

Silverlakes at Gateway HOA Board of Directors

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Homeowners to vote on mailbox replacement in 2021

From the HOA President:

There was a fairly large turnout for the Silverlakes HOA board's meeting on Aug. 19, the first regular meeting since the summer began. On the forefront of many people's minds were the association's finances.

The treasurer, Marcus Albrecht, reported good news — that the association is operating below budget.

Silverlakes' 329 homeowners will be asked to vote next year on whether to replace all the community's mailboxes with metal posts and boxes at a cost of \$300 or \$400 per home, depending on the style selected. Homeowners also can choose to retain the existing mailboxes.

The Vendor Oversight Committee is recommending the replacement of the current mailboxes, which have been in place since the community was constructed. The proposed replacement of mailboxes has been suggested — and defeated — a number of times in the past.

Some time in February, examples of both proposed styles of metal mailbox posts and boxes will be on display at the entrance to the clubhouse, right next to the existing community standard wooden posts and metal boxes.

A questionnaire will be included in the March mailings concerning the annual membership meeting. Each owner will have an opportunity to vote on the style they prefer. There also will be an option **not**



to have the current mailboxes replaced. A community-wide installation of the new metal mailboxes would require a special assessment of each homeowner.

Currently, homeowners whose mailboxes and/or posts do not meet community standards (i.e., rotting posts, dirty or defective mailboxes, etc.) are required make the repairs on their own. The 4-by-4 pressure-treated posts and metal mailboxes are available at most home improvement stores for less than \$100.

The former board of Gateway Greens, another community in Gateway, required each homeowner to install board-selected mailboxes and posts at the homeowners' cost without giving homeowners any say in the process. Silverlakes' board does not intend to do that.

Quite a few Villa owners were in attendance who were anxious to learn about the reroofing of the final three Villa buildings and the accompanying special assessment to finance completion of the reroofing project.

Members of the Vendor Oversight Committee interviewed no less than seven different roofing companies and recommended Ad-Ler Roofing for the job, with the special assessment turning out to be several thousand dollars less than originally thought in February — good news for the 14 Villa owners.

A 2021 budget workshop was held at the clubhouse the next morning, with board members reviewing each item in the proposed budget.

Quarterly assessments for single-family homes are expected to stay pretty much the same as now, but quarterly assessments for the Villas may be reduced by as much as \$500 per quarter. As in past years, those figures could change as the budget is tweaked in the following months until board approval in November

Board secretary Jim Wisniewski has been busy on a resident committee for Gateway Services Community Development District revising standards for storm water retention ponds (lakes) in Gateway. Lakefront property owners now have a choice of whether they want to keep the littorals (weeds) that border their properties or have them removed. If a lakefront owner wants to keep the weeds bordering their property, they need to take no action. If they want them removed, please read the message below from our board secretary:

On July 16, 2020, the GSCDD Board of Supervisors ("Board") adopted new pond maintenance policies and standards that were developed and recommended by a resident committee appointed by the board late last year. Silverlakes board secretary Jim Wisniewski is a member of that committee and also presented the new standards to the board (along with Flavia Walsh of Magnolia Lakes) and responded to questions at the GSCDD workshop and public hearing concerning this matter. One of the provisions of the new standards is to abide by the development orders issued by Lee County and the environmental permits issued by South Florida Water Management District when the ponds were built with regards to littorals and vegetation along the pond banks. Where no littoral planted shelf is indicated as a requirement in the development order, property owners can request that any vegetation behind only their property be removed up to twice per calendar year. None of the Silverlakes ponds have planted littoral shelves indicated on their development orders. Residents can request removal by contacting GSCDD by email and stating their address, community, and pond number where their property is located (85 for the north pond, 88 for the central pond, 89 for the south pond, and 90 for the pond between the Silverlakes villas and the church.) To streamline the process, Jim Wisniewski has agreed to coordinate requests from Silverlakes property owners with GSCDD. He can be reached by email at jimwisniewski2@comcast.net. Please direct any questions to Jim.

