



Nature's News

at Wilderness Lake Preserve

June 2022



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Cover Art submitted by
Donna Faza, Lifestyle Coordinator

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The Community Magazine for Wilderness Lake Preserve Residents



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CDD Board of Supervisors

Holly Ruhlrig – *Chair*
Bryan Norrie – *Vice Chair*
Beth Edwards – *Assistant Secretary*
Heather Evereth – *Assistant Secretary*
Scott Diver – *Assistant Secretary*

Wilderness Lake Preserve Phone Numbers

Wilderness Lodge ..(813) 995-2437, www.wildernesslakecdd.org
General Manager, Nick Shafferynshaffery@wlpdodge.com
Assistant Manager, Terri Oakley.....toakley@wlpdodge.com
Lifestyle Coordinator, Donna Fazadfaza@wlpdodge.com
The Spa at Wilderness Lake Preserve(813) 995-2437
Regional District Manager (CDD),
Matt Huber w/Rizzetta & Co.(813) 933-5571
WLP CDD Websitewww.wildernesslakecdd.org
HOA Community Manager, Melinda Spall w/Greenacre
Properties, Inc.(813) 600-1100, melindas@greenacre.com
HOA Board Email Contactyourboard@wlp-HOA.org

Important Phone Numbers

EMERGENCY/AMBULANCE911
Animal Control.....(813) 929-1212
Waste Express / Progressive.....(727) 849-3333
Chamber of Commerce(813) 996-5522
Florida Auto Tag & Title - Tax Collector(813) 929-6020
Florida Driver's License(813) 929-6020
Poison Control.....(800) 222-1222
Duke Energy.....(800) 700-8744
Frontier (Telephone).....(800) 921-8101
Spectrum(727) 856-3278

LAND O'LAKES

Library.....(813) 929-1214
Community Center(813) 929-1229
Recreation Center.....(813) 929-1220
Post Office.....(813) 996-1257

PASCO COUNTY

Building Department.....(813) 929-6084
Disaster Preparedness.....(727) 847-8137
Health Department(813) 558-5173
Sheriff's Department.....(727) 847-8102
Government.....(813) 996-2411
Parks & Recreation Department.....(813) 929-1260
School Board.....(813) 794-2000
Water & Sewer(727) 847-8131
Public Information.....(727) 847-8110

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Garbage Pickup Schedule

Waste Express / Progressive

TUESDAY and FRIDAY MORNINGS*

**Please bring in receptacles as soon as possible
after trash has been picked up.*

Recycling Days: Every Wednesday

Water Restrictions

Please visit the Pasco County website (pascocountyfl.net) to obtain the most up-to-date watering information.

Architectural Review and Fining Committees

When making changes to the outside of your home, remember to submit your alteration application to the "ARC" prior to beginning your project. For ARC questions, contact: yourARC@wlp-hoa.org. For fining issues, contact: yourfiningcom@wlp-hoa.org.

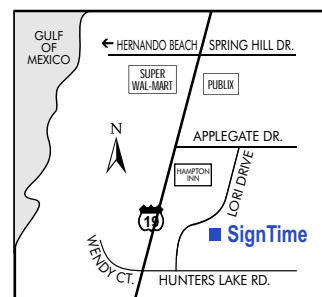
Are You Selling/Renting Your Home?

Please call The Lodge at (813) 995-2437 to help streamline the process for yourself and the new home occupant. The Deed Restriction Books need to be left for the new homeowners. Lodge ID Cards need to be returned to the Lodge for deactivation. **Thank you!**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE June 13th for the July 2022 Issue

The appearance of advertising in The Nature's News newsletter is neither a guarantee or an endorsement by Wilderness Lake of the product, service or company or the claims made for the product in such advertising. Customers are urged to make their own inquiries of any company before consideration. Verify that a contractor is licensed at www.myfloridalicense.com

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Around the Preserve

Fitness & Health Classes



Water Aerobics

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Monday - Friday

Exercising in the water is a fun change of pace and is much easier on the joints than high-impact activities. This is a resident-driven event that is free to participants.



Yoga

Lu-Ann Guariniello, a RYT-500hr Zarnay Yoga
E-RYT 200 and YACEP

Tuesday 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Thursday 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Please RSVP to Lmgagain@yahoo.com or
(813) 846-0874 Cost: \$5.00 per class



Walking, Toning, and Strengthening Class

Location: Activities Center

Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays

9:30 AM - 10:45 AM Cost: FREE

This is a resident-driven activity. Class size is limited due to spacing requirements.



