

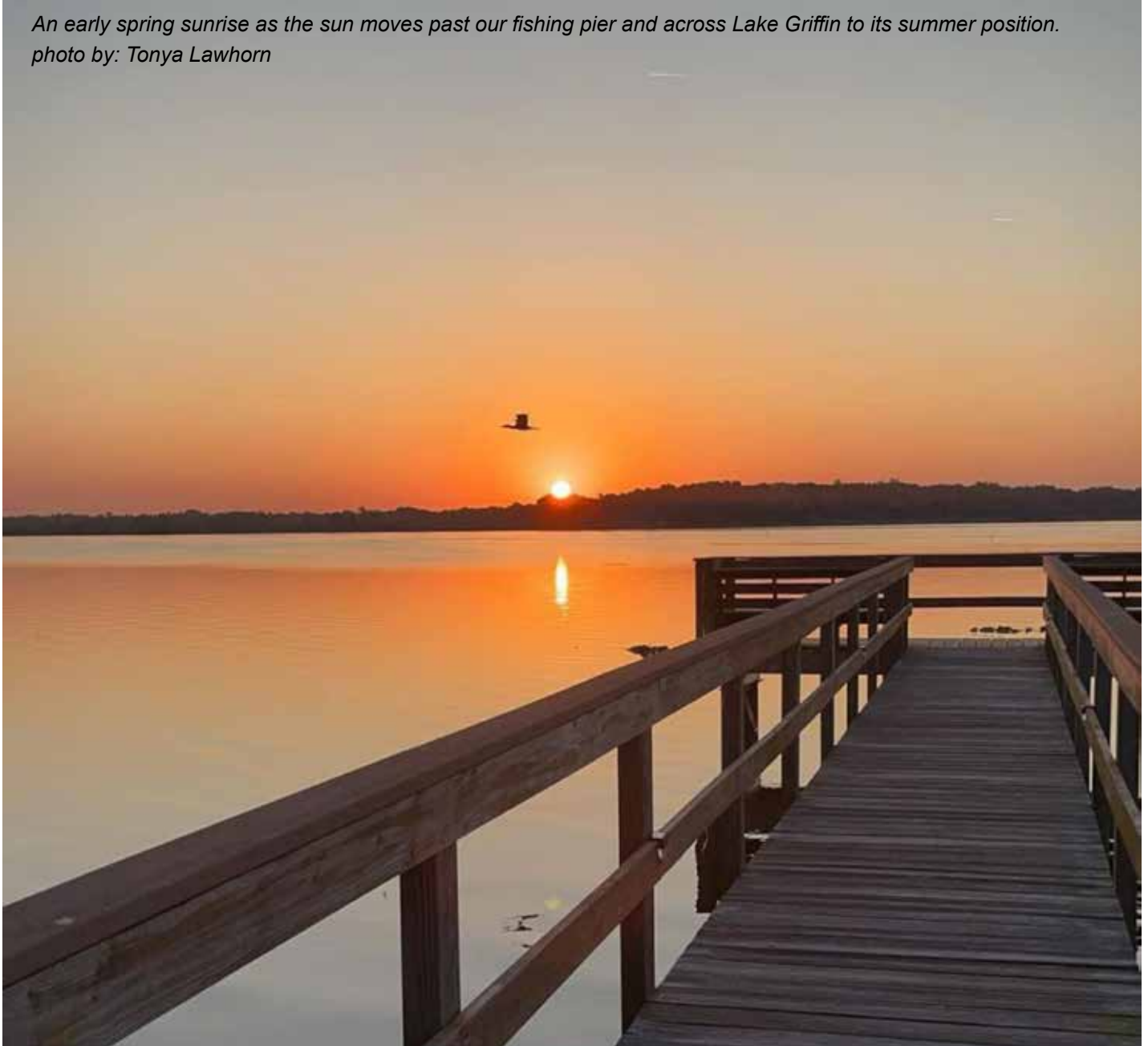
The Seagull

Lakeside Terrace | 24 Sunrise Lane, Fruitland Park, FL 34731
www.lakesideterrace.net



June 2024

*An early spring sunrise as the sun moves past our fishing pier and across Lake Griffin to its summer position.
photo by: Tonya Lawhorn*



The Seagull is published by the Lakeside Terrace Social Club

SUB-FLOOR & FLOORING EXPERTS!

