

LakeRidge Falls

4200 LakeRidge Blvd.
Sarasota, FL 34243

04-22-2021

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

Vacation – After a long and tiring year, it finally happens! Some time off... kinda. I will be out of the office starting tomorrow, Friday, April 23rd, and will return to work on Monday, May 3rd. I will, however, be remotely available for select Association meetings. During this time, please feel free to contact any Board of Directors member during normal business hours only, please. If you experience a situation that falls under the scope of responsibility of the Association and requires our assistance outside normal business hours (i.e. M-F 8 am to 5 pm), please call our “Emergency Only” line at 941-951-4034.

Aquatic Plants – A few years ago, the Board of Directors established a Long-Term Pond Working Group (PWG) to study and thereafter “make recommendations for remediation of current erosion problems as well as a long-term plan to stabilize and or minimize future erosion in our stormwater drainage ponds.” Once its work was concluded, the PWG presented a comprehensive and well-documented report. This report is published on the Association website and can be found by clicking [here](#). While no operational plan was set forward, yet, to execute the recommendations presented in the report, the Roads & Grounds (R&G) Committee with the help of Mr. Corey Smith, a long-time member of the community, investigated the possibility of installing aquatic plants around some of the Association’s ponds to minimize future erosions which are caused by wave movement.

Following lengthy discussions on the matter, the R&G Committee recommended to the Board of Directors to obtain bids to install aquatic plants in selected ponds around the community for a total cost of not-to-exceed \$7,500. After reviewing the matter, the Board of Directors passed two motions. The first decision was to hold a community workshop meeting on the matter of aquatic plants. The motion was based on the fact that past aquatic plants test sites were not received very well by residents residing in proximity of the pond. The hope is that discussions on the issue will promote a productive dialog and a better understanding that aquatic plants reduce water pollution, produce shade, and thus reduces algae, create a favorable habitat for wildlife, and most importantly in the Association's case, assist with the erosion of ponds' banks. The second decision was to ask the Budget Committee to make consideration for including \$7,500 in the 2022 Budget to purchase aquatic plants. If you recall from the last Weekly Report, funds can't be invested if funds are not available. Therefore, the Board of Directors asked to be financially prepared for the possibility of executing such a plan.

In the meantime, the Board of Directors agreed to restore a small aquatic plants test site as part of the original pilot program which was launched in 2019. At that time, a recommendation was made by the PWG to the Board of Directors to launch a pilot program in which three different species of aquatic plants were planted in three different locations. The plants chosen were specific species that grow low and produce flowers, thus adding appeal to the ponds. The locations chosen were based on where erosion was identified and that are less visible to most residents. Unfortunately, only one test site survived. Thanks to Mr. Smith's effort, who I must add worked tirelessly on the matter, a sum of free aquatic plants was donated by Manatee County to LakeRidge Falls for this endeavor. And indeed, Aquatic Consulting, a local pond maintenance company, was on-site last week to install those plants. While on-site, Aquatic Consulting was able to harvest some extra plant material from other ponds in the community, mainly #7 near the back gate, and plant them at no extra cost at the new test site.



While the issue of bank erosion is more multi-dimensional and complex than one single solution, as outlined in the PWG comprehensive report, the hope is that this is a small step in the right direction in understanding and combating pond bank erosions in the community.

Sidewalk Maintenance – As many noticed by now, we had significant work done on many of the Association's sidewalks. As reported a couple of weeks ago, Mr. Ron LaCivita, an owner of a building & concrete construction company, and his crew were on site for the past couple of days removing raised or broken sidewalks based on a detailed list that was produced by the R&G Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. While some work is still warranted, mainly grinding roots in a few selective locations, Mr. LaCivita is scheduled to be on-site on Tuesday of next week to pour fresh concrete at all locations. In the meantime, we ask all residents and their guests to be extra careful when walking near one of these marked locations. They are marked and blocked for your safety. Please make sure to avoid walking near or in the proximity of these locations. Thank you for your understanding and help on the matter.



COVID-19 Guidelines for Clubhouse and Club Room – During its last meeting, the Board of Directors reviewed a proposed amendment to Association's COVID-19 Guidelines for Clubhouse and Club Room as presented by the Buildings Committee. After a thorough review, the Board of Directors approved the proposed change easing a bit of the restriction governing the usage of the clubhouse and clubroom. A copy of the revised guidelines can be found on the Association's website or by clicking [here](#). Below are the main points of the newly amended guidelines. Please take a moment and read them:

1. Users should maintain the recommended social distancing of 6 feet from others at all times.
2. A face mask or other face-covering is required.
3. Everyone must use hand-sanitizing gel at the front entry or their own upon arrival.
4. Everyone must wipe down all contact parts of tables and chairs before and after each use as well as anything else they touch, such as pool cues or computer keyboards.
5. If supplies become low, please notify the office staff via email or phone – please do not go to the offices unless you have made an appointment.
6. No food is allowed, and the kitchen is not available at this time.
7. Water fountains are out of order; bring your water bottles with lids.
8. Restrooms are available.
9. Continue to put library materials in the basket in front of the clubhouse for quarantine.

We ask all to follow these guidelines as they are designated to ensure the safety and health of all who utilize the community's amenities. We thank you for your help and understanding on the matter.

Have a healthy and safe weekend.

Sincerely,

Oded Neeman - CAM
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