



WILDERNESS LAKE  
P R E S E R V E

# NATURE'S NEWS

**LOCAL HISTORY: THE  
COMMUNITY OF EHREN**

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**FLORIDA WINTER  
WONDERS**

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**HOLIDAY DECORATING  
WINNERS**

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**HOLIDAY EVENT  
PHOTOS**

**DIGITAL EDITION**  
PRINTED COPIES  
AVAILABLE AT THE LODGE



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DID YOU KNOW?

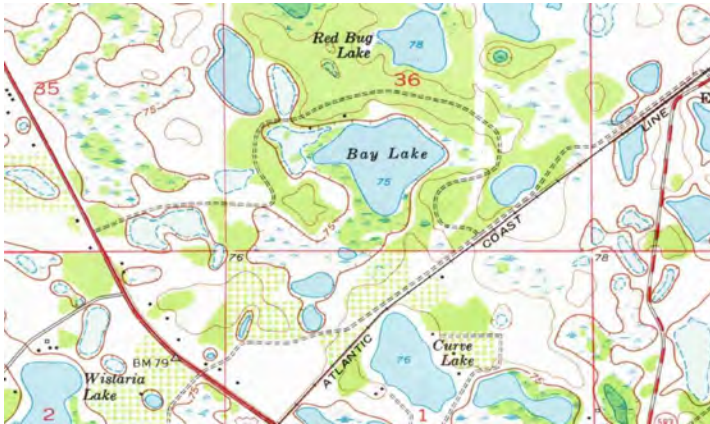
# FLORIDA WINTER WONDER LAND

- January is an ideal time to explore Florida and see manatees. Manatees love warm water and migrate inland to springs to keep warm in January.
- If you want to swim with manatees in Florida, then head to Manatee Springs State Park, Blue Springs State Park, Manatee Lagoon, or Crystal River. These are some of the absolute best places to visit in Florida in January to encounter adorable sea cows.
- **NEVER TOUCH A MANATEE** - it is against the law (and really mean) to approach or attempt to pet a manatee. Keep this in mind - it does not apply if the manatee approaches and touches you, so no need to panic if there's a friendly graze.





# THE EHREN COMMUNITY



[FULL MAP LINK](#)

**EHRENS MILL ISN'T JUST A NEW NAME FOR ANOTHER NEIGHBORHOOD NEAR WILDERNESS LAKE PRESERVE, IT'S SITTING RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A PIECE OF LOCAL HISTORY, THE EHREN COMMUNITY.**

## **Atlantic Coast Line - Railroad (Caliente Blvd)**

The Ehren Mill was located at the area of the Atlantic Coast Line (shown above) where it intersects with the curved in the road to the Northeast, which is now Ehren Cutoff. The triangulated area of this, which was formerly cow pasture is the former location of the mill and the current location of the Ehren's Mill community, and parts of Wilderness Lake Preserve. This railroad was later destroyed and became what we now know as Caliente Blvd. (including the cleared area that connects the East and West section of Caliente Blvd.). Once the Railroad reached what is now Ehren Cutoff, it continued straight. The railway was built to serve the mill which harvested local Cypress trees for lumber.

## **The Original Residents of Wilderness**

The area around LOL was first inhabited by Seminole Tribe of Native Americans, and relics dating back to the 15th century were discovered in an archeological study commissioned by Lennar Homes. The Seminole inhabitants were unfortunately forced to migrate to the "Indian Territory" (Oklahoma).

## **Community of Ehren**

The areas surrounding the lakes in the area were full of large cypress trees, desirable lumber that was cut and milled, and then loaded onto trains and shipped out of the area for many years. The area was home to many residents of Ehren as the lumber mill provided plentiful jobs. Many employees of the mill were paid in "babbits" which were tokens used for purchases at the company store. The mill burned down twice during it's tenure. The two cemeteries from this time still survive and both are historical landmarks, one African American cemetery on Ehren Cutoff and the other on Ehren Cemetery road. Many of these prominent families still live in Land O Lakes today. [More about Land O](#)

[Lakes history](#)



[SCREENSHOT FROM THIS VIDEO](#) (a fantastic oral history of the area).



# Spiced Chocolate Fondue



## Ingredients



1 1/2 cups heavy cream  
1/4 cup whole milk  
8 4-inch cinnamon sticks,  
crushed  
2 tsps. cardamom pods  
1 tsp. whole cloves  
1 tsp. black peppercorns  
1/2 tsp. ground ginger  
1/2 tsp. grated nutmeg  
1/2 pound bittersweet  
chocolate, coarsly chopped

## DIRECTIONS

In a small saucepan, combine the heavy cream with the milk and all the spices.

Bring to a boil.

Remove from heat and let steep for 20 minutes.

