

# AMBERWOODS HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

NEWS YOU CAN USE – JUNE 2021

## TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS, CHANGES

New speed limit signs coming to Amberwoods

Palm Beach County Engineering Department has ordered new 25 MPH speed limit signs for Amberwoods. The Dept. is assessing whether “Stop bars” should be painted on the streets at STOP signs within Amberwoods.

AMBERWOODS SPEED LIMIT  
IS 25 MPH;  
PALMETTO CIRCLE IS 30 MPH

Speed Tables to be added to Palmetto Circle and Toledo

PBC Engineering Dept. met with school and fire station officials; they support the speed tables, and also identified optimal locations (see map below). The Dept. has everything they need from BDMIA (master association) and are now identifying available budget. Once approved, temporary signs will inform residents and provide them a chance to call the Dept. with any questions. The Palmetto Circle/Toledo intersections will remain 4-way stops unless the Dept determines changes should be made.

## AMBERWOODS ENTRANCE SIGN UPDATES

The Board has selected a vendor and work will begin when permits are approved.

The work includes:

- remove the columns' pyramid caps and replace them with flat caps;
- remove the “filigree” embellishment;
- repair, clean and paint the signs;
- replace the Amberwoods lettering with letters done in “Tw Cen MT”, a more contemporary font:

## AMBERWOODS

The Board is experimenting with paint colors - check out three alternatives on the signs at Redbay & FigTree.

This is not the 1<sup>st</sup> time our signs have been updated. The original signs were just lettering on wooden fences at the Toledo Rd entrance. They were replaced with a simpler (no side columns) version of the current signs with gold script *Amberwoods* letters on an aqua-blue sign face. Some years later, they were modified to the current version.



## IMPROVING NIGHT TIME LIGHTING IN AMBERWOODS

### Solar Streetlight Experiment

The Amberwoods HOA Board has established a small working group to evaluate the night time lighting in Amberwoods. After identifying areas that do not receive sufficient light from our existing street lights, they will determine whether adding solar streetlight(s) will help remedy the situation.

The group is researching types and styles of solar street light fixtures, fixture costs and expected lifetime, amount of light provided, installation requirements and costs, Palm Beach County permitting requirements and costs.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this research, send an email with the subject "Streetlight Research Group" and your name, street address, phone number to [amberwoods33433@gmail.com](mailto:amberwoods33433@gmail.com).

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO HAVE A SOLAR STREET LIGHT INSTALLED IN FRONT OF YOUR PROPERTY, SEND AN EMAIL WITH THE SUBJECT

"SOLAR STREETLIGHT VOLUNTEER" AND YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE # TO

[AMBERWOODS33433@GMAIL.COM](mailto:AMBERWOODS33433@GMAIL.COM)

### GENERAL REMINDERS

**Hurricane Season Started June 1<sup>st</sup> – Be Prepared!** The Red Cross Hurricane Safety Checklist is posted on the Amberwoods website <https://amberwoods33433.org/hurricane-preparation/>. Get trees trimmed now, by a company with a certified arborist. Make sure you have 3+ days of food and water for your family. If you plan to go to a shelter, you may need to pre-register if you have special needs or a pet.

<https://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/dem/Pages/Shelters.aspx>

<https://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/animalcare/Pages/Hurricane.aspx>

<https://discover.pbcgov.org/publicsafety/dem/Pages/Special-Needs.aspx>

You can also visit the City of Boca webpage for additional information and resources

<https://www.myboca.us/1106/Hurricane-Information>

**Parking on Paved Areas Only:** If you park cars on the street, remember all 4 wheels must be on pavement. No parking on the grass. And when parking in your driveway, be courteous to those walking in the neighborhood and avoid blocking the sidewalk.

**Trash/Recycle:** Trash pickup is Wednesday & Saturday. Yard waste pick up is Wednesday, Recycle pickup is Saturday. Put containers out after 3pm the day before and bring them in by end of pickup day (PBC Code requirement). Containers must be stored out of sight from street and neighbors.

**Permanent Changes to Property Must be Approved by the Board** before starting work (roof, exterior paint, hurricane shutters, fence, rock wall, driveway pool, hot tub/spa, home addition, porch, free-standing structures and/or sheds, tree removal, etc.). Submit plans, including drawings, materials, brand names, colors to the Board by mail or email. Painting or Roofing: Amberwoods colors are "earth tones": muted browns, tans, warm grays, greens. See <http://amberwoods33433.org/arch-review-board-forms/>.

**Leasing Your Property?** Due to 2015 Amendments, you must own the property for at least 24 months and you need to submit information about prospective tenants to the Board for review. To obtain an application, send an email to [amberwoods33433@gmail.com](mailto:amberwoods33433@gmail.com) with the subject "Lease Application for [Amberwoods property street address]" and include in the email your name, your phone number, and your current mailing address. Submit the completed application to [amberwoods33433@gmail.com](mailto:amberwoods33433@gmail.com), and allow 30 days for the Board to review and evaluate the application.

