



Volume 2, Issue 12



A Newsletter Covering Life In The Lakes

December, 2024



have successfully funded our Reserve Fund and upcoming maintenance projects. We will continue to ensure responsible stewardship of the association's finances to make sure we can tackle future needs without overburdening homeowners.

As we close out 2024 and reflect on the year gone by, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for your continued support and dedication to our community. It's been a year of growth, improvement, and collaboration, and I'm proud of everything we've accomplished together. I would like to share some highlights and updates as we head into the new year.

1. Community Improvements We've seen many exciting enhancements around the neighborhood this year. From landscaping upgrades to the new heaters for the Rec and Lap pools, auto chlorinators for the pools, new air conditioning units for the guard house and office, new chairs for the outdoor recreational areas and many other improvements. These improvements help maintain the beauty and livability of our community. I am particularly grateful for the efforts of our volunteers helping us maintain a welcoming and vibrant environment.

2. Financial Overview Thanks to your commitment to timely assessments, we are in a strong financial position heading into 2025. We've kept our operating costs under control, and I am pleased to report that we

3. Community Engagement We have had many social events this year, which have been a great success. These events help strengthen the bonds among neighbors and create a sense of belonging. We hope to offer even more opportunities for everyone to connect and share in the fun next year, and we encourage everyone to get involved in our events in 2025.

4. Looking Ahead: 2025 Goals The Board is already working on a list of initiatives for next year that includes the painting of the houses. Our goal is to continue enhancing the community while preserving the high standards we all value.

Our success is a reflection of the involvement of everyone, and I am looking forward to working together in the year ahead to continue making our neighborhood a wonderful place to call home.

Wishing you all a joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year!



Warm regards,
Jack Parker, President





Celebrating!

By Elise Ross

I am someone who will grasp every opportunity to celebrate! In my heart every morning I celebrate how fortunate John and I are to have the opportunity to live in this great community of ours.

The newsletter team recently celebrated the news that 562 out of 687 homes had opened and read online the October newsletter! Every time a new *Lakes Life* edition is presented to and approved by the Board is cause for celebration, but, in our eyes this news was even more momentous!

Readership has gained momentum over the last 18 months of publication which is just what the board was hoping would happen. The newsletter is achieving its primary goal of providing residents with accurate information and the opportunity to sign up for various activities as well as to get to know our neighbors. Thank you readers!

December is a month when all of us may have an opportunity or two to celebrate while we sit and chat and, perhaps, break bread with those who have touched our lives this past year. We will celebrate the camaraderie and memories experienced throughout 2024. Carolyn, Tom, and I (John too) hope you have fun & safe celebrations over the next several weeks and that celebrations will continue for you and yours in 2025.

Please forward any suggestions for possible articles to: newseditorlathoa@gmail.com







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If everything is coming your way,
 then your in the wrong lane.

Facilities Committee Has Been Busy Solving Court & Crosswalk Problems

By Greg Snider

Your Facilities Committee has been very busy looking at areas that need attention and finding solutions to make your facilities even better. There were two specific locations that the committee addressed and we have received Board approval to proceed.

The first major area was the repair and painting of the court areas for pickleball, tennis and basketball. All the surfaces had developed cracks and places where the surface was uneven. Several companies were researched, and the committee recommended a solution that was approved by the Board at its October 30th meeting. Work will begin within a few weeks after our attorneys approve the contract, and then the project will take four to five weeks to complete. This project will provide a better playing surface in all areas for years to come.

The second project your Facilities Committee took on was to better identify our intersections to ensure the safety of our pedestrians. Multiple companies presented proposals to repaint the crossing areas and the stop bars. Your committee made a recommendation that was approved by the Board at its October 30th meeting to move forward.

Our committee is always looking to add persons that are interested in making our facilities great. If you have a background in committee work and history of improving facilities, please send your request to be considered by the committee to Ingrid Sarmiento, our Property Manager. By volunteering, this is a very good opportunity to give back to your community.

