



EAST LAKE COVE

NEWSLETTER

www.eastlakecovehoa.com

May 2011

REMINDER- QUARTERLY HOA ASSESSMENT FEES ARE DUE ON JULY 1ST

Speed Bumps?

Have you noticed people speeding through our child/pedestrian friendly neighborhood?

At the next board meeting on **Wednesday, May 25th at 7:00 p.m.**, we are going to discuss and vote on the option of placing speed bumps/mounds in locations that will help maintain the speed limit and reduce speeding. If you would like to voice your opinion, whether for or against, please attend this meeting! Your input is vital to deciding which direction we take on this vote.

Noise Complaints

Several homeowners have contacted the Board concerning loud noise/music that neighbors are playing at all hours. We would like everyone to be aware that the County has a noise ordinance, which basically states noise coming from your property should not interfere with a neighbor's enjoyment of their property. If your stereo, television, or other noise is causing neighbors to complain, you have an issue. Most people are of the false opinion that the noise ordinance only applies to certain hours of the day or night, and they can play the stereo or tv as loud as they like during the day time. Some homeowners have stated they have spoken with their neighbors about the noise with no resulting improvement. The Board would recommend that when a neighbor's repeated noise is disturbing you or causing distress contact the Sherriff's office. They have the authority to investigate and issue citations. The HOA can send letters notifying the owner causing the noise that they are in violation of our HOA documents, and then proceed with further action, but we have found that calling the Sherriff and using the County's noise ordinance and citation/prosecution leads to a quicker effective resolution and is a better deterrent to ongoing noise issues.

To read the entire Osceola County noise ordinance you can use google to search for Osceola County #94-14 and read the top two search items returned.

Dock Fun

The dock is officially open! It was repaired after it was set ablaze in the fall. The Fire Marshall determined that it was of a "human origin." The construction that was done did not return it to its previous glory, as that would have been an additional \$3200. The HOA Board did vote on continuing to

maintain the clearing of vegetation in the waterway around the dock. This decision seems to have been a popular one as the dock has been quite popular the past couple months. The teeming wildlife is definitely a draw. With the increase in pedestrian traffic, please help us keep our dock maintained. If you see ANY vandalism, please report it immediately. Currently, we have several spindles that have been kicked out or ripped out! Call the sheriff's office or notify any board member so we can take action against any vandals!

Wildlife Abundant – And So Are the Laws!

One of the things that attracted so many of us to this neighborhood had to be the nice mix between country and city. We live close enough to the city, but we definitely have that country flair to it. With that said, here come the critters. This spring has been abundant with all of nature's babies. We have had numerous Sand Hill Crane chicks, Muskie (Muscovy duck) ducklings, and our most recent hatchlings, baby alligators.

No matter how cute you think they are (yes, even the baby alligators), it is ILLEGAL to touch, harass, feed – any interaction with ANY wildlife is illegal! Now, this does not mean you are going to be hauled away for feeding ducks or cranes, BUT you could get in serious trouble for feeding the baby gators. AND you could get in serious trouble for taking a duckling or baby alligator from its home.

Just recently, it was reported that two young girls took one of the ducklings. They were spotted and told to return the baby. Luckily, the mother took the baby back.

According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation, any interaction with gators will result in either fines or arrest. Also, any interactions with the various wild birds can carry stiff penalties too. Penalties for convictions for violations of these laws range from a maximum of \$500 and/or 60 days imprisonment for first offenses of misdemeanor crimes—or up to \$50,000 and/or one year imprisonment for criminal violations against the federal Endangered Species Act. Although gators are not endangered, they are grouped into a special category that allows the penalties to be levied as if they were endangered!

Bottom line, do not touch the wildlife. Do not feed the gators! If you see any dangerous interaction with any animal, please report it ASAP!! You can call FWC from your cell phone by dialing #FWC, or calling 1-888-404-FWCC (3933). In some cases, there can be a reward for the information you have provided.

How Is That New Year's Resolution? Want To Walk?

Like a majority of Americans who resolve to lose that weight and/or get healthier every January 1st, by now, that resolution is a distant memory. And the scale, well, it might be going up like gas prices...but don't fear, here is a resolution you can stick with!

Come out on to Lazy Oaks Way, down by the dock and come and walk! A group of residents have found this part of Lazy Oaks Way to be ideal for walking in the morning! There are several factors that make this perfect: 1) It stays shaded up until almost 11 am 2) In the past two weeks, there have been only 4 cars, and that was the trash truck 3) There always seems to be a breeze down by the lake.

If you start at one of the cul-de-sac and go to the end of the street and back, you have walked a ½ mile. Experts in health and nutrition report that walking is by far one of the best exercises you can do for your body! It is better than running due to less impact on the joints and body as a whole!

So, put on those walking shoes and join us! We have ALL fitness levels out there – and it is a great way to exercise and meet your neighbors! We have some who start as early as 8 am and many who get out there by 8:40 (after dropping kids off at school.) The more the merrier and ALL are welcome to join us! If you have questions or need additional information, please email either Vida Ricketts at jricketts@cfl.rr.com or Michelle Danker at medanker@gmail.com

One Big Happy Family?

