



Falls Forum

JUNE 2020

A message from your Board...

by Lori Klein, President

As the weather is heating up, businesses are also starting to open back up. I and the other board members are trying to balance safety and following the CDC guidelines and Florida phases with the wish we all have to resume as many activities as we can. Many thanks to the members of the Pool Committee for researching and coming up with reasonable restrictions for reopening the pool, and to the Buildings Committee which is doing the same for the Clubhouse and Fitness Center as I am writing this. Oded Neeman and Paula Murray have also been involved with and helped with plans, moving furniture and installing more hand sanitizer dispensers and signs and so on. As things continue to open up and restrictions lessen, each of us needs to assess our level of risk and comfort, deciding where we feel we can go and what precautions such as masks we should take (if not required).

It has been a very stressful spring for everyone! I am proud that so many of our residents rose to the occasion reaching out and helping others. The thing that I found most attractive about our community



when I was “shopping” for where to live was the friendliness of the staff and residents I met my first time here looking at homes. That friendliness was just as important to me as the location and the homes, and more important than how well maintained our community is. The stress of being “shut-in” for so many weeks, even though we had nice weather and could get outside, has caused a few incidences. I’d like to ask everyone to be kind and courteous to each other; simple gestures like just smiling or saying hello don’t take much effort and can mean a lot to someone.

I also want to remind everyone, and please remind your visitors, that the speed limit in our community is 25 mph, and pedestrians have the right of way in all crosswalks. Lately there have been several instances of obvious speeding observed, and even a few near misses reported.. The Roads and Grounds and the Security Com-

LRF ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Lori Klein: President@lakeridgefalls.org
Vice President, Lynn H. Gregg: VicePresident@lakeridgefalls.org
Treasurer, Calvin Fitzgerald: Treasurer@lakeridgefalls.org
Secretary, Judy Buffa: Secretary@lakeridgefalls.org
Director, OPEN: Director@lakeridgefalls.org

Committees

Architectural Review Board (ARB)

Lori Klein, Board Liaison
Lynn Gregg, Co-Board Liaison
Lanny Weintraub, Chairperson
Meetings: 2nd Thursday of the month at 10:00am

Budget Committee

Lori Klein, Board Liaison
Calvin Fitzgerald, Co-Board Liaison
Mitch Matte & Dick Dorn, Co-Chairs
Meetings as needed

Buildings Committee

Lori Klein, Board Liaison
Carl Stover & Mary Cochran, Co-Chairs
Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2:00pm

Community Relations Committee (CRC)

Judy Buffa, Board Liaison
Dan DeRoner, Chairperson
Meetings: 4th Friday of the month at 9:00am

Landscape Committee

Lynn Gregg, Board Liaison
Calvin Fitzgerald, Co-Board Liaison
Mary Cochran & Karen McGee, Co-Chairs
Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10:00am

Roads and Grounds Committee

Calvin Fitzgerald, Board Liaison
Dick Dorn & Lanny Weintraub, Co-Chairs
Meetings: 4th Friday of the month at 10:00am

Pool Committee

Lori Klein, Board Liaison
Lynn Gregg, Co-Board Liaison
Elma Azurdia & Suzanne Weinstein, Co-Chairs
Meetings: 3rd Wednesday of the Month at 2:00pm

Security Committee

Judy Buffa, Board Liaison
Durand Glovinsky, Chairperson
Meetings as needed

Hurricane Preparedness Group

Judy Buffa, Board Liaison
Jim DuGranrut, Chairperson
Meetings as needed

Long Range Landscape Plan Working Group

Calvin Fitzgerald, Board Liaison
Lynn Gregg, Co-Board Liaison
Barbara Weintraub, Chairperson
Meetings: TBD

Long Range Ponds Working Group

Judy Buffa, Board Liaison
TBD, Chairperson
Meetings as needed

Social Committee

Jane Kintz & Leigh Selby, Co-Chairs
Meetings: 1st Monday of the month at 10:00am

Art League

President...Jackie Hathaway
Meetings as needed

www.lakeridgefalls.org

mittee are discussing the problem and possible solutions. The few minutes a driver may save by speeding would be quickly lost should there be an accident, and we have a lot of walkers and bikers in this community as well as other cars and trucks. Beside the fact that cars should not be speeding, traffic on our roads is getting back to normal so I want to ask those who have walked in the street to maintain social distancing to return to using the sidewalks or the edge of the roads, for your own and everyone's safety.

