

Halifax Plantation Phase One Newsletter

Volume 2. March 2024

Alligator Awareness Month

Spring has sprung and along with everything budding and leafing out, be aware that this time of year the alligators are on the move. An email was recently sent out to residents and posted on our website, that there is a 3-4 foot gator in the creek behind Tano/Kiowa area, close to the power lines. It is also a safe bet to assume that there **could** be gators in our retention pond behind Acoma and Campa.

This time of year adolescent males are on the move looking for their own territory. They are most active at night or dawn. While alligators are basically shy, residents are warned to keep their dogs leashed and away from the water's edge. Good advice for humans as well. (But not the leash part!).

Never feed the gators as trouble ensues when gators think of humans as a food source. If you find a gator by your doors, your pool enclosure or *in* the pool, contact the Nuisance Alligator hotline at 386.392.4286.

As Laine pointed out, we live in a special area adjacent to the Bulow Creek State Park. It *is* good to be aware and respectful of our wildlife neighbors!

Many thanks to Laine Keltner for supplying this alert and information.



Calendar

March 19th Monthly HOA Board Meeting @ 4:00 p.m. at the Halifax Gazebo on Acoma Drive 1-3/4 miles south of Old Dixie Highway.

April 16th Monthly HOA Board Meeting @ 4:00 p.m. at the Halifax Gazebo on Acoma Drive 1-3/4 miles south of Old Dixie Highway.

NOTE: May is roof and driveway inspection month. Be sure to book your vendor ahead of time! Our Board's goal is zero citations.

Celebrate Spring!

Gardeners' Corner: I had to share this photo of our azaleas at their peak bloom! One of the (many) perks of living here is the early spring garden blooms. Azaleas are not fussy plants; a bit of fertilizer and soil acidifier sets them up for healthy growth and blooms. The fencing is to keep the hungry deer away!

If you would like to share some of your gardening success photos, please submit them to Robin Polletta at: rlp5558@yahoo.com



“Come gentle Spring! ethereal Mildness! Come!

James Thompson, 1728

ARBORIST

By Wanda Bankston, Chair of the LPC

My ring doorbell went off and I had another tree service contractor on my front porch. The third in 2 weeks. I explained again that: 1. I did not want to cut my trees and 2. There is no solicitation in Halifax Plantation Phase 1.

Since moving here 8 years ago we have had an endless parade of tree service contractors telling us all kinds of nonsense about why we need to cut our trees. I hired a licensed and trained professional Arborist, who is not affiliated with any tree service contractors, to tell us the truth about our trees. As I suspected, no cutting is necessary or advisable. Tree service contractors make money by cutting, and it is not surprising that they never met a tree that did not need cutting.

As the Chair of the Landscape/Pond Committee, it pains me to see my neighbors spending their money cutting their trees when it is not necessary to protect their home or advisable for the health of their trees. For \$65 I put all the garbage I had been told by tree service contractors to bed. That is all the Arborist charged to evaluate my trees. And I learned a lot. I highly recommend that anyone thinking about cutting trees on their property hire a licensed, non-affiliated, independent Arborist first. It is well worth their fee. And I hope that ARC will recommend the same before granting permission for any cutting that is not threatening a structure. Your wallet will be happier and so will your trees.

I am including the names of 3 independent Arborists for your consideration: Ray Jarrett 386-295-0481, Dani Keller 386-216-4481, Don Spence 386-235-0404. All 3 come recommended. You can Google for more names.

Do due diligence.

Our trees are what make our community special. Let's protect and treasure them.