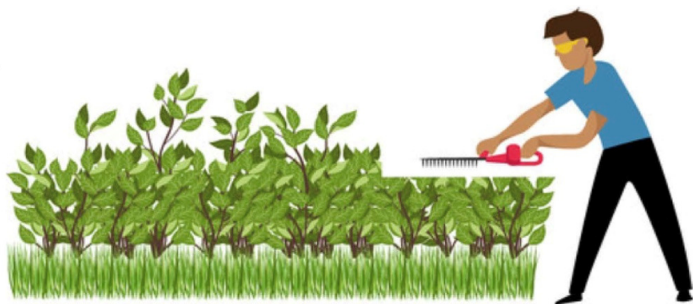
Ingrid.sarmiento@fsresidential.com



There's Still Time to Donate To Our Holiday Contractor Luncheon!

By Carolyn Snider

As of November 15th, a total of 12 percent of homeowners had donated to our annual contractor holiday luncheon. Last year at this time, 16.44 percent of homeowners had contributed. In addition, we collected \$500 more last year during the same time frame.



The good news is that there is still to show your appreciation to these hard-working individuals who keep our community safe and pristine. The deadline for donations is December 10th, however the sooner we receive your donation, the sooner we can determine how much of a cash bonus we can give this year.

Please note that this event is not only for our landscapers. We also include our mail person, security workers, irrigation and fertilizer employees and even Coco's employees. Last year, approximately 40 workers benefited from your generosity. We look forward to a successful event this year.

Thank you for stepping up! We will share the results of this year's drive in the January edition of *The Lakes Life* newsletter.



Construction Of Tradition's Heart Is Progressing!

Tradition's HEART is finally here! Massive metal pieces that make up the world's largest heart-shaped sculpture fabricated by Filipino-American artist JEFFREY have been transported to Tradition where the artist himself is leading the careful assembly and installation, which is now making steady progress.

The 7 million dollar, 73-foot tall stainless steel sculpture was completely funded by Mattamy Homes, the developer of Tradition, at no cost to taxpayers. The Heart is intended to become an iconic gathering spot, boost the local economy and solidify Tradition's identity as the "heart" of the Treasure Coast.

The "Heart in the Park" sits on a circular pedestal in a raised plaza at the intersection of Discovery Way and Village Parkway. So large, it can even be seen all the way from I-95, its stainless steel surfaces gleam, reflecting sunny blue skies. At night, LED lighting will trace its distinctive edges.

Dedication of JEFFREY's "Heart in the Park" sculpture is anticipated to be Valentine's Day 2025.



Community Events



Holiday Toy Drive Nov 29 - Dec 8

By Mollie Adams



The Lakes community will be holding its annual Holiday Toy Drive November 29th thru December 8th. 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.

Volunteers 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.



You are cordially invited to the Holiday Soiree 2024 to be held in the Lakes Clubhouse on Saturday, December 14th at 7pm. Enjoy the smooth jazz sounds of the Richmond Fabien Jazz Trio. Celebrate with a complimentary holiday toast.

Bring a dessert to share. And If you'd like, bring a \$15 grab bag gift. All Lakes residents and their guests are invited. Dress to impress! Tickets are \$5/person.

To sign up, please RSVP by contacting:
circleoffriendspsl@gmail.com

Lakes Food Drive A Big Success!

By Mollie Adams

I want to give a **Big Thank You** to Lakes residents for opening your hearts in the fight against hunger. Our Annual Food Drive for the Treasure Coast Food Bank conducted November 1st-7th, collected over 570 pounds of food which will provide 475 meals for families in need throughout the Treasure Coast this holiday season!



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.



Holiday Mah Jongg Party
Thursday December 5th
5pm to 8:30pm

A party full of fun and Mah Jongg with festive twists & turns.

Bring your favorite dish and an unwrapped toy for donation to the Community Toy Drive.

RSVP: mahjongglat@gmail.com

December 11th at 7:00pm in the Clubhouse
Doors open at 6:30pm - Cost is \$10.00

B I N G O

BYOB and your favorite snack - Age 18 and older
All Residents and their guests welcome

HOLIDAY TRIVIA NIGHT

Holiday Trivia is December 13th at 7:00pm.
Doors Open at 6:30pm. \$5.00 entry fee.
BYOB and a snack for your table.
Teams of eight.

The Lakes at Tradition HOA
Managed by: *First Service 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

Northland Block Party Was Great Fun!

