you see a similar color, fence design, etc. on another property in the Village does not mean your request will be approved!

The Color Book Palette and Exterior Changes Guidelines are updated frequently so the look of the Village and its residences stays current. That is why you must get approval even if you are repainting the same color. For example, your paint color may no longer be on the approved list or perhaps a previous owner did not get the selection approved and the color was “grandfathered-in” until it was time to repaint. This option is no longer granted to homeowners who did not receive ARC approval for the work. Fences are also an item whose design may not have been originally approved so when it comes time to replace the fence it must be brought into compliance.

The majority of the requests fly thru the approval process and the houses look great! We appreciate your cooperation in keeping our village standards at the highest level.

PHASE III POLICY CHANGE TO POND BANK MAINTENANCE



The Carrollwood Village Phase III Homeowners Association maintains 14 ponds. This is the 3rd largest expense in our HOA budget. While the need to maintain the appearance of the pond is important, paramount is the health of the ponds, our residents, and the local environment. Through consultation of pond maintenance professionals and the county extension service we have identified the following issues:

Residents bordering the HOA ponds contribute to poor pond health issues and high cost remediation by:

- Mowing the HOA owned land right to pond bank. The HOA owns a minimum of 20 feet up from pond bank.
- Fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides yard runoff (and sometimes by direct application).
- Mowing grass clippings directly into the pond.

The goal of the new policy is to:

- Mitigate algae blooms and low oxygen levels (fish kills) especially problematic in the summer heat.
- Prevent bank erosion and other factors lowering the depth of the pond by the buildup pond “muck”.
- Reduce herbicide use by our pond maintenance company.
- Lower long-term costs while moving to a healthier pond environment.
- Reduce/eliminate pollutants entering the local environment and biology (ie. wildlife and human life).

Effective immediately for residents who maintain the 20 ft HOA owned common land between the pond and their property:

- Leave a 2-3 ft uncut strip or natural buffer between the pond bank and the mowed area. (See below explanation)
- Stop using fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides within 20 ft of the pond.

Explanation: The 2-3 ft. natural buffer will provide filtration and prevention of nutrient runoff into the pond. It will also promote higher oxygen levels and prevent erosion. This natural buffer will take at least 18 months for the right plants to be the predominate plants growing in the buffer. So, it may look a little “wild” during this period.

In addition, the plan also includes your HOA’s financial commitment to plant aquatic plants along the littoral shelf in the pond. For this planting to be successful there can be no herbicide use.

The appearance and the health of your pond requires your help and cooperation!
If you have any questions or would to speak with someone please email thevillage@greenacre.com with your question, address and contact information.



Jointed Rush



Pickerel Weed



Duck Potato

GOLF CARTS: UNDERSTANDING THE RULES OF THE ROAD

The advent of COVID-19 has resulted in the increased usage of golf carts throughout Carrollwood Village. While golf carts appear to be an easy, convenient way to move around the community, their operation is governed by the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and are subject to enforcement by the Florida Highway Patrol and the Hillsborough County Sheriff.

The August edition of this newsletter addressed the improper use of golf carts resulting in damage to the country club grounds, and we received many questions about the proper use of golf carts, and low-speed vehicles, throughout the Village. With more weight and higher speeds, golf carts and LSV's are causing a rise in injuries and fatalities, making it even more important for cart owners and residents to understand the rules of the road.

GET TO KNOW THE RULES OF THE ROAD

WHEN IS A GOLF CART A 'GOLF CART' AND WHEN IS IT A 'LOW-SPEED VEHICLE'?

It is first important to know the difference between a golf cart and a low-speed vehicle. In Florida, a golf cart is defined in section 320.01(22), Florida Statutes as, "a motor vehicle that is designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding speeds of 20 MPH". A low-speed vehicle (LSV) is a four wheeled vehicle with top speeds of 21-25 MPH. Golf carts can be converted to low-speed vehicles and vice versa.

