

Volume 6 Edition 3

UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY

Summer 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Michael Albetta

ello Lake Ridge Neighbors, Residents and Businesses:

It is Thursday night June 25th and I just finished Lake Ridge Civic Association's first virtual ZOOM meeting with 17 guests and 6 panelists. The meeting was attended by Vice Mayor Steven Glassman, our City Commissioner for District II; Pratima Raju, Chief of Staff to Vice Mayor Glassman; the Metropolitan Planning Operations Staff - Peter Geis, District Planner, Mark Brown, and Director Greg Stuart; Residents of Lake Ridge; Karen Warfel - from the City of Fort Lauderdale Transportation and Mobility Department; & our attorney, Courtney Crush.

I joined the meeting on my iPhone from my dining room. Our world has drastically changed, and we have had to adjust our lives to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic is NOT A HOAX. It is real. Follow Broward

County's Executive orders. Wear a mask in public. Practice social distancing. Keep your friends, family, and neighbors safe and healthy.

Despite the challenge, your Lake Ridge Board continues to do our best for Lake Ridge's residents. I want to thank the Lake Ridge Civic Association Board for the awesome work they have accomplished for our Community: from transportation, to the monuments, to clean ups, to event planning.

If you have not already completed your Census, please take the time complete it NOW. It takes less than 10 minutes. To date, Fort Lauderdale (52%), and Lake Ridge (49%), are below the national average (62%) and the Florida average (59%) for completing the Census. You can complete the 2020 CENSUS at www.my2020census.gov or call 844-330-2020 to complete it by phone.

Remember filling out the Census HELPS our community. Census data will direct critical funding for

..... Continues on page 3

Note to Self: join the LRCA, it' ensy! Visit www.lakeridgecivic.org click on the membership button, fill the e-form & securely pay for my membership with my credit card. That's it!

UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP EVENTS

General Membership Meetings are normally held on the 3rd
Thursday in the months of January, March, June &
October, 7pm at ArtServe- 1350 E Sunrise Blvd. 33304
DUE TO COVID-19 & IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC,
THE LRCA BOARD HAS DECIDED TO CANCEL ALL
MEMBERSHIP GATHERINGS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.
STAY CONNECTED WITH US TO LEARN OF ANY CHANGES.

- October 10th: SPECIAL EVENT- Health Fair at Sanctuary Church-1400 N. Federal Hwy. (CANCELED)
- ✓ October 15th: General Meeting (if unsafe to gather, we will email the ZOOM link for a virtual meeting to the membership)
- **December 3rd:** Holiday Party / Taste of Italy (CANCELED)

The 2020 Census is happening now. You can complete your questionnaire online, by phone, or by mail.









DID YOU KNOW... Census results affect planning and funding for:

Healthcare—including programs such as Medicaid, Medicare Part B, State Children's Health Insurance, and the prevention and treatment of substance abuse.

Education—including programs such as Head Start, Pell Grants, school lunches, rural education, adult education, and grants for preschool special education.

Infrastructure—including programs for highway planning and construction, Section 8 housing, federal transit, community development, and rural water and waste disposal systems.

Employment and Training—including programs for vocational rehabilitation state grants, dislocated workers, and American Indian and Alaska Native employment and training.







It's Quick and Easy

The 2020 Census takes just a few moments to complete.

learn more at www.2020census.gov

It's Not Too Late

You can still complete the census today.

for questions or to take the Census by phone 844-330-2020

It's Safe and Secure

The U.S. Census Bureau keeps your answers safe and confidential.

get started at
www.my2020census.gov



Shape your future START HERE >





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Please note: The views and opinions stated in this newsletter are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Board nor the members of the Lake Ridge Civic Association.

The Lake Ridge News is published quarterly: and is delivered to all residential and business addresses in Lake Ridge.

Please contact us for advertising rates & deadlines for print-ready art at 954-560-8649

President's Message - Continued from front page schools, hospitals, roads, social services, pandemics like COVID-19 and other vital community needs for the next 10 years. Communities that are undercounted will receive less funding!

