



Issue : Feb- Mar 2024

# SILVERLAKES

  
*at Gateway*

[silverlakes-gateway-hoa.com](http://silverlakes-gateway-hoa.com)

13035 Lakehurst Ct,  
Fort Myers, FL 33913

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### Board of Directors

**Joe Conners** - President

**Ray Beard** – Vice President

**Manoj Sam** – Secretary

**Catherine LeGendre** – Treasurer

**Claude Marku** - Legal Liaison

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**Sue Beard**- Editorial Coordinator

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**Free Coffee Hour – 8:30 a.m.**

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays

**Hand And Foot** (Card Game)

Monday Nights @ 7:00 p.m.

**Euchre** (Card Game):

Tuesday Nights @ 7:00 p.m.

**Game Night:**

Thursdays @ 7:00 p.m.

**Mahjongg:**

Fridays @ 9:45 a.m.

(For Experienced Players Only)

## Message From the HOA Board

Dear Silverlakes Residents,

As we step into the new year, it brings us great pleasure to extend warm greetings on behalf of the Homeowners Association Board. The first quarter of 2024 promises to be a period of exciting developments and community initiatives. We have embarked on various projects aimed at enhancing the overall quality of life within our community, including landscaping improvements, security upgrades, and social events that will foster a sense of unity among neighbors.

Your active participation and support are crucial to the success of these endeavors, and we encourage you to stay informed through our regular communication channels.

We invite you to attend our upcoming community meetings where we will share detailed updates, address concerns, and collaboratively shape the future of our wonderful neighborhood.

Let us work together to make this year one of prosperity, harmony, and shared accomplishments.



Join us for complementary coffee and engaging conversations every

**Monday, Wednesday, and Friday**  
from **8:30 to 9:30 a.m.** @ the  
Silverlakes Clubhouse,  
courtesy of our dedicated  
volunteers.

*We welcome your company!*



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.

# Meet The Neighbors

## A Spotlight on Community Connections

George and Kathy Grall combine their mutual lifelong love of nature and George's skills as a National Geographic photographer to educate millions, including readers of countless magazines and newspapers.

The Gralls shared some of the local photos they've taken with a crowd that filled the Silverlakes clubhouse on Jan. 26, and are hoping to do more presentations in Lee County and beyond.



George and Kathy Grall



The couple, who moved to Florida from Baltimore 10 years ago, head out to remote areas every morning to find and photograph wildlife. In Lee County alone, George has photographed such birds as eagles, kites, spoonbills, limpkins, warblers, meadow larks, glossy ibis, pelicans and storks, as well as invasive animals like veiled chameleons, African Agama lizards and huge Cuban anoles. He's still on the lookout for the elusive python, a predator that has decimated the Everglades, but he was lucky enough to spot a mother panther and her cubs not far from Gateway.

A love of nature came early for both of them. George, who admits he's "been into snakes" since he was 3 years old, often brought them home, and he and his mother enjoyed turtles so much they created a habitat for them in their backyard. A self-taught photographer, he traded his first Brownie camera for a 35-mm when he was 16. He has continued to add to his equipment, which includes macro lenses to capture the tiniest of insects and underwater cameras to photograph the creatures of the sea.





While working full-time at the National Aquarium in Baltimore as a full-time staff photographer, he regularly submitted photos to a variety of magazines and was rewarded in July 1992 with a 25-page spread in National Geographic featuring the ecosystem thriving on a wharf piling in the Chesapeake Bay. Since then, his work has appeared six more times in the National Geographic, one of the most respected national magazines. His topics included Cuatro Cienegas: Mexico's Desert Wetlands, snapping turtles, the life of sea horses, vernal rain pools, frogs and West Coast tide pools.

Kathy, a graphic designer who worked for the federal government at the Social Security Administration for 43 years before retiring, has always loved insects and lizards. Apparently, they love her, too. "I call her the lizard whisperer," George says, noting it's not uncommon to find her covered with little creatures who apparently are drawn to her voice and her movements.



The two met when Kathy became a volunteer at the National Aquarium where George worked, and the pair have been married for 35 years. It's a great combination. Kathy, who retired as head of the SSA's graphics department, uses those skills to organize the 5 million wildlife images in his portfolio and create all the presentations, which take months to put together.

Since moving to Florida, they've gone on photo excursions all over the state, and George's work for National Geographic magazine has taken him all over the world.

Along the way, he enjoyed what he calls his "15 minutes of fame." His spread on Cuatro Cienegas drew such attention that the president of Mexico set aside 84,347 hectares (325 square miles) of land as a federally protected biological preserve. George's photographic images remain on display today in a special exhibit open to the public.



# A Valentine Wish

“This is my wish for you:  
Comfort on difficult days,  
smiles when sadness intrudes,  
rainbows to follow the clouds,  
laughter to kiss your lips,  
sunsets to warm your heart,  
hugs when spirits sag,  
beauty for your eyes to see,  
friendships to brighten your being,  
faith so that you can believe,  
confidence for when you doubt,  
courage to know yourself,  
patience to accept the truth,  
Love to complete your life.”

-Ralph Waldo Emerson  
(1803-1882)

Three myths about St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland for whom March 17, St. Patrick's Day is named:

- 1) He wasn't exactly Irish. He actually was born in Britain to a Romanian family and didn't set foot in Ireland until he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland when he was 16 years old.
- 2) His birth name was, in fact, Maewyn Succat. Patrick is the name he took when he was ordained.
- 3) The color he wore was not green, but blue. Much of Ireland's landscape is made up of beautiful shades of green, not to mention the color of the Irish symbol, a shamrock, is green, and there is green in Ireland's flag.

There's a superstition that if you don't wear green on St. Patrick's Day, you'll get pinched by a leprechaun!

## In Memoriam

Joann Tucky, 87, one of the original owners in Silverlakes, passed away Saturday evening, Feb. 3, in Lee County Hospital. She is survived by a daughter, Laurie Powell of Colorado, a son, Mark Magnusson of Illinois; three granddaughters; one grandson; and one great-grandson.

Our sympathy goes out to her family and to her many close friends and neighbors in Silverlakes.



## Mark Your Calendar for Our Upcoming Meeting

Please mark the date, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, on your calendars for our next board meeting. Your attendance and suggestions at this meeting are encouraged. We sincerely appreciate your continuous support, engagement, and unwavering dedication to making our neighborhood an exceptional place to call home.

2024



# Upcoming Events

Feb. 10: Silverlakes Garage Sale,  
8 a.m. to noon,  
with a preview from 4 to 7 p.m.  
the day before for residents only.



The fee is \$5 per household to cover gate security.

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Feb. 12: Book Club, 1 p.m.  
"The Housemaid" by Freida McFadden

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Feb. 13: Mind-Boggling Brain Games, 1 p.m.

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Feb. 17: Bingo, 7 p.m.,  
\$5 for three cards and  
extra cards available for \$2 each

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Feb. 24: Brazilian Carnival,  
6:30 p.m.

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March 2: Breakfast, 8:30 to 10 a.m.

\$5 for adults and \$3 for children

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March 11: Book Club, 1 p.m.

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March 12: Mind-Boggling Brain Games,  
1 p.m.

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March 16: Bingo, 7 p.m.,  
\$5 for three cards and  
extra cards available for \$2 each

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March 23: Casino Night, 7 p.m.

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March 24: Free Ice Cream Social,  
3 p.m.,

Meet and Greet for new and current neighbors

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March 30: Easter Egg Hunt,  
10 a.m.

