



GULF GATE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

6601 South Tamiami Trail #222

Sarasota, FL 34231

www.ggca.us

Volume 1, Issue 1

JANUARY 2024

All GGCA meetings are held at the Gulf Gate Library 5:30 p.m.

GENERAL MEETINGS DATES:

- January 29 (speaker - Code Enf.)
- April 23
- September 24
- November 12

BOARD MEETINGS

- February 13
- March 5
- April 9
- May 7

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cass Smith, President
 Kathy Goff, Vice President
 Michele Guffanti, Secretary
 Karen Goodrick, Treasurer

Charles Benoit, Director
 Kathy Butler, Director
 Kevin Emmett, Director
 Katie Fogarty, Director
 John Van Vleet, Director

Please join the Gulf Gate Community Association with your \$75 contribution.

Visit our website to pay on-line or send a check to the GGCA address listed at the top of the newsletter.

President's Letter

Resolutions for the New Year: Let's Get Started!!

Hello Neighbors,
 On behalf of our new Gulf Gate Community Association Board, I wish everyone a happy and prosperous 2024. For those new to the Gulf Gate community, a warm welcome. Here is our **first email newsletter**, an effort to promote better communication within the community. We want to hear your ideas for neighborhood improvement, concerns, and issues you would like the Association to address.

There is strength in numbers, and this includes you. Adding your voice to issues we face as a community can get a hearing and action from the county and the state. This has been demonstrated with our efforts to have the County purchase the golf course property. While we have not yet prevailed, progress has been made.

Please send in your membership fee as soon as you can. We are all volunteers and like you have lives that are sometimes quite busy. Your suggestions and participation are necessary for our Association's sustainability.

TRAFFIC is an issue affecting the safety and quality of life of everyone. Because of development and the population explosion, Gulf Gate roads are used by 1000's of vehicles as cut-throughs to major thoroughfares. We feel the county should be responsible for installing more traffic calming devices to prevent serious pedestrian, biker, and vehicle accidents. The association is calling on residents to participate in a new Traffic Safety Committee to research the worst streets and best methods to present to the county commissioners.

INFRASTRUCTURE is something most folks don't notice until something goes wrong. Keeping the golf course as open space is crucial to managing excess stormwater and flood protection. Our wastewater (sewage) lines and lift stations are at capacity. All must be updated to ensure the health and safety of residents and to maintain our property values. Our community must be the squeaky wheel, always in the ear of the county agencies and commissioners.

DEED RESTRICTIONS are a contractual agreement as part of your deed and run with the land from owner to owner. They were created by the developer in 1963 and the association is mandated to enforce them to the best of their ability. Among other things no boats, trailers, RVs, unattached sheds, fences over 6 ft. are allowed. Complete DRs are listed on the website. Please comply.

NO POLITICAL SIGNS, FLAGS, ETC. In an election year, it's not too early to point out that this is a deed violation and can be divisive.

Let's focus on the issues that unite us. Thanks for your cooperation.

We hope you enjoy the email newsletter and are happy to accept articles from residents (published at GGCA's discretion). Also, [let us know what you like/dislike about the newsletter and what you would like to have included.](#)

Email articles/photos to: newsletter@ggcaboard.us

Best wishes,
 Cass Smith, President

NO SOLICITATION IN GG!

Here is a link to the FL statute prohibiting home solicitation without a permit, which involves a complete background check of all persons knocking on doors. The permit is laminated, bears the picture of the permit holder and all ID info. If they cannot provide this, you have the right to call the sheriff (non-emergency # 941-316-1201). Website link is: www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.htm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0500-0599/0501/Sections/0501.022.html

Recently in our area, young men have been knocking on doors stating they were collecting money for their scholarships. **SCAM!** Thankfully, several residents had reported them, but it was too late for some, because we heard they already had cash and checks collected. If you gave money to these people, please keep an eye on your bank and credit card statements for fraudulent usage and report it to the sheriff's department. It is in your best interest to neither give money nor information to door solicitors.

