

# 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:

**Hurricane Ian – The Aftermath** – On Wednesday of last week, Hurricane Ian passed our area as a Cat4 hurricane. Thank g-d, no one was hurt as far as we know. While Ian delivered devastating results to the Ft Myers area, this Cat4 hurricane didn't do too much damage to our community. Nevertheless, Ian left an unpleasant, but thankfully, minor trail behind it. Here is a recap of the efforts to address it.

## LANDSCAPE

On Friday and Saturday following the hurricane, a four-manned crew from BrightView Landscape with the help of Mr. Victorino Martinez, BrightView Irrigation technician, and Mrs. Rocio Madrigal, BrightView Weed Control technician, started cleaning the mounds of leaves and broken branches. The main focus, in the beginning, was to address urgent issues such as landscape material that blocked driveways, entryways, roads, and sidewalks. This is a great opportunity to recognize the great effort of so many of the community's residents who assisted in the cleaning efforts. It was truly an awesome sight to see the mutual commitment/responsibility displayed by residents who assisted each other in this time of need. On Monday, the cleaning efforts resumed with a focus on removing the larger plant material such as fallen trees, broken tree branches, and fallen bamboo canes as can be seen in the pictures below. These efforts were accommodated by the mowing crew who took care of most of the mounds of leaves and small landscape debris.



As far as landscape damages, here is a full count of what was recorded. We had fifty-eight ornamental trees such as hibiscus and bougainvillea that fell. We are a little bit over halfway done with re-staking them. We are going by neighborhoods and hope to complete this task by next week. We also lost twelve trees. We had three mature trees that were uprooted. Thankfully, only one caused minor damages to two properties, i.e. fell between the units. In addition, three palms lost their heads, i.e. literally, not metaphorically, due to the high winds. And finally, as far as lost trees, we had four ornamental trees and two small size trees that broke in such a way that a replacement is warranted. Finally, eight trees suffered some kind of large damage. These damages range from a few broken limbs to the deformity of the canopy/tree. Most of them will bounce back while one, an oak tree, may need to be removed altogether.



While Ian was a stronger storm than Irma, i.e., Cat4 vs Cat2, and while the plant material at the time was less mature, the good news is that the Association sustained fewer landscape damages, and property as a side note, than it had back in 2017. For example, during Irma, we lost 35 trees, i.e. 16 mature trees and 19 ornamental trees, as compared to 12 this year. Furthermore, there are other communities about the same age as LakeRidge Falls, such as the Greenbrook Village at Lakewood Ranch, that endured a much larger scale of landscape damage. For example, just on half of the main road, Greenbrook Blvd, which can be compared in length to LakeRidge Blvd there were over 25 mature trees that got uprooted or broken in such a way that required removal.

The above is partly due to the hard work of the Long-Term Landscape Group, the Landscape Committee, and the Board of Directors over the years. This simply reinforces the importance of adopting best pruning practices, sticking to a yearly tree maintenance program, implementing landscape policies, which avoid, for example, installing trees that have low wind resistance, and establishing a proactive long-term landscape plan that eliminates the need to be reactive to potential challenges. I am sure the entire community joins in thanking these members who invested so much of their time on this matter.

With the above in mind, some voiced their concerns regarding the effort displayed by BrightView Landscape. This is a good opportunity to share some of the unknown factors that must be taken into consideration when looking at this matter:

- 1) Some of BrightView Landscape's employees suffered property damages and/or loss of power.
- 2) Communication was down and therefore reaching out to employees was a difficult task.
- 3) The focus was shifted to areas that sustained more significant damages than our area.

Taking the above into consideration, it should be noted that Mr. Matt Stewart, BrightView Account Manager, acted promptly and went above and beyond to assist the community in the cleaning efforts. For this, he should be recognized, and as before I am sure the community will join us in thanking him and the hardworking men and women of BrightView Landscape for all their hard work and dedication.

### AMENITIES

As far as the clubhouse, we had minor damages as some of the attic insulation was blown into the grand salon as can be seen in the picture below. Thankfully, Wee Kleen, the Association cleaning service company, was on-site on Friday making sure to clean up this mess. We also had one tile that was displaced on the clubhouse roof, but it is a minor matter that will be addressed at a later date.