# AMBERWOODS HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

NEWS YOU CAN USE

## REMOVE A TREE IN AMBERWOODS? YOU'LL NEED PROOF IT'S A DANGER TO PERSONS OR PROPERTY

Tree topping ("Hat-racking") is prohibited

Amberwoods was established over 40 years ago, and we are fortunate to have some mature trees that provide shade, reduce utility bills and increase property values. Let's keep it that way for current and future owners and their families.

Florida's Hurricane Season started June 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are considering having a tree(s) trimmed or removed, contact a qualified licensed company with a certified arborist or licensed landscape architect on staff and they will evaluate the tree(s) and recommend appropriate

trimming that is within PBC Regulations; do not accept unsolicited offers from unlicensed individuals to trim your trees. Removal of a tree on residential property should be done only when a certified arborist or a Florida licensed landscape architect provides documentation that the tree presents a danger to persons or property.

For a brochure with photos of trees that have been properly trimmed, and trees that have been trimmed in violation of Article 7F, download this PDF <https://discover.pbcgov.org/pzb/zoning/PDF/pruning.pdf>.

**Tree trimming and removal  
governed by Palm Beach  
County Regulations & Unified  
Land Development Code  
(ULDC)**

<http://www.pbcgov.com/uldc/>

**Acceptable practices for pruning trees in unincorporated PBC are established by ULDC Article 7.F:**

- A maximum of 1/4th of the tree canopy may be removed from a tree within a one-year period (must conform to the standards of crown reduction, crown cleaning, crown thinning, crown raising, vista pruning, and crown restoration pruning techniques, and comply with most recent version of the ANSI A300 provisions related woody plant maintenance).
- Trimming and pruning should promote shape and form typical of the tree's species in similar settings in PBC.
- Tree topping (hat-racking) is prohibited.
- For palm trees, no more than 1/3 of the fronds shall be removed.

**Violations and enforcement provisions are in Article 7.G of ULDC:**

If found in violation, corrective actions include:

- requiring additional trimming using proper pruning techniques to correct the damage;
- replacing trees that have irreparable damage from improper trimming;
- replacing trees that have been removed without the required documentation.

## Examples of Illegal Pruning



These trees will require additional trimming to correct the damage done by improper trimming.



These trees will never regrow a natural canopy and must be replaced with several new trees.

## AMBERWOODS MAINTENANCE RESTRICTIONS

Based on PBC Residential Maintenance Code, with additions

Buying a home is one of the largest investments you've made. Protecting your investment, and your neighbors', requires a continuing investment in regular property maintenance by all owners in Amberwoods. If you haven't reviewed Amberwoods Restrictions in a while, you can find them on our webpage <https://amberwoods33433.org/restrictions-and-by-laws/>.

### Maintaining your property includes:

- exterior surfaces including roof, walls, windows, trim, fascia, garage doors, window trim
- doors, including garage doors, and windows, without broken panes
- shutters and awnings securely fastened
- mechanicals (A/C compressor, pool pump, sprinkler pump)
- property address numbers on mailbox, house, and visible from the street
- lawn no taller than 7" (cut at least twice a month); irrigation; dead patches of lawn replaced
- shrubs and hedges trimmed; dead plants replaced; trees trimmed and maintained for safety
- sidewalks, driveways, retaining walls, fences, screen porches and enclosures maintained
- swimming pools/hot tubs maintained with proper chemicals, complete enclosure.

PBC's Residential Property Maintenance Code: <https://discover.pbcgov.org/pzb/codeenforcement/Pages/Residential-Property-Maintenance.aspx>

### Considering Permanent Changes or Improvements to your property?

If you are planning projects such as exterior painting, roofing, new/replacement windows, hurricane shutters, TV/internet antenna, fencing, rock wall, driveway, swimming pool or hot tub/spa, home addition, porch, free-standing structures such as a storage shed, removing a tree, etc., you must submit an application and supporting documents to the Amberwoods HOA Board for review and approval.

Forms are available on our webpage here <https://amberwoods33433.org/arch-review-board-forms/>

### Consult PBC's "Preferred Plant Species" Database.

If you are considering adding landscaping to your property, this database has descriptions and photos of plants to help you choose the proper plant for your landscape.

[https://www.pbcgov.org/ePZB.Admin.WebSPA/#/Container/Plant Material Database](https://www.pbcgov.org/ePZB.Admin.WebSPA/#/Container/Plant%20Material%20Database)

## PROPER DISPOSAL OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPAIR DEBRIS

Must go through Solid Waste Authority <https://swa.org/>

If your property backs onto the utility easement along Palmetto Circle North or the canal bank of the L-47 canal, they are public areas and cannot be used as a dumping ground for construction refuse or yard trimmings.

