

WINDOVER WHISPERS

JANUARY 2025

OFFICE HOURS:

M-Th, 10:00am to 3:00pm

Fri, 10:00am-2:00pm

WEBSITE:

www.windoverfarms.com

EMAIL:

windoverfarms@cfl.rr.com

PHONE: (321) 259-2216

HOA MEETING:

Board meetings are normally
held on the first Monday of
each month @ 6:30pm at the
Pavilion.

(Check for changes)

ARC

Meets the 3rd Tuesday of
each month.

(Check for changes)

HAPPY NEW YEAR

We would like to thank those who volunteered to decorate for the Holidays. You all did a fabulous job in making Windover Farms Festive.

Annual Meeting is January 14, 2025

We have enclosed the candidate Bio's and an
Email Approval form.

These documents were not included in with the
annual meeting notice due to the printer's
schedule and the time line stated in the Windover
Farms ByLaws.

Annual Dues Reminder

Your annual dues of \$355.00 are due no later than January 1st, 2025. If not paid by January 10th, 2025 by 2:00pm, late fees & interest charges, along with possible attorney fees are added.

Please contact Teresa in the Office if you have not received your invoice for your 2025 HOA fees.

CLASSIFIED

Experienced Pet/Plant Sitter: Will come to your home to care for your housebound pets while you are away. Plant watering available as well. 25-year Windover resident Cheryl 321-720-5916

Experienced Dog Trainer: Certified Veterinary Assistant is an experienced dog trainer in basic and advanced obedience and agility training. Willing to administer medications, train dogs, and care for your pets while you're at work or on vacation, will care for your precious pups with the highest degree of professionalism. 20-year Windover Resident. Call Maya 321-614-4232.

Deadline for placing a classified or advertisement in the Whispers Newsletter is the 15th of each month.

DISCLAIMER

Windover Farms of Melbourne HOA cannot and does not investigate the legitimacy, validity, legality of any business or service listed, and expressly disclaims any responsibility or liability arising out of or relating to any business or service listed including, 1) the legality of the ad or offer, 2) the performance or conduct of the advertiser or merchant, 3) any damages or injury that may result from the ad or offer listed. Windover Farms of Melbourne HOA assumes no liability with regard to its advertisers for misprints or failure to place advertising in this publication except for the actual cost of such advertising. The Board of Directors has the right to refuse to run any ads that it deems not appropriate.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – James Flint
Vice President – Sharon Savastio
Treasurer - Richard Folio
Secretary – Tom Brandon
Director – Chris Hill
Alt. Director- Steve Cordell

Community Association Manager – Teresa Commesso

Maintenance - John Holman

COMMITTEES

Architectural Review Committee:

Doug Berry Chris Sorensen
Connie Kostyra Candice Elkins
Bill Means David L.

Social Committee:

Nicole Robinson

Neighborhood Beautification Committee:

Maureen Arceneaux
Mary Micale

Amenity Committee:

John Shishilla, Daryl Davenport,
Anne Crowder-Gordon, Jamie
Wannamaker & Nora Schutte

Pickleball Committee:

Jeri Keefe

Tennis:

Bill Lutter, Coleen Brumley

Baseball:

Kevin Robinson

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Animal Control: 633-2024
Hospital Fl. Wildlife: 254-8843
Sheriff Non-emergency: 633-2123
Storm Water Utility: 633-2014
City of Melbourne: 953-6216
Waste Management 723-4455
Solid Waste Management
264-5048
Road and Bridge – 255-4354

BREVARD COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

District 1: Megan Wright

District 2: Gene Trent

District 3: Jennifer Jenkins

District 4: Matt Susin

District 5: Katye Campbell

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

District 1 – Rita Pritchett

400 South Street, Suite 1-A
Titusville, FL 32780
321-264-6750 321-264-6751(fax)
d1.commissioner@brevardcountny.us

District 2 – Tom Goodson

2575 n. Courtenay Parkway
Merritt Island, FL 32953
321-454-6601 321-454-6602
d2.commissioner@brevardcounty.us