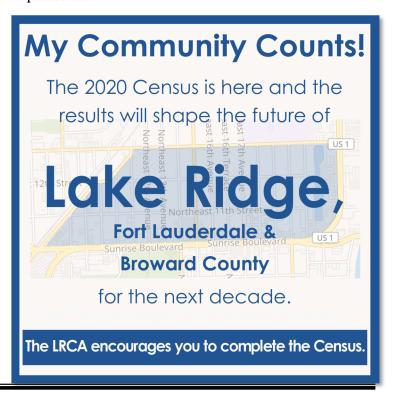
August 18th is Broward County's Primary. PLEASE VOTE. There are judicial races, countywide, primary races and School Board elections. You can vote by mail, please see the article on p. 6 of this newsletter.

We hope we can meet in person for the next General

meeting on October 15th, Thursday evening at 7pm at ArtServe. If not, we will hold another virtual ZOOM call. Lake Ridge Civic Association's by-laws call for nominations at the last meeting of the year (October 2019) and elections in January. I will appoint a nominating chair to conduct Lake Ridge Civic Association's nominations and elections.

To those of you who are Lake Ridge members, we are grateful for your membership. If you are not currently a member of Lake Ridge, please consider joining. You can now join and pay electronically at https://www.lakeridgecivic.org/membership.html. Due to COVID-19, we had to cancel our major fundraiser for the year - the Taste of Italy. Now, more than ever, we need your support. A portion of the funding for the upcoming traffic improvement plan includes the Civic Association matching a \$10,000 grant. Yes, we must raise \$10,000 for the upcoming traffic/transportation improvements highlighted in this newsletter.

In closing, stay safe during this Hurricane season and stay safe & healthy during this challenging pandemic.



HELPFUL NUMBERS

EMERGENCY 911

POLICE & FIRE 954.764.HELP NON-EMERGENCY 954.764.4357

CITY 24-HOUR

CUSTOMER SERVICE 954.828.8000

CODE COMPLIANCE 954.828.5207

MAYOR DEAN TRANTALIS 954.828.5314

dtrantalis@fortlauderdale.gov

CITY COMMISSIONER

STEVE GLASSMAN 954.828.5923

sglassman@fortlauderdale.gov

CITY HALL INFO 954.828.5000

COUNTY COMMISSIONER

TIM RYAN 954.357.7007

tryan@broward.org

VOTER REGISTRATION 954.357.7050

Graffiti Hot<mark>line 954.828.6402
City Hurricane Emergency 954.828.8888
FPL Power Outages 1.800.OUTAGE
TECO/People's Gas Co 1.877.832.6747</mark>

Broward County

Emergency Management 954.831.3900
County Hurricane Hotline 954.831.4000
TTY Hurricane Hotline 954.831.3940
Special Needs Registry 954.537.2888
TTY Special Needs Registry 954.537.2882
Mass Transit 954.357.8400

State of Florida

 Emergency Management
 850.413.9900

 FEMA
 800.621.3362

 National Flood Insurance
 888.379.9531

 American Red Cross (So FL)
 305.644.1200

Residential Garbage Pickup Monday & Thursday Yard Waste and Recycling Pickup Thursday

Bulk Trash Pickup 3rd Thursday of the month

Villa Medici Gates Update

by Lynn Elsasser, LRCA VP

t Lake Ridge's June 25th virtual Zoom meeting, Vice Mayor Glassman, our District 2 City Commissioner, updated our residents on the status of the Villa Medici (VM) vehicle gates as well as the pedestrian gates.

First, a definition. When a city street is vacated, it means the public no longer has the right to use that city street. When Villa Medici was developed in the early 2000's, the developer requested the vacation of 17th Way and 17th Terrace within the development's proposed boundaries. The City of Fort Lauderdale required that certain conditions, including keeping Pedestrian public access over the streets as a condition of the streets being vacated. This is a typical process when a street is vacated.

Great News for all Lake Ridge residents who have asked for years for the Pedestrian gates to be unlocked. As it turns out, 17th Terrace and 17th Way roads through Villa Medici were not vacated by the City in 2002. The Ordinances state that a certificate must be filed in the Public Records by a City Engineer certifying that all conditions of Ordinance No. C-02-26 and Ordinance No. C-02-27 have been met. One of the conditions of the two ordinances is recording an easement over NE 17th Terrace and NE 17th Way to the Public (pedestrians and non-motorized vehicles, like strollers and bicycles).

