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A Word from the Board

With the month of October, and the arrival of autumn, we're beginning to see cooler and shorter days. However, we still have a couple more months before the end of the hurricane season. Of course, we have been very fortunate again this year. As you know, in the event of a hurricane situation, Laurel Oaks established a Hurricane Preparedness Committee this year, to include a comprehensive preparedness program. In this regard, when it looked like we would be visited by Ernesto in August, the committee held an emergency meeting to map strategy. Fortunately it wasn't necessary to enact this strategy. However, many thanks to all those residents who gave their time and efforts and volunteered to serve on this important committee and to provide assistance in the community, if and when needed. It is this level of commitment to the community, along with participation in other volunteer opportunities, that will continue to make Laurel Oaks a viable and attractive place to live.

Also, please be reminded that alterations to the exterior of units must first be approved by the Laurel Oaks Architectural Committee. For better or worse, this is the price we must pay to live in this fine HOA community. In this regard, there is a form on our website (www.laureloaksatcountrywoods.org under "Homeowner Forms") which must be completed and submitted to the Board prior to any changes being made. This would include modifications to front and screen doors, garage doors, pavers, stepping stones, patios, lanais, and balcony enclosures. If in doubt about a proposed change, contact our Architectural Committee chair, Roberto Sanchez. Working together and being on the "same page" we can hope to maintain the quality and desirability of our community.

Welcome New Board Member

Our newest board member is Jim Chapman who fills the vacancy left by David Cibulas who recently moved from the community. Jim and Trudy Chapman moved to Laurel Oaks from Polk County where they resided for the past ten years and where Jim played an active role in the several communities in which they lived. In that regard, he led a two year effort that resulted in new state legislation being written with respect to short term rentals in private neighborhoods. Further, he served as a city commissioner for five years and as mayor of Haines City, FL in 1990. Jim is a sales manager in food service distribution. He and Trudy live at 2665 Sequoia and have two grown children. His phone is 812-6720 and email is jcha412434@aol.com. Welcome Jim, with your experience and motivation we know you'll be a real asset to the board and to Laurel Oaks.

Special thanks...

A special thanks to Roberto Sanchez, Karen Zachar, Andy Barnes, Barbara Moscato, Sarah Jaehn, Scott Hood and Ed Heitov for taking a busy Saturday out of their schedules and applying a much needed sealer to our new pool pavers. This locks down the sand in the joints and forms a solid base for you to walk on. These individuals saved the Board over \$500 that can now go to some other useful purpose in the community.



Numbers to Know

Maintenance

Ameri-Tech 726-8000

Termite

Couches 725-4757

Trash / Waste

City of Dunedin
298-3215

Security

Brinks 800-371-5180

Cable

Bright House 324-1009

Pinellas County Sheriff

582-6200

"Fall into Fun" – October Social



Come join your neighbors in the annual Our Lady of Lourdes Fall Festival which is held October 19-22. While the festival spans four days, the Social committee is targeting Saturday October 21 from 11am - 2pm as a time where Laurel Oaks neighbors can

enjoy the food, rides and live entertainment together. There will also be a flea market tent, a craft tent and a plant tent. Interested? Call Elizabeth Galvin at 738-8739.

Your Home, Your Community – Taking Responsibility

Most would agree that Laurel Oaks has a certain unique character and charm about it which makes it such a special place to live. However, our community is approaching twenty years of age. Some of the buildings and ancillary fixtures such as gates and lamps are beginning to show their age. Unfortunately, insufficient reserve funds were collected in past years to correct many of the problems that are beginning to appear. The board can only do so much within the existing budget to correct these deficiencies. Consequently, unit owners must be willing to take some personal responsibility for their own unit and, to a certain degree, for the community as well, to help correct some of these problems.

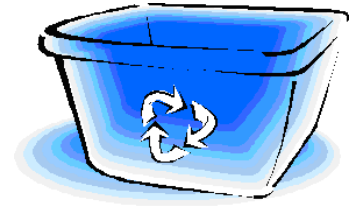


What can you do? In fact, there are a number of tasks that owners can take on to improve both the look and quality of their own unit and the community as well. These include painting their own front and garage doors and trim (free paint is available for

these tasks), cleaning lower gutters, changing burned out bulbs in outdoor fixtures (free bulbs are available from our maintenance person), and cleaning the mold from individual driveways and walks. Any and all of these tasks can be done without prior approval from the board or the management company. However, if you are unsure about taking on a particular job, simply call Scott at Ameri-tech and run it by him or contact Roberto Sanchez who heads our Architectural Committee. Working together we can ensure Laurel Oaks remains a very desirable place to live.

Reminders & Updates

Recycling - Laurel Oaks residents are to be commended for immediately embracing recycling in the community. On any given Monday morning more than half of all units have recycling containers out for pick-up. We can take pride in what we're doing to help the environment. And remember that even with the addition of recycling, with the new fully automated trash collection, we're saving about \$5 per month per unit for a savings to the community of over \$7000 per year.



However, be reminded that recycling is only collected on Mondays. Please don't put your recycling out on Thursdays.

Insurance Special Assessment - The second \$250 installment of the insurance special assessment is now due. If you have not already sent yours to Ameri-tech please send it in as soon as possible, but no later than Oct. 15.



Management's Perspective

On-site maintenance in the community is being performed by Mary Fontana who works Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 2-3 hours per day in the mornings. Her job is to ensure the pool deck and restrooms are cleaned, light bulbs are replaced, the tennis court is blown off, necessary power washing is performed, and other minor maintenance is completed as needed.

All maintenance concerns should be directed to our property manager, Scott Vignery with Ameri-tech. The office number is 726-8000 ext 222; cell phone is 224-4676 and email: scott@amer-tec.com

Visit our community web site at:
www.LaurelOaksatCountrywoods.org

For questions or comments regarding this newsletter, please contact Ed Heitov at
eheitov@tampabay.rr.com.