



Volume 1, Issue 6

A Newsletter Covering Life In The Lakes

December, 2023




Fruitcakes

By Elise Ross

2024 Budget Approved

By Margaret Borock, Treasurer

Did you know December is National Fruitcake Month? I love fruitcake and if it has had a little bourbon fermenting in it - even better! Jimmy Buffett's tune "Fruitcakes" says: "There's a little bit of fruitcake left in every one of us." My favorite December tune is Dean Martin's version of "A Marshmallow World" (now you have an idea of how old I am). Snowmen put a smile on my face and I use several when decorating my home for the holidays. But I am very happy not to be creating one out of real snow!!!

This is the 6th edition of *The Lakes Life*. The Communications Committee extends a warm and heartfelt "Happy Holidays" to all of our Lakes neighbors. It's been our pleasure to provide you with accurate information about HOA Board actions, community & local activities, services and columns that let you get to know your fellow residents (human and pet). Please forward your article suggestions to: newseditorlathoa@gmail.com 


The Lakes at Tradition Board of Directors presented the 2024 Budget at its November 28th Budget meeting. At just over 2.5 million, the budget's overall increase was held to just 3.3%; and dues increases were able to be held to even less with just a 1.4% increase for 2024 by applying an offset adjustment of \$50,000 accumulated from various surplus and deficits over recent years. The dues increase for Capris amounted to just \$11 per quarter, while Oakmonts were \$12 and Carlyle increases amounted to just \$14 per quarter.

About one-half of that small dues increase was used to bolster the Reserve Fund in anticipation of repainting of homes and repaving of streets meant to be done, hopefully, in the near future. Reserve funding for all homes now amounts to a total of \$46.91 per home per quarter up only \$6, from last year's \$40.72.

Our Landscape Contract was able to be reduced by \$26,600 per year thru negotiations with Tradition whereby they agreed to take responsibility for the landscape maintenance of property outside our south wall.

In terms of reporting, the presented budget format has been expanded to now include visuals of past years budgets and expenses to allow homeowners easier year-to-year comparisons.

I'd like to extend a big thank you to Finance Committee members, fellow HOA Board members and Management for all of their various and appreciated efforts in preparing and passing the 2024 budget.

Finally, on a related topic, *Association Reserves, Inc.* is in the midst of performing its Reserve Study of our community's facilities and I expect delivery of their initial report by the end of the year. 



Resident Spotlight

By Carolyn Hammer

Barbra Rubin-Perry
(Actress)

Lights, camera, action! Those are the words Barbra Rubin-Perry loves to hear! Barbra, who hails from Long Island, moved full-time to her house on Dardanelle two years ago and is currently enjoying acting in local theatre.

Barbra started out as a Biochemistry major at Rochester Institute of Technology intending to go into cancer research, but fate had different plans for her. While visiting her boyfriend at a Rochester college radio station, she overheard that the regular news person hadn't shown up for work. She fearlessly offered to stand in to read the news and was bitten by the bug!

Soon, Barbra was working the Midnight to 6am slot at WNYR/WEZO radio and eventually held positions in TV with a Rochester station, editing commercials into the afternoon movie. She received the news via teletype and literally cut and pasted it into a script for the morning news person and ran the audio board for the 6pm news. Over the years, Barbra worked in radio and TV throughout the Hudson Valley and Tri-State area, eventually landing a morning drive news director job at WEVD in New York City.



Although she detoured by working as a Commodities Broker on Wall Street for nearly a decade, she also became involved with the Island Park Theatre Group. There, she helped in the production of *Oliver*, *Who Wants To Marry a Million-Heir*, *Smokey Joe's Café*, the *Wizard of Oz* and a host of other plays. During this time, she also appeared as an extra on *CSI NY*, *Law and Order SVU*, and *The Bourne Ultimatum*.

In 2012, Hurricane Sandy flooded her home with 17' of water and after spending years dealing with FEMA, unscrupulous contractors, and miles of red tape, Barbra decided to move to PSL.