Children's Tennis Lessons

Date: 6/4 and 6/18

Instructor: **Sam Watson**

Contact: (813) 618-1360

Classes at The Lodge

Chat'ers Club

Ladies' Social Club at Wilderness Lake Preserve

This year the Chat'ers are
sponsoring Hospice.

For event information,
please call Judy at (813) 352-9536.

Women of Wilderness Bible Study Wednesdays at 10:00am

Contact Shuyuan at (970) 978-7568 or Janice at
(727) 776-5723 for more information.

Deerfields Meeting

Location: Deerfields Pool

Date: 2nd Tues. of each month

Time: 6:00 PM

Friendly Reminders From Your Neighbors...

Wipe down the Fitness Center equipment after use.

Return the Fitness Center equipment to the racks once
your workout is complete.

Throw your trash in the waste receptacle.

Thank you for your assistance in maintaining a clean
and tidy Fitness Center.

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Dear Friends and Families of the WLP,

The HOA and our Committees would like to thank everyone for all that you do to make our community beautiful. If you happen to receive a violation or have a question, please reach out to us by writing an email or attending our meetings, we always welcome your comments and suggestions.

The rainy season is upon us and we would like to remind you to take a look at your trees and your sod. Regarding sod, there are some specific guidelines we all need to follow. Specifically, sod shall be provided to the back of the edge of the pavement and shall be St. Augustine ("Floratum", "Palmetto" or "Bitter Blue"), or Zoysia. The sodded area shall be provided with an automatic underground irrigation system. As per our ARC Criteria, "any tree located on a homeowner's property or on the right-of-way which overhangs the street shall have a minimum clearance of 14-feet, or as directed by Florida Law. Trees overhanging sidewalks shall have a minimum sidewalk clearance of 8 feet." Please let us know if you have any questions and we would be glad to assist you.

As the seasons change, so is our Board and Committees. This month we say farewell to Jan Birberick who spent two years serving on the Deerfields Committee. We would like to express our gratitude for the time and service that she spent while on the Committee. We wish you and your husband Jim all the best in the future. If you are interested in serving on the Deerfields Committee, please send an email to deerfield@wlp-hoa.org

This month we would like to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Scott Beiser and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Balsamo for the Yard of the Month winners. Their gar looked exceptional. As a token appreciation for making our neighborhood look beautiful, we would like to award them with a \$50 gift certificate from Lowe's. Thank you so much and congratulations!

We would like to kindly remind everyone that all ARC applications can now be submitted online. Here are steps on how to submit the ARC application online:

1. Log into your Greenacre Association Web Portal account at <https://G360.greenacre.com>

No sign-in? No Problem! Send an email request to webaccess@greenacre.com to request a login PIN#.

2. Click on the **Architectural** tab on top of the screen.

3. Choose: **Architectural Request**.

4. Click on **+ New Request**, fill out the form and submit. Please attach any images and supporting documents.

You will receive an email confirmation that your application is "Pending". Please contact the ARC if you have any questions at: yourARC@wlp-hoa.org.

Best regards,

WLP HOA Board of Directors



May Yard of the Month Winner
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Beiser
7538 Whispering Wind Drive



June Yard of the Month Winner
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Balsamo
7362 Tawny Owl

Wilderness Lake Preserve Homeowners Association Administrative Structure

Board of Directors

Email: Yourboard@wlp-hoa.org
President David Gaul
Vice President Archie Banfield
Secretary Agnieszka Fisher
Treasurer Tom Case
Vice Treasurer Teresa Harvison
Director Jaye Gandy
Director Robert Cameron

ARC Committee

Email: YourARC@wlp-hoa.org
Chairman David Riggs
Secretary Sheila Cameron
Committee Member Taressa George
Committee Member Vincent Losey
Committee Member Michelle Hoemeyer

Fining Committee

Email: Yourfiningcom@wlp-hoa.org
Chairman Tammy McGrew
Vice-Chairman Beth Dunne
Committee Member Melissa Murray
Committee Member Patricia Norris
Committee Member Jason Hepner

