



Nature's News

at Wilderness Lake Preserve

October 2022



Inside This Issue:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Important Numbers p4 | October Calendar p12 & p13 |
| Around The Preserve, Classes at the Lodge, Resident Clubs p5 | Highlights of the CDD Meeting p16 & p17 |
| Friendly Reminders p5 | WLP's Critter Corner p18 |
| Karaoke Night p6 | Story Time at Wilderness Lake p18 |
| The Lodge Show p6 & p7 | Five Fun Ways To Celebrate Fall p19 |
| Oktoberfest p7 | Fall Festival p19 |
| Radar Results p8 | Volunteers Needed p20 |
| WLP Events p11 & p14 | Recipe of the Month p21 |

The Community Magazine for Wilderness Lake Preserve Residents

Olga and Joe Buchi
Realtors®



Joe: 813-BUY-HOUSE
(813-289-4687)
Joe@Tampa4U.com

Olga: 813-426-5846
Olga@Tampa4U.com

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REALTY

OUR WILDERNESS LAKE LISTINGS UPDATE



21635 Draycott Way: Koi Pond Paradise **5 Bed 4 Bath + Office + Amazing Screened Patio**



Olga and Joe Buchi
Realtors®



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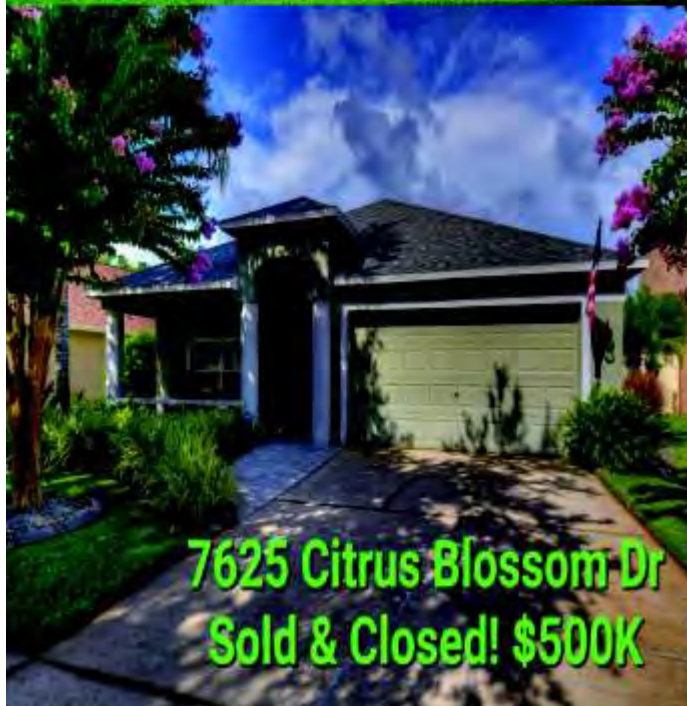
OUR WILDERNESS LAKE LISTINGS UPDATE



21620 Draycott Way, Land O'Lakes FL **Sold & Closed! \$950,000**



"Joe & Olga Buchi are the BEST!"
-Mona Chiles, Home Seller



7625 Citrus Blossom Dr
Sold & Closed! \$500K



NEW ACTIVE!
21400 Morning Mist Way
4 Bed 2 Bath 1505 SF \$415K





21320 Wilderness Lake Blvd.
Land O'Lakes, FL 34637
(813) 995-2437 / www.wildernesslakecdd.org

CDD Board of Supervisors

Holly Ruhlig – *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, Sean Craft.....(813) 995-2437
Assistant Manager, Terri Oakley.....toakley@wlpdodge.com
Event Coordinator, Evelynevents@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

Brought to you by Rizzetta & Company



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 online applications for projects using our portal. More instructions are located on page 17. For ARC questions, contact: yourARC@wlp-hoa.org. For fining issues, contact: yourfiningcom@wlp-hoa.org.

Are You Selling/Renting Your Home?

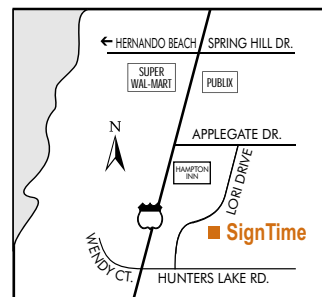
Please call The Lodge at (813) 995-2437 to help streamline the process for yourself and the new home occupant. The Deed Restriction Books need to be left for the new homeowners.

