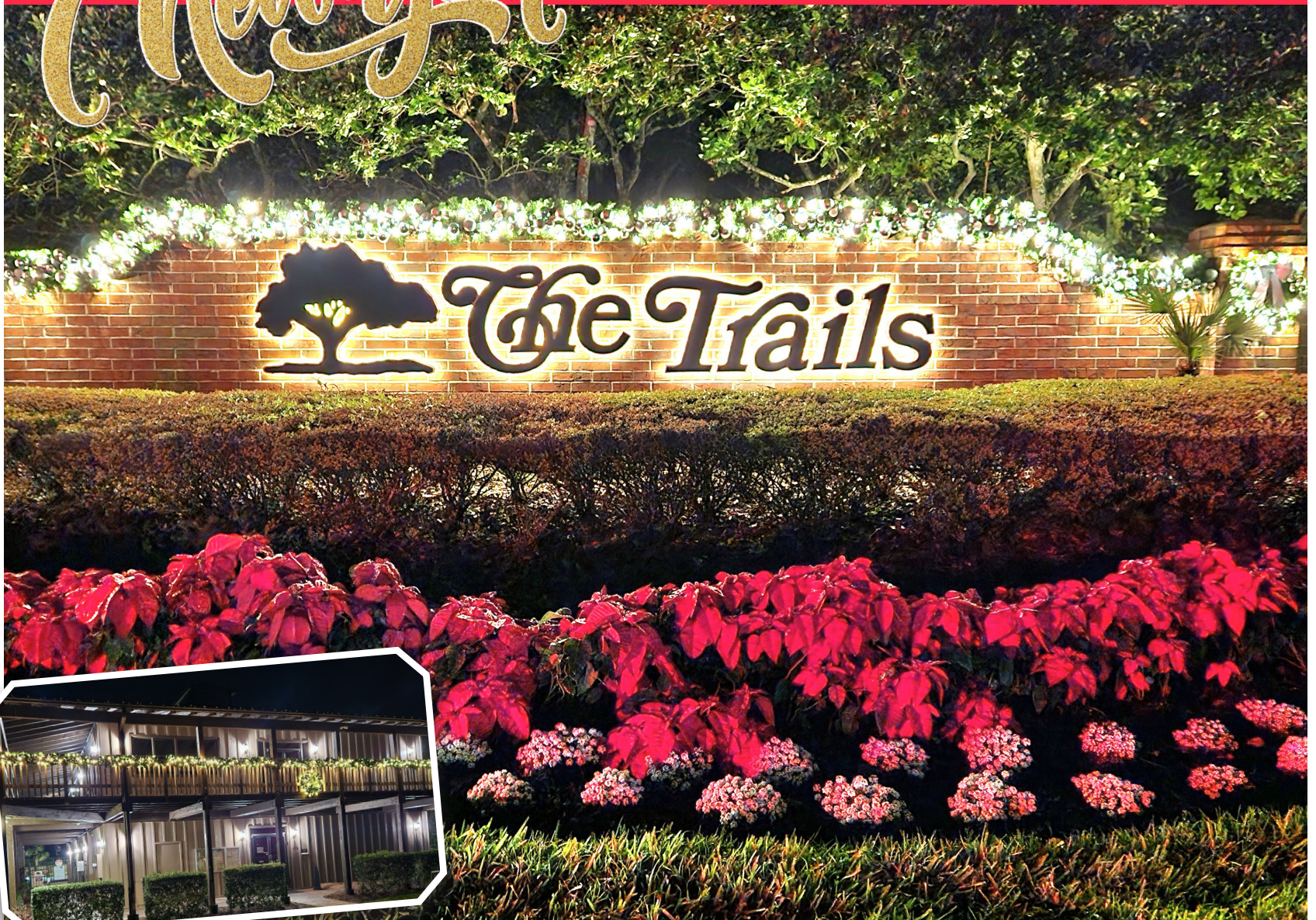


The Canopy

Happy New Year

Covering
Our Community



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BRANCHES OF OUR CANOPY



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kathleen Grabow, President

Warm Holiday Wishes to Each of You! As we embrace the festive season, I want to take a moment to reflect on the beauty of our community and the spirit of togetherness that defines us. The entryway and clubhouse decorations are a true testament to the dedication of our Landscape Committee. I especially love the new entryway and clubhouse decorations. Kudos again, to the Landscape Committee for their efforts - the poinsettias look beautiful!

I hope everyone weathered the two hurricanes safely and managed the cleanup and repairs well. Due to ongoing debris removal at the time of installation, the winter mulch replacement was postponed. The regular mulch replacement is set to resume in the spring. The hurricane cleanup made a significant impact on our budget, leading to an increase in quarterly dues. If you use your bank to send payments, please notify them of the updated amount as soon as possible to avoid any issues.

Our transition to the new management company has been a bit rocky - mid-year changes always present unique challenges. For example, many of us (myself included) received confusing billing statements. On the bright side, many homeowners visited the office, where Brandie and Alexandra helped orient them to **CiraNet**, the Real Manage homeowner's portal. The site is a valuable resource where you can find:

- Billing updates
- The community activities calendar
- Records of your homeowner account
- Board meeting minutes
- And much more

Additionally, Real Manage has been able to collect homeowner email addresses, allowing us to communicate more quickly and efficiently. The email contact list increased by an unprecedented 82% compared to the previous management's data transfer to the new system. Now that many of you are familiar with the CiraNet site, I encourage you to visit regularly. Check out the Board meeting minutes and community calendar to stay updated on current and upcoming projects.