As far as the pool goes, no major issues were noted. We had a lot of landscape debris floating around which naturally threw the pH level out of balance. However, thanks to the help of Mrs. Diane Pezzimenti, the Pool Committee co-chairperson, and her husband, Bernie, we were able to remove most of the debris saving Smiley Pool Services' technician valuable time which at the end of the day helped in opening the pool sooner.



Soon after the pool reopened, we learned the pool heaters were not working. We, therefore, placed a service call with Symbiont Service, the Association pool/spa heating/cooling system maintenance company. The technician who arrived yesterday advised he had to reset the system and checked operations. While doing so, he discovered and thereafter replaced, under warranty, a defective compressor and capacitor of one of the units. We are happy to say that the system is up and running again and the pool and spa are fully operational.

This is yet another great opportunity to extend a big thank you to all the amazing volunteers who assisted in securing the pool furniture before the storm and placing all furniture items back thereafter.

### POWER AND COMMUNICATION

Following Ian's visit, the vast majority of the community didn't have power. By early this week, all power was restored. We also had a couple of streetlights that were damaged by the storm. It may take longer than we hope for FPL to address this matter. However, we will make sure to keep trying to reach out until this matter is addressed.

Also following Ian's visit, the community lost communication, i.e. internet, phone, and tv. While Frontier customers regained their services a few days after the storm, Spectrum customers were out of service until Wednesday of this week. Because the Association is using Spectrum, residents were unable to reach the gatehouse and/or offices over the phone. While all communications have been restored, we regret to inform you that we were unable to retrieve phone messages that were left in our phone system. Please reach out to us once again if the reason you have contacted us was not addressed. Thank you in advance for your understanding on this matter.

## GATES

Another area that was impacted by the storm was the gates. The high winds blew three of the arm gates. They were all reinstalled on Thursday. On Monday, we were able to restore communication with the gates, i.e. programming new FOBs and setting operation hours, after Moss Integration Solutions (MIS), the Association gate maintenance company, discovered and replaced a defective 8 port switch. All was good until Sunday... As can be seen in the picture below, at around 10:15 am, a fire truck entered the community. To do so, one of the firefighters had to turn the Knox Box switch on. 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 on Monday with the Southern Manatee Fire Department which sent an inspector within the hour to turn the switch off. However, then we learned the RFID reader stopped working... Therefore, a MIS technician was on-site the following day. The technician concluded the RFID reader transformer went bad. This component was replaced and the back gate returned to its normal operation.



## GARBAGE AND RECYCLING

What seems to be impacted the most by Ian is the county services related to garbage collection. While reaching out to the Manatee County Utilities Dept is an impossible mission at the moment, we can share the information the county posted on its website and communicate with residents using emails and text messages.

- As of Monday, October 3, 2022, collections for garbage and yard waste will go back to the normal collection schedule.

- Recycling collections will be suspended until further notice.  
Please leave your items out until 7p on the normal collection day.
- If not collected by 7 pm, please put your items back out before 6 am the next morning.
- Debris can be prepared as yard waste (bundled, bagged, or canned per guidelines found online) and placed out for collection on Wednesdays.
- Unprepared debris will be collected by haulers on passes through the county to begin soon.
- Please call 941-792-8811 to request arrangements for the disposal of refrigerators and freezers.  
For more information, please go to [mymanatee.org/manateeready](http://mymanatee.org/manateeready)

In sum, the Association sustained, thankfully, minor damages. All major issues were addressed at this point and we are working to complete all the other tasks, i.e. mainly landscaping matters. We wish to thank you in advance for your understanding and patience regarding the pace of these efforts as the majority of them are out of the Association's control. Most importantly, we wish to thank all the Association's residents for displaying outstanding community spirit that even a Cat4 hurricane could not break.

**Toys for Tots Campaign** – The Community Relations Committee (CRC) would like to announce that the traditional U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Campaign has started. The campaign is scheduled to end around the first week of December. The campaign's objective is to provide three age-appropriate toys to each eligible child in Manatee County. This week, a large cardboard box was placed at the entrance to the Clubhouse by a Former Marine Volunteer. If you wish to help with this blessed cause, please feel free to drop a toy or toys in this box. Please note that toys should be placed in the box unwrapped so the appropriate age for the gift recipient can be determined by the Marine volunteers running the campaign. Elaborate and/or expensive toys are not necessary. Sometimes simple is better. For this campaign, the definition of "toy" includes books and games. As with past years, we are sure this campaign will prove to be super successful.

As always, have a healthy and safe weekend.

Sincerely,

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