Here in Florida, Barbra has continued acting in plays at the Vero Beach Theatre Guild, the A.C.T. Studio Theatre, the Pineapple Playhouse, and the Treasure Coast Theatre. She was just cast as Sylvia, the Naughty Nana in *Nana's Naughty Knickers* at the Treasure Coast Theatre. The show opens in January and she's hoping to see you in the audience!



Jack Parker
President






We're approaching the end of 2023 which has seen many community improvements having been made. The Board of Directors, along with help from our Finance and Facilities Committees, have completed many projects to maintain and enhance our community. The following is a recap of some of those improvement projects:

Adding pavers to the approaches of the Bocce and Shuffleboard courts to add more seating; the completion of Wi-Fi to recreational areas outside the Clubhouse; updating the lighting at the Pickleball, Tennis and Basketball courts with LED lighting; installed new Geothermal heating units at the Lap Pool; and new gym equipment added to our Fitness Center.

A major project that is pending is the repainting of homes. The survey that was sent out to all homeowners showed that a majority were in favor of adding additional colors to the repainting palette. A subcommittee is now being formed to help with this. More projects are being discussed and will be announced as more information becomes available.

Communication is vital and we've made efforts to improve this by creating a new Communication Committee to produce this monthly newsletter to give our homeowners information on what's going on in our association & surrounding community. This committee is doing a wonderful job producing this newsletter.

The 2024 Budget was presented to homeowners at November's Budget meeting and approved unanimously by the Board. I want to extend a huge thank you to the Finance Committee along with Ingrid, Margaret and Akua for their excellent work in preparing and presenting the budget to the Board. In closing, I wish you and your family a very happy, healthy and safe holiday season. 

	
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Layout and Design: Thomas Klein	
Staff Writers: Carolyn Hammer, Kim Stapf	



St. Lucie County Is Aglow



By Carolyn Hammer

Is there anything better than twinkling lights to enhance the holiday mood? To see some great light displays in St. Lucie County:

Heathcote Botanical Gardens - 210 Savannah Rd, Ft. Pierce. Their Garden of Lights starts November 24th. Every Friday and Saturday evening thru December 30th, stroll the 5 acres of handcrafted light displays and take pictures with Santa. There will be food trucks and live music provided by local musicians.

Adult admission is \$10, kids 6-12 are \$3, and kids under 6 are free.

Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens - 2410 SE Westmoreland Blvd, will have a spectacular Holiday Lights event every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening from November 24th thru December 23rd. Additional dates are December 18th and December 29th and 30th. Admission is free.

Fort Pierce Holiday Light Spectacular - at the Ft. Pierce Marina on Melody Lane from December 3rd thru January 31st from 6pm to 9pm daily. Over 100,000 lights wrapped around the Marina park's palm trees "dancing" to synchronized lights & music. Free admission. For more info see: mainstreet-fortpierce.org



PSL Botanical Gardens Display

The City of Port St. Lucie Festival of Lights - is Saturday, December 2nd from 2pm till 10pm at the PSL MidFlorida Event Center, 9221 Event Center Place. Admission and parking are free. There will be food trucks, a midway carnival, and arts & crafts vendors. A "parade of lights" starts at 6pm followed by the tree lighting and fireworks. Dance to the live music of *Power Of Love*, a Huey Lewis and The News tribute band.

Tradition's Annual Tree Lighting - Kick off the holiday season Friday, December 1st from 5 till 9pm at Tradition Square. Santa will make his grand entrance for the traditional Christmas tree lighting where children will be able to take photos and share their holiday wishes. Live music provided by the *Michael Buble' Cover Band*. Enjoy the kids zone, trackless train, food trucks and plenty of vendors offering unique local gifts for holiday shopping.

