

August 2018 Newsletter

Good news! As of today the following projects have been completed at the Imperial House: the stepping stone walkway at the south end of the high rise, the hot water heater pan drain lines are cleared and repaired, the faucet in the hospitality room has been replaced, the new mailboxes have been installed and the trash chute rooms and storage rooms have had new doors installed (some stucco repair is needed and painting needs to be completed).

Owners are required to stop by Sunstate Management at 228 Ponce de Leon Ave. to sign for and pick up your new keys for the mailboxes and the storage room. The new elevator floor is being installed tomorrow with the rest of the elevator refurbishment to be done in September. There is still painting of the pool collar, trimming of the palm trees, and lights under the porte cochere and some patching and coating of the roof above to be done with anticipation that all will be finished by early in October. Also most of the owners units that had new hurricane shutters and screen replacements have been completed. Things here are looking good.

Now for some not so good news. The Red Tide that we have been experiencing off and on since last October and recently for a solid past two months is very bad. The fish kills have been monumental along with crabs, porpoises, turtles and manatees. The air is fouled with sporadic overwhelming stench and breathing can be extremely difficult causing coughing and asthmatic type symptoms. The local authorities and Mote Marine are trying to work on a solution. Red Tide is a naturally occurring phenomenon that is caused by high water temperatures, lots of rain and excessive nitrogen nutrients in the water. It is also speculated that Irma's visit last year stirred up the bottom of the Gulf causing decaying material to feed the algae bloom. There really is no realistic solution that will be quick, and it may take a change of season with cooler temperatures and less rain to help to dissipate the Red Tide. Needless to say the beaches have been close to being deserted. There is no swimming in the red-brown water, no fishing, no scuba diving, no paddle boards and no kayaking or boating to speak of. On top of that, the construction in downtown Venice is creeping along and the place is still a wreck. This will most probably go through next "Season" without being finished. The downtown businesses are really hurting as between the construction and the Red Tide, very few tourists or locals are frequenting the downtown area. It's sad to see our beloved Venice area

being affected negatively by these issues. Sorry to have to give you such a bad report, but if you or friends are coming down for a visit, you need to be prepared for what's happening.

On the bright side, if you go inland to play golf, go to a museum, take a stroll in a park or preserve, or visit the many attractions around the area away from the beaches and Venice proper there is still so much to do, and the sunsets have been spectacular. Florida and Venice are still a wonderful place to visit and live.

Best wishes from your Board of Directors.

Ken Mathys