COVID-19 NOTICE:

We are taking as many precautions as we can to ensure not only our workers safety but yours as well. We are checking employee temperatures daily, limiting contact between crews, and offering no customer contact if you choose. We are an "Essential Business" and here for you when you need us.

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Social Club Calendar

JUNE 2024

Recurring Activities (Monthly)

1st Sat	Coffee & Donuts 9:00 AM
3rd Tue	Guys 'n Gals Luncheon 1:00 PM
3rd Thu	Birthday Party 5:00 PM
2nd Fri	Book Club 2:00 PM
3rd Fri	Grandma's Bingo + Wine. 6:30 PM

Recurring Activities (Weekly)

Sunday	1 PM Billiards
Sunday	6 PM Euchre (Bring \$.50; Prizes)
Monday	7 AM Exercise with Peg
Mon	10 AM Pool Aerobics
Mon	1 PM Wii Bowling
Mon	5 PM Bingo
Tuesday	1 PM Billiards
Tue	2 PM Left, Right, Center
Wednesday	7 AM Exercise with Peg
Wed	10 AM Pool Aerobics
Wed	6:30 PM Not Your Grandma's Bingo
Thursday	1 PM Mahjongg
Thu	1 PM Shuffleboard
Thu	6:30 PM Pennies
Friday	7 AM Exercise with Peg
Fri	10 AM Pool Aerobics
Fri	1 PM Billiards
Fri	6:30 PM Not Your Grandma's Bingo

Social Club News

Martha Grove, Social Club President

Happy June from your Social Club.

By the time you read this, we will all have enjoyed a great time at our Memorial Day party. A Big Thank You to Pat and Grace Hetherington for stepping up and being a little unique with our main course. Pat prepared on his grill chicken, pork, and shrimp fried rice. For those not so adventurous, they also made sloppy joes. As always, everyone enjoyed so much good food and fun, followed by Not Your Grandma's Bingo—with prizes!!!!

Starting June 1st, we will be selling coffee and donuts the first Saturday of the month. The Board hopes to keep this going till the coffee klatsch starts

again in the fall. We are also preparing for our July 4th party with lots of food, games, and prizes. It will be a Blast!!

Your board members are working on other activities, as well—a senior Midnight Madness Movie event (starting at 9 pm, the new midnight) and other entertaining events for the summer. Make sure you check the kiosks or the boards in the clubhouse, or of course, our Facebook page. You don't want to miss out on the fun!

Guys 'n Gals Luncheon

Gatherings begin in June; our first luncheon is at Legends on Tuesday, June 18, at 1:00pm. Watch the kiosks, CH bulletin board, and FB page for updates and details. Contact: Regina Filbert 330-507-5150 -or- Sherry Shaw 614-395-0411

Happy JUNE Birthday!

(If we missed you or your new neighbor, please let us know.)

Ruth Bernier, Jim Filbert, Jim Graham, Tina Kickery, Sue McFadden, Richard McFadden, Doug Rice, Jody Ross, & Kim Thurman.

Happy JUNE Anniversary!

(If we missed you or your new neighbor, please let us know.)

Nancy & Richard Byrd and Lance & Sandi Jischke.



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Manager's Corner

Malinda Brown, Community Manager

Welcome to June! Here come the heat and the storms. Just a reminder that we all need to stay prepared for strong winds. Please keep any projectile items put away or secured. These items include ornamental yard items and any decorative stones or plants that might be swept away in the wind into your neighbor's window. Please be proactive with this, not reactive.

Thanks again to all that have done a wonderful job this year at getting your homes beautified and kept up! I want to formally apologize for any confusion I created with communicating the remaining issues with the 360 Inspections. It was my first time doing them AND using the multiplier automatic message calls. I believe it has been a learning experience for all of us. The process and expectations of the company and how we both communicate when any work has been addressed and completed are much clearer now than when we did them. I'm sure we will all communicate much better next year.

Speaking of beautifications and improvements, we have been working on some things ourselves. We are currently adding (or have added) 3 new bike racks set on ground pavers, fixing holes in the boat ramp, removing bushes around the pool area and the dead Palm on Picciola Road, with many more updates to come. An area of interest on the next list of projects will be our Marina. I'm excited about the updates that we are planning next. A huge thanks to Rich McFadden for his educational trip with me down to that area. I want to thank everyone for all the feedback on all Cap-X projects that have been suggested. I have taken every vote and discussion into consideration as I move forward in creating new projects for the next year(s) to come.

