



December 2024

THE LAKES HOA

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



President's Corner

We announced a contest for the best decorated home in the November Newsletter. This is a reminder that no decorations are to be installed/attached onto the roof. We need at least three judges to judge the decorations. If you would like to be one, please contact the office and give Pam your name and phone number. Note: the president's house will not be judged in the contest nor will any of the directors. The judging will take place the week of December 23rd at a date to be determined by the judges. There will be a 1st and 2nd place prize to be announced at the January board meeting and after the meeting the awards will be presented and we will have light refreshments.



Holiday Decorations

Every day a new home is decorated and the association is becoming lovely and inviting. This is always a happy and busy time of year and decorations make our community look welcoming. The holidays brings lots of activities and parties and we caution you to be mindful of your neighbors and the noise level if you host parties. Not everyone goes to parties and many go to bed early, so after 10pm, please lower the sound level and/or move your party inside.



Rules & Regulations

5. BOARD MEMBERS

Any homeowner who is a full-time resident may become a board member. This is a volunteer job, which does require Board and/or Homeowner's meetings. No Board member shall miss three consecutive Board meetings. It will be the Board's discretion to replace any Board member who violates this rule.

6. FOR SALE SIGNS


"For Sale" signs to be displayed shall only be issued by the Association and will be installed by the association's authorized agent. Homeowners will be required to pay a deposit for each sign as determined by the Board of Directors. Deposits will be refunded upon return of the sign in proper condition. Only one sign will be authorized per unit.

Rule #25

No unit shall be used except for residential purposes. No businesses of any kind or type are permitted to be operating out of a unit.



HOMEMADE GUEST PASSES ARE NOT LEGAL



If you bought a new vehicle since the last registration of August of 2022, you must register it ASAP if you have not done so yet or be subject to towing at your expense. Homemade guest passes will not be honored. We've noticed there are some homeowners who have not attached their parking sticker to their car window. Please do it or you could possibly be towed even from your driveway.



Browning Lawns

There are areas where grass is browning. We are aware and working on all the sprinklers to make sure they are watering in the necessary areas.

3BR homes: Your front lawns are your responsibility but some of your lawns are never watered. Please make that part of your routine maintenance. Dead grass or weedy grass does not make curb appeal.


2BR homes: The small strip of grass in your parking area has a sprinkler system. Please start watering that area. If your system is not working, fill out a repair order and give to the office



Parking on Grass

Parking on grass anywhere in the association is not permitted. Why? 1) Because vehicles run over sprinklers and break them, 2) it ruins the grass, 3) it doesn't present a orderly look, 4) we have enough parking spaces now. (2BR homes, we will expand your parking in the near future.) **Homeowners, you are responsible to tell your visiting guests or workers where to park and that it can't be on grass.**

STREET PARKING HOURS ARE:
SUNDAY THROUGH THURSDAY 6:00AM TO 10:00PM
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY 6:00AM TO 12:00PM



As of this printing, there have been no reported sightings of the gator. Hopefully he's moved into a neighboring community. But you should always be on the alert.



Have You Added an Adult to Your Household?

If you have an adult living with you permanently (18 years or older), or indefinitely long term, who moved here after August 22, 2022, that person must be registered ASAP. For example, a mother, father, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, cousin or any other relative or adult, plus if your child turned 18 after that date, all of these people and their vehicle must be registered ASAP.



Violation Warning

We have many vehicles parked in the community with no parking sticker or guest pass and we will be issuing Warning Violations soon for these vehicles. **Note**: homemade guest passes will not be honored. If you lost your pass(s), go to the office and request one - \$12.50 per pass. **Note** to homeowners and tenants: when you move out, be sure to leave your guest passes behind.



Christmas Trivia

Question:

What is considered the world's largest Christmas gift every given?





Christmas Trivia

- The Christmas tree originated in Germany in the 16th century and was popularized in England during the reign of Queen Victoria.
- The modern image of Santa Claus was developed by Coca-Cola's advertising campaigns in the 1930s, although the figure of St. Nicholas, Santa's inspiration, dates back to the 4th century.
- According to legend, the tradition of hanging stockings comes from a story about St. Nicholas, who dropped gold coins down the chimney, where they fell into the stockings hung to dry.
- Poinsettias, the popular Christmas plant, are native to Mexico and were named after Joel Poinsett, the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico, who introduced them to America in the 1820.
- "Home Alone" is one of the highest-grossing Christmas films, earning nearly \$500 million worldwide.
- The term "Xmas" is derived from the Greek letter Chi, which is the first letter of Christ's name in Greek and has been used as an abbreviation for Christ since the mid-1500s.
- Mistletoe has been a symbol of love since ancient times. The custom that originated in Scandinavia suggests if two people meet under a mistletoe, they should kiss.
- Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer was created in 1939 by Robert L. May for a Montgomery Ward department store Christmas booklet.
- "Jingle Bells" - This popular Christmas song was originally written for a Thanksgiving celebration, not Christmas. It was composed in 1857 by James Lord Pierpont.



