

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

As we prepare to depart sunny Florida for our summer homes, the Landscape Committee would like to pass along a few reminders. Before you leave please remove all lawn ornaments, wall hangings, door mats, flowerpots and the like. Bring them inside your unit so that they do not become projectiles in the case of hurricane-force winds. Our volunteers will be busy protecting the common buildings and will not have the ability to visit each building looking for possible dangers. In case of high winds and/or hurricane predictions, anything left outside vacant units may be gathered up and discarded to prevent possible damage to cars, windows and people.

If you have potted plants or annuals in the ground, please remove them so they do not wither and die in the summer heat. Perhaps your year-round neighbors will adopt those in pots, but anything in the ground should be removed prior to your departure. Our landscapers are not responsible for annuals planted by owners.

The Landscape Committee works with a budget that is primarily fixed costs or contractual agreements. Very few of our budgeted items have flexibility, but we must still address unexpected expenses and stay within budget. To that end, we have identified an area that we can and will cut costs, and that is for mulch. Last year River Club used more than \$12,000 worth of mulch! This year we intend to get a handle on this figure and reduce it. In October of 2020 we will be mulching all common areas, and the fronts of all buildings. We will not be mulching around palm trees, the back of buildings or along walls. There will be no exceptions. We will be using insect and fungi treated mulch that is Brown Cypress in color, and we will not be storing any additional bags of mulch on the property. Please refrain from purchasing mulch elsewhere and applying it as you may well be introducing tree-killing agents to the neighborhood, and you will be asked to remove it.

As we update the LC website we will be adding a safety report from the Sheriff's Department (2017). Landscape Committee will be making every effort to comply with the suggestions as it applies to greenery around buildings and parking lots. This is for the safety of all our residents.

As of April 1st, all but a very few work orders have been addressed. No further landscaping requests will be acknowledged until the fall. New plantings struggle during the hot summer months and often die. All the hard pruning has been completed, and spraying is on schedule. You may complete and submit a work order which will be addressed in the fall. Please be patient.

We wish everyone safe travels and a healthy summer wherever you are.

