

LakeRidge Falls

4200 LakeRidge Blvd.
Sarasota, FL 34243

11-25-2020

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

More than ever, I wish you all a Happy and Safe Thanksgiving! May it be the last time we will all need to celebrate while exercising social distance from loved ones.

Office Closed – Just a quick reminder that the Lakeridge Falls’ offices will **be closed** Thursday, November 26th, and Friday, November 27th, due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, We will open again on Monday, November 30th. Please note, 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.

Trash Collection – Also, please remember that there is no residential garbage/recycling collection tomorrow because of the holiday. Instead, the garbage/recycling collection will be done on Friday.

Landscaping – As you have probably noticed by now, West Bay Landscape removed last week the coleuses and instead planted a combination of red geraniums and dusty millers. The University of Florida states that “geranium is a popular and attractive flower” and that “their bright red... flowers can be used to fill a bed or combined with other plants for colorful accents.” As far as dusty miller goes, the University of Florida states that “its silvery, fern-like foliage makes dusty miller perfect for pairing with other plants. It looks especially nice when contrasted with colorful flowering plants like petunias or geraniums.” It is no surprise, therefore, that the Landscape Committee choose these two to dress the community just before the holidays.



Enhancing Landscaping – Back in August of 2014, the Association was discussing ways to improve the roundabout at the east end of Cascade Falls Drive. After much consideration, the Association agreed that the best solution for that specific location would be installing a tree to serve as a focal point. Some of the trees that were considered were Cassia, Poinciana, and a Shady Lady/Black Olive tree. However, the decision ended up being a Sylvester Palm tree mainly because of its classy look, less intrusive root system, and low-maintenance requirements. Following this decision, the Association’s landscape service provider as an amazing gesture installed a beautiful Sylvester Palm at no cost to the Association. And indeed, many who drove by the area through recent years commented on the impact and beauty of this Sylvester Palm.

Fast-forwarding to 2020, a West Bay Landscape’s Arborist noticed in a recent inspection that the palm’s fronds are turning brown. After further investigation, the Arborist determined the palm is suffering from Lethal Bronzing Disease (LBD), which used to be called Texas Phoenix Palm Decline (TPPD), i.e. the State of Texas did not appreciate the fact that its name was associated with a deadly palm disease. If the name of this disease sounds familiar to you, it is most likely because it was brought up a year and a half ago when the Association was forced to remove the Majool Palms at the entrance to the community after a couple of them were dying due to LBD/TPPD. More on this spreading disease can be found in the attached publication by the University of Florida. Back to the Sylvester Palm, West Bay Landscape wasted no time in an attempt to save the palm by injecting it with OTC and Palm Jet, which are pretty much antibiotic for trees. However and based on the Landscape Committee’s recommendation, the palm was removed last week mainly to prevent the spread of this disease. After all, the committee correctly concluded, the Association already lost a handful of palms, such as Medjool and Pygmy Date palm, and immediate and sweeping action may prevent its rapid spread.

However, there is no bad without good. In the next few weeks, the Long Term Landscape Group will meet in order to draft a new landscape design to this to come up with a design for the roundabout area. Judging on its work to date, we are certain that the Group will come up with an amazing design that will be equal if not superior to the old one.

Back Gate – Last week, we got a couple of reports that the back gates located on Lockwood Ridge Rd were stuck open. Luckily enough, Moss Integration Solutions (MIS), the Association gate maintenance company, was on-site working on installing an enclosure to better protect the equipment that controls the Emergency Gate. MIS technician discovered that a fire truck that was dispatched to the community once again, as a few months ago, forgot to turn the Knox Box switch off. As reported in the past, the Knox Box system is a small box located near the back gate which first responders can use to open and close the gates to gain access to the community. Following this report, we placed a call with Southern Manatee Fire Department who sent an inspector within a few minutes to turn the switch off.

Once again, have a happy, healthy, and safe Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,

Oded Neeman - CAM

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