As I always say, you cannot fix what you do not know. Since the July transition, the Board of Directors and the onsite management team compiled a list of shortfalls and concerns we have experienced with the new management company. While Real Manage offers many opportunities, there were a few hurdles we did not expect to encounter. The billing issues and errors were major concerns for everyone involved. To address these, we recently met with the Regional President and District Director to discuss our list of concerns.

Both representatives, though new to Real Manage, are seasoned professionals in HOA and COA property management. Several of the concerns were outside their purview during the transition. However, with the information and feedback we provided, they promised action and corrections. I am pleased to report we are already seeing positive progress and change.

Account errors can be quickly resolved by contacting the onsite management office, where a case request will be submitted to the Real Manage corporate office for adjustments. To alleviate confusion caused by the statements mailed out at Thanksgiving, the Board of Directors agreed to waive any late fees assessed to the 4th quarter billing in October.

If upon logging into the owner's account portal, you believe your account balance is incorrect please do not hesitate to contact Brandie or Alexandra by emailing your concern to TrailsHO@CiraMail.com.

By the time this edition of *The Canopy* is published, you should have received a statement of account and billing notice for 2025. If you have not received this notice and are NOT registered for ACH (those members typically do not receive a bill), please reach out to *The Trails* Office to confirm that we have your correct contact information on file.

Wishing you all a wonderful winter season and a happy new year!

MANAGERS' CORNER

*Brandie Hayes, LCAM/Notary - brandie.hayes@realmanage.com
Alexandra Wood, LCAM - TrailsHO@ciramail.com*

Hello, Esteemed Trails Residents, As We Welcome 2025!

Maintenance Around the Community

We have some hefty repairs needed at the Little Pond which is why the fountain has been out of commission since last spring. We finally have a vendor meeting scheduled to map out the boring path and coordinate with the electrical lines being laid. Hurricane Milton stalled the fall meeting with FPL and we will soon be on the fast track to installation

Reminder again that the sidewalks and streets belong to the City of Ormond Beach and are not the HOA's responsibility to maintain. However, if a trouble spot, pothole, or broken sidewalk is reported to the office, we do submit a work notice to the city! It is helpful when homeowners also make the call to the city as well! They say more than one person sings, it's what creates the choir.

Volunteering in The Trails

I will continue to post this request in this Newspaper, because your unique skills and perspectives are valuable assets that can make a real impact on our community's growth and success. Whether it is lending a helping hand at an event, sharing your ideas for community improvement, or simply attending a gathering to show your support, every action you take makes a difference in creating a more inclusive, welcoming, and dynamic community that we can all be proud to call home.

Your next opportunity to show your community support will be the March Food Truck Rally 03/27/25 at the Clubhouse 5:15 - 8:15p.m.

Your active participation will not only enrich your own experience as a homeowner / resident but also contribute to the overall vibrancy and harmony of our community. So, I urge you to mark your calendars, register with the online portals, and consider volunteering on a committee.

Upcoming Community and Board Educational Events to start 2025 off right

The State of Florida requires all Board Members within an HOA or within a COA to now obtain Continuing Education Credits aka CEU's. If you have ever considered sitting on a Board (here or anywhere) or wondered what exactly the Board members must do as required by law...this is the class for you!

We recently sent an Invitation by email blast and posted to NextDoor.com to join us for Florida Statute 720 Board Certification Class. The Board of Directors of *The Trails* HOA invites all Members of the Association, Board Members of the Sub-Associations of *The Trails* HOA, and Neighboring HOA Communities to join them for this Board Certification Class. Pastry Breakfast and catered lunch will be provided for the 1st 75 registered attendees, for free!

Florida Statute 720, which governs the obligations and responsibilities of the Boards of Directors for homeowners' associations, has set a new standard for Board members in 2025. This educational session is designed to ensure that all Board members are equipped with the knowledge necessary to fulfill their fiduciary duties effectively and in compliance with state law.

Date: Monday, January 20, 2025

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: *The Trails* Clubhouse (2nd Floor). 201 Main Trail, Ormond Beach, FL 32174

9:30 a.m. Pastry Breakfast & Coffee: Sponsored by *The Trails* HOA

12:15 p.m. Catered Lunch: Provided by Yellowstone Landscaping

Cost: FREE - Class Materials & CEUs: Provided by Wright & Casey, P.A.

This class will provide essential information on statutory requirements, best practices, and the legal framework for HOA Board operations. Attendees will receive comprehensive materials to support ongoing education and earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs) at no charge. This is an excellent opportunity for current and aspiring Board members to deepen their understanding of HOA governance and ensure compliance with Florida laws.

Please RSVP by January 13, 2025, to confirm your attendance. For questions or additional information, contact *The Trails* HOA office at TrailsHO@CiraMail.com We look forward to seeing you there!



