

Emerald Gardens HOA

PO Box 21401

Sarasota, FL 34276-4401

COYOTE CONTROL

Some residents have reported seeing coyotes in and around our community. Please follow these few simple rules to ensure they do not become permanent neighbors:

- Report sightings to local animal control, especially if the animal is not easily intimidated by loud noise or bright light or if you see the animal during daylight hours.
- Do not leave trash bins on the street or set food out. Secure lids on trash and recycling bins.
- Pick fruit as soon as it is ripe, and pick up and discard fallen fruit daily.
- Avoid bird feeders. The aroma attracts scavengers even though they cannot reach the nuts and seeds.
- Do not put meat scraps in compost heaps.
- Do not let cats and dogs outside unattended, especially at night.
- Walk your dog on a short leash, at your side, not behind you, at all times. If you encounter a coyote, pick up the dog and walk away.
- Do not walk near bushy vegetation, particularly at dusk and dawn, and avoid walking near abandoned or neglected properties.
- Carry a flashlight, air horn, or pepper spray when walking. If caught unprepared, shout and throw small objects.





Emerald Gardens Jewel

FALL 2019

From the Desk of the President:

Hello Emerald Gardens Homeowners and welcome to the Fall Jewel.

I would like to start by complementing our volunteer committees. First, the pond committee has put many hours of research and follow-up, into bringing our aerator project to a county vote. I was privileged to attend a Grant Advisory Committee meeting on September 26, 2019, where the grant was approved. Not only was it approved, our application received an 86.71% score, which is one of the two highest approval ratings from the committee.

This score demonstrates how hard our committee worked, to prepare the report for grant review. Deb and Melanie worked diligently to include all the supporting information. They also had the support of Bob and Zack, who obtained many signatures for our community. We are lucky to have all of their support. I signed the Grant and look forward to the next step of having the Board of County Commissioner's give their stamp of approval. Then we will move forward in having the aerators installed. We are confident this will make a huge difference with the appearance and health of the pond.

I also want to recognize Zachary from Diamond Circle East, for his volunteer time as well. Zachary has walked the perimeter of the pond on a few occasions and picked up large amounts of trash. He then has discarded this trash in the appropriate location.

Next, our Care & Appearance Committee has made great strides in making sure homeowners are following our Deed Restrictions. There has been significant improvement since this committee was established. Based on the improvements, be assured our property values will be maintained and Emerald Gardens will continue to be a desirable community. Many thanks Jo-Anne & Roger.

Thank you goes out to Laurie from our Welcoming Committee. She welcomes our new homeowners and takes the time to explain our community expectations and restrictions. Laurie also has made several suggestions and ideas to improve living in Emerald Gardens and these are appreciated.

I wanted to thank Judy for taking on the task of the Community Garage Sale. Judy has delivered flyers to each home and we look forward to a successful event.

We are very fortunate to have Kevin, as not only our Community Association Manager, but also a resident. Kevin often goes beyond his manager duties. We recently completed the rock project along the Wilkinson wall and Kevin went out on his own time and dug deeper than the vendor, to ensure future weed control. This is only one example of the many tasks Kevin takes on.

We are fortunate to have so many great folks in our community.

We have once again received a number of inquiries regarding Dog Walking and these dogs leaving deposits. Sarasota County Ordinance Sec. 14-48, enforces picking up after your pet. Resident and non-resident dog walkers alike are often seen not picking up after their pets.

If you see dogs relieving themselves on resident's property, this can be reported to the Sarasota Sheriff non-emergency number @ 941-861-5800. With all the improvements, our homeowners have done on their properties, let us all do our part to help.

Wishing everyone a great upcoming Holiday Season.
John Kelner
President





Emerald Gardens

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Current Board of Directors

President	John Kelner
Vice President	Perry Steele
Secretary	Melanie Marsh
Treasurer	Virginia Phillips
Member at Large	Chuck Berster
Business Manager:	
Kevin Billingsley, CAM37024	
Newsletter Editor	Kevin Billingsley
Webmaster	Kevin Billingsley



HALLOWEEN IS ONCE AGAIN UPON US. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ASKS THAT ALL HOMEOWNERS PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR YARD LIGHT IS LIT! WE EXPECT MANY LITTLE ONES IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD. PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY AND WATCH OUT FOR TRICK-OR-TREATERS.

