



Silverlakes News

From the HOA President:

In keeping with the Silverlakes-Gateway HOA Board of Directors' commitment to open and honest communication with the membership, I offer the following comments on the March 18, 2015 annual membership meeting.

Our annual membership meeting had a quorum, with 106 members present, either in person or by proxy.

The minutes from the 2014 annual membership meeting were read aloud by our parting board member, Richard Lindquist.

The report of the president to the membership had been sent out with the second notice of the annual membership meeting. One correction was approved regarding the replacement schedule for the lake fountains.

The next fountain to be replaced will be installed in 2015 and the last two in 2016.

The treasurer's annual report was read aloud by our treasurer, Markus Albrecht. The report showed our full year spending was over budget by 1.1 percent, which is considered a good performance. The main reasons for the excess spending was the higher cost for utilities and the maintenance cost for our entry gate and security system.

At the end of 2014, our delinquent accounts had been reduced by \$96,000 to \$74,000 from 31 owners. Some \$53,000 of that is owed by two debtors.

Our last reserve study was done in 2011. There will be a reserve study done this year to correct a slight underfunding of HOA and Villas reserve accounts. There has been \$40,000 paid out of the reserves for capital improvements to our community.

There was a vacancy on the board of directors since our legal liaison, Richard Lindquist, has completed his term and is retiring from the board. The board and the audience thanked Dick for his service with a round of applause. There were no letters of intent received from the two required mailings to fill the vacancy, so there was no election.

I asked the audience if there was anyone who might have changed his or her mind concerning filling the vacancy. A homeowner came up to the board after the meeting and volunteered to fill the vacancy. Claude Marku was interviewed at a special board meeting held March 25, and was appointed to the board of directors. He also was appointed to the position of legal liaison. The board really appreciates Claude for volunteering to serve the community. Thank you, Claude!

At this point, I thought it would be good to update some of the concerns from last year's membership meeting.

Parking citations, some of which have been for parking on the grass, have been a concern.

Our fines committee is updating the language/defining the procedures for our security.

Our exercise room has been completely renovated with new paint, mirrored wall and new and additional equipment. There was an incident in the exercise room where underage and unaccompanied children were using the equipment in an unsafe manner, narrowly avoiding injury. **PARENTS** are reminded that for the Fitness Room, the minimum age is **18** without adult supervision. Ages **15** to **17** require adult supervision. Ages **14** and under are **NOT** permitted. At the pool, children under **12** years of age must have adult supervision. Violations will result in suspension of clubhouse/pool use by the entire household of the offender. **PARENTS:** please ensure these rules are followed. We do not want any Silverlakes children injured or worse.

Our association's fine letters and late notices are worded in such a way to be legal. As such, they are quite a surprise or shock when they are first opened, and some homeowners said they would like the wording changed. The notices have to be written to meet legal requirements, so the board is working on a cover letter to make that the first thing an owner sees upon opening a letter. The board will try to make the wording in the cover letters less shocking.

There are many residents concerned about the "Spike Rush" vegetation (weeds) in our lakes growing together and creating a swamp instead of open water. I arranged a community meeting in our clubhouse with Gateway Services, Lee County Water Management and South Florida Water Management representatives who gave a very informative slide show with a question and answer session.

As I explained in my president's letter to the membership, the slope of the ground changes steeply about 10 to 12 feet out from the high water line. The steep angle goes down about 18 feet to 20 feet where the "weeds" cannot grow. We'll always have open water. I also have received signed letters from a group of residents with homes on the water who do not want the weeds removed, as they provide a habitat for animals and fish which they enjoy observing. Gateway Services is organizing a committee of Gateway residents to develop guidelines for managing the 69 lakes Gateway is responsible to maintain. As a result of that meeting, there are four or five Silverlakes residents on that committee, so we will have input as to how our lakes are maintained.

All of our storm water drainage pipes were inspected (scoped) this past summer and they were turned over to Gateway. Silverlakes is no longer responsible for any future problems with the storm water drainage system in our community.

Our water fountains are getting old and parts are getting hard to find. All our fountains are being changed to new and better units. The entrance fountain is now a three-horsepower, two-stage fountain illuminated at night with LED lights. The fountain on the other side of our clubhouse is a new two-horsepower, two-stage fountain. All the rest will be two-horsepower, two-stage units, and all will be changed over the next two years.

The owner of the vacant lot where the burned house was removed has been in contact with our ACC committee. We are just waiting for the builder to get back with us with the building plans.