District 3- John Tobia

1311 E. New Haven Ave.
Melbourne, FL 32901
952-6300 952-6340(fax)
d3.commissioner@brevardcounty.us

District 4 – Rob Feltner

**2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building C
Viera, FL 32940**
633-2044 633-2121(fax)
d4.commissioner@brevardcounty.us

Pavilion Rental Form:

<https://windoverfarms.com/arc-forms>

Election Matters

Recently, a letter was delivered to residents of our community by three of the six candidates currently running for the 2025 HOA board positions. This letter suggested that "many" residents have growing concerns about how the current board has managed HOA decisions, citing a lack of transparency, and suggesting that the community's needs have been overlooked. It was further implied that electing the three candidates mentioned in the letter would address these issues.

The current HOA board agrees that improved communication with residents is essential, and we have been actively working on solutions to address this. Specifically, we are in the process of implementing a new software management system that will include a public-facing website. This will provide residents with better online access to HOA updates and important information.

Unfortunately, both the board and paid HOA staff have been subjected to sustained hostility in the past year during board meetings, and within the community. The board has also received a high volume of information requests, which has placed significant demands on the time and capacity of our all-volunteer team.

Additionally, inaccurate statements about individual board members have circulated on social media, and questions about financial management have been raised. To clarify, there have been no claims of missing funds. Rather, the discussions center on differing viewpoints regarding budget methodologies and the allocation of resources.

To reassure residents, please note that the association's financials are regularly reviewed by multiple parties, including a professional CPA firm hired by the association. In fact, the current Treasurer has even suggested that the association hire an outside firm to conduct a professional audit. However, the majority of the board has been reluctant to incur the significant costs of such an audit, as it would result in billing the community thousands of dollars to address concerns expressed by a vocal minority.

Ironically, the Amenities Committee had suggested **membership dues should be increased to \$600-\$900 per year**. If the community feels that a significant increase in dues is necessary to fund additional amenities, this decision should be made collectively by all residents in accordance with our Bylaws, and not just those that are campaigning for control of your HOA board.

It was also recommended that Windover Farms reopen an **unrestricted regional basketball court** in the pavilion parking lot. While we understand that some have a desire for this amenity, this decision brings up important questions regarding liability to the community, and unresolved issues from past disturbances that have been cited by the people tasked with handling them. Such a far-reaching decision should also be subject to community-wide input before moving forward.

The board is encouraged to see so many residents stepping up as candidates for the 2025 board. For years, we have asked for more community volunteers, and several board members have expressed relief at the opportunity to pass the torch. Ultimately, we are all Windover Farms residents, and every decision should reflect what benefits us collectively.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for your continued engagement in the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,
The Windover Farms Board of Directors



2025 BOARD CANDIDATES BIOS

Tom Brandon

My Name is Tom Brandon and I am currently on the Board of the WFOM HOA. I have agreed to stay on and run again for a board position. I have been on the board off and on over quite a few years. I have also served on the WFOM ARC as well for quite a number of years. I was actually on the Board when it was turned over to the homeowners from EKS (original developers).

I am an Electrical Engineer and worked for Harris Corporation for 12 years before leaving to start my construction company. I am now a General Contractor and have been President and CEO of Brandon Development Enterprises for the last 28 years.

I continue to be willing to serve our community to help keep WFOM beautiful and a great place for all of us to live as well as protecting our home values by ensuring that we have a focus on keeping all of our neighborhood in top notch condition.

I feel that my background as both an Engineer and a General Contractor provide a unique background to be able to help the WFOM Community both maintain and improve our wonderful neighborhood.

Steve Cordell

Hello, my name is Steve Cordell and I am currently a board member for Windover Farms. I have been on the board of directors for 2 years and would like to continue to represent our community for the upcoming term.

My wife and I moved to Windover in March of 2020 when we fell in love with the quiet family-oriented neighborhood.

HOA board members must know how to plan and understand the budget, manage the associations finances, deal with disputes, listen to the residents concerns and know how to successfully manage

I was a past member of the development committee for Woodland Villages, Phase II in Ocala, FL from 1998 – 2000 before moving to Brevard County.