CORPORATE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMES ON-BOARD

Kris Perez, Division President, RealManage



As we look ahead to 2025, I am excited to share some important updates regarding your **RealManage** team in Central Florida. With these changes, we are embracing growth, progress, and a renewed focus on delivering exceptional service to your *The Trails* community.

My name is Kris Perez, and earlier this year, I was honored to be appointed as the new Division President for your **RealManage** team. Professionally raised in the hospitality industry, I am committed to placing service at the forefront of everything I do—for you as our valued client and for the dedicated members of my team.

Key updates for 2025 include:

- **Manager and Director Assignments:** We are aligning our team structure to ensure your *The Trails* community receives the personalized support and attention it deserves.

- **New Technology Solutions:** We are implementing innovative tools designed to improve efficiency, streamline processes, and enhance communication between homeowners and Property Management.
- **Improved Processes:** Our **RealManage** focus is on fostering collaboration, and increasing engagement to drive results and elevate your community's experience with its property management.

These changes are guided by my commitment to quality, communication, and service

Excellence. I look forward to working alongside the Board of Directors, on-site property management team, and your community as we continue to support and strengthen this thriving community known as "*The Trails*."

Thank you for entrusting us with your community's success.

DOLLARS & SENSE -

HOA 2025 Budget Adjustments - Quarterly Fees Increase to \$261 Per Household

Brandie Hayes, LCAM for Dan Gowen, Treasurer

The Trails Homeowners Association (HOA) Management, along with the Treasurer and Board of Directors, has announced updates to the 2025 HOA budget, including an increase in quarterly fees. The decision was approved at the October 17, 2024, Board of Directors meeting.

Key Changes to HOA Fees

- **New Quarterly Fee:** \$261.00 per household
- **Annual Total:** \$1,044.00
- **Daily Cost:** Approximately \$0.33
- **Increase:** \$120.00 annually compared to 2024
- **No Coupon Books:** Homeowners will receive quarterly statements in advance

Reasons Behind the Fee Increase

The Board of Directors cited several factors contributing to the adjustment:

1. **Unexpected Storm Cleanup Costs:** Late-season storms, including Hurricanes Helene and Milton, required extensive and costly cleanup efforts, which depleted the storm cleanup operating budget and a small surplus from the past two years.
2. **Inflation:** Rising costs of goods and services have impacted the overall budget.
3. **Increased Service Costs:** Contracts for property management, community maintenance, and landscaping have all had cost increases.
4. **Continued member delinquency:** Members who continually remain delinquent and unpaid must be considered when anticipating income from which expenses are paid. This is shown as a Bad Debt line item within the operating budget.

Steps for Future Preparedness

To reduce the likelihood of significant future increases, the HOA is implementing several measures:

- **Dedicated Storm Recovery Fund:** A line item specifically for storm-related expenses.
- **Cost-Saving Reviews:** Regular evaluations of service contracts, including liability insurance.
- **Storm Mitigation Investments:** Proactive tree maintenance to prevent storm-related damage.
- **Pre-Storm Cleanup Agreements:** Contracts with vendors to reduce cleanup expenses.
- **Reserve Study Reviews:** Planning for major capital repairs and replacements.
- **Asset Monitoring:** Regular maintenance to prolong the life of community assets and prevent costly replacements.
- **Continued Collections practices** for delinquent members including foreclosure.

Community Engagement Opportunities

The HOA encourages resident participation in the budgeting process and community management:

- **Budget Committee Workshop:** Dates for this annual event will be announced in a future issue of *The Canopy*
- **Monthly Board Meetings:** Held on the second Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the second-floor clubhouse banquet room. 201 Main Trail, Ormond Beach FL

"We understand this increase may be challenging," the Board acknowledged, upon final review of the proposed budget options, "but it is essential to ensure our community remains well-maintained, protecting property values to the best of our ability and to remain prepared for unforeseen events."

For more information or questions about the updated fees, residents are encouraged to contact HOA management through the RealManage Owners Portal or attend an upcoming meeting.

Posts



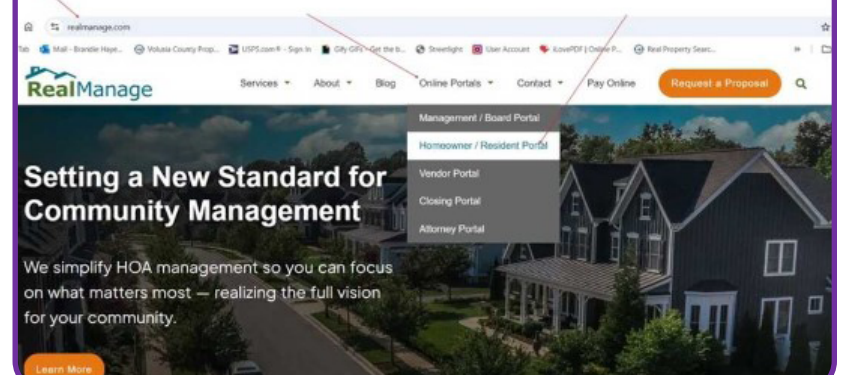
Brandie Hayes

The Trails - Ormond Beach · 10 min ago · Edited · 🏠

If you signed up for "regular assessments ACH only" through the members portal, then the amount your account is charged will update automatically from \$231.00 to \$261.00 with the January Billing. You won't need to do anything to your account, adjustment wise, it will adjust on its own to the proper amount billed and withdrawn each quarter. However, if you are a homeowner who has signed up for an amount of your choice by utilizing the "other" option, The ACH will not update, it will only take the \$231.00 you've assigned in 2024 and your account will likely be showing a deficit of the 2025 assessment difference of \$31.00. Causing a delinquency, and triggering the late fees and collections letter cost to be applied to your account.

