

December 18, 2006

**To: The Landings Association Presidents**

**From: The Landings Management Association**

**What: Implementation of a Development Wide Environmentally Safe Landscaping and Pond Maintenance Plan for The Landings.**

**When: January 4<sup>th</sup> LMA Meeting 7 p.m.**

The Landings Management Association has invited Jack Merriam and Rob Wright from the Sarasota County Water Resources division and Mike Holsinger, a retired Sarasota County Horticulturist, to discuss how the county can lend support and help implement an environmentally safe landscaping and pond maintenance plan for The Landings.

Rob and Jack will discuss how they have helped other communities and specifically how they can help us improve the water quality of our ponds and restore common area habitat. Mike has been hired by the county to revise and update a landscape contract he wrote in the 1990's that can be applied to condominium and homeowner associations. He will have a document available by the end of December that we can use and modify for our needs.

All Landings landscapers and pond maintenance providers will be expected to comply with the new contracts approved by the LMA and will be given appropriate notice and phase-in period.

Approximately 9.6 million of Florida's residents live within 10 miles of the coastline.<sup>1</sup> The increasing population in Florida and the impact from human activity has taken a toll on our waterways, bays, and gulf. One of the worst culprits, red tide, has increased in size, intensity, and duration over the past 50 years (source: Rosenstiel School of Marine and atmospheric Science). Runoff from agricultural, commercial, and residential use of fertilizers feed the algae creating the amplified blooms (source: University of Florida IFAS, Nutrients and Florida's Costal Waters).

Our own county government has reduced the use of fertilizers on public lands. The County Commission recently approved a county staff-facilitated community consensus-driven process that proposes actions to address fertilizer use countywide. The recommendations from these meetings will be presented to the Commission in the spring of 2007. These can include public education, improved fertilizer products and application instructions, and regulatory mechanisms.

Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Sincerely,

1. Hauxwell J., Jacoby C., Frazer T.K., Stevely, J.,  
2001, Nutrients and Florida's Costal Waters

**Irwin P. Starr** 5164 Kestral Park Terrace  
Sarasota FL 34237  
941-925-8558  
istarr@usa.net  
Media Management Consultation

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