



Winter 2019

Dear Homeowners,

Thank you to all who came out this year to our Annual Meeting. Between homeowners in attendance and proxies, we were able to achieve a quorum. This is outstanding as it shows homeowners interest in our community. We thank you again for coming out and invite everyone to attend our monthly board meetings. Monthly meetings are generally held the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7pm at the Pool Cabana. For specific details check our website or Facebook page. During this year's Annual Meeting we presented the updated Architectural Review Guidelines which can be found on our website. Many thanks to the committee who contributed to clarification of our community guidelines. Also, during our Annual Meeting, we seated a new Yard of the Month Committee who will be continuing to recognize the most beautiful yards of Wedgewood Groves. Will you be next? Finally, we welcomed several new board members who will be serving the community over the next few years.

Wedgewood Groves Financial Update

In this mailing you have received your February 2020 dues coupon. You will notice another increase in HOA dues this year and in the interest of transparency we want to explain the reasoning behind this decision.

In order to ensure the long-term financial stability of our community and avoid potential large assessments in time of emergency, we elected to have a reserve study conducted in 2017. The reserve study looked at our financial assets along with the value of the property our community is responsible for (communal areas, pool, tennis courts, etc.) In order to perform necessary repairs and upkeep to the property for the next 30 years, we needed to increase our contributions to our reserves.

Since HOA fees had not been increased in prior years, following the study we learned we were not in a good financial position. As a result, our HOA fees have increased in the last three years in order to cover the adequate reserve contribution amount. Specific details as to suggested contributions and the reserve study can be found on the HOA website at <http://www.wedgewoodgroves.org/financial-information.html>



WANT A BEAUTIFUL GREEN LAWN, BUT IRRIGATION BILLS GETTING YOU DOWN?

OUC offers a "Special Irrigation" meter which allows homeowners to pay only for water usage and not assessed a sewer charge. The greatest expense in water usage actually comes from sewer fees. In one homeowner's experience 7,376 gallons of irrigation cost only about \$10. At that rate, the meter can pay for itself in just about 6 months, and you will be on your way to Yard of the Month. More details at this link, https://www.ouc.com/docs/water-documents---technical-drawings/6_spec_irr_mtr_detail.pdf?sfvrsn=2 or on our website.



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Caring for Crepe Myrtles

Crape Myrtles are an easy to care for and colorful ornamental addition to any landscape and have been a very popular choice in Wedgewood. They tolerate full sun and moderate shade, excessive heat/cold and require no routine watering once established. However, many homeowners often neglect these plants and prevent them from displaying their full color producing potential. **Yearly trimming is the easiest way to get the most color and best appearance from your crape myrtles.** Here is a brief guide on how to properly trim your crape myrtles:



Equipment: For non-neglected trees, the only equipment needed is a ladder and a pair of pruning loppers. A pair of sharp loppers able to cut 1-2 inch branches should suffice. A pole saw/chain saw will likely be required for trees that haven't been pruned for many years.



Timing: The optimal time to trim is in late winter or early spring (late February to early March), just after the final winter frost. Pruning just before the spring growing season will induce aggressive growth that will produce the longest branches most flowers when the summer bloom arrives.

How to prune: Only trim back the stems from the previous year's growth if able. This will create a more attractive tapering effect where the stem thickness gradually gets smaller from trunk to flower. The length between the node and the cut will determine the growth shape and height of the tree for the year. Shorter cuts will produce a shorter and more spherical appearance of the tree canopy, while taller cuts produce a taller cylindrical shape. I find the most practical and ideal shape of a crape myrtle to be the "champagne glass", where the branches are cut 30-50% longer than the ones from the previous year. Also remove any outlying branches below the canopy, or any branches that distract from the overall shape of the tree.

*** Tree trimming can be very hazardous to yourself, others and property.

Make sure you operate with a high degree of safety when on ladders and when using dangerous machinery such as chainsaws. Please carefully read to the instruction guides of whatever equipment you are using.***

For more information on Crepes visit <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep399>

CONTACT UPDATE

Thank you to all who have updated your contact information with our Sentry Management Team as we transition towards more efficient and effective communication in our community. If you have not yet updated your contact information including mailing address (if different from your home address) email and phone with Sentry, please email Sandy Rathbun at srathbun@sentrymgt.com with your current contact information. Thanks in advance.