Deerfields Committee

Email: Deerfield@wlp-hoa.org
Committee Member Tom Case
Committee Member Bob Ortolano
Committee Member Cindy Carroll
Committee Member Kerry Kranker

Melinda Spall, Greenacre Community Association Manager, Email: MelindaS@greenacre.com

Recipe of the Month



Blueberry Oatmeal Breakfast Cakes

Ingredients

- 2 1/2 cup of old-fashioned rolled oats
- 1/2 cup of low-fat milk
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 1/3 cup pure maple syrup
- 2 T canola oil
- 1 t vanilla extract
- 1 t ground cinnamon
- 1 t baking powder
- 1/4 t salt
- 3/4 cup blueberries, fresh or frozen



Directions

- Combine oats and milk in a large bowl. Cover and let soak in the refrigerator until much of the liquid is absorbed – At least 8 hours, up to 12 hours.
- Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.
- Coat a non-stick muffin tin with cooking spray.
- Stir egg, maple syrup, oil, vanilla, cinnamon, baking powder, and salt into the soaked oats until well combined.
- Divide the mixture among the muffin cups (about 1/4 cup each).
- Top each with 1T of blueberries.
- Bake the oatmeal cakes until they spring back when touched, 25 to 30 minutes. Let cool in the pan for 10 minutes. Loosen and remove with a paring knife. Serve warm!

Do you have a recipe to share with the community? Please send it to Donna at: dfaza@wlpodge.com.

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Kids Intro to Tennis

Mr. Sam Watson, Instructor

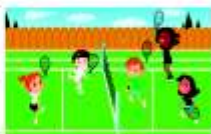


Classes will be held:

Saturday, June 11th
and
Saturday, June 25th
9:00 AM

Tennis rackets will be provided or you may bring your own!

Wear comfortable attire & tennis shoes.



Meet on the court by the gate.



Please R.S.V.P.

to

Mr. Watson

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WLP "Critter Corner" Camp

First Part of
a Three
Session
Series



Begins
Thursday,
June 9
1-4 PM

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Showcasing: Bandit

Join us for a fun learning experience,
a craft, snacks, and a movie!

For ages 10 and above

Parents welcome!

R.S.V.P. to Miss Donna at: dfaza@wlpdodge.com

or call the Lodge at: (813) 995-2437

HEADLINER
TOMMY BEE



FEATURE
SEAN HARPER



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TICKETS
10\$

SHOWTIME
7PM

JUNE
24

ASK STAFF ABOUT PURCHASING
TICKETS IN ADVANCE

2022 Holiday Arts & CRAFT FAIR

Saturday July 16th
11:00AM - 4:00PM

Holiday Shopping at the Lodge!














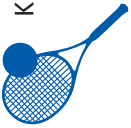




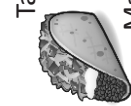






























All Booths will be located in the Activities Center,
the Nature Center, and the Main Lodge

Please contact the Lodge at:
(813) 995-2437
for Booth Rental Details



June 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1  Recycling Day  CDD Meeting 9:30 AM	2	3  Fantasy Friday Movie 2:00 PM	4
5	6  Story Time 10:00 AM  Magical Adventure Movie 2:00 PM  Musical Monday Movie 6:00 PM  ARC Meeting 6:30 PM	7  Tween Tuesday Movie 2:00 PM	8  Recycling Day  Wacky Wonderful Movie 2:00 PM  Food Truck Night 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Coco's Hibachi & Craving Donuts	9  WLP "Critter Corner" Camp 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM	10  Fantasy Friday Movie 2:00 PM	11  Kid's Tennis 9:00 AM
12	13  Story Time 10:00 AM  Magical Adventure Movie 2:00 PM  Musical Monday Movie 6:00 PM	14  Tween Tuesday Movie 2:00 PM  Taco Tuesday Dinner 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Mapache Tacos	15  Recycling Day  Wacky Wonderful Movie 2:00 PM	16	17  Fantasy Friday Movie 2:00 PM  Wine Tasting 6:00 PM	18  Art Class 12:00 PM
19	20  Story Time 10:00 AM  Magical Adventure Movie 2:00 PM  Musical Monday Movie 6:00 PM  ARC Meeting 6:30 PM	21  Tween Tuesday Movie 2:00 PM  Bunco 7:00 PM	22  Recycling Day  Wacky Wonderful Movie 2:00 PM  Food Truck Night 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Coco's Latin Cuisine	23	24  Fantasy Friday Movie 2:00 PM  Comedy Show 7:00 PM	25  Kid's Tennis 9:00 AM
26	27  Story Time 10:00 AM  Magical Adventure Movie 2:00 PM  Musical Monday Movie 6:00 PM	28  Tween Tuesday Movie 2:00 PM  HOA Meeting 6:30 PM	29  Recycling Day  Wacky Wonderful Movie 2:00 PM  Food Truck Night 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Crab Daddy's Surf n' Turf	30	1 JULY	2  POOL PARTY The WLP Independence Day Pool Party 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
3	4 Fourth of July Hours 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM	5	6  Recycling Day  CDD Meeting 9:30 AM	7	8	9