Tradition's Annual Chanukkah Celebration - takes place December 7th at Tradition Square from 4:30pm till 6:30pm with a live concert by Tali Yess and menorah lighting ceremony of the first ever pickleball menorah! Face painting, a bounce house, donuts, latkes and fun for the whole family.



HOLIDAY CONCERT

PSL Community Band Concerts

By Tom Klein

As a kickoff to your holiday season, come join the Port Saint Lucie Community Band under the direction of our own Dr. John K. Southall for *Holiday Joy!*, a free concert celebrating the magic and merriment of the holidays on December 6th at 7pm.

Then, on February 7th at 7pm, the Port Saint Lucie Community Band will present *A Musical Salute to Broadway and The Movies*, a magical journey through the realms of Broadway & the silver screen.

Both of these free concerts are being performed at the McAlpin Theatre located in the Indian River State College's Massey campus, 3209 Virginia Ave. in Fort Pierce. For more info phone: (772) 462-4750.



"Jingle Bells & Christmas Memories"

A Holiday Musical - By Tom Klein



Celebrate the Holiday season with a musical variety show featuring popular Holiday tunes and humorous skits about the season. This live musical show is being performed on December 1st thru the 10th at the Treasure Coast Community Theatre. Individual tickets are only \$25. Evening performances are at 8pm, Sunday matinees are at 2pm.

The Treasure Coast Theatre is located in the Beall's Shopping Plaza, 10175 S. Federal Highway (US 1) in Port St. Lucie.

For more information on this and other live theatre performances visit: treasurecoasttheatre.com or call (772) 418-2439.





Community Events



Annual Holiday Party December 9

By Carolyn Hammer

Please join us for “A Toast to the Holidays” party on Saturday, December 9th at 6:30pm. Hot and cold appetizers will be served along with a sparkling holiday toast. There is **no cost** to attend. BYOB.



Holiday Mah Jongg Party Is December 14th

By Elise Ross

The annual Lakes Holiday Mah Jongg party is scheduled for Thursday, December 14th from 5pm to 8:30pm in the Clubhouse. It promises to be a party full of fun and Mah Jongg with festive twists.


Bring your favorite dish to share with everyone and bring your favorite beverage. There will be a gift exchange (limit your gift to \$10 please).

Please RSVP by November 30th to:

mahjongglat@gmail.com 



If you wish to participate in the Holiday Gift Exchange, please bring a wrapped gift costing between \$10-\$15.

A head count will be needed, so free door tickets will be available by texting Carolyn Hammer at: (201) 805-6153. You must obtain your door ticket by November 30th to attend. 


Holiday Toy Drive December 1-7

By Mollie Adams



The Lakes Social Committee will be holding its annual Holiday Toy Drive December 1st thru the 7th. A couple of large boxes will be placed in the Clubhouse Mail Room to accept all the unwrapped toys Lakes residents wish to donate to this great cause. Or you can place them under the tree located inside the main room of the Clubhouse.


Committee members will coordinate with the St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Department who will collect the toys and give them to less fortunate local children this holiday season.

The Sheriff’s Department has also expressed a real need for bicycles for teens. If you would like to donate toward the purchase of a bicycle for area teens in need, contact Carolyn Hammer at: (201) 805-6153 or email her at: carolyn@hammerandhammer.com 

Thank You Lakes Residents For Your Generosity!

Holiday Soirée

Stylin’! Sparkling! Sweet! Soiree! The second annual Holiday Soiree is scheduled for Saturday, December 16th at 7pm in the Lakes Clubhouse. Come celebrate the season in style and totally dress to impress! \$5.00 per ticket includes a Sparkling toast and specialty chocolate.

BYOB and a dessert to share. Join in the Yankee Swap with a \$10 wrapped gift. Please purchase tickets by December 5th. All Lakes residents and guests are welcome. Email: circleoffriendspsl@gmail.com or contact Claire, Marilyn or Paulie for tickets. 



Holiday Trivia is Friday, December 15th
Starts at 7:00pm Doors Open at 6:30pm.
BYOB and a snack for your table.
Table of eight \$5.00 entry fee.



