



Volume 1, Issue 2

A Newsletter Covering Life In The Lakes

August, 2023



Editor's
Note

A New Approach

By Elise Ross

As announced last month, a new Communications Committee has been formed. And we are taking a “new approach” in keeping everyone in the know about what’s happening in The Lakes and surrounding area.

A BIG thank you to all who took the time to send in a name suggestion for our newsletter’s masthead. Twelve names were submitted for consideration. And I am pleased to announce that the new name for the masthead of our community newsletter is: “*The Lakes Life!*”

We are diligently working to keep you informed and have many ideas for future columns. A Resident Spotlight column is being introduced this month, along with a fun Word Puzzle next month. Know that you can always contact me at: newseditorlathoa@gmail.com with your thoughts or ideas. Several positive comments were received after our last issue and we appreciate that.

I think life in The Lakes is wonderful! Right now I see many of my neighbors displaying a “Summer’s Glo.” Some are out walking dogs, some riding their bikes, others playing golf or cooling off in our resort pool. I also see them having loads of fun at the recent Luau, Mah Jongg party, Musical Bingo and Trivia events held in the Clubhouse.

I try to do all I can to participate too. I attend the Book Club, am trying to learn Euchre and take joy in the occasional Bridge game with neighbors. There are many options here for us to get to know one another. We all just need to show up!



Repainting of Homes

By Ken Perlman

The Board is planning to begin a process for the repainting of all homes, Clubhouse, Guardhouse and perimeter walls within The Lakes.

There have been questions from homeowners inquiring about the possibility of adding additional colors to the palette when we do eventually repaint. Preliminary research by the Board has determined that adding additional colors would not add any additional cost to the repainting process.

So, as part of that process, a survey will be sent out shortly to all homeowners asking whether they would be in favor of adding additional colors to the repainting palette or whether they instead prefer to keep the colors of all homes as they currently are.

Please know that if additional colors are approved for homes, any homeowner would be allowed to retain the current color of their home if they preferred.



Board Actions of July 19th

By Tom Klein

At the Board of Director’s July 19th meeting, a proposal was accepted from Air Around The Clock HVAC Services to replace the air conditioning system in the Guardhouse. It is to be replaced with a 410-A high efficiency single zone mini-split system by Comfort Star.

A proposal was also accepted from Symbiont Service Corp. to replace three of the four Lap Pool heaters (the fourth one had recently been replaced). The three being replaced were the original heaters installed back in 2007. These are upgraded units sporting titanium heat exchangers, which should last much longer than the heaters that are being replaced.





Mount Dora Christmas Walk

By Tom Klein

Celebrate the 2023 holidays against a backdrop of over 2 million sparkling lights in beautiful downtown Mount Dora! If you are looking for a way to spend an enchanted evening that will get you in the holiday spirit, visit the Mount Dora Christmas Walk for an old fashioned country Christmas!

Every year, during December, the streets of Mount Dora are transformed into a beautifully decorated Christmas village, coming alive with fun and entertainment. The shops are brimming with holiday gifts to help you get a jump on your Christmas shopping. The festivities surround you with the sights and sounds of the holiday season.

A bus will pick us up at the Clubhouse on Friday, December 1st around 12:30pm, transport our group to Mt. Dora for the afternoon & early evening, returning to our Clubhouse around 11:00pm.



As you stroll about downtown Mt. Dora gazing at the light displays, listen to the angelic choirs singing your favorite Christmas carols and enjoy the musicians playing all of the classics on violins. As you walk, there are plenty of food vendors selling treats of all kinds, or if you prefer, you can enjoy a delicious dinner at one of Mt. Dora's great restaurants.

To secure a seat on the bus, you must register for this trip by September 15th. Cost is \$65 per person. Make checks payable to: Travel Expressions, Inc. and place your check in the Social Committee mailbox located in The Lakes Mail Room.