Summertime Movie Schedule for June at WLP

WLP Monday Movie Night "Musical Mondays" 6:00 PM

June 6	Mamma Mia!	PG-13
June 13	Grease	PG-13
June 20	A Star is Born	R
June 27	Xanadu	PG-13

WLP Movies "TWEEN TUESDAYS" 2:00 PM

June 7	Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants	PG
June 14	Percy Jackson: The Lightning Thief	PG
June 21	Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2	PG
June 28	Percy Jackson and the Sea of Monsters	PG

WLP Movies "Wacky Wonderful Wednesdays" 2:00 PM

June 8	Pinocchio	G
June 15	Sleeping Beauty	G
June 22	The Little Mermaid	G
June 29	The Lion King	G

Magical Adventure Movies Mondays At The WLP Theatre in June Showing at: 2:00 PM



- June 6 - Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (PG)
- June 13 - Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets (PG)
- June 20 - Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban (PG)
- June 27 - Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (PG-13)

WLP Movie Theater "Fantasy Friday" 2:00 PM



- June 3 - Twilight (PG-13)
- June 10 - New Moon (PG-13)
- June 17 - Eclipse (PG-13)
- June 24 - Breaking Dawn 2 (PG-13)

For questions or comments, please contact dfaza@wplodge.com

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Highlights of the CDD Meeting Minutes



Good afternoon Supervisors and Staff,

Below is a summary of the last CDD meeting (**items listed with bold are the responsible person(s) for follow-up**):

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM, with all Board members in attendance. Along with: RJ and John Moylan from RedTree, Matthew Huber, Jayna Cooper, Nick Shaffery, Deneen Kleenke, District Counsel, District Engineer (both via conf. call) as well as several audience members were also present
2. Under Audience comments, the Board heard about LED lights at the tennis courts, lack of new or updated events at the Lodge, the road conditions within the community, as well as the pavers at the main entrance
3. Under Supervisors Requests and Walk on items: Supervisor Evereth had items pertaining to the health and care of the animals in the Nature Center. A motion was made to authorize the use of funds NTE \$2500.00 to pay for vet care and other essential expenses related to the animals (Heather/Bryan) 5-0 (**Nick S.**). Supervisor Evereth also mentioned concerns regarding the area near the maintenance shed being used as a “boxing ring” for kids to fight and loiter at. She suggested employing additional security cameras in this area and would discuss this further during the budget portion of the meeting. Supervisor Evereth recommended alerting the off-duty deputies of these issues (**Nick S.**) Supervisor Norrie commented on the poor conditions of the roads. Supervisor Edwards commented on the Ranger Station repairs and asked who is managing this project (**District Engineer**) in addition she asked for an update on the discussion with Pasco Co. regarding the pavers at the front entrance. Supervisor Edwards commented on the lack of a weekly safety check of the playgrounds and their equipment, the scheduling of the off-duty deputies (Nick S. stated that he was working on this), the new TV’s through out the amenities are not synched nor working as they should be (continuous info streaming) and this is due to a lack of connectivity of them all. Supervisor Diver stated he would work with Nick on the TVs (**Scott D./Nick S.**)
4. RJ & John from RedTree present their updates on landscape, the Board asked about: grass seed placed on hold until the rainy seasons, the status of the irrigation in the back of the community – it is down and an electrician is needed (**Nick S. to contact Himes**), several outstanding warranty items are still needed: Firebush at the front of the Lodge needs replacing, Azaleas by the Japanese Blueberries need replacing, pine trees need to come down. Chair Ruhling mention the front entrance sightline areas need to be constantly maintained. RedTree stated that annual rotation will occur on June 1st

