

LakeRidge Falls

4200 LakeRidge Blvd.
Sarasota, FL 34243

09-02-2022

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

Home Security – Back in July and thereafter in December of last year, we reported on two suspicious incidents with very similar characteristics. Unfortunately, we received a report today regarding another incident that took place this week and that resembles the ones mentioned above. On Monday, August 29th, at around 10:56 am a white Hyundai Elantra with black tinted windows trespassed into the community by driving at a high rate of speed behind a resident of the community. The vehicle then turned towards Cascade Falls Dr. The driver then roamed the community for about thirty minutes.

The report that was shared with us today described the following: at around 11:30 am the Hyundai Elantra parked on the driveway of one of the properties along Bowen Falls Place minutes after one of the homeowners left the property. A 5'10 tall, husky-looking, African American male wearing a mask, baseball cap, and blue jeans then came out of the car and started inspecting the property. Once it appeared he was noticed, he returned to the vehicle and drove away.



While we are not law enforcement, the three incidents share remarkably similar features:

- A white vehicle with tinted windows trespasses into the community from the back gate.
- The vehicle roams the community for a long period.
- The intruder seems to be the same African American male.
- The intruder parks the vehicle on the resident's driveway.
- The intruder wears a mask which is commonly used for COVID and a baseball cap.
- The intruder walks around the property and may enter it.

Therefore, we must stress again, and once again in bold letters, that:

THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE IS URGING YOU TO CALL 911

If you recall, Deputy Russell Younger from the Manatee County Sheriff's Office's Crime Prevention Department urged all to call 911 in a similar situation instead of calling the gatehouse or the office.

With this in mind, please make sure to:

- Report suspicious activity to Manatee County Sheriff's Department. Remember, call the Sheriff's Department first! It may save valuable time which may assist in intercepting suspicious individuals. Understandably, members and residents may be afraid to make a call to the Sheriff to report suspicious activity. However, it is always better to be safe than to be sorry.
- Consult with private security companies on how to better protect your house.
- Install timers while you are on vacation, out to dinner, or even while you are at work maintaining an appearance of occupancy.
- Consider a second locking mechanism for your windows and doors such as an extra lock, pan head top screws, and/or bracing devices.
- Install a security sign in your front yard even if you don't have an alarm.
- Consider installing smart security cameras such as doorbell cameras, floodlight cameras, etc., which are widely available, relatively inexpensive, easy to operate, and simple to install.

Also, members and residents must understand that the fact that LakeRidge Falls is a gated community does not mean that crime can't and will not "hit" or spillover from areas around the community. Yes, the more security rings (i.e. guards, wall/fence, cameras, etc.) the better we are. However, these security measurements should not create a false sense of security when it comes to personal security and safety. Therefore, following the steps mentioned above will help keep LakeRidge Falls a safe place to live.

Labor Day – Please note that the Lakeridge Falls **offices will be closed** on Monday, September 5th. We will open again on Tuesday, September 6th. 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 – Because of the long Labor Day weekend, no residential garbage will be done on Monday, September 5th. Collection for that week will be as follows:

- Monday's collection will be collected on Tuesday, September 6th.
- Wednesday's yard waste collection will be collected on Thursday, September 8th.
- Thursday's collection will be collected on Friday, September 9th.

Mowing Schedule – Please remember that mowing next week was pushed by a day. Regular mowing scheduled will resume the following week.

As always, have a healthy and safe Labor Day weekend.

Sincerely,

Oded Neeman - CAM

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