



Lake Forest NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Lake Forest at
Saint Lucie West Homeowners Association, Inc



DECEMBER 2007

FROM THE BOARD

As all of you know by now, **the 2008 budget is set at \$426.00 a quarter.** The coupons will be mailed out by December 1st. You will be receiving all four coupons for 2008, with the first payment due January 1, 2008. To avoid late fees, your payment should be posted to your account by January 1, 2008. If you do not receive your coupons by December 10th, please contact Marie Kennedy, our property manager at 878 1944.

The stop signs that were installed a few months ago have slowed vehicles down. **(THE SPEED LIMIT IN LAKE FOREST IS 25 MPH)** In an effort to slow down those who still speed, **stop signs have been installed at Indian Key Drive and Lake Forest Way and Blue Springs Court and Lake Forest Way (STOP SIGNS MEAN STOP, NOT TAP YOUR BRAKE AND GO).** We have the ability to run tag numbers and if you are observed running a stop sign and you will be sent a violation letter.

A reminder: yard waste can only be put out for pick up on Sunday afternoon or Monday morning before Waste Pro picks up. Trash cans must

come in by 8:00pm on pick up day.

Gates: **The South Gate has been repaired. The gate is functioning correctly, our driver's are not.** Our gates have a safety feature. Once the gate starts to close, **IT DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY REOPEN.** It must come to a complete stop before it can start reopening. By piggybacking through the gate, it puts enormous pressure to reopen. **Gates do not damage cars... cars damage gates. Should you damage the gates, you are responsible for the damage to the gates and to your own vehicle.** We also have observed at the south entrance that motorists coming from Cashmere Boulevard speed up so as not to miss the gate being opened by someone else. This is a very dangerous practice. **The gates are designed for one car at a time, not four or five.**

Security cameras are being installed to monitor the clubhouse, parking lots, pools and entrances.

The C.O.P. program is up and running. Anyone wishing to participate please contact the clubhouse 8781944.

The decorating committee has done a great job.

As we close out another year we would like to say thank you to all our volunteers. From all of us on the Board of Directors, Happy Holidays, and may 2008 be full of good health and prosperity.

The Board of Directors



TREASURERS REPORT

For the Month Ending October 31st, 2007

Assets

Funds in Operating Account	\$508,736.18
Funds in Reserve account	\$117,210.18
Receivables due from owners	\$ 70,014.02

Liabilities

\$ 277,644.28

It makes me very happy to inform you that **someone actually sold a house in our community during November.**

The South entry gate has been repaired at a cost of approximately \$10,000. This cost will be passed on to the drivers' insurance company.

Work on installing the camera system around the community continues and should be completed shortly.

We owe the President of our HOA a heartfelt thanks for all the personal time and effort he contributes to our organization. Jack has tried to be involved in every aspect of managing this community, and he has much to do with why we are in a strong financial position. **Thank you, Jack.**

Jim Russello, Treasurer

THE C.O.P. PROGRAM

The C.O.P. (**Citizen Observation Patrol**) program is up and running. twenty-one of our Lake Forest residents initially signed up to serve on this valuable program. **We now have our own sheriffs vehicle** to patrol the streets of Lake Forest. You may have already seen the vehicle driving by your residence. All volunteers attend sixteen hours of training, which includes a driving test.

One of the things the C.O.P.'s have noticed while driving, is the number of garage doors left open. We urge you to close your garage doors when you are not actively working in them, day or night. This is to prevent damage to vehicles, siphoning of gas, and having items stolen from the vehicle and the garage. Also, automatic garage door openers can be taken from the vehicle, and when you are not at home, **thieves can then enter your home and have free access to any and all your valuables.** To paraphrase the sign at Port St Lucie and Airoso Boulevards: **"CLOSE IT OR LOSE IT."**

Vehicles should be locked at all times. Valuables should never be left in your vehicle, as they become opportunities for theft, even while parked in your driveway.

The main purpose of the C.O.P. program is to observe unusual situations and call 911 if and when necessary.

Due to this new program, **the night watch program has ended.** We now have surveillance cameras at the clubhouse, the two pools, the fitness center and the gates, with board members monitoring the cameras at all times, either from the clubhouse or from their homes.

If you would like to become part of the C.O.P. program, please contact Maria Wells or Marie Kennedy at the clubhouse. **More people are needed for this important program.** We have thirteen new people signed up to take the training course, which will be given during evening hours to accommodate people who work during the day. Daytime training is also available.

We urge you to close your garage doors when you are not actively working in them



Our C.O.P. Volunteers. From left to right: Andy Caron, Gerry Borie, Mike Spagno, Gladys Larancuent, Phyllis Gomes, Maria Wells, Gladys Fuentes, C.O.P. Coordinator (in car), Frank Gomes, Jane Falgia, Larry D'Angelo, Jose Fuentes and Sheriff Ken Mascara. Missing from the photo are: Luis Noguerra, Pat Gamboni, Carmine Guinta, Tony Lippert, Jim Russello, Hank Schauder and Burt Sommers.