By Chris Bornstein

Northland Drive had their first block party on Saturday, November 9th, at the cul-de-sac in front of the homes of Meryl Cinnamon and Akua & Mark Prout. There was a Smorgasbord of salads, fancy appetizers, and desserts made by all the residents, and a cake with a picture of Northland Drive on it. Mark and Kevin grilled hamburgers and hotdogs for everyone.

Even a little bit of rain did not dampen the parties fun. Everyone squeezed under one of the canopies until it was over. Bob provided great music. We made new friends and got to know our neighbors. We are all fortunate to live on a street where a few residents went out of their way to organize such a great event and we look forward to getting together again in the coming months.



Don't Encourage Soliciting

By Elise Ross

I was pulling out of my driveway the other day and noted a woman with a clipboard and no name tag on her blouse exiting my neighbor's walkway. Then, I saw another neighbor in their garage and stopped to say "hello." I asked this neighbor if they had seen the "clipboard lady." They had and said she asked if they had seen John and me recently. My antenna went up. By this time the "clipboard lady" had gotten in her car and was driving away.

A day or two later I saw the first neighbor and asked: "who was that woman with the clipboard leaving your house the other day?" They said she was taking a survey!

Please be cautious about sharing information with "strangers" about your neighbors and always be sure to look closely at identification if someone approaches you from "out of the blue."



Our Favorite Recipes

Carol Bailey's Tiramisu

- 1 Cup cold water
- 1 1/4 oz. can of fat-free sweetened condensed milk
- 1 3/4 oz. pkg sugar-free vanilla instant pudding mix
- 1 8 oz. block 1/3-less-fat cream cheese, softened
- 1 8 oz. tub frozen reduced-calorie whipped topping, thawed.
- 1 cup hot water
- 1/2 cup Kahlua (coffee flavored liqueur)
- 1 tbsp. instant espresso or 2 tbsp. instant coffee granules.
- 24 ladyfingers (two 3oz. Packages)
- 3 tbsp. unsweetened cocoa, divided

1. Combine cold water, condensed milk and vanilla pudding in a large bowl; stir well with a whisk. Cover with plastic wrap; chill 30 minutes or until firm.

2. Remove plastic wrap, add cream cheese. Beat with a mixer at medium speed until well-blended. Gently fold in whipped topping.

3. Combine hot water, Kahlua, and espresso. Split ladyfingers in half lengthwise. Arrange 16 ladyfinger halves, flat sides down, in a trifle bowl or large glass bowl. Drizzle with 1/2 cup Kahlua mixture.

4. Spread 1/3 of pudding mixture evenly over ladyfingers, sprinkle with 1 tbsp. cocoa. Repeat layers ending with cocoa. Cover and chill for 8 hours. Makes twelve 2/3 cup servings.



Holiday Card Exchange

By Carolyn Hammer

The Lakes at Tradition annual Holiday Greeting Card Exchange will begin on Friday, November 29th, the day after Thanksgiving. Save a stamp and address cards to your friends and neighbors here in the Lakes.

Cards can be dropped off in the Billiard Room of the Clubhouse, in the marked Holiday Card Exchange box. File the cards behind the alphabetical dividers, by last name.

Don't forget to check if there are cards there filed for you! This free card exchange will be active through December 31, 2024.



Resident Spotlight

By Carolyn Hammer

Lori Gunn

Lori Gunn was born in North Palm Beach, and grew up in the house her father had built by himself. Her father worked in construction, and her mother taught her how to save a dollar. Her father hunted, fished and had hunting dogs. He was strict with his daughters, but Lori thought her life was wonderful, and had memories of camping trips and the sense of independence her father fostered in her. Lori and her mother were life-long best friends, and her mother often covered for her when she snuck out to go dancing.

After high school, she got her Cosmetology license and began working in salons. Her life changed when she attended a Hair Show in Orlando. The hotel hosting the show was also hosting a Bomb Squad Convention. That evening, Lori met some of the Sheriff's staff, and with their encouragement, applied for a job with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department. She was hired and was soon working the night shift at the jail, booking inmates. She later transferred to the Narcotics Bureau, and while there, was offered a chance to go to the Police Academy. She accepted, and after graduation she spent 5 years on road patrol.