Lodge ID Cards need to be returned to the Lodge for deactivation. ***Thank you!***



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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 Lesson

Date: October 8th & 22nd

Instructor: Sam Watson

Contact: (813) 618-1360

Classes at The Lodge

Chat'hers Club

Ladies' Social Club at Wilderness Lake Preserve

This year the Chat'hers 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

Game Nights With Your Neighbors

Bunco is October 18th at 7:00 PM

SGT2022

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WILDERNESS LAKE
KARAOKE
Night

AND TEEN OPEN MIC
OCTOBER 7, 2022

WILDERNESS ACTIVITY CENTER
FROM 6PM - 8PM

BRING YOUR
OWN MIC AND
AMPLIFIER

**OVER 26,000
SONGS TO
CHOOSE FROM**

**TEENS AND
ADULTS**

HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO SHOW OFF YOUR TALENT

FOR MORE INFO SEE LODGE STAFF

SCOTT HOOKER



TE DAVIS



THE LODGE SHOW

FRITZ WAGNER



**HOST COREY
HILLYARD**



**21330 WILDERNESS LAKE BLVD, LAND O'
LAKES, FL 34637**

TICKETS
15\$

SHOWTIME
7PM

OCTOBER
16TH

ASK STAFF OR CALL (813) 995-2437
TO RSVP

★ THE LODGE *show*

OCT 16

7 PM

**A STAND UP COMEDY SHOW
HOSTED BY: JAMES HOLLINGSWORTH**

OKTOBERFEST



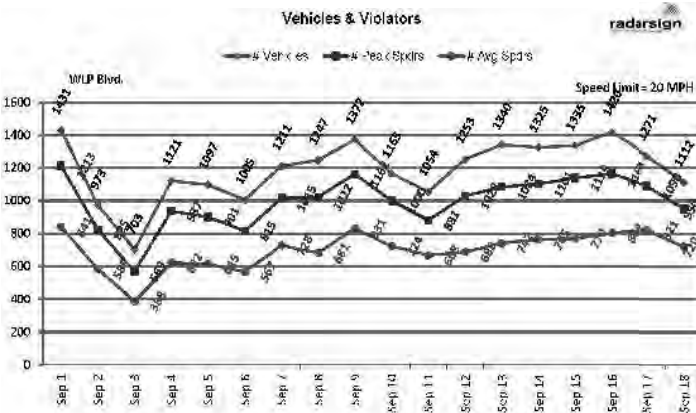
**FOOD-DRINKS-MUSIC-FUN & MUCH MORE
\$10.00/PERSON**

FRIDAY, OCT 21ST AT THE ACTIVITY CENTER.
RSVP WITH YOUR PAYMENT. CREDIT/DEBIT ONLY.

6:00PM-9:00PM



Radar Results



SUMMARY TABLE 1/2 HOUR SEGMENT RECORDS

Serial # 302013		Street: WLP Blvd.					Speed Limit: 20 MPH					
DATE	Vehicle Count	Speeder Count based on Avg. Spd.	Speeder Count % based on Avg. Spd.	Speeders > 5 MPH based on Avg. Spd.	Speeders > 10 MPH based on Avg. Spd.	Speeders > 15 MPH based on Avg. Spd.	Fastest Time Period	Speeders > 5 MPH based on Peak Spd.	Speeders > 10 MPH based on Peak Spd.	Speeders > 15 MPH based on Peak Spd.	Daily 85th %tile Speed	Daily Average Speed
Sep 1	1431	841	59%	133	10	0	5:30p	377	62	7	27	21.3
Sep 2	973	586	60%	106	9	2	3:00p	260	40	4	27	21.5
Sep 3	703	388	55%	66	8	2	4:00p	198	26	5	27	21
Sep 4	1121	622	56%	96	7	0	11:00p	264	34	3	27	21.1
Sep 5	1097	615	56%	102	16	3	2:00p	276	54	5	27	21.2
Sep 6	1005	567	56%	104	12	0	3:00p	233	38	0	27	21.2
Sep 7	1211	728	60%	130	11	2	11:00p	310	49	5	27	21.4
Sep 8	1247	681	55%	89	8	0	1:00p	280	29	1	26	21
Sep 9	1372	831	61%	130	8	1	5:30p	369	39	2	27	21.3
Sep 10	1165	724	62%	136	16	1	6:00p	350	45	8	27	21.6
Sep 11	1054	668	63%	138	12	0	6:00p	309	45	1	28	21.4
Sep 12	1253	688	55%	110	7	2	3:30p	307	28	4	27	20.9
Sep 13	1340	742	55%	127	16	4	12:00a	329	46	6	27	21
Sep 14	1325	765	58%	136	15	2	6:00p	370	47	7	27	21.4
Sep 15	1335	770	58%	141	16	2	3:00p, 5:00p	360	56	4	27	21.4
Sep 16	1420	804	57%	133	7	0	5:00p	361	55	1	27	21.1
Sep 17	1271	821	65%	156	23	2	6:00p	401	64	5	28	21.8
Sep 18	1112	720	65%	155	24	2	3:00p	341	56	6	28	21.8

