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Silverlakes News

Submitted by Lauren “Bird” Siegel, president, for the Board of Directors: PJ Stratton, vice president; Jim Wisniewski, secretary; Markus Albrecht, treasurer; and Claude Marku, legal liaison.

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 Oct. 18 board of directors meeting.

Silverlakes has a new Community Association Manager (CAM), Lindsay Ruiz. She replaces Tabatha Robinson, who has moved on to other communities. We appreciate Tabatha's service to our community.

There will be an adjustment period while we get our new CAM, Lindsay, integrated into our weekly schedule or us into her schedule, since she manages several other communities in our area. We look forward to working with her.

It was good to see FEMA contractors come through and pick up everyone's storm debris. The board will have the street sweeper come through our community before Halloween Trick or Treat Night on Oct. 31.

There are several homes with damage to their roofs and pool screen enclosures. As a friendly reminder, if your pool screen enclosure is damaged beyond repair and has been removed, Lee County requires a barrier be in place around the pool until the enclosure can be replaced.

You may have noticed a couple of places with an orange construction fence where the screen enclosure used to be. It may take some time for all the storm damage to be repaired.

Silverlakes has sustained some storm damage to our common areas. The board was able to pay for the repairs out of our operating funds “free cash” in September. Spending is still under budget but by a very slim margin. Additional hurricane expenses have been incurred in October and will continue in November. The 2018 budget has been worked on and will continue to be tweaked until adoption at our Nov. 18 board meeting.

There is still a need for help on a couple of committees. If you would like to help keep our community looking as beautiful as it is, please contact any committee or board member. As it has been said, many hands make for light work.

Once again, I want to thank ALL committee and board members for all they do for Silverlakes.

Red Hat Review:

On Thursday, Oct. 12, the Silverlakes Chapeaux Rouge gathered at *Sasse's* to have lunch. Our hostess was Prudi Fournier, who chose one of our favorite places. We numbered a whopping 13, a really large number for summer! A guest by the name of Babe decided to join our group, and we welcomed her.

Our next event is one of our favorites, our November get-together at the clubhouse. We call it our Welcome Back Snowbirds Red Hat PJ Brunch because we all come in our pajamas and bring a brunch dish to share. Mimosas and orange juice are served while food is arranged on the buffet. The date is Nov. 9 at 9:30 a.m.

Sunshine Committee:

The Sunshine Committee sends greeting cards to Silverlakes residents who are recovering from an illness or surgery, welcoming a new child to the family, celebrating a promotion or professional honor or mourning the loss of a loved one.

However, we can't send those cards without your help. If you have a friend or neighbor who could use a card, send their name AND address to Sue Beard at shadden@comcast.net or call her at (239) 689-8065.

MEDICARE Open Enrollment:

It's that time of year for those of us who are on Medicare. In Lee County besides original Medicare, there are 17 Advantage Plans that combine health and drug coverage. There are also 21 different stand-alone drug plans that an individual has to choose from if they have Original Medicare, as well as supplemental insurance that can be purchased to cover some or all of the costs associated with original Medicare.

So how does an individual make the decision that is best for him/her? Some contact a local insurance agent, who might represent some of the plans available. Others research on their own. Some call 1-800-MEDICARE. There is another option.

The non-profit Area Agency on Aging offers FREE confidential counseling all around Lee County. The SHINE counselors are volunteers who have spent many days in training to learn the intricacies of Medicare and Medicaid.

By federal law, the SHINE volunteer counselor is confidential. The SHINE counselor must get consent from the client to share any of his/her information. These SHINE volunteers are not allowed to *tell* a client what they should do. By law, they are only allowed to explain the options that are available to the client.

After a counseling session, the client leaves with at least three viable options from which to choose. The client then ponders his/her options, makes calls to his/her medical providers to ascertain in which networks the providers are participating, may call the counselor to ask more questions and then, by Dec. 7, the client must make a final decision.

In November, the Area Agency on Aging will be offering free counseling in our area as follows:

- Every Tuesday at the Area Agency on Aging offices at 15201 N. Cleveland Ave. Suite 1100, North Fort Myers, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (This is a very busy site, so come early and plan to stay awhile.)
- Nov. 9 at the East County Library in Lehigh Acres from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Every Friday at the Lehigh Senior Center, 219 Plaza Drive, Lehigh, from noon to 3 p.m. Please call the Lehigh Senior Center at (239) 369-5355 to schedule an appointment with a SHINE counselor.
- If you would prefer to stay in Silverlakes, you can call Stuart Sabshin, one of the SHINE volunteers for the Area Agency on Aging, who is willing to schedule a private confidential counseling session. He can be contacted at (239) 770-4568.

For those of you who do not need help picking a plan for 2018, the Area Agency on Aging volunteer SHINE counselors are also able to help clients who are having problems with their Medicare insurance. These problems may range from having difficulty affording prescriptions or being denied coverage to being unable to pay medical bills.

Perhaps you are new to Medicare and would just like to understand it better and the options that are available. If you fall into this category, do not hesitate to call the Area Agency on Aging, the Lehigh Senior Center, or Stuart Sabshin for help with resolving these issues.

If you call Medicare, 1-800-MEDICARE, you will be referred to your local SHINE office which is the Area Agency on Aging. Whatever your decision, it is a decision for one year and you can always adjust your insurance the following year during the next open enrollment period.

In Memoriam:

Our thoughts and prayers are with Leonard Hess of Lake Meadow Drive, whose wife of 65 years, Imogene, passed away Oct. 24 in Hope Hospice.

Social Committee:

As you know, the Garage Sale scheduled for Oct. 14 was postponed because of all the debris on Silverlakes' streets. Now that the debris has been removed, the **Garage Sale has been rescheduled for Saturday, Nov. 4, from 8 a.m. to noon.** The cost to participate is \$5 per household to help pay for the guard at the gate. Those participating are welcome to display their wares on Friday evening to give Silverlakes residents the first chance at the bargains.

Other upcoming Social Committee events:

- Trick or Treat Night will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 31. Households that want to hand out treats are asked to leave their porch lights on. A guard will be stationed at the gate.
- Our community Thanksgiving Dinner will be catered this year and will be held on Saturday, Nov. 18.

- The Social Committee has purchased new decorations for the entrance to Silverlakes and welcomes help putting them together at 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 25, at the clubhouse.
- We will decorate the interior of the clubhouse for the holidays at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 26.
- The Social Committee will meet at 9 a.m. Monday, Dec. 11, to plan the calendar for 2018.

Italian Night at Silverlakes



Sixty guests enjoyed dinner catered by *LaGrotta Italian Grill* and dancing to the sounds of ‘Chicago Heat’ on Saturday, Oct. 21. Our thanks to Antoinette and Artie Cendali for all the work they put into chairing the evening and all who helped make it a reality. In the top left photo, Lana Knabe, Ann Stewart (in the background) and Carol Brown dance with one of the members of ‘Chicago Heat.’ On the right, Silverlakes residents and guests enjoy conversation after the meal.