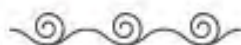
Strain the cream into a bowl and wipe out the saucepan.

Return the cream to the saucepan and bring to a boil.

Place the chocolate in the bowl and pour the hot cream over it.

Let stand for 3 minutes, then whisk until smooth.

Transfer the fondue to a bowl and serve.







Wilderness Lake  
Preserve



**BLOOD  
DRIVE  
DAY**

**JANUARY 20th @ 9AM**



**oneblood**   
Share your power. 

EVENTS TEAM AT  
WILDERNESS LAKE

# FOODIE EVENTS

## Taco Dinner

Friday, January 5th

5:00 - 7:00 PM

**\$1.00**  
Each



RSVP with the Lodge @ (813) 995-2437.

## SPAGHETTI DINNER

pasta, meatballs,  
salad, bread, &  
dessert

**\$3.00**

Friday, January 26th

6:00PM

RSVP with the Lodge @ (813) 995-2437.



# FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT

Wilderness Lake Preserve Presents...  
**Las Vegas Entertainer**  
**Johnny Bird**  
*THE VOICE OF NEW VEGAS*  
  
**Winner**  
**SATURDAY, January 27th**  
**TICKET: \$10**  
**7:00PM**  
**Location: Activities Center**  
 Please RSVP with the Lodge @ (813) 995-2437.

**THE LODGE SHOW**  
 A Stand Up Comedy Show  
 Featuring **FREE**

  
 Kye Saunders

  
 Michael Oldroyd

  
 Sean Harper

**PRESENTED BY**  
**DEANDRA BOLDEN OF**  
**LPT REALTY**



**BYOB** **7PM JANUARY 6TH**  
 21330 Wilderness Lake Blvd. Land O' Lakes, FL 34637  
 Talk to Staff or Call (813) 995-2437 to RSVP

**Sip & PAINT**  
  
**THIS MONTH'S PROJECT**  
**Friday, January 19th 6PM**  
**RSVP @ (813)995-2437**



RSVP WITH LODGE  
 STAFF TO ATTEND  
 OUR SPECIAL  
 EVENTS AT  
 813-995-2437



WHATS HAPPENING IN JANUARY AROUND

# LAND O LAKES

**1**

## Swim with Manatees

Snorkel With the Manatees at Three Sisters Springs in Crystal River. Kayaking, snorkeling and swimming are all popular in this area where visitors can enjoy a year-round 73 degree spring.

**2**

## Florida Citrus Season

From December – April, Florida Citrus is in season. Enjoy visiting a local you-pick farm with the family, or take advantage of local farmstands.

**3**

## Strawberry Fields

Keel & Curley, and other local farms, will have strawberry you pick available January through March. Strawberries are in season, and nothing tastes better than freshly picked.



# GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Nature's News is working toward a new print-edition funded by advertisers. We are currently accepting registration of interest at the lodge. Please call or stop in if you are interested in promoting your business to the residents of our community. Specialty pricing does apply to residents of the district. Space is limited.

813-995-2437 – ASK FOR TISH



ONSPOT  
DERMATOLOGY

We Bring

Dermatology  
to You!



Appointments  
Recommended

Did you know?

**1 in 5** Americans will develop skin cancer by the time they reach **70**. Book your convenient skin cancer exam today!



The Preserve at Wilderness Lake CDD  
The Lodge

Saturday, January 13th | 7:30am - 3:00pm



According to Google Reviews, OnSpot Dermatology is the **#1** rated dermatology practice in Florida



OnSpot is in-network with major insurances and has competitive self-pay rates



**A 15 Minute  
Skin Cancer Exam  
Could Save You Life**

Call (941) 444-0011 or visit  
[onspotdermatology.com/wlplodge](https://onspotdermatology.com/wlplodge) to book



# SPA SERVICES



## BASIC MANICURE

Nails will be shaped, cleansed and pampered. You will receive a hand and arm massage and finished with your choice of polish.

**\$15**



## ISLAND GETAWAY

Enjoy tropical fragrances as you are pampered! After nails are shaped and cleansed, you will receive an invigorating anti-aging hand exfoliation that is completed with a hot towel wrap. A soothing arm and hand massage will relax you and will be finished with polish of your choice.

**\$20**



## BASIC PEDICURE

Shaping of nails and exfoliation begin this pedicure followed with thorough cleansing of feet, a relaxing massage and polish. Aromatherapy will heighten the senses leaving you feeling refreshed and beautiful!

**\$28**



## MILK AND HONEY PEDICURE

After your feet are soaked and cleansed, you will lose yourself in the experience of a mud mask for the feet and long massage for total relaxation.

**\$35**

# SPA SERVICES

## NO POLISH PEDICURE

Using a blend of Peppermint and Pine Oils, feet will be soaked, toenails filed and feet exfoliated. A long massage will complete the experience.

