

February 4th 2025 - Notes to the Community (Addendum to the January 31st Notes)

Hello again everyone -

There were a couple of other issues that needed to be addressed in the “Notes to the Community” that was sent out on Friday [January 31st] :

As most of us are aware, we have had issues with **palm rats** in BTP over the last several weeks. These critters exist in communities like ours all over Southwest Florida. They become particularly active when the weather turns colder, as it did through most of January.

During these times, palm rats will seek warmer areas and will attempt to get into attics, seek warmth near HVAC units, etc. Once the warmer temperatures return, they generally return to their normal habitats – palm trees, the wooded areas, etc.

However, they can be a real nuisance when they choose to be – as several BTP owners/residents can attest. Our pest control contractor, PurCor was charged with the distribution of rat bait trap boxes in mid-January to help eradicate this problem.

In a “zoom” call with the Board and attendees at last weeks’ POA Board meeting, Joe DeCola PurCor general manager, relayed that 300 of these bait boxes had been distributed throughout the Community. They were in the process of distributing another 174 more last week.

Of particular interest was activity along Bently Circle. The office had several calls from residents that found these boxes in their bushes, etc. and moved them. **PLEASE don’t handle these black bait boxes!!** They have rat poison in them and could be harmful to anyone that touches them.

PurCor techs have been here constantly, monitoring these boxes, speaking with impacted owners/residents and rearranging the bait boxes for maximum effectiveness. With the warmer weather, plus these deterrents, this issue should disappear shortly.

Also – the **resurfacing of the basketball court will not be done** at the same time as the Tennis Court resurfacing project. As per Sports Surfaces, the fencing around the basketball court must be completed before the resurfacing can begin.

Another firm, Superior Fencing (the same company that re-fenced the southern perimeter of our property last year) was awarded this fencing project, which includes three sides of the basketball court. Unfortunately, they have not yet applied for the necessary permits from Lee County to start the project. Thus, the re-surfacing will be delayed until they are obtained, and the fence is erected.

Depending on the time needed to 1) obtain the necessary permits 2) have the fence installed and 3) resurface and line the court, it could be until sometime in the Spring before it is completed.

However, the **tennis court and pickle ball courts** look tremendous! It appears that the painting and striping are complete, or it certainly appears that way from a layman's perspective. So, all BTP pickle ball enthusiasts and those that will become such, should now have a short wait until they are available for play.

Again – our next POA Board meeting will be held on February 25th – 6PM in the Annex.

Thanks everyone, and all the best for an enjoyable week.

Ron Mc Ewan, Board President
Bell Tower Park Property Owners Association