

LakeRidge Falls

4200 LakeRidge Blvd.
Sarasota, FL 34243

10-04-2019

Here are the more important stories we had this past and upcoming weeks:

Oak Trees, Path Lights and Between – A couple of weeks or so ago, Southern Manatee Fire Rescue inspector requested that the Association trim the oak trees along Stirling Falls Neighborhood. The inspector argued that emergency responding personnel reported that some of the tree limbs along Stirling Falls Neighborhood are at the height that may hit or potentially damage their fire trucks. Following this request, the Association hired Aquatic Consulting Inc (ACI) to perform this unscheduled task. While onsite, ACI was also able to address some of the palms they overlooked the last time they were onsite. A few of the palms that were brought to their attention were the five tall Washingtonian Palms behind the clubhouse.

The tree division manager who we walked with explained the reason why these trees were partially trimmed. To his account, the location of the palms prevented the use of a bucket truck or a man lift (i.e. cherry picker). Therefore, his crew attempted to tackle the task by using a ladder with all the required safety gear. However, their efforts were fruitless because the trees were simply too tall and unstable for ladder use. The only visible option left, the tree division manager explained, was to use one of their certified arborists to climb the trees using climbing gear and a harness. Being a cost-prohibitive task, the manager suggested removing the five Washingtonian Palms altogether. To make things right, the manager offered to do the work for half of the cost ACI usually charges for such a job.

The Association accepted the proposal without delay. After all, the Long-Term Landscape Group's Phase 2 Plan, which was recently approved by the Board of Directors, calls for the removal and replacement of these Washingtonian Palms with self-pruned Foxtail Palms. Because the plan was to be executed only next year, ACI, graciously so, agreed to be paid next year when the funds for this project would be available. Unfortunately, and as experienced in the past, the road to hell sometimes is paved with good intentions. Here is a short description of the unfortunate chain of events that followed.

Knowing that the Washingtonian Palms were scheduled to be replaced with Foxtails, West Bay Landscape, LakeRidge Falls' landscape maintenance company, asked that ACI would leave about 5 feet of the trunk on each palm removed. This would allow West Bay Landscape to pull the entire root ball of these Washingtonian Palms when the time comes to execute Phase 2 of the Long-Term Landscape Plan. By doing so, the replacement Foxtail Palms can have a better breeding ground to sport their roots. Unfortunately, one of ACI crew members overlooked this request and cut the trunks of the 5 Washingtonian Palms to the ground (i.e. flash-cut).

We of course immediately brought this matter to the attention of both the owner of ACI and the tree division manager. To make things right, they sent a stump grinder crew the same day at no cost to the Association. Well... in the process of stump grinding the stumps the grinding machine ripped apart the pipes that held the electrical wires for the path lights along the pathway. As a result, we lost power to these lights. The good news is that ACI took ownership of this matter by agreeing to pay for the repair. Following this, we placed a service call with a local electrical company and were advised they will be onsite next week to take care of this issue. Until then, the path lights will be off. We will keep you updated on the issue as it unfolds.

Waterfall – Mr. Marcite, the company that resurfaced the waterfall at the end of last year, and Smiley Pool Services, LakeRidge Falls' pool and waterfall maintenance company, discovered the source of the leak. To their account, the

source was an unsealed area around one of the main water lines. The good news is that Mr. Marcite assumed responsibility for the repair and corrected it at no cost to the Association. The not so good news is that Smiley Pool Services discovered that the water valve that “feeds” the waterfall is not opening properly. To be on the safe side, Smiley Pool Services suggested replacing the valve. The work was approved and should take place by Monday. Smiley Pool Services ensured us that the waterfall will be fully operational by next week.

Social Security Fraud Scheme – Last week, I personally received a couple of interesting calls. The calls featured a recorded message in which a man with an authoritarian voice urged me to call a specific number. The man on the recorded message sounded very threatening advising I must call without delay to avoid some unknown negative outcome. Of course, I immediately realized the calls were a scam and hung up. The more important story is that following these incidents, I was informed by several residents that they were targeted by similar scam calls. One resident even mentioned he received five calls in one day...

On its website, the Inspector General of Social Security provides really good tips regarding this matter. These tips can be very beneficial to all residents. Therefore, please take a moment to go over these three simple tips ([source](#)):

“Understand the threats. Fraudsters use several forms of impersonation, advance fee, and phishing schemes. They might contact you and claim to be from SSA, the IRS, or another government agency and request your information. They might claim that you have won the lottery or become eligible for an investment if you pay an upfront fee. They might design emails or text messages that look legitimate and request your immediate response. Be aware of these types of schemes, so you can identify them and guard against them.

Exercise caution. In general, no government agency or reputable company will call or email you unexpectedly and request your personal information, or request advance fees for services in the form of wire transfers or gift cards. Build a habit of verifying the identity of anyone who asks for your personal information over the phone, and say you will respond through the entity's customer service channels. If anyone pressures you to provide information or money over the phone, it's a scam and you should just hang up.

Secure your information. Store your Social Security card in a secure location; avoid carrying it with you. Shred documents that list personal information such as your Social Security number and banking information. Avoid opening emails from unknown sources or clicking on suspicious hyperlinks. Equip your computing devices with strong anti-virus software and maintain strong passwords. Regularly check your credit reports for suspicious activity.”

For more important and informative information, please visit the Social Security Administration's website by clicking [here](#) and/or visit the Office of the Inspector General's website by clicking [here](#).

Painting Project – The following is a quick reminder from the Architectural Review Board (ARB). The ARB asks to remind all homeowners in Phases C and D that they must finish painting their houses by December 31st, 2019. The ARB also asked to remind those residents that failure to meet this final deadline will follow with strict enforcement measures. Finally, the ARB wishes to thank all residents for their understanding and cooperation on this matter.

Yom Kippur - Due to Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement, please note that I will be out of the office on Wednesday, October 9th. In my absence, please feel free to contact any board member or Paula for further assistance or need. And as always, if you experience a situation that falls under the scope of responsibility of the Association and which requires our assistance during the time the offices are closed, please call our “Emergency Only” line at 941-951-4034.

For those who celebrate Yom Kippur, I wish *Gemar Chatimah Tovah* and have an easy and safe fast.

And as always, have a great and safe weekend.

Sincerely,

Oded Neeman - CAM

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