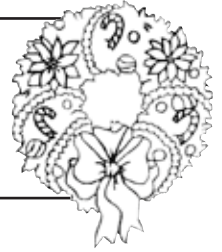


Twin Lakes "ECHO" HOA Newsletter

Published for the Residents of Twin Lakes of Brandon December, 2010



GROUNDHOG DAY!

By: David Campbell, President

I know it's not February 2nd (yet), but do you remember the movie, you know, with Bill Murray when one day in his life keeps repeating...yeah, that one! That's about how I am feeling right now after being elected to my fourth consecutive and fifth overall term as President of the Twin Lakes of Brandon Homeowners Association. For Mark Gaudio, Derek Matthews and Lou Ferrucci (all re-elected this year), they are probably feeling about the same. Our one new addition and shining star is Debbie Nixon who joined the Board at our Annual Meeting on October 7th. I know some of you are remembering my newsletter article from this time last year when I was saying goodbye and letting you know it was time for me to pass the torch...boy was I wrong.

Our Community has been through a lot this past year, some of it extremely positive and unfortunately, some of it very saddening. As a Community, we have come through these highs and lows together. The entire Board would like to thank all of you, the community, for the outpouring of compassion, caring, and unity that you have brought to Twin Lakes in this past year.

For those of you who were in attendance at the Annual Meeting, thank you very much for coming out and providing your thoughts and input into the matters of our Community. Hopefully we were able to answer your questions and provide some insight into the direction the Board is taking the Community. As always, we encourage participation by the all of the HOA members and welcome you to join us at our monthly Board of Directors Meeting which is held the first Thursday of every month at the Buckhorn Country Club on Miller Road. Our meetings start at 6:00 pm and all are welcome to participate.

It has only been a little over a month since we got together on October 7th but the Board has been busy since then. We have had three Board of Director meetings since we all got together at the beginning of October.

The first meeting was held on October 21st and was a special meeting with two primary objectives: assign the Board of Director positions and the second, and more importantly, to discuss and ultimately approve an Operating Budget for the 2011 year. By now, each of you should have received a copy of the approved budget along with a letter from me explaining the process and our thoughts that went into next year's budget. If you have not seen it, I am happy to announce that there will be NO increase in the quarterly assessments (for the third straight year). As for the Board positions, you will not notice a lot of change from last year:

President:	David Campbell
Vice President:	Derek Matthews (ACC Committee Chair)
Vice President:	Debbie Nixon (Social Committee Chair)
Treasurer:	Lou Ferrucci
Secretary:	Mark Gaudio (Common Area & Lake Maintenance Committee Chair)

The second meeting was our regular November meeting on November 4th. For those in attendance at the annual meeting, you will recall that the Board invited any interested residents to attend that meeting to discuss the park; this was the first item on the agenda. Unfortunately, no one attended the meeting to talk on the subject.

The third meeting (which as of this writing has not occurred yet) is not only a regular Board meeting but also a continuation of the Annual Meeting. We continued the meeting in order to try to get enough proxy votes to pass a change to our community documents to allow the HOA to collect delinquent assessments once the banks get involved. There was a lot of discussion on this matter at the Annual Meeting and hopefully if you were not in attendance or did not provide a proxy for the meeting, you have responded to our recent mailing of new proxies so that we can pass this important revision to our documents. In short, this is a ZERO cost change that provides us a better opportunity to collect past due assessments that are due to the HOA (YOU).

We start every year with new hope for a better year. For the HOA, that New Year starts at the Annual Meeting (we don't bother waiting until January 1st). The new (old) Board is very optimistic about a great year for Twin Lakes in 2011 – but it is entirely up to YOU. We have a lot of good ideas for community events but they need YOU for them to be successful. Get involved and be a bigger part of Twin Lakes.

Thanks again for the confidence you have bestowed upon the Board by re-electing us (again for most of us), we will continue to serve Twin Lakes to the best of our ability and to look out for the interest of the Community, not at individual agendas. I am confident our decisions will not please everyone; that is not our job. But rest assured we have the long term interests and sustainability of the association and our assets in mind in all of our decisions. If you want to be a part of those discussions, again, come on out, we welcome it!

P.S. One of the main objectives of this Board will be to find our replacements for next year; February 3rd will be coming around in October 2011. We need to find people who are committed to the Community and willing to give some time and effort to keep Twin Lakes a great place to live. Is that YOU?!

