



LOWHAN



Director's Corner Terry Roof

On September 20, 2011 our Board of Directors voted and approved Vileno Environmental Company to be in charge of landscaping at LOW. Vileno Environmental will begin work November 1, 2011.

This achievement was primarily the hard work of the Landscaping Committee. They held many meetings while researching each of the eleven companies that provided a bid proposal.

After presentations and reviews, the Committee reduced the proposals down to three, based on the criteria provided. The re-interviewed the three after doing a more thorough investigation of each company. Discussions took place as to the pros and cons after a 20 minute question and answer session with the final three.

What is exciting about our Committee is that they will be an Ad Hoc Committee for at least another twelve months, providing oversight of Vileno Environmental Company, ensuring compliance to the new contract.

Starting with this contract, the Landscaping Committee will be developing a plan of goals and objectives to determine our landscaping needs such as deteriorating conditions of our lawns, foliage and weed elimination.

Our new landscaping contract will also provide savings for the new budget year. This will provide savings for the new budget year. This will provide us with the funds needed to achieve the objectives set down by the Landscaping Committee for at least the next five years.

This Board has also addressed the serious irrigation problem by taking repair and inspection in house.

Landscaping improvements can only be achieved if we have a system that is operable and able to get water to all residents. It seems to a never ending task.

Thanks to the Landscaping Committee for all their time, effort, research, and for their continuing support for our community.

Announcements

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, October 18th
7pm

WINTER HOURS

Pool & Game Room:
Monday – Closed

Tuesday - Sunday: 9am – 8pm

Gym:

Monday – 9am – 4:30pm

Tuesday - Sunday: 9am – 8pm

Hunger is continuous.

Please drop your donations in the box in the association lobby.

We also have a box for gift-card donations to homeless children at English Estates Elementary School.

The LOWHAN is published to give information of value to residents and owners at Lake of the Woods Homeowners Association. Articles should be signed and submitted to the office by e-mail, either pasted or as an attachment, by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Send to: lakeofthewoods@embarqmail.com. No defamatory material will be published nor will the promotion of any religion or political cause. LOW reserves the right to edit or decline submissions.

MONEY MATTERS

Development of our 2012 budget is underway. As mentioned in last month's column, we won't have the September 2011 CPI comparison number until approximately mid October. Thus we won't have an accurate monthly assessment amount until then. Also, be aware that our CPI comparison is different from what is used to develop Social Security's COLA. LOW uses a current September to prior year September comparison while Social Security uses a 3rd quarter monthly average comparison.

One of the larger unknown expenses in our operating budget for the coming year, landscape services, appears to have been determined with the Board's approval of the Landscape Committee's recommendation to use Vileno Environmental at an annual cost of \$101,796. This compares to a current \$165,000 annual cost of our current contract. The Committee suggests that the savings be used for landscape enhancement in 2012. We anticipate that irrigation expense, currently paid out of our Special Projects account will be moved to our operating budget as a regular expense item. Our irrigation tech employee's salary expense is being paid from this fund currently requiring transfer of funds to accommodate. It may be preferable at this time to move the full Special Projects monthly allocation to our operating budget.

We're still waiting for general and health insurance cost estimates as well as fine tuning other estimated expenses. We expect to present our final version of the budget to the Board at its November meeting.

Jo Elmblad – Finance Committee

ASK LEONARD

This is a column regarding any topic of interest from Lake of the Woods residents. Please submit your questions by E-Mail to lolmer@hotmail.com.

Question: My smoke alarms are going off every so often and it is annoying. I replaced the batteries and they are still going off. I am thinking of replacing them. I would like to know if there is newer technology in smoke alarms?

Answer: First of all, most smoke alarms installed today have a life span of about 8-10 years. After this time, the entire unit should be replaced. It is a good idea to write the date of purchase with a marker on the inside of your alarm so you will know when to replace it. Some of the newer alarms already have the purchase date written inside. In any event, always follow the manufacturer's instructions for replacement.

