

Wickham Forest Homeowner's Association

<http://www.wickhamforest.com>

November 2016



Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday celebrated in Canada and the United States. It was originally celebrated as a day of giving thanks for the blessings of the harvest and of the preceding year. Thanksgiving is celebrated on the second Monday of October in Canada and on the Fourth Thursday of November in the United States. Here are some interesting facts about Thanksgiving:

- The Plymouth Pilgrims were the first to celebrate Thanksgiving.
- The pilgrims arrived in North America in December 1620.
- The Pilgrims sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to reach North America.
- The Pilgrims celebrated the first Thanksgiving in the fall of 1621, at Plymouth Massachusetts, and it lasted for three days.
- The drink that the Puritans brought with them in the Mayflower was beer.
- The Wampanoag Indians were the people who taught the Pilgrims how to cultivate the land.
- President George Washington issued the first national Thanksgiving Day Proclamation in the year 1789 and again in 1795.
- The annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade began in 1920.
- Californians are the largest consumers of turkey in the US.

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CONTACTS

Association Board

Wickham-
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Mary Greenfield
1st Vice President
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Nancy Phillips, 2nd Vice President
(321) 255-1596

Carol Smith, Secretary
(321) 525-9517

Ed Clark, Treasurer
(321) 255-9476

Architectural Review Committee
Carol Theiler, Chairperson
(321) 259-7400

- Susie Nichols
- Linda Beckwith
- Dan Reichel
- Bernadette Pinto (alt)
- Georgette McWilliams

Webmaster
Duane Charter (321) 255-8382

Wickham Forest Website
<http://www.wickhamforest.com>

North Melbourne HOA Alliance
www.northmelbournehomewonersalliance.com

Wickham Forest Board of Directors Meeting

DATE: September 28, 2016

Board Members present: Pres. Ingrid Smith, 1st Vice Pres. Mary Greenfield, 2nd Vice Pres. Nancy Phillips, Treasurer-Ed Clark, and Secretary Carol Smith

Meeting convened at 7:05 PM at 2540 Red Maple Place.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

President's Report:

The Board now has quotes from three management companies. The Board is looking into whom is responsible for the swale maintenance, and is also contacting the HOA attorney, for legal clarifications. A motion was made and approved to put an aeration pump on the common area behind Bent Pine Street, to help with pond scum. Plans/work are continuing for the entrance way.

1st VP Report: The islands have been weeded and the two flower beds at the entrance have been cleared of weeds and old plants. The lighting is being moved and updated on both sides. Also, tree stumps and old shrubs have been removed in preparation for the planting of new landscaping.

2nd VP Report: The following letters of violations were mailed: 4-A/C unit; 6-Parking; 7-Lawn Maintenance; 1-Political Sign; 8-Swale Maintenance; 2- Playground equipment
Total—28

Treasurer's Report: Report was read and approved.

Old Business: Motion was made and approved to select Leland Management Company. Motion was made and approved to raise the assessment the allotted 15%, effective with 2017 dues. The new amount will be \$128.00.

ECOR has treated the ponds. Bike path on Wild Wood Drive has been re-paved.

Ingrid made a motion to adjourn, all approved.

The meeting adjourned at 08:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

CAROL SMITH, Secretary

WFHOA TREASURERS REPORT

9-1-2016 - 9-30-2016

INCOME

Dues	\$2,223.00
Fees	\$100.00
Fines	
Returned CK	
TOTAL INCOME	TOTAL \$2,323.00

EXPENSES**Administrative Expenses:**

Corporate Report
Office Supplies
Newsletter
Bank Fees
Meeting Room
Accountant
Computer Maintenance

TOTAL \$0.00

OPERATING EXPENSES:

Entrance Decorations	
FPL	\$78.08
PO Box Rent	
Insurance	
Postage	\$80.99
Legal Fees	
Web Hosting	
Garage Sale Ad	
Decorating Contest Winners	
Salary	
Holiday Decorations	
Holiday Bonus Arc	
County Taxes	

TOTAL \$159.07

MAINTENANCE EXPENSES:

Flags & Repairs	
Ponds Qrtly	
Ponds	\$290.00
Mowing	\$450.00
Entrance Landscaping (Tree Trim)	
Excavation Mowing & Repairs	
Entrance Stone Repair	
Sprinkler Repair	\$325.00
Pressure Washing	

TOTAL \$1,065.00

TOTAL EXPENSES \$1,224.07

CASH ON HAND:

Chase Checking	\$53,291.00
Chase Savings	\$12,504.17

TOTAL \$65,795.17

Wickham Forest ARC Meeting Summary

Date: October 11, 2016

Members Present:

Susie Nichols;

Georgette McWilliams

Carol Theiler

Requests Approved:

2505 Bent Pine Street: Install pavers in front and on side of driveway

2770 Forest Run Drive: Remove large tree on northeast corner of house

4380 Wood Haven Drive: Enclose existing covered patio with hurricane impact windows and impact glass French doors

A FRIENDLY REMINDER: The ARC Committee is unable to consider requests for painting without a color sample. We cannot take just a name or “same as before”. Requests submitted without proper documentation just delay the approval of your request. Thank you, for all of your cooperation.