Discover 8 Smells Iguanas Absolutely Hate & Keep Them Out of Your Yard Part 2

Smells Iguanas Hate

One way to discourage iguanas from visiting your yard is to make it smell like things they hate. Animal removal experts suggest trying these scents:

Citrus - Garlic - Habanero Pepper - Oregano - Citronella - Cedar - Neem Oil

How do you use these scents? You can grow the plants to produce them, scatter peelings of them around your fences and landscaping, or make a homemade spray to use around your plants. For instance, some homeowners make their own iguana repellent with ingredients like garlic, lime juice, habanero pepper, and dish soap. You might try different combinations of the eight scents listed above to find one you like. Remember to reapply after rain, which of course could be quite frequent in Florida.

Landscaping to Deter Iguanas, Fences & Scare Tactics

To keep iguanas from crawling or burrowing under fences, you can use chicken wire attached to the bottom of the fence and buried several inches underground. You might also want to enclose treasured blooming plants in chicken wire cages. Some people have success hanging old CD's to create confusing flashing lights or using wind chimes to scare them with noise.

Trees and Shrubbery

Iguanas can climb trees, go from branch to branch into other yards, and drop down over fences and onto rooftops. You and your neighbors can agree to cut back tree branches that give them access from one yard to another and any that overhang your roof. You can put smooth sheet metal sleeves around the bases of tree trunks 18 inches from the trunk to stop them from climbing. Thin out and prune back dense shrubbery to deny them hiding places. If you're willing to replace fruit trees on the property with citrus trees, that will make them avoid your trees.



Happy New Year

NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS AND PARTIES - LAWS & Legal Fireworks

In 2020, Florida established three specific holidays when fireworks are legally permitted:

- New Year's Eve
- New Year's Day
- The Fourth of July

During the aforementioned holidays, popular fireworks such as Roman candles, bottle rockets, aerial fireworks fountains, and other novelty firecrackers can be used freely in Florida.

Neighborhood and HOA Rules

While Florida fireworks laws permits fireworks on the three holidays, it doesn't override local government ordinances or neighborhood covenants that were in place before 2020. If your town or HOA had restrictions before the law, those restrictions still apply. However, the law prohibits new rules that prevent fireworks use on designated holidays.

Noise Ordinances

The law doesn't specify exact times for setting off fireworks, but nearly all communities have noise ordinances prohibiting excessive noise late at night. Using the loudest fireworks earlier in the evening is wise to avoid disturbing your neighbors and potentially facing fines.

General Safety Guidelines

To ensure a safe celebration, follow these guidelines from [Florida's State Fire Marshall](#):

- Stay away from unapproved Sparklers: Only use sparklers listed on the state's annual approved list, only with close adult supervision.
- Dispose of Duds properly: Never relight a dud. Drench it in water to ensure it's completely extinguished.
- Protect Children: Keep fireworks out of young children's hands. Consider safer alternatives like glow sticks for young kids.
- Consider Neighbors and Pets: Keep pets indoors and a safe distance from fireworks. Be mindful of neighbors who might suffer from PTSD or have other sensitivities.
- Have a Fire Extinguisher ready: Always keep a fire extinguisher or water nearby to handle any mishaps immediately.

Celebrate Responsibly

Timing and Respect

While you technically have until midnight on designated holidays to set off fireworks, finishing earlier in the evening is courteous. This consideration helps maintain good relations with your neighbors and adheres to local noise regulations.

Leftover Fireworks

If you have leftover fireworks, save them for the following legal holiday unless you have an agricultural exemption. Your neighbor will appreciate your adherence to the legal guidelines, and you'll avoid potential legal issues.

Understanding Florida's fireworks laws helps ensure a safe and legal celebration. Remember the designated holidays, respect local ordinances, and prioritize safety to enjoy your fireworks responsibly. Doing so lets you celebrate the New Year, Fourth of July, an other special occasions with peace of mind and in harmony with your community.

Dog & Cat Safety for Christmas & New Year's Eve

Below are helpful tips:

- Create a safe space
- Medicate your pet if all the activity will scare him and make him anxious
- Prevent Door Dashing by putting up a gate
- ID your pet in case he does get out
- Keep treats out of reach, especially chocolate and sugar-free treats containing Xylitol
- Candles can be knocked over by a large dog's tail and can start a fire

