

# LakeRidge Falls

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4200 LakeRidge Blvd.  
Sarasota, FL 34243

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

**Pool** – A week or so ago, one of the Pool Committee members reported that during one of her visits to the pool she noticed that someone left some food on one of the tables. Regardless of the reason why the food was left behind, we ask that residents and guests refrain from doing so. There are several reasons for that, but the three main ones are that food can: find its way to the pool, invite pests such as ants and flies, and/or pollute the environment (i.e. plastic utensils blown by the wind). Therefore, we kindly ask pool users to refrain from bringing food to the pool area. If food is brought, we kindly ask pool users to follow the pool guidelines and also make sure to dispose of it once concluding their visit. Your assistance on this matter is greatly appreciated.

On a related matter, a couple of pool users advised us that the ducks are once again using the Association's pool. Besides the fact that LakeRidge Falls' pool is the best and most enjoyable pool in both Sarasota and Manatee Counties, it is also one of the safest environments for ducks to nest. After all, it is a fenced body of water that keeps potential predators away. Therefore, it should not come as a surprise when a couple of Pool Committee members discovered a formation of what one may consider being a duck nest. Once discovered, the nest was carefully relocated to a nearby landscape bed with great care. We hope this should solve the issue of these adorable but uninvited guests.

**Annuals** – During one of their recent meetings, the Landscape Committee selected Lakeridge Falls' new annuals. The committee selected a variety of white, pink, and violet/lavender Pentas. As reported in the past, the University of Florida describes that "[w]hen other plants fade in Florida's hot and humid summers, perennials like Pentas...truly shine. These attractive plants... are a great source of food for hummingbirds and butterflies." With that in mind, West Bay was on site last Friday executing this change out. Please note that the next transformation should take place sometime during the holiday season.

**Private Vendors' Suggestions** – This week I had an interesting discussion with one of the community's residents. The discussion involved the fact that every now and then residents will submit landscape requests based on recommendations made by a vendor. For example, it is not uncommon that air conditioning companies will suggest to residents to trim away a landscape hedge from the outdoor condenser because it eliminates the possibility of the hedge interfering with the airflow or because it simply blocks the technicians' access to the unit. While in the vast majority of cases the request has merit and we, of course, accommodate it with no issue, there are those interesting incidents that must be addressed. In these incidents, critical thinking must come into play. Here are two examples.

*A/C Condenser & Irrigation* – A year or so ago, a resident asked that we cap the irrigation head closest to her air conditioning condenser located on the side of the house. The resident argued that the HVAC vendor advised that the irrigation head damaged the condenser. The argument presented was that the reclaimed water, which is somewhat corrosive, corroded her 14-year old unit. However, irrigation heads near A/C condensers throughout the community are not designed to spray directly at such units. Therefore, how detrimental is mist to such units? Secondly, what is the life expectancy of air conditioning units in Florida?

*Rats, Ants & Trees* – A common request from residents is trimming of tree branches and/or palm fronds that are hanging over, shading if you will, their roofs and/or lanai enclosures. These requests are generated based on recommendations

made by pest control companies. Based on their argument, pests are an issue because the trees create a clear path to the house. If ants, for example, can go up a tree, couldn't they go up a wall and into a crack? And how can ants jump over a branch that does not touch the roof?

Now, it is very important to mention that the purpose of this article is not to question such vendors' integrity or professionalism. It is not also to question requests that have merit to them. It is simply to raise some critical questions or points, if you may, because sometimes recommendations are based on an opinion(s), rather than facts, or driven by a sales pitch. Again, we will of course adjust irrigation that sprays directly into a condenser or trim a dead palm frond that is hitting a roof. However, does it make any sense to eliminate an entire irrigation head because an AC technician argued that a 14-year old unit failed because of it?

Have a healthy and safe weekend.

Sincerely,

Oded Neeman - CAM

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