**\$28**

## MINI MANI PEDI COMBO

This package is an abbreviated combination of the traditional manicure and pedicure. Fingernails will be shaped, buffed and polished. Feet will be soaked, toenails shaped and buffed and a light massage will be given. Polish will be applied.

**\$30**

## PRINCESS PAMPERING

This is a combination mani-pedi specifically designed for the young ladies! Nails will be shaped and cleansed and polish will be applied to hands and feet. (Ages 14 and under)

**\$22**

## CND SHELLAC MANICURE

14-day wear polish with ZERO dry time which is finished with a hand and arm massage.

**\$28**



## ADD ON SERVICES

Buff and Polish Change \$8  
Add a French manicure \$3  
Nail Repair \$2  
Rhinestones and decals (per nail) \$2



# JANUARY



CLICK ON GREEN EVENTS TO VIEW  
THE FLYER

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
<b>1</b>  LODGE CLOSED	2	<b>3</b> CDD MEETING 9:30 AM FOOD TRUCKS 5 PM	4	<b>5</b> TACO DINNER 5:00 PM	<b>6</b> COMEDY SHOW 7 PM	7
<b>8</b> STORYTIME 10 AM  ARC MEETING 6:30 PM	9	<b>10</b>  FOOD TRUCKS 5 PM	11	<b>12</b> CHAT'HERS MEET AND GREET 5 PM	<b>13</b> SKIN CARE SCREENINGS 7:30 AM - 3PM	14
15	<b>16</b> STORYTIME 10 AM	<b>17</b> FOOD TRUCKS 5 PM	18	19	<b>20</b> BLOOD DRIVE 9 AM	21
<b>22</b> STORYTIME 10 AM  ARC MEETING 6:30 PM	<b>23</b> HOA MEETING 6:30 PM	<b>24</b> FOOD TRUCKS 5 PM	25	<b>26</b> SPAGHETTI DINNER 6 PM	<b>27</b> COMEDY SHOW 7 PM	28
<b>29</b> STORYTIME 10 AM	30	<b>31</b> FOOD TRUCKS 5PM				



# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE DISTRICT

Image of the abandoned train engine on the former Ehren property.

## 01 Tree Pruning

The board agreed to a large tree pruning project to positively impact the appearance of multiple trees in the district

## 02 Sod Replacement

Redtree to replace warranty sod throughout the district.

## 03 Swim Kids USA

District approved an agreement to allow on-site swim lessons conducted by Swim Kids USA.

## 04 Read Full Meeting Highlights

READ MORE





# WELCOME TO STORYTIME



Meet us at the Nature Center every monday at 10 AM for a morning filled with reading, singing, making crafts and a delicious snack.

## **January Schedule:**

January 8th – Polar Bears

January 16th (Tuesday) – It's Snowing

January 22nd – Penguins

January 28th – Snowman

CHECK OUT THESE RESIDENT & VENDOR  
CLASSES AND CLUBS AT WILDERNESS

# CLASSES & CLUBS



## Ladies' Bible Study

Wednesdays 10AM (COST: FREE)  
Contact Shuyan at: [970-978-7568](tel:970-978-7568)  
Contact Janice at: [727-776-5723](tel:727-776-5723)



## Yoga

Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:40 AM & 9:55 AM  
Contact LuAnn at: [813-846-0874](tel:813-846-0874)  
Email: [imgagain@yahoo.com](mailto:imgagain@yahoo.com)  
(COST: \$5)



## Water Aerobics

Monday - Friday 9AM - 10AM (COST: FREE)



## Walking

Walking, Strength & Toning  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:30AM -  
10:45 AM (COST: FREE)



## Pickleball Rocks

Tuesday & Thursday 6:30 PM (COST: FREE)  
Contact Susan at: [602-315-0757](tel:602-315-0757)



## Chat'hers Club

Ladies' Social Club  
This year the Chat'hers are sponsoring  
Hospice.  
Contact Telicia at: [786-301-4506](tel:786-301-4506)