The neighborhood of East Lake Park, next to our community, now has a new builder! Centerline Homes (also building in Eagle Creek) has officially purchased the vacant land. Just in the past few weeks they removed the orange and white barricades that separate our two neighborhoods at the end of Big Cypress Drive. The Board immediately contacted them to get them put back as they are the property of our community. At this time, the barricades will remain in place. The Board is investigating with the County and our attorneys our options for permanently restricting this access to our community. We have had many instances of people trespassing through this entrance to enter our community and causing damage to lawns and common areas. Rumor has been running rampant that we will become one large neighborhood as it was deemed to be when this was all one big piece of property. However, this is not true. We are two distinct neighborhoods, with separate HOAs, separate deeds, and separate HOA documents and restrictions.

Gate Issues

We were having an issue with individuals forcing the gates open by hand or by use of vehicle. You may have noticed new additions to our vehicle entrance gates. The Board at the last meeting voted and approved installation of magnetic locks on the gates. We also had to have the four gate arms replaced due to them being forced open repeatedly. Hopefully this will provide a further deterrent to this action. As a community, we have spent a lot of money on maintenance and repair of the gates. Just for the gate locks and arms, over \$3500 was spent, not including previous repeated repair call charges. Having people forcing the gates open and causing damage was making more expense to the community. As a Board, and also as homeowners, its frustrating to spend our HOA money on these issues. As a reminder, anyone caught forcing the gates open or causing damage to the gates will be reported to the police for possible vandalism and trespassing charges. Also, please remind your children that they should NOT be using the vehicle gates and walking in the road to enter the community, especially when getting home from school. There are pedestrian gates provided on the the sidewalks at the entrance. We receive many complaints from homeowners of ALL the kids getting off the bus and opening the gates, all walking on the road to go home, and blocking cars from normal driving.

Landscape Violations

Part of the Board's duties are to enforce our HOA documents, that include items detailing each homeowner's responsibility to maintain their own yard and landscaping. Please read your HOA documents if you haven't. As you drive or walk through our community, you will notice MANY yards that are not being mowed, are not treating or pulling weeds, and have dead patches or completely dead yards. Some of these properties are vacant and in foreclosure. The Board, using your HOA fees, pays to have the vacant properties mowed so as to keep the weeds from reaching seed and spreading, and to also keep the weeds or grass from getting to high as to be an eyesore. Some of these yards are dead from lack of irrigation. The HOA bills these charges for maintenance to the owner of the property. According to state law, the HOA may recoup some of these expenses when the property transfers to a new owner or the bank. The new owner(s) of these properties will be responsible for replacement of dead yards or areas, and the maintenance of the yard from the time they take ownership of the property. It can be especially challenging to keep your yard in good condition when your home and yard are next to a vacant property, or next to a homeowner that doesn't take care of their yard. The Board does have violation letters sent for properties that are not maintained or mowed and is working on taking further action against owners that do not take corrective action after receiving a notice of violation.

POLICE INCIDENT on MAY 12

Much of the community was aware of a very large police presence with helicopters and activity in our neighborhood on the evening of Thursday, May 12th. Sadly, this was due to a stabbing as shown below by the report from the Sherriff's website on May 13th.

Today, Osceola County Sheriff's detectives charged Laudner Tilme with Attempted Murder. The investigation began on May 12 at approximately 9:20 p.m. when deputies responded to a residence on Lazy Oaks Way in St. Cloud in reference to a stabbing. Upon arrival, deputies saw a woman and children running from the residence. The woman requested help and told deputies she had been stabbed multiple times by her husband. Her four children were taken to a neighbor's house and she was airlifted to ORMC in critical condition. She is currently in stable condition.

Deputies approached the house and observed a male, identified as Laudner Tilme, near the front door carrying a knife close to his chest. Deputies attempted to talk to him, but he was uncooperative. They repeatedly told him to drop the knife which he refused to do. When he removed the knife from near his chest, a deputy deployed a less lethal and the man dropped the knife. He ran into the master bedroom. When deputies entered the master bedroom they saw the man lying on the floor with a self-inflicted knife wound. He was taken to the hospital in critical condition.

Detectives obtained a felony warrant for Tilme and he was charged with Attempted Murder. Tilme is stable in critical condition and when he is released from Orlando Regional Medical Center he will be booked into the Osceola County Jail.

We do have an email list of homeowners who had previously provided their email so they could be notified of any urgent issues in the East Lake Cove neighborhood. This email list was used to send a notice of what was known on the evening of the 12th, as there were calls and inquiries as to what was happening with the police and helicopters. If you have not provided your email address and would like to be added to the list to receive urgent notices from the HOA, please send an email to dhoward@cfl.rr.com requesting to be added. Make sure you state the email address or addresses you want any notices sent.

Another suggestion a homeowner had was if you hear or see the police helicopter hovering over, or circling the neighborhood at night, turn on all the outside lights that you have. This will assist police if they are searching for someone and also help to keep anyone from hiding next to your home.