

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 0 9

the LAKE FOREST NEWSLETTER



FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As we close out another year in office, we would like to say thank you for letting us serve the community as your Board of Directors. **Lake Forest continues to be a model community for St Lucie West**, while maintaining the lowest fees in the area.

A lot was accomplished this past year:

- Redecorating the clubhouse
- New heaters for the spa and south pool
- Construction of the patio and storage building
- Refinishing the fitness center
- Approving the refinishing of the north pool and spa, plus additional tables and chairs for the pool areas
- Approving new doors for both the north and south pool bathrooms
- Fencing at the south entrance
- Flower boxes at the north entrance rotunda. A water feature is also planned for the center of the rotunda
- A new web site
- Gate kiosks (letter boards)
- All the landscaping projects
- Irrigation and plantings at the lift station on Lake Forest Way and Indian Key Drive.

The irrigation work being done by volunteers saved the community several thousand dollars. Just one part of the job was to tap into the main irrigation system for which we received a quote of \$2000. It cost us approximately \$100 by volunteers doing the work.

The MORE VOLUNTEERS that we can get to help, the more we are able to keep costs down This benefits the entire community and helps to preserve and increase property values.

We also instructed our property manager to look into a solar street light for Rocky Bayou Terrace in front of the south pool.

There are more and more people wanting to use the clubhouse for recreation activities. All residents have the right to use the clubhouse and **cannot** be locked out when the clubhouse is being used unless it is a **private affair**.

Anyone wishing to use the clubhouse must come into the office between the 25th and 27th of each month to reserve their time. Days and times will be on a first come basis. This will avoid any conflicts between the Board and committee business and those wishing to use the clubhouse.

The annual meeting and elections of the membership will be held on February 26th at 7:00pm. The location is at the Port St Lucie Community Center on Airoso Boulevard.

The Board would also like to announce that we are all running for reelection.

Jack Minenna	Director/President
Jane Falgia	Director/Vice President
Jim Russello	Director/Treasure
Maria Wells	Director/Secretary
Lou Gotta	Director

The irrigation work being done by volunteers saved the community several thousand dollars

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TREASURERS REPORT

For the Month Ending December 31, 2008

We have completed another year, and the HOA at Lake Forest finds itself in good financial shape.

Approximately ninety-five houses were sold, rented or rerented last year. Of this number, forty-four of these houses were sold.

As of December 31st, the HOA was owed \$72,000 by our residents. This is a good figure when measured against the results of other communities in our area. This figure should be reduced still further as our lawyer is currently holding more than \$10,000 of past due payments, which will be dispersed when the checks clear.

Currently we have:

\$190,356.00	in our Operating Account
\$227,091.98	in our Gulf Stream MM Account
\$151,700.00	in Gulf Stream CD's
\$111,257.50	in Seacoast National Reserve Account
\$ 51,445.91	in Colonial Bank Reserve CD's
\$ 99,659.59	in Riverside Bank Settlement CD's

Let's hope we come through a difficult 2009 as well as we did in 2008. Your Board has tried to do everything they could to maximize revenue and reduce or hold the line on expenses. **Much of the credit for our success in 2008 has to go to the President of this HOA, Jack Minenna, who continually goes the extra mile.**

Regards

Jim Russello, Treasurer

TO ALL RESIDENTS

It's that time of the year again. **On Thursday, February 26, 2009 the annual meeting will take place** at 7:00pm at the Port St Lucie Community Center on Airoso Boulevard. There will be five (5) Directors elected.

You will be receiving the Notice of the Annual Meeting of Lake Forest HOA by mail from Advantage Property Management. If you have any questions please contact me at 772 878 1944 between 9:00am and 1:00pm.

Howard DaCosta, Property Manager

LAKE FOREST'S VOLUNTEERS

Are you aware that financial difficulties plague many of the area HOA's? This is not the case with our community at Lake Forest. In spite of difficult economic times, our community **meets all its obligations and has begun to build reserves** targeted at future financial requirements, such as street repairs or severe storm damage.

While our board works hard at exacting value, **they are assisted by the many community volunteers.** I contend that our many community volunteers are one of the reasons Lake Forest has been so successful.