Our new Lake Forest C.O.P. vehicle



Sheriff Ken Mascara hands the keys to the Lake Forest C.O.P. vehicle to Gladys Fuentes, Coordinator of the Lake Forest C.O.P. volunteers



Our instructors, Corwin Boddy and Glenn Hoffman

HOW THE C.O.P. PROGRAM IS WORKING

C.O.P is less than a month old at the time of this writing. Not surprisingly, **it has already made our community a safer and nicer place in which to live.** Let us give you a few examples and then tell you how you can play a part in making Lake Forest too hot for criminals and so nice to live in **that we will be an example for other Saint Lucie West communities** to emulate.

First let us tell you of just a few incidents that make the point raised above. Our patrol noticed a moving van (rental type) pull into a driveway. The driver then exited the van and started peering through the windows of the home. **The C.O.P. volunteer did a slow drive past to get a better feel for what was going on.** This “look-see” was enough for the volunteer to assure himself that all was not right on the surface. Checking with a neighbor verified that the home owner was on a cruise and that a relative lived elsewhere in our community. Contact was made and just then the truck abruptly left the driveway heading for the South gate. Fortunately, as it turned out **the truck was driven by a sub contractor for one of the parcel delivery services** and had a legitimate reason for being in our community. The incident could easily have turned out quite differently.

Another example involved a normal patrol on a trash collection day. The volunteer noted an overturned trash can and could see the trash truck just entering the street. The volunteer went to the house in question and noted that all of the house lights were on and all

of the windows and the sliding doors were open. **Repeated attempts to alert the home owner were unsuccessful.** 911 was called because the volunteer was concerned that failure to arouse the home owner could be the result of a heart attack, stroke or serious fall or other medical condition, not to mention foul play. The police arrived and repeated the steps of the volunteer prior to entering the home. As it turns out **the owner was fast asleep in a rear bedroom after returning from his night job** and had gone to bed without turning off the lights or securing the doors and windows. The police expressed their thanks because if it had been an emergency situation our volunteer could have saved a life.

What can you do? **When you see anything you think is suspicious or out of the ordinary, immediately call 911!** Don't try to investigate it yourself. When you see a homeowner or renter violating any of our rules, call the clubhouse at 878 1944. If it is past or prior to normal office hours the call will automatically be transferred to the answering service. Describe the violation, the time of day and your name and address. The person's name making the call will remain private.

In this way we keep the community attractive and pleasant for all residents. **Please help us protect the community by being observant.** Only you can be the eyes and ears of the Home Owners Association and the Citizens Observation Patrol.

The C.O.P. volunteer did a slow drive past to get a better feel for what was going on

When you see a homeowner or renter violating any of our rules, call the clubhouse

DECEMBER SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday December 1 9:00am Emergency Readiness Committee

Monday December 3 9:00am Water Aerobics
 Tuesday December 4 6:30pm International Cooking Club

Tuesday December 4 Sundown Chanukkah begins

Wednesday December 5 9:00am Water Aerobics
 12:30pm Mah Jongg
 7:00pm Relay for Life
 8:00pm Poker

Thursday December 6 1:00pm Poker
 7:00pm Mah Jongg

Friday December 7 9:00am Water Aerobics

Saturday December 8 9:00am Emergency Readiness Committee



Monday December 10 9:00am Water Aerobics
 Tuesday December 11 9:00am Board of Directors Workshop
 7:00pm Appeals Committee

Wednesday December 12 9:00am Water Aerobics
 12:30pm Mah Jongg
 7:00pm Poker

Thursday December 13 9:00am C.O.P. Meeting
 1:00pm Poker
 7:00pm Architectural Committee

Friday December 14 9:00am Water Aerobics

Saturday December 15 9:00am Emergency Readiness Committee

Monday December 17 9:00am Water Aerobics
 Wednesday December 19 9:00am Water Aerobics

12:30pm Mah Jongg
 7:00pm Poker

Thursday December 20 1:00pm Poker

Friday December 21 9:00am Water Aerobics

Saturday December 22 9:00am Emergency Readiness Committee

Monday December 24 9:00am Water Aerobics

Tuesday December 25 Closed Christmas

Wednesday December 26 9:00am Water Aerobics
 12:30pm Mah Jongg
 7:00pm Poker

Thursday December 27 1:00pm Poker

Thursday December 27 7:00pm Board of Directors Meeting at the Clubhouse

Friday December 28 9:00am Water Aerobics

Saturday December 29 9:00am Emergency Readiness Committee

Monday December 31 9:00am Water Aerobics



MERRY CHRISTMAS

LANDSCAPE PROJECTS

For Rocky Bayou Residents Numbers 800 thru 898

The Lake Forest Landscape Committee wishes to inform you that **we plan to once again work on the berm separating Rocky Bayou Terrace from Centennial High School.** Last year the committee reestablished the irrigation system across the top of the berm. At the same time we eliminated the system watering across the base of the berm as this level combined with each residents irrigation system was flooding your back yards.

