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From the HOA President:

We had an attendance of about 30 people, a little more than normal, at our second meeting of the year on Feb. 15.

Our finances are still in a comfortable area, although we were a bit over on maintenance and repairs. That was due, in part, to the need to have some tree branches over our streets cut to comply with the National Fire Code.

In addition, we are almost always over budget on utilities, mainly electric usage. We were expecting a decrease in our electric usage with the gates not functioning. However, for the last month or so with the gates not operating, we were still over budget.

That would lead us all to believe the waterfalls and accompanying circulation pumps are causing the overage, since four motors are operating 24/7. In an effort to save some funds, we are going to turn the pumps off during the night. When the pumps go off and when they come back on will be a trial and error process until we find the times we're comfortable with. Hopefully, that will reduce our electric bill significantly.

Speaking of the gates, everyone may have noticed that we have new motor mounts. They are Lift Masters installed on the exit and entrance gates by our new gate contractor, Key Security. They're not functioning yet for two reasons.

One is the lake bank restoration project that should be done by the end of March. As long as the trucks are going in and out, we decided to leave the gates open.

Another reason is that we do not have the database for activating stickers/proxy cards and for setting up the call box with our new vendor, Key Security. Once we get that database back up and running, the gates will be fully functional again.

After the bank restoration project has been completed, the staging area will be removed and the entire area restored to how it looked before. That also means that all those little “roads” that have been used over people’s property to get the materials to the right areas will be removed and restored to the same or better condition than before crews started. All that should be done, I would assume, by the end of March.

As I mentioned about the database, emails have been sent to everyone requesting information to be sure your contact information is up-to-date. You should have already given that information to Jane Grethey. The sooner that is completed, the sooner the entire system can be back working again as normal.

For those people who have not responded, I venture to guess that once they can’t get into the clubhouse or their windshield stickers won’t work, they’ll be asking why. So I have to emphasize that you make sure you get your information to Jane as soon as you can.

Speaking of our lakes, properly termed “storm water retention ponds,” the North Lake fountain is positioned in such a way that when we have strong winds out of the east, water mist from its spray enters about half a dozen people’s lanai/pool areas. The Vendor Oversight Committee is looking into the possibility of moving the fountain a little bit farther to the south to eliminate the problem.

A good friend of one of our residents is an acoustical engineer who has studied the interior of our clubhouse. In his final report, he is expected to recommend we spray an acoustical material on the ceiling.

That project, which will be discussed at an upcoming board meeting, would delay the painting of the clubhouse’s main room, since it makes sense to tackle the ceiling project first. After the walls have painted, we can possibly look at acoustical carpeting in the future.

A few users of the gym have complained about the conditions of the two floor fans in the gym. Those two fans are commercial grade fans, all metal construction, USA made. Being commercial grade and all metal, they are quite heavy, and they’ve each got a handle on the top so they can be moved around.

The only problem with those fans is that the enclosure around the motor and switch arrangement on the back is nothing more than plastic. Whenever they are moved and happen to come in contact with something stationary, those plastic covers are the first thing to go. They are busted loose from the screws that secure them.

I have tried for a couple of years to try and find replacement covers for them, but to no avail. Therefore, I have talked with the exercise committee chairman about installing a couple 14-inch fans on the wall or ceiling in such a manner to create a whirlpool effect of circulating air in the room. I am going to work with our contracted electrician to have those fans installed. I would like to have them work off the motion detector. Now, when someone comes in the room, the lights come on, and I’d like the same thing to happen with the fans.

When no one is in the room, the fans would go off when the lights go off. There will still be a 20-inch floor fan if someone wants direct air blowing on them in the future. It may take a few weeks to have those installed and functioning properly, so please bear with me. I am working on it.

Our next board meeting is not until April, the third Wednesday of the month.

March will be our annual membership meeting, which will also be an election. Everyone should have received a packet for your proxy votes in the mail from Compass Rose, along with an agenda and some questions to answer. It is very important that every resident fills out the proxy and sends it back in so we have a quorum. Without a quorum, we can’t have the meeting and the election.

Of our 329 homeowners, we need 30 percent responses, which is about 99 responses. So please send in your proxy votes/election votes as soon as you can.

There are two positions open on the board and one of our board members, Jim Wisniewski, has decided not to seek another three-year term. Three people have expressed an interest in filling the

two seats. Catherine LeGendre, who was appointed to the board to fill a vacancy last year, is seeking election, as are Manoj Sam and Dr. Steven Cohen.

Last year and this year, two longtime members of our board have left: Marcus Albrecht, who was our longtime treasurer, left the board last year, and Jim, our secretary, is not seeking another term.

Both of these board members volunteered hours and hours of extra work to help this community. I have personally thanked both of them, but I wanted to put it out there again so everybody who receives these newsletters knows how much they have contributed. They put in thousands of hours of their time to help our community. If you happen to see Marcus or Jim around, please thank them for their contributions.

During the changeover from our former security contractor, who took care of our proxy cards, windshield stickers and gate maintenance, to our present contractor, Key Security, we experienced some problems with our camera system, mainly due to Hurricane Ian.

We have several people in our community who have the technological savvy to help determine which items we needed to have repaired and/or replaced. Towards that end, I asked for volunteers to be on an IT (Information Technologies) contact list.

I have three volunteers who have said they would be willing to help us if needed in the future to determine what needs to be replaced and how to repair it. These are phone contacts only, not a regular month-to-month committee.

If there are more people in our community with an IT background who would like to help out if needed, please give any board member or myself an email stating who you are and what your contact information is. It would be very much appreciated. It would probably save us a whole bunch of money to make sure we get the right stuff at the right time.

To those volunteers, thank you very much for your help in the past and in the future.

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.

Calendar of events

March 4: Breakfast, 8:30 to 10 a.m. \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. RSVP to Agnes at 561-9661

March 13: Book Club, 2 p.m., "This Time Tomorrow" by Emma Straub

March 18: Bingo, 7 p.m. \$5 for three cards with extra cards available. RSVP to Agnes at 561-9661 by March 15.

March 21: Mind Boggling Brain Games 1 p.m. Call Donna at (239) 470-3288, rsvp by 3/19

March 25: Casino Night, 7 p.m.

March 26: Ice Cream Social, free, 2 p.m.

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

Game Night: Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Want to play Bocce?

A number of Silverlakes guys play bocce ball from 8:30 to 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the new courts near the Gateway Soccer Complex. They invite both men and women to join them or to form a group of your own and get some fun exercise.

In memoriam:

Our thoughts go out to those who have lost loved ones in February:

- Bill and Janice Litz, whose mother, Doris, passed away on Feb. 1.
- Darlene “Dee” Reynolds, whose mother, long-time Silverlakes resident Elaine Reynolds, passed away Feb. 6 in hospice.
- Patricia DeFreitas of North Lindenhurst, N.Y., whose mother, former Silverlakes resident Ann McCullough, died Feb. 6 in Lindenhurst.

Sunshine Committee:

The Sunshine Committee sends cards to residents who are ill, have lost a loved one or have welcomed a new child. If you know someone who could use a card, notify Sue Beard at (239) 284-3936 or shadden@comcast.net.

Sue will need the name AND address of the person to whom to send the card.