Our next meeting will be November 8, 2016, 7:00 P.M., at 4590 Willow Bend Drive

Most items are easily approved and most questions easily answered. We are all working to make our Wickham Forest neighborhood the best and loveliest in the area! Also, remember to check the covenants or the ARC members if you have any questions regarding exterior changes.



Annual Christmas Decoration Contest

Wickham Forest will continue our Annual Christmas Decoration contest again this year. Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 homes decorated for the holiday season. Homes that won in the last 2 years are not eligible to win again this year. Judging will start at 7 PM on either the 21st or 22nd of December.

WHAT ARE YOUR SPRINKLERS DOING?

St Johns River Water Management District watering regulations call for no more than two days of watering, and then only if needed, and never between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Homes with odd numbered addresses

(ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9) can water on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Homes with even numbered addresses (ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, and 8) can water on Thursdays and Sundays. These restrictions apply to private wells and water from public utilities. All of the excess water runs into the road drains and eventually ends up in the Indian River Lagoon, even if you are miles from the waterway. As you probably know, the estuary is in a state of crisis due in part from excess runoff from our streets and yards. Please be a good steward of our land and water and check your sprinkler system. Installing a rain gauge on your system will turn the sprinklers off when there is sufficient rain.



YARD CONDITION OF VACANT HOMES

The Board receives numerous complaints about different properties within Wickham Forest that are not being properly maintained. The Board is working hard to identify and take action to ensure all homes within the subdivision are maintained properly. Sometimes we are successful in contacting the homeowner,

responsible realtor, or finance company and are able to work with them to maintain the property. Unfortunately, there are some properties where we cannot reach the proper authority to resolve the issue.

While the Board will continue to attempt to identify the responsible person and resolve these issues, there is also another solution that can sometimes be effective. If the property is so overgrown or deteriorated that it is a safety hazard for kids in the neighborhood, please call Melbourne Code Enforcement at (321-608-7905) and ask them to assist in taking care of the property.

In some cases, the Board has hired a company to cut the grass. But before that can be done, we have to contact our legal counsel and determine the best course of action. When possible, we do take legal action to recover the fees paid or fines assessed.

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS

The board would like to welcome you to the community. If you do not have a copy of our Covenants and Deed Restrictions, or have any questions about them, please contact any board member.

A few reminders regarding our Covenants, for those who do not have a copy —

1. **Yard trash is picked up on Fridays.** Yard trash should not be placed at the curb until the night before pick-up. Tree branches/shrub clippings, etc. need to be cut down to 4 foot sections and bundled for easier pick up by waste management. **Waste Management will NOT pick up any yard trash in plastic bags.**
2. **Bulk Items:** You do need to call Waste Management to schedule a pickup bulk items (including furniture). These items can be placed at the curb on Fridays. The truck that picks up the yard trash will make note of the address and return later in the day to pick up bulk items. They will be automatically picked up as long as nothing was longer than 4 ft.; the same as yard trash. information, contact Waste Management at 321-723-4455.
3. **Electronics:** You still need to call to arrange a special pick up for appliances and electronics.
4. **Garbage is picked up on Tuesdays and Fridays. Recycling is picked up Wednesday.** Garbage containers/recycling bins should not be placed at the curb until 5pm the night before pick up. Garbage containers/recycling bins must be stored as not to be visible from the street or adjacent property within sight distance of the lot. Only items in the recycling container will be picked up on Wednesday. Large loose items will be picked up on Friday.
5. If you are planning to paint your home or plan any exterior changes, please contact the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) for approval **BEFORE** starting any new project. A sample of paint color, shingle type/color, plan layout, etc. must be submitted to the ARC for approval.
6. Waste Management trucks are automated, maned by only one employee. Therefore, any trash articles NOT in the garbage bin WILL NOT be picked up. The driver is not supposed to leave his truck.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Melbourne Police Dept. (non-emergency) (321) 608-6731 (MPD1)
Fire Department (321) 752-4642
Melbourne City Hall (321) 727-2900
City of Melbourne Water Department (Normal Hours) (321) 674-5726
City of Melbourne Water Department (Emergency) (321) 255-4622
Fix a pothole: City of Melbourne (321) 953-6231
FPL Power Outage (800) 468-8243
FPL Meter Check (800) 468-8243
Florida City Gas leaks, Odors, or Emergencies (888) 352-5325
Waste Management 321 723-4455
Appliance Pick up: (321) 953-6302
Large yard pile Pick Up: (321) 953-6302
Dispose of old paint or other household chemicals: (321) 255-4365
AT&T Residential Repair Service: (877) 737-2478
AT&T Fast Access DSL Technical Support: (888) 321-2375
Bright House Customer Service (321) 254-3300
Bus Transportation (321) 242-6497



Fun Facts about Veterans Day:

Veterans Day is an official United States public holiday, observed annually on November 11, that honors military veterans, that is, persons who served in the United States Armed Forces. It coincides with other holidays, including Armistice Day and Remembrance Day, celebrated in other countries that mark the anniversary of the end of World War I; major hostilities of World War 1 were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, when the Armistice with Germany went into effect. The United States previously observed Armistice Day. The U.S. holiday was renamed Veterans Day in 1954.