As an example, you may have noticed that there is an active project at the lift

station at the intersection of Lake Forest Way and Indian Key Drive.

This irrigation project was bid at over \$4200, but has been accomplished at approximately \$800.

There are many other volunteer activities, such as the COP program, which may not have an immediate economic measure, but contributes measurably to our community.

Please plan to become involved within our community. Lake Forest's resident involvement is a factor that separates our community from those that struggle.

**Doug Duckett,
Chair, Landscape Committee**

Let's hope we come through a difficult 2009 as well as we did in 2008

Our many community volunteers are one of the reasons Lake Forest has been so successful

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday	February 2	9:30am 7:30pm	Water Aerobics Mah Jongg
Tuesday	February 3	1:00pm 6:30pm	Poker International Food Club
Wednesday	February 4	9:30am 12:30pm 7:00pm 8:00pm	Water Aerobics Mah Jongg Relay for Life Poker
Thursday	February 5	1:00pm 7:00pm 7:00pm	Poker Architectural Committee Mah Jongg
Friday	February 6	9:30am	Water Aerobics
Saturday	February 7	2:00pm	Blood Pressure Clinic
Monday	February 9	9:30am 7:30pm	Water Aerobics Mah Jongg
Tuesday	February 10	9:00am 1:00pm 7:00pm	Board of Directors Workshop Poker Covenants and Restrictions
Wednesday	February 11	9:30am 12:30pm 7:00pm	Water Aerobics Mah Jongg Poker
Thursday	February 12	1:00pm 7:00pm	Poker Mah Jongg
Friday	February 13	9:30am	Water Aerobics
Monday	February 16	9:30am 7:30pm	Water Aerobics Mah Jongg
Tuesday	February 17	1:00pm	Poker
Wednesday	February 18	9:30am 12:30pm 7:00pm	Water Aerobics Mah Jongg Poker
Thursday	February 19	1:00pm 7:00pm 7:00pm 7:00pm	Poker Architectural Committee Poker Mah Jongg
Friday	February 20	9:30am	Water Aerobics
Monday	February 23	9:30am 7:30pm	Water Aerobics Mah Jongg
Tuesday	February 24	9:00am 1:00pm	Board of Directors Workshop Poker
Wednesday	February 25	9:30am 12:30pm 7:00pm	Water Aerobics Mah Jongg Poker
Thursday	February 26	1:00pm	Poker
Thursday	February 26	7:00pm	Annual Meeting and Election at the Community Center
Friday	February 27	9:30am	Water Aerobics
Monday	March 2	9:30am 7:30pm	Water Aerobics Mah Jongg
Tuesday	March 3	1:00pm 6:30pm	Poker International Food Club
Wednesday	March 4	9:30am 12:30pm 7:00pm 8:00pm	Water Aerobics Mah Jongg Relay for Life Poker



A CONTRACT AMENDMENT

We have a amendment to the landscape contract that took effect January 1, 2009. It reads as follows:

The Homeowner has forty-eight (48) hours to notify Native Control of damage. Native Control has forty-eight (48) hours to make repairs (ie: sprinkler heads, screens, etc.) **Native Control is *not* responsible for filter housing stress cracks.** If Homeowners choose to hire a contractor on their own before these conditions are met, **Native Control and/or the Lake Forest HOA will not be responsible to reimburse the Homeowners' expenses.**

The Board of Directors

HOMEOWNERS IRRIGATION SYSTEM

Performance of our irrigation systems are frequently hindered by algae buildup. The most effective means toward preventing this problem is to **cover your filter with duct or electrical tape.** Tape will block light from the interior of your filter and thus prevent algae growth. With light, algae rapidly multiplies, clogging the filter, as well as the filters within each spray head. Moreover, the tape may well protect your plastic filter from heat fatigue.