As Vice Mayor Glassman stated in our Zoom meeting "It's been 18 years, it's time for the Pedestrian Gates to be opened. The Lake Ridge community will be pleased this will now take place."

Regarding the two north Villa Medici vehicle gates, in February 2020, without informing LRCA (as required in the 8/21/2018 City Commission meeting), Villa Medici applied for permits to open its north gates to vehicular traffic. The two gate permits will remain on hold until the Villa Medici site plan amendment which will also study opening the "Burger King gates" (as promised by VM attorney in the 8/21/2018 City Commission meeting) is reviewed by the City and the roads vacations are completed. Thus, once the City Engineer certifies all conditions are met – including

Continues on page 10

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Your Voice . **Your Vote**

Primary Election

Early Voting Dates, Hours, and Sites August 8th - August 16th

- Monday to Friday: August 10th August 14th, 11am 7pm
- Saturday & Sunday: August 8th, 9th, 15th & 16th, 9am 5pm

Fort Lauderdale sites for Early Voting:

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- ArtServe / Ft. Lauderdale Branch Library 1350 E. Sunrise Blvd Room 130 Ft. Lauderdale 33304
- American Research Library 2650 Sistrunk Blvd. Ft. Lauderdale 33311
- Coral Ridge Mall North or Northwest Entrance 3200 N. Federal Hwy. Ft. Lauderdale 33306

For early voting, you can vote anywhere in the County. For other Broward County locations go to: https://www.browardsoe.org/Voting-Methods/Early-Voting-Dates-**Hours-and-Sites**

NOTICE:

2020 Taste of Italy and Holiday Party -**CANCELED**

Tough times call for tough decisions - Taste of Italy, our annual fundraiser, not only plays a critically important financial role, it also provides us with the opportunity to enjoy your company in a fun and friendly atmosphere, Similarly, our annual Holiday party gives us the chance to let our hair down, mix and mingle!

Due to the growing concerns around COVID-19, we've made the difficult decision to cancel these in-person events. We care about you. Your health and safety are our priority.

We, your Board, remain committed to our LAKE RIDGE community and we continue to work utilizing all the tools that are available to us. Keeping that in mind we encourage you to continue engaging with us via: https://www.facebook.com/groups/ lakeridgecivicassociation/ as well as our site

www.lakeridgecivic.org.

Beginning this month, we will be distributing the Lake Ridge News electronically. If you, or your neighbors, want to be sure you receive this newsletter in your inbox, let us know. Send us an email at LRCA33304@gmail.com and include your preferred email address, and which street you live on in Lake Ridge.

Thanks for your patience and understanding -- we look forward to seeing you in 2021!



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> 1230 NE 18 Ave, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304 www.claimitpa.com

VOTE-BY-MAIL FIVE THINGS TO KNOW

by Anthony Ginsberg

ote-By-Mail (VBM) is one of three options for voting in Florida, created by the Legislature a few years after the state's electoral problems in the 2000 Presidential election. However, the current "vote-by-mail" system was only made official in 2016. Because of this relatively recent history, long-time Florida residents as well as new residents are at times unclear about Florida's VBM option and are skeptical of its use. This article describes five key things voters need to know about this option, SOE refers to Supervisor of Elections.

- ► What is Florida's VBM ballot? It is a "no-excuse" option: no reason need be given to receive it, unlike the traditional "absentee" ballot Florida used to have and some states still use. The ballot is counted in official election results, again unlike the "absentee" ballot that was counted only if an election was so close these absentee ballots could affect the outcome. Think of VBM as an insurance policy in case you can't get to the polls for ANY reason. You do not need to use it if you can and want to vote in person—simply turn it in at the voting site and vote by machine.
- ► How to request the ballot. First, you must already be a registered voter. You can request the ballot for specific elections or for all elections through two general election cycles. In Florida you must renew your request at the end of these two cycles. There are multiple ways to make the request, but the easiest are by phone (954-357-7055) or the SOE website: www.browardsoe.org. Request your VBM now. Ballot mailing dates and request deadlines are as follows: mailing for the August 18 Primary occurs July 9-16; last day to request a ballot be mailed is August 8. Mailing for Nov. 3 is Sept. 24-Oct. 1; last day to request a ballot be mailed is Oct. 24. Ballots can be picked up through Election Day (ED), though ED pick-up requires a signed affidavit. A VBM ballot cannot be forwarded, so make sure the address on file with the SOE is correct. You can request the ballot be sent to an address not on file, such as a summer home.
- ▶ Completing the ballot. Follow the instructions for

voting, especially the colors of pen ink allowed and how to fill in the bubble next to a candidate's name.