Upon moving to Melbourne we purchased Waterline Marina in 2000, which we owned and operated until we recently sold it in 2023.

I served on the HOA Board of Directors for the Eau Gallie Harbor Club from 2011 to 2016. Eau Gallie Harbor Club is a 24 unit riverfront condominium in Melbourne.

From 2018 to present, as the Supervising Partner for Elbow Creek Townhomes, we have just completed developing a 26 unit waterfront townhome development along with creating the original HOA documents and organizing them for turn over to the residents.

I feel that my background provides the knowledge and understanding that will help me continue to serve my community in a positive manner and that I have the experience to be open minded and to help our community thrive and move forward.

As a local businessman in Melbourne for the past 24 years I feel I can continue to make a positive contribution to our community.

Thank you for your previous support and I look forward to your support in the future.



2025 BOARD CANDIDATES BIOS

Daryl Davenport

I have proudly called Windover Farms home since 2006, and in that time, I have built a deep connection with our community and developed a passion for leadership and service. My husband, Ron, and I are enjoying the empty-nest phase, but our home remains lively, thanks to our miniature double dapple Dachshund, Duke, and our granddog, Sky, whom we rescued from a kill shelter in Georgia. We are also the proud parents of 21-year-old twins—Wes, an Architectural Engineering major at the University of Alabama, and Alex, an Interior Design major at Auburn University. Our Saturdays are filled with both spirited cheers and good-natured rivalry, as we are avid SEC fans in a house divided between Alabama, Auburn, and Ron's beloved Georgia Bulldogs.

Professionally, I own Davenport Marketing, a company dedicated to helping small businesses grow through strategic marketing solutions. With over 30 years of experience as a marketing leader and entrepreneur, I approach challenges with a strategy-first mindset, focusing on collaboration and measurable results. I bring empathy, integrity, and a genuine desire to improve the companies I work with to all aspects of my professional and personal life.

Leadership has been a part of my journey for as long as I can remember, starting in high school student government and continuing into my time at Susquehanna University, where I served as Senior Class President and Panhellenic President as a member of Alpha Delta Pi. These roles helped me hone my abilities to listen to diverse perspectives, mediate conflicts, and build consensus—skills that are directly applicable to serving on the HOA board.

I also take pride in my community service. I helped launch and grow the girls' division of the Viera/Suntree Lacrosse Club, which later became Space Coast Lacrosse. I served as the girls' division director for over five years, growing the program from 12 girls to over 100 and coaching both recreational and tournament teams. My experience managing budgets, logistics, and community needs has given me practical insights into handling the responsibilities that come with serving a growing and diverse group.

As a candidate for the Windover Farms HOA Board, I am committed to fostering an inclusive, transparent, and forward-thinking community. I am passionate about maintaining and enhancing the quality of life for all residents by ensuring that every voice is heard and valued. Whether it's managing resources effectively or promoting community engagement, I believe in collaboration and clear communication. I look forward to contributing to the ongoing success of Windover Farms.



2025 BOARD CANDIDATES BIOS

Ike Eisenhower

I thank all who have served Windover Farms! We remain the most beautiful and peaceful community in Brevard County. Nancy and I bought our lot on Heartwood Lane 30 years ago, because of the peerless peace and beauty. We built our house in 2006, and shall remain here for the rest of our days. Sense of community and yes, our Deed Restrictions, are what keep us special. I've been a missile test engineer and project engineer for over 40 years, active-duty Air Force and Air Force contractor, and retire in a couple of months. I'm skilled in contract writing and negotiation, management of people and resources, construction basics, conflict prevention and de-escalation, team building, brainstorming, problem definition and resolution, and maximizing outcomes subject to constraints. "The Law of Entropy" says it takes effort to keep nice things nice. Left on their own, all nice things slowly move to disorder. My experience also says everything takes team work. That's good leadership and good followership. I have a lot of experience in effort and teamwork, teams large and small. I would appreciate a chance to serve you on the Board of Directors, or elsewhere on various committees. This is the first time in my life I have utter freedom to do what I want, and I want to keep our community beautiful, and help wherever I can.