By Jack Parker
President

The first newsletter by the new Communications committee went out last month. What a great job they did with all the great articles and information. Many compliments were received and kudos to them for the wonderful work they did. Keep up the good work.

Hurricane season is upon us and we should not allow pleasant weather to lull us into complacency. With that in mind, we all need to be prepared and not let our guard down.

We were fortunate enough to have Catheryn Skully from the city of Port St. Lucie emergency management do a presentation on hurricane preparedness on July 6th. If you missed the presentation, you could find all the information on hurricane preparedness online at:

www.cityofpsl.com/hurricane.

We also had St Lucie County appraiser, Michelle Franklin attend and do a presentation on the TRIM (Trim in Millage) notices that are going out in mid-August. She talked about property values, exemptions and taxes and held a Q & A session after her presentation. If you have any questions about property values, exemptions, and taxes, you can contact her at (772) 462-1000 or online at www.paslc.gov.

The last few months have been busy ones with the Board of Directors approving many projects to maintain and enhance our community. We continue looking for cost appropriate ways for the purchase of new equipment and for the much-needed repairs in other areas. I take the job of HOA President very seriously as do the other Board members.



Editor: Elise Ross
Layout and Design: Thomas Klein

Staff Writers:
Paulie Briggs, Carolyn Hammer, Kim Stapf

Resident Spotlight

Fred Vaughn
Wildlife Photographer

By Paulee Briggs

A Roseate Spoonbill admiring his wings. A gator peering out through muddy camouflage. These are some of nature’s amazing moments captured with a lot of patience and the Canon camera of our Lakes neighbor, Fred Vaughn. Fred is self-taught and developed his love for wildlife photography while growing up hunting and fishing in Saint Lucie County.



His career as a county firefighter in the arson division expanded his skills. Now in retirement, Fred journeys throughout Florida’s state parks, to the mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee and back to our unique preserve areas in The Lakes seeking diverse species and landscapes to photograph.

There are two aspects to his craft: photography and editing, all of which takes hours. With that said, he



likes to keep the final project as close as he can to the way he saw it. Many of his images are printed on metal which he says enhances the wildlife. He is currently experimenting with abstract photography, using perspective, movement, and light

to transform what you see.

Fred does not sell his work. He says it would take away from the hobby and his own enjoyment. He has been the featured artist at the House of Refuge and has shown at The A. E. Backus Gallery and The Elliott Museum. However, he’s not about the attention. “I like to be out in nature. If I get a shot that’s great, if I don’t that’s okay too.

I like being able to educate myself and other people, too. So, I’m glad when people see me out and stop to ask questions. In doing this, you learn a lot about wildlife, but then you also learn a lot about yourself. So, I plan to do it for as long as I can.”



Treasurer's Report

By Margaret Borock
Treasurer



Does The HOA Have A “Rainy Day” Fund?

Yes, *we do.*

A “Rainy Day” Fund, or as we in Finance call it, a “Contingency” or an “Emergency” Fund is money set aside to meet expenses due to an unexpected emergency, such as damage from a hurricane.

I stated in last month’s column that the three main sources of monies which the HOA uses to meet its obligations are: the Operating Fund, the Reserve Fund and the Capital Fund. There was no mention of a “Rainy Day” Fund, and, as a consequence, we got questions on this topic.

Years ago, the Board decided to maintain and earmark a portion of the Capital Fund as the HOA emergency fund. This is our “Rainy Day” fund.



For example, if our community were to suffer hurricane losses, the monies in the Capital Fund earmarked for emergencies would be used to pay our insurance deductible and would also be used for items that our insurance does not cover such as hurricane damage to our landscape.

So yes, the HOA *does* have a “Rainy Day” fund with monies set aside for usage if an emergency were to happen to us.