Finally, many thanks to all those who submitted pictures of the community to Paula; many of them were breathtaking, and all are on our website under the Activities tab in the [LakeRidge Falls Photo Album](#). I hope when the buildings reopen you will take and submit more pictures, though they will probably not be as varied.



Office

Property Manager: Oded Neeman
Phone: 360-1046 Line #101
email: PropertyManager@lakeridgefalls.org
After hours Emergency Only - 941-951-4034

Community Assistant/ LRF Falls Forum: Paula Murray
Phone: 360-1046 Line #103 Hours: M-W-F 9:30am—3:30pm
email: Paula@lakeridgefalls.org

Guardhouse: 355-1328 / Security@lakeridgefalls.org

4200 Lakeridge Blvd. Sarasota, FL 34243



LakeRidge Falls extends
its sympathies to the
family and friends
of our neighbor:

Beth Wilson



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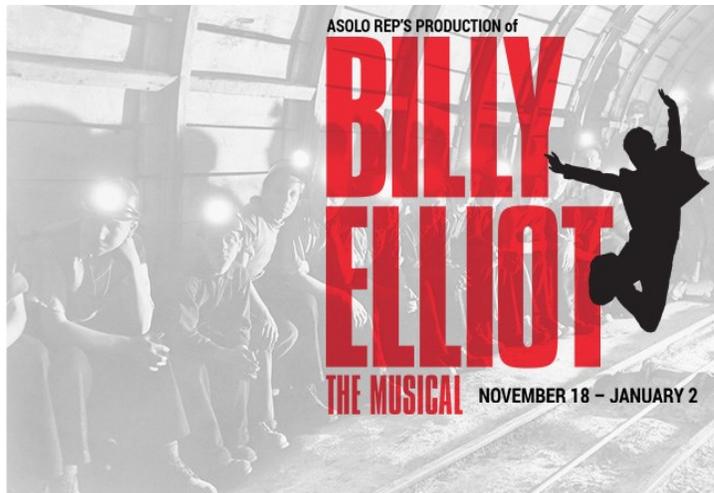
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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

Music by **Elton John**
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Directed and Choreographed by **Josh Rhodes**

The musical the world fell in love with, BILLY ELLIOT was heralded as “The best musical of the decade” by Time Magazine. This triumphant, dance-filled sensation follows a young boy as he trades in his boxing gloves for dance shoes amidst the turmoil of the 1984 coal miners’ strike in England. A dance teacher discovers a diamond in the rough in 11-year-old Billy—a boy whose passion for dance inspires and unites the entire town, against insurmountable barriers. Set to an explosive score by Sir Elton John, BILLY ELLIOT is a joyous celebration of one boy’s journey that will inspire the dreamer in everyone.

Property Manager Report

by *Oded Neeman*

Financial Audit – We are happy to announce that the 2019 Audit of the LakeRidge Falls’ financials has been completed and copies are now available. If you wish to receive an electronic version of the audit, we are more than happy to email you a PDF copy upon request. If you prefer to receive a hard copy, please feel free to contact us and we will make sure to leave a copy on the table outside the Clubhouse’s front door. As in the last few years, the audit was performed by Braxton & Holway, P.A., a reputable CPA firm located in Bradenton. It is important to note that Braxton & Holway is a member of both the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and of the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants. During a Go-To-Meeting meeting with LakeRidge Falls’ President and Treasurer, the Auditor informed them that nothing out of the ordinary was discovered and it was said that LakeRidge Falls conformed to generally accepted accounting principles.