There are many different brands of smoke alarms available on the market, Ionization and photoelectric. Ionization alarms sound more quickly when a flaming, fast moving fire occurs. Photoelectric alarms are quicker at sensing smoldering, smoky fires. Dual Sensor smoke alarms combine ionization and photoelectric into one unit.

Because both ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms are better at detecting distinctly different yet potentially fatal fires, and because homeowners cannot predict what type of fire might start in a home, the USFA recommends the installation of dual sensor smoke alarms.

In addition to the basic types of alarms, there are alarms made to meet the needs of people with hearing disabilities. These alarms may use strobe lights that flash and/or vibrate to assist in alerting those who are unable to hear standard smoke alarms when they sound.

Many hardware, home supply, Costco/Sam's Club, etc., carry smoke alarms. If you are unsure where to buy one, call your local fire department (on a nonemergency telephone number) and they will provide you with some suggestions. Some fire departments offer smoke alarms for little or no cost.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR INQUIRIES AND KEEP YOUR QUESTIONS COMING, BECAUSE THAT'S HOW WE SHARE INFORMATION.

MANAGERS REPORT

AD HOC RECEIVABLES COMMITTEE

The Ad-Hoc Receivables Committee met on Wednesday, September 7th to monitor delinquent homeowner accounts and to implement our Collection Policy which was approved at a Board of Directors meeting in July. Late letters are being sent out to delinquent homeowners on the 11th of this month. The homeowner has up to the end of the month to become current. If the assessment is not paid by September 30th the account is turned over to our attorney and the collection fee becomes \$250. This amount plus a late fee of \$25, plus interest including the monthly fee of \$180.50.

MAINTENANCE:

A. LIVING UNITS – MAINTENANCE CALLS AND REPAIRS:

The siding replacement on the eight units at 632 – 648 Woodbridge has been completed. Currently the painting of these units is in progress. Next, the objective is to complete the siding replacement on Woodridge Drive with the following schedule: 661 – 689 (15 units), across the street with 650 – 660 (5 units) Woodridge. Then if time permits, 150 – 160 (5 units) Fallwood St., by the end of the year. It is a very optimistic plan and there may be delays. The siding schedule for 2012 is in now in the planning stages for budget consideration.

B. IRRIGATION

The next Irrigation Inspection by Luke Brothers has been scheduled for the week of September 19th. Brian has been repairing the main irrigation line break along Sherrywood Court. The exposed irrigation line extending from Meadowood along Lake of the Woods Blvd has been buried and a new head was installed for the flower bed at the corner of Oxford and Lake of the Woods Blvd. While the Irrigation Inspection takes place, Brian will follow along adjusting irrigation sprays as they are identified.

START YOUR OVENS– Alice Friedman

Cakes, pies, cookies and muffins are needed for our bake sale. The Social-Sunshine Committee bake sale is part of the Flea Market on Saturday, October 29th from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please start your ovens and deliver your special delicious treats to the clubhouse on Friday the 28th. For info, call Merle Bellinkoff (407) 339-6025 or Nancy Miller, (407) 673-7390.

Note: This is particularly appropriate as October is National Bake and Decorate Month. Wilton Enterprises in Woodridge, IL kicks off the holiday baking season.

BITS AND PIECES – Alice Friedman

Thank you one and all for your continuing generosity. We took a big box of food to the pantry at Jewish Family Service in September. We also took some gift cards to English Estates Elementary. Adriana Council, the Community Guidance Counselor at English Estates, gave me a big hug when I brought the gift cards to her. She wants us to know they are locked in her office and distributed to families that are in a particularly tough spot. Some suggestions for the holidays are \$10 gift cards to Walmart or gift cards to Pay Less shoe stores. Kids always need shoes!