Thought For The Day “We are only as strong as we are united, as weak as we are divided.”
- J. K. Rowling

The Lakes at Tradition HOA
Managed by: FirstService Residential
HOA onsite office located on the west side of the clubhouse
Best time to visit for a vehicle decal: 11:00am to 3:00pm
Email: Ingrid.sarmiento@fsresidential.com
Hours: Mon. thru Fri. 9:30am-4:30pm
Phone: (772) 345-0690
Our website is: Lathoa.org



A Fantastic Time At The 2nd Annual Luau

By Paulie Briggs

ALOHA! A fantastic time was had by all at the 2nd annual Circle of Friends Luau held on June 24th! Burgers and dogs were right off the Bar-B-Que manned by grill masters Chris Counos, Doug Vrooman and Neil Kirby complimented by delicious sides. Guests graciously brought an assortment of tempting desserts.

The exciting performance of Chaz Russell, from Gratitude Steel Drum Band, had us all shakin' our coconuts to an island beat. A conga line wound around the Clubhouse as partners left their tables and joined in. A little limbo fun was flexibility challenging, but the smiles and laughter continued with Hawaiian dress-up relays and line dancing.



And what Luau would be complete without Marilyn Findley's Lakes Punch and friendly conversation while meeting new neighbors. Kudos to Claire Counos, Joanne Manchisi, Suzanne Killian and all who stepped up to put this amazing event together.

A special thanks to Kathy Sebade Photography for capturing some awesome memories. Looking forward to our next great event! 



The next meeting of the Lakes Book Club is August 21st at 7pm in the Clubhouse.

This month they will be discussing:

***Red at The Bone* by Jacqueline Woodson**

If you'd like to join them, contact Lois Rosen at: loro781@aol.com



Bingo Now Has A Musical Beat

By Carolyn Hammer




For the first time ever, Musical Bingo was held on July 23rd in the Lakes Clubhouse. And what a *rockin'* time it was for all who attended! So, just how is Musical Bingo different from regular Bingo?

A DJ spins records of your favorite tunes. Your Bingo card, instead of having numbers printed on it, has the names of songs printed on it. If the song the DJ plays is listed on your bingo card, you mark it with your dabber.

Don't worry if you don't immediately recognize the song being played, the DJ will announce the name of the song as it's playing. It's a new twist on bingo and lots of fun singing along to the songs we all remember while marking your card.



There is always a theme to an individual music bingo game, like: Do-Wop, Disco, Soul, TV Theme songs, etc.

Missed all the fun the first time around? Don't worry, it's coming back on Sunday, August 13th at 6:30pm in the Lakes Clubhouse. Doors are open at 6:00pm. Tickets sold in advance. Over age 18 only please. Text Carolyn Hammer at: (201) 805-6153. Don't miss out on another *rocking* good time! 



New Homeowners:

Carolina & Edison Castro - on Hartwick moved here from Boca Raton

Ryan Silverman, Jessica Schiller - on Stratton moved here from Boca Raton

Welcome to The Lakes;
We Know You're Gonna Love It Here Because,
"Life Is Better At The Lakes"

Rockin' 60's, 70's Dance Party Is September 9th

By Carolyn Hammer

A "Rockin' Dance Party" has been scheduled for September 9th at 7:00pm in The Lakes Clubhouse. Doors open at 6:30pm. Come and rediscover your favorite hits from the 60's and 70's.

Hot and cold appetizers will be served. Everyone is welcome and the cost is only \$5.00 per person. So, come on; get your dancing shoes on and help us *rock, rock, rock the night away!*



Tickets will be on sale in the Clubhouse on August 21st, 22nd, 28th, and 29th from 10:00am to noon each day.

Or, if you prefer, you can place a check made out to the Lakes Social Committee in their mailbox located in the Clubhouse Mail Room. Please mark on your check the names of those attending.



Our Favorite Recipes

Carol Klein's Cold Veggie Pizza

- 2 packages of Pillsbury Crescent Dough Sheets;
- 16 oz. of Cream Cheese (room temperature);
- 1/2 cup of Mayonnaise;
- 1 oz. pkg. of Hidden Valley Ranch Seasoning;
- 4 cups (total) of: carrots, broccoli, cauliflower, red pepper, shredded carrots, and/or vegetables of your choice, cut up into small bite size pieces.