- ▶ Returning the ballot. Place the ballot in the security sleeve, then place this sleeve in the postage-paid return envelope. Print and sign your name; include the date. A primary reason VBM ballots are not counted is because voters don't sign the return envelope! Use your Florida ID/driver's license as a guide for your proper signature. If there is more than one VBM voter in your household, make sure you use your return envelope- it is bar-coded for you. Mail the ballot at least 7-10 days before Election Day so that it can be received in the SOE office by 7 pm. on Election Day. The postmark date does not count. Alternatives to mailing: drop off the ballot in the safe box at any early voting site during the early voting period or take it to the SOE office.
- Tracking the receipt and counting of your ballot. Your personal voter registration page is the site for tracking your ballot, verifying the accuracy of your information, making updates, requesting a VBM ballot, and much more: www.browardsoe.org; then select the tab "Check Your Voter Status/Update." The SOE will contact you if there is a problem with your signature.

[Anthony Ginsberg is a member of the REV Coalition, an informal group of non-partisan third party voter registration organizations dedicated to enhancing Registration, Education, and Voter turnout in Broward. Members include the Broward League of Women Voters, ACLU, Divine 9 Sororities and Fraternities, Urban League, and Voter Participation Project, among others. He can be reached at (cell) 646-662-8378 or anthony3300@comcast.net |

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https://www.browardsoe.org/Voting-Methods/Early-Voting-Dates-

UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY

Lake Ridge Traffic Calming

By Lynn Elsasser, LRCA Traffic Chair; reviewed by Mark Brown, Senior City Transportation Planner -MPO

Background

ake Ridge began working on traffic issues with the City's Transportation and Mobility (TAM) Department in 2014. In 2015, the Lake Ridge Master Mobility Plan was published. Shortly after the plan was released, Shared Lane Markings (SLM's), or Sharrows were added on 11th Street creating shared car and bike traffic lanes. In 2019 the first major item on the Lake Ridge Master Mobility plan was implemented. The small median was constructed at Flagler Drive and 11th Avenue to calm traffic at that dangerous curve. That median now holds one of the three Lake Ridge monuments installed December 2019.

Next Steps

We have been working with TAM and Broward MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) on additional short-term traffic calming as well as long-term traffic calming initiatives. This article focuses on traffic calming planned in Lake Ridge within the next 12 - 18 months. These plans were reviewed with Lake Ridge residents on a virtual – Zoom – meeting on 6-25-2020. MPO's presentation is on the Lake Ridge website (https://www.lakeridgecivic.org/)

Stop Bars

Your Lake Ridge Board conducted a STOP BAR audit throughout the neighborhood. A STOP BAR is the white stripe in the road adjacent to each stop sign. Many of our STOP BARS are missing or barely visible due to years of traffic wearing down the paint. These are scheduled to be completed in the near future.

Speed Bumps

There are several streets in Lake Ridge where traffic speed has been an issue for years. Two very notable streets are 11th Street (East and West) and 18th Avenue. Significant non-residential traffic uses these streets to cut through and many of our own residents have trouble adhering to the speed limit! Hence speed bumps will be implemented along 11th Street and 18th Avenue. Additional speed bumps will be installed to mitigate the additional traffic from developments on the

East side of Lake Ridge.

Mini Traffic Circle

At the intersection of NE 10th Avenue and 11th Street, multiple accidents have occurred. A mini traffic circle is planned to mitigate the "flying" cars at this intersection.

15th Ave. Traffic Calming (between 13th St. & 11th St.)

Probably the most exciting traffic calming plans are the "Road Diet" planned for 15th Avenue between 11th Street and 13th Street. There will be dedicated Bike lanes & Buffer lanes on both north bound and south bound sides. Note there are already bike lanes north of 13th Street on 15th Avenue, so Lake Ridge will soon have connecting bike lanes to those bike lanes in Poinsettia Heights that go up to Wilton Manors. 15th Avenue will become a 3-lane road between 11th Street and 13th street, with the middle lane being a turn lane. This will greatly enhance the walkability and bikeability of our neighborhood.