BITS AND PIECES - Doris Huskey

To keep potatoes from budding, place an apple in the bag with the potatoes.	Buy mashed potato mix. Keeps in the cupboard for up to a year.
When a cake recipe calls for flouring the baking tin, use a bit of dry cake mix instead and there won't be any white mess on the outside of the cake.	Go to the bakery! They'll even decorate it for you!
Wrap celery in aluminum foil when putting in the refrigerator and it will keep for weeks.	Celery? Never heard of it!
Cure for headaches: take a lime, cut it in half and rub it on your forehead. The throbbing will go away.	Take a lime, mix it with tequila, chill and drink! All your pains go away!
Don't throw out all that leftover wine. Freeze into ice cubes for future use in casseroles and sauces.	Left over wine??????? HELLO!!!!!!

October - National Crime Prevention Month

Dear Area & Block Captains.

Please remind your residents to ensure that their garage doors are closed unless they are coming or going or working in the garage as several bikes have been taken from an open garage. If you spot a light blue ladies 5 speed with balloon tires please call myself or the Sheriff's Department to report it. The other bike has been recovered.

There will be a Quarterly Neighborhood Watch meeting on Wednesday October the Fifth at 7 PM.

Thanks, Jack Griffiths, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator.

SOCIAL/SUNSHINE NEWS

The Committee is planning the Flea Market for October 29th. A big change this year is no Lake of the Woods merchandise table. The clubhouse will accept no flea market items. There will be a bake sale, however. See details elsewhere in the LOWHAN. Another event to look forward to is a Thanksgiving Pot Luck and Bingo to be held on November 20 from 4 to 6 p.m

Thirty-two new residents will be greeted by the Committee. The Committee is also investigating the offer of a ten percent discount at a local store for newcomers.

The Social/Sunshine Committee meets the first Tuesday of the month at 10:44 a.m at the Clubhouse. Everyone is welcome.

REMINDER: ASSOCIATION DUES AS OF APRIL 1, 2011 ARE \$180.50.

Neighborhood Watch Notice**ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO ANIMALS**

Please make a special effort to attend our L.O.W. Neighborhood Watch Meeting October 5, 2011 at 7 PM. We will have a very informative Crime Prevention Seminar presented by Mr. Gilpin of National Crime Stop. Below is an outline of their program. Thanks, Jack Griffiths Neighborhood Watch Coordinator for Lake of the Woods.

I. Introduction**II. Identity Theft**

- A. What is Identity Theft
- B. Credit & Debit Card Fraud
- C. How is Your Information Being Stolen
- D. Preventative Steps
- E. Scams (Internet & Physical)
- F. What to do After You Have Become a Victim

III. Precautionary Measures

- A. Parking Lot Safety
- B. ATM Machines
- C. Mugging
- D. Car Jacking
- E. Abduction

IV. Tips for Prevention of Home Burglary

- A. Doors, Locks and Windows
- B. Lighting & Timers
- C. Alarms & Dogs
- D. Points of Entry
- E. Burglar's Needs & Habits

V. Personal Security Devices

- A. Guns
- B. Knives & Sharp Instruments
- C. Tear Gas
- D. Stun Guns and Tazers

VI. Additional Q & A Segment

- Every 22.7 Seconds = 1 Violent Crime
- Every 31.5 Minutes = 1 Murder
- Every 1.3 Minutes = 1 Robbery
- Every 36.5 Seconds = 1 Aggravated Assault
- Every 3.1 Seconds = 1 Property Crime
- Every 14.6 Seconds = 1 Burglary
- Every 4.7 Seconds = 1 Larceny/Theft
- Every 25.5 Seconds = 1 Vehicle Theft
- Every 3 Seconds = 1 New Identity Theft

Enforcement of the Seminole County Codes Chapter 20, Ordinances Pertaining to Animals, is a major responsibility of the Seminole County Animal Services Division. The following is a list of the ordinances about which we receive the most questions. If you would like to register a complaint or if you have any questions about these ordinances, please call 407-665-5110.

