
The Lakes HOA

Newsletter

Winter 2023

Office Hours: Mon-Thur 9am-3pm (954) 480-2928 office@thelakeshoa.net



Our New Fountain

Three Board members shopped for fountains, decided on two, and had the entire board vote on which one they preferred. The choice, of course, is the one in the picture. Prior to delivery, the old guardhouse had to be removed along with the old fountain slab, which took two days. The fountain was installed on the slab where the guardhouse rested. Then we had the electrician re-wire the existing wiring to accommodate the new fountain, which took about 4 days, and installed spotlights. Next came the landscaping. The Board is pleased with the entrance's new look and hope the homeowners are too.

What the Association Accomplished This Year

- Set up an email program for faster communication with residents which began in September
- Changed maintenance billing to monthly instead of quarterly
- Established another payment option through Zelle (per requests by several homeowners)
- Website was redesigned and updated
- Clubhouse was re-opened and repainted inside
- Hired a new accounting firm to bring us up-to-date on preparing financial statements and provides training
- Community-wide registration completed with the exception for 11 families (new parking stickers and guest passes given out)
- Removed rotted guardhouse to make way for new fountain
- Rewired electric for new fountain
- Installed new fountain spotlights at entrance
- New landscaping around new fountain
- Installation of hand rails at clubhouse entrance making it safer to enter or exit if walkway is wet

All of this in addition to year-round maintenance and upkeep of the property. Our sincere and grateful appreciation to all the volunteers and workers who contributed to these accomplishments. A special thanks to Pam, our office manager, who set up and coordinated items 1-4 which was no small feat. Also, special thanks to Sergio who faithfully maintains so many things around the property and especially for the labor intensive work on demolishing the guardhouse and planting the new plants around the fountain. You both are the best!

Future Projects

- With fuel prices coming down, we are hopeful that we can begin the fence project in the not too distant future, which will be in stages by removing ficus bushes, installing fencing, replanting new bushes and lastly repaving driveways and streets
- Repair cracked stucco and repainting same
- Replacing dead trees
- Installing a better camera system

Holiday Decorations

Thank you to the owners who have "lit" up our community with great Christmas decorations, making it very enjoyable to drive into our community. But all decorations that go up, over and around, must come down by the end of January.

Lawn Mowing Schedule

January: Mowing: Jan 10th & 25th
Trimming & Cleaning: Jan 26th

February: Mowing: Feb 7th & 21st
Trimming & Cleaning: Feb 22nd

March: Mowing: Mar 8th & 22nd
Trimming & Cleaning: Mar 27th



Many homeowners are taking advantage of the Zelle added payment method versus credit card or check. If you want more information on Zelle and how to set up, please go to our website thelakeshoa.net

A dog dressed up is cute. A dog without a leash is not. They're called Man's Best Friend, but even a best friend has to follow the rules. Broward County, the City of Deerfield Beach and our HOA leash laws require dogs outside to be on a leash at all times. This protects your dog, others' dogs and everyone in between. The same law also requires that a Pet Parent must pick up after their dog droppings and we know we can do better at that.

If you are renting you must get approval from your landlord before getting a pet. The rule is no more than two pets per household. And please register your pet at the office if you are replacing one, adding one, or getting a new furry friend.



Lake Safety

Swimming in the lakes is strictly prohibited. If you see children in or too close to the water with no adult in sight, please ask them to move away from the water. Fishing is permitted but you must throw back in the lake what you catch. This is called catch and release.



Hand Rails

After several years of searching for a company willing to install rails we finally succeeded this year. The problem was Covid and also it is a small job.

Pool Area

Remember to follow all of the pool rules posted and the gate closed at all times for safety. Cameras have shown people are entering pool area after posted hours. Police will be called if people are not following the rules.

- No glass in pool area
- No pets allowed
- No running or rough play
- Shower before entering pool
- No person under 13 permitted in pool without an adult
- Pool hours are dawn to dusk
- Maximum capacity: 28





New Year's Parties & Pets

We all love parties and having fun welcoming in the New Year. But let's all be as considerate as possible to our neighbors with the noise, especially if the party goes into the wee hours.

Plan ahead for your pets before fireworks

Planning ahead can help dogs and cats cope with the fireworks season. Before the fireworks season starts, provide your dog with a doggy safe haven. This should be a quiet area, so choose one of the quietest rooms in your home - a place where they feel in control. Don't interfere with your dog when they're in that area.

Train your dog to associate the area with positive experiences, e.g. by leaving their favorite toys there, but not imposing yourself at any time. Use a variety of chew toys. Swap them regularly, putting them away when not in use so that your dog doesn't become bored with them.

With time, dogs can learn that this place is safe and enjoyable. When fireworks go off, they may choose to go there because they know, in that place, they are safe. It's important that your dog has access to this doggy safe haven at all times - even when you're not at home.

Tips on Pet Do's and Don'ts for New Year's Eve

- Never take your dog to a firework's display. Even if they do not bark or whimper at the noise, it does not mean they are happy. Excessive panting and yawning can indicate that your dog is stressed.
- Even if your dog spends most of his time outdoors, bring him inside during firework displays. This will prevent him from running away when he feels scared, which can put him in danger.
- Walk your dog during daylight hours to avoid times when fireworks are likely to be set off.
- Move your dog to the safe haven each evening before the fireworks begin.
- Make sure there are things for you to do too, so your dog isn't left alone.
- Close windows and curtains to muffle the sound of fireworks.
- Blackout your doggy safe haven so they can't see any flashes outside.
- Put on some relaxing music or TV to mask the fireworks sounds.
- Ignore the firework noises yourself. Play with a toy to see if your dog wants to join in, but don't force them to play.
- Put an ID tag on him in case he bolts out the door so he can be returned to you.

You could also talk to your vet about pheromone diffusers. These disperse calming chemicals into the room and may be a good option for your dog. In some cases, your vet may even prescribe medication

How to help cats who are afraid of fireworks

- Provide hiding places in your home, e.g. under furniture or a quiet corner.
- Don't stress your cat by trying to tempt them out. Leave them until they're ready.
- Keep them in to avoid them becoming stressed.
- Microchip your cats in case they're startled and escape outside