WHEN A GOLF CART IS A 'GOLF CART'

According to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Official Florida Driver License Handbook (ref. pg. 46), a golf cart can only be driven on golf courses or roadways that are designated for golf carts. Additionally, State Law 5-3-2017 on golf cart restrictions states, "operating golf carts on public roads, streets, or sidewalks is prohibited in Florida, but there are exceptions." Per Steve Shirley, Phase I, and the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, there are currently no legally designated roadways for golf carts in Carrollwood Village.

ADDITIONAL GOLF CART REGULATIONS INCLUDE:

- A golf cart must not be driven by anyone under the age of 14 on public roads or streets.
- All local and state traffic laws must be obeyed, including yielding the right-of-way.
- A golf cart must only be operated during the hours between sunrise and sunset, unless the local government allows them to be driven outside of those hours (additional equipment is required for night driving.)
- You may cross state roads if the posted speed limit is 45 MPH or less and only at an intersection with a traffic control device.

FAST FACT:

There are currently no legally designated roadways for golf carts in Carrollwood Village.

WHEN A GOLF CART IS A 'LOW-SPEED VEHICLE'

For a golf cart to be considered a low-speed vehicle, it must be equipped with the following: headlamps, stop lamps, turn signals, tail lamps, reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rear-view mirrors, a wind shield, seat belts, and a vehicle identification number. A valid driver's license is required to operate a low-speed vehicle.

Prior to titling and registering a converted golf cart, the vehicle must be inspected and assigned a VIN at Motorist Services Regional Office. The converted golf cart must be street-legal before applying for title and registration.

Once the vehicle is registered it also must be properly insured and can only be operated on streets where the posted speed limit is 35 MPH or less. Here is a link to a helpful brochure (<https://www.flhsmv.gov/pdf/mv/lowspeedvehicles.pdf>) about owning and operating an LSV.

If you have questions about the proper use of golf carts in Hillsborough County, please contact the local Sheriff's Office or Department of Motor Vehicles.

WATCH FOR PEDESTRIANS

Keeping an eye out for pedestrians is important at any speed. While fatality rates increase with speed, injuries also can have devastating effects.



THANKS TO THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FROM PHASE III

Your Phase III Homeowners Association applied for and was awarded a tree grant – this is one of the ways we strive to help keep our budget costs down.

Thanks to the Hillsborough County Commissioners for awarding Carrollwood Village Phase III a 2020 Tree Grant. The grant helped the Phase III Landscape Committee purchase and plant 18 Florida Friendly trees. The Landscape Committee choose 10 bright pink, single trunk Crepe Myrtle trees to line West Village Dr. The goal is in line with the branding project initiated several years ago to “brand” the neighborhood with a special look so it is easily recognized by the residents and visitors. These trees follow the theme of the plantings at the entrances of the individual villages. The funds also helped purchase 8 Live Oaks to shade the playground, benches and multi-purpose field. These trees will provide shade and beauty to the Village in the decades to come. The Landscape Committee plans to continue the vision by planting the bright pink Crepe Myrtle trees along the boulevards in Phase III.



MEDEXPRESS REZONING UPDATE - THE WETLANDS JUST NORTH OF BONEFISH GRILL



The zoning hearing occurred on August 4, 2020 and the Zoning Master recommended approval. The next and possibly the final step is the Board of County Commissioners meeting on October 13, 2020 at 9 AM. You can stay informed by following “SAVE CARROLLWOOD’S WETLANDS” on Facebook and on the Hillsborough County website <https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/businesses/zoning/look-up-a-zoning-case>, follow the instructions on the screen, entering the tracking number 19-1169 .

WHAT IS NEW AT THE CARROLLWOOD VILLAGE COUNTY PARK?

The beginning of September saw the opening of the long-awaited Bump track and Extreme outside exercise equipment. The Bump track has been discovered by skateboarders and cyclist. They are very entertaining to watch in action.

A Phase II resident was using the Extreme exercise equipment the first day it was open and shared that she thought it was much better than her indoor gym!

The nature center is getting close to completion so stay tuned.

This summer the boardwalk across the lake opened and is a lovely stroll. The splash pad opened in time for Labor Day and was immediately visited by the younger kids.

