

Roger Warfield:

A Quest to Beautify Our Common Grounds

If you think you have seen someone who is not one of our usual landscaping maintenance workers tending the planting beds on Common Grounds recently, you are correct. Roger Warfield of 600 Hickorynut Avenue, a three-year resident of Quail Forest, has taken it upon himself to weed, trim and mulch the planting beds on common grounds as a volunteer, with the endorsement of the HOA board.

"I'm just helping to keep the community neat," he says with his characteristic humility. Yet his current project is very much in keeping with who he is.



Roger Warfield near the gate to Quail Forest

Roger is known for the neat-as-a-pin planting beds in the front of his house. He also cares for the landscaping of neighbors who spend a large part of the year somewhere else. If a neighbor has had his or her lawn sodded, Roger is there with a hose several times a week to make sure the new sod does not dry out. One neighbor was away for many months due primarily to health issues. Roger washes her car, moves it so the tires do not succumb to dry rot, checks that the HVAC system is working, and recently installed solar lights so that the unit looks "a little more lived in."

Just two months after moving into Quail Forest from Connecticut in 2017, Roger was one of the heroes of the cleanup after Hurricane Irma. He and neighbor George both stayed in their units when the hurricane suddenly changed course and did not strike our community head-on. A little after first light the next morning, Roger and George teamed up, along with Bruce,

our maintenance manager, and a few other Quail Forest residents, to pick up or rake the fallen branches, palm fronds, leaves and other debris scattered all about our community. He even took his blower up on his own and his neighbors' roofs to blow off the leaves and branches there. (One of his neighbors told this writer that since Roger has two blowers, he kept one charging while using the other. That way he didn't have any down time.) The debris was tied in bunches that could be removed easily.

“I have been told that George’s and my work helped ensure that Quail Forest was one of the first communities in East Lake to be cleaned up,” Roger recalls.

Originally from near Storrs, Connecticut, Roger and his wife Susan moved to Florida in 1987 for his work and lived in Landmark Oaks for 33 years before returning to Connecticut for a time to take care of his mom. They had just moved into Quail Forest in July 2017 when the hurricane struck.

Now retired, Roger worked in submarine design, and later for Florida Power & Light, Progress Energy and Duke Energy. All of his jobs required strict attention to detail, which is now part of his DNA.

He started his volunteer project in the Quail Forest beds near the East Lake gate and is moving east. He’s eager to see what he can do with the beds outside the pool. “His hobby is definitely helping others and keeping things neat,” quips one neighbor. “And we all benefit.”