If you are an "Other payment" options ACH paying member you will need to go in and edit your ACH preferences and or the amount to pay to \$261.00 qtrly for 2025. The amount due under these circumstances will not automatically adjust to the new assessment amount.

If you have any questions you may call the Trails Office 386-673-0855 or log into your owners account at www.RealManage.com and email the onsite office or accounting.



SECRETARY'S MESSAGE ... "Come on down - it's now required".

Rob Bridger, Secretary

Florida law now requires all Board members of Homeowner's Associations (HOAs), and Condominium Associations (COAs) complete a Board Certification class. This class completion / certification must now be registered with the State to qualify Directors for a seat on their Association's Board.

The Trails Board and Property Management are please to invite you to a Board Member Certifications training class on **January 20, 2025** in the Clubhouse - 2nd floor, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. There is no cost; the training is free, and it will fulfill the Statutory requirement. A light breakfast, and lunch will be provided compliments of Yellowstone Landscaping.

Deadline for registering for this training is January 13, 2025 - by contacting our Property Manager, Brandie Hayes at the Clubhouse / HOA Office. Additional details about this class are included in this edition's MANAGERS' CORNER.



The training this year will be provided by Erin Wollett of Wright & Casey, P.A., our Association's Attorney. Erin will provide this training that is open to the community. While training is required for *The Trails* HOA Board members, and yes, *Trails'* Sub-Association Board members; all interested homeowners are welcome to attend and learn about how your Association works. Does your HOA Board just operate on a whim?

Erin Wollett practices in the areas of Bankruptcy, Corporate Business Law, Real Estate, and Association Law. A significant portion of Erin's practice is devoted to representing community associations, including many Condominium and Homeowners Associations

throughout the State of Florida, and counseling them on matters such as the drafting, enforcement, and interpretation of governing documents, contracts, collections, foreclosures, fair housing issues, and all other general matters affecting operations.

Erin graduated from the University of Florida and Florida Coastal School of Law and began her legal career as a criminal prosecutor with the State Attorney's Office for the Seventh Circuit of Florida. She transitioned her practice to corporate law as In-House Associate Corporate Counsel for a real estate development company headquartered in Daytona Beach specializing in the acquisition, renovation, and management of nationally-franchised full-service hotels. Erin went into private practice at the law firm of Landis Graham French in DeLand, Florida, before leaving to join Wright & Casey, P.A., in 2015.

Erin's real estate practice involves negotiating commercial and residential real estate purchase and sale agreements, issuing title insurance and handling closings, as well as drafting commercial and residential leases and seller-financing documents. Her Corporate Business practice includes forming corporate entities, drafting transactional documents, and negotiating asset purchase agreements. Erin also has bankruptcy court experience representing both debtors and creditors. She has been a member of the Florida Bar and the Volusia County Bar Association since 2007 and is admitted to practice in all Florida State Courts, the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida, and the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Middle District of Florida. Erin actively serves as a board member of the Volusia County Real Estate Council.

On behalf of *The Trails* Board and Association members, I thank Ms. Wollett for contributing her expertise to our training.

AMENITIES - Upcoming Community Events

Brandie Hayes & Marra Mackenzie



The Amenities Committee held a meeting on Friday, December 6th at 4:00 p.m. to establish the community event schedule for 2025. In planning, we strive to coordinate around larger community events, such as the Daytona 500 and Bike Week, while also considering Volusia County Schools' seasonal breaks. However, because we plan our events a year in advance, there are times when our events may overlap with other local events that were scheduled after our calendar was set.

Our primary goal is to foster a sense of community by bringing residents together. We make every effort to advertise our events efficiently through social media, post signs within the community and list the events in *The Trails Canopy* on the last page of each quarterly edition.

Please note that occasionally events may need to be cancelled or postponed. While we always try to reschedule, there may be instances where an event must be cancelled due to factors beyond our control. With all of that said please make sure you **SAVE THE DATE**:

January 20, 2025, Board Certification Event in the Trails Clubhouse.



ALL Board members must obtain CEU's per Florida Statute 720. Hosted by Wright Casey Law Firm and lunch provided by Yellowstone Landscaping. Cost is FREE.

Register at TrailsHO@CiraMail.com RE: BOD certification.
201 Main Trail Ormond Beach FL 32174



March 27, 2025, 5:15 - 8:15p.m.

First Food Truck Rally

201 Main Trail Ormond Beach FL 32174



April 26, 2025

Craft & Trade Show 11 a.m. - 4p.m.

Spring Community Yard Sale 8a.m. - ???

201 Main Trail Ormond Beach FL 32174

May 29, 2025, 5:15 - 8:15p.m.