The picnic tables and shelters are still closed due to the pandemic.

The Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation Department was recognized by the State with the 2020 Agency of Excellence Award. To read more about the award here is the link <https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/newsroom/2020/09/02/parks-and-recreation-recognized-by-state-with-2020-agency-excellence-award>. Our park is an outstanding addition to our community!



RESIDENT'S CORNER



Question: "Why does the Homeowners Association Board of Directors not respond to neighborhood issues on Nextdoor - it looks like they are not willing to address real issues."

Reply: Attorneys for Homeowners Associations statewide direct members of a Board of Directors not to respond to any issues via social media. A response on social media is just one individual's opinion, they cannot speak for the Board. In fact, the Sunshine Law in Florida requires all Homeowner's Association meetings to be properly noticed, open to all member and all business be conducted at the Association meetings. A majority number of Directors cannot serve on a Committee unless the committee follows the rules for having an open meeting with proper notice. Committees can work independently but their recommendations must be presented at the Association meeting and be voted on by the Board of Directors.

If a property owner has a question or would like to make the Association aware of an issue, they can request in advance of the meeting to be placed on the agenda for the Homeowners Association meeting. Our Carrollwood Village Homeowners Associations meet monthly on following schedule:

Phase I the last Monday of the Month

Phase II the last Tuesday of the Month

Phase III the last Wednesday of the Month

The meetings are subject to change or cancellation so please check with Thevillage@greenacre.com to confirm.

Currently all meetings are held via Zoom, please email Thevillage@greenacre.com a request to attend the meeting with your name and property address and you will be emailed a link to login to the meeting.

NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK LIGHTS ON WEST VILLAGE

Thanks to the County two new crosswalk lights have been installed on West Village Dr. near the County Carrollwood Village Park. The Park Conservancy had requested the lights from the County before the park opened to make it safer for Villagers walking to the park! The lights are at the pedestrian entrance to the Carrollwood Village Park and other one is at Wellesford Wy. If you are walking or cycling please use the crosswalks for your safety. Drivers please stop when you see the lights at the crosswalks flashing.



FOOD TRUCK STOPS AT THE CARROLLWOOD CULTURAL CENTER



The Carrollwood Cultural Center is inviting area food trucks to the Village! Food trucks are scheduled in advance to help ensure social distancing. New food truck stops are being added all of the time, so visit carrollwoodcenter.org for an updated schedule.

New dates are being added weekly! To schedule your food truck to appear at the Center, email Aaron Washington at aaron@carrollwoodcenter.org.

September 17: Tree Dog Roots (3-6 p.m.)

October 19-23: Sweetie's BBQ (noon-6 p.m.)

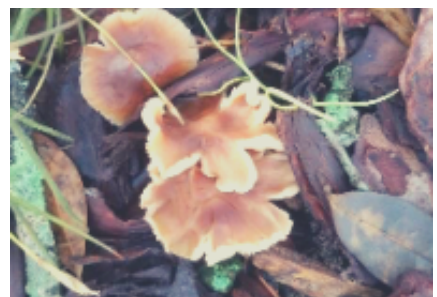
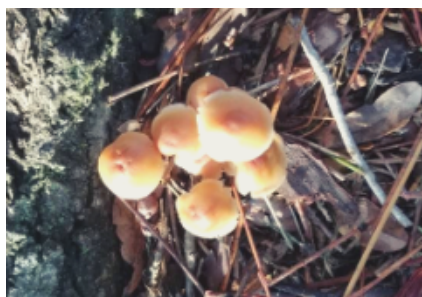


NATIONAL MUSHROOM DAY 2020 IS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15TH

Mushrooms are the fleshy fruiting bodies of fungi, and there are a variety of species. They were first cultivated in 1707. To celebrate there are lots of different ways to utilize mushrooms in cooking so on National Mushroom Day get creative. Swap out your juicy beef patty for a juicy portobello mushroom burger, enjoy a hearty mushroom soup or take your omelet to the next level. Not only are mushrooms delicious but they are also nutritious. Mushrooms have a high protein content, contain B vitamins, vitamin C, calcium, potassium and zinc.