Jamie Lynn Wannamaker

A resident of Windover Farms for thirteen years, I would like to bring a fresh perspective to our community. Blending the vision of the leadership that has made Windover Farms the much sought after community it is and incorporating the insight of the diverse population our community is made up of.

My commitment lies in providing education and support to all our community, hopefully creating a productive and positive sounding board every step of the way. As a proud military veteran and member of the Melbourne community for over two decades, originally from Wisconsin, I am deeply committed to serving my neighbors and community. In the finance field by trade, bringing twenty years of multi-faceted money management and budgeting experience. A Special Olympics coach, mentor, and advocate. I believe I bring an eclectic background to the position. My home is shared with my husband, Chris, and our two sons, Daniel, and Nate. Daniel proudly serves in the Air Force, while Nate, a long-standing volunteer at Brevard Zoo, has a passion for all things animal related. Chris and I approach life as perpetual tourists, relishing opportunities to explore and engage with our vibrant community.



2025 BOARD CANDIDATES BIOS

John Shishilla 4159 Mockingbird Dr.

Has been a Brevard resident since 1989 and graduated from Eastern Florida College. He is married to Michelle for more than 25 years with three children living in Florida and soon to be a grandparent. He is a dedicated, hands-on professional and owner of an inspection and pest control company, Honor Construction of Brevard, LLC. D/B/A Honor Services in Melbourne, Florida with his wife (Michelle). They also own Honor Roofing and Construction, LLC. John holds multiple licenses including: Florida home inspector, an active Certified Residential Contractor, a mold assessor, Florida Certified Pest Control Operator (GHP and WDO) and is an Accredited Claims Adjuster (ACA). His first-hand knowledge of homes is incomparable – as is the information he regularly shares with inspectors and business owners, including at the national events where he speaks and teaches. He teaches about all aspects of homes and advocates for proper regulation. He has taken several trips to Tallahassee to speak about insurance and insurance inspections, advocating for ways to reduce insurance rates and lawsuits. Starting his career as a handyman working his way to superintendent of construction for a small custom builder and obtaining his residential contractor's license. He later became the qualifier for the company and worked supervising the construction of homes, land development and commercial projects. He opened Honor Construction of Brevard, LLC., while the Real Estate and construction markets were in a downturn he grew the company. His knowledge and expertise were sought after, and he quickly became a leader in the inspection industry including insurance inspections. He spends most days supporting his companies and working as an expert in home related legal cases. In his free time he enjoys working around his house, fishing, going to concerts and Disney (DVC).

John has served on several other boards including:

- Past Director, Treasurer and President for the Florida Association of Building Inspectors
 - Member of the Legislative Committee
 - Member of the Education Committee
 - Member of the Strategic Planning Committee
 - Member of the Finance Committee
- Former Board of Directors of PMRPC (Chief Instructor, Treasurer and Vice-President)
- Student Government Association Representative and Treasure

Professional Associations (past and current):

Member of the InterNational Association of Home Inspectors, Chapter President
Member of the American Society of Home Inspectors
Member of the Florida Association of Building Inspectors, Board of Directors
Member of the Space Coast Area Realtors Association
Member of the Brevard County Women's Council of Realtors
Member of the Building Envelope Science Institute
Member of the International Code Council
Member of the Florida Certified Pest Control Operators Association
Member of the Florida Pest Management Association

Designations:

Certified Master Inspector- CMI (InterNachi)
Master Professional Inspector- MPI (FABI)
Accredited Claims Adjuster (ACA)

Attention, All Windover Farms Veterans!



Join us on Saturday, 25 January 2025, 1000-1200 hours at the Windover Farms pavilion for a **Veterans Coffee Connection**. Get to know your fellow Windover veterans, share experiences, and discuss advocacy opportunities in a welcoming atmosphere.

All Active Duty and Honorably Released U.S. Military, Law Enforcement, and Firefighters are welcome. Meet your Brothers and Sisters, make new friends, and find out who is the oldest veteran living in Windover. Good coffee, good friends, who could ask for more?