Food Truck Rally

201 Main Trail Ormond Beach FL 32174



**June 20, July 18, and August (TBD) 2025
Summer Pizza & Movie Nights**

Movies TBD, Dusk - 9:30 p.m. Rain or Shine event

Trails Pool and in the event of rain the movie will be shown in the Clubhouse. Movies are typically geared to 4 - 12 years of age and are usually animated. Although plenty of enjoyment is had by everyone regardless of their age.

October 23, 2025, 5:15 - 8:15p.m.

Food Truck Rally

201 Main Trail Ormond Beach FL 32174



November 1, 2025, Fall Yard Sale 8a.m. - ???

Please make sure you mark your calendars, set an appointment within your smart device, or look for the event signs we put out within the community announcing an upcoming event. We look forward to seeing you there!

SPANISH PAELLA

Submitted by: Tanya Frascello



You can make a delicious, authentic Paella – the most popular dish of Spain – with simple ingredients.

Prep Time: 20 min. • Cook Time: 40 min. • Total Time: 1 hour

Equipment

- 14-inch skillet
- Paella pan

Ingredients

- ¼ cup Extra virgin olive oil (Spanish EVOO if you have it)
- 1 Onion, diced
- 1 Bell Pepper, diced (I like to use ½ red and ½ green)
- 4 cloves Garlic, tomato
- 3 Roma tomatoes, very finely diced (or 8 oz tomato sauce)
- Bay leaf
- 1 teaspoon paprika (sweet or smoked)

- 1 pinch saffron threads
- Salt and pepper
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken thighs (cut into pieces)
- ¼ cup white wine
- ¼ cup fresh chopped parsley
- 2 cups Spanish rice
- 3 cups Chicken broth
- 1/2 cup frozen peas
- ½ Lb. Jumbo Shrimp or prawns (about 12 – peeled m tail on)
- ½ Lb. Mussels (about 10 – 12) cleaned properly – beards off
- 8 oz. Calamari rings
- Lemons (for garnish)

Instructions

1. Add olive oil to a skillet over medium heat. Add the onion, bell peppers and garlic and cook until onion is translucent. Add chopped tomato, bay leaf, paprika, saffron, salt and pepper. Stir and cook for 5 minutes. Add white wine and cook for 10 minutes. Taste and add salt if needed.
2. Add chicken pieces, 2 tablespoons chopped parsley, and rice to the pot. Cook for 1 minute.
3. Pour the broth slowly all around the pan and jiggle the pan to get the rice into an even layer. (Do not stir the mixture going forward.)
4. Bring mixture to a boil. Reduce heat to medium low. Give the pan a gentle shake back and forth just once or twice during cooking. (We do not ever stir the rice, so that a crispy crust forms at the bottom, called a socarrat).
5. Cook for about 15-18 minutes (uncovered), then nestle the shrimp, mussels and calamari into the mixture, sprinkle peas on top and continue to cook (without stirring) for about 5 more minutes. Watch for most of the liquid to be absorbed and the rice at the top nearly tender. (If for some reason your rice is still not cooked, add ¼ cup more water or broth and continue cooking).
6. Remove pan from heat and cover pan with a lid or tinfoil. Place a kitchen towel over the lid and allow to rest for 10 minutes.
7. Garnish with fresh parsley and lemon slices. Serve.

Notes

- *Rice:** Spanish rice (also called “bomba” rice, calaspara rice, arroz redonda) is traditional in Paella, and it is what I recommend using. (If your grocery store does not carry it, try Amazon, World Market, or an international food market). If necessary, you can substitute medium grain rice, like Calrose rice which can be found at Walmart or most grocery stores, and reduce the broth to 3 3/4 cups. (I do not recommend using Arborio rice or long-grain rice for Paella).
- *Meat:** you could also use pork, turkey, rabbit, chorizo, or a combination.
- *Broth:** Authentic paella would include making your own fish stock from the discard shells of seafood. I usually substitute chicken broth for convenience.
- *Seafood:** If you do not like seafood, leave it out and substitute more chicken or vegetables. You can use any combination of your favorite seafood including clams, scallops and chopped pieces of fish. Frozen seafood is a great accessible option if you do not live near the ocean. (Costco sells a great mixed seafood bag in their freezer section with shrimp, mussels, clams, scallops, and calamari.) Be sure to thaw frozen seafood in the fridge overnight before using. If buying fresh seafood, smell it to make sure it is fresh. It should not have a strong fishy odor. Most of the seafood used here will smell like nothing, or just like the ocean (slightly salty). Be sure to clean it properly (remove “beards” from mussels, if necessary).
- *Saffron:** this may be the most important ingredient, so it is best to buy high quality. If your grocery store does not carry it, try an international food market, or Amazon. If necessary, substitute 1 teaspoon saffron powder.