There are many varieties of mushrooms that I have seen on my walks in the neighborhood recently thanks to the rainy weather!

Please do not eat the wild mushrooms as they are poisonous!



SEPTEMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

The monthly Board of Directors Meetings are conducted via Zoom. You will need to sign-up to attend the meeting, please email Thevillage@greenacre.com before NOON the day of the meeting if you wish to attend. If you wish to speak during the resident comment section of the meeting you must sign-up to speak in advance at Thevillage@greenacre.com. The notice of the meeting and the agenda will be posted on the bulletin board at the park and on the website under the *Resources* tab in advance of the meeting and an email sent to you the afternoon of the meeting with the link to the Zoom meeting if you have signed up to attend.

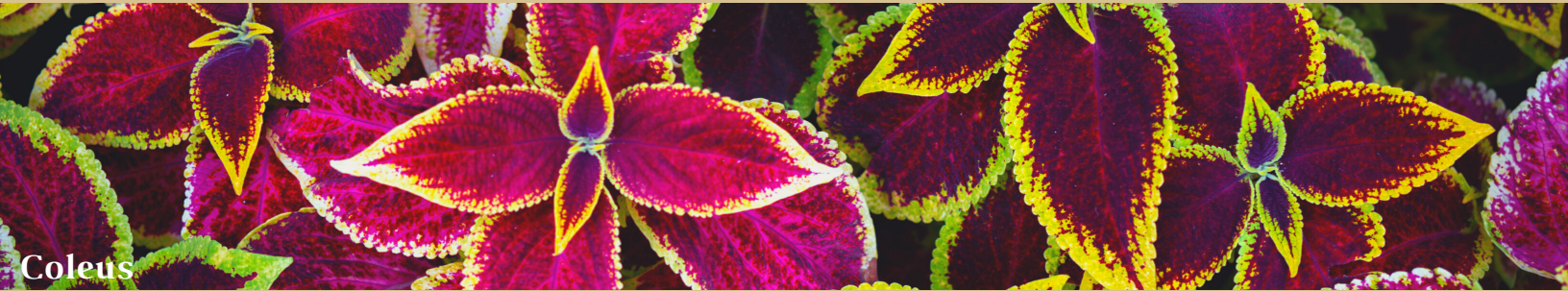
October 5 Phase I Board of Directors Meeting 6 p.m.

September 29 Phase II Board of Directors Meeting 7 p.m.

September 30 Phase III Board of Directors Meeting 7 p.m.



WHAT TO PLANT IN SEPTEMBER



Coleus

WHAT TO PLANT AND WHAT TO DO

Annuals & Bedding plants: If summer beds need refreshing, try ageratum, coleus, celosia, zinnia, and wax begonia for color into fall.

Bulbs: Add color, texture, and pattern to the garden with the many varieties of elephant's ear that are available.

Herbs: Plant herbs that tolerate the warm temperatures of early fall, such as Mexican tarragon, mint, rosemary, and basil.

Vegetables: It is hot, but numerous cool-season (as well as warm-season) crops can be planted.

What to Do: Lawn problems: Continue to monitor the lawn for signs of insect damage. Fall armyworms, chinch bugs, mole crickets, and sod webworms are still active this month.

Perennials and bulbs: Divide and replant perennials and bulbs that have grown too large or need rejuvenation. Add organic matter to new planting areas and monitor water needs during establishment.

Irrigation: Check that irrigation systems are providing good coverage and operating properly before summer rains taper off.

Citrus: Fertilize citrus with a balanced fertilizer either this month or in October. If the weather has been rainy, do not use soluble nitrogen as rains will leach it from the soil too quickly.

Vegetable gardens: Prepare the fall vegetable garden if not done in August. Using transplants from your local garden center will get the garden off to a fast start, but seeds provide a wider variety from which to choose.



ZINNIA



WAX BEGONIA



ROSEMARY



BASIL