Speeding and Stopping – The Association received a couple of complaints from residents regarding people speeding while driving on LakeRidge Falls Boulevard, not obeying stop signs, and/or stopping for pedestrians waiting at a crosswalk. The importance of this matter does not need to be mentioned. It is an issue of personal safety. For this reason, the Security Committee decided to establish a sub-group to work with the Roads & Grounds Committee to examine, evaluate, and draw conclusions on the matter. In the meantime, the Security Committee asked that residents be reminded that they must obey the speed limit requirements and must completely stop at the marked stop signs or before entering a crosswalk or intersection. Because this issue involves personal safety, the Security Committee wanted to remind residents that based on LakeRidge Falls’ Violation Procedures the Board of Directors through an administrative decision may levy a fine of \$100 per day up to a maximum of \$1,000 per occurrence for those who fail to follow LakeRidge Falls rules. Of course, no one wants it to get to this point. Therefore, and please, we are asking that you assist us by simply driving slowly and carefully around the community.

Executive Order - Executive Order 20-112 (Order) went into effect starting early on in May. Without going into too many details, Governor DeSantis utilized some of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) “Guidelines for Opening Up America” hence amending some of the restrictions previously established. Nevertheless and acknowledging the health risks of COVID-19, the Order states that “[a]ll persons in Florida shall continue to limit their personal interactions outside the home.” Most importantly, the Order also states that “senior citizens and individuals with a significant underlying medical condition (such as chronic lung disease, moderate-to-severe asthma, serious heart conditions, immunocompromised status, cancer, diabetes, severe obesity, renal failure and liver disease) are **strongly encouraged to stay at home** and take all measures to limit the risk of exposure to COVID-19.” We hope that by the time you read this article some additional restrictions would be amended but until such time please make sure to exercise as much social distancing as possible.

Pool - With the above in mind, the Pool Committee met last month to discuss the feasibility of reopening the pool. After much consideration, the committee recommended to the Board of Directors to reopen the pool and adopt specific restrictions and guidelines to ensure the safety of pool users. In addition, the committee suggested these recommendations be presented to both the Association's Attorney and Insurance Agent for their professional opinion. Following the Executive Order 20-112, Pool Committee’s recommendations, and the input from the Attorney and Insurance Agent, the Board of Directors instructed to open the pool on May 5th. With that decision, the Board of Directors also adopted restrictions and guidelines that will ensure the safety and health of those using the pool. The following are those restrictions/guidelines:

1. The pool area is available for exercise only.
2. The pool area is limited to 10 people at a time. Please limit time in the pool area to 60 minutes to allow other people an opportunity to use the pool. Users that sign up online have first priority.

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3. Spa usage is limited to one individual or single household unit at a time.
4. Please observe a 6' social distance in and out of the pool.
5. Pool users are responsible for taking precautions to protect themselves. Precautions include washing hands, using hand sanitizer provided, and bringing your own sanitizing wipes to wipe down surfaces with which you come in contact.

In preparation for the above, a new feature was added to the Association's website allowing residents to sign-up in advance for 60 minutes slots, which will be available from 7 am to 8 pm. The electronic sign-up sheet can be found under the tab "Form.". In addition, 4 new hand sanitizer dispensers were installed around the pool. One near the bathrooms and 3 near the pool gates. Also, the pool furniture was stuck into three groups leaving only 10 chairs available for usage. Therefore, please ONLY use the available furniture. Finally, the Board of Directors wishes to advise that if residents fail to follow the above, they will be forced to close the pool. The health of your fellow neighbors and yours are the Board of Directors' top priority. Please assist us in ensuring all can enjoy exercising in the pool in a safe manner.

Community Ponds – As many know, the Association's stormwater system, i.e. ponds and wetland, is operated under permits that were issued by Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). In order to maintain these permits, the Association is required to follow specific operational guidelines. The requirements are set to ensure proper operation of the stormwater system and responsible usage of water for irrigation purposes. One of the requirements under the permits issued is to conduct an inspection every five years by a professional engineering company in order to certify that "all above-ground facilities are being operated and maintained as authorized by the Southwest Florida Water Management District."