Adaptations

- Use different rice:** if needed, you can substitute a medium grain rice, like Calrose rice which can be found at Walmart or most grocery stores. Reduce the chicken stock in the recipe to a total of 3 3/4 cups.
- Substitute pork:** Substitute boneless pork loin, cut into 1/2-inch cubes. Brown the pork pieces in hot oil as step one in the recipe. Then set it aside as you sauté the vegetables. Add the pork back to the pan in step 3 before boiling.
- Substitute Turkey or rabbit:** Brown the meat in hot oil as step one in the recipe. Then set it aside as you sauté the vegetables. Add the meat back to the pan in step 3 of the recipe, before boiling.
- Substitute chorizo:** Add 1 chorizo sausage cut into 1/2-inch discs. Brown the sausage in hot oil as step one in the recipe. Then set it aside as you sauté the vegetables. Add chorizo back to the pan in step 3 of the recipe, before boiling.
- Vegetarian Paella:** Omit the meat and seafood and add extra vegetables, like artichoke, green beans, mushroom, olives, and asparagus. Add vegetables in step one of the recipes along with the bell peppers.
- Valenciana Paella:** this version of paella is often made with rabbit, chicken, artichokes, and green beans.

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Homemade Buckeye Recipe

Submitted by: Andrea Mele



Hints on how to make our buckeye recipe, the classic chocolate and peanut butter homemade candy that is perfect for football season and gift giving.

Prep Time 30 minutes • Chill Time 30 minutes • Total Time 1 hour • Servings: 45 • Calories: 144cal

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups creamy peanut butter (375 grams)

• 1/2 cup salted butter softened (4 ounces)

• 1 teaspoon vanilla extract (5 grams)

• 1/2 teaspoon salt (2 grams)

• 3 cups powdered sugar (390 grams)

• 12 ounces dark chocolate

Instructions

1. In the bowl of a stand mixer with the paddle attachment, combine peanut butter, butter, vanilla, and salt. Beat with the beater blade on low until well blended.

2. Add 3 cups powdered sugar, beating until blended.

3. Shape a scoop of peanut butter into a 1-inch or slightly larger ball. The mixture should come together smoothly. If it is too crumbly, add a touch more peanut butter. If it is too sticky, add a bit more powdered sugar.

4. Place the peanut butter balls on a cookie sheet lined with wax paper. Freeze for 30 minutes.

5. Place chocolate in the top of a double boiler. Pour 1 cup of water in the
- bottom pan of the double boiler and simmer the water on low. As the chocolate starts melting over the heat of the hot water, stir until the chocolate is smooth. Remove the double boiler from the stove.

6. Insert toothpick in peanut butter ball. Dip 3/4 of ball into chocolate, leaving top uncovered to resemble a buckeye. Allow excess chocolate to drip from the buckeye.

7. Dab the bottom of the buckeye on a piece of wax paper to remove excess chocolate, then place the buckeye on a wax paper-lined baking sheet.

8. Remove toothpick. Smooth over holes. Chill in the fridge until firm.

Notes

- Our favorite peanut butter is creamy Jif. I do not recommend natural peanut butter.

• Use chocolate chips if you would like, but make sure they are high quality semi-sweet chocolate chips.

• Recipe calls for chocolate chips but I use dark chocolate Ghirardelli melting wafers

• Many people add paraffin wax to their chocolate to thin it out. I find that
- when using high quality dark chocolate, you do not have to use paraffin wax. You can also add a teaspoon or two of vegetable shortening or coconut oil in order to thin the chocolate to the desired consistency if absolutely necessary. I highly recommend pure chocolate, though!

• The exact number of buckeyes you will get depends on how big you roll the peanut butter balls. We roll our buckeyes about 1" to 1 1/4" in diameter.

Nutrition

Calories: 144kcal | Carbohydrates: 13g | Protein: 2g | Fat: 9g | Saturated Fat: 4g | Cholesterol: 5mg | Sodium: 84mg | Potassium: 109mg | Fiber: 1g | Sugar: 10g | Vitamin A: 65IU | Calcium: 10mg | Iron: 1.1mg

Cranberry & Brie Crescent Bites

Submitted by: Marilyn Dorinson

- Grease muffin tin.

• Roll out Pillsbury crescent roll dough flat sheet. If you have the crescent rolls with indentations, smooth them out and roll into a flat sheet.

• Cut into 12 squares and press into muffin cups, or 24 squares into smaller muffin tins.

• Cut brie into 12 squares or 24 smaller ones if you want to use 2 in each cup for better distribution, or for use in smaller muffin tins. Place in muffin cups.

• Add a tablespoon of cranberry sauce to each cup.

• Bake at 375 degrees according to the package instructions, usually 9-12 minutes.

• Remove from the oven and garnish with cut rosemary sprigs.



Artichoke Dip

Submitted by: Maureen Bridger

Ingredients:

- 1 can artichoke hearts, drained and cut up

• 1 cup mayonnaise

• 1 large onion, diced

• 1 cup parmesan cheese

Instructions:

- Mix well

• Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour

• Serve with Tostito chips



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LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE – UPDATE

Marilyn Dorinson, Committee Member

The Trails looked resplendent for the holidays, from the lights, poinsettias and ornaments at the entrances and the clubhouse, to Ramblewood's beautiful entrance. And, let us not forget the individual homeowners who went all out with their decorations to celebrate the season. Kudos to all those whose decorations provided such joy! Several examples are shown in the photo collage accompanying this article.

