



## RCA Quarantine Update

May 20, 2020

As the restrictions caused by the Covid-19 virus begin to relax, we want to keep you up to date on how our community continues to be affected.

**Social Distancing** remains in effect. When in public areas, please maintain at least six feet from anyone you do not live with and when that is not possible, wear a mask. Congregations of ten or more people continue to be discouraged.

**Roads and sidewalks.** These public ways remain open for walking, cycling and attending to pet needs. Please observe proper distancing.

**Public Meetings.** Beginning in April, we discontinued public meetings for the Board and its Committees and implemented teleconferences, which comply with “Open Meeting” obligations as set by Florida Statute. Anyone in the community was welcome to attend these virtual meetings. We are expanding this means of communication by subscribing to a commercial conferencing service which should be in place by June.

**Pool and Playground Areas.** We are not ready to open these facilities yet. Although other communities may be reopening theirs, they are doing so because either they function substantially differently from RCA or because they are taking on financial risks.

These are not easy choices for your RCA Board to make and while it may seem unfair to those who don't have a pool, we must consider all of the issues and act in the best interests of the entire community. We have sought advice from our lawyers

and insurers, the CAI (Community Association Institute, which advises Community Associations nationwide) and Public Health authorities. Until we see clear direction from the State (despite its relaxed rules in various Public venues), opening our private pool presents a significant financial and liability risk. Even if a member was willing to sign a disclaimer, our attorneys advised that would still not protect RCA from potential liability.

Until such time as Public Health Authorities reduce operational requirements for common area use to pre-Covid 19 levels, RCA cannot accept the risk and financial liability to our Community. In the meantime, we are taking actions to assure that our maintenance and operating procedures will keep these areas safe and functional.

Unfortunately, there has been a lot of misinformation circulating regarding the repair of the pool. The board has always planned to repair the pool and confirmed this commitment unanimously at the last Board Meeting. Our new CAM is working with suppliers to get the repairs done as soon as possible.

Repairing and reopening the pool are completely separate issues.

Also, please remember that the Board are not your employees. They, like all our other volunteers, are fellow members of RCA who have willingly devoted their time and energies towards making Rivendell a wonderful place to live.

## **FUTURE RCA INITIATIVES**

Successful recovery from emergencies (such as hurricanes), has a lot to do with being prepared. The RCA Board has accepted Mr. Paul Englert's offer to revitalize the CERT (Certified Emergency Response Team) program for RCA. We have not had an active CERT since 2007. Mr. Englert will coordinate its revitalization with Sarasota County. He will also need volunteers and support from RCA as a whole. Please volunteer if you can.

Rivendell survived the aftereffects of hurricane Irma and we will survive this Pandemic together, as a community of neighbors.

**Additional Information Resources. Important to Read: Please check the Woodland Word for additional background information as we gather more information**

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/>