WHAT DOES A COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MANAGER DO? AND WHAT ARE THEY NOT HIRED TO DO?¹

Community associations today employ highly-qualified professional community association managers, and we think residents should know what the manager has—and has not—been hired to do.



Some residents expect the manager to perform certain tasks that just are not part of the job. When the manager does not meet those expectations, residents are unhappy. In short, the manager has two primary responsibilities: Carry out policies set by the board and manage the association’s daily operations.

In practice, what does that mean for some common resident questions and concerns?

- ✓ **The manager is trained to deal with conflict, but he or she typically will not get involved in quarrels you might be having with your neighbor.** However, if association rules are being violated, the manager is the right person to notify.
- ✓ **While the manager works closely with the board, he or she is an advisor—not a member of the board.**
- ✓ **Although the manager works for the board, he or she is available to residents.** That doesn’t mean the manager will drop everything to take your call. If you need to see the manager, call and arrange a meeting.
- ✓ **The manager is always happy to answer questions, but he or she is not the information officer.** For routine inquiries, like the date of the next meeting, please read the newsletter or check the association website.
- ✓ **The manager is responsible for monitoring contractors’ performance, but not supervising them.** Contractors are responsible for supervising their own personnel. If you have a problem with a contractor, notify the manager, who will forward your concerns to the board. The board will decide how to proceed under the terms of the contract.
- ✓ **The manager inspects the community regularly, but even an experienced manager will not catch everything.** Your help is essential. If you know about a potential issue, report it to the manager.
- ✓ **The manager does not set policy.** If you disagree with a policy or rule, you will get better results sending a letter or e-mail to the board, than arguing with the manager.
- ✓ **The manager has a broad range of expertise, but he or she is not a consultant to the residents.** Neither is he or she typically an engineer, architect, attorney, or accountant. The manager may offer opinions, but do not expect technical advice in areas where he or she is not qualified.
- ✓ **Although the manager is a great resource to the association, he or she is not available 24 hours per day—except for emergencies.** An association emergency is defined as a threat to life or property.

¹ Otto, Laura. “What does a community association manager do? Community Association Institute, January 16, 2019.

POND COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Neighbors,

I wanted to share the good news regarding the Grant proposal. Emerald Gardens grant proposal was accepted by the Advisory Board whereby they have recommended to the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners to approve our request. We were one of 13 communities that



made it to the final round for consideration and are pleased we scored the highest grade of the applicants that were considered. While there is still one more formal step for the Board of County Commissioners to sign off on the request at their November meeting, unless something drastic were to occur, we should be finalized for the matching grant funds. This means we will begin the process of moving forward immediately with the installation of the aeration system, which will make a significant difference in the health of the water in the pond. We will however hold off on the aquatic plantings until next year when we get to the rainy season to help the plantings thrive.

Many thanks to the board for its continued support over the past 4 years to get to this point, Bob Plummer who was instrumental with obtaining signatures for the petition, Zachary Wierzba for review and input of the grant proposal and for everyone in the community who signed the petition supporting our efforts and for those who follow and practice the many tips we have published over the years surrounding healthy pond maintenance.

As a reminder here are some of those tips again that we ask everyone in our community to be aware of:

- Be conscious of the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, dog droppings, grass clippings and household chemicals that all run off through the storm drains and end up in the pond and contribute to the algae blooms.
- Those who live on the pond should maintain a low maintenance or no-mow buffer zone at the water's edge. This allows any runoff of chemicals to filter through the grasses and the longer root structures help anchor the soil thereby reducing bank erosion. We have aerial photos to show the erosion that has taken place, correcting the issue will be expensive so this is an economical approach to avoiding a costly issue in the future.

Debra Pietsch
Pond Committee

WELCOME NEW HOMEOWNERS

Since Spring Jewel

4458 Diamond Cir S
Samuel Ricotta

4479 Diamond Cir E
Richard Pinkham &
Heather Gilpatric

SAVE THE DATE!



ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2020

@ 7:00 PM

Also note, Assessment notices will be mailed out in mid-January, with a due date of February 28, 2020.

MEETING DATE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

GARAGE SALE



Time to clean out the garage.
The date is set.

November 2, 2019.

Everyone is welcome to participate.

Time: 8:00am until 1:00pm

For additional information, please contact Judy at lutes4417@gmail.com