



# EAST LAKE COVE

NEWSLETTER

[www.eastlakecovehoa.com](http://www.eastlakecovehoa.com)

February 2011

## **REMINDER-Quarterly Homeowner Assessment Fees were due January 1st<sup>st</sup>**

**Please pay your assessment fees on time and avoid additional expense.  
Any unpaid Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> assessment has had additional late fees applied and  
may cause a lien to be placed on the homeowner's property.  
Next quarterly assessment is due April 1<sup>st</sup>.**

### **SPEEDING AND TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS**

There are continued reports of people speeding and violating traffic laws in East Lake Cove. There have been complaints of underage children riding motorcycles on the roads, many people not stopping at stop signs, and drivers speeding. Though this is a private gated community, all state traffic laws still apply. There should be no underage or unlicensed operators of any type of motor vehicle on the community roads. There is to be no motorbikes or other vehicles on grassy common areas, including around ponds. The Board of Directors have received approval from the County Commissioners to have the County Sherriff Department enforce state traffic laws and issue citations in our neighborhood.

### **TENNIS COURT/ BASKETBALL COURT**

As you may have noticed, the tennis court net has been broken. This is from people using the net as a seat and sitting on it. Numerous times children have been seen sitting on the net and told that it is not a bench and to please not sit on the net. The Board has had to spend approximately \$250 from our assessment fees to have the net repaired. Please be aware we all pay for these type of expenses from our assessments. Please make sure your children know that anyone caught sitting on the net will be banned from the playground area and the parent/homeowner may be responsible for any costs for repair. It is wonderful to see that our playground and courts get great use, but we all need to "police" the area. If you see people on the courts after dusk or using the net as a bench, please help keep our neighborhood fees and repair costs down by getting involved! Signs are posted that the court is CLOSED at dusk.

### **DOCK REPAIRS**

After an investigation by the County Fire Marshal, it was determined that the fire to the dock was set deliberately. The fire was done right after vegetation and debris was cleared to make the dock a nicer place to walk out and view the lake. At the board meeting right after the fire, we did not have enough neighborhood input as to what direction we should go with the dock. At this last meeting, it was decided that a portion of the burned dock will be repaired, but at this time, it is not financially responsible to replace the entire section. If you have input on any of these neighborhood actions or want to see other initiatives, please come to our HOA meetings!

### **GATE AREA & NARCOOSSEE ROAD**

In regards to the front gates, we have had issues with people pushing the vehicle gates with their cars, getting out of cars and trying to push the gates open by hand, and also teenagers in the community pushing the vehicle gates open by hand. We have filed reports with the Sherriff's office and have supplied video and images to the Sherriff's office of the people doing this to the gate, as the gates have been damaged by these actions. Any damages of this type can be viewed as vandalism and charges may be brought. If you notice anyone doing the above forcing of the gate, please contact the Board or our management company so a report can be filed and the video images pulled. Remember, we all pay for any damages or repairs to the gate from our association fees. Let's work together to keep our costs down. We have talked with the people doing the road construction at our front gate area and on Narcoossee Road. They had stopped work on the sidewalk area at the front for 2 months, and then had to rip up the area and replace it, due to DOT requirements for the type of curbing installed. We have been assured the sidewalk should be completed by 2/10/11, if not sooner. We all know how bad the road height difference is between the old road and new roadway at our entrance/exit. This should also be resolved soon, as they plan on traffic being rerouted and using the new road surface, closer to our wall and entrance, around 2/15/11. Please be aware of this change and for safety's sake, make sure your children waiting at the bus stop know that traffic will be much closer to them. Keep in mind that the new traffic pattern on Narcoossee may take drivers by surprise, so be sure to signal extra early and be cautious when turning into, or out of, the community. We will also be having some work done on landscaping at the gate area, now that construction on our side of the road should be completed. As you may have noticed with the front landscaping (and with your own yard), the weather this fall and winter was significantly damaging. The Board had an inquiry as to why the Christmas lights were still on the bushes at the front. The Board had decided to leave them up for a while, as the bushes with the lights appeared to have sustained much less freeze damage than the ones without lights. This was probably due to the small amount of heat that was generated by the lights. We left the lights up so they could be plugged back in and turned on if another hard freeze was in the forecast. We will be removing them soon, as hopefully we will not be getting any more hard freezes this season. This is a good time to also be looking at your own lawns and landscaping and be making plans to replace or repair any damage that the weather caused.

### **Wildlife Spotted in The Neighborhood**

Is that really an otter? Did I just see an alligator? It's not a squirrel, it's not a fox, what is it? Yes. Yes. Fox squirrel. In the front pond with the fountain, an otter family has been spotted! There were two otters roaming about. Many have reported seeing them run across East Lake Cove Blvd towards the direction of the undeveloped part of East Lake Park. As cute as the otters are, and as playful as they seem, you need to steer clear of them! We like to think of the wildlife as cute, playful and friendly, but we have to remember that us interfering with them in their natural habitat could cost them their lives as well as endanger ours! There is no telling what parasites they are carrying or if they are sick with rabies. As the name implies, it is WILD! In the back part of Lazy Oaks Way near the lake, a possible rabid raccoon was spotted. The raccoon chased a homeowner and their kids into their house. Animal control was called, but the animal fled into the woods. It has not been seen since, but that is not to say other animals have not been infected with rabies due to contact with that animal. If you have pets that you let out unattended, please be aware that these wild animals are out in our neighborhood. Even if you don't back up to a pond or trees, these animals will track through your yard. Please keep an eye on your animals and ensure that you are protecting them with regular vaccines. Any questions about county codes or policies, you can call the number listed below. Any wild animals that you do see and question whether it is healthy or not, please call animal control. The number to Osceola County Animal control is: 407-343-7101. They are open M-F from 8a-midnight and SAT/SUN from 8a-5p. There are recordings for after hours incidents.