Hope to see you there! -Michael Savastio, U.S. Air Force Veteran

The Brevard Antiques and Collectibles Club will hold its monthly meeting **Friday January 3rd:** at the SUNTREE/VIERA Library, 902 Jordan Blass Dr. at 10:00 A.M.

The subject will be **"Obsolete Collectibles"**.

Please bring one item for study and discussion. For additional information call George at 321-254-5831.

We have a different topic at each meeting. The group is open to anyone having an interest in learning about antiques and collectibles.

We are collectors – not dealers therefore we do not give appraisals.

WINDOVER FARMS OF MELBOURNE HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION, INC.
Owner information

If you would like to authorize the Windover Farms to communicate with you via email, please complete the form below. You will also receive a link to register for the new web-based HOA management system when it is ready.

I/We _____, the owner[s] of

Lot #/address _____ give my/our permission that notices, newsletters, annual mailings, etc. will be sent to me/us by email except where either State Law or the Association Bylaws mandate that the US Mail delivery is required.

This permission has no expiration date, but I /we may revoke it at any time by sending notice to Windover Farms email.

My/our contact information is only used by HOA Management and/or the Windover Farms Board as needed to conduct business:

Email: (for readability reasons, please use CAPITAL LETTERS!!!!)

Phone:

My/our mailing address (if different from property address):

Signature

Please return this form via email, mail or drop off.

windoverfarms@cfl.rr.com

**Windover Farms of Melbourne HOA
4025 Windover Way
Melbourne, FL 32934**



ROACH & VANWIE
LUXURY REAL ESTATE
RE/MAX AEROSPACE

Eva Roach

REALTOR®
(c) 321-266-2635

Lauren VanWie

REALTOR®
(c) 321-213-8866



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2025 REAL ESTATE MARKET

WHEN EXPERIENCE and RESULTS MATTER



WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2025

The 2025 real estate market is expected to be focused on stabilizing interest rates and steady buyer demand. Partnering with an experienced agent will be essential to navigating the market and maximizing results. We are certified Buyer's Agency Professionals (BAP) and Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialists (CLHMS) and ready to help!

BUYER PROFILE

Millennials and Gen Z will continue to dominate the buyer market, with a focus on affordability, energy efficiency, and smart home features. Many will explore suburban and rural areas to find more value, while first-time buyers could benefit from new assistance programs. - call us to find out more!



SELLER PROFILE

Sellers in 2025 will need to prioritize competitive pricing and high-quality presentation to stand out. Homes with updated kitchens, eco-friendly features, and well maintained outdoor spaces will attract the most interest.

TWO AGENTS ONE GOAL YOUR SUCCESS!

With our combined experience and hands-on approach, we bring unmatched VALUE to every transaction. Our personal touch and teamwork ensure every detail is handled with care. Keep an eye on our weekly emails for local real estate updates!



EVA ROACH 321-266-2635
LAUREN VANWIE 321-213-8866

ROACHANDVANWIE.COM
EMAIL: ROACHANDVANWIE@GMAIL.COM



BROADWAY ELECTRIC

321-462-8973

BROADWAYELECTRICLLC@GMAIL.COM

“If you want it done
the *RIGHT WAY*,
have it done by
BROADWAY!”

- Ceiling Fans
- Sub Panels
- Receptacles
- Panel Change Outs
- Switches/ Dimmers
- Light Fixtures/ Recessed
- Surge Protectors
- Breakers
- EV Chargers/RV Plugs
- GFCI'S/AFCI'S
- Repairs/ Troubleshooting

Hours of Operation

24 Hours a day!

7 Days a week!

365 Days a year!

Our goals:

- Break the cycle of hearing about customers being taken advantage of and/or being scammed.
- Bring the highest level of transparency and communication to our clients before, during, and after the job is complete.
- Being that we are a very small family owned business, we strive to give you the absolute best craftsmanship while upholding current National Electrical Code standards.