OAKS VERSUS PALMS

Lake Forest with its streets lined with majestic oak trees, may not be the Lake Forest in our future. **Our neighboring community, Country Club Estates, has sidewalks lifting from oaks planted too close to their walkways.** As oak trees mature, this problem becomes an increasingly difficult maintenance issue. Sidewalk replacement is an extremely costly project, especially if the problem oaks remain planted nearby. **Preliminary discussions on this issue point to addressing this problem before our walkways become a costly community issue.** Presently we have proposed that all oaks planted between our sidewalks and the roadways be removed. This does not include the A section from the north entrance on Lake Forest Way and around North Shore Boulevard, where there is ample space for the oaks to develop. All other area sidewalk plantings are extremely narrow and are certain to be a future

problem.

We are considering ground level cutting of these curbside oaks and covering these positions with sod. **Each house would have a replacement foxtail palm planted back on the lawn where sidewalk lifting would not be an issue.** These palms would be the community responsibility for the first year, after which they would be considered as the home owner's property.

We will be looking for feedback on this question at our next board meeting. Moreover, **we need answers as to how we deal with the issue of oaks lining one side and palms the other side of our roadways.** There are also instances where oaks are too near roadways and driveways. We ask you to be involved with this community proposal at your next board meeting.

**Doug Duckett,
Chair, Landscape Committee**

Sidewalk replacement is an extremely costly project

~~~~~  
**One Hundred Years Ago**

**A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2,000 per year, A dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.**  
~~~~~


HELP WANTED

Landscaping Project February 7th

You may have noticed that there is something planned for the ugly lift station at the corner of Indian Key Drive and Lake Forest Way. **Grass has been removed and loam added in preparation for two large planting beds.** An irrigation system has already been installed at this site. Additionally, the landscaping committee will be adding decorative planting at the clubhouse, south entrance, and on Lake Forest Way in front of Lake Diane. These projects build upon other improvements resulting from your community participation.

We are again asking for your help as we plant 660 new plants within Lake Forest's common area. The lift station

and Lake Diane plantings represent a new phase in our landscaping projects. **Most of the priority projects such as hurricane damage and entryway improvements are nearing completion.** These two projects represent much needed enhancements to the landscape of our community.

Please plan to participate on one of these projects. Work is scheduled on Saturday, February 7th from 9:00am to noon. If you are available to water-in plants, this is the most important phase of our planting. Bring a hose and shovel, if you can.

Doug Duckett,
Chair, Landscape Committee

These projects build upon other improvements resulting from your community participation.

DIGITAL TV IS COMING

On February 17th, the nations broadcasters are switching from analog TV to digital TV. This has been mandated by the government.

Digital television (DTV) is a new technology that will change your television viewing. **The picture will be crystal clear and the sound will come thru as clear as your CD's.**

Residents of Lake Forest shouldn't be affected by the switch. Because basic cable is part of our HOA fees, you should get the DTV picture without having to do anything. Your analog TV should receive the picture with no problem. This will also apply to those of you who are connected to satellite systems (Dish, DirectTV, etc) you will

not need the converter box available that is offered with discount coupons by the government. **However, to receive a high definition picture, you will need a digital cable box,** available from Comcast

Twice a day, station WPBF-TV performs a test of the digital system. Tune into the station to learn of the times they do this.

NOTE: At the time this newsletter goes on line, a bill to delay the switch till June was defeated. However, some are predicting that the House will try again in early February to pass the delay. **Please check your local TV stations and newspapers for the latest information on this issue.**

HELP US CREATE A COMMUNITY COOK BOOK

The Lake Forest Relay for Life Team is compiling recipes for a Community Cook Book! The project will take several months and once completed, the book will be available for purchase by everyone in the community .

The proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society.

Why not participate and share your favorite recipe? Honor the memory of a Cancer Survivor by sharing their favorite recipe and story? Or submit one in memory of a loved one.