Unroll the Crescent dough onto a half sheet pan (18" x 13"), pressing the edges together to form one large crust. Bake at 375 degrees for 10 minutes, and then let cool completely.

Mix the cream cheese, mayo & ranch seasoning and spread on the cooled crust. Then simply top with your favorite veggies - and enjoy!



Tradition Community Association

Managed by Castle Group

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm

Office Phone: (772) 345-5101

Office Fax: (772) 345-5104



Bridge - plays every Monday afternoon in the veranda room of the Clubhouse at 1:00pm.

Book Club - meets every third Monday of the month in the veranda room of the Clubhouse at 7:00pm.

Easy Stretch - meets every Tuesday morning in the main room of the Clubhouse at 9:00am.

Canasta - plays every Tuesday in the main room of the Clubhouse at 12:00pm.

Mah Jongg - plays every Monday and Friday afternoon in the main room of the Clubhouse at 1:00pm.

Mah Jongg - plays every Thursday evening in the main room of the Clubhouse at 6:30pm.

Euchre Club - meets every Thursday afternoon in the main room of the Clubhouse at 1:00pm..

Mexican Train - plays every Wednesday afternoon in the Clubhouse veranda room at 1:00pm.

Yoga - meets every Wednesday afternoon in the main room of the Clubhouse at 1:00pm.

Line Dancing - meets every third Sunday of the month in the main room of the Clubhouse at 3:45pm.

Live Yoga - meets every Thursday morning in the main room of the Clubhouse at 10:00am.

Pickleball Club - open play: Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat 9:00am til 12:00pm. Tue, Thur, Sun 6:00pm til 8:00pm. Contact: pickleballclublat@gmail.com

Mixed Casual Bocce - they play every Monday at 5:45pm. Beginners welcome. Just show up at the Bocce courts behind the Clubhouse.



DanceXrcise

Every Monday &
Tuesday, 10:00am



Join other Lakes residents on the dance floor of the Clubhouse for fun and movement with aerobic dance following YouTube pros on the TV screen while listening to pop favorites, oldies, or latin music.

There's usually an 8 minute warmup, preceding a 30 to 40 minute routine done at a moderate pace, ending with balance exercises. Everyone is welcome!



TRADITION EVENTS

Chowdown Food Truck Fridays - On the first and third Friday of the month kick off the weekend with tasty food truck options. Bring a chair along with your appetite to enjoy live music in Tradition Square. On August 18, *The Bombshell Duo* returns to the stage playing hits from the last few decades!

Kid's Science Club - Bring the kiddos down to the Tradition Gazebo on Friday, August 11th at 5:00pm and let them indulge in a delightful scientific experience like they've never had before as we explore the intriguing world of making instant ice cream using just sugar, ice, salt and milk. Register at:

[eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

Splash Pad Fun & Popsicles - Let the kiddos beat the heat and have some fun this month. Join us at the Splash Pad in Tradition Square on Sunday, August 14th from 11:00am till 1:00pm. Popsicles and lemonade will be available.

Game Night - Get ready to unleash your competitive spirit and have a blast outdoors. On Friday, August 25th, there is Game Night in the Square. Challenge your friends to ladder ball, corn hole, kan jam & more. Don't miss out on this gaming experience!

Sundaes On Sunday Concert Series - Bring a chair down to the Tradition Gazebo on the last Sunday of every month for sundaes and live music. On August 27th from 6 to 8pm, get ready for *The Kinetected!* playing dance hits spanning the past 50 years.


CDD Approves Coyote & Iguana Removal

By Suzanne Killeen



Coyotes as well as large green Iguanas have been spotted in and around the Tradition area recently.

At their July 5th Board meeting, Tradition's CDD Board approved a one-year contract with Treasure Coast Wildlife Trappers for removal of both species.