SUMMARY TABLE 1/2 HOUR SEGMENT RECORDS

Serial # 303004		Street: Night Heron Dr.					Speed Limit: 20 MPH					
DATE	Vehicle Count	Speeder Count based on Avg. Spd.	Speeder Count % based on Avg. Spd.	Speeders > 5 MPH based on Avg. Spd.	Speeders > 10 MPH based on Avg. Spd.	Speeders > 15 MPH based on Avg. Spd.	Fastest Time Period	Speeders > 5 MPH based on Peak Spd.	Speeders > 10 MPH based on Peak Spd.	Speeders > 15 MPH based on Peak Spd.	Daily 85th %tile Speed	Daily Average Speed
Sep 1	1181	400	34%	38	3	0	5:00p	237	25	4	26	18.8
Sep 2	1184	422	36%	47	5	0	2:30p	233	33	0	26	19
Sep 3	900	335	37%	34	1	0	1:30p	208	22	1	27	19.5
Sep 4	588	261	48%	25	1	0	5:00p	144	13	1	27	20.1
Sep 5	8	4	50%	0	0	0	12:00p	1	0	0	24	20
Sep 6	10	8	80%	3	1	0	2:00p	7	1	0	29	23.4
Sep 7	1067	413	39%	38	1	0	6:30p	238	15	2	27	19.5
Sep 8	1122	386	34%	29	2	1	6:00p	225	20	3	27	18.5
Sep 9	1138	406	36%	34	1	0	1:30p	234	17	2	26	19.2
Sep 10	845	337	40%	30	2	1	5:30p	183	13	2	27	19.6
Sep 11	834	320	38%	28	2	0	4:00p	190	14	3	27	18.9
Sep 12	1156	362	31%	36	0	0	4:00p, 4:30p	182	8	0	26	17.9
Sep 13	1185	426	36%	37	2	0	4:00p	215	21	2	26	19.1
Sep 14	1103	465	42%	40	1	0	12:30a	253	24	1	27	19.5
Sep 15	245	94	38%	6	1	0	7:00p	54	4	1	27	19
Sep 16	908	347	38%	31	0	0	11:00p	194	15	1	26	19
Sep 17	886	366	41%	34	1	0	6:30p	200	22	1	26	19.7
Sep 18	775	310	40%	35	2	0	4:30p	192	21	2	27	19.7

TRISH VALLESKEY

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If buying, I am the best negotiator and have the skills to make it happen!

I would **LOVE** to meet all of you! Halloween is one of my favorites. So let's meet! Please join me at our home on Halloween October 31st between Trick or Treating hours.

I will have treats for kids, adults and dogs. Also, have your children sign up to win a special prize. I look forward to seeing you :) No kids, no problem, come for a treat and let's meet!

Where: Our home at
7106 Palmetto Pines Lane "Eagles Landing"~
Please note: Limited goodies available.