We are now planning a planting of Areca Palms across the berm top. This row of palms will be situated five feet from the fence atop the berm and will grow thickly to a height of about twenty feet. This palm hedge will serve as a sound buffer between you and the school. We need to emphasize, however, that it is not the Landscape Committee's mission to perform a decorative landscape in areas not readily common to all residents. **Some of your neighbors have added decorative plantings within the berm. You are welcome to do so, provided that the new planting is not disturbed.** All resident decorative plantings added within the berm must remain ten feet from the fence. You must submit a plant specific plan outlining your planting to the Architectural Review Committee at the clubhouse. Please also be aware that **maintenance on any plants you add to your section of the berm is your responsibility.**

As this planting is targeted at improving the backyards abutting the high school, we are looking for participation from those of you who live on Rocky Bayou Terrace. We will be planting 590 palms across the full length of the berm. Plans are to hire out the digging of all holes at four-foot

intervals. The community will be carrying the palms from the street to each plant site, planting and watering-in each palm. **We ask that the project workers be allowed to attach a hose to the home faucets along the length of Rocky Bayou.** It is important to wet-in each palm as planted. Please note that if you do not believe you can participate in the planting, watering-in the new palms is a terribly important undertaking. After the palms are in place, the Landscape Committee will, on a later date, reposition the sprinkler heads forward so that the palms do not interfere with the watering of the entire berm.

The planting is scheduled for 9:00am, Saturday, January 12th. Rocky Bayou residents should make themselves available to assist with the planting phase of the project.

For Indian Key Drive Residents Numbers 578 thru 608

We plan complete the planting of palms across the berm between your home and the Florida turnpike. Some palms have already been planted. It is our intention to complete the planting to the end of the berm. Moreover, **the initial planting was to replace other plants, which have died along the berm.** This planting will fill in where palms were not planted to create a continuous palm hedge.

The planting is scheduled for 9:00 AM, Saturday, January 26th. Indian Key residents should make themselves available to assist with the planting phase of the project.

Please participate in the improvement of your neighborhood. **To join in, please notify: Doug Duckett** at 340 7567 or leave your number at dougjacky@juno.com.

Doug Duckett, Committee Chair

Rocky Bayou and Indian Key Drive residents should make themselves available to assist with the planting

Please participate in the improvement of your neighborhood

"THANK YOU" DAN CARON

The HOA Board of Lake Forest has been trying for over a year to close the dirt road behind Centennial High School that goes between Rocky Bayou and Cameo Boulevard. **They have been arguing to the city of Port St. Lucie and the school board** to get this road closed because it opened up the community to anyone. It has become more of an issue since the city has opened up a new road and bridge where this dirt road ends. **We have had many problems with people using our community as a short-cut** along with fellow residence using it instead of going through the gates. In doing so, it has torn up the grass area and making it into a mud pit. After more than a year of trying to get this closed, **ONLY one person was able to do this without even saying a word** (amazing! Isn't it?).

Without hesitation, Dan Caron decided to take this short-cut because he wanted to show everyone how easy, yet dangerous it was (actually he was late). **He drove down the dirt road and then WHAM!!!** He struck the abnormally high manhole (12 inches

above the ground) that was in the middle of the road with his Purple 1992 Chevy Camero (It was a classic). As you know **manholes don't move easily and Dan likes a good challenge.** Well he moved it! About 8 feet to be exact, leaving a big hole in the ground under his car and the front of the car was resting on top of the manhole with the tires off the ground. The manhole took the full force of the car as the frame hit it dead center. **He bent the car right in the middle. YES!!! I said bent.** Did you know that airbags work if you hit a manhole? You do now! **Dan and his girlfriend Madeleine suffered minor injuries and are doing well.** Unfortunately his car suffered a tragic death. We want to thank Dan Caron for sacrificing his car for the greater good of the community. **Because of Dan's sacrifice, the city of Port St. Lucie has officially closed this short-cut to all motorists** (and it only took 2 weeks). Please make sure you thank Dan the next time you see him in his new white Mazda3 with a black hood.

Submitted by Andy Caron

**He drove down
the dirt road
and then,
WHAM!!!**

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The Lake Forest Clubhouse office is open daily from 8:00am to 12:00 noon with volunteer help and 12:00 noon to 4:00pm with our property manager.

**Lake Forest at Saint Lucie West HOA, Inc.
249 SW Lake Forest Way
Port Saint Lucie, Florida 34986
(772) 878 1944 - Office (772) 878 6461 - Fax
Email: lakeforestslw@comcast.net
Web site: lakeforestslw.com**

**Articles for the January Newsletter are due
December 27th**

Please send articles to Frank Gomes at: fbgomes@comcast.net

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