

FOREST LAKES NEWSPAGE

Your E-Magazine and Information Station

Keeping the Forest Lakes family in the know...

Monthly "FL Happenings" newsletter

News Flashes — Announcements

Sponsored by Forest Lakes Owners Ass'n

FROM THE EDITOR

As I sit in our cabin, looking out the window and trying to finish up this "Happenings" to send, I'm looking out over very wet trees, a small "lake" in ours and neighbors properties, and 2" of rain in the rain gauge. It was quite a day of rain, hail, thunder, lightening, and more rain and hail. If you are in Forest Lakes today, you have pictures and stories to tell of what you experienced at your house. Lovely!



Have you checked lately to make sure your property address is visible from your driveway? In case of emergency and especially after dark, our emergency personnel need to be able to find you in case of an emergency. If you don't have your property clearly marked, please consider installing house number signs at your driveway. THANK YOU!

Where are the sheep?? After hanging out near our community for a few weeks, they have now moved on to greener pastures. There is one that seems to have been left behind and every time someone reports seeing her, by the time we can get to the location, she is gone! We will keep trying to get her back to her flock.

They will be grazing on FR 237 for the rest of the summer. One of our local photographers got a couple great pictures of the white dogs playing in the mud, and one tired ole dude. It's been fun to see them and hope you all have had some

enjoyment from having them hang around for awhile.

Lots of news to present to you again this month and so enjoy the read. What else might you have to do on this rainy day?!



Verizon Cell Tower Update

Work done this past week: construction crews bored under Merzville Road and trenched on Fire District property to bring fiber optics to the junction box that will be connected to the tower. Crews are scheduled to begin connection to the fiber optics line next week. Completion is still September if all goes as planned.

Residents have many questions about signal strength, dropped calls and inability to send text messages. Those questions and concerns need to be passed along to your provider so they understand the impact. The tower is privately owned and Fire District leases space to the tower company. The tower company leases space to cell phone carriers and the first under contract will be Verizon.

Side note: When the tower project began, there was no plan to be able to have fiber optics available. As the tower has progressed, fiber optics was brought into Forest Lakes. Connecting fiber optics to the tower has caused about a one month delay in the deadline, but is a big advantage in the years to come.

The Arizona and Federal Primary is on August 4, 2020. Polls open at 6:00 AM. Poll workers will be Suzy Bragg, Karen Ruet & Joe Ruet.


The Forest Lakes Polling Place has changed locations. The new location will be 1111 Merzville Road (The FL Community Center House).

GREEN WASTE TRANSFER STATION REPORT

Due to the rains today, the GWTS is very muddy and will be CLOSED on Monday, August 3rd.

Please be reminded that the GWTS is for disposal of green items only and not any trash. If you need to review what is acceptable and what is not, check out the list on the FLOA website, [Green Waste Transfer Station](#).

The picture below shows some of the "dirty" items that our Operators pulled out of some recent loads. Not pictured was also wire wrapped around branches. If these items were to get into the chipper, it would ruin the blades and cause shut-downs and possible refusal by the chipping company to continue keeping the pit cleaned and hauled away to the power plant. Please, let's everyone be mindful of what might be hidden in your trailer loads. CLEAN LOADS ONLY....THANK YOU!

 FOREST LAKES GREEN WASTE TRANSFER STATION
<u>2020 Operations Days/ Hours</u> Mondays—Fridays—Saturdays 9 AM to 4 PM All other days—CLOSED
When Red Flag warnings are issued, hours will be from 7 AM until 30 minutes before Red Flag conditions go into effect
Inclement weather conditions Can cause closure
USAGE FEE \$10 per load



FOREST LAKES OWNERS ASSOCIATION (FLOA) REPORT

The August FLOA Board/Member Meeting will be held on Saturday, August 15,

2020, 2 PM at the Community Center, 1111 Merzville Road.

It will be held outdoors with canvas tents erected in case of inclement weather. The wearing of face masks is required. FLOA members and all community members are welcome to attend!

Volunteers Needed to Serve on Nominating Committee

Every year 3 FLOA board seats are up for election. This year, FLOA members will vote for the seats currently filled by Cal Phillips, Mack Hume, and me.