But before we continue, here is some background. LakeRidge Falls has 16 lakes. However, these lakes are really considered retention ponds. These ponds are designed to collect stormwater from the streets. Their main goal is to slow down the

flow of water before it reaches the county's sewer system. Otherwise, it can overwhelm it causing underground pipes to burst and the street to flood. Most of the ponds in the community are connected to each other. When the water level at one pond reaches a certain point, the water is designed to drain to a lower level pond. Between some of the ponds, there are overflow drainage basins. These are squared concrete structures with a metal wire on top of them. Their goal is to further slow the flow of water down by storing it and releasing it at a slower rate. Eventually, all ponds drain to the large preserve area located in Stirling Falls Neighborhood. From there, the water drains to a large overflow drainage basin, also referred to as a control structure, and to the county's drain system.

Back to our story, LakeRidge Falls recently hired Crest Engineering of Sarasota, a Civil Engineering and Land Development Consulting firm, which it hired in the past, to perform the inspections required under the permit. These inspections took place last month to which the Association passed with flying colors. Thereafter, Crest Engineering submitted their reports with SWFWMD.

Garbage in the Ponds – Now and then, we are reported of trash in and/or around a pond. It is therefore common for residents to wonder how trash ends up in the ponds. Here is the reason. As you know and as explained last week, LakeRidge Falls' lakes are considered retention ponds. These ponds are designed to collect stormwater from the streets. Therefore and following heavy rains and/or winds, unsecured garbage items, such as bottles, plastic bags, and aluminum cans will wash away towards street gutters and from there into the lakes.

Of course, the Association hires a lake maintenance company, Eco-Logic Services, to ensure the lakes are clean. However, picking up debris is only one task out of the several the company is obligated to perform. Algae control and maintenance of perimeter growth are just two examples of such tasks. Therefore, it is unrealistic to assume that an Eco-Logic Services technician will be able to collect trash from all 16 lakes during any given bi-weekly visit. Another variable in the equation is the weekly

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trash collections by Manatee County. As we all know, Waste Management is on-site on Mondays and Thursdays. This means that twice a week there is a good chance unsecured items find their way to the street gutters and from there to the lakes. Then, there are external and unmaintained lakes, such as the one behind Walmart, which are connected to LakeRidge Falls' stormwater system. As one can imagine, these lakes contain a significant amount of trash that eventually wash into the lakes maintained by the Association.

With the above in mind, we are happy to announce that Eco-Logic Services agreed to perform an additional service call at no cost to the Association to address this matter. Now, we also need your help. We ask that residents take an active role in keeping LakeRidge Falls' clean by following these simple steps:

- If you see a garbage bag "roaming" freely in the community, please make sure to pick it up.
- As much as possible, please try to set your garbage out the morning of collection instead of the night before.
- Please make sure to use a lid on your garbage container.
- Please make sure to combine all plastic bags into one large bag.
 - If you wish, you can recycle them by taking them to Publix (they have a recycle can outside the store).
 - Or you can simply dispose of them with the rest of your garbage.
- And, it is always a good idea to try and reuse the plastic bags and use them, for example, as regular garbage bags.

We wish to thank all in advance and remember, together, we can help keep the community looking its best while providing wildlife and marine life safe habitat to live in.

No Fishing Allowed – Final note related to ponds. We received a report last month from a res-

ident stating that some individuals were fishing in the lake near one of the homes in the community. Of course, there are the more obvious reasons why fishing is not permitted in the community, such as liability concerns and the illegality of fishing without a state license. However, there is a less known reason covered under Articles 8.11, Waterways; Water Level and Use, and Article 13.1, Conservation Easements, which is the preservation of fish and wildlife habitats.

For this reason, Lakeridge Falls developed maintenance practices that take into consideration the preservation of habitats in general and aquatic habitats in specific. For example, years ago the stormwater retention ponds were stocked with 200 Grass Carps to control the growth of Hydrilla. For those who may wonder, Hydrilla is an aquatic plant that is a serious ecological threat because it tends to out-compete native plants. Of course, using carps to fight the growth and spread of Hydrilla, all would agree, is a more environmentally friendly way than using chemicals.

Therefore, fishing in the stormwater retention ponds, even if it is for catch and release purposes, can impact the ecosystem in the community. Furthermore, it is interfering with the Association's responsibility as defined by the governing documents. For this reason, fishing in the community is prohibited and the Association will take all necessary enforcement actions to ensure residents and their guests follow this rule. We appreciate your cooperation on the matter and remember that together we can enhance a peaceful coexistence with the communities' wildlife.

