

# Halifax Plantation Phase 1 April/ May 2024 Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 4

Robin Polletta, Editor  
rlp5558@yahoo.com

## **Pecos Side Streets Paving**

Great news! The side streets of our Pecos section are slated to be re-paved this summer. The **tentative** dates are sometime in June or July. Volusia County will be grinding down the existing pavement then laying a fresh layer of asphalt. When there is a definitive date the HOA will send out an email blast notification.

With fresh asphalt comes tracks on our (freshly) cleaned driveways. The best way to remove these tracks is to pressure wash first. Then you can cover the stain with baking soda and add white vinegar. When the bubbling stops, use a stiff bristled brush to scrub, then rinse.

Commercial products include Purple Power Driveway cleaner (Autozone), Star brite Instant Black Streak Remover or Simple Green Oxy Solve Concrete and Driveway Cleaner (both at Amazon).

## **Live Oaks and Other Protected Trees**

We are so fortunate to reside in a neighborhood of beautiful trees. Before Halifax Plantation Phase 1 was developed, the acreage was known as "Belle Glade" because of our huge trees. Some of them are gigantic, historic 'Live Oaks'. (*Quercus virginiana*) They get their name from their leaves which hang on a long time and drop gradually. They are a 'keystone' species as they provide shelter and food to a wide variety of birds and mammals, including sapsuckers, squirrels, black bears, insects, and deer. Their lifespan is measured in hundreds of years and we have many of these old giants here.

Live Oaks, along with Southern Magnolia, Bald Cypress, and Eastern Red Cedars are protected by Florida statutes 163.045 and require a permit for them to be cut down.

Join us at the May Board Meeting on May 21st, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. (see Calendar) to discuss how we can preserve our unique trees. The Board wants residents to share their ideas.

*Did you know?* Because of their branch structures, Live Oaks are adept at avoiding being toppled during major storm events.

### **Calendar:**

May 13th: roof and driveway inspections;

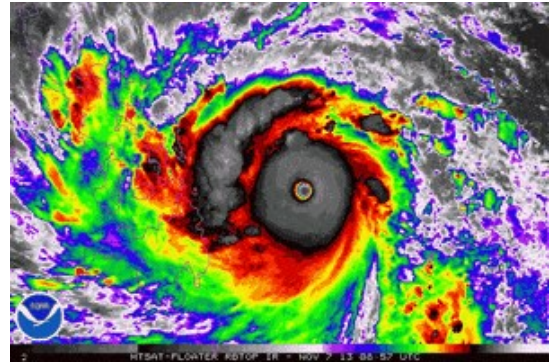
May 21st: HOA Board meeting at 4:00 p.m. at the Halifax Gazebo. It is located 1-1/2 miles south of Old Dixie Highway on Acoma Drive.

**Continued on page 3.....**

## Hurricane Preparation

We've had many new homeowners come in the past two years and this article is for you

Once a Girl Scout, Always a Girl Scout and their number 1 rule is "Be prepared!" My husband and I moved here in June 2016, just in time for that October's Hurricane Matthew, which was a CAT 3 storm. As many will recall, we lost many trees, including two that fell on our house. We had friends that were able to give us prep and survival tips for which we are grateful.



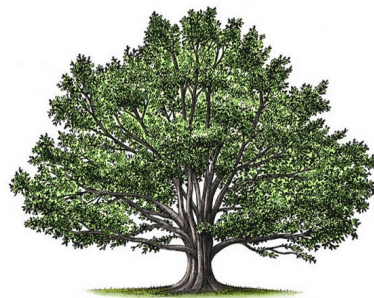
### Useful tips:

- ⇒ Know your evacuation zone! We are in **Zone DE** according to Volusia County. That means that even though we are not 'waterfront', we are within the 100-year flood plain. We are fortunate to have the natural marshes to our east in the state preserves which are superbly designed to absorb floodwaters. We've seen Walter Boardman under 5' of water!
- ⇒ Create a 'Grab & Go' box. Place copies of your homeowners insurance, important papers such as passports, birth certificates (or copies), car titles, utility bills, bank statements, medical information for yourselves and your children and pets, etc. in a watertight box. That way you are prepared ahead of time and not running around trying to get what you need at the last minute.
- ⇒ If your house was built before 2000 when Florida's new building standards were in place, check to see if your builder used 'tie downs' or braces on the trusses of your roof, or if you have high-impact windows and garage doors. Hopefully you have hurricane shutters!
- ⇒ Buy a hand cranked and solar powered radio. Many can be charging stations for your phones as well.
  
- ⇒ Before leaving, move all items from lanai and pool areas and secure in your garage.
- ⇒ Turn off all appliances and unplug them. Try to empty your freezer *and your icemaker*. I forgot the icemaker once and had some ugly warped oak flooring when we returned.
- ⇒ Hurricanes are slow movers so take some water jugs and put them in your freezer. They will help to keep things cold, if frozen, for 24-26 hours if the power goes out. If that doesn't work, have a great neighborhood BBQ when you return!
- ⇒ **BUY FLOOD INSURANCE!** Even if we are not waterfront, standard homeowners insurance *does not cover damage caused by heavy rain or storm surge!*. Our homes and personal belongings are important assets. Insure them!
- ⇒ Watch the news and have an evacuation plan.
- ⇒ Keep your vehicles gassed (or charged) up.
- ⇒ Have a communication plan with family members especially those who are out-of-state. Let them know what you are doing.
- ⇒ Each county has emergency shelters, including those that can accommodate special medical needs and/or pets. Identify them ahead of time.

For further information, go to these links:

- [www.volusia.org/emergency](http://www.volusia.org/emergency)
- [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)
- [www.srh.noaa.gov/mib](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mib)

If you have any other suggestions/tips, please share and I will publish them in the June Newsletter.



## Live Oaks Continued from page 1

As noted earlier, our neighborhood has many historic live oaks and other valuable hardwoods. To better gauge the health of these trees ***it is strongly recommended*** that homeowners consult with a certified arborist **who works independently** of a tree services company.

These arborists are certified but have no 'skin in the game' of selling a tree service company's services. This is by no means impugns those working for these companies and is *my* opinion. Arborists, both independent and those affiliated with a tree services company can be found at: [www.treesaregood.org](http://www.treesaregood.org).

The following arborists are not affiliated with any tree service company and are *not* being recommended except as a starting point in your search.

- ◆ Tom Griffith                      Daytona Beach
- ◆ Justin Combs                     Port Orange
- ◆ Nicholas Sardina                Ormond Beach
- ◆ Mariellen Calabro              Deland
- ◆ Steven Burnside                DeLeon Springs
- ◆ Robert Saulsbury               Florida Forest Service, DeLeon Springs
- ◆ Ray Jarrett                        New Smyrna Beach
- ◆ Samantha West                 Volusia County, DeLand
- ◆ Conrad Wysocki                Natural Resources Conservation Service, Deland
- ◆ Laura Ureta                        City of Ormand Beach (but also does after hours consulting)
  
- ◆ Daniel Keller                     Deland
- ◆ Donald Spence                  Ormand Beach