

Silverlakes at Gateway
HOA Board of Directors

President:

Lauren 'Bird' Siegel

Vice President:

Joe Conners

Secretary:

Jim Wisniewski

Treasurer:

Catherine LeGendre

Legal Liaison:

Claude Marku



President's Report

The Sept. 21 treasurer's report showed our finances operating under budget again, which is very good news indeed. There also was a good explanation by our treasurer and secretary about how the community's reserves are managed.

I've always been told that we have pooled reserves, which to me meant we could use whatever monies are in the reserves for any large projects that need to be done. That is not the case.

Way back when the reserves were developed, they contained line items. At a later date, the majority of the residents authorized the board to make the reserves pooled reserves, but the line items stayed in place. From what I gathered from the explanation, funds could be used for whatever was needed, but they needed to be replaced or something like that. I'm not a financial person, and they explained it a lot better but they lost me in it. The bottom line is that we are in good financial shape. We have big expenses coming up in the years to come, so we must be careful and frugal when it comes to spending our reserves.

We also had a presentation from the Vendor Oversight Committee and an ad hoc committee studying ways to improve acoustics in the main room of our clubhouse. I have always said that if we are going to make changes in the main room, we should have the room painted first. The committees, along with the social committee, have decided on three different options for colors in the interior. They also were able to find a painter to refurbish the exterior painting around the sidewalks and steps.

There will be painted examples of the different color combinations in the clubhouse. Residents will be given several times a week to vote on which color combinations they prefer. This will be very similar to the way the roof tile and exterior paint on the clubhouse was decided. Look for that information in the near future.

Jim Wisniewski, our secretary, said sound-absorbing carpeting would greatly improve acoustics in the room. The carpeting in our main room has been there for 10-plus years and has been cleaned twice a year to keep it in as good of a shape as it is. I was surprised that the carpeting would help that much with acoustics. There also are other items discussed that need more information gathered, and that is in the works by the VOC and the ad hoc committee. I thank both committees, as well as the social committee, for all the work they've done.

Most people have seen the work done in certain areas to repair the gutters so water does not pool in them when it rains. The worst offenders have been addressed, not only on Lakeland Circle but on cul-de-sacs, too. That work should be finished by the end of the week and all this construction equipment will be out of here.

By the time most of you read this, the wall along Griffin should have been trimmed and from what I've seen so far, it's looking good. The next trimming will be on tree branches that overhang our roadways. According to the National Fire Code, limbs should overhang no more than 13 feet, 6 inches from the road. The large trash trucks that service our community are 14 feet, 3 inches high. I think most of these trees will be trimmed to 15 feet from the roads. I have asked that whenever there's going to be a tree trimming done on a resident's property they be notified so they can be present if they want.

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

Be sure to sign up for Pasta Night

The Silverlakes Social Committee will hold the annual Pasta Night at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 8, in the clubhouse. The dinner, which will be catered by Gateway's own Saucy Meatball, will cost \$15 per person or \$7 for children under the age of 12.

To attend, interested people must sign up and pre-pay no later than Oct. 4. You can pre-pay Pat Macchia, 11283 Lakeland Circle, or call her for more information at (239) 600-7901.

The menu:

Sausage-stuffed mushrooms for the appetizer; house salad, Pasta Bolognese and garlic knots for the main course and mini-cannolis and cream puffs for dessert. Water and soda will be provided, and those who attend are invited to BYOB.

Guest speaker coming soon

Gene Damm, a former Silverlakes homeowner who recently moved to Discovery Village, will be the guest speaker at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5, in the clubhouse.

Mr. Damm will speak about his dynamic book, "In The Eyes of an Alzheimer's Patient." The free talk is sponsored by the Silverlakes Social Committee.

The book relates the journey Gene and his late wife, Mary, took through a wonderful life, only to have that life "crumbled by the demon of Alzheimer's."

Those who want to read the book before the event will find it available for purchase on line. Books will not be available on the night of Gene's talk, but he will be happy to autograph any copies brought to the engagement.

All proceeds from the sale of the book go to the Alzheimer's Association.

Upcoming Social Committee events:

Oct. 5: Gene Damm to discuss his book, "In the Eyes of an Alzheimer's Patient," 7 p.m.

Oct. 8: Pasta Night, 6:30 p.m. \$15 for adults and \$7 for children under 12. Must pre-pay no later than Oct. 4.

Oct. 10: Book Club, 2 p.m. "Someone Must Die Tonight" by Jim Greenhill. The book recounts a series of crimes committed by a teen gang in 1996 that culminated in the murder of a music teacher at River Hall High School. Call Marilyn at (239) 671-6929. All are welcome.

Oct. 22: 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.

Other games will resume Tuesdays and Thursdays when part-time residents return.