We are continuing to work on the cat problem. I will continue to address the issue of keeping your pets inside and on a leash when outside and the feeding of animals outside of your home. This also includes dogs. There have been reports of dogs running loose and doing their business in residents' yards on multiple streets in the community. These actions are in violation of our Rules and Regulations. We have found a humane way to remove any domesticated animals from the community and give them a chance to have a nice family adopt them. So, please don't risk your pet being removed from the park by allowing him/her to freely roam the

community. Many of you have contacted us and documented your pet so this will not happen. Thank you! Unfortunately, removing any of the feral cats is not something we can do physically. Taking away their source of food is the only way to get them to move on. So, please adhere to these rules to not be a part of the problem we are currently working together to solve.

The area at the south end of Lake Griffin is NOT a DUMPING AREA. Please do not dispose of any items there, including leaves, branches, or any other debris. Also, everyone PLEASE SLOW DOWN and adhere to stop signs. We have been noticing that the movement of traffic in the park is faster than the 15 miles per hour speed limit and that stop signs are being run through. This includes cars, golf carts, and bikes. Please be proactive, not reactive to this message. This is to protect everyone here in the park. Don't wait until you have injured someone or are injured yourself to obey this rule.

I want to wish everyone a wonderful month of June. Stay cool and keep safe.

Your Community Manager, Malinda Brown

Greetings from the HOA

Randy Ellis, President

It is now May, and it appears that our weather has really warmed up, and our lawns are drying up as well. We Need Rain. Last month I mentioned that the park was starting to thin out slightly. Well, many more of our Winter Family have headed back to their families for the summer.

On Saturday, May 11th, the HOA had its monthly meeting. The HOA wants to thank everyone that attended, 33 in all. The HOA has decided that during the time when there is no Coffee Klatsch, coffee & donuts will be made available at our meetings—on the house. Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 13, at 9:45AM. Come on in, get a coffee & donut, and be part of the meeting.

On Tuesday, May 7th, 1st Vice President Carol Hetherington and I met with Park Manager Malinda Brown. Below are some of the important items discussed during our meeting.

Clubhouse Updates:

The maintenance office will be completely consumed with the remodel of the rest rooms

Continued on page 6

to make both ADA compliant. So, we do have to make sure a second shed is on the drawing board. Malinda said that she is going to try to work on funding to complete this task.

Pool Appearance:

The pool area inside the fenced area was getting filthy. I brought this to Will Webster's attention, and he did make an effort to clean it up. I explained to Malinda what needed to be done to keep it maintained, including blowing off the pavers periodically.

Boat Slips Maintenance:

The boat slips are becoming extremely dangerous on the south side. After the meeting last month, I went down there to survey the problems and brought it to the attention of Malinda and Will W. Will explained that he was beginning to power wash the slips and walkway, and he would be examining the slips one by one as he came to them. Malinda stated in addition to the slips being repaired, they would be installing the proper cleats and lighting on each slip.

360 Cure Notices:

It was brought to our attention that several residents received cure notices from park management. To my understanding (but don't hold me to it), a Cure Notice is given to residents who break the rules, usually some type of major infraction. If a resident does receive a cure letter, they are given a time limit to fix the infraction. Should it continue, the park does reserve the right to terminate the lease. It will usually take 3 infractions (all the same and in a years' time frame) before the park would consider terminating a lease. So, regarding the mailings, Malinda put a message out on Call Multiplier asking anyone that did receive a Cure Letter to contact her. The HOA also sent out the same message on both Facebook pages and E-Mail. Hopefully, by the time you read this all the problems have been resolved. If you have completed your 360 tasks, contact Malinda at the office: (352) 326-9455

If you are not on Facebook, do not have an email address, and would like to receive a hard copy of HOA communications, please get a message to me, and I will do my best to provide you with such. Resident Information Forms are at the Clubhouse for anyone that needs to update their personal information with the HOA. We also have a new Comment/Wish List Slip and a locked box where

anyone can submit these forms or slips. If anyone has concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me.

The HOA Board conducts approximately nine meetings on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 9:45AM (except June and August) and an annual meeting that takes place on the 2nd Tuesday evening in January. We encourage you to attend and assist the board in making decisions about the future of our park. Keep in mind, every one of us is on the same team, and TEAM means "Together – Each – Achieves – More". Let's keep it going.

Randy Ellis

President, Lakeside Terrace Homeowners Association, Inc.

