

Dear FORA Member,

I hope this letter finds you healthy and in good spirits. As a quick summary, you'll find enclosed a ballot to approve (or disapprove) the coming year's budget. Your response is encouraged.

Current events necessitate that we change the format of this year's annual meeting. Instead of a face-to-face meeting, all correspondence will be over mail or email. I have thoroughly enjoyed holding the annual meeting. Talking with everyone live gives me an opportunity to interact and gauge the neighborhood and our progress as a board. I truly enjoy it. Unfortunately, I will not get the the opportunity to talk this year. This letter will need suffice.

I still want to hear you guys, good or bad though. You'll find my contact information at the end of this letter, or contact Josh Lindgren (FORA property manager) at josh@fiveoaksclub.com. Please do reach out to either of us if you have questions or comment.

Please find included in this letter a copy of our proposed 2020 – 2021 budget. I am happy to say there is NO due increase this year. Dues remain at \$66.50 per month or \$798 per year, for those paying yearly. You will also find a copy of a ballot where you may approve or disapprove of the budget. Please mark your choice and mail it back to us, or alternatively slip it into the dropbox near the FORA clubhouse front door. In the odd case that the budget is not approved by a majority of received ballots, we will continue to operate on 2019 – 2020 funding levels until a new budget is established. We need to receive at least 30 ballots back to establish a quorum so, yes, your vote does matter.

We continue to make progress on many improvements.

For those who have walked the grounds recently, you may notice that 2 tennis courts are under maintenance. We removed the artificial surface to reveal the underlying asphalt (laid in 1983). We, as a board, are deciding how to best approach resurfacing of these tennis courts. We already examined a number of options that vary wildly in playability and cost. If you have any input on this process, we're all ears.

In the past year, we upgraded the clubhouse's internet to high speed fiber-optic through AT&T. We receive 300Mbps – more than fast enough for video streaming or business needs. A number of wifi access points were also installed and they extend from the loft, to the pool, to the gym. The internet is open to all members and guests while on the grounds with the password "pinecone".

Along with the high speed internet, we decided to upgrade all TVs within the clubhouse as well. All TVs have Netflix, YouTube TV – a replacement for a cable package - along with a selection of other content. This represents a significant upgrade from our old internet / cable package while also saving the club money. Go figure.

The pool and gym are currently closed, but allow me a moment to address our second and third most used amenities in FORA.

In the gym, along with the TV upgrade, we received a new treadmill and rower. The gym is currently closed by order of the city of Durham through April 30th. We tentatively plan to open the gym May 1st, pending approval of the city. Regardless of the opening date, please follow social distancing guidelines when the gym is open until further notice.

As for the pool – we have no firm opening date currently. I am as anxious as you to have the pool open. We will announce the opening date, along with new usage guidelines as soon as we have

them.

One improvement comes with a bittersweet note. We saw the passing of Ellen Gilmartin this year. She was a long time resident, social coordinator, and all around fabulous person in our neighborhood. The recently completed swing close to the playground was constructed and dedicated to commemorate her memory. Please do stop and enjoy a quiet moment with her in mind.

I'm encouraged by the number of people walking. I love the sidewalk chalk and messages of positivity. The friendly smiles and waving at each other – while at a distance – remind me that we're all in this together. Simply walking the grounds is great way to stay sane and healthy and it is the #1 most used amenity at FORA. I don't see that changing anytime soon. We will get through this and get back to the business of more recreational activities as soon as possible.

Warmest Regards,

Andy Jones, FORA President
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