

LakeRidge Falls

4200 LakeRidge Blvd.
Sarasota, FL 34243

10-09-2020

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

2021 Proposed Budget – During today’s Board of Directors meeting, the Budget Committee presented the proposed 2021 budget to the Board of Directors. The Board will hold a workshop meeting next week on Saturday, October 17th, at 10:00 am. You are more than welcome to attend the meeting online or in-person in the Clubhouse based on the occupancy limitation as outline in the COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions. Please note that this meeting offers owners a chance to voice their opinions before the Board approves the 2021 budget at its November meeting. In the meantime, copies of the proposed budget are available in the Association office. We can also email copies for those who wish to receive an electronic version of the proposed budget.

I would like to take this opportunity and thank the members of the Budget Committee, Dan DeRoner, Alice Dorn, Dick Dorn, Jim DuGranrut, Martin Kasper, Mitch Matte, Bill McGee, Ilyne McQueen, Scott Sims, Barry Starkell, John Sullivan, Chuck Tierney, and Lanny Weintraub, as well as the two Board of Directors liaisons, Ms. Lori Klein, President, and Mr. Calvin Fitzgerald, Treasurer, for their dedication and hard work in preparing the 2021 proposed budget. These dedicated members have virtually met every week during these challenging times for almost two months. They volunteered endless hours composing a proposed budget that addresses all the needs of the community. Please take a moment next time you see one or more of the committee members to thank them for all their hard work.

Landscape – During one of my political science classes in college, we had the honor of having a guest journalist speaker who was embedded for several years within some of the various groups responsible for the production and trafficking of illegal drugs in the Andes in South America. Besides the mesmerizing stories, one term the guest speaker used several times got stuck in my head – the Balloon Effect. As with squeezing a balloon that forces the air to blow another section of the balloon, this term was originated to describe the process, some may say failed one, for cracking down on illegal drug production. That is, when the authorities eliminated the production of illegal drugs in one region they pretty much force it to be pushed into another region. Every so often I go back down memory lane and remember this term. It is not because of drugs or illegal activities, but simply because the Balloon Effect can help explaining, at times, the day to day operational challenges facing a community such as LakeRidge Falls. Here is what I mean.

West Bay Landscape, LakeRidge Falls’ landscaping company, has its pluses and minuses like any large operational company. Meaning, West Bay Landscape can perform very well in some areas while having room for improvement in others. This is not to negatively criticize their performance but to simply state a fact. After all, nothing in life is perfect, except, of course, for my mother and wife. On a serious note, West Bay Landscape, when first came on-site, didn't meet the Association’s expectations as far as mowing goes. It is important to note that this was not because they didn’t know what they were doing but simply because it took them time to learn the property, i.e. come up with the right routines, use the appropriate equipment, train their personnel, amend practices as needed, etc. After a year or so, this issue was resolved.

However and by the time we were able to straighten out the mowing operations, we started experiencing challenges with the pruning and enhancement operations. As with the Balloon Effect, we were able to solve one issue just to learn a new one popped out in another area. As many know, the challenges with the pruning and enhancement operations started when the well-trained crew leader, Mr. Chris Clammer, was promoted. Again, it is not because of West Bay

landscape wrongdoing, but simply because it takes time for a new team to reach a specific standard as in the past. As part of the process of improving and meeting the Association's expectations, we were informed this week a new crew leader, Mr. Sheppard Bidwell, is going to take the place of Mr. Derrick Smith, who will still head the mowing crew team. Mr. Bidwell is a former West Bay Landscape employee who was re-recruited. Judging on the last few days, Mr. Bidwell seems to bring a set of skills that should improve the pruning and enhancement operation greatly.

We hope that by West Bay Landscape delegating the operational responsibilities between two crew leaders that the balloon is being squeezed without it being blown in another area. However, time will tell.

Security Cameras and Nanobeams – As some may be aware, there is a security camera at the emergency gate located at the end of Kariba Lake Terrace. In the past couple of weeks, we experienced an issue with the camera's ability to broadcast the footage to both the Association's offices and Gatehouse. Without going into too many details which most likely will make you fall asleep, the main problem was that obstacles, such as oak trees, interfere with the feed between the communication antenna, i.e. nanobeam, at the emergency gate and the other antennas throughout the community. Moss Integration Services (MIS), LakeRidge Falls' security system company, offered two solutions to the issue: a) installing an intermediate communication tower, or b) replacing the antenna at the emergency gate with an antenna that offers wider coverage. Choosing the simpler route, MIS was on-site for the last couple of days executing option b. While the install portion was the easy part of this job, the more challenging task was to make sure all the antennas were synchronized and carrying a clear signal. We are happy to say MIS was successful and all cameras are up and running again without any issue.

Have a healthy and safe weekend.

Sincerely,

Oded Neeman - CAM

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