Randyellis01@gmail.com

OR Lakesideterracehoa@gmail.com OR ph 508-697-8745

4th of July Rubber Duck Races and Cookout

Join us at the pool for the first Annual

Rubber Duck Races

Linda Greer

Sign up to Race a Duck across the LST pool without touching it. Heats will be held to determine an overall winner in the Short Distance (Non-Swimmers) and in the Long Distance (Swimmers or with Floats). Ducks will also be available to draw for prizes.

A cookout will be held on the patio deck above the pool. Social Club will provide the meat. Attendees are encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert. It will be lots of fun including water guns, plus more. Sign up in the clubhouse starting June 1. *Contact Linda Greer for more information: 916-541-7305*

Garden Update

Patty Kendrick



Finally we are getting some much needed rain. Gardens are going strong now with some swiss chard, peppers, eggplant, butternut squash, and green beans. Tomatoes are starting to look good too.

We are all learning as we go along determining what

varieties work in each "season". Things should slow down in the heat of summer; we will see. It will give us time to plan for fall crops!

Security and Common Sense

Handling a Vehicle Accident

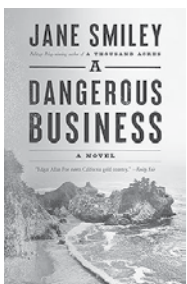
Rich McFadden, HOA Infrastructure Committee

A vehicle accident can be both frightening and confusing. To protect yourself from unwanted repercussions, you can follow these steps. First, assess for injuries and call 911 to report any that may require medical attention. At the same time, request police response to the scene. Take pictures of all damage and of both license plates of the cars involved. Be cautious about interactions with others involved: do not discuss the accident; do not provide personal information to another party; share insurance, license, and registration with police only. Make sure you can acquire identification of all parties and vehicles involved. Within 24 hours, contact your insurance agent/company to report the accident, and contact an attorney, if needed.

After the accident, it is important to follow protective protocols. Never make or accept direct contact with others involved—all interactions should take place through your insurance company or attorney. If you are injured or hospitalized, document all medical costs and lost wages. If you require a rental car, make sure who is paying and for how long. After a serious accident, you will never be 100% healed; be sure to seek all compensation possible. Repairs notwithstanding, your car's value will be significantly reduced, whether the accident was your fault or not. Consequently, any insurance or monetary settlements negotiated by your insurance agents and/or attorney should be subject to your approval—never leave a settlement open-ended.

Turnin' Pages

Carol Roberts



A Dangerous Business by Jane Smiley garnered both praise and criticism at our last book club gathering. While almost everyone enjoyed reading the book, the experience elicited a good amount of perplexity from our readers. Many felt

that the characters lacked depth and found it hard to identify with them. It was agreed that this was partly due to the setting. Set on the frontier of Monterey, California, in the mid 19th century, people arrived and disappeared as a matter of course, following rumors of



gold or other windfalls. Like the characters in the novel, people of the time were essentially strangers to each other, far removed from their origins, and often in competition for a decent living. However, the depiction of Monterey as an early port town seemed vibrantly authentic in Smiley's description of the surroundings and activities. Characters roam the cliffs and picnic near the ocean, observing wildlife. Even in ante-bellum California, rumors of Civil War and the "underground railroad" make their



way through the ambience. Smiley's plot was deemed peripatetic and somewhat low-key, lacking the focused suspense and danger one might expect from a mystery novel. But from a mid 19th century

point of view, the dangers and unknowns of frontier life were commonplace and perhaps not something to be emphasized or worried over. So, Smiley's plot seems rather matter-of-fact in some ways. This might be especially true in its portrayal of prostitution, the "trade" of both female main characters, Eliza and Jean. For the women involved, prostitution was a path out of poverty, a move toward freedom, and a method to reach independence—and it became simply "every day life." Modern readers might take exception to the view presented by Smiley, but on the 19th century western frontier, a prostitute led a relatively safe life, protected by a madam with whom she lived, as both boarder and employee. Nevertheless, the lives of all women in the 19th century held much less value than that of males. Abusive relationships were, of course, quite common, and a woman without the protection of a man was always in danger. A man owned his companion, and society provided no recourse for those without a male partner. No wonder then that Smiley's characters, even the women, exhibit barely a frisson at the multiple murders of prostitutes. The

