

Shearwater Grounds and Landscaping Committee Report November 2014

Recent grounds maintenance activities

What a joy it is to watch the march of the seasons at Shearwater! We are lucky to have so many trees and shrubs whose colors change to vibrant yellows, oranges and reds in the autumn. The mowing season has ended and leaf season is here. Highlands Landscape and Design LLC, our landscaping contractor, is in the process of fall clean-up, including leaf removal, cutting back perennials, and so on.

Update on large tree issues

- ❖ At the October Board meeting, the Landscaping Committee announced that it had obtained four proposals for removal of dead or dying trees and trimming of other trees throughout the Shearwater Community. The proposals were provided on itemized worksheets which enabled apples-to-apples cost comparisons. The proposal totals were as follows:
 - ◆ The Davey Tree Expert Company - \$19,655
 - ◆ CKA Tree Care Services - \$21,050
 - ◆ Bartlett Tree Experts - \$23,049
 - ◆ Brickman Group - \$29,950
- ❖ After analyzing all four proposals, the Landscaping Committee determined that Davey's proposal would provide the greatest benefit to the Shearwater community. Not only was Davey's proposal the lowest, but the company has worked with Shearwater for several years and knows our trees and shoreline conditions. In addition, they have a longstanding relationship with the City of Annapolis and can help streamline the approval process.
- ❖ As had been agreed in the September and October meetings, the Landscaping Committee then negotiated with Davey to bring their proposal to within the previously approved budget of \$17,000. Davey's revised proposal was submitted to the Board along with the other proposals, with the recommendation that the Board accept Davey's final proposal.
- ❖ On October 30, Shearwater President Lynn Maichle informed the Landscaping Committee that the Shearwater Board of Directors had unanimously agreed to proceed with Davey Tree Company's proposal of \$17,000 to perform needed tree work throughout Shearwater, as recommended by the Landscaping Committee. Metropolitan Management Group proceeded to execute the contract.
- ❖ On November 19, a kick-off walk-through was conducted with Davey Tree Company. In attendance were Shearwater Landscaping Committee Chair Deborah Birch, Metropolitan Management Group President Natalie Collier and Community Manager Erica Simmers, and certified arborists John Blake and Craig Ritter of Davey Tree Company. The scope of work was reviewed in detail and trees to be removed were marked.
- ❖ Tree removal and trimming operations will commence on December 1 and will proceed for four to five days until work is complete.
 - ◆ Removal of two large chestnut oaks in front of Buildings 15 and 16 will require the use of a crane; parking in the circle in front of Buildings 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 will be restricted

- while tree work is performed in that area, for safety reasons and to allow Davey full access. A large dead pine tree on the side of Building 15 will also be removed at that time.
- ◆ Several dead pine trees on the side of Buildings 8 and 13 will also be removed.
 - ◆ Many trees throughout the Shearwater community will be trimmed to remove dead wood, clear branches away from buildings, and repair storm and other damage,
 - ◆ All trees that are removed will be replaced on a 1:1 basis. The Landscaping Committee will identify appropriate replacement trees and will arrange for the purchase and planting of replacement trees in the spring and fall of 2015.

Status of Irrigation System

The sprinkler system has been winterized.

Landscaping Committee Procedures

The Landscaping Committee understands that detailed procedures for identifying and addressing landscaping issues must be defined in writing, as has been done for the Marina, Pool and Architectural Committees. This work has begun and will proceed over the winter. In the interim, the Landscaping Committee Chair has confirmed the following procedures with Metropolitan Management Group:

- ❖ All changes to general common elements of the landscape (lawn areas, trees and shrubbery) must be submitted to the Landscaping Committee for review and approval. Changes must be consistent with the overall theme and plan for Shearwater's grounds.
- ❖ Requests for landscaping work in general common areas shall be submitted via work order. Work orders may be submitted via the Shearwater website at www.shearwatercondos.com or by other means as determined by Metropolitan Management Group.
- ❖ Metropolitan Management Group will review all work orders on a regular basis and will promptly forward all work orders that directly involve or may have an impact on Shearwater's landscape general common elements to the Shearwater Landscaping Committee for review and coordination.
- ❖ The Shearwater Landscaping Committee will promptly review all work orders forwarded by MMG and will coordinate with MMG on appropriate action, within the overall context of Shearwater's landscaping theme, planned landscaping activities and available budget.

As always, we encourage members of the community to come forward with their ideas and concerns. This is your community. If you have suggestions, please contact:

Deborah Birch

Email: dbirch@seagreenintl.com

Mobile/Text: 202-629-6035

Submitted by:

Deborah Birch

Chair, Shearwater Landscaping Committee

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