Per Article 2, Section 3 of the FLOA by-laws, we're soliciting volunteers to comprise a nominating committee, and need 4 members-at-large to fill these positions. From our by-laws, "It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to nominate at least one candidate for each of the vacancies to be filled, having obtained consent from the proposed nominee(s)." Please consider volunteering. Committee members reach out to other members to garner interest and collect candidate interest forms. The committee and I would then vet the candidates to verify eligibility. The committee would also need to vet any floor nominated candidates at the annual September meeting. If you're interested, please reply to me directly at pony67@hotmail.com. You can also reach out to me with a phone call or text: 480-266-2311. We can do all our work remotely and maintain proper social distancing.

If anyone wants to chat or discuss what it's like being a FLOA board member, please reach out to any present (or former) board member. Their names and email addresses are listed on the FLOA website on the [Board of Directors](#) Page.

Best Regards,
Shane Williams, FLOA Vice President
pony67@hotmail.com
480-266-2311

FL COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

Information Regarding the Drop Box.....

1. Drop off during open hours, knock on the back door and I will grab them.
2. Leave them on your front porch (out of the rain) and send an email to the address below and I will pick them up. I plan to pick up every day to keep the items out of the weather.

Forest Lakes Library and the community wants to thank the Zelenski family for all the time and resources they invested to organize and run the bake sale that raised funds for the library. The money will be invested in chapter books and biographies for young adults, kids and those young at heart who like to get lost in an adventure.

For years, these books will enrich many lives. Not just Forest Lakes residents and their families (and grandkids), but for those in the campgrounds, RVs, and camping in the forest.

"There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island." - Walt Disney

Forest Lakes Library and the entire community wants to thank FLOA for their support. Your generous donation has made it possible to display all our DVD media. This has freed up shelf space allowing us to display more books for young adults and kids and those young at heart.

"That's the thing about books. They let you travel without moving your feet."— Jhumpa Lahiri

Thank you for your support of the Library. June was our busiest month in history and July is very close.

Brian Hawk, Librarian
FLLibraryaz@gmail.com

FIRE DISTRICT NEWS

Fire Restrictions Have Been Lifted

You can now have campfires and use your burn pit during the day, but please be reminded that every property owner needs to have a Burn Permit on file with the district to be able to safely burn on your property. This is a one time form to fill out and needs to be renewed annually.

Where can you get a burn permit? Go to www.flfdaz.com and scroll down the Home Page to Burn Permit information. You can download the Burn Permit and then send it in to the fire station or drop it by. Remember that the station is still closed due to Coronavirus Pandemic rules, but you can leave it at the Public Entrance door on the South side of the building.

APS Microgrid Project

Arizona Public Service [APS] and the Forest Lakes Fire District have entered into a partnership for the lease of Fire District property to build a Microgrid power system that will provide back-up power (i.e, a BIG generator) to the community in the event of a power failure.

The project kicked off Thursday with a discussion and site walk to determine space requirements, access and grading/drainage challenges . The leftover block from the fire station is being considered to be included in the fence design. Three property owners adjacent to the project met with us last week and their input is a component of the teams design objectives. Site design and environmental testing results will be

forwarded to the fire board for approval prior to a long term lease agreement. Negotiations will begin soon on a lease agreement and first phase construction is planned for the fall pending fire board approval.

Project completion goal is end of 2021.

Respectfully,
Chief Dave Rodriguez

FOREST LAKES FIRE DISTRICT AUXILIARY REPORT

Due to continued social distancing and the fact that the Fire Station has again been closed to the public, we have cancelled our public August Auxiliary meeting. Also, to clear up any confusion regarding our Auxiliary events this summer, any Auxiliary events, including the Labor Day Ice Cream Social for Labor Day weekend 2020, have been canceled due to the pandemic. However, we are eagerly waiting to resume our activities, including Ice Cream Socials, when it is prudent to do so.

The Auxiliary announced this summer that the Fire Board requested a donation towards a Lucas Chest Compressor for the Fire District, with an approximate cost of \$15,000.00. We would like to thank those who have so generously contributed towards the chest compressor and because of these donations, we are able to assist the Forest Lakes Fire District with this purchase, thereby meeting our goal for this summer, in spite of the pandemic hindering our activities!