On a more somber note, the cleanup after Hurricane Milton proved costly to *The Trails*, with the cost for cleanup of debris at \$52,00.00 and an additional \$11,00.00 for tree removal.

Also, because of the hurricane debris littering the community during the Fall, the Landscape Committee decided not to recognize a Yard-of-the Quarter or Sub association-of-the-Quarter in this edition of *The Canopy*.

Finally, Yellowstone employees are working on regularly scheduled flower rotation, and the poinsettias were to be replaced on January 8 by miniature snapdragons. Fertilizing the existing plants was done on November 7.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year from the Landscape Committee.

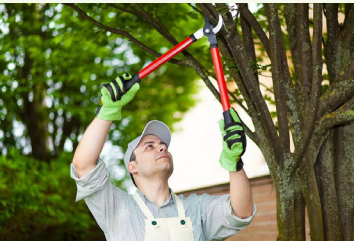
LAWN CARE TIPS FROM THE PROS

Guest Article contributed by Yellowstone Landscape

Winter Gardening Tips for Homeowners

Winter in Central Florida presents a unique set of challenges and opportunities for gardeners. Unlike regions with harsh, prolonged winters, our mild season offers homeowners a chance to maintain and prepare their landscapes for the upcoming spring. Understanding the specific needs of your landscape during these cooler months can help ensure healthy, vibrant plants and set the stage for growth in the warmer seasons.

Winter Tree Pruning: Timing and Techniques



Winter is an ideal time for tree pruning here in Central Florida. During the dormant season, trees are less stressed and more receptive to pruning, which can help improve their overall structure and health. For deciduous trees, the absence of leaves makes it easier to assess branch structure and identify areas

that need attention. Fruit trees, in particular, benefit from winter pruning, as it encourages better fruit production and helps maintain the tree's shape.

When pruning, focus on removing dead, damaged, or crossing branches that could potentially harm the tree's long-term health. Use clean, sharp pruning tools to make precise cuts, and always cut just outside the branch collar to promote proper healing. For citrus trees, winter pruning should be minimal, focusing primarily on removing dead wood and improving air circulation within the canopy.



Pruning Perennial Plants: Preparation and Protection

Your perennial plants require careful attention during the winter months. While the region experiences mild temperatures, occasional frost can damage sensitive plants. Pruning perennials in winter helps stimulate new growth and maintains plant health. Start by removing dead or yellowing foliage, which can harbor diseases and pests.

Many perennials, such as ornamental grasses, salvias, and lantanas, can be cut back significantly during winter. For

most plants, reduce the height by about one-third to one-half, which encourages compact growth and prevents leggy, unruly appearances. Be cautious with tropical and semi-tropical perennials that are more sensitive to cold; these may require minimal pruning and additional protection during rare freezing temperatures.

Addressing Winter Weeds: Proactive Management



Winter weeds can be particularly troublesome in our mild climate. Species like dollarweed, chickweed, and annual bluegrass can quickly spread if not managed effectively. The key to winter weed control is a combination of preventative measures

and targeted removal.

Begin by applying a pre-emergent herbicide in late fall or early winter to prevent weed seeds from germinating. Maintain a thick, healthy lawn through proper fertilization and watering, which naturally suppresses weed growth. For existing weeds, hand-pulling or using spot treatments can be effective. Mulching garden beds can also help suppress weed growth while maintaining soil moisture and temperature.

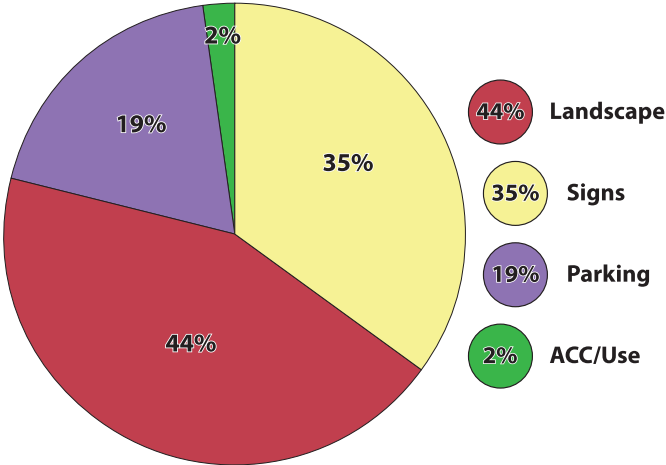
Other Winter Landscaping Considerations



Beyond pruning and weed management, consider protecting sensitive plants during occasional cold snaps. Have frost cloths or blankets ready to cover tropical plants and move potted plants to sheltered areas when temperatures are expected to drop. Continue to water your plants, but reduce frequency, as plants require less moisture during cooler months.

By implementing these winter gardening tips, homeowners can maintain a beautiful, healthy landscape, prepared for the vibrant growing season ahead this spring. Careful pruning, weed management, and plant protection will ensure your garden remains a source of pride and enjoyment throughout the winter months.

COVENANT VIOLATION DATA



AROUND THE COMMUNITY

The Trails Illuminated for the Holidays



History of the Christmas Tree

Maureen Bridger

There is a long history of the evergreen tree, real or fake, that Christians erect during the Christmas season.