If either are spotted anywhere in Tradition, residents of The Lakes may call the Tradition office at (772) 345-5101 for trapper service. 

Birds of The Lakes

Roseate Spoonbill

By Tom Klein

Roseate Spoonbills are exceptional wading birds, with their large spoon-shaped bill, pale green bald head, and pink body feathers. They truly stand out when seen by the attentive observer. Florida is one of the few places spoonbills can be found in the United States but they are not especially numerous.

They are rather large birds being about 30 inches long with a 50 inch wing span and like all wading birds, have long legs and a long neck. Its pale pink feathers become brighter as it approaches adulthood.




Their diet consists of aquatic insects, crustaceans and small fish that are detected by touch rather than sight. When hunting for food, they sweep their bill, held slightly ajar, from side to side. When they have a chance encounter with something, their slightly open bill reflexively snaps shut on it and their prey are then swallowed whole, head first.



A spoonbill's ideal habitat for foraging is a shallow marsh, as it presents a large body of water of the correct depth (30" or less). Our lakes offer only narrow bands along the lake banks with that correct depth. So, the number of foraging

encounters they might find in our lakes is small. Still, an overflying spoonbill might decide to give it a try, but usually won't stay too long. Which is why you might encounter only a few within the Tradition area over an entire year's period of time.

Pink is an unusual color for a bird and you may wonder why the pink feathers. You would be correct if you imagine it's related to their diet. Aquatic creatures contain a class of chemicals called carotenoids. The cells that create the spoonbill's feathers contain an enzyme that converts that dietary carotenoid to a red derivative. Their feathers are a base white color, but when a white feather contains a little of that red derivative, it will then turn pink. 

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Part 2 - Preparing As The Hurricane Approaches:

By Tom Klein

Bring everything inside that could be blown around outside including: all potted plants, all furniture, BBQ grille, landscape figurines, flags and welcome mats. Don't put them in your garage, that's for your car (don't forget, several roof tiles could be blown off by high hurricane winds causing damage to cars if they are parked outside).

• When installing your hurricane shutters, *make sure* each shutter panel is pushed *all the way up fully* into the top of the upper bracket before securing them with the wingnuts. If not pushed all the way up, the top of the shutters may rattle violently by the high winds. It's not easy to sleep while listening to that loud violent metal on metal rattling as hurricane winds howl outside.

• Fill your car's fuel tank. The very few gas stations that might be open immediately after a storm will have very long lines.

• Get \$300-\$400 from the ATM. For several days after, ATM's may not work, businesses may not have internet access & so, won't accept credit cards. It's usually cash only for a short while after a hurricane.

• Anticipate losing electricity by: lowering your air conditioner thermostat setting, lower the food freezer thermostat setting; fill freezer open spaces between frozen foods w/previously used half-gallon milk jugs filled 3/4 full with water.

• Get caught up on your laundry now, because you may not have time (or maybe electricity) after.

• Seal your bathtub drain with a rubber seal and fill the tub with water. Place an empty one-gallon bucket next to the tub. If we lose water pressure, you can pour a bucket of water into the toilet bowl to flush it.

• Be sure to have hooded rain gear & boots on hand; streets may be flooded after (you'll wish you had them).

• Keep your cell phone charged and have a portable cell charger battery for backup.



Immediately After The Hurricane:

• If you lose electricity, turn off all appliances, so there isn't a huge electrical surge when it's restored, causing another immediate outage. But do leave one light switch turned on, so you'll know when electricity has been restored.

• If we do lose electricity, you're going to need to have one battery operated lantern for each room, a small flashlight for each person & spare batteries for each. *Never* use candles to illuminate rooms at night, that's how house fires start.

• Before removing your shutters, look from the inside of the window to see if there are any snakes or other animals that may have taken refuge from the winds behind your shutters. You don't want to be surprised when you're removing shutters.