December 13th at 7:00pm
Doors open at 6:30pm
Cost is \$10.00
BYOB & a table snack

Sports Groups

Mixed Casual Bocce - play every Monday at 4:00pm. Beginners welcome. Just show up at the Bocce courts behind the Clubhouse.

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 Shuffleboard Group - play every Friday at 4:30pm at the Shuffleboard courts behind Clubhouse. Contact: shuffleboardlat@gmail.com

Women's Bocce - play every Tuesday at 4:00pm at the Bocce courts behind the Clubhouse. To join contact Lucille Wesnofske at: lwesnofske@gmail.com

Men's Bocce - play every Wednesday at 3:00pm at the Bocce courts behind the Clubhouse. To join contact Tom Kinirons at: tcksr@hotmail.com



Holiday Contractor Luncheon Is December 13th

By Carolyn Snider

Hello neighbors! Today (November 15) is exactly four weeks until the Holiday Celebration for all of our Lakes contractors. Donations are arriving every day from homeowners representing just about every street in our community.

To date, we've received donations from 16.44 percent of homeowners. We're on target to match or surpass last year's numbers, and we look forward to providing a Publix-prepared lunch in December as well as a cash gift to each employee. And, with any funds we have left, we will also offer pizza (or sub) lunches periodically throughout the year.

Why do we do this? Primarily, it's to show our appreciation to all our hardworking guys...and gals! It's also to somewhat ensure our contractors have workers who enjoy working in our community and look forward to an occasional respite from their work day.

With your support, your Landscape Committee will continue to offer lunches to all the workers who support our community. Thank You!



Clubs & Classes

Dancercise - meets every Monday & Tuesday morning in the main room of the Clubhouse at 10:00am.

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

Book Club - meets the third Monday of the month (December 18th) at 7:00pm. To join them, please contact Lois Rosen at: loro781@aol.com This month, the Book Club will be discussing: "Honor" by Thrity Umrigar.

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 at 1:00pm in the main room of the Clubhouse.

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

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.

Cribbage - plays every Tuesday afternoon at 1:00pm in the Clubhouse.



Mt. Dora Bus Trip Is December 1

By Mollie Adams

For all our residents who have signed up for the bus trip to see the holiday lights at Mt. Dora, we will all need to meet the bus at the Clubhouse by 12:30pm on Friday, December 1st. The bus will leave for Mt. Dora at 12:45pm.



There are 30 Lakes residents going, so since Clubhouse parking is at a premium, please try to carpool with your neighbors and try to use the tennis court parking lot.



Unscramble the letters to make a word (each word relates to the holiday season). The small numbers underneath represent the important letter in each word that together make the solution to the Word Scramble located at the bottom. Answer is on page 8.


Annual Food Drive Exceeds 1,000 Pounds!

By Helen Jackman

The Lakes Social Committee conducted its annual Food Drive for the Treasure Coast Food Bank November 1-7th, collecting over 1,000 pounds of food! Thank you to all Lakes residents for their generosity in making this year's drive such a success.

The Treasure Coast Food Bank, founded in 1988, is the largest hunger-relief organization on Florida's Treasure Coast and the only Food Bank in our four-county region covering Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie and Okeechobee counties. They work tirelessly to help families and individuals in need by providing them with nutritious food, hope and dignity.



In collaboration with more than 400 partner agencies, they educate and provide assistance to nearly 250,000 individuals each week through outreach programs and direct services. If you would like to donate to or volunteer at the Treasure Coast Food Bank, contact: <https://stophunger.org> 

Holiday Card Exchange

With the cost of stamps continuing to rise, The Lakes is again having a free resident Holiday Card Exchange.

If you would like to give a holiday card to a resident here in the Lakes this season, just address the envelope as usual, take it to the Billiard room of the Clubhouse and place it in the appropriate slot in the Card Box by *Last Name*. Stamps are not needed.