Tuttle Sidewalk – For those who walk or drove outside the community recently, it is hard to miss the major work that took place along the community wall on Tuttle Ave. Just in case you are unaware of what is going on, Manatee County crews were working on the long stretch of sidewalk adjacent to the west side section of the community's perimeter wall. More specifically, Manatee County crews, for the last few weeks, have been removing a significant amount of raised sections of the sidewalk, eliminat-

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ing the source that caused them to be lifted, and pouring fresh cement. However, this work did not take place out of the blue. It is a result of the hard work of the Roads & Grounds Committee (R&G).

As reported in the past, the Roads & Grounds Committee (R&G) conducted a long and detailed survey of the community's sidewalks. The survey, which was performed by all members of the R&G, identified all areas in the community that the R&G felt needed to be addressed. During this survey, the members of the Committee felt that the area outside the community, mainly the sidewalk along Tuttle Ave, should be addressed. However, the responsibility of maintaining this stretch seemed to fall on Manatee County as they repaired and maintained it in the past. Therefore, attempts were made since last year to ask Manatee County to address this issue.

During its January meeting, the R&G revisited the matter of sidewalk maintenance. Knowing again that not much progress was made to correct the issue, the R&G suggested that its members attempt to contact Manatee County individually, as concerned residents, urging the County to step up in eliminating these significant tripping hazards. One member, Mr. Ron Dampier, stepped forward promising not to stop until this issue is addressed. For the next 4 months, Mr. Dampier made sure to follow up with the County, again as a concerned resident, on a regular basis once he got confirmation that the County will address this matter, he ensured the issue would not be put on the back burner. Thanks to Mr. Dampier's power of perseverance and the work of the R&G, residents from all around will be able to walk safely along Tuttle Ave.

Landscape – One of the last month's mowing routines proved to be one of the more challenging mowing jobs in LakeRidge Falls' history. Here is why. As many noticed, the grass in LakeRidge Falls is getting taller and fuller by the day. This is the result of a winning combination of warmer weather, proactive fertilization program, and much needed rain. Because of that, a mowing job can be quite challenging at times. While in most cases West Bay Landscape, the Association's

landscape maintenance company, knows how to handle the situation with no or little issues, this week proved to be a little bit unique.

The first issue was that the length of the grass, which, using contemporary terminology, grew exponentially since the last time it was mowed. You see, the taller and thicker the grass, the harder to execute a clean mow. Why? Well, taller grass means that there is a good chance grass clipping will be stuck on the mulching blades, especially Bahiagrass which is stringy. In order to cut the grass properly, therefore, the mowers need to go slower than their normal speed. The problem is that a slower mowing rate would mean a weeklong or longer mowing schedule, which is of course unrealistic. Therefore, unclean mow, which may include grass clipping, uneven mows, etc., is inevitable.

Speaking of grass clippings, the second issue was the much needed rain. Rain means wet grass. Wet grass means a greater likelihood of a large pile of grass clippings. Of course, wet turf also means potential ruts which are caused by the heavy machinery used. The much-needed rain also was accommodated with thunderstorms. While West Bay may attempt to work while there is light rain, they do not have much choice when lightning is present. Therefore, West Bay had to cut the day short on Monday. When work is stopped in the middle of the day or is rushed to accomplish tasks before the heavy rain/lightning starts, it's bound that some aspects of the work will be overlooked, mainly areas that were not edged and/or mowed.

This leads us to the next point which is equipment malfunction. When using mowing machinery on well-saturated turf while attempting to accomplish a task before the heavy rains /lightning start, there is a chance the equipment being used will break. On Monday and Tuesday, the stars aligned in a way that a couple of mowers, among them the large batwing mower, which is used for larger areas, broke. This meant that if on Tuesday West Bay had no much choice but to step up their game. For this reason, another crew was added and even the trimming crew stepped in to help. Yet, attention to detail is not in one's mind when knowing that a task must be completed by the end of the day because tomorrow another community needs its turf to be mowed.

