
BEAR ISLAND HOA

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S REPORT, AUGUST 2020

What can I say that hasn't already been said--in the words of Robert Allen Zimmerman (Bob Dylan), "The Times They Are a-Changin'."

Despite the uncertain times and who knows what the future may bring, the Bear Island Homeowners Association continues to function and work diligently to maintain the beautiful community we live in. Up until a couple of months ago, there were 1 or 2 homes for sale in Bear Island. Now there are approximately 10 with contracts on at least 4 of them. The homes do not stay on the market very long and I'd like to think it is because of our desirable community to live in with reasonable quarterly assessments.

Because our community is over 33 years old, we seem to be having more irrigation issues—valves failing, timers breaking etc. Please bear with us as we continue to fix the problems as quickly as possible. If the irrigation will be off for longer than a couple of days, we will try to notify you. But remember, our irrigation water comes from the lakes and if you deem that it is necessary to water your plants and lawns, you'll be using city water which we all pay for—so please try to conserve.



As you may be aware, our phone system at the gatehouse went down a couple of times within the last 6 months. We have added a cell phone component to the system so hopefully, if the system goes down, calls will automatically be routed to the cell phone.

Our arborist, Perkins Tree Service, was on property recently to trim the coconut palms and remove coconuts to avoid possible damage in the event of a storm. The rest of the

palms will be trimmed in September/October and the hardwoods should be scheduled to be trimmed in January/February.

REMINDERS

Because we are in the rainy season, please help us to keep the drains clear of leaves so that water can flow freely.

When you put landscape debris or bulk items out Wednesday night for Thursday pick up by the City of West Palm Beach, please try to put the debris as close to street as possible so that the “claw” won’t damage the grass. Also, if you only have 1 or 2 fronds/branches, please look for another pile nearby so that the truck driver doesn’t have to stop for 1 branch. I know the drivers appreciate this.

Again, if you any questions, comments or concerns, please contact MMI so that we can address them.

Try to enjoy the rest of the summer and stay healthy and safe.

Howard C. Berman, President
Bear Island Homeowners Association

ACC COMMITTEE

I hope all our residents are well as we get into the summer months. Many are traveling and the ACC activity has decreased. We have had an issue where a resident trimmed trees in a manner that violated city code. In addition, the trees were not on their property but on community property. The board is working to remedy the situation, however, it could have been avoided by an email or call to MMI. MMI will answer any question, direct your inquiry to the proper person to be answered, or schedule any needed maintenance. Please contact MMI if you have questions. Also, please be aware that some unlicensed companies/handyman are not aware of city or county codes that must be followed (something to be considered when hiring someone). It is the property owners responsibility to comply with the codes.

Enjoy your summer and please keep yourself and others safe during this COVID virus.

Pat Miclean, ACC Chair

LANDSCAPING COMMITTEE

I hope everyone is well! We want to thank all the homeowners who have made improvements to their front yards. Improving landscaping increases your home's value and the value of the community!

If you haven't already done so, please take a look at your front yard and replace any dead or dying plants and fill in empty spaces with plants from the approved plant list. All information about landscaping changes is available online at bearisland.us.

It is also important to remember that our backyards must be maintained to the same standards as our front yards. Keep in mind hedge heights along the back fence should be no more than 10 feet in height (per City of WPB height restriction) and should not encroach on the common areas.

We have met with Florida Image Landscaping to acquire bids for improvements to the common area on Bear Island Drive as well as replacing dead plants in the area near the bridge.

Take care,

Vickie Bender
Landscaping Chair



VILLAGES PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

As of this printing all three of the pools remain open subject to the restrictions posted which are continually updated to maintain safety. There will be no admittance without a pass which must be renewed annually. Residents without a current pass must go to any pool with a copy of their lease or deed to apply for a renewal.

Closings are subject to change according to government guidelines without notice.

Ron Warnecke, Bear Island HOA Director and President of POA

PROPERTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Summer 2020

1. Gatehouse Etiquette:

Your Gate Attendants are hard working diligent men and women doing their best to screen incoming guests, vendors, homeowners and City vehicles. Please make sure your guest lists are up to date. Delete those people you do not wish to grant permanent access. It is important to remember if the waiting queue backs up onto Village Boulevard; the Gate Attendants have instructions to allow vehicles in to the Community to alleviate the back-up.

2. Gate Information Updates:

Please keep the entry gate and MMI informed of changes to your information. You should add or remove vendors, permanent guests, and add, remove or change home phone numbers. The form is available from MMI or your website www.bearisland.us. **Bear Island has a voice mail update feature allowing home owners to receive telephone voice mail in the event of an emergency.** Forms are available on line or from our office.

3. Selling or Leasing your Home?

There is a form to fill out should you desire to sell or lease your home. It grants specific permission to your real estate agent when showing or managing your home. The form is available from MMI or your website www.bearisland.us or at the Gate House. **It is important to remember if an owner is delinquent in his or her dues or if there are outstanding violations on the property the Board has the right to refuse to grant approval for a sale or lease. Remember For Sale Signs are not allowed.**

4. Entry Transponders

Transponders are not transferable between vehicles therefore owners purchasing a new vehicle and new homeowners need to apply for a new transponder and advise MMI of the old transponder that needs to be deactivated. New transponders are available at \$35.00. For those vehicles with metallized windshields, a front remote license plate transponder is available for purchase at \$95.00. Forms are available at www.bearisland.us or at the Gate House. If you wish to order a transponder over the phone, please contact MMI at 561-686-7818.