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If you would like to advertise in the Twin Lakes Newsletter, please contact Editor@tlbhoa.org. Discounts given to Twin Lakes business owners.

Hello Twin Lakes,

My name is Debbie Nixon; I am the new HOA 2nd Vice President. I wanted to take a few minutes to introduce myself and talk about the upcoming year and events. I am a stay at home Mom, my husband Craig is in the Army and presently assigned to CENTCOM at MacDill AFB, we have 4 great kids ages 15, 11, 8 and 6. We bought our home in 2005 when we were assigned to MacDill the first time. We were here 2 ½ years and then were reassigned to Scholfield Barracks, Hawaii. We returned to Twin Lakes and our home this past June. We fell in love with this area and this neighborhood in 2005 and are so pleased we were able to return.

My assignment as 2nd VP is to come up with social and community events for Twin Lakes. The board has come up with some ideas, but we wanted to get your input and hear any ideas you might have. Here are a few of those ideas.

- A Spring Do It Yourself Expo
- A Food and Wine night in the park
- Movie night in the park
- A Twin Lakes Who's Got Talent
- Bark in the Park Expo
- A Twin Lakes Fun Run/ 5k
- Concert series in the park
- An Easter egg hunt
- Twin Lakes youth food drive
- Halloween Trick or Trunk /Fall Festival
- Community clean up

You are probably thinking "Wow these are some great ideas, we are going to have fun in Twin Lakes!" Yes we are, but we need your help to make anything we do a success. If you would like to get involved we would love to hear from you. The board needs your help to make these ideas happen, so if there is an event you would like to help with, or even chair, contact me or one of our other board members. Once we decide on the events we are going to do and when, we will put out the word and give you the opportunity to volunteer.

We want this to be another great year in Twin Lakes. I am looking forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas. 2011 is going to be a great year for our community!

Your New Newsletter Crew

This is the first newsletter put together by your new editorial team. There are five of us and we hope to bring you all the Twin Lakes "news you can use" and more. We'd like to introduce ourselves:

Marty Davis, Production Coordinator. Marty and his wife Beth moved to Twin Lakes along with their two Golden Retrievers, Scout and Augie, 4 ½ years ago. Marty works in the printing and graphics industry for xpedx, a division of International Paper and Beth works for a local realty company. They are originally from Cleveland, Ohio. They live in Otter Creek and enjoy bicycling, walking and observing all of the wildlife around the lake (especially the birds).

Lisa Harmon, Editorial Contributor. Lisa, her husband Mark, and 12-year-old son Connor have lived here for eight years. Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, she has moved 11 times in 22 years with Mark and has found Paradise. Lives Here. Loves It Here. She has been in Real Estate for 11 years and has been successfully helping people accomplish their real estate goals. She is a devoted wife and mother and is passionate about life.

Kim Roy, Associate Editor. Kim and her husband have lived in Twin Lakes for eight years. They love it here in Twin Lakes! Their favorite thing to do is walk their dog around the lake. Kim enjoys traveling, gardening and running. She works for a company that goes into schools and helps students who are struggling in reading, math and science. Kim is really looking forward to helping out this next year with the newsletter!

Petra Taylor, Advertising Coordinator and Contributing Editor. Petra, originally from Germany, has lived in Twin Lakes for nine years with her husband and two boys. She loves to travel and read, when she can find the time. She really enjoys Lake Michaela and walking around it, especially with Alexa, her Rottie puppy. Petra is looking forward to helping with the newsletter and making it a fun, interesting way to get the word out for our neighborhood.

Karen Young, Editor. Karen, her husband, and two kids have lived in Twin Lakes for five years. They moved here from Massachusetts. Karen loves photography, scrapbooking, the Red Sox, and Florida winters. She is a technical writer, working for a large telecomm company. Karen is happy to be on the newsletter team and hopes to use her love of writing to give a little back to the community.

We have lots of ideas and hope to have fun with the newsletter while still distributing the news you need about our great community.

Thanks to Lou Bloom for his tireless efforts to keep this newsletter going and to Stefan San Martin for his time and contributions as well. Lou has set us up with all the info we need and given us a strong send-off. We hope to keep it up! If you have anything you'd like to see in the newsletter, send email to editor@tlbhoa.org.

WANT TO VOLUNTEER FOR AN HOA COMMITTEE?