(Supervisor Edwards and Nick S. will tour the community to review these items)

5. Mr. Huber directed the Board to the RedTree proposals included in the agenda, the Board reviewed the Natural Buffer proposal for \$1,380.00 and with discussion the Board authorized Supervisor Edwards to work with Nick and RedTree on a revised proposal with a NTE of \$3,000. (Heather/Holly) 5-0 (**Nick S./RedTree/Beth E.**) The Board reviewed the mulch proposal for \$40,000 and requested that RJ bring back a proposal for \$35,000 (**RJ RedTree**). The Board reviewed the tree trimming proposal and the Board requested RedTree to revisit and revise this proposal after the test area is cutback by GHS (**Nick S. RJ - RedTree**)
6. During the District Engineer’s report a discussion ensued regarding the repairs to the Ranger Station, the following was the outcome of this discussion: Greg Woodcock would get the scope of the MOT required by Pasco Co. and give these to Yeti construction to prepare their plan, Yeti would then submit their construction & MOT plans to Pasco Co. for permits with estimate of 30-90 days to get permits from the County. Discussion ensued regarding the pavers and the repaving of Wilderness Blvd. The outcome of this discussion: DM will contact Ainsley at Pasco Co. to continue discussions started by Tish D. as well ask for updated info on the assessment process for the residents and request that Ainsley present at a future Town Hall meeting for the residents (**Matt H.**)
7. District Counsel had no official report and will address the Board on the addendum to the Rizzetta contract later in the agenda
8. Mr. Huber presented the GHS report and proposal, the Board tabled the proposal until the test site was completed. Mr. Huber mentioned that Chuck from GHS should meet the new Wetlands maintenance staff member and begin training them. (**Nick S. & Chuck B.**)
9. District Counsel presented the addendum for the Rizzetta contract with Supervisor Diver adding an additional line. Discussion ensued with Mr. Huber informing the Board that that Rizzetta & Co. would prepare two (2) new contracts utilizing the same verbiage from the most recent contact. (**Matt H./Beth E./ John V.**)
10. Recess at 8:35 PM and back at 8:43 PM
11. Mr. Huber explained to the Board that a request was made to move up the discussion on the Tennis Court lighting to allow residents to give further input. The Board heard from Sam Watson on the negative impact of LED lights on the courts. A Board discussion ensued with Supervisor Evereth

continued to the next page



Highlights of the CDD Meeting Minutes continued



giving an update to the Board on the status of the proposals that had been received. Supervisor Evereth indicate that she needed to meet with Nick S. to go over further details in order to get revisions from the vendors on their proposals. **(Heather E./Nick S.)**

12. Mr. Huber presented the Wildlife Trapper proposal and the Board approved the increase in their fees (Beth E. /Bryan N.) 5-0

13. Mr. Huber presented the Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023, indicating one change for the now approved increase in the Wildlife Trappers fees. The Board approved increasing the line item for the Nature Center/animal care to \$6,000.00. The Board approved resolution 22-04 Approving the Proposed Budget and setting the Final Budget meeting on August 3, 2022 at 6:30 PM. (Scott D./Holly R.) 5-0

14. During the discussion of the Lodge Manager position and Management Plan Deneen Klenke informed the Board that Nick S. has been hired as the interim manager until the Board approves per their request. A discussion ensued regarding the timing of Nick's formal approval by the Board, with the decision being made that 30 days or at the next meeting would be sufficient. A lengthy discussion regarding the two forthcoming contracts for District Management Services and Amenity Management Services with all of the past agreed upon language and scope being included **(Matt H./Lucianno M. Beth E.)** A Board request was made for Nick's contact info be updated on the CDD's website. **(Matt H.)**

15. The Board discussed the request for Tree Beautification and stated that these types of requests should be answered by Staff going forward.

16. Mr. Huber presented the meeting minutes from the April 6th regular meeting. The Board approved the minutes as presented (Holly R./Heather E.) 5-0

17. Mr. Huber presented the Operation and Maintenance expenditures for March 2022 the Board approved the O&Ms (Beth E./Holly R.) 5-0

18. Mr. Huber presented the Financial Statements for March 2022, and the Board had no comments or questions

19. Mr. Huber presented the Reserve Study report and the Board no comments or questions

20. Under District Manager's report Mr. Huber reminded the Board their next meeting is on June 1, 2022 at 9:30 AM. Mr. Huber announced that there were 1998 Registered Voters within WLP CDD.