Some time ago, the east sidewalk around the big tree in Lakeland Park, the park on Lakeland Circle's southeast corner by the Villas, was buckling up. I had that side of the circle removed and landscaped. Now the other side of the circle sidewalk is doing the same, along with the first section of sidewalk, so that has to be removed and landscaped as well. That work will be done soon. Our thanks to the Green Thumb portion of the VOC for bringing this to our attention.

The VOC also is looking at our streetlights. Some time ago, a representative from FPL gave a presentation on different streetlights that could be used to replace our existing streetlights. The thought at that time was to have the trees around the streetlights trimmed in order to avoid the high cost of replacing most, if not all, the streetlights.

That action helped some, but the VOC believes new streetlights at some intersections would provide more visibility. Another meeting with FPL will be held to evaluate the cost.

Once again, I want to thank ALL committee and board members for all they do for Silverlakes.



Water Aerobics:

Since July 2, some Silverlakes residents have been escaping “confinement” and getting healthier by participating in Water Aerobics at the Silverlakes Community Pool.

There are two classes, both led by Carol Ann and Gary Brown. One group meets from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Mondays, and the other from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Thursdays. If there is enough interest, a Wednesday class will be added.

If you are interested in Water Aerobics, email Ana Amaral at ama6258@gmail.com

Our thanks to Carol Ann and Gary for running the classes.

Social Committee:

Resident Ana P. Farrell recently met with some residents who were having difficulty getting onto the HOA Web site. If you were unable to attend but need assistance, please contact Scarlett Milano at scarlett.milano@alliantproperty.com

More than 20 people attended the Bingo Nights on July 18 and Aug 20, with the next scheduled for Sept. 19. In order to keep the numbers small, only people who RSVP by Sept. 18 will be allowed to play. Masks are encouraged. Our thanks to Joe and Cheryl Connors for running Bingo Nights.

We would like to know if there is interest in holding a FREE Children's Bingo. Please email Ana at ana6258@gmail.com if your children would like to participate

The Social Committee provided 12 children with a bag of crafting items that included drawing, construction and scrap-booking paper; glue sticks; crayons or colored pencils; scissors or notebooks; and a two-pocket folder.

Along with the book exchange in the clubhouse, there are some puzzles to share. Please take a puzzle and leave a puzzle. Donations of **complete** puzzles for adults and children are appreciated. Thank you!

Upcoming events:

Sept. 19: Bingo, 7 p.m. at the clubhouse. Call Agnes at (239) 561-9661 to pre-register no later than the day before.

Oct. 17: Bingo, 7 p.m. at the clubhouse. Call Agnes at (239) 561-9661 to pre-register no later than the day before.

Nov 7: Garage Sale, 8 a.m. to noon

Sunshine Committee:

The Sunshine Committee sends greeting cards to Silverlakes residents who are recovering from an illness or surgery, celebrating the addition of a child to the family or mourning the loss of a loved one. If you know someone who could use a card, call Sue Beard at (239) 284-3936 or email her at shadden@comcast.net Sue will need the name AND address of the recipient.

In Memoriam:

Our thoughts and prayers go out to three Silverlakes residents on the loss of loved ones this summer.

Clint Doney of Lakeland Circle lost his wife Pat on June 29. In addition to her husband, Pat is survived by a son, John-Paul Doney, two sisters, a brother and one grandchild. Pat taught in the Syracuse City School District until her retirement in 2006, having served 34 years with the district. The Doney's moved to Florida after Pat earned her doctorate in science education from the University of Georgia.

Gene Damm of Lakeland Circle lost his wife Mary on July 27. In addition to Gene, Mary is survived by three daughters, Mary Morris, Erin Viglione and Kathleen Officer; seven grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. The Damms had an avid interest in competitive swimming, and Mary went from being a parent volunteer to coaching on many levels, including college. A life-long learner, she earned her bachelor's degree in English at the age of 57. The Damms moved to Silverlakes in 2019

Michael Biel of Lakeland Circle passed away suddenly on Aug. 15 at the age of 63. A resident of Silverlakes since its inception, he was an early member of the HOA board. Mike is survived by his wife Chris; his mother, Patricia Biel; four children, Patrick Biel, Danielle McKenna, Samuel Biel and Noah Biel; four grandchildren and two on the way; and three sisters.

We send our condolences to all three families.