Veterans Day is not to be confused with Memorial Day; Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans, while Memorial Day honors those who died while in military service. November 11 is both a State and Federal Holiday. Today, there exists about 1.6 million female veterans.

Between 1971 and 1977, Veterans Day was celebrated on the fourth Monday in October. It was changed back to its original date, on November 11, 1978 due to a President Gerald R. Ford's signing of Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat 479). Arlington National Cemetery has ceremony on Veterans Day every year to honor those who died during times of war. The ceremonies are held around the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and at 11:00 AM, on November 11, a combined color guard representing all military services executes "Present Arms" at the tomb.

The word veteran comes from the nomenclature of the old English language, meaning old experienced soldier. The first use of the word veteran came to use in 1789, in the English language when referring to a former member of the armed forces or an ex-serviceman. The extended meaning of the word goes back to someone who has served a longtime in any position. California has more U. S. military veterans than any other state. There have been millions of heroes who have died for our country, and while these facts may be interesting and informative, remember these heroes sacrificed their lives so you could have a say in America.



PARKING ISSUES:

Parking over the sidewalk is prohibited by the City of Melbourne. An anonymous e-mail can be sent to:

codecompliance@mlbfl.org.

They will need the street address and house number to send someone out. **Parking the wrong way on the street is a MPD issue.** A call can be

placed to the Melbourne Police department's non-emergency phone number at 321-608-6731. **This notice serves as a reminder to all homeowners to park their vehicles in their garages or driveways.**

FALL CLEANUP:

Now would be a good time to spruce up your yard while the weather is still cooling down and is not as hot. Keep the lawn in good order and repair with sodding, seeding, watering, mowing and edging. Consider fertilizing the lawn, but remember it is illegal to apply fertilizers within 10 feet of any water body or to apply them if rain is likely.

Keep all trees and shrubbery pruned and clear out weeds/grass, and replace dead or damaged vegetation. Be mindful of plants and grass growing over sidewalks, interfering with walkers. If you maintain your own yard, be sure to trim/edge the grass along the sidewalk, and easement to the street.

It is **ILLEGAL** to blow grass clippings into the street, gutter, ponds, or any other type of water body. Instead, by blowing them back into your yard it will allow nutrients to return to the soil. Blowing grass clippings into the street, gutter, or pond is prohibited by the City of Melbourne Fertilizer Ordinance (Section 27., Article IV) and can cause issues with algae or pond scum. The property owner and the person responsible for violating the ordinance can be fined \$200.00.

Please keep in mind when mowing, weeding and trimming your yard to store the collected waste out of sight until Thursday 5:00 PM for the Friday pick up.

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

Holiday season is upon us and during this time it is a prime time for criminal activity. Shoppers and residences become easy targets as the criminals use the holidays to target victims who may be distracted by the busy season. Crooks love the holidays as much as everyone else as it's an opportunity for crime. The following tips from the Melbourne Department Crime Prevention Unit can help you be more careful, prepared and aware during the holiday season. Taking a few prevention measures can help keep your holiday season joyous:

- *Appear confident and alert in parking lots—Criminals seek out preoccupied shoppers.
- * Park in a well lit area .
- *Close your car windows and lock your doors.
- *Avoid carrying large amounts of cash (Use credit cards when possible).
- * Carry purses close to your body, not dangling by the strap.
- *Men should carry their wallets in a front or inside pocket.
- *Don't hang purses on the back of a chair.
- *Keep packages inside trunk....out of sight.
- *Dress appropriately, avoiding flashing clothes and jewelry.
- *Place gifts where they can't be seen from the outside.
- *Limit the amount of packages you carry.
- *Keep packages locked in your car trunk while shopping.
- *Move your car to a different location each time you pack in more items.
- *Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, "con-artists" may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.
- *Don't announce your new high-dollar purchases after the holidays. Break down the boxes of TVs, stereos, computers, etc. and turn them inside out before putting them in the trash.

If you see any activity that is suspicious, immediately call MPD and report what you see. By all means, do not get out of your vehicle and approach anyone or chase them. It is not a good idea! You don't know what type of weapons they may carry with them. It is important to keep our citizens safe in our communities. Awareness, upon seeing any suspicious activities should be followed by reporting them immediately to the Police. Take precautions in keeping yourself, your family and your home secure.

