

Silverlakes at Gateway HOA Board of Directors

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From the HOA President:

Our May 18 board meeting went much better than the one in April after I explained at the beginning that Roberts Rules Of Order would be followed closer than in the past. After much discussion, the updated Community Standards were adopted after being explained by the Architectural Control Committee and the board. They can be found on the public side of our website [Silverlakes-gateway-hoa.com](http://silverlakes-gateway-hoa.com) under the tab HOA documents, second item, Recorded Amended and Restated Rules Community Standards.

The issue of fences drew the most comments. In 2012, some 10 years ago, the Silverlakes fence setback rules in the Community Standards were repealed by that board at the strong urging of the community and the ACC. Therefore, the Florida Statutes Section 720.3035(3) mandates that the county codes be followed. In a nutshell, they limit the height of fences to 6 feet and installation no closer to the adjoining property than the property line. This means you can have a fence that's lower than 6 feet if you desire, and it can be any distance up to the property line but not any farther.

Lee County Land Development Code Section 34–1742 to 1744 describes these items. There was a resident in attendance who recently had a fence installed and the fence company would not install it on the property line; instead, they put it 16 inches in from the property line.

The issue of mailboxes drew a lot of comments as well. Although requirements for mailboxes were not changed, the material and sizes are explained in greater detail in the updated standards.

The board strongly urges residents to follow the United States Postal Service Standards for positioning your mailbox 41 to 45 inches from the road surface to the bottom of the mailbox or point of mail entry.

The arched top mailbox has to be positioned directly on the horizontal part of the post. There is no provision for the addition of spacers of any kind to bring the mailbox that distance from the road surface. Therefore, if your mailbox is not in accordance with these standards, it should be raised to meet these dimensions.

The contractor who built our house did not install the mailbox post correctly. When I tried to raise mine, the post broke off, so I had to install a new one. These are available in the correct style at the home improvement centers in our area for less than \$100.

The other item brought up was the widening of driveways, which is explained in the revised Community Standards. They should be self-explanatory. Look for them on our website with the date of 05/18/2022.

We have been accused of looking the other way when it comes to various violations of the community standards. If anyone's property is in violation of any of our standards, they will be reminded of such and given the opportunity to bring them into alignment.

As we all did when we purchased our properties, we agreed by signature to abide by them. There are only a few in our community who are not following those words, and the other 320-plus residents are making sure those violations are brought to the attention of the board.

A couple of our fountains and their control boxes are malfunctioning. The Vendor Oversight Committee, along with the board, is looking into getting those repaired. Also being looked at are the street gutter repairs which will require replacing some gutters along our properties and driveways.

In addition, an ad hoc committee is looking into improving acoustics in our clubhouse.

More info is to come on all these projects.

As always, I thank our board and committee members for all they do for our community. Without all these volunteers, our place would not look as good as it does.

Upcoming Social Committee Events:

June 13: Book Club, 2 p.m. "Betrayed" by Lisa Scottoline. RSVP Marilyn at (239) 671-6929. **June 18:** Bingo, 7 p.m. \$5 for three cards with additional cards available. RSVP Agnes at (239) 561-9661 no later than the day before.

Free Coffee Hour: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8:30 a.m.

Hand and Foot (card game): Monday nights at 7 / **Euchre** (card game): Tuesday nights at 7
Mahjongg (game): Wednesdays at 1 p.m. / **Game Night:** Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Sunshine Committee:

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