Both the mini roundabout and the Road Diet will be built with tactical urbanism materials in order to expedite delivery and lower costs.

For those interested in learning more about tactical urbanism go to:

http://tacticalurbanismguide.com/

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tactical_urbanism

Stay tuned for more traffic calming news. There is a Part 2 to this plan that will make our neighborhood more pedestrian and bike friendly.

It has taken us years to get to this point. Let us celebrate each improvement as it unfolds.



UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY

COVID-19 From a Local Perspective

by Juliette Rocque, LRCA Treasurer

he COVID-19 pandemic has changed our way of life on every front. Announcements of new cases, vaccine development, antibody testing, beach closings and such bombard us through social media, the news, our family, and friends. It has proven for many to be overwhelming.

Many of us have been sequestered; many more have had their incomes reduced either through job loss or reduced work hours. It has affected each of us individually and collectively. Though we don't live in a bubble, it can be difficult to look outside of our own situations. With that in mind, we set out to discover what some of our neighbors were experiencing and how they are being impacted. We interviewed four of our neighbors. Below are their stories...

<u>Suzanne A.</u> - Associate Food Service Director for a 400 residential Long-Term Care facility in Miami, was the first to share her experience.

When asked how the pandemic has affected her work and its environment, she says that it has changed the environment significantly and it starts even before entering the facility. Employees have their temperatures taken and must answer a series of questions each day. Though they are not tested for the virus daily, they are tested routinely. Protocols requiring social distancing at work and at home, hand washing, sterilizations, having to wear a mask all day and regular visits from the Agency for Health Care Administration contribute to a stressful atmosphere. Some employees are afraid to go to work.

In short, the whole way of life for both the employees and residents has changed. The residents are isolated, no longer able to enjoy their meals in the facility's dining rooms, instead trays are sent up to their rooms. Family members are not allowed to come and so must visit virtually, a concept that is foreign to the residents. Keeping the residents motivated is challenging but they do their best to be creative and bring them some joy.

Like her co-workers, Suzanne is personally affected by her work protocols as they must practice social distancing even at home. She must be extremely selective about who she interacts with and must be extra careful even with family. Suzanne says that COVID-19 has taught her patience and to never take anything for granted.

Shanaree H. - Front Service Clerk at Publix

According to Shanaree, the COVID-19 pandemic, has changed the work environment in that the employees are required to wear a mask for the entirety of their shifts. Sanitation is stressed not only on a personal level, but as anyone who has been in the store can see, that means that all carts and baskets must be sanitized after each use. For those of who shop regularly it did not take long to notice that the store hours were reduced by three hours and naturally this resulted in work hours being cut.

Personally, the pandemic has affected his family life. He has had to discontinue his regular visits to his maternal grandmother and communing with his siblings.

His word of advice to all is to "wash your hands."

Ashley E. - Nurse, Surgical Pre-Admission Testing

The pandemic especially affected her work since elective surgeries were cancelled. So instead of going to the office she participated in a mask making project, totting her sewing machine to work to make masks to protect the front-line staff. By the end of the project over 20,000 masks were made. While she did not participate for the entirety of the project, it gave her time away from the office meaning.

According to Ashely, surgical services picked up volume in May, but the pre-surgical process has changed dramatically. Every single patient going for surgery/procedure is screened for COVID-19 two days before their procedure. Also, visitors are still not allowed into the hospital, so comforting those having major surgery has been a challenge.

Her husband Anthony, a middle school science teacher, managed his classes from home. He also helped their daughters with their online learning. Both she and her husband wonder how they and other families will keep their children safe.

Ashley says, "We all know what we need to do we have heard it many times. Wash your hands, keep you distance and follow the guidelines that have been

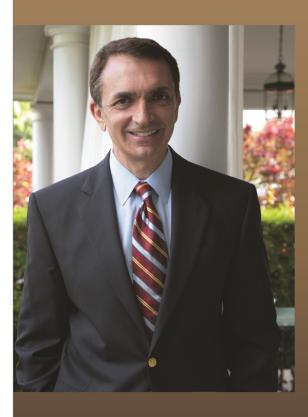
Continues on page 11

Open Door. Open Mind.