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To sum it up, it was not an easy week for the mowing crew because the grass was taller than usual, the rain made it harder to mow/finish the task on time, and equipment malfunction interfered with the flow of work. Combining all these made for a less than satisfactory mowing job. The good side of the story is that despite all the above we were able to identify and address most of the affected areas. With the help of residents who brought their concerns to our attention and thoroughly inspecting the Association grounds on foot for several hours, substantial matters were addressed late Tuesday afternoon and early morning on Wednesday. Of course, the Association does not accept such performances regardless of the circumstances. Therefore and for the future, West Bay promised to minimize the factors under their control that lead to the performance mentioned above.

The first step is that West Bay will start its weekly mowing schedule this coming Monday. This schedule will continue until late October /early November.

Irrigation – The past few weeks presented us with a few interesting cases regarding irrigation repairs. The first case involved a two-inch irrigation line that was squeezed by the roots of a nearby oak tree. Thanks to continuous reports of a concerned resident, Mr. Victor Martinez, West Bay Landscape Irrigation Technician, was able to pinpoint the reason why the pressure in the irrigation system in this area was low. A week or so later, residents reported a constant leak coming from the ground. Upon further inspection, Mr. Martinez discovered a broken 2-inch PVC slip coupling. Many may not know, but please note that a broken coupling, which is only 3-inch in length, is a rare sight. Another week passed and Mr. Martinez noticed a leak near the bocce courts. This time around, it was a leak in a 4-inch irrigation mainline resulted from a broken T coupling. Below are a few pictures of those unique cases.



Bocce Courts – During its April meeting, the Board of Directors, based on the Roads & Grounds Committee’s recommendation, approved a proposal by Easy Turf, a field turf company, to perform some maintenance work on the two bocce courts. As presented to the Board of Directors, some spots along the courts were uneven mainly because the base underneath the artificial turf sank for whatever reason (i.e. animal digging, water drainage, etc.). Following the approval, two technicians from Easy Turf were onsite on two different occasions. They pulled back the turf in low areas, added fill as needed, re-stapled the turf back, and made sure to compact both bocce courts using tampers.



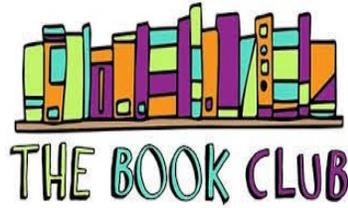
Thank you to those who responded to Paulas’ call for pictures last month. I have created a slideshow to share with everyone which can be found [HERE](#). As previously noted, I plan to use some of these pictures to jazz up our website.

If you aren’t reading this online, you can go to www.lakeridgefalls.org
>ACTIVITIES>LakeRidge Falls Photo Album.

The [U.S. Flag Code](#) formalizes and unifies the traditional ways in which we give respect to the flag, also contains specific instructions on how the flag is not to be used.

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- Don't fasten it or tie it back. Always allow it to fall free.
- Don't draw on, or otherwise mark the flag.
- Don't use the flag for decoration. Use bunting with the blue on top, then white, then red.



The Lakeridge Falls Book Club May Meeting was again held on Zoom with a discussion of "Becoming" by Michele Obama. The June 8th meeting will also be held on Zoom with a discussion of "Olive, again". If you would like to participate please email or call Kathy Kendall (kathy52847@yahoo.com or 941 306-5128) for more information.

Selections for 2020

- June:** *Olive, Again* by Elizabeth Strout, 304 pgs. 2019
- July:** *The Radium Girls* by Kate Moore, 480 pgs. 2017
- Aug:** *A Woman Is No Man* by Etaf Rum, 352 pgs. 2019
- Sept:** *Falling Angels* by Tracy Chevalier, 321 pgs. 2002
- Oct:** *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett, 337 pgs. 2019
- Nov:** *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean, 336 pgs. 2018

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The Community Relations Committee (CRC) wishes to thank our new resident **Dorie Parsons** for creating the pool usage sign-up system that has been added to our website allowing us to re-open the pool amid the COVID-19 pandemic.



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