And while there, don't forget to check to see if there are any holiday cards waiting for *you!*

The free Holiday Card Exchange will be active until December 31. 

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TRADITION EVENTS

Tradition Tree Lighting - see article covering tree lighting on page 3.

Treasure Coast Out Of The Darkness Community Walk - Begins Sunday, December 3rd at 10am. Check-in time is 9:15am. A journey of remembrance, hope, and support; this walk unites Tradition's communities and provides an opportunity to acknowledge the ways in which suicide and mental health conditions have affected our lives and those we love. Register at: afsp.org/treasurecoast

Chanukah Celebration - see article covering Chanukah Celebration on page 3.

Family Game Night - December 29th from 6-8pm in the Square. Challenge your friends to kan jam, ladder ball, cornhole and more. Don't miss this outdoor gaming experience!

New Year's Eve In The Square - Sunday, December 31st from 5 till 9pm. Bid farewell to the old and welcome the new at Tradition's fantastic New Year's Eve celebration in Tradition Square. Tradition is welcoming 2024 in style with mesmerizing productions and stunning visual effects. Electrifying music is provided by an interactive DJ. The night will end with a 9pm breathtaking fireworks show that will paint the sky with sound & color.



Vets Honored With Parade, Luncheon & Flag Display

By Tom Klein

The Lakes annual Veteran's Day Luncheon began at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month of 2023 with a resident veteran color guard presenting colors in the main room of the Lakes Clubhouse.

It was then explained that an empty table which had been set at the head of the room represented those veterans no longer here with us to share the event. Veterans of each individual branch were asked to rise and be recognized by the room to great applause as music of their military branch played.

All vets were then asked to the front of the room where each was pinned with a "Lest We Forget" lapel pin thanking them for their service.



Lunch was served to the delight of everyone finishing with cupcakes presented with a patriotic flourish. And popular music with a patriotic twist was provided by "DJ Bob" Hopkins. The entire event

touched the hearts of everyone attending who made their many thank-you's known to Molly Adams and the entire Social Committee for presenting such a great event.



On Friday, November 10th, as veterans watched from their driveways, a vehicle parade made its way thru the streets of The Lakes led by the Port St. Lucie Police Department to again thank veterans for their service. And finally, flags lined the median of Tradition Lakes Blvd. to also honor all of our community's veterans.



Our Favorite Recipes

Juanita Puchkoff's Chocolate Chip Mandelbrot

Preheat oven to 350 degrees; line 2-3 large baking sheets with parchment paper.

- 1-1/2 cups sugar
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 4 eggs
- 3 tablespoons fresh orange juice
- 2-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 3-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2-1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1-1/2 cups chocolate chips (I always use more)
- 1 cup chopped walnuts

Whisk together sugar and oil; stir in eggs, then OJ and vanilla. Whisk flour, salt, baking powder and cinnamon together, then also stir them in to make a very thick batter. Fold in chocolate chips & walnuts.

Spread the batter onto baking sheets as large logs (3 to 5 inches wide by 10 to 14 inches long). Bake until the top seems dry (30-40 minutes). Remove from oven and let cool for 10 minutes. While cooling, turn the oven down to 325 degrees.

Using a serrated knife, cut each log into 3/4 inch thick slices. Place each piece on its side on baking sheets. Bake at 325 degrees for 10 minutes on each side. Remove and cool, then drizzle or dip with melted chocolate. Then ... Enjoy!

If you need help with this recipe, feel free to text Juanita at: (845) 242-4827.



Family & Friends CPR Training

By Elise Ross



Learn how to save a life in an interactive, engaging and fun skills training class to be held on Saturday February 3rd in the Lakes Clubhouse. This class will include signs and symptoms of cardiac conditions, skills practice with CPR manikins, and utilization of our Gym's AED (Automated External defibrillator).