Anyone interested in participating should **contact either Pamela Milazzo at 878 8068 or Barbara Monge at 871 1572**



HAPPY HOUR

Cocktail Party and Fun Evening

SPONSORED BY THE
LAKE FOREST
RELAY FOR LIFE TEAM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2009 at 7:00pm

HOSTED BY
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Lake Charles
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FOR INFORMATION CALL
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\$3.00 PER PERSON DONATION
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HAPPY HOURS, YOU'RE MISSING
OUT ON A WONDERFUL EVENING.
MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS, MAKE
FRIENDS AND HAVE FUN!



~~~~~  
Heard in 1955

'I'm afraid the Volkswagen car is going to open the door to a whole lot  
of foreign business.'

'The drive-in restaurant is convenient in nice weather, but I seriously  
doubt it will ever catch on.'

# A KIDNEY TRANSPLANT



**Kirsha Wallace of Talquin Lane had  
a kidney transplant on January 29th.  
For more details, please go to Kirsha's web site:  
[www.cotaforkirshaw.com](http://www.cotaforkirshaw.com)**

**COTA**  
is a Children's Organ Transplant  
Association

**A FUND RAISER IS PLANNED FOR MARCH**

**Your help is needed. For further information contact:  
Nancy Borges  
(772) 528 5005 • [fourborges@aol.com](mailto:fourborges@aol.com)**

**Anyone wishing to make a donation can bring it to the  
clubhouse, Monday thru Friday, 8:30am to 12:30pm.**

~~~~~  
Upper and lower case letters are named 'upper' and 'lower' because in the
time when all original print had to be set in individual letters, the upper
case' letters were stored in the case on top of the case that stored the smaller,
'lower case' letters.
~~~~~

## FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS

On Saturday, February 7th, Florida West Home Care will be providing free blood pressure screenings at the clubhouse from 2:00pm to 5:00pm. Free refreshments will also be provided.

## FROM NATIVE CONTROL

Due to the extreme cold weather conditions we have just encountered, certain trees, palms and shrubbery may experience severe leaf loss even to the point of all. Also, **certain grasses and weeds are going to have a very dry and dead looking appearance.** This is all normal during freezing conditions. Once the warmer weather and rain have returned, most will recover within sixty days. Some replacement may be necessary.

**During the month of February, Native Control will be addressing broad leaf weed control** in the turf (ie. dollar weed, clover, etc.). This process usually takes about ten to fourteen days after treatment before you start to see results of them dying.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Native Control through use of the work order system located at the clubhouse.

Thank you for your time

**CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS**

**Cell Phone Recycling Program**

**Please donate your old cell phones.**

Since 2004, teens Brittany and Robbie Bergquist and *Cell Phones for Soldiers* have raised millions of dollars to help our troops call home. Proceeds from donated cell phones are used to purchase prepaid calling cards for American troops.

**YOUR MISSION: Help Our Troops Call Home**



# CONSTRUCTION MOVING ALONG

Construction on the storage building and patio began in late December when the areas for the pads were dug. Following that, the forms were put in place and the bases for the pads were set. The following pictures show the construction process.



Ground for the picnic area is cleared



Base for the storage building is set



Base for the picnic area is set



A worker smooths the pads after the concrete has been poured



The walls are put up...



the rafters are put in place...



and the plywood base is put on the rafters

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**TO BENEFIT**  
**THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY**  
**LEGACY GOLF & TENNIS CLUB**  
**ST LUCIE WEST**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2009**  
(Rain date is February 29th)

**Raffles • 50/50 • Refreshments**

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*Handwritten:* ROOF cleaning \$115-

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**The Lake Forest Clubhouse office is open  
Monday thru Friday from 8:30am to 12:30pm\***

**Lake Forest at Saint Lucie West HOA, Inc.  
249 SW Lake Forest Way  
Port Saint Lucie, Florida 34986**

**Office: (772) 878 1944 Fax: (772) 878 6461**

**Email: lakeforestatslw@comcast.net**

**or**

**directors@lakeforestatslw.com**

**Web site: [www.LakeForestatSLW.com](http://www.LakeForestatSLW.com)**

**Articles for the March Newsletter are due  
Wednesday, February 25th**

**Send articles to Frank Gomes at: [fbgomes@comcast.net](mailto:fbgomes@comcast.net)**

**or**

**[frank@lakeforestatslw.com](mailto:frank@lakeforestatslw.com)**

**The Lake Forest Newsletter is the official publication of the  
Lake Forest at St Lucie West  
Homeowners Association Board of Directors**

**\*Please note new office hours**