Trish Valleskey



Real Estate Expert

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Trish Valleskey   realestatefloridagirl

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9:00 AM
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Paint**

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Held at Activity Center
RSVP at Lodge
October 14 | 6 PM | Cost: \$30

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**ART WITH
MR. JOE**

*ALL ART SUPPLY IS
INCLUDED*
\$25.00

**Saturday, October 15th, 2022
From 12:00pm - 3:00PM
Wilderness Activity Center
Make your Reservation
at the Lodge**

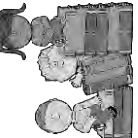







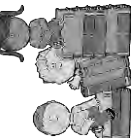






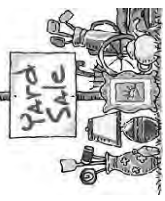

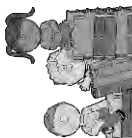







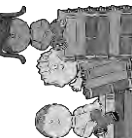








**WILDERNESS LAKE
RESIDENTS**

**FALL
COMMUNITY
YARD
Sale**

**October 15th, 2022
8:00AM-12:00PM**



October 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	 <p>Story Time 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM</p>	 <p>Family Movie: Land Before Time - Great Valley Adventure 10:00 AM</p>	 <p>Recycling Day</p>  <p>CDD Meeting 9:30 AM</p>	 <p>Family Movie Night 6:00 PM</p>	 <p>Karaoke with Mr. Ray 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM</p>	 <p>Kid's Tennis 9:00 AM- 11:00 AM</p>  <p>Fall Festival 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM</p>
9	 <p>Story Time 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM</p>	 <p>Family Movie: Land Before Time - The Time of Great Giving 10:00 AM</p>	 <p>Recycling Day</p>  <p>Food Truck 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM</p>  <p>Line Dance with Simone 7:00 PM - 8:45 PM</p>	 <p>Family Movie Night 6:00 PM</p>	 <p>Paint and Sip with Joe 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM</p>	 <p>Fall Yard Sale 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM</p>
16	 <p>Lodge Stand Up Comedy 7:00 PM - 8:45 PM</p>	 <p>Story Time 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM</p>	 <p>Family Movie: Land Before Time - Journey Through The Mist 10:00 AM</p>  <p>Bunco 7:00 PM</p>	 <p>Recycling Day</p>  <p>Food Trucks 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM</p>	 <p>Family Movie Night 6:00 PM</p>	 <p>Kid's Tennis 9:00 AM- 11:00 AM</p>
23	 <p>Crafts with Marilyn 1:00 PM</p>	 <p>Story Time 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM</p>	 <p>Family Movie: Land Before Time - The Secret of Saurus Rock 10:00 AM</p>  <p>HOA Meeting 6:30 PM</p>	 <p>Recycling Day</p>	 <p>Haunted House / Trail 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</p>	 <p>Haunted House / Trail 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM</p>
30						5
	 <p>Halloween Costume Parade 5:00 PM - 8:30 PM</p>	<p>NOVEMBER</p>	 <p>Recycling Day</p>  <p>CDD Meeting 9:30 AM</p>			

LET'S DANCE WITH SIMONE

line dancing



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12,
7:00PM - 8:45PM

\$5.00/PERSON, PAYABLE BY DEBIT/CREDIT
ONLY. RESERVE AT THE LODGE

ACTIVITY CENTER

HALLOWEEN
HAUNTED HOUSE



FRIDAY & SATURDAY
OCTOBER 28 & 29,
FROM 7:00 PM TO 9:00 PM
WALK IN'S ARE WELCOME.... IF
YOU DARE!!!

Wilderness Lake Preserve



JOIN THE SCARY (BUT FAMILY ORIENTED) SPOOKTACULAR PARTY

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

SCARY COSTUME PARADE - ADULTS & KIDS

31ST
OCTOBER

from 5:00pm - 8:30pm

LOCATION: NATURE CLASSROOM

DRESS UP SHOW CONTEST - SCARY MOVIE NIGHT & MORE

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WLDNRN1022

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up to

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Cannot be combined with any other offer. Total savings varies on equipment; \$150 savings on standard electric/gas water-heater, \$250 savings on Hybrid Heat-Pump water-heater. Cannot be applied to past purchases or estimates. See dealer for details. WLDNRN1022

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EMERGENCY SERVICE
7-Days a Week

SAVE ON YOUR NEXT REPAIR

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MUST PRESENT COUPON AT TIME OF SERVICE
IERNA's Heating & Cooling | 813-548-6355

WLDNRN1022

SAVE ON PLUMBING REPAIR

up to **\$40 OFF**

MUST PRESENT COUPON AT TIME OF SERVICE
Cannot be combined with any other offer. Based on 20% discount of total repair bill, up to \$40 maximum. See dealer for details. WLDNRN1022

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WLDNRN1022

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Highlights of the CDD Meeting



The official minutes will be posted on our website after they have been voted on and approved by the CDD Board.