Lori was promoted to Detective in the Property Crime Division, which included Burglary cases, under



cover work in stolen property, prostitution, and narcotics. She loved her position, but dreamed of working in Homicide. She interviewed and got a position in the Special Victims Unit (SVU), dealing with child abuse, sexual predators, elder abuse, and deaths of children under 12. Her excellent work resulted in an award for Detective of the Year from the Victim Services Unit of the State Attorney's Office.

Lori learned from high profile cases and soon excelled. During her time in SVU, she spent five years hunting the Palm Beach serial rapist, and was able to put him behind bars for life. That earned her many accolades, including Detective of the Year. During this time, she also completed her BS degree in Criminal Justice.

In 2003, she became one of the first residents of The Lakes, and later moved her parents two houses away. Lori retired from the PBC Sheriff's Office after serving 30 years. After retirement, Lori volunteered at an animal shelter, and now volunteers for Treasure Coast Hospice in the Treasured Pet Program.

Today her mother is gone and her father is in Memory Care through Hospice. Her boyfriend of 11 years, Rino, lives next door. Together, they enjoy spending time with Maggie, their rescue goldendoodle, as well as watching football (Go Dolphins!) and listening to country music.



PSL Community Band Concert

By Tom Klein

As a kickoff to your holiday season, come join the Port St. Lucie Community Band under the direction of our own Dr. John K. Southall (Elsinore Drive) for *Holiday Joy!*, a free concert celebrating the magic and merriment of the holidays.

This holiday concert is being presented on Wednesday, December 11th at 7pm in the McAlpin Fine Arts Theatre located at the Indian River State College Massey campus, 3209 Virginia Ave. in Fort Pierce. The concert is free, but donations certainly are gratefully accepted.

For more information, phone the McAlpin box office at: (772) 462-4750.



HOLIDAY CONCERT

"Tis The Season" A Holiday Musical

Celebrate the Holiday season with a musical variety show featuring popular classic Holiday tunes and short humorous vignettes that feature the challenges and joys of the holiday season.



The Treasure Coast Community Theatre is presenting "Tis The Season," a live musical Holiday variety show on December 6th, 7th & 8th. Individual tickets are only \$26.

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

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



Lakes Veterans Honored At Luncheon

By Elise Ross

The HOA Board hosted the annual Veterans Day Luncheon at the Lakes Clubhouse on November 11th. In response to the earlier community survey, the ceremonial part of the event was brief.

Starting promptly at 11:00 o'clock, highlights included a Presentation of Colors by members of the Treasure Coast High School Air Force ROTC and an Armed Forces Salute during which the veterans and spouses of those not present stood as their song played while being applauded by those in the room. The program concluded with the traditional group photo taken at 11:11am on the 11th day of the 11th month as noted by the Mistress of Ceremonies.

Several of the veterans wore shirts and/or hats representing their branch of service and/or patriotic colors in celebration of the day. Plenty of time was allotted for mingling and conversing while everyone enjoyed an array of sandwiches, salads and, of course, cake. ROTC members were invited and accepted the invitation to sit with veterans during lunch.

The event was planned and executed by both veteran and non-veteran neighbors. Thank you to Ken Perlman (Board Liaison), Wendy & Mark McNall (Army), Chris & Bill Bornstein (Army), Marilyn Findley, Barbara & Bob Hopkins (Army), Elise Ross & John Kulaya (Marine Corps), and Lucille & Gene Wesnofske (Army).

God Bless America!



Lakes Veterans & Honor Guard



Clubs & Classes

Book Club - meets Monday, December 16th in the veranda room of the Clubhouse at 7pm. This month they're discussing: "Hotel Du Lac" by Anita Brookner. To join them, contact Lois Rosen at: loro781@aol.com

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

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

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

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

Mah Jongg - plays every Monday and Friday afternoon at 1pm and every Thursday evening at 6:30pm in the main room of the Clubhouse.

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

Senior Exercise - meets every Tuesday morning in the main room of the Clubhouse at 9am.

Yoga - meets every Wednesday morning in the main room of the Clubhouse at 10am.



Outdoor Groups

Aqua Aerobics - class every Tuesday and Thursday morning at the Resort pool at 11:30am. To join them, contact Winnie Tompkins at: wtopkins@ymail.com

Circle Of Friends Bocce - play every Monday at 4pm. Beginners are welcome. Just show up at the Bocce courts behind the Clubhouse.

