

LakeRidge Falls

4200 LakeRidge Blvd.
Sarasota, FL 34243

03-01-2024

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

Residents Directory – We are happy to announce that the 2024 Residents Directory will be available mid of next week. As every year, residents are invited to pick up their directory at the LakeRidge Falls offices. As last year, you will not be required to sign your name when picking up a copy. Please remember that each household is eligible to receive one copy of the directory. If you take more than that, we may need to print more copies which many would agree is an unnecessary expenditure. Lastly, we wish to take a moment and say a huge thank you to Mrs. Paula Murray, LakeRidge Falls' Association Assistant, for all their hard work in recruiting advertisers for this year's directory thus helping to provide it to you at no cost to the Association.

Community Assistant – Once again, and with mixed feelings, we need to announce that Mrs. Paula Murray has decided to retire. As one of the founding mothers of the Falls Forum, Mrs. Murray is a true pillar of the community. Her dedication and hard work are truly remarkable. Just as a small example, and just because not many knew about it, Mrs. Murray agreed to come back from retirement almost two years ago when the Association needed her services. We are sure all will join us in wishing Mrs. Murray lots of enjoyment and happiness in her retirement. With this in mind, please note that the Board of Directors has split Mrs. Murray's duties between two Board of Directors members and myself. Of course, it may take some time for all things to fall into place. But until then, thank you in advance for your patience and understanding on this matter.

Sidewalks Crew – If you may recall, we described in recent months some of the projects that took place in the community which resulted from the Roads & Grounds (R&G) Committee's resourceful research/work. If not, here is a short recap. Last year, the R&G Committee was tasked with examining maintenance concerns related to pond erosion, sidewalks, streetlights, mailboxes, and recreation amenities. Because this task encompassed vast areas, the R&G Committee decided, with the Board's blessing, of course, to divide the committee into five crews. In general, each crew was tasked with surveying these areas, writing a report regarding its findings, and thereafter presenting a course of action to address such issues. The R&G Committee would then review the work and recommendations and determine what should be the final recommendations to be brought before the Board of Directors.

In the past few months, we reported on the work performed by the Streetlights and Ponds Crews. Today, we would like to report about a third crew: Sidewalk. The crew was composed of three committee members, Mr. Durand Glovinsky, Mr. Bob James, and Mrs. Betty Curry Johnson. The goal of the crew was to “conduct a sidewalk trip hazard survey as completed in the past. Photos can be helpful, but the final product must be in simple language and follow a specific route.”

As one can imagine, surveying about 5 miles of sidewalks in the Florida weather can be a challenging undertaking. While the main goal was to identify the areas and ensure the accuracy of surveying/reporting, it was not easy. It may sound silly to some, but it is not so simple to direct a vendor to repair a 3-inch diameter hole in the sidewalk along a five-mile path. Consider the following math to emphasize this point. One mile is

5280 feet, so in the Association case about 26,400 feet of sidewalk. The average sidewalk is about 4 feet wide. Hence, 26,400 feet of sidewalk length X 4 feet of an average sidewalk width = 105,600 Square Footage or 15,206,400 Square Inches. Did you ever try to locate a 3-inch hole along a 105,600 SqFt area?

Yes, some of the areas are in front of a house that has an address. However, how would a vendor know what area to repair? That is, left or right of the address? What if the area between two addresses? And besides, how does one send someone to repair an area with no address attached to it, for example along the eastern wall to the community or the Blvd? Therefore, the members of the crew had minimal room for error in presenting the data. Once the survey was concluded, the crew submitted their detailed report identifying 111 areas that needed to be patched, ground, or replaced. We are certain all will join us in thanking the Sidewalk Crew for the outstanding job!

The report was then submitted to a local concrete company for consideration. At the same time, all the identified areas were clearly marked with a neon pink spray. We hope to start the work on addressing these areas in the next couple of weeks. However, and in the meantime, we ask all to pay attention to the marked areas while using the community sidewalks. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation on this matter.

Feeding Wildlife – Once again, we receive reports regarding residents and/or guests who are feeding wildlife in general and birds in particular. Please note that both Florida Rule 68A-4.001 and the Association governing documents strictly prohibit such activity! Florida Rules specifically prohibit “intentionally placing food or garbage, allowing the placement of food or garbage, or offering food or garbage” while the Association’s Declaration of Covenant, Conditions, and Restrictions, Initial Restrictions and Rules, 2, Restricted Activities, (s), prohibit “any activities by persons other than Declarant which materially disturb or destroy the vegetation, wildlife, wetlands, or air quality within the Community...”

The main reason is obvious. Feeding wild animals may lead such animals to lose their ability to gather food naturally. Therefore, they become more and more dependent on humans, which may lead to property damage, endangering surrounding neighbors, the spread of diseases, increased animal families, and the creation of a nuisance environment.

We, therefore, request all residents and their guests not to feed, intentionally and unintentionally, wildlife. This includes but is not limited to feeding birds/ducks/fish with food or garbage, attracting wildlife by placing food or garbage, i.e. leaving pet food in the lanai and using birdfeeders and/or birdbaths, and placing food or garbage in a manner that attracts wildlife, i.e. putting garbage during garbage pick-up days without using a closed container. Please, we ask all to assist us in protecting LakeRidge Falls’ unique ecosystem and nature. Thank you in advance for your immediate and sincere attention to this matter.

Have a healthy and safe weekend.

Sincerely,

Oded Neeman - CAM
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