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Preserve at Wilderness Lake Community Development District was held at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 7, 2022

Supervisor Requests and Walk-on Items:

Supervisor Edwards requested the CDD website calendar be updated through the end of the year, Nature's News be designated to the Events Coordinator, the inside of the Ranger Station be cleaned and stocked with snacks and water, and that revised agendas be sent out rather than listing multiple items under separate cover

Splash Pad Update

Craig Collins from Softroc reviewed the product's benefits, passed around samples, and answered Board members' questions. The Board approved Softroc's resurfacing proposal. Chris Zaworka from Phoenix Pools reviewed the proposal for splash pad equipment repairs to include the installation of a timer. The Board approved Phoenix Pools' equipment repair proposal. The Board appointed Holly Ruhlig as the Board liaison for these projects to choose

colors. Mr. Vericker will work with the vendors and Mr. Brletic to draft CDD forms of agreement to include a warranty for both the product and labor.

Landscape Report:

An update was provided that mulch installation will be completed by the end of September. Supervisor Edwards requested that trees needing removal be marked with paint and that dates be added to the "done" reports. Mr. Johnson stated that Redtree will be sending a proposal for the removal of one additional tree

District Engineer's Report:

Mr. Brletic reviewed the timeline for Ranger Station repairs. Supervisor Ruhlig requested an eblast be sent to the residents with an update. The Board requested the appearance of the shoring be improved using paint and new barricades. The Board directed Mr. Craft to purchase new cones for the community. The Board directed Mr. Brletic to obtain a proposal to improve the appearance of the shoring and authorized District Management to execute the proposal.

Mr. Brletic reviewed the two options for soccer goal
continued to next page

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Highlights of the CDD Meeting continued



installation. The Board authorized installation of the two soccer goals at Oakhurst Park

District Counsel's Report:

Mr. Vericker stated that he will draft the District's forms of agreement for the Softroc and Phoenix Pools work. Supervisor Edwards requested that Mr. Vericker confirm the warranties are for ten years for the product and five years for the labor. She further requested that the terms and conditions are read.

GHS Environmental Report:

An update was provided that wetland buffer maintenance areas 6, 9, and 10 will be completed by the end of September.

Lodge Manager's Report:

Discussions were held regarding location of the new radar sign, storage shed options, fitness center equipment refresh, pool furniture, and events. The Board directed Mr. Craft to gather additional proposals for chaise lounge chairs. Mr. Craft stated that he will invite a representative from FitRev to attend the upcoming meeting to provide recommendations for equipment. Mr. Craft reviewed a proposal for gutters for the lodge and gym and stated he is waiting on a second proposal to come in. The Board authorized District Management to execute the lowest proposal received. Mr. Craft reviewed a proposal from Cool Coast for installing air conditioning in the nail tech salon. The Board authorized onsite maintenance staff to complete the air conditioning work for the nail salon.

Community Events:

Regarding events, Supervisor Edwards requested addition advertising such as "save the date" eblasts and flyers be sent to residents. She further requested a spreadsheet of events by included in the meeting agendas.

Public hearings on FY 2022-2023 Final Budget & Special Assessments :

There were no questions or discussion from the Board or audience members. The Board approved FY 2022-2023 Final Budget as presented as well as the levying of assessments for FY 2022-2023

Natural Areas Policy Statement

The Board directed District Management to post the Natural Areas Policy Statement to the CDD website

Road Repaving Project and Paver Repairs

A discussion was held regarding the county pavement assessment meetings. District Management will find out when the ballots will be mailed and will coordinate with

Ainsley Colwell to schedule an additional meeting after that. District Management will work with Lodge staff to set up a conference call number for this meeting.

The Sun Pavers proposal for additional pavers for areas at main entrance was reviewed and ratified

Security System Improvements

Mr. Huber reviewed the proposal for a security system consultation. The Board approved the proposal and appointed Ms. Hepner as the Board liaison to work with Mr. Craft and the vendor on this project

Consideration of Meeting Minutes from July CDD Meeting

Ms. Cooper presented the meeting minutes from the August 3 regular meeting and the Board approved the minutes as presented.