If you suspect **squatters**, the county has requested to be contacted either via their mail number 941-918-5000 or log via 311 on this link

<https://sarasotacountyfl.qscend.com/311>

SARASOTA COUNTY re SHORT TERM RENTALS

"1. Rental of Dwelling Units in OUA, OUR, OUE, RE, RSF, RMF (not on barrier islands), RC and RMH Districts (GG/GGW is RSF-3)

i. Dwelling units may be rented as a whole and for periods of greater than 30 days provided that a dwelling unit shall not be rented more than once every 30 days.

ii. Portions of a dwelling may be rented for periods of greater than 30 days provided that the dwelling is physically occupied by the owner during more than 50 percent of the lease term and the dwelling unit is not rented more than once every 30 days. "Owner" shall include any individual owning an interest in the dwelling as an individual and any individual owning a majority of the interests or shares of a corporation, partnership, or other business entity.

iii. The owner or managing agent of real property that is offered for rent or lease shall maintain records, including the names and addresses of the lessees, that are adequate to establish the period for which a unit is rented and the names of family members or unrelated individuals occupying the premises during each rental period. Such records shall be provided upon request to inspectors authorized by Sarasota County to enforce these regulations.

iv. Except for community residential homes, any rental or lease of a single-family residence to more than one individual and his or her family or roommates is prohibited, unless all persons residing in the single-

family residence have full use of the entire residence, including the single kitchen, accessory buildings, and associated property.
v. Any attempt made to solicit, advertise, or commit the act of leasing a rental in a manner inconsistent with the provisions of this section shall constitute a violation."



BUY LOCAL is a great way to support our local economy.

Gulf Gate Village and nearby small businesses are part of our community, too.

Restaurants with unique cuisine, shops, pet groomers, hair salons, and your money stays in the community.

Avoid traffic hassles. Gulf Gate businesses have a great deal to offer.



THE WOODPECKERS OF GULF GATE

by Jon Andrew

Birdwatching at this time of year can be in a kind of lull. We are between migration periods, birds are much less vocal and many have departed for points south.

During this quiet time we can still count on woodpeckers for entertainment. There are three species of woodpeckers which stay here through the seasons and one that comes to spend the winter.

The most spectacular species is the Pileated Woodpecker—a crow sized bird that frequently gives a loud wuck-wuck-wuck call as it is flying. I hear these almost every day but actually see them much less often. Look for the red crest and the flashes of white as it flies.

Perhaps the most common species is the Red-bellied Woodpecker. Not the most appropriate name since it's red belly is difficult to see. This bird, with a black and white striped back and red crown is abundant in Gulf Gate. My wife Sue calls them "gutter bangers" for their habit of drumming on rain gutters. Drumming is a way for woodpeckers to declare their breeding territory. This should start in March some time.

The Downy Woodpecker is also common in Gulf Gate, small and black and white with the males having a red patch on the nape. They are often located by their a soft "pic" call note. If you see a small (6-7 inch woodpecker) in Gulf Gate it is almost certainly this species. They also drum.

The last species is the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker the most migratory woodpecker. They spend most of their time in northern states and Canada some as far north as Alaska. For years we had one that drilled lines of holes in the tree in our front yard. This allows sap to flow attracting bugs which the woodpeckers then eat. The tree was a casualty of the last storm but we still occasionally see these birds in winter - locate them by their unwoodpecker-like mewing call. We seem to have mostly immature birds but all ages have a broad white wing patch. They should be around until April.

I'm looking forward to woodpecker drumming and some warmer weather!

Help our storm drains do their job!

After a windy day, many palm fronds and other yard debris end up in our street gutters.

Take a few minutes to be a good citizen and clean up yard debris in front of your home, so it doesn't clog our storm drains.

This helps our neighborhoods from flooding. Thanks!



POEM by Stephen B. White

'Tis the Season

'Tis the month after Christmas,
 and all through the state,
 The snowbirds have landed,
 as certain as fate.
 Restaurants now packed,
 not a stool at the bar,
 Forget about parking,
 there's no space for my car.
 The Bridge? It's a crawl,
 and the Trail is jammed,
 The driving is madness,
 these rotaries be damned!
 RVs fill the parks
 with plates from afar,
 The tennis is unloved,
 and the tees are sub-par.
 Oh Chicago, oh Cleveland,
 Toronto and Austin,
 Oh Pittsburgh, oh Buffalo,
 Milwaukee and Boston,
 Down 95, down 75,
 they've scouted their way,
 Seeking the grail,
 of six months and a day.
 Soon snapshots of grandkids
 will crowd every chat,
 Oh my...am I rethinking
 the big welcome mat?
 But the sniffles and coughs
 are now in our midst,
 The Season is upon us!
 Too late to call quits!

