

the WINDOW

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE VENTANA HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION

FOURTH QUARTER 2020 EDITOR: JOHN BUCK

November live meeting scheduled

The next scheduled general meeting of the Ventana Homeowner's Association is Tuesday, November 10 at 7pm at the Grace Life Church, Classroom 3. Please observe social distancing and wear a mask. I hope you will consider joining us.

Pool issues

As you may be aware, the pool was closed on Monday, October 26. An email was sent out to Ventana residents as notification. As of this writing, the pool is still closed but should be open within days. Closing the pool to all residents was unfortunate but necessitated by the discovery Ventana was not included on the pool/rec area liability insurance since 2017; therefore, our residents were potentially exposed to a lawsuit should an accident occur. Ventana's board of directors is applying for liability insurance and this cost will be charged to the budget of the Joint Recreation Committee.

The JRC

The Joint Recreation Committee is composed of representatives from both Ashwood Lakes and Ventana as 50/50 partners in the pool/recreation area. As dictated by our community documents, this committee oversees all issues relating to the pool, basketball and tennis courts and the playground. For the past several months this committee has met on several occasions to identify needs, procure estimates, get board approvals, oversee contractors and develop the required three budgets for review by both communities' boards. Committee members include Ashwood Lakes residents Vedra Dawkins, Jill Runnels and Michelle Robin and Ventana is represented by Julie Shorrock and board member Ron Fanelli. We'd like to thank these individuals for volunteering hours upon hours of work on our behalf.

Pool improvements and a new entry system

Keys will no longer gain entrance to the pool. The JRC has implemented a new entry system utilizing a proximity card which is waved at the gate to access the pool. This upgrade will aid in security and help reduce or eliminate the vandalism and other illegal activities that regularly occur in the pool area. Over the years, keys were lost, given to friends, forgotten by former owners, etc. We had no idea who was using the pool. Now, usage of the free proximity card will provide the JRC with information about who is accessing the pool and may be used to identify individuals who are abusing the rules. Other improvements:

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE: Five new high definition video surveillance cameras cover the pool area and beyond. This state of the art equipment will allow the JRC to identify individuals in the pool area, even at night.

LIGHTING: The JRC contracted bright new lighting that easily covers the entire pool area, even beyond the fence. The lighting is activated by a photo cell so is only operating dusk to dawn.

SIGNAGE: The old signage at the recreation area was in bad shape, faded and worn and, in some cases, lying on the ground or propped up against the fence. Eleven new durable aluminum signs were created and placed in the rec area. New pool rule signs will be installed this week. John Buck and Bernie Fischer managed this task.

Various cosmetic improvements will be undertaken later in the year.

Getting the new free pool entry card

The free entry cards were handed out at the pool on Saturday and Sunday, October 17 and 18th. Only about 10% of Ventana residents responded. To get your card to access the pool, you need to contact us via email. We will need your ID to sign for the card. One per household. Additional entry cards will be available at additional cost.

Entrance improvements

Our flower beds have never looked better. We are keeping them trimmed and have saved money by planting perennials in 75% of each bed, leaving room for seasonal colors of annuals.

We have replaced some of the dead Indian Hawthorns along the Murrell Road wall. The last 2 of the original 11 palms died of the ganoderma fungus at the front of the center island and we had the stumps removed and ground down. In this space we are constructing a circular 9' diameter paver bed, filling it with topsoil and planting a Crape Myrtle called Tuscarora. Surrounding the flowering tree will be several Ixora Maui, a yellow sunset color to complement the coral flowers of the tree. In the Spring, we will see the full effect of this new colorful entrance.

Holiday decorations

While on the subject of the entrance, we are looking for non board members to step up and help decorate the entrance for the holidays. We have plenty of lights and outlets, but need residents to pitch in. Last year, a poor electrical system caused numerous blackouts and we have corrected that situation. Please contact us at board@ventanaoa.org to offer your assistance. The sooner the better. Frankly, if residents don't volunteer, there probably won't be any decorations this year. Hopefully, that won't happen.

Elections imminent

If you are interested in becoming a board member, please write a letter of introduction to the board as an application and email us at board@ventanaoa.org by December 10. Ballots are mailed on December 15 and the election is held at the annual meeting in February. All five Board positions are open and available. It must be noted the board is considering moving to a three person board in mid to late 2021 and employing a full service property management company for Ventana. We have been happy with our current contractor handling compliance issues and managing that process.

Thank you Maxine Bevins

A huge thank you to Maxine Bevins for 100s of hours of volunteerism over the years in Ventana on chairing both the Architectural Review Board and the Welcome Committee. In the past Maxine has served on the board as well. A more formal tribute will be on the agenda at the November 10 general meeting.

Stormwater drains

Once again, we ask you do NOT place any yard waste on top of the cement stormwater drains. Some of this debris falls into drain and ultimately contributes to the degradation of the Indian River Lagoon and St John's River. Place the yard waste on the grass median, not in the street. Please inform your lawn and pruning contractors to abide by our wishes. It's the ecologically correct thing to do. Thank you.

Assessments

You may want to begin planning for the annual assessment, which is sent out December 15th and due January 30, 2021.

No political signs please

Please abide by our "no political signs" rule. Several properties representing both parties have been asked to remove their signs.



VENTANA OWNER'S
ASSOCIATION, INC.
PO Box 560328
Rockledge, FL 32956
website: ventanaoa.org
email: board@ventanaoa.org

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