Operations and Maintenance Expenses:

Ms. Cooper presented the Operation and Maintenance expenditures for July 2022 in the amount of \$215,925.05, and the Board ratified the O&Ms.

Financial Statements:

Ms. Cooper presented the Financial Statements for July 2022, as well as the Reserve Study. The Board did not have any comments or questions.

District Managers Report:

Ms. Cooper presented the District Manager's Report.

Contract Approvals:

The Board approved the EGIS proposal for the District's FY 2022-2023 insurance renewal.

The Board approved the First Addendum to the Campus Suite contract, which provides unlimited PDF's to the District's website

The Board approved the Second Addendum to the RedTree contract. District Management will distribute the addendum to all parties.

Audience Comments:

None.

Supervisor Requests and Walk-on Items:

Under Supervisor requests, Supervisor Norrie requested proposals to replenish the sand at the volleyball court. He further requested that a summary of incidents at the lodge resulting in youths being banned be included in the weekly manager's report

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.

The next meeting will be held October 5, 2022 at 9:30 am.



WLP's Critter Corner: Eastern Gray Squirrel



This article is courtesy of: Birdwatching HQ <https://birdwatchinghq.com/>

I have found squirrels cause a range of emotions. Some individuals find them adorable and love watching their crazy antics! But many people can't stand having squirrels around, particularly on their bird feeders! These feeding enthusiasts are constantly battling these acrobatic rodents to keep them on the ground and away from their bird food.

Regardless of your personal feelings, I think squirrels are interesting to learn about. If you are curious about all the species that can be found near you, please keep reading.

1) Eastern Gray Squirrel - Scientific Name: *Sciurus Carolinensis*



Pictures From: Mr. Barry White

Average length (including tail): 16.6 – 21.6 Inches / 42 – 55 cm

Lifespan: Adult typically live to be about 6 years old. Some lucky individuals can live up to 12 years in the wild, assuming they are not eaten by a hawk, owl, bobcat, fox, weasel, feral cat, snake, or human. The eastern gray squirrel is common in Florida, and one of the squirrels that people do battle with the most at their backyard bird feeders.

These rodents eat a variety of foods, but naturally, their favorites are definitely nuts, such as acorns,

walnuts, and hazelnuts. As winter approaches, Eastern Gray Squirrels start hiding food in many locations, which provides them nutrition through the colder months. They hide more food than they will ever find again, and some of these extra seeds will eventually grow into new trees. Who knew that squirrels could play such an important role in seed dispersal?

Eastern Gray Squirrel Range Map



Story Time @ WLP **October 2022** **10AM at Nature's Center**

- October 3rd Spiders!
- October 10th Owls and Squirrels
- October 17th Hello Fall
- October 24th Pumpkins and Apples
- October 31st Halloween (wear your Halloween costume)

Five Fun Ways To Celebrate Fall



Kids are back in school, Labor Day BBQ's are behind us, Halloween decorations have started going up, pumpkin flavored everything are flying off the shelves (yum!) and all of this could only mean one thing. Fall is in full force and what better way to enjoy it than lighting up an apple spice candle, curling up with a soft orange blanket, sipping on your pumpkin latte and planning an adventure.

In other places, where the nights have started turning colder, the trees give the first sign of the cooler weather to come and signaling the snowbirds (both the fowl and the human variety) to pack up and start there trek south. And here, in the nations southernmost state, we enjoy all the fun fall has to offer... in shorts. Here are some fun things I love about this area during the fall, that I think you'll also enjoy. It's worth mentioning that while these are in a numbered list, it's not really a ranking and they're all fun options.