- Real Estate
- Wills & Trusts

- Probate

Dean J. Trantalis



Attorney at Law 2301 Wilton Drive, Suite C1A Wilton Manors, FL 33305 954.566.2226

Dean@Trantalis.com www.TrantalisLaw.com

The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not only be based on advertisements. Before you decide, ask the lawyer to send you free written information about their qualifications and experience.

CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE **DISTRICT II COMMISSIONER STEVEN GLASSMAN**



The greatness of our community starts with passionate citizens like you. Please do not hesitate to contact our office with any thoughtful questions, comments or suggestions.

Commissioner Steven Glassman: SGlassman@fortlauderdale.gov

Commission Assistant, Pratima Raju: PRaju@fortlauderdale.gov 954-828-5923

facebook.com/glassman4ftl fortlauderdale.gov



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Green Your Routine

by Juliette Rocque, GYR Representative

belong William Police ecycling, it's not a new concept, but it has donned a new look through the years. In my **_**younger years recycling equated to returning my soda bottles and cans and using the \$0.05 to buy candy. Much later it became a requirement and items needed to be sorted. If not sorted properly and put in to clear blue OA FORT LAUDERD recycling bags, sanitation would not pick it up and fines were issued. Wait... what? Fines? Oh, sorry, that was in New York and Fort Lauderdale does not audit our trash. Well... they didn't, but that may change.

According to Stephanie McCutcheon, Solid Waste and Recycling Coordinator, Sustainability Division of the City, in the past four weeks, six neighborhoods have had their recycling and vard waste bins audited. What were

Your cart had items that Please keep out all non-recyclables. cannot be recycled. Please leave out these items. Recycle only plastic bottles and Recycle only plastic bottles and ntainers, metal cans, glass bottles and jars, cardboard and paper. containers, metal cans, glass bottles and jars, cardboard and paper. Keep up the This cart will not be collected until unaccepted items are removed. good work!

they looking for? Contaminants! Things that do not belong in the blue and green bins. Things like plastic bags, food, liquids, diapers, paint,

propane tanks, dog poop, clothes and hoses just to name a few.

The City currently collects 11,800 tons of residential recycling each year with a contamination rate of 37%. That's 4,350 tons of contaminated recycling! With that much contamination, the City is on a quest to eliminate contamination and promote responsible participation and plan to accomplish this by expanding its audits to eventually capture all of its neighborhoods.

The audit is a four step process. Audited neighbors will be notified prior to the audit date. Contaminated carts will receive an "Oops" tag and left un-serviced. The tag will indicate what needs to be removed. On the following recycle day the cars will be checked again and tagged "Oops" or "Great Job." If the bin is tagged with an "Oops" it will remain un-serviced.

So how can we know for sure what belongs in the recycle bins? The City is committed to educating its neighbors through Community Events, Association meetings and Social Media Platforms. So Lake Ridge let's get our act together and be recycling champions.

Villa Medici Gates Update - continued from page 4

opening both Pedestrian gates - the site plan amendment will be reviewed and if approved, the permit will likely be approved, and the gates will be opened to vehicular traffic.

Vice Mayor Glassman, THANK YOU for working with the City Attorney, City Building department and the Civic Association for helping to resolve this long standing neighborhood issue.

UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY

COVID – 19 From a Local Perspective- continued from page 8 scientifically proven to work."

Tami J. - Registered Nurse

My experience during the pandemic has been both stressful and boring.

Because elective surgeries were postponed for a period I was not working for about a month a half. When we did return to seeing patients our routine was completely changed. Taking temps and screening every person that comes into the office, lots of Zoom consults, limiting only one family member to accompany patients into the office, only having one patient in the office at a time (which severely hinders how many patients we can see in a day), each patient must get tested for COVID-19 3 days prior to surgery and the list goes on. The safety of our patients is of the utmost importance.

Her Words of wisdom ... People need to do what they are comfortable with, just because things are opening up doesn't mean you have to go out. I don't recommend people stay locked in their houses and I

would certainly recommend getting outside daily and getting some exercise even if it's just for a walk around the block. Don't be afraid or ashamed to reach out for help if you need to talk to someone. This is a very stressful, scary and isolating time. Tami is thankful to all the frontline healthcare and essential workers.

We thank our neighbors for sharing their experiences. We hope that their stories resonated with you and also helped put the pandemic into perspective.