JPC

JACOBS
PRESSURE
CLEANING

JACOBSPRESSURECLEANING@GMAIL.COM

321.610.4270

WWW.JPCPRESSURECLEANING.COM

Choose Us for all
Your Commercial & Residential
Exterior Cleaning Needs.
Licensed & Insured

WHY JPC?

- We're Timely
- Professional Equipment
- Well-trained Crews
- Nationally Recognized
- Reasonably Priced
- Veteran Owned

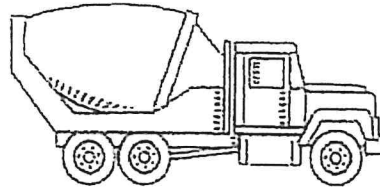
Go to www.jacobspressurecleaning.com
for a free instant quote!

Hassle Free Instant
quotes 24/7!

Instant Quote



We clean it all!
Building Exteriors
Concrete & Pavers
Pool Enclosures, Roofs
Fencing, HOAs



*Sonic Concrete, Inc.
Driveway Repair!
Slabs and Pads*

*Tired of that cracked and failing driveway?
Sonic Concrete replaces damaged driveways.
We clean and repair damaged culverts.
We have been in business for 35 years.
For free estimates call
Bill Gray at 321-724-0773.*

*We have installed many driveways and house
foundations and they still look great.
Our quality is easy to see.*

*So if you're ready to have a beautiful and
safe new driveway, call us today.*

*www.SonicConcreteFL.net
SonicConcreteFL@aol.com*



321-626-8816

earthdoctorbrevard@gmail.com

Call or Email Dave
for Estimate!

- **Basic & Full Maintenance Monthly
Lawn Care Services**
- **Monthly Weed Control**
- **Mulch, Plant & Flower Installation**
- **Hedge & Tree Trimming**

★ Reliable ★ Trustworthy ★ Hassle-Free ★

Windover Farms Trash and Refuse Guidelines

Please consider the following guidelines for trash and refuse to help keep the neighborhood attractive, as well as keeping within the HOA regulations concerning unsightly objects and trash/debris container storage.

Garbage Day – Tuesdays and Fridays

Recycling Day – Fridays

- Please leave containers at the end of your driveway *no earlier* than 5pm on the night before pickup (Mondays and Thursdays).
- Please retrieve containers *no later* than 9am, on the morning *after* your pickup (Wednesdays and Saturdays).



Large objects (non-organic items that won't fit in your trash can) – Mondays

- Homeowners must call Waste Management at **321-723-4455** by the end of business Friday to schedule a pickup. There is no charge for most items.
- If you have trouble reaching a representative at Waste Management on the phone, you can also use their live chat at WM.com.
- Please ***do not*** leave large items at the end of your driveway more than 24 hours in advance.

Yard Waste and Trimmings - Mondays

- Please place yard-waste in containers no larger than 35-gallons, and no heavier than 50 pounds. Small branches can be cut to 4-foot lengths, and placed in a small pile.
- Please deposit your refuse *no earlier* than 24 hours in advance of pickup (Sunday).
- Please retrieve your containers by 9am of the morning *after* pickup day (Tuesday).
- If you have a pile larger than 3 yards (the size of 3 washing machines), please continue reading.

Large Yard Waste Piles (greater than 3 yards)

- Please call Waste Management at **321-723-4455** to schedule a claw-truck pickup.
 - ***Items will not be retrieved unless you call.***
- If you call on or before Friday, the debris will be retrieved within the next week (5 business days).
- Please deposit your items **in front of your own lot** *no earlier* than Saturday.
- There is no charge for this service.

*Please note that any hired landscaping, land clearing, or tree trimming services **MUST** remove any material that they generate.

*On non-trash pickup days - trash, recycling, or yard-waste containers must not be visible from adjoining lots or public areas. If outside, please store them in a walled area.

*If your Waste Management trash bin is damaged, please call Waste Management and order your replacement at **321-723-4455**.

*Please do not leave trash containers at the end of your driveway if you are unable to retrieve them within the time-frames specified above.

*The Windover Farms HOA cannot call Waste Management on behalf of homeowners.