Continued on page 9

Heater and Air Conditioning Emergency Unit

Social Club and HOA can supply a portable heating - A/C unit to be used if yours fails.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Emergency Portable Air Conditioner and Heater</u></p> <p>A/C-Heater Unit is housed at :</p> <p style="text-align: center;">56 Terrace Drive</p> <p>To use, please CONTACT:</p> <p>Randy Ellis 508 - 697 – 8745</p> <p>Martha Grove 352 - 973 – 9731</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Volunteers</u> who can assist in the pickup and setup of the unit:</p> <p>Rich McFadden 330 - 507 - 3674</p> <p>Jim Filbert 330 - 207 - 0998</p> <p>Will Webster 352 – 326 - 9455</p> <p>(Park Maintenance) M-F 8am – 4 pm</p>
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Consent for Use and Liability

The Lakeside Terrace Social Club and HOA boards are ***loaning*** an air conditioning and heating unit for use in your home. The loan is a stopgap measure due to the malfunction of your central system. It is only a short term loan while permanent repairs are completed. You are expected to return the unit in good working order, and to care for it properly while it's in your possession. You need to show a representative of either of these organizations that the unit is working properly before disconnecting and returning it. By receiving this equipment, you accept full responsibility for it and for its use.

Resident who will use the unit: _____
(signature)

Address where it will be used: _____

Date resident received unit: _____ **Date unit returned:** _____

Witness: _____

Lake County Senior Watch

If you live alone or have medical problems and need someone to check on you, take advantage of the Lake County Sheriff's Office's Senior Watch Program.

- When you join, you'll be assigned an identification number. Then, just call the Senior Watch telephone operators each morning and tell them how you feel.
- If the Senior watch operators don't hear from you, they'll call you. If you don't answer the phone, they'll try to contact one of your neighbors or a relative to check on you. If they still can't contact you, a deputy will be dispatched to your home.

To join: call the Lake County Sheriff's Office at 352 - 343 - 2101.

Select Option # 4. Provide your name, address, telephone number, age, medical condition, and details for your friends and relatives who can be contacted.



pursuit of the killer by the two women is almost an exercise in curiosity and problem-solving; they go about it quite lazily at times, strolling along the cliff

where they plan to confront their suspect. Although they see the potential danger to themselves, they are forced to accept it as “just the way life is.” Consequently, Smiley's conclusion to her story, with both characters able to pursue an independent and secure life is not just stuff of fantasy. Like Eliza and Jean, “lucky” women of the time could lift themselves out of danger and poverty, either by personal frugality or by securing a male partner. Many single women and widows were able to purchase land, establish a business, or marry a suitor—and this was true for ladies in a “dangerous business” as well.

Ladies of Leisure Luncheon

Karen Keenan

The April luncheon at Sumi Sushi and Hibachi was enjoyed by those who attended. Those of us not familiar with this cuisine appreciated the willingness of others to explain their choices and even share a taste. The final lunch for the season, scheduled for May 20th, was canceled as the venue closed. We miss our seasonal friends who have left for the summer, but look forward to meeting again next fall.

Golf Cart Parades Honor Residents

Carol Hetherington

If you will be 85 or older in June, please let Linda Greer or Carol Hetherington know so we can help you celebrate your special day. With all our snowbirds gone, please join us as it only takes 15-20 minutes. To request a birthday parade, contact Carol: 810-964-5606 or Linda: 916-541-7305

In addition to special birthdays, parades are planned for July Fourth and Labor Day, too. For July 4th, plan on joining us with your cart all decorated for a chance to win a \$25.00 gift card for Best Decorated Cart. You must be a social club member to qualify for the gift card; Social Club membership is only \$12.00 a year per person.

June

Jeanne Sullivan

Spring has arrived. The weatherman and the calendar confirm it. Plants that lay dormant all winter suddenly peek out of the cold, cold ground and wonder if it is time yet. A serious lack of spring rain has slowed the process. I enjoy the renewal of life in the spring. June has a soft, romantic side. June has been popular for the many weddings planned for this month. I wish we had the room to print some of the most unusual stories. Maybe just one . . .

I was 35 and divorced. I started dating a gentleman named Joe. Joe introduced me to his friend Bill. Bill said, “Glad to meet you. Perhaps we could go to dinner sometime.” I said, “I doubt it.” A few days later, I was working my part-time job as a waitress in a local bar. In came Joe's friend Bill.

