

Silverlakes at Gateway  
HOA Board of Directors

**President:**

Lauren 'Bird' Siegel

**Vice President:**

Joe Connors

**Secretary:**

Manoj Sam

**Treasurer:**

Catherine LeGendre

**Legal Liaison:**

Claude Marku



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## **From the HOA President**

At Silverlakes' first meeting of the newly reorganized board on April 19, we welcomed our new secretary, Manoj Sam. Sam's extensive computer and internet knowledge will help your HOA board to serve our community quite well.

Since everyone likes to know how our finances are doing, I'm pleased that our treasurer, Catherine LeGendre, has reported that we are under our budgeted spending by \$343, so we're very close to what we're supposed to be spending.

The finance committee has welcomed a new member, Ana Farrell. It's nice to see more of our community's residents volunteering to help. Welcome, Ana.

The finance committee asked if it's possible to discontinue the use of the payment books for our quarterly maintenance fees. I have always encouraged the direct withdrawal (ACH) of the quarterly assessments from a person's banking account. That way, we're never delinquent. (We do have one going to collection right now for delinquency.) As it turns out, of our 329 homeowners, we have 61 who have direct withdrawal and 268 who still pay by check, so I guess that answers that question.

Four pumps operate our waterfalls: two for circulating the water in the ponds and two for operating the waterfalls. In an effort to save on utility costs, the Vendor Oversight Committee has turned off the circulating pumps for our entrance and exit waterfall ponds during the wee hours of the morning. This has saved us approximately \$50 over one month, or about 8 percent. Anybody notice any difference in the waterfalls? I certainly have not.

Speaking of our entrance and exits, by the time you get this newsletter, our gates should be functioning as they did before. All your existing windshield stickers, i.e. the RFID stickers, should work as before. I know that our new security company has worked through many obstacles to get our gates

operating again. Some may have noticed that the pavers in front of the gatehouse were dug up to replace a crushed underground conduit.

I'm sure you all have noticed that the staging area for all the stones that were placed around our ponds has been removed and the sod and irrigation pipes have been reinstalled. Our Green Thumb volunteers on our Vendor Oversight Committee are working with Mettauer Environmental, the company that is doing the Lake Bank Restoration Project, to replace the bushes and trees that were taken out to establish the staging area.

Speaking of all the new rocks placed around our north and middle ponds, some may like the way they look. I'm sure those who had their pond banks eroded away to the point where their irrigation piping and sprinkler heads were suspended over the water like the improvement. Others may not like the fact that their littorals (plants) are now gone or farther away from their shoreline. (If you wish to have the grasses removed, there is a process specified to reach out to GSCDD. Email your request using the format. It is located in the website, in HOA Documents, For Your Information section.)

Some like seeing the little ducklings swimming up to them whenever they approached the shoreline. It couldn't be that they were feeding them, could it? That would make them good food for the alligators that have been seen in our ponds. Most recently, an alligator was seen (I've seen the video) near the bank around the clubhouse common area. It may have been attracted to the kids who have been seen playing/wading in the water up to their ankles or more.

That reminds me of the young boy who lost his arm to an alligator a few years ago and the little boy wading in a lake while his parents watched him being dragged into deeper water by an alligator.

Both of these could very well happen in our community. These are wild animals searching and finding a food source, just like the water bird that was seen being lifted up out of the water in the jaws of an alligator in our middle lake a few years ago. I've also seen people's garage doors open a little bit to allow their pets to run free and, perhaps, to become part of the food chain.

With all the building going on around us, the wildlife is being pushed out of its habitat, bringing them closer to our homes. I would not want to experience the heartbreak if such instances occurred here in Silverlakes. Please keep your kids and pets out of the wildlife food chain.

Our gym has a new addition. On April 20, the right elliptical machine in our gym was replaced because the previous one developed rust problems. I'm sure there will be some getting used to a slightly different operating procedure as far as the display goes.

At long last, the board has received our clubhouse acoustics report, and our Ad Hoc Committee is researching to find the proper vendors to implement some of those suggestions. I would like to thank our residents for getting their friend, who is an independent acoustic engineer, to do the study of our clubhouse main room acoustics. This study was done at no cost to our community. The board's thanks has been communicated to him by our new secretary. My thanks to all.

In the meantime, the interior of the clubhouse main room, along with the walkway and steps on the outside of the building, are going to be painted. All this will happen within the next few weeks.

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

## **Calendar of Event**

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**Book Club** May 8, 2pm " Lincoln Highway" by Amor Towles

**Bingo** May 20: 7pm \$5 for 3 cards, with extra cards available for \$2 each. Call Agnes at 239-561-9661 by May 18<sup>th</sup>

**Free Coffee Hour:** Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays at 8:30am

**Hand and Foot** (card game): Monday nights at 7

**Euchre** (card game): Tuesday nights at 7

**Game Night:** Thursdays at 7 p.m.

**Mahjogg:** Fridays at 9:45 a.m. (for experienced players)

## In memoriam

Our thoughts go out to Claude Marku, an HOA board member, on the death of his wife Elaina on April 7 in Garden City, N.Y.

We also sent our condolences to the family of Earl Irwin, a resident of the Villas who passed away on March 22.

## Sunshine Committee

The Sunshine Committee sends cards to residents who are ill or recovering from surgery, who 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](mailto:shadden@comcast.net)

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



**These children participated in the social committee's Easter egg hunt held April 8 on the grounds surrounding the Silverlakes Clubhouse and took home lots of prizes. Of course, the Easter Bunny was on hand for photographs.**