

April 10, 2020

“It is with a *heavy heart* that we send out this message.”

The BoA **never** wants to start an email message to our Carefree Community with those words because what follows is usually an announcement of the passing of one of our sisters. We very much hope not to have to send that message because one of us contracted the Coronavirus. And, you can help us with that!

Please know we are working to ensure your safety and to communicate regularly with you. Since the Clubhouse is closed we will continue to post information on the Carefree Website and also post hard copies of information, meeting notices, agendas and minutes at the Mailbox Kiosk.

In our last letter, the BoA asked the community to comply with the Governor’s order and not bring non-essential workers into Carefree. To be clear, per the Governor’s order, the following workers are not considered essential:

- masseuses
- house cleaners
- handymen (unless fixing an emergency)
- pest control

The types of vendors listed above have recently been seen coming into Carefree. Individual landscapers who service our residential lots may, depending on interpretation, be considered essential. We are not giving out violations for weeds; so, we believe landscaping of your respective properties can be postponed until May.

To minimize the likelihood of the Coronavirus infecting our Carefree sisters, we are continuing to ask your help in prohibiting services which are not essential from coming into Carefree. The Governor has ordered those people that are not listed as essential to stay at home. The BoA also expects our Carefree women to obey the law.

Below is a link to check which vendor types are essential. If you are uncertain, please contact either our Management team via the link on the CF website or one of the BoA members. We are here to protect each other!

<https://www.floridadisaster.org/globalassets/governor-essential-services.pdf>

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Given the above, we strongly encourage you to curtail all non-emergency work until the stay at home order expires. We are a community; what you do affects others in the community.

Before having anyone come into Carefree ask yourself the following:

Is this work an emergency? (An emergency is defined as a health, safety or property damage where waiting any length of time may exacerbate the issue.)

If “yes” the answer then is - get the work done!

Other questions to ask yourself are:

- Why am I rushing?
- Can this work be done in May or later?
- Am I planning to leave and want to get things done to the house for hurricane season?
- Can I safely do this work myself
- Can this work be done in May or later after I leave CF? If necessary is there someone I can ask to verify the work was done correctly after I have left.
- Can I ask friends or neighbors to help while maintaining physical safety and social distancing and wearing a mask?
- Can I do a bit of cleaning and not rely on an outside worker for the next three weeks?

If “yes” to these questions then the answer is - postpone the work.

If “no” is the answer, we cannot stop you from having the work done. Understand though you may be exposing other Carefree women to potentially contracting COVID-19.

We understand that some may be leaving for the season and have contracted with outside people to do house checks and yard maintenance for the off-season. We ask that you consider having these folks start after the ‘stay at home’ order has been lifted. If you do need someone to come during the interim, please ask them to wear a mask and MINIMIZE any contact with others in Carefree.

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To show you that we “practice what we preach”, the BoA has decided to cancel lawn mowing for Tuesday, April 21st, 2020. We are doing this because we asked ourselves: “Can this be postponed?” And, the answer was a resounding “yes”. We will re-evaluate the next lawn mowing service date at the end of April.

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Continuing our theme of protecting our CF community, we have noticed more women are biking and walking. This is great exercise, and we support you in doing so. However, we also noticed in the evenings, we are starting to have a congestion problem. It is becoming harder to keep social distance when there are multiple bikers, walkers and golf carts in the street.

As such, we have some creative workarounds to alleviate the congestion!
Starting this Sunday, April 12th we will be designating some of the streets as “one way” ONLY for walkers, joggers, bike riders and golf cart drivers. The idea here is to have those engaging in these activities go in the same direction on Amelia Run Way (A), Eleanor Way (E) and Golda Circle (G). We do however recognize if you cannot make the full walk in the “one” direction on those streets, make your turn and go in the direction you need to get you (and your pets) home. If you can make the full cycle, please travel in the direction of the one way. Cars may continue to take the shortest path possible and will **not** have to follow the one-way direction. Cars may continue to take the shortest path possible and will **not** have to follow the one-way direction.

The one-way streets will be as indicated below:

- E will go in the direction from E1 (near the gate) to G1 (near clubhouse).
- G will go in the direction from G1 to G85 at which point the one way will go down A.
- A will go in the direction from A54 (where G is) to A01 (closest to the gate).

All other streets will be two way.

And, here's the clever part! We will be putting one-way arrows in chalk on the blacktop of the streets to mark the one-way direction. Keep an eye out for those!

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We are also asking that **golf carts not** follow closely behind one another or bunch up at intersections. COVID-19 is airborne - golf carts should keep a safe distance. We ask that "drink and drive arounds" cease until the stay at home order is lifted.

We also ask that everyone complies with keeping the required 3 foot clearance along the curb of your property and driveway.

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Carefree is not a bubble where COVID-19 will not enter! Carefree is more of a tinder box; if COVID-19 comes, it will come quickly. This is another reason why we are recommending potentially unsafe socializing and card playing should stop. Many women are not adhering the latest advisory for social distance. If or when COVID-19 comes, the entire group(s) you are socializing with could become infected.

COVID-19 in Lee and Charlotte counties is spreading. Everyone should limit close contact with individuals outside your household in both indoor and outdoor spaces. Since people can spread the virus, even when no symptoms are apparent or before they know they are sick, it is important to keep safe distances from others. By the time you realize you are sick, you may have already spread the virus. We are social animals and have a strong desire to socialize. We are also concerned about depression. It is a balance between socializing and depression that each woman must weigh. We anticipate that you will do the right thing both for yourself and for our Carefree sisters. We don't want to lose any of you!