Our camera system is being upgraded. New digital cameras will replace our present analog cameras.

*Respectfully submitted by Lauren "Bird" Siegel, president, for the Board of Directors:
Peter Suckow, vice president; Jane Grethey, secretary; Markus Albrecht, treasurer; and Claude Marku, legal liaison.*

Sunshine Committee:

The Sunshine Committee mailed cards this month to two Silverlakes residents, but we're sure there were others who could have welcomed a greeting. The committee sends cards to people who have lost a loved one, who are ill or in the hospital, have welcomed a new baby or are celebrating an accomplishment in their lives.

If you know someone who could use some sunshine, send an email to Sue Beard, chairman, at shadden@comcast.net or give her a call at (239) 689-8065.

Pond Work Group:

Elle Harris from Parks and Recreation at Gateway Services writes:

“We will start getting the Pond Work Group together as soon as the pond standards are complete and approved by the Board of Supervisors.” Information on the pond standards will be forwarded as soon as Silverlakes receives it. Four Silverlakes homeowners have volunteered for the Pond Work Group.

Casino Night Fundraiser:



The Casino Night Fundraiser held Feb. 28 was a huge success! The clubhouse was transformed into an exciting casino. The brighter ceiling lights installed the night before, as well as the sparkling strings of lights strung on the indoor trees in the clubhouse and around the Cashier sign, made for a more inviting clubhouse in which to play Poker, Blackjack, Roulette and the Big 6 dice game.

For two and a half hours, shouts from winners were heard from various parts of the room as players scored big. It wasn't unusual for people to bet \$25, \$50 and even

\$100 at a time. Remember, for only \$2, players received \$300 worth of chips.

At 9:30 p.m., players traded in their chips for tickets and/or purchased tickets for a chance to win one or more of the 27 prizes.

The Social Committee is very grateful to the businesses in and around Gateway that donated gift cards: Beans and Cream, Boulevard Deli, Buffalo Wild Wings, Choice Pack N Ship, Fort Myers Brewing Co., Il Primo, Michelina's, Rock Sushi, Sports Page and Ter-Tini's.

Residents who contributed prizes for the night included Ana and John Amaral (two bottles of wine), Sue and Ray Beard (antique tea basket), Janice and Mel Eaton (Red Socks basket), Mia Hawk (Patriots shirt and Red Sox 2013 shirt), Joanne Tuckey (six hand-painted wine glasses) and Carol and Greg Walker (hair products).

Some of the lucky winners were John Amaral, Eric and Marianne Eppich, Mia Hawk, Jim and Marilyn Steiner and Terry and Ty Woods. The 50/50 winner was John Amaral.

Because of everyone's generosity, the social committee was able to donate nearly 100 pounds of non-perishable food and \$134 in cash to the Harry Chapin Food Bank.

A huge thank you goes out to all of the hard-working volunteers who made this night possible, especially Artie and Antoinette Cendali and Carol Walker.

Social Committee:

It may have been Friday the 13th, but it was all shamrocks, rainbows and pots of gold at the annual St. Patrick's Day Pot Luck. The clubhouse was decorated in shades of emerald and kelly green. After sampling tasty appetizers, guests literally sang for their meals before heading to the buffet. The feast consisted of an array of salads and vegetables, along with corn beef and cabbage. Ten delectable desserts satisfied those who weren't already stuffed on the traditional Irish fare. There were four \$10 Publix gift cards and two \$56 prizes won by attendees truly blessed with the luck of the Irish.

Many thanks go to out Patty Keavney for organizing the event and to Ana Amaral, Joanne Montgomery and Janice Eaton for cooking the corn beef meals.

Once again, our Family Breakfast was a huge hit with more than 70 people attending. Roger and Lindy Bundy, who will be leaving our Silverlakes community for Michigan, were honored and presented with a few gifts, including a snow shovel. The couple promised to visit next winter.

We hope to see you at our upcoming events. Our annual Easter Egg Hunt for children up to 12 will be held on **April 4**. This is a *free* event that begins at 10 a.m. Please be prompt and bring a basket. Children can have their pictures taken with the Easter Bunny.

The BBQ Pot Luck will be held on **May 29** this year.

Orrie Mason presents a snow shovel to Linda and Roger Bundy during the family breakfast. The Bundys are leaving Silverlakes for their new home in Michigan, where a shovel likely will come in handy.