CHAPTER 20**Section 20.17 ANIMALS AT LARGE**

It shall be unlawful for any animal owner to allow, either willfully or through failure to exercise due care and control, his animal(s) to run at-large upon public property, unless said public property expressly authorizes the same, or upon private property of others, including common areas of condominiums, cluster homes, planned unit developments, and community associations without the consent of all owners thereof, unless said private property owners authorize the same by express or implied consent.

Section 20.18 URINATING & DEFECATING

It shall be unlawful for any animal owner to permit, either willfully or through failure to exercise due care and control, any animal to soil, defile, urinate or defecate on any private or public property, other than that of the owner, without expressed or implied consent.

Section 20.19 NOISY ANIMALS

It shall be unlawful for any animal owner to permit, either willfully or through failure to exercise due care and control, any animal, in a continuing or repeating manner, to bark, cry, howl, screech, squawk, scream, whine or cause other objectionable noises which disturb the comfort, peace, quiet or repose of any person residing in the vicinity. Upon the receipt of documentation of a complaint from a law enforcement agency or a statement signed by three (3) or more residents of Seminole County who reside in separate dwellings in the vicinity of the animal(s) or incident(s), averring that a violation of this Section exists, the Animal Control Official shall have reasonable cause to determine that a violation of this Section has occurred. The statements must be made under oath before an individual authorized by law to take acknowledgments and must set forth the pertinent facts relating to the incident(s), including the time(s), date(s), and location, the address or location of the owner of the animal as well as the complainants and a description of the animal(s). The Animal Control Official shall also have the authority to investigate suspected violations of this Section arising under any other circumstances.



Seminole County Sheriff's Office

Community Services Division - Crime Prevention Unit

Home Burglary Prevention

Home is where the heart is. It is your safe haven. Your home is the only place where you really feel at ease with your surroundings. Home is the only place where you have complete control over who makes contact with your family. Protecting your home and family are likely number one on your list of priorities. That's why home burglary is so traumatizing in most cases.

Most home burglaries occur on weekdays and during the day when most homeowners are at work. Burglaries are committed most often by young men who are looking for small items that can easily be converted into cash. Prime targets tend to be cash, jewelry, guns, laptops and other small electronics. MP3 players, cell phones and handheld video players are also very highly sought after items.

Burglars tend to go for the easiest targets so they can get in, get your valuables, and get out in a reasonable amount of time. They look for doors that do not close completely, garages with easily opened doors, and low windows they can break to climb through. Burglars commonly carry a wide array of tools with them like small pry bars, screwdrivers, pliers and small hammers, but primarily they look for easy opportunities such as unlocked doors and open garage doors.

The first step in protecting your home from burglary is to be sure all of your windows and doors lock securely. It is highly recommended that you use very strong locks that are resistant to twisting, prying and lock picking, such as Grade-1 or Grade-2. Make sure your family locks all windows and doors before leaving the house unprotected. A deadbolt is a good addition to any door. Most burglars enter the home through an easily accessible door or window or a garage door. Sliding glass doors are also considered somewhat of a welcome mat for burglars. A wide variety of locking and blocking mechanisms can help secure a glass door, but remember; it is glass. A Seminole County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Practitioner can help in selecting what might work for your home.

Open windows are obvious security risks, as they are easily accessible to burglars. Always ensure all windows are closed and securely locked. Windows should also be secured with blocking devices, so they cannot be opened as easily by force if the burglar manages to unlock it from the outside. An inexpensive fix for this potential burglar doorway is to tighten screws about half way into the upper track of the windows sliding panel so the window cannot open past a certain point.

Never forget that an open garage door is also an open invitation to steal your property!

Making use of a good security system and surveillance system is also highly recommended as a deterrent to burglary. Security system professionals supply you with stickers you can place in visible areas that inform potential burglars that your home is protected.

Help us help you! Make your home a "Hard Target" against burglary. Contact the Crime Prevention Unit at crimeprevention@seminolesheriff.org and ask for a free **Home Security Assessment**.

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