21. Audience Comments: a comment was made regarding the amount of events held at the amenities

22. Supervisor Requests: Chair Ruhling mentioned the Board's dissatisfaction with Cardno as the District Engineer. Board discussion ensued with a motion being made to send Cardno its 30 day termination notice and to have District Counsel work with JMT on the contract for District Engineer services following the expiration of the 30 days. (Beth E. Bryan N.) 5-0. A comment was made regarding future "beautification requests", Supervisor Evereth requested that one year's worth of minutes be kept on the CDD's website going forward, along with a request to keep all items on the CDD website and not to remove any going forward. (Matt H./Campus Suite) Supervisor Evereth had items pertaining to the health and care of the animals in the Nature Center. A motion was made to authorize the use of funds NTE \$2500.00 to pay for vet care and other essential expenses related to the animals and to appoint Supervisor Evereth as the liaison for the board to oversee and direct animal care and make independent decisions related to care. (Heather/Bryan) 5-0

23. The Board adjourned the meeting at 10:08 PM (Holly R. Heather E.) 5-0

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Natural Areas and Environmentally Sensitive Areas



If you modify or use CDD owned property and/or Conservation/Natural Areas without permission, you will be legally required to pay for remediation. Everyone plays a role in helping to protect and sustain Florida's wetlands and preserves: the government, developers, environmental groups, scientists, and YOU! Here at Wilderness Lake Preserve, Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) vested The Preserve at Wilderness Lake CDD with the legal responsibility of protecting and maintaining all conservation land. This includes both CDD owned land and the numerous conservation buffer areas on residents' property. SWFWMD has mandated that the preserves remain untouched so that they will continue to serve their natural purpose, except in special circumstances.

Sometimes there are instances when it makes sense to help the preserve maintain its natural balance. So the CDD, at the request of numerous concerned residents, developed a Conservation Maintenance Policy. To summarize the policy, if you have wooded and/or wetland areas adjacent to your home, PLEASE DO NOT trim or disturb these areas yourself, regardless of whether they are on CDD owned land or YOUR OWN LOT. Instead, notify the Lodge or District Management, who will make an appointment with you. Prior to your meeting, please review our Conservation Maintenance Policy, which is available on the community website, www.wildernesslakecdd.org.

Because our CDD Board takes our environmental responsibilities very seriously; they will strictly enforce the Conservation Maintenance Policy to ensure we are in compliance with all SWFWMD regulations and are in no way damaging our environment. If you feel the wooded and wetland areas surrounding your home need attention, please first review our community's policy and contact the Lodge to arrange for your inspection.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact the District Office to discuss any questions you may have, 813-933-5571.

****Please do not dump yard clippings or trimmings in the wooded and/or wetland areas adjacent to your home.**

The Protected Areas Notification

ASA REMINDER...

The wetlands and wetland setback areas, on both CDD property AND resident property, are part of the SWFWMD CDD wetlands permit. This means that residents may only remove invasive species AND must have CDD permission / supervision to do so. Residents must contact the Lodge prior to the removal of any plant material. The CDD

wetlands vendor will review the area and provide guidance as to what may and may not be removed or cut back. Residents must receive written permission from the CDD prior to removal / cutback of any plant material on CDD property. The Lodge Manager will provide residents with the proper forms that must be completed prior to any work being done. **Any non-authorized removal of plant material in areas falling under the SWFWMD CDD permit will be replanted at the offending resident's expense. All legal costs associated with the violation will also be charged to the offending resident.**

Cutting trails, clearing of the underbrush, constructing forts, and dumping are just a few examples of violations that have occurred in 2021. These violations are becoming far too common and will ultimately impact the protected areas and community adversely. Be responsible by enjoying the surrounding areas without disturbing them.

SGT2022 Mr. CAC181637

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Introducing WLP's "Critter Corner"

Showcasing: "Bandit" Our Sweet Resident Ferret!

Many of WLP's long-time residents are familiar with Indy the Cockatiel, Pipers the Lovebird, and Tweeters the Parakeet. If you haven't visited the Nature Center over the past year, you might not have met Fiona the Bearded Dragon, Athena the Guinea Pig, or Bandit the Ferret. These adorable critters have been donated to the Lodge. Tish Dobson spear-headed our animal program and was always happy to provide a home for the animals that were brought to her. At WLP, we continue to care for the animals.

