

Landscape Committee Report

Two major projects are now completed.

The hammock area behind the 100 building is free of the invasive Brazilian Pepper Trees. Besides being an invasive species, there was also evidence that a homeless person had camped there for a day or two. The project turned out to be bigger than expected and took longer than expected. In the end, we removed two very large trees, three medium size trees, and about eight smaller trees. It was a pleasure to meet and work with John Baker. John cut down all the branches, limbs and trunks, and poisoned the remaining stumps at no cost to PPHOA. Much of his time was spent up on a ladder, with a chainsaw, cutting through branches up to 10" in diameter. John will turn 90 years old in two days. Needless to say, he was an inspiration to all of us who helped on the project.

The cost for the removal was \$650, broken down as follows:

- \$75 for two gift cards for John Baker
- \$75 for towing when John's truck got mired in a soft spot
- \$200 for a day laborer to help remove and pile cuttings. This consisted of five half days of labor @ \$40 per day
- \$300 for the gathering and removal of smaller branches and cuttings, consisting of five loads hauled to the city dump

I would like to thank Tom Pasek and Dennis DeSiata for their help with the cutting and clearing. And a very special thanks to Ed White who worked tirelessly throughout the project. And finally a thank you to Andy Weeks who I feel was instrumental in getting Waste Management to remove the larger branches and logs. Without their help, this project would have been endless. Thank you all.

The next step in the process will be to determine what plantings will be required to ensure privacy from South Patrick and rebuild the noise barrier to help mute the traffic. The Indian Harbour Beach Public Works Supervisor, Jim Matthews, will be installing a two hose spigot off the overflow pipe that is beside the hammock area. We will be able to water any new plantings at no cost to PPHOA.

The other good news is that six bids have been collected and processed for our new landscaping contract. I would urge the newly elected BOD members to tackle this immediately. Our current contract expires in December and we should give a 30 day notice if necessary. Angela and I both agree the high and low bids should be discarded. I am recommending that the remaining four bidders should be allowed to come in and make a formal 20-30 minute presentation. This could be done in one night in about two hours if the BOD is agreeable.

Bob Fleury, Landscape Committee
11/13/2013