★ ONE NIGHT ONLY ★
 Saturday, February 10
an Evening with Sinatra

Songs from the Heart
 Featuring
Paul Capello
 SINATRA TRIBUTE ARTIST

*Beneva Christian Church
 (Disciples of Christ)
 4835 Beneva Road, Sarasota*

5:30 pm - Mocktails and Hors D'oeuvres
 6 pm - Frank Sinatra Tribute Valentines' Show
 Price includes appetizers, mocktails, bottled water.
 Dedicate or request songs from the
 Paul Capello Song Menu of 240 Sinatra hits.

**\$40 per person
 \$75 per couple**
 For tickets, call
941-924-8713

Local Happenings

Events at Phillippi Estate 5500 S. Tamiami Tr



PHILLIPPI
 • FARMHOUSE •
MARKET

Every Wednesday
 9a - 1p
 through end of
 April



Ragata Island Nathan Benderson Park
 5851 Nathan Benderson Circle



GULF GATE LIBRARY

Master Gardener's Plant Clinic
 1st & 3rd Mondays 10-noon
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AARP Free Tax Assistance
 Thursdays 1p—5p

**ADVANCE APPOINTMENTS
 ARE REQUIRED (941) 500-9181**
 Volunteers from the AARP Tax Aide
 Program will be available for free indi-
 vidual tax preparation and e-filing. Any
 age/income level is welcome. Please
 bring a photo ID (required), and any
 other documents that apply.

Rat traps, rat poison and their effect on birds of prey in Sarasota

As a Gulf Gate resident for over 22 years, I have recently been alarmed by the number of dead birds of prey near the Gulf Gate Church woods. From August to November, we found 3 different birds of prey dead in the woods, 2 hawks and one falcon. The birds appeared unharmed. Concerned I called the county which referred me to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection where I spoke with Heidi Hoffman, who confirmed that most commercial rat traps contain poison that can kill birds of prey from the secondary poisoning. Secondary poisoning is when a cat or a raptor such as a hawk, eagle, osprey or owl catch and ingest a rat that has consumed the rat trap poison.

Walking around Gulf Gate neighborhood it is alarming to see how many homes now have these traps outside. I have since reached out to the Sarasota Audubon Society with these concerns. They have started a campaign to bring about awareness of this issue and to inform residents of other ways to treat for rats. Please see their article below.

Lauren Opitz
3040 Goodwater Street

Info from: Kathryn Young, Sarasota Audubon Society

It's Eagle nesting season and if you want to keep their eaglets safe please do not use rat poison that causes secondary poisoning. This means it kills the rat then a hawk, owl, eagle or someone's pet sees the slow moving rat and grabs it to eat or to feed their young. The Eagles nest on north Lido Key has parents that have fed their young eaglets poisoned rats and the young have perished for the last three years.

Rodenticides that cause secondary poisoning to birds/pets include one or more of the following ingredients:

BROMODIALONE - BRODIFACOUM - DIFETHIALONE - DIFENACOUM

Websites to find more information regarding Safer ways to kill Rats are:
Saferodentcontrol.org and Raptorsarethesolution.org

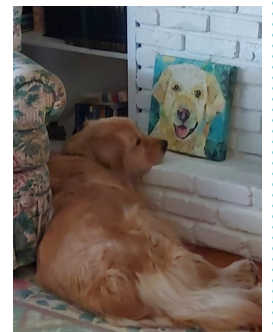
This rat trap is easy to use and you never have to remove the dead rat.

Watch their video <https://goodnature.co/blogs/news/how-does-a-goodnature-trap-work>

Remember - it's the law to pick up after your pets!

If there are dogs in your neighborhood who bark constantly, give Sarasota County Animal Services a call at (941) 861-9500.

Sarasota County law states dogs and cats are not allowed to run astray (must be leashed when walking them).



Send a favorite photo of your pet to: newsletter@ggcboard.us