1.) Oktoberfest at the German American Friendship Society, Pinellas Park

This hidden gem was voted the most authentic Oktoberfest in the Tampa Bay area and I cannot disagree. All German food is prepared from scratch on-site, and you'll enjoy authentic Bavarian beer that is imported for the event (as well as some domestic options). Live music, activities for kids, and customary stein-holding contests all make this an event you shouldn't miss. We usually park across the street, as the on-premise parking fills up quickly. Well, get out your lederhosen, pack your stein and we will see you there. September 30, October 1, 7, 8, 14, 15 5:00–10:00 PM

2.) Central Pasco & Gulf Railroad, Spring Hill, FL

All aboard! What could be better than a tiny train ride through the forest? I am dating myself here, but if you ever watched Silver Spoons as a kid and thought, I want to ride on a train like that, here is your chance. At Crews Lake Wilderness park, you can take a creepy after dark (or not so creepy daytime) Halloween ride through the wilderness. These trains run on the second Saturday of each month on a non-holiday themed run and also have Halloween, winter and other special event rides. To learn more, go to cp-grr.com/events/

3.) Sweetfields Farm or Harvestmoon Farm (or Both), Masarkytown

If you're looking for pumpkin patches, corn mazes and kettle corn, look no further. This farm is open Wed-Sunday in October and will provide you with plenty of fun, photo opportunities and classic fall vibes.

4.) Raprager's Family Farm Pumpkin Festival & Haunted Farm, Odessa

Hayrides, axe throwing, pony rides, a corn pit (who doesn't want to swim in corn?), live entertainment, adult beverages, a baby cow, petting zoo – we really don't have the space to list all of the amazing fun you'll have on this Family's farm but you should definitely check it out. This festival starts early in the season and the first official opening is on September 24th. They recommend you purchase your tickets online ahead of time as space is limited. rapragerfamilyfarms.com

5.) Gallaghers Pumpkin Patch & Christmas Trees, St. Petersburg

If you're looking for a pumpkin patch that's "Instagram-worthy", this picturesque photo opportunity is the spot for you. Open for both pumpkins early in the season and then Christmas this is a great way to enjoy the day. And, for those of you looking for Fido's annual pumpkin photo, they're also pet-friendly. Check them out on Instagram at [gallagherspumpkinsandtrees](https://www.instagram.com/gallagherspumpkinsandtrees). They open on September 19 and if you're bringing your family photographer, they do require a reservation.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Lodge is looking for volunteers of all ages to serve the community for our many exciting events such as The Fall Festival, Haunted House, Halloween Costume Parade, Santa's Arrival, and Breakfast with Santa.

Beyond the community events, we are eagerly accepting additional Nature Assistants to support the staff in the day-to-day care of our animals in the Nature Center.

It is our goal to provide as many diverse volunteer opportunities as possible. All completed volunteer hours are documented to meet the Community Service hours required by Florida schools.

If you are interested or know someone who is interested in volunteering, please contact the Lodge at (813) 995-2437 or Events@wlpplodge.com

Recipe of the Month

Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Cookies

Submitted by Terri Oakley – Assistance Manager- Wilderness Lake Preserve

Have a recipe you'd like to share? Email: events@wlplodge.com

I would like to share this recipe. It's one of our family favorites and I hope yours too. Who doesn't like a chocolate chip cookie! Try this recipe which combines chocolate chip with a hint of pumpkin to bring you into the fall season. These moist delicious cookies are soft and cake like. You can also add walnuts if you like a crunch cookie. Enjoy!



Ingredients

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 large egg, room temperature
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup quick-cooking oats
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 cup canned pumpkin
- 1 1/2 cups semisweet chocolate chips

Directions

1. In a bowl, cream butter and sugars until light and fluffy, 5-7 minutes. Beat in egg and vanilla. Combine the flour, oats, baking soda and cinnamon; stir into creamed mixture alternately with pumpkin. Fold in chocolate chips.
2. Drop by tablespoonfuls onto ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes or until lightly browned. Remove to wire racks to cool.

Mark Your Calendars!

Paws & Claus Holiday Art and Crafts Fair (November 26-27, 2022, at **Silverthorn Country Club**. The hours are from **10:00-3:00**, admission is free, and it is open to the public. There will be over 40 exhibitors, with some being award-winning artists and crafters.

This is a fundraising and animal adoption event, with beneficiaries this year being: Furever Friendz, Inc., Operation Kindness and Paw Warrior's, Inc. These are all 501(c)(3), organizations.

Our wonderful sponsor, The Legend's at Silverthorn, will be offering a 10% discount from your total dining check, during the hours of this event. Please present one of the show's hand-out cards to your server, or indicate you are there for the show, in order to take advantage of this offer. **WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

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