Cost is \$20 per person. You must email your enrollment request by January 21, 2024 to: latcpr24@gmail.com Enrollment is limited to the first 30 responders. If interest exceeds 30 individuals, additional classes will be scheduled at an additional later date.



All protective gear will be provided and each student will receive a course completion certificate. This Family and Friends CPR course is ideal for anyone interested in learning CPR: new parents, grandparents, babysitters and students age 14 and over.

Note that under the Florida Good Samaritan Act "any person, including those licensed to practice medicine, who gratuitously and in good faith renders emergency care or treatment...shall not be held liable for any civil damages as a result of such care or treatment."



Ingrid Sarmiento
Property Manager



We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our residents for your kindness, consideration and gratitude throughout the holiday season on behalf of the Lakes at Tradition office, Ingrid, Gabriella, Kevin and the guard house staff.

We do our best to make your residence the best place to live. Even when we must enforce some rules, thank you for understanding that we are working for the benefit of the entire community.

Thank you for treating us like family; living and working in The Lakes is like being in a slice of paradise.

HOA Office will be closed:

December 22th 1/2 day December 25th all day
December 29th 1/2 day January 1st all day

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

Answer To Kim's Puzzle: **S N O W P L A C E L I K E T H E L A K E S**



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					Dec 1 10:00am LAT Cancelled 1:00pm MAH JONGG	2 TOY DRIVE
3	4 10:00am DANCEXRCISE 1:00pm BRIDGE 1:00pm MAH JONGG	5 TOY DRIVE 9:00am EASY STRETCH 10:00am DANCEXRCISE 12:00pm CANASTA 1:00pm CRIBBAGE	6 9:00am FACILITIES COMMITTEE 10:00am ACC MEETING 1:00pm MEXICAN TRAIN 1:00pm YOGA	7 1:00pm EUCHRE 6:30pm MAH JONGG	8 1:00pm MAH JONGG	9 Toast To The Holidays Party 6:30pm
10	11 10:00am DANCEXRCISE 1:00pm BRIDGE 1:00pm MAH JONGG 4:00pm FINANCE COMMITTEE	12 9:00am EASY STRETCH 10:00am DANCEXRCISE 12:00pm CANASTA 1:00pm CRIBBAGE	13 Holiday Landscape Luncheon 1:00pm MEXICAN TRAIN 1:00pm YOGA 6:30pm BINGO 	14 1:00pm EUCHRE 6:30pm Mahjongg Holiday Party 	15 1:00pm MAH JONGG 6:30pm TRIVIA 	16 7:00pm Holiday Soiree Holiday Soirée
17	18 10:00am DANCEXRCISE 1:00pm BRIDGE 1:00pm MAH JONGG 7:00pm BOOK CLUB	19 9:00am EASY STRETCH 10:00am DANCEXRCISE 12:00pm CANASTA 1:00pm CRIBBAGE	20 1:00pm MEXICAN TRAIN 1:00pm YOGA 6:30pm BOARD MEETING	21 1:00pm EUCHRE 6:30pm MAH JONGG	22 OFFICE CLOSED - NOON 1:00pm MAH JONGG	23
24	25 OFFICE CLOSED 	26 9:00am EASY STRETCH 10:00am DANCEXRCISE 12:00pm CANASTA 1:00pm CRIBBAGE Kwanzaa	27 1:00pm MEXICAN TRAIN 1:00pm YOGA	28 12:00pm ACC application Deadline 1:00pm EUCHRE 6:30pm MAH JONGG	29 OFFICE CLOSED 1:00pm MAH JONGG	30
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Friendsgiving Event

By Ken Perlman

On Sunday, November 19th the Circle of Friends held their Friendsgiving Event. The full to capacity event was a time to share friendship, camaraderie and thankfulness with residents of our community.



The meal was excellent and exhibited the culinary expertise of the attendees. It was a time to interact, share and have conversation.

Everyone enjoyed themselves and departed the evening with full bellies, leftovers, positive experiences and lots to be thankful for.

