

Enjoying “the good life” in Prestancia after retirement: Meet Anh Tu

Terry Spragens and his wife Anh Tu became our neighbors in Prestancia a year ago when they purchased their home on Boca Pointe Drive in The Manors. However, it is only recently that they have become Manors “regulars,” spending less and less time at their homes in Virginia and Maryland.

That’s because in May Anh Tu fully retired from her legal career in Washington, D.C. and now hopes she and Terry will have more time to get acquainted with their neighbors and explore the joys of living in this “oasis of tranquility” on the “prettiest street” around!

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*Russ Seifert,
PCA President*

And Now, A Word From Our President

I am writing this message several weeks before it will be printed and sad to say we are still in the midst of our terrible drought. We have to be thankful for every little bit of rain we get and those two showers we had in May did help. Thankfully those brown patches in the grass all over went away with the rain but I am afraid they will return quickly if the skies don’t open up soon with some good soaking rains.

Let’s turn to some good news. The foreclosed house in the Estates that sat for months and months getting to be more of an eyesore has been sold. The new owner is really doing a major makeover with a new roof, new exterior paint, and major work on the interior. The last thing will be new landscaping and then we will have a beautiful sight for everyone that comes in the North Gate.

Marilyn and I had another pleasant experience the other morning as we were driving along Prestancia Boulevard. Just crossing the road and standing in the open area by the side were two deer. They appeared to be does but whatever they were, it was the first time either of us had seen deer in Prestancia. We are an Audubon-approved community and having animals like this along with all the varieties of birds we have just enhances the beauty of our area.

TPC is in the process of making major changes to their clubhouse as well as continuing to make the courses more beautiful so Prestancia is looking better and better. Now if we could just get some rain.

Neighborhood News

2008 Projects and Improvements for Villa D'Este

As part of our continuous improvements at Villa D'Este we have completed or are in-process with the following;

- Placed attractive new planters and plants in the pool area.
- The unsightly blue and green markers left by Verizon on our streets and sidewalks have been removed.
- The wall along Prestancia Boulevard is in the process of being repaired and painted.
- Arrow Environmental has placed rodent bait stations around the homes and pool area.
- The uneven sections of sidewalk leading to the pool have been repaired.
- The streetlight posts have been repainted and the deteriorated or missing globes have been replaced. Also, we put eco-friendly light bulbs in the carriage lamps of each home.
- We are planning to replace our tired-looking mailboxes; we are currently in the process of evaluating styles, color and costs.
- We plan to repair the major cracks and blacktop the streets in November.

— Dan Phillips

From Villa Mirada

The Pig Roast we had at the poolside party for Villa Mirada and our neighbor community Monte Verde was a success, as you can see. It was a lot of fun and we beat the rain by minutes once it was over. At least 52 people attended and the roast was delicious! Other than that Villa Mirada has replaced the chimney cap covers and are waiting for the eagles to return. Presently we have only fifty percent of our residents here. Our Vice President, Jerry Cisar, is keeping everything in tip-top shape. We are very lucky to have residents who take and active interest in keeping our paradise beautiful and green.

— Ruth Roti



Pig roast hostesses Phyllis Moore and Ruth Roti

The Manors

The Manors had a lot to celebrate this winter, as we passed our new governing documents by a member vote. They have been recorded in Tallahassee and so are community law. Many of our members worked on bringing our bylaws from the past (1987–88) to current guidelines, Manors' members contributing to four versions; the fourth was passed in February.

The By-Laws committee did much of the work on the documents, and spent a lot of time addressing other neighbors' questions and issues. The committee members are Tom Bohan, Gisele Buszin, Mel Cohen, Tim Downey, Steve Engel, Herb Jones, Tom Kimball, Barbara Leifer, Loretta Naylor, and Angie Vaughan.

Thanks to all of our Manors neighbors for a great job!

The Common Services Committee almost completed Phase I which is soliciting discounted bids for services commonly needed by Manors' members. The service providers will be "presented" to the Manors' members who indicated an interest in a discounted price, and the members will decide if they want to accept the provider's proposal, and if so, sign a contract.

A wonderful brunch was held on April 6th at TPC in the place of the '07 Holiday Dinner. The brunch was managed by the Friends of the Manors' committee (chiefly Joan Engel and Meryl Cohen) and a special effort was made to celebrate David Leifer's 39th birthday! Thank you Meryl and Joan!