5. Bulk Waste:

Remember Bulk Waste and landscaping debris may not be placed at the curb prior to 5 PM the day before pick-up. The pile may not exceed the approximate size of a small refrigerator. Any questions please feel free to contact the Sanitation Department for West Palm Beach at 561-822-2075.

6. Vendor and Parking Rules:

Just a reminder, vendors or people working on your home must be off the property by 6:00 pm, unless it is an emergency. An emergency is defined as not having air conditioning when the temperature is above 80 degrees, having no heat when the temperature drops below 65 degrees, if you have no electricity or if you have a leak in your plumbing.

7. Pets:

Pets must be kept on a leash and under control at all times. Remember to pick up after your pet and dispose of pet waste properly. Pet waste can transmit disease. The City of West Palm Beach has an Anti-Tether Law, pets may not be tethered outside unaccompanied by a person.

8. Crime Prevention:

Do not leave bait for criminals visible in your car. "Move it or Lose it" is the motto of The West Palm Beach Police Department. One neat trick I learned from the Police Department is: Should you hear someone suspicious outside your home at night, simply press your panic button on your vehicle key fob, it will scare anyone away! Then immediately call the Police. The Board of Directors are also urging all home owners to leave your exterior lights between dusk and dawn to thwart criminal activity. It is a known fact that lights alone can prevent most burglaries and thefts.

9. Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Almost every home has some type of chemical product that can be hazardous if not used, stored, or disposed of properly. Pesticides, cleaning products, solvents, pool chemicals, paint, used oil, and propane cylinders are just a few examples.

When they are no longer needed or usable we refer to them as "Household Hazardous Waste", or HHW for short. Anywhere along the disposal route HHW can present a threat to the public, solid waste workers, and the environment if not properly disposed. Residents are encouraged to separate HHW from their household garbage and dispose of it at an appropriate facility. Call 561-697-2700 for additional information.

West Palm Beach

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility

*6161 North Jog Road (**Just North of 45th Street on Jog Road**)*

West Palm Beach 33412 Monday – Friday: 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Saturday: 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM

EDITOR'S NOTES

First, in this unpredictable Covid time, we do hope that all our residents are safe and healthy! ☀️

Because we are on lockdown and cannot go anywhere—this is the year of the house for the Kaufman's. Our front yard needed help. The grass just would not grow even after repeated

fertilization and watering. So we did the next best thing to grass, we added ground cover! What is ground cover? It is a turf replacement. And, on our approved plant list for the community, several types of ground cover are listed. I can only vouch for Asiatic Jasmine, because I planted it in my bare spots in March. We liked it so much that in July we added much more to cover the unattractive grass.

You actually, or your personal landscaper, must remove the old grass, add a little top soil and fertilizer and water for a week or two until established. It is that easy! (Don't forget to send in your ACC forms!) We also planted podocarpus along our neighbor's privacy wall. These plants added a very nice green scape to an otherwise boring pale yellow wall. Very happy with the change.

Stay safe. Don't forget your mask and hand sanitizer. Remember to social distance and wash you hands often for 20 seconds. It would be very nice to see all our residents back for the season in good health! Please be careful.

Diana Kaufman, Communication Chair

From: Communications (WPB Police Dept.)

Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 1:58 PM

Subject: PRESS RELEASE: WPBPD: Secure Vehicle, Belongings to Prevent Car Break-ins



WEST PALM BEACH



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

WPBPD: Secure Vehicle, Belongings to Prevent Car Break-ins

WEST PALM BEACH, FLA. (June 22, 2020) – The West Palm Beach Police Department reminds residents to lock up their cars and take steps to prevent car break-ins. One of the most preventable crimes, auto burglaries are occurring during the day and night, in people's driveways, and in vehicles parked on the street in front of their homes. Follow these steps to reduce your risk of becoming a victim:

- If possible, park your vehicle in a locked garage.
- Park in a well-lit area or where there is plenty of pedestrian traffic. If you cannot park in a garage, install motion-detection lights which will illuminate your driveway at night. Park your vehicle near porch lights.
- Always lock the doors to your vehicle, even if you are away from the vehicle for a short time.
- Remove valuables from your vehicle. If you are unable to remove items, keep them on your person or lock them in the trunk. Do not leave them under the seat. Remove your purse or wallet, cash, keys, cell phone, iPod, laptop, garage door opener, gym bag, briefcase, jewelry, tools, packages.
- Do not leave any mail in your vehicle. These items may reveal your name, address, and financial information to a car burglar.
- Install a vehicle alarm system or set any alarm or anti-theft device that is installed in your vehicle.
- Report any suspicious persons or activity immediately to the police.

“Car burglars look for easy targets, but you can take steps to avoid becoming a victim,” said West Palm Beach Police Chief Frank Adderley. “Be alert. Be aware of your surroundings. Secure your valuables and your vehicle.”

To contact the West Palm Beach Police Department non-emergency number, please dial: (561) 822-1900. In the event of an emergency, please dial: 9-1-1. For information about the West Palm Beach Police Department, please visit: <https://www.wpb.org/government/police-department/department-overview>.