FLFDA Board Nominations

The FLFDA conducts various fundraising activities to support the Forest Lakes Fire District (FLFD). That support helps provide equipment and supplies that enable FLFD to provide first rate fire and EMS services to the community of Forest Lakes, 14 miles of Highway 260, and surrounding lakes and campgrounds.

The FLFDA is managed by a five-member board, and the members serve for two-year terms. This fall, the terms for three existing board members expire. The FLFDA is in need of nominees for these board positions. There is a special need for a Treasurer. If you are willing to serve on the FLFDA board, please contact Dick Zimmermann NO LATER THAN AUGUST 7, 2020, at (928) 535-5425. Alternately, you may leave a message with the FLFD office: (928) 535-4644.

Because of the pandemic this summer we will be conducting elections by email. If potential new Board members come forward and an election process to fill these positions is required, e-mail ballots will be sent the following week to current Auxiliary members requesting they cast their vote by August 14. If you are a current Auxiliary member, please watch your emails! We would like to accomplish this in a timely fashion and get new Board members in place.

Further information about the Auxiliary is available at <https://flfdaz.com/auxiliary>

WATER DRIVE

The Auxiliary continues to conduct a water drive. Let's help keep our emergency response workers hydrated. Please donate a case or two of water if you can!

T-SHIRTS

There is still a small inventory of last year's t-shirt design - "I'll Be At The Cabin". If you are interested in purchasing a shirt(s) you may contact our Board member, Jan Cummiskey at (602) 510-8264, and please be sure to leave a message if there is no answer.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CULVERT MAINTENANCE

Cleaning out of dirt, debris and any maintenance or replacement of culverts that connect their driveway(s) to the Coconino County roads are homeowner responsibility. Culverts need to be cleaned out regularly to reduce the likelihood of water flowing over and damaging the county road. The Coconino County Public Works employees do not clean culverts for homeowners. Public Works employees are responsible for the county roadways, culverts under county roadways and bar ditches/drainages on the sides of the county maintained roadways. Also regarding culverts and driveways, Coconino County requires an encroachment permit for any new connection to the county maintained roadways.

The road washouts in our community are largely caused by clogged homeowner culverts.

More things you need to know.....

Homeowners are responsible for having their driveways plowed, including berms removed at homeowner expense or by the homeowner themselves. The plow operator(s) break a "single lane" path and then make multiple passes to widen the road up to the County easements if necessary by the amount of snowfall. This is done in a multi stage/multi day process if necessary, starting with the bus route and progressing until all of the roads are open to two lanes. It may be best to wait to shovel or have your driveway plowed until after the snowfall if possible.

November 1 through April 30 any vehicles parked on county maintained roads or right of ways can be ticketed or towed at the Sheriff's decision. Anything ie: snowmobiles, quads, trashcans... left in the roadway or right of way may be damaged or destroyed, as the plow operator(s) cannot see what is buried in the snow. Reach out to Coconino County Public Works in Flagstaff for details or our Coconino County Sheriff in the subdivision they know the specific Ordinance and Fines.

There are multiple individuals/companies in the Forest Lakes and Heber/Overgaard areas that can contract with the homeowners to complete any of this type of work. For a list, check out the [Business Directory](#) on the FLOA website.

If homeowners are happy with what is being done by all means thank the county employees you see. If homeowners are unhappy with what is being done, reach out and the employees will see what they are able to do. They may request you contact Coconino County Public Works in Flagstaff, as they have supervisors they report to.

Thank you, as always, from the employees of the Coconino County Public Works Department and your local crew, Clinton and David.

Check out this [website](#) for more detailed information:
ht

OBITUARY

Our Sympathies to the family and friends of Colleen Ward

Colleen Ward passed away peacefully in her home here in Forest Lakes on July 6th. She believed you need to live while you are alive or what's the point. She was always game to add to her Bucket List, always had a suitcase packed for "just in case", like smoke, fire, or a spontaneous get away. She quit having trips (after 4 broken ribs) vacations, holidays . . ."all good, just no more trips" she would say.

A private service was held with family, anyone who called her Grandma, and even the ones related to her.

If you wish to honor her in some way, become what you loved most about her, don't eat cheap chocolate, never pass a beach without stopping, go to the temple, and love one another.

She said change age to level because level 94 is badass.

No regrets,
Colleen Ward





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