

November 10, 2006

Dear West Bay Neighbors,

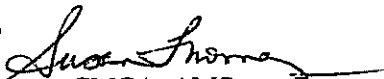
Recently American Ecosystems, West Bay's pond maintenance company, reported that the large Oasis Palm pond was experiencing extremely low oxygen levels. Normal oxygen levels for a retention pond range around (4-5%). A couple of weeks ago, the oxygen level reading was (-1%). Because of the low oxygen level in the pond, there was a large fish kill.

American Ecosystems reported there are many reasons for fish kills; but the number one reason a fish kill occurs as a result of low oxygen levels is the introduction of foreign substances or chemicals into the pond. These substances alter the basic chemistry of the pond water and may (in this case, did) have a negative impact on the wildlife and vegetation in the pond. These chemicals are introduced when there is an abundance of lawn fertilizer applied close to the pond bank, pool water is dumped into the pond or down the storm drains, and when painting materials and any other construction debris such as diluted concrete wastes and cleaning materials are dumped in the storm drains. The storm drains empty into the retention ponds.

The West Bay Board of Directors feels it is very important that all homeowners who live on or near a retention pond understand the environmental impact caused when someone decides to fertilize their grass too closely to the pond bank or pour pool water or construction wastes in the storm drains. Please do not apply fertilizer on the pond bank or on the common area around the perimeter of the pond. American Ecosystems also advises that you do not apply fertilizer to the lawn at least 10 feet from the pond bank. Rain water and irrigation will help spread the fertilizer to the rest of the grass that was not fertilized. The distance, however, will allow the remaining grass and soil to act as a natural barrier and filter. If the fertilizer is applied too closely to the pond, the fertilizer runs off into the pond. In addition, please do not pour construction or cleaning waste materials in the curb that drains into the storm drains. Please dispose of all waste materials properly.

The result of a fish kill is unpleasant at best. There were several reports to the management company from homeowners via telephone or through the neighborhood website about the dead fish, the vultures, and the odor. Many of these homeowners wondered what the pond maintenance company was doing to cause the fish kill. Please be advised that American Ecosystems as well as most pond maintenance companies employ licensed biologists who are knowledgeable and trained, and by their nature, are concerned about the environment. They would not intentionally do anything to cause a fish kill. In fact during the October visit, they witnessed the fish struggling to survive as they were swimming close to the surface of the water. The biologists attempted to help the fish by gently holding onto their "tails" which caused the fish to writhe back and forth allowing water to pass through their gills. It's the biologists' job to provide a service which protects the water, wildlife and vegetation that makes up the retention ponds. It is important; however, for all of us to consider the impact we may have on the environment and to discontinue any of the above mentioned practices that would in any way be deemed environmentally negative. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the management office.

Sincerely,



Susan Thomas, CMCA, AMS
Senior Management Director
Rampart Properties, Inc.