“Hi,” said Bill. “When you get off work, how about going to the beach?” I said, “Why don't you go home and sober up.” I didn't see him leave, but at four in the morning, there was knock on the door. It was Bill who announced he had gone home and sobered up. Was I ready for the beach? This was the first weekend in June. We got married a couple weeks later, June 27th.

Bill was impulsive and adventurous. If I were to write our life story, it would take several books. The first would be called “Three Days at the Beach.” It might take time to clear censorship. Then there would be “Our Little Restaurant in the Mountains,” followed by “Two Years at the Helm.” Then it was back to work, like normal people. We bought a motor home and decided to travel. We bought a motorcycle. We soon got bored with the motor home and began traveling on our motorcycles. The last book would be called “Into the Sunset.” The cover would show us riding side by side on our motorcycles.

Happy 55th anniversary, my love. I remember the place where we could get a couple hot dogs and a beer. Join me.



MAY

S M T W T F S

1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14 15 16 17 18

19 20 21 22 23 24 25

26 27 28 29 30 31

JUNE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
1 PM Billiards2	7 AM Exercise with Peg 10 AM Pool Aerobics 1 PM Wii Bowling 5 PM Bingo3	1 PM Billiards 2 pm Left, Right, Center4	7 AM Exercise 10 AM Pool Aerobics 6:30 PM Not Grandma's Billiards
1 PM Billiards9	7 AM Exercise with Peg 10 AM Pool Aerobics 1 PM Wii Bowling 5 PM Bingo10	1 PM Billiards 2 pm Left, Right, Center11	7 AM Exercise 10 AM Pool Aerobics 6:30 PM Not Grandma's Billiards
1 PM Billiards16 Father's Day	7 AM Exercise with Peg 10 AM Pool Aerobics 1 PM Wii Bowling 5 PM Bingo17	1 PM Billiards 1 PM Guys 'n Gals Luncheon at Legends 2 PM Left, Right, Center18	7 AM Exercise 10 AM Pool Aerobics 6:30 PM Not Grandma's Billiards
1 PM Billiards23	7 AM Exercise with Peg 10 AM Pool Aerobics 1 PM Wii Bowling 5 PM Bingo24	1 PM Billiards 2 pm Left, Right, Center25	7 AM Exercise 10 AM Pool Aerobics 6:30 PM Not Grandma's Billiards
1 PM Billiards30			

2024

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Coffee & Donuts
5 Exercise with Peg Aerobics Your Bingo	6 1 PM Shuffleboard 6:30 PM Pennies (aka Tripoley)	7 7 AM Exercise with Peg 10 AM Pool Aerobics 1 PM Billiards 6:30 PM Not Your Grandma's Bingo	8
12 Exercise with Peg Aerobics Your Bingo	13 1 PM Shuffleboard 6:30 PM Pennies (aka Tripoley)	14 7 AM Exercise with Peg 10 AM Pool Aerobics 1 PM Billiards 2 PM Book Club 6:30 PM Not Your Grandma's Bingo	15
19 Exercise with Peg Aerobics Your Bingo	20 1 PM Shuffleboard 5 PM Birthday party 6:30 PM Pennies (aka Tripoley) First Day of Summer	21 7 AM Exercise with Peg 10 AM Pool Aerobics 1 PM Billiards 6:30 PM Grandma's Bingo + Wine	22
26 Exercise with Peg Aerobics Your Bingo	27 1 PM Shuffleboard 6:30 PM Pennies (aka Tripoley)	28 7 AM Exercise with Peg 10 AM Pool Aerobics 1 PM Billiards 6:30 PM Not Your Grandma's Bingo	29

Living [with] the Wild Life

Seagull Staff

One of the most delightful and one of the most discussed features of Lakeside Terrace is its abundance of native wildlife. Alligators, turtles, and even the occasional manatee can be spotted just a short walk away from our homes. Hawks, owls, egrets, even eagles hunt overhead while sandhill cranes stroll regally among us; ibis search our lawns for insects as tree swallows swoop through our holly and oak canopies. And now that Spring has arrived, animal activity has heightened.

As alligator courtship began in April, the males' distinctive bellows, which can be sensed over a mile away, began to attract females for mating, which occurs in late May or early June. Alligators in courtship are quite touchy-feely, engaging in prolonged eye contact and numerous body contact behaviors. Once a pair decides to mate, they may stay together for several days. Most of these couples will be at least seven feet in length each, and their courtship may be visible—perhaps around our lake. Florida currently is home to over 1.25 million gators, and a recent count put Lake Griffin's estimated population at around five hundred.



