

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER FROM THE STRAND MASTER BOARD

To Our Residents,

We hope this finds you safe and healthy wherever you will be spending the holiday season. It seems that all our neighbors are anxiously awaiting the arrival of 2021, bringing with it the changes for the better that are sure to come!

Despite the closings and slowdowns caused by COVID-19, the Master Board managed to complete many projects this year. More changes are planned for the coming year, so stay in touch by reading our newsletters or attending our meetings, usually scheduled for the Third Tuesday of the month. Please note that **the Board will not meet on December 15.**

NOTES ON THE ANNUAL BUDGET WORKSHOP NOVEMBER 17

Presidents, Treasurers and Neighborhood Reps were able to attend in person, while residents attended by phone, due to an abundance of caution regarding COVID. The meeting began with Susan Mulgrew presenting a synopsis of projects completed in 2020 and a list of projects for the 2021 Budget. Those include: a facelift for our Gatehouse, new plantings and security for our Front Gate entrance, installation of an aerator on Lake 10 (near Preserve #3 green), additional littoral plantings around several of our lakes, continued beautification of our medians, especially on the first island just inside the gate, an Audit of our books (not done since 2014), a Reserve Study to better judge how we should allocate funds for future repairs and modernizations, a digitization project for old records, upgrades and improvements to our Security System, and the final draft of our Documents started in 2020. The Board always subscribes to best business practices and the Audit and the Reserves Study further that objective.

Treasurer Tom Guthrie reported that despite the many items which the Board hopes to complete in 2021, the Master Assessment will remain the same for 2021 at \$364 per quarter. Should you have any questions about the budget costs or funding numbers for any of the above projects, please visit our website: **thestrandmaster.com** (do not use a period after com to facilitate your search) After responding to questions from the floor, the meeting was adjourned.

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING NEWS AND NOTES

- **Landscaping** - The Board voted to approve the cost for a new architect-designed first island plan developed by Mainscape. Cost is approximately \$13,500, including irrigation, removal, new plants, mulch, etc. designed to give our residents and guests a new and improved first impression!
- **Lakes Committee** will install a new aerator system on Lake 10 when an electric supply can be located. Plan is to put Lakes Vendor contract out for bids in 2021.
- **Security Committee** – Chair Ted Farah reviewed several options for improving our back-gate security system, including moving the gates and adding new cameras. **No decision has been made by the Board on any changes - awaiting possible designs and costs.** Such changes are being considered as the result of the ridiculous amounts of money spent on gate repairs, for which the Board is not able to collect reimbursement from the visitors, contractors, etc. who damage the gates. Also, the gates need much stronger hinges and arms for the use they receive. A new website for the system will include new ways for owners’ guests to enter, as well as other important information about Strand security, including a “user friendly” mini-manual.
- **Preserves Update:** Board Member Tom Guthrie has been working diligently in our continuing effort to obtain our final Preserves permit from SFWMD. The Strand continues to have inspections on all our Preserve areas, because prior to the current Board’s involvement, rules were not enforced, signs were not put in place, the Reserves Contractor who was employed was not competent to manage our Preserves and was operating with no written contract outlining specifications and/or expectations. In the past two years, the Board has been required to spend \$38,000 to clean up our 80 acres of Preserves, and our sign costs, as DEMANDED by SFWMD will total several thousands more. The goal of the current Board is to satisfy all the necessary requirements of SFWMD, with the least intrusive means possible, using licensed vendors and keeping a watchful eye so this situation does not occur again in the future.

QUICK NOTES:

- The contractor who spilled sealcoat on the Boulevard while working at Eden has been contacted for remediation.

- Thanks to our PM Michaela Neumann for coordinating our efforts to get the Boulevard and Ashford Lane treated for mildew and power washed, our hardwood trees and some island trees trimmed, pine straw down, fencing installed along the border of the school and the golf course (near Preserve #3 restroom), and a host of other activities coordinated to make our neighborhood ready for season. She is also working with the vendor for additional clean-up of I-75 berm.
- The Board reviewed Clubside's request for approval of a metal roof. Pros and cons were discussed – decision tabled till January meeting.
- Dog lovers....please remember to pick up after your pets and deposit their waste appropriately, preferably by taking it home with you instead of using the waste receptacles on the Boulevard. The Board appreciates your help in keeping boulevard clean and odor free!
- Should you have questions or concerns at any time, and especially over the holidays, remember that Vesta responds 24 hours a day for Emergencies by calling 239-947-4552 or you may contact our PM Michaela Neumann at the same number.
- Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the next Master Board meeting on Tuesday, January 19th at 4:00...hopefully with "in person" attendance, but perhaps by call in...check the front gate bulletin board and website for agenda and meeting details closer to the date.

No matter where you spend the holidays, subscribe to all the best health practices - and don't forget to embrace the spirit of the season!

THE STRAND MASTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020-2021

Susan Mulgrew, President

Ted Farah, Director

Tom Ewert, Vice President

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Katy Wrede, Secretary

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