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

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

Women's Bocce - play every Tuesday at 4pm at the Bocce courts behind the Clubhouse. Contact Lucille Wesnofske at: lwesnofske@yahoo.com





TRADITION EVENTS


Tradition's Annual Tree Lighting - Friday, December 6th will be a night filled with holiday magic in Tradition Square from 5-9pm! Enjoy a nostalgic tribute to the Rat Pack and classic holiday tunes, culminating in the grand lighting of Tradition's holiday tree by Mr. & Mrs. Claus. Be sure to then share your holiday wishes with Santa himself.

Breakfast In The Square - Join Tueste Coffee Friday, December 13th and 27th from 9-11am in Tradition Square and have breakfast with friends or just grab a cup before or after your morning walk.

Holiday Bazaar 2024 - Enjoy an evening of fantastic shopping from local businesses on Saturday, December 14th from 1-7pm in Tradition Square. There will be over 80 booths of local craft vendors along with a bounce house, kids zone, face painting, picture opportunities, music and food trucks.

Blood Drive with OneBlood - On Monday, December 16th in Tradition Square, sign up for an appointment to donate blood and save a life. Please open the December Events Calendar at *traditionfl.com* and click on "Blood Drive." Donors receive a \$20 eGift card.

Sensory Play With CrearKids - Bring the kiddos to Tradition Gazebo on Friday, December 20th at 11am for a fun hour where babies learn and develop new connections in their brain through Sensory play. For children 0-4 years. Sensory play supports language development as they learn to respond to different stimuli. Advance signup is required. Open the December Event Calendar at: *traditionfl.com* and click on "Sensory Play."

New Year's Eve Celebration - Looking forward to celebrating a New Year's Eve of fun in Tradition Square. Featuring good eats and great drinks along with a musical tribute to the one and only Garth Brooks. The fun begins on December 31st at 5pm, ending, of course, with fireworks at 9pm. 

Tradition Community Association
 Managed by Castle Group

 Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm
 Office Phone: (772) 345-5101
 Email: ashepherd@castlegroup.com

Birds of Florida

Brown Pelican

By Tom Klein



Brown Pelicans are year-round residents of Florida. They're well recognized regulars at beaches and especially around boat docks where they are seen hoping for fish scraps from fishermen cleaning their catch dockside.




Pelicans are strong swimmers thanks to their webbed feet. They will fly high over the water watching for schooling fish. Then, with a dramatic plunging dive into the water, they'll scoop their prey with their large pouched beak.

Sometimes they'll fish by swimming in cooperative groups forming a line, flapping their wings on the water to drive fish to the shallows where they can then easily scoop them up. Then they'll drain the water from their bill and swallow the fish whole, head first so its fins can't expand damaging their esophagus on the way down. An adult bird may eat up to 4 pounds of fish per day.

Often you'll see a Seagull sitting on the head of a Pelican. He's hoping to snatch a freshly caught fish. As soon as the Pelican slightly opens its bill to drain the scooped water out, the Seagull will then try to snatch one or two of the fish directly out of the Pelican's pouched beak.

Pelican chicks are defenseless and rely completely on parental care and protection for the first 3 to 4 weeks after hatching. They usually begin to fly at about 13 weeks. Each bird has a distinct personality. They're generally friendly birds, but experts suggest you don't touch them because of their ferocity when alarmed.



Pelicans can sleep while flying, although it's only in short bursts and typically with only one-half of their brain resting at a time. On land, Pelicans usually sleep on their feet in a standing position with their beak tilted off to the side resting on the ground. 

Thought For The Day It's not what's under the Christmas tree, it's who's around it that matters. - Charlie Brown

Answer To Kim's Word Puzzle:

H A V E Y O U R S E L F A M E R R Y L I T T L E C H R I S T M A S

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day



Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day is December 7th and commemorates the Japanese attack on the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in 1941. More than 2,400 navy personnel and civilians died that day.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt called it "a date which will live in infamy" and declared war on Japan. Japan's allies (Germany and Italy) then declared war against the United States and World War II began. In remembrance, all American flags should be lowered to half staff from sunrise to sunset that day.



Calendar grid for December 2024 with activities listed by day. Includes Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day on Dec 7th and New Year's Eve on Dec 31st.