Appearing yearly for an extended visit, our denning red foxes provide several months of excitement. Although not native to Florida this far



south, they have become naturalized in Central Florida and definitely in Lakeside Terrace. Breeding takes place in late fall or early winter, and a pair usually mates for life. The kits--born blind and helpless--

will nurse for about two months and stay with the adults for about six months, while the pair actively hunt to feed their brood. These graceful creatures are no threat to residents or their pets; usually they will move on when encountered but occasionally exhibit a watchful curiosity. Once the kits have grown, the mated pair will be seen much less often until the next season. Our foxes are about the size of a small dog, but with a flowing, longer tail; anything much larger could be a coyote, one of which was noticed traveling through LST. Coyotes will keep moving, encouraged by yelling and arm waving.

Quite infrequent are visits from black bears, but sightings have been reported in our park. For this event—just go back inside. Pictures from windows only!

Most snakes in Central Florida—and there are lots: 36 out of 45 native species—breed between March and August, so it's best to be prepared for that tingle when suddenly a black racer slithers across your path. Mostly, our snake population is a beneficial one, eating those critters we don't want under our homes. But be aware that Central Florida is home to four species of venomous snakes. Wear shoes and watch where you step!

Sources:

<https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/alligator/facts>

<https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/bear/facts>

<https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/profiles/mamma/s/land/red-fox>

<https://ufwildlife.ifas.ufl.edu/snakes/central.shtml>

<https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/polkco/2017/02/24/florida-black-bears>

alligator photo: Terri Ellis fox photo: Mary Burel

SCAM

ALERT

Are you really the Lucky Winner?

Never **PAY** to get a **PRIZE**. That's a scam.

Don't pay to get a prize. Real prizes are free. Anyone who asks you to pay a fee for "taxes," "shipping and handling charges," or "processing fees" to get your prize, is a scammer. Stop and walk away.

Don't give your financial information. There is absolutely no reason to ever give your bank account or credit card number to claim a prize. If anyone asks for it, it's a scam.

Don't give your personal information. Scammers hope you'll click on links that will take your personal information or download malware on your device. Delete the message without clicking on the links and don't respond.

Report Imposter Scams Online
to the Federal Trade Commission





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- **Vapor / Moisture Barrier**
- **Underhome Encapsulated Insulation**
- **Hurricane Tie-Down Anchors** **10 Yrs Exp.**

To our valued customers:

Our top priority is the health and safety of our employees and our customers. Our employees are closely following the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and recommendations, like frequent hand washing, social distancing, and staying home if they are feeling ill.

We have taken steps to limit exposure to the virus by making our customers aware that there is no need to have any contact with our employees if you choose to do so. Our business falls under the state's guidelines as "Essential Business".

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Three or four times a week, Dave Ratcliff and his buddies Harry Salmon and Terry Walker head down to the docks for their weekly fishing trips. Accompanied by Gator, Dave's goldendoodle, the trio spend the early mornings in companionable chat waiting for an interesting strike. Dave steers his boat across the lake to the church camp, where the best fishing is, he says. He prefers crappie—"the best fish to eat"—which grow large in Lake Griffin. Recently, a gator or two has provided some fun chasing their casts, says Harry. For Harry, the lake trips mean a very early rise—usually by 5am—to be ready for their hours on the water, but fishing is in his blood. He has fished since childhood, learning from his dad in brooks and lakes. Harry's always angling for bass as his favorite, but will take whatever bites; he's basically a catch and release guy.

Dave and Terry, though, bring their catches home. Next door neighbors on Lakeview Drive, both enjoy a good fish fry, which they share with Dave's mom and dad, Kenny and Rosie, and neighbors Scott and Linda Greer.

Lake Griffin is Florida's eighth largest lake at 7 miles long and 9,327 acres, and fishing opportunities are plentiful year round. Large mouth bass—stocked into the lake by the State Wildlife Agency—thrive all year, and resident canals like ours often hold bedding bass. Trophy bass and large crappie attract anglers who can also catch bluegill, perch, and catfish—and the occasional gator, gar, or bowfin, according to our guys.