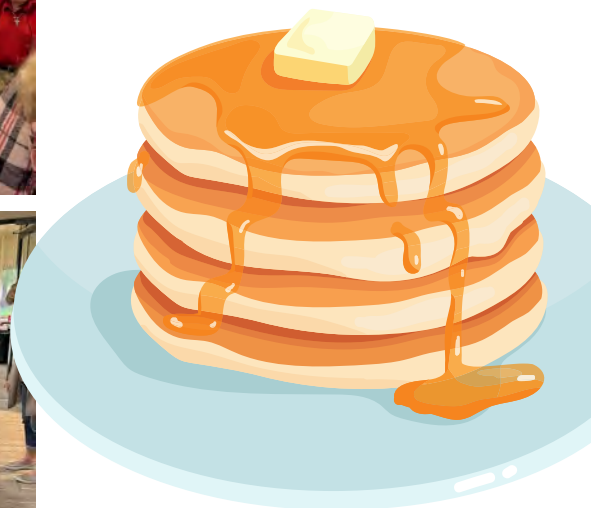


# HOUSE DECORATING





# BREAKFAST WITH SANTA





THE HAPPENINGS

# SANTA'S ARRIVAL & PARADE





# GINGERBREAD HOUSES

COMPLETE WITH “REAL” SNOW



## Building Gingerbread Houses

Kids and kids at heart of Wilderness, along with their guests gathered at the Activity Center to build gingerbread houses. After the building was complete, the party was moved outside to enjoy the snow machine that was provided for our entertainment by the Buchi family.





# LIGHTING OF THE MENORAH



## Wilderness Traditions

The annual tradition of lighting the Menorah, and discussing the history and traditions of Hanukkah is shared by residents of many faiths in the Activity Center on the first night of Hanukkah.



GET IN TOUCH WITH US

# CONTACTS

## **WILDERNESS LODGE**

21320 WILDERNESS LAKE BLVD.

LAND O' LAKES, FL 34637

**813-995-2437**

## **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**HOLLY RUHLIG, CHAIR**

**BRYAN NORRIE, VICE CHAIR**

**BETH EDWARDS, SECRETARY**

**HEATHER HEPNER, SECRETARY**

**AGNIESZKA FISHER, SECRETARY**

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## **DISTRICT STAFF**

**TISH DOBSON**

LODGE & DISTRICT MANAGER

[MANAGER@WLPLODGE.COM](mailto:MANAGER@WLPLODGE.COM)

**TERRI OAKLEY**

ASSISTANT MANAGER

[TOAKLEY@WLPLODGE.COM](mailto:TOAKLEY@WLPLODGE.COM)

**EVENT BOOKING & SPACE RENTALS**

[EVENTS@WLPLODGE.COM](mailto:EVENTS@WLPLODGE.COM)

## **LODGE HOURS OF OPERATION**

SUNDAY: NOON - 9:00 PM

MONDAY - FRIDAY: 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM

SATURDAY: 10 AM - 10:00 PM

## **GARBAGE PICKUP - WASTE CONNECTIONS**

TUESDAY & FRIDAY AM

**RECYCLING**

WEDNESDAY AM

**727-847-9100**

## **FITNESS CENTER HOURS OF OPERATION**

OPEN 365 DAYS WITH ACCESS CARD

5:00 AM - 11:00 PM

## **NAIL TECHNICIAN:**

SERVICES AVAILABLE MONDAY - FRIDAY BY APPOINTMENT ONLY



WILDERNESS LAKE  
P R E S E R V E



DECEMBER 6, 2023

# MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE PRESERVE AT WILDERNESS LAKE COMMUNITY

DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT WAS HELD AT 9:30AM ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023.  
THE OFFICIAL MINUTES WILL BE POSTED ON THE DISTRICT'S WEBSITE, ONCE APPROVED BY THE  
CDD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DURING THE NEXT MEETING.

## 01 AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

- NO AUDIENCE COMMENTS

## 02 STAFF REPORTS

### LANDSCAPING REPORT

- ALL SOD TO BE MOWED IN ONE DAY
- SEVERAL APPLICATIONS OF FERTILIZER APPLIED
- TREE PRUNING PROPOSALS REVIEWED

### DISTRICT ENGINEER

- ROADWAY PROJECT IS AWAITING COUNTY SIGN OFF
- PINE KNOT & COMMON AREA SURVEY PROPOSAL
- LODGE DOCK INSPECTION PROPOSAL

### MANAGERS REPORT

- DISCUSSED COMMUNICATION WITH RESIDENTS USING APPS.
- DISCUSSED KEEPING DIGITAL IN-HOUSE NEWSLETTER
- REVIEWED OPEN POSITIONS

## 03 BOARD CONSIDERATIONS & APPROVALS

- DISCUSSED REMOVAL OF OTHER DISTRICTS FROM TISH'S PORTFOLIO
- BOARD APPROVED CONSENT AGENDA
- BOARD APPROVED SWIM KIDS AGREEMENT
- BOARD APPROVED AC REPLACEMENT FOR ACTIVITY CENTER
- BOARD APPROVED USING TAMPA BAY TIMES FOR NOTICES.
- BOARD APPOINTED ASSISTANT TREASURER
- BOARD DESIGNATED SIGNATORIES

## 04 SUPERVISOR REQUESTS

- ADD EVENT FLYERS BACK TO LODGE MONITORS

*Reminder!*

**NEXT CDD MEETING  
JANUARY 3, 2023 9:30 AM**