



April 3, 2020

## A LETTER TO OUR CAREFREE COMMUNITY – from your BoA (Board of Administration)

This is an unprecedented time. It is a scary time. It seems to be a waiting game because the COVID-19 is here in Florida. We are told it is highly contagious and thus there is a high probability it will enter our community. The good news is that to-date, we have no known cases within Carefree. So, are we lucky or are we smart? Hopefully, we are both!

Every day brings new information and recommended behavior changes. One day you decide not to go outside the gates, have everything delivered. The next day you decide to go to Publix. The news about COVID-19 is overwhelming. We recognize it's a seesaw, a waiting game and a very stressful time. It is hard when you are feeling overwhelmed to realize you **do** have control. We can control how we act and what risks we are willing to take.

What works for us in terms of mental health? Do we need to be outside, need to walk, ride a bike to stay healthy or kayak and be on the water? We are a diverse community and what works for one woman often does not work for another. The choices one woman makes often contradict another woman's choices. There is no right or wrong; it is a new normal and an opportunity for learning new ways of doing things.

This can be a time when the worst in us makes an appearance; but mostly it's a time when the best in us comes out. Let's be inspired by the health care workers who continue to go to work, quarantine themselves from their families and comfort those who are sick and alone. Let's be kind to one another, thank women who are helping, thank the Publix workers and the delivery folks. Stay strong! Push the fear and depression aside and do the things that you believe will keep you safe. Talk with someone about your feelings if that will help sustain you through this crisis.

As you know by now, the Governor of Florida issued a 'Stay at Home' order – effective April 3 at 12:01 a.m. This Executive order (20-91) "requires all persons in Florida to limit their movement and personal interactions outside of their home to only those necessary to obtain or provide essential services or conduct essential activities".

What this means for Carefree is that we are asking property owners and current residents to help comply with the order by inviting into Carefree only those service providers who are essential. We are asking property owners and residents to do the following:

- Keep trips outside of Carefree to a minimum. If you would like help ordering online for delivery, please let us know, and we will put you in touch with those women who have become experts at this.
- Be diligent about who you are allowing into Carefree and into your home. House cleaners, handymen, and masseuses go into many homes inside and outside of Carefree and could be carrying the virus in and out with them. We request that you forgo their services until the 'stay at home' order has been lifted. There are **two exceptions** to this request: **home health aides who are considered to be essential** and should continue their regular service visits and **service for emergency repairs** (see below for examples) in your home or on your property.
- Emergencies **inside** the home would be issues like a water leak, broken refrigerator or appliance or an electrical fault. Emergencies **outside** the home would be issues like an air conditioner repair, a roof leak repair or an electrical

fault. In the cases of emergencies outside of the home, follow the current procedure for emergency ARC requests.

- Postpone **non-emergency** deliveries or services, such as, replacing a functioning indoor appliance, delivery of indoor furniture and/or adding a new indoor electrical outlet.
- Any ARC requests approved during the next 30 days, **for non-emergency work** the start date will be after May 3, 2020.
- For previously approved ARC requests, we ask that you stop all **non-emergency** work being done at your residence. For example, postpone replacing a functioning outdoor appliance, delivery of outdoor furniture, putting in pavers, adding hurricane shutters or adding a new outdoor electrical outlet.
- Landscapers are considered an essential service. However, we ask that property owners cut their landscaper's visits in half.

#### **What the BoA and your Management Team are doing:**

- Continuing to provide services such as management oversight, trash pickup, Comcast cable, maintenance staff, and U.S.P.S. mail delivery, CM and ACM contact and response.
- Tree trimming (if done at all) will be at a minimum and be done in one visit.
- Lawn services are supposed to start a weekly schedule in May. We may ask them to retain a bimonthly schedule.
- We are holding off on conservation area and lakeside area spraying for at least 30 days.

BoA members are in support of our BoD in their decision to close the Clubhouse and any other actions taken to ensure the health and safety of our owners/members. We are confident that our Carefree family appreciates all the efforts being undertaken by our sisters and staff team to keep us safe.

Carefree is a community. Acting as a community, by putting our best self forward, we can survive this and come through stronger. Let's get to know one another better utilizing social distancing. The chairs at in the driveways promoting sitting and chatting with one another at a safe distance is fantastic (be aware that new CDC guidance recommends wearing masks and that safe distances may be longer if outdoors and in breezy/windy areas). Look around you; pay attention to your neighbors and make sure you see them at some point during the day.

If you need help, let someone know. There are women here who will help. Need help getting groceries? There are women here who know how to place the order online and have it delivered. There are women here who are shopping at Publix. If you can help, identify yourself to other women and let them know how you can help. This is an opportunity to come together as a community. We cannot survive alone; it takes a village!

Respectfully,

Your ROCB BoA:

Barbara Slater, Cindy Empey, Joan Procito, Julie Greenbaum, Sarah Valentine