• Be careful when outside and watch where you are walking. Snakes, alligators or other animals who have been driven from their normal habitat by high water will be highly stressed and may become more aggressive than normal. Don't go out at night at all, as alligators or boars may be roaming.

• As a precaution, for the first few days after a hurricane, use *only* bottled water for drinking purposes. *Don't use tap water.* If the city water plant lost power (even if temporary), water may not be safe to drink.

• Take "after" photos of all damages for insurance purposes before cleaning up.

• At the curb, have separate piles for landscape debris and for damaged structure debris. Garbage and recycling is placed at the curb on their normal days. There probably will be a delay picking up the landscape & damaged structure debris.

• Without electricity, you will need your BBQ grill for cooking, so have on hand an extra 20# propane tank.

• Extended family will want to hear from you. Text your family that you are okay (cell tower lines will be so busy with calls after a storm that texts are much more likely to go through, even if cell phone calls won't).



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Lakes at Tradition website LATHOA.ORG		Aug 1 9:00am EASY STRETCH 10:00am DANCEXRCISE 12:00pm CANASTA 7:00pm POKER GAME	2 9:00am FACILITIES COMMITTEE 10:00am ACC MEETING 1:00pm MEXICAN TRAIN 1:00pm YOGA	3 6:30pm MAH JONGG	4 10:00am LAT BOD Workshop 1:00pm MAH JONGG	5
	6	7 10:00am DANCEXRCISE 1:00pm BRIDGE 1:00pm MAH JONGG	8 9:00am EASY STRETCH 10:00am DANCEXRCISE 12:00pm CANASTA 3:00pm LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE 7:00pm POKER GAME	9 1:00pm MEXICAN TRAIN 1:00pm YOGA	10 6:30pm MAH JONGG	11 1:00pm MAH JONGG
13 6:00pm MUSICAL BINGO 	14 10:00am DANCEXRCISE 1:00pm BRIDGE 1:00pm MAH JONGG	15 9:00am EASY STRETCH 10:00am DANCEXRCISE 12:00pm CANASTA 7:00pm POKER GAME	16 1:00pm MEXICAN TRAIN 1:00pm YOGA 6:30pm BOARD MEETING	17 6:30pm MAH JONGG	18 1:00pm MAH JONGG	19
20 3:45pm LINE DANCERS	21 10:00am DANCEXRCISE 1:00pm BRIDGE 1:00pm MAH JONGG 4:00pm FINANCE COMMITTEE 7:00pm BOOK CLUB 	22 9:00am EASY STRETCH 10:00am DANCEXRCISE 12:00pm CANASTA 7:00pm POKER GAME	23 1:00pm MEXICAN TRAIN 1:00pm YOGA	24 12:00pm ACC application Deadline 6:30pm MAH JONGG	25 1:00pm MAH JONGG	26
27	28 10:00am DANCEXRCISE 1:00pm BRIDGE 1:00pm MAH JONGG	29 9:00am EASY STRETCH 10:00am DANCEXRCISE 12:00pm CANASTA 7:00pm POKER GAME	30 1:00pm MEXICAN TRAIN 1:00pm YOGA	31 6:30pm MAH JONGG		

Charades Game Night

By Paulie Briggs

3 words. Phrase. "Lots of Fun." The Charades Game Night, on July 9th at the Clubhouse, was another laugh filled Circle of Friends event. Thanks to Cheryl Robinson and Vickie Smith for organizing and all who attended. Always nice to get together with our neighbors for snacks, beverages and a little friendly competition!



Summer Mah Jongg Party

By Elise Ross

Lakes neighbors filled their plates with homemade specialties and enjoyed catching up with one another before settling down to play Summer Mah Jongg. Each player had the option of taking a turn at playing a "special" Summer MJ hand.

If the player made MJ with the hand they picked, they were able to enter the door prize drawing. Juanita Puchkoff won the "Summer MJ" hand she picked to play and went home with an appropriate summer treat - Cool Beanz ice cream gift cards!