The Invasive Brazilian Pepper Tree: Removing the Threat from Your Yard

The Brazilian pepper tree (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) is a highly invasive plant species that poses a significant threat to the biodiversity and ecological balance of Florida. Although it may seem appealing with its attractive appearance, and ability to provide privacy screening, this plant has earned a notorious reputation for its tendency to dominate landscapes, outcompeting native species, and causing ecological harm. If you have Brazilian pepper trees in your yard, it is crucial to understand the importance of removing them to safeguard against the spread.

Understanding the Brazilian Pepper Tree

The Brazilian pepper tree, also known as the Florida holly or Christmas berry, is native to South America but has become a problematic invasive species in many parts of the world, including the United States, particularly in Florida and California. It was introduced to Florida in the 19th century as an ornamental plant but quickly escaped cultivation and spread rapidly, displacing native vegetation.

Identification and Characteristics

Identifying the Brazilian pepper tree is relatively straightforward. It is a medium-sized tree that can reach heights of up to **40 feet** (12 meters) and has a dense, evergreen canopy. The leaves are pinnately compound, resembling fern fronds, with five to nine leaflets arranged opposite each other. When crushed, the leaves emit a strong, peppery scent, which contributes to its name.

One of the distinguishing features of this invasive species is its berry-like fruit, which changes color as it matures. Initially green, the fruit turns yellow, then orange, and finally red when fully ripe. These berries contain seeds that birds readily consume and disperse, aiding the plant's rapid spread.



Ecological Impacts

The Brazilian pepper tree poses a significant threat to ecosystems due to its aggressive growth and ability to form dense thickets, crowding out native plants. This invasive species alters the structure and

composition of native plant communities, reducing biodiversity and negatively impacting wildlife habitats.

The tree's dense canopy inhibits sunlight penetration, preventing the growth of understory vegetation. This lack of vegetation reduces food sources, nesting sites, and protective cover for native animals, leading to a decline in local wildlife populations.

Additionally, the tree's leaves, berries, and bark contain chemical compounds that inhibit the growth of surrounding plants, further exacerbating its impact on native species.

Removing Brazilian Pepper Trees

If you have Brazilian pepper trees in your yard, it is essential to take action to remove them, and prevent their spread to natural areas. Here are some key steps to consider:

1. **Identification:** Familiarize yourself with the characteristics of the Brazilian pepper tree to ensure accurate identification. Seek guidance from local experts or extension offices if needed.
2. **Safety precautions:** Wear protective clothing, including gloves, long sleeves, and eye protection, as the tree's sap may cause skin irritation.
3. **Cut and treat:** (Note that you do not need permission from the HOA to remove these trees.) Cut down the tree as low to the ground as possible, leaving only a stump. Within 60 seconds, apply a concentrated herbicide, such as Glyphosate (Round-up), or even diesel fuel to the freshly cut surface of the stump. Follow the herbicide instructions carefully, and avoid direct contact.
4. **Seed control:** Remove any existing berries and dispose of them properly to prevent further spread. Be cautious while handling berries and ensure they are not ingested by humans or animals.
5. **Monitoring and maintenance:** Regularly monitor your yard for any regrowth or seedlings. Promptly remove any new growth to prevent reestablishment.
6. **Native plant restoration:** Consider replacing the Brazilian pepper tree with other fast-growing Florida friendly species that are great for screening, such as the fishtail palm, areca palm, or wax myrtle. Native plants promote biodiversity, attract local wildlife, and contribute to a healthier ecosystem.

The Brazilian pepper tree may provide great screening, but its invasive nature threatens the delicate balance of our local ecosystem, and will eventually dominate your property. By removing these trees from our yards and preventing their spread, we can allow our native Florida plants to thrive into the future.

January 2025

January 2025							February 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 29	30	31	Jan 1, 25 HOA Fee Due	2	3	4
					10 HOA Fee - Late after the 10th	11
5	6	7	8	9		
12	13	14 7:00pm Annual Meeting (Pavilion)	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 7:30pm ARC Meeting (Office)	22	23	24	25 Veteran's meeting 10am - 12pm (Pavilion)
26	27	28	29	30	31	Feb 1