

Westminster Crier

A Message from the Board of Directors

April 6, 2020

To Our Westminster Members,

The Board has received numerous questions as to why the pool and other areas of the Community Center have been closed. We have also received suggestions and solutions as to how to keep it open.

The Board has also had concerned residents ask us to close the pool and Community Center because of the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Hopefully we can answer some of the questions and concerns that have been presented to the Board.

Q) Why was the pool closed when the Governor did not order pools closed?

A) Although the Governor of Florida did not specifically say to close pools, the common area pools (not privately owned individual pools) can be a host to many problem areas such as door handles, bathrooms, chairs, tables, and lack of social distancing, to name a few.

It would extremely difficult to sanitize our chairs, tables, handles and other surfaces every time someone touches them. Even though people think they are being careful and sanitary, there is no guarantee we could keep the area free of any germs or the COVID-19 virus.

Q) Why can't you just limit the number of who enters the pool?

A) It would be difficult to monitor the number of people entering the Community Center while it is open (6am to 11pm). Additionally, we have no mechanism to enforce the policy should someone choose to disregard it.

Q) Why not just reduce the pool hours?

A) Reducing the pool hours of operation would mostly likely cause more numbers of people to gather in a limited time.

P) We don't think it's right for people to have private pool parties while the community pool is closed.

R) Residents who have pools can have visitors to their home. The Board cannot order a privately owned pool to close.

We are not restricting visitors at this point. Should the Governor declare a "shelter in place" order, the Board will have to make decisions regarding who is entering the Community.

P) We need the pool open for physical therapy.

R) The Board understands that many people use the pool for therapy and exercise, and we applaud them, but that's not the main purpose of the community pool.

Q) What about the golf course?

A) As you know the golf course and club are owned privately. The Association has nothing to do with the operations of the course or the club.

The Club House has taken measure to fight the spread of the virus by closing the inside restaurant portion and allowing only takeout meals.

Additionally, the golf course is still in operation. They have procedures in place for the golfers such as single golfers in carts; carts being sanitized; raising the cups so flag sticks are not handled and other measures.

Q) Since everything is closed in our community, are the HOA dues getting reduced for the next quarter?

A) While the Community Center is closed, we still have financial obligations required to maintain our amenities and infrastructure.

Q) What about other Communities?

A) We know neighboring communities such as Pelican Preserve, Marina Bay and many other communities closed their pool areas and amenities several days before Westminster did.

Additionally, the Gateway CDD shut down their pool and closed all their parks and playgrounds days ago to help prevent the spread of the virus.

As of Sunday morning, Lee County has the highest number of COVID-19 cases in SWFL. SWFL has a mortality rate near the top for Florida. If you follow news and health care sources concerning the outbreak, many report we have not even reached the peak of the predicted numbers of those expected to be infected. To date, health care workers, EMS, police, fire and even those serving in our military have contracted COVID-19. No one, not one profession, is immune.

Often, decisions made by the Board are difficult and sometimes unpopular. One of the main responsibilities of any HOA Board is to make decisions and take actions that are in the best interests for the community as a whole.

In closing, the decision to close the Community Center was not taken lightly. In these uncertain and unprecedented times, the Board's choice was made on what we feel is best for our entire Community.

On Behalf of the Board of Directors

Betsy Rosser, President

Sad News

It is with great sadness to announce the passing of my husband Ed Ward on March 15th. Ed battled for five strong years and now he is finally at peace. My children & I will be celebrating his life as soon as the covid 19 virus subsides.

Catherine Ward of Bainmar

Our thoughts go out to Catherine and her family at this time.

Notice

ARC has canceled their meeting for this month, due to the Governor's Request for Floridians. You can still submit requests, as these will be considered once we are back to normal

RELAY FOR LIFE TOURNAMENT POSTPONED TO NOVEMBER 7, 2020

Contact Terry Inscoc, tainscoe@yahoo.com if you have any questions

Safety and Security Tip from Lee County

Lee County Sheriff Carmine Marceno is asking for your help in putting a halt to a recent rash of car burglaries. You can assist us by using common sense steps to make your vehicle less appealing to thieves. Often, these crimes occur because owners fail to practice the preventative safety tips listed below:

- **Lock your vehicle.** The average burglar simply checks to see if a car is unlocked, spends less than a minute inside the vehicle, checking the glove box, door panels, and center console for valuables.
- **Take your valuables with you.** This includes your wallet, purse, computer, weapons and other items.
- **Park in well-lighted areas.** Two things burglars don't like – lights and witnesses.
- **Do not leave personal identifying papers in car.** This includes your license, social security card, motor vehicle registration, car title, credit card and bank statements. If stolen, these items can lead to identity theft.
- **Consider theft prevention devices.** There are a number of audible vehicle alarms that will scare off any burglar looking to grab your belongings.
- **Be aware of your surroundings and report suspicious activity.** See it. Say it. Make the call.

To learn more about auto burglary or to arrange for a free auto burglary prevention seminar, contact the Community Response Unit at 239-477-1CRU.

Club Corner: Reminder food is available for take out at the Club call 239-368-6451 or go on the Westminster Golf Course Facebook page for more information.