Ancient Egyptians decorated palms to symbolize life over death. The origins of what we know began with pagan rituals and later, traditions symbolizing life and fertility of an evergreen tree. Green boughs brightened homes during the winter solstice, while symbolizing eternal life and living long, growing tall, and remaining green and fresh.

In Medieval times people used a fir tree, decorated with apples, representing of The Garden of Eden.

Evergreen trees, for some, represented hope, the tree top pointing upward to Heaven. A tree cut down but standing and decorated, was a symbol of Christ's death and resurrection.

Later, in 1418 the guild in Friebourg, Germany decorated a fresh tree with apples, tinsel, and gingerbread. Paradise Plays were performed to celebrate Adam and Eve and the tree, decorated with apples, portrayed the tree of knowledge.

In the 16th Century, if wood was scarce people erected pyramids of wood scraps and decorated with evergreens and candles. Martin Luther, Protestant reformer, was first to decorate a fir tree with candles and Christians in Germany decorated trees in their homes. The first tree recorded in a church was in the (Lutheran) Cathedral of Strasbourg, France.

In 1824, Ernst Anschütze's musical piece "Tannenbaum" translated to "fir tree". There was no reference to the lyrics for Christmas, but the piece praised the tree's hardiness during a cold winter. In 1848, Queen Victoria was featured in the London Illustrated News decorating a tree in Windsor Castle---Christmas décor then began to be fashionable.

In 1870, The United States recognized Christmas as a federal holiday, and so, for many years we Americans celebrate this holiday. Some believe in the religious aspect of Christmas and, for most, it is a gathering of family, joy, and hope for the best of the incoming new year.

Best wishes for all our Trails residents – and for the promise of happiness and good health for 2025!



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Nextdoor The Trails - Ormond Beach is the neighborhood hub for trusted connections and the exchange of helpful information, goods, and services. On Nextdoor, neighbors share crime and safety concerns, local events, recommendations, items for sale/free, ideas about how to make our neighborhood better, and more.

Our neighborhood is using an online platform called Nextdoor. Please join us to build a better neighborhood!

- Brandie H.
Main Trl

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FREE copies of the *Ormond Beach Observer* are available at the Clubhouse every Thursday

IMPORTANT DATES & UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CLUBHOUSE (CH)

Mondays 11:30 am - 3:30 pm Bridge Club-Every other week.
Girls Scouts & Brownies evening meetings

Tuesdays 8:30 am - 12 (noon) Ormond Beach Art Guild (CH)
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Bible Study-TBD

Thursdays 11:30 am - 4:00 pm is available for Card club (each week).
Note: Watch Nextdoor.com for club dates to resume

TBD - These dates and times are standing for the clubs when they are comfortable meeting in groups.



When you see this flag on the calendar - display your flag at your mailbox.

January 2025

01/01 - Your 1st Qtr. Assessment of \$261.00 is due. Office is Closed for New Year

01/02 - Last day of Hanukkah

01/02 - Landscape Committee meeting 3:00 p.m. 1st floor conf. room (CH)

01/08 - ACC Meeting 9:00 a.m. 1st floor conf. room (CH)

01/09 - Board of Directors Meeting (CH 6:00 p.m.)

01/13 - LAST DAY TO REGISTER for Board Certification Class. Open to everyone!

01/20 - Board Certification Class Trails CH 2nd Floor 10a.m. - 3p.m.

01/20 - Martin Luther King Day 

01/22 - ACC Meeting 9:00 a.m. 1st floor conf. room (CH)

01/30 - Assessment Late Fee Applied to all accounts with any Balance Owed.

February

02/01 - 1st. assessment past due \$261.00

02/02 - Ground Hog Day 

02/06 - Landscape Committee meeting 3:00 p.m. 1st floor conf. room (CH)

02/12 - ACC Meeting 9:00 a.m. 1st floor conf. room (CH)

02/13 - Board of Directors Meeting (CH 6:00 p.m.)

02/14 - Valentines Day 

02/17 - Presidents Day 

02/26 - ACC Meeting 9:00 a.m. 1st floor conf. room (CH)

02/28 - 03/09 - Daytona Bike Week, Look Twice and Save a Life! 

March

03/06 - Landscape Committee meeting 3:00 p.m. 1st floor conf. room (CH)

03/09 - Spring them Clocks Ahead! 

03/12 - ACC Meeting 9:00 a.m. 1st floor conf. room (CH)

03/13 - Board of Directors Meeting (CH 6:00 p.m.)

03/17 - St Patrick's Day 

03/17 - 03/20 - Volusia County Schools Spring Break

03/26 - ACC Meeting 9:00 a.m. 1st floor conf. room (CH)

03/27 - Food Truck Rally Clubhouse Parking lot 5:15 - 8:15p.m. 

Did you know?

Carl Harrell has been the Pool Manager here at the Trails for 40 years? Email a Carl "the pool guy" memory to the TrailsHO@CiraMail.com so that we can properly celebrate him with your best wishes and stories for the next edition of your Trails Canopy! If you have pictures of him perhaps giving a swimming lesson to you or your, child we will happily add it to the edition.

POOL HOURS: NOVEMBER 1, 2024 – MARCH 20, 2025
10:00am – 4:00pm