Through the years, volunteers have assisted the staff with the cleaning and feeding of the animals. Anyone, who has taken care of a pet, knows that animals require a great deal of care and our WLP resident critters also need plenty of love and attention. While the staff cares for them each day, the birds will begin to sing, Athena will fweep, and Fiona will turn her head to look up when she hears a new voice. Bandit loves to come out of her house and run to the sofa to lay upside down to have her tummy tickled!

Each month over the summer, one of our darling critters will be featured in the WLP newsletter so our community members may learn more about each one of them. My hope is that residents will come up to the nature center and read a book or do a little computer work here to keep our critter family some company. By the way, to let you know, should you come up for a visit, the fish will be watching you!

Our sweet little "Bandit" girl is more than happy to spend her time checking out new visitors. Ferrets are naturally mischievous, playful, and love plenty of attention. The best time to visit her is in the morning and in the evening when ferrets are most active. When awake, they are very active and curious. However, ferrets regularly sleep from eighteen to twenty hours a day. Bandit likes to curl up in her bed but will use her hammock and her mounds of shredded paper to burrow. Ferrets are intelligent enough to be trained to use a litter box, do simple tricks, and come when called and Bandit loves to follow the staff around during her exercise time. As a natural carnivore, Ferrets require a high protein, low carb diet. They enjoy eating small meals throughout the day which is why, when they awaken, they will first eat before going back to sleep. Bandit needs her nails clipped regularly and her fur coat needs brushing. Her habitat is cleaned twice a day and we are working on keeping her bedding fresh with a weekly laundering.

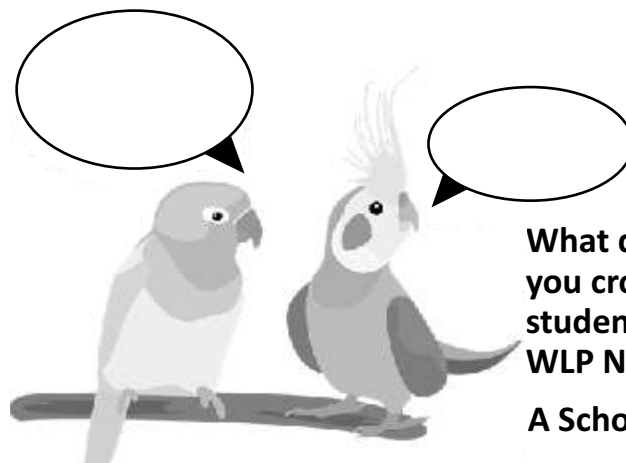
Sure, Bandit needs care, but Bandit is part of our Lodge family. Please come up and volunteer to help

us care for her—we know that you will love her like we do!

So... let's talk Ferrets! As a schooled veterinary technician/nurse, I would be remiss to not share with you a couple of important facts that I know about ferrets. To keep a ferret healthy, they must be vaccinated against canine distemper virus and rabies. The 2021 Florida Statutes state that ferrets four months of age or older must be vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian with a vaccine that is licensed by the USDA. While Ferrets can be susceptible to gastrointestinal parasitism, it is most common in young or recently purchased pet ferrets and is relatively uncommon in mature ferrets in the United States. Ferrets (like dogs and cats) can become intermediate hosts from other natural hosts: they can get Hookworms, Coccidia, Giardiasis, Cryptosporidiosis, and *Dirofilaria Immitis* (heartworms). If you have a ferret in a household with other pets, all pets should be checked. Routine fecal flotations, direct fecal smears, and blood sampling are performed for young or recently acquired ferrets. In case you are wondering, Bandit is healthy and safe for us to handle. Yep, no worries about our little Bandit, she has her own personal veterinarian!

Most Importantly.... Aside from their physical health, "Socialization" is a key contributor to the quality of life for our critters. Please consider coming to the Lodge to learn how to care for the animals. Training will be offered and, for students, community volunteer service hours may be earned! Look below at the conversation between Pipers our Lovebird and Indy our Cockatiel for a little "Critter Corner" humor and how to get involved.

Written by Donna Faza, Lifestyle Coordinator. For any questions or comments, email her at dfaza@wlpodge.com.



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