Lastly, a presentation was given at TPC by a detective from the Sheriff's department, Neil Scully, on home security and neighborhood safety. The presentation was very informative and attended by members of several associations within Prestancia.

— Barbara Leifer

Capturing the Wild on Camera

The outstanding, creative wildlife photos of landscape, animals, flora and fauna are seen everywhere from Sarasota's office buildings to homes in Prestancia and beyond. The signature photographic work of Tom and Susan Isgar is distinctive and unforgettable.

The Isgars live in Villa D'Este after retiring here from Colorado. But enjoying retirement is far from what they have been doing for the past three years as they spend much of their time traveling around the world with lenses in tote, photographing nature and wildlife photographs that inevitably appear in major outdoor magazines.

Recently, Tom has some of his images that were taken in August of 2007, near the area of the recent Chinese earthquake that devastated the inland, on display at Art Center Sarasota. Wolong town is near the National Panda Reserve. After the quake, there have been many deaths in Wolong and along the road leading down to Chengdu. Most of the road, which was built on a steep mountainside along a river, is now gone. Isgar says all net proceeds from sales of the images will go to the China rescue effort.

Tom and Susan are organizing a tour of China in October, 2009. The itinerary for the trip is available on their website at <http://www.wildimagesphotography.com>; go to "Travel Articles" and then "Next Time: China in 2009."

The Isgars are frequently seen photographing local wildlife in Prestancia and say they cherish living in this Audubon-sanctioned community. The couple have an adult son and granddaughter, both of whom live in Hawaii.

All their work is for sale and can be found at: www.wildimagesphotography.com or call 941.923.9004.



Tom Isgar with some of the images of Wolong he took pre-quake from the site of the recent Chinese catastrophe.

TPPD: The Palm Tree Killer

Will Strickland, GardenMasters

Florida is one of the most beautiful places to live, and when an introduced plant or animal is introduced to our environment they can do serious damage endemic flora and fauna.

The pathogen that is causing the greatest concern at this time is *Texas Phoenix palm decline* (TPPD). Canary Island date palms, edible date palms, and wild date palms are being infected by a phytoplasma, which is a bacteria without a cell wall. Some palms in the Prestancia area have been tested for TPPD and have come back positive for these bacteria. Dr. Monika Elliot, Pathologist at the University of Florida, has isolated three species of this pathogen across the state, all being very similar to the "lethal yellowing" that is killing the coconut palms in south Florida. The carrier for this disease is probably a *Mynudus* leafhopper, which

metabolizes the bacteria inside of its body, spreading inoculants while feeding tree to tree.

The treatment for this infection is to administer the antibiotic oxytetracycline (OTC) on a quarterly basis. Once the treatments start the tree must receive the OTC for the life of the palm. Trees within a quarter mile of an infected palm should also be treated to prevent the spreading the healthy tree or to prevent decline of infected trees.

For more information on TPPD, visit the University of Florida's web page on the disease at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/PP163>.

Gardenmasters test palms for this disease. If your Canary palm looks weak, I'd be happy to stop by your property free of charge, look at the tree and give an assessment. Call us at 941.488.4444.

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Meet Anh Tu

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A native of Vietnam, Anh came to the United States in 1969 to attend college. Upon graduation in 1973, she went home and joined the South Vietnamese diplomatic service. However with the collapse of South Vietnam, and her first career, in 1975, Anh returned to the United States and settled in Washington, D.C. where she met and married Terry Spragens. With Terry's enthusiastic support, Anh started law school at Georgetown University Law Center in 1987. Anh's second career — as a public interest lawyer — spanned from 1990 until her retirement in May 2008.

Anh's legal career in Washington, D.C. included stints as a front-line legal aid staff attorney representing low-income people on civil matters, as senior program counsel at the non-profit Legal Services Corporation where she had the responsibility for ensuring high quality performance by legal aid organizations in the

western part of the U.S., and finally as the first Executive Director of the Friends of Legal Services Corporation, a public interest foundation.

Expressing both satisfaction and appreciation for her work life, Anh nonetheless says "the time has come for me to spend more time, take more walks and travel to more places with Terry. We have met many of our neighbors and they have all been so kind, friendly and active — we want to learn from them the secret of having and maintaining a fun-filled, yet fulfilling, retirement."

Looking out into a sunny summer afternoon in Sarasota, Anh adds "we are very happy to have our home here at The Manors. I feel as though I've gone full circle — and I'm home again in a tropical paradise."

— Julie Wyman