*Pictured left: (top) Rosie Ratcliff, (bottom) Gator and right: (top) Terry Walker, (left) Scott Greer, (right) Harry Salmon
Photos by Dave Ratcliff*

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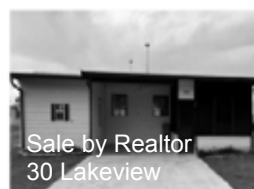
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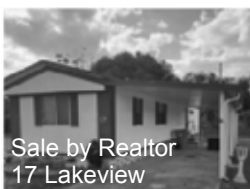
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39 Lakeview

Around the Table

Recently visited . . .

Prime 3 on Main If you're downtown in Leesburg, try Prime 3. Offering steak and seafood in a renovated historic building, the atmosphere is classic and the décor both elegant and casual. Unfortunately, the traditionally high ceilings and cinderblock construction creates an echo that made the otherwise lovely music too loud for our table to converse comfortably; service noises are amplified as well. However, the food, was worth the slight annoyance. Our entrees were perfectly cooked, served hot, and delicious. The diver scallops received raves; steaks were cooked exactly to preference--the filet was a meltingly tender medium rare. Sides are classic and well-prepared, but nothing special, although Caesar salad for two can be prepared table side. Service skews toward formal, but remains very friendly. The evening we dined, our server was also covering tables al fresco, so she struggled a bit to be as timely as we would have liked—and we do not like to rush. The full bar offers clever specialty drinks. Prices are similar to local upscale dining.

Sumi Sushi & Hibachi Don't be put off by the strip mall location in Leesburg Square (across MLK blvd from Walmart.) Many culinary gems can be found in these unlikely locations. Sumi definitely is one of those. If you like sushi and sashimi, the preparations are very fresh and created on the spot. Both traditional sushi and sushi rolls can be had raw, but if you don't like raw seafood, multiple cooked rolls are also available, as are poke bowls. Cooked options are both familiar and diverse. You can choose from hibachi or teriyaki meals like beef, chicken, seafood, and shrimp; bento boxes feature soup, salad, and traditional choices like teriyaki and tempura; preparations like General Tso's, curry, sweet and sour, and sesame are also offered. After enjoying a shrimp shumai app (fried shrimp dumpling,) two of our diners ordered bento boxes (chicken teriyaki, shrimp tempura) all of which were more than enough to take a second serving home. Our third diner is partial to the delectable tuna Poke Bowl, part of which could have gone home, but it's just too yummy. Prices are moderate.

Legends Bar and Grill Local favorite Legends moved this winter from their old location to the Fruitland Park Plaza at the intersection of Picciola Cutoff and Route 27/441. Its new location provides

much easier access and parking while retaining the atmosphere and offerings customers expect. All the old favorites can be had—pizza, huge pasta servings, sandwiches, salads, platters and wings—including Tuesday All-You-Can-Eat Wing Night. Two bars serve the interior space, and Legends' well-known generous pour is till the norm, although anything “fancy,” like a Martini or Manhattan, depends on the server's knowledge and skill. Karaoke in the back room is still regularly on tap. On our visits (2-3 of them,) getting used to the “new” Legends was an adjustment. Lots of new, young faces behind the bars and in service gave us pause—and a little inexperience. But the setting is larger, brighter, and more open, if lacking a little of that close neighborhood bar feel. The food remains yummy, as ever, and affordable; the kitchen has not changed, as far as we could tell. Some of our favorites: the blackened mahi sandwich, any pizza or flatbread, any burger, and the take-home-another-meal pastas. Prices remain moderate.



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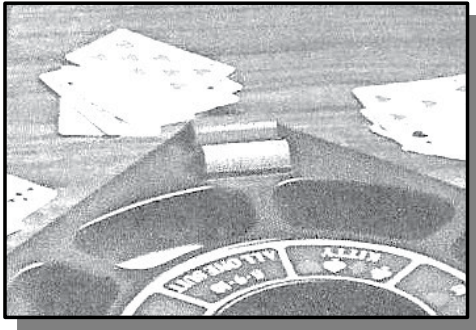


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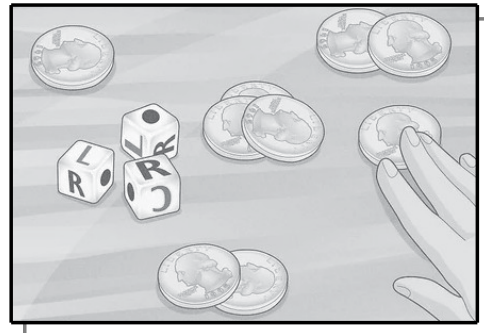


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Contribution Deadline:

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