

April 3, 2020

Dear Members of the Carefree Community,

After much deliberation, the Board of Directors of the Carefree Clubhouse has voted unanimously to close the clubhouse and all amenities, including the pool, bocce ball court, pickleball courts, and shuffleboard courts. Only the laundry room and the mail room will remain open. This decision is effective immediately.

In the interest of disclosure, the recent survey indicated that 65 percent of you wanted to keep those areas open, and 35 percent wanted them closed. Given that these results do not comport with our decision, it is important for us to outline our reasoning.

- The survey results also included a number of impassioned emails which made a strong case for closing the amenities. Some came from members with compromised immune systems. For example, one indicated that “those choosing to congregate are choosing a level of risk that many of us in this community are uncomfortable with, and they are imposing that risk on all of us, by risking spread of this virus amongst themselves.” These letters will be available for viewing at some future point in time;
- Neighborhoods in the surrounding area have closed their pool and outdoor amenities. We appear to be the only one open;
- Unfortunately, there are instances of non-compliance despite our many requests that individuals keep to certain guidelines;
- The numbers of diagnosis and deaths in Lee County have grown at an alarming rate, outpacing the growth seen in other counties;
- We have many immune compromised women and many who have underlying health conditions. Many of them are uncomfortable with the congregating of individuals even for recreation. We feel a strong sense of responsibility toward them;
- We are concerned for housekeeping and maintenance staff who must sanitize the pool and clubhouse areas on a daily basis. They risk coming in contact with the virus or with people who do not know they have the virus.

This decision was a difficult and agonizing process for all of us. We felt we needed a good deal of information from our members in the form of the survey and the emails, and we thank you for that. We regret that many of those wishing for exercise and the peace of the swimming pool, including some of us, will not be able to meet that important need. We also are grateful to those who worked so hard to make these activities possible. In the end, however, we are choosing to err on the side of caution, safety and improved prospects for a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Members of the BoD: Pat Van Voorhis, Lisa Ehrlich, Patti Klancer, Kristy Haffer, and Jeanne Deliman