- **HOA Restrictions:** the utility easement along Palmetto Circle North is for pedestrian use only and cannot be used to access your property for construction.

The 10 foot wide utility and limited access easement abutting the public roadway now known as Palmetto Circle North shall be used only for utility purposes and landscaping purposes. No structures of any kind can be built, constructed, erected or maintained within said easement area, including but not limited to swimming pools, fences and walls. Said easement area shall not be used for access (other than pedestrian) to the lots within the SUBDIVISION. Landscaping of the easement area will be as determined by the Board under its powers of architectural control.

- **Lake Worth Drainage District (LWDD) canal rights-of-way:** The southern and northern canal banks of the L-47 canal on the north side of Amberwoods are canal rights-of-way. LWDD maintains them with quarterly mowing, occasional weed spraying, and keeping the waterways clear.

<https://www.lwdd.net/canal-maintenance/canal-bank-mowing>

A permit is required to place structures in or across, or make use of the District's canal rights-of-way.

<https://www.lwdd.net/right-of-way/permitting>

## AMBERWOODS PARKING RESTRICTIONS

Parking Restrictions included in HOA Restrictions, PBC Code, Florida Driver's Manual;  
Palm Beach County owns and maintains our streets and sidewalks

### **Amberwoods Restrictions** p. 3-4

4a. No graveled or black-topped or paved parking strips are permitted except as previously approved in writing by the Directors.

4f. The parking or storage of automobiles and other motor vehicles except upon paved areas is not permitted.

4g. The parking or storage of boats and boat trailers, campers, trailers or other recreational vehicles (that is vehicles designed and constructed primarily for recreational use) and upon any lands in the Subdivision is prohibited except in spaces expressly provided for same or as may be approved in writing in advance by the Directors.

4h. Only vehicles bearing current license and registration tags and inspection certificates, as required

pursuant to state law, shall be permitted to be parked or stored on any lands within the Subdivision.

4i. The overnight parking or storage of trucks or commercial vehicles in excess of one-half ton rated capacity is prohibited.

### **Palm Beach County Code**

Inoperative vehicles may not be stored on residential property. All vehicles on residential property must be properly licensed, with an exception for one such unlicensed vehicle, so long as it is stored in the side or rear yard, screened from view. Code Enforcement has the authority to tag inoperative vehicles on private property and have them towed from the premises.

### **Florida Driver's Manual**

<https://www.dmvflorida.org/florida-drivers-manual/> p. 37

It is against the law to park:

- on crosswalks
- on sidewalks
- in intersections
- in front of driveways
- on the roadway side of another parked vehicle (double parking)
- anywhere that blocks or creates a hazard for other vehicles
- or within:
  - 15 feet of a fire hydrant;
  - 20 feet of an intersection;
  - 20 feet of the entrance to a fire, ambulance, or rescue station;
  - 30 feet of any flashing signal, stop sign, or traffic signal.

## AIRBNB IN AMBERWOODS? NOT ALLOWED

Single family residence community; business and commercial activity prohibited

**Q: Can I lease my property with Airbnb or something similar?**

**A: The short answer is "No".**

Amberwoods Restrictions state that Amberwoods is a "single family residence" community, and prohibit business and commercial activity. <https://amberwoods33433.org/restrictions-and-by-laws/>

### **2. RESIDENTIAL USE.**

(a) All lots in the subdivision, and all lots enlarged, diminished or re-created by the shifting of location of said property lines, are restricted to residential use of a single family, its household, servants and guests.

**3. NO TRADE, BUSINESS OR PROFESSION, ETC.** No trade, business, profession or any other type of commercial activity shall be carried on upon any of the foregoing described lots, excepting only the operation of sales models and offices by the Developer and other home marketing enterprises.

If you were to lease frequently, as in Airbnb, the Board considers this similar to managing a hotel, which is a commercial activity and prohibited by our Restrictions.

If you decide to lease on a longer-term basis such as a 12-month lease, then due to the 2015 Amendments to Amberwoods' Restrictions: 1) you must own the property for at least 24 months before leasing to tenants and 2) the Board has the obligation to know who is living in Amberwoods, including owners and all tenants. The Association's attorney provided a Lease Application for the owner and prospective tenants to complete prior to leasing the property; to obtain an application, send an email to [amberwoods33433@gmail.com](mailto:amberwoods33433@gmail.com) with the subject "Lease Application for [Amberwoods property street address]" and include in the email your name, your phone number, and your current mailing address. Submit the completed application to [amberwoods33433@gmail.com](mailto:amberwoods33433@gmail.com) and allow 30 days for the Board's review and evaluation.