E-MAIL PRESIDENT@TLBHOA.ORG

Twin Lakes is now on **Facebook!** If you have a Facebook account, feel free to join us. Search for Twin Lakes of Brandon. We hope to add pictures and notes about upcoming events and provide yet another way for Twin Lakes residents to stay in touch.



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Community Service Credits

Do your children need to accumulate Community Service Credits? Why not suggest that they join one of our Committees or volunteer to help with specific Community Events? We each have a stake in the future of Twin Lakes!

Sit and Stay Awhile

We all enjoy Lake Michaela so much. Whether you walk your dog around it or just yourself, it's truly a jewel in our community. A great new addition is coming soon - four benches around the lake, including one to replace the existing bench. More opportunity to stop and enjoy the birds, wildlife, and fabulous sunsets!

Cool and Unique Sites

We're always hearing of new online sites where we can learn about new products or get a great deal. Thought we'd share a few with you that we enjoy:

- **www.Groupon.com** – By now, you've probably seen this site mentioned somewhere in the news. It's a great site for saving tons of money on all sorts of things, from restaurants and spa visits to stores at the mall or activities for the kids. Every day there is a Daily Deal and prices are usually 50-60% off retail price. It's great for gifts for others and yourself!
- **www.OneKingsLane.com** – This site offers high-end home furnishings and accessories at greatly discounted prices. Each day specific sales begin and run for a few days. You can purchase the products during this time, but once the sale is over, it's over. Discounts are great, sometimes up to 70%. The good stuff sells out fast so if you see something you like, pounce on it!
- **www.TheDailyGrommet.com** – It's fun to get these daily emails as they always let you know about some new, unique product. The Daily Grommet people review these products in videos, which allows you to see the product in action. Great site to learn about new stuff!
- **www.restaurant.com** – Go out to eat at local restaurants for much less. This site offers discounted gift certificates to restaurants. There are many in Tampa and the surrounding area. Even our local JF Kicks is on there. You can pay as little as \$2 for a \$25 gift certificate at the restaurant. It's also great when you're traveling to look up restaurants in your destination.

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Internet Safety Tips

The threat of Internet crime is a serious concern. Unfortunately, criminals have caught up with technology and a variety of Internet crimes are occurring regularly against adults and children. Here are some tips on internet security, especially if you are going to be doing your holiday shopping online this season.

Online Shopping (E-commerce)

When shopping online, here are some tips to remember:

- Make sure the browser you currently use is a secure browser. On most browser toolbars, you will find a "Tools" section. Click on this section and find the "Security" Tab. Enter in the level of security you want the browser to contain. Install security updates as they are made available.
- Check the site you plan to shop at to ensure it is a secure site; a "lock" icon on the screen will inform you that you are at a secure site.
- Do not give out passwords, social security numbers or personal bank account information.
- Pay by credit card.
- Keep a record of all transactions.

Kids and the Internet

The Internet can be a fun and educational resource for children. As a parent, you should communicate with your children on what is acceptable and what is not when your child is online. By speaking with your children about the Internet, you are helping to

empower them against the potential dangers lurking on the Internet.

To help protect your child:

- Monitor your child's use on the Internet.
- Teach your child not to give out personal information.
- Use filtering software.
- Check the lists of sites that may advocate child abuse or pedophilia by searching on the CyberAngels web site (cyberangels.com).

E-Mail Safety

E-mail is an easy and affordable way to stay in touch with relatives, keep up to date with friends and communicate with business associates. Unfortunately, the increased incidents of crime involving e-mail are on the rise. In addition to scams, computer viruses are another rising threat involving e-mail.

Here are some simple rules to follow in protecting yourself when using e-mail:

- If you do not recognize the sender of the email, do not open it. Simply delete the message.
- Check with your Online Service Provider about their rules and regulations regarding unwanted e-mails, or if they offer a way to "block" unwanted email.
- If you receive an e-mail of a violent or offensive nature, report it to your Internet Service Provider. If the problem persists, contact your local law enforcement agency.

The Internet has opened up many possibilities. Along with this progress come safety concerns. We hope you find these tips useful in helping to protect you and your family. By practicing some of the safety tips mentioned, you may reduce the risk of becoming victimized by the dangers that lurk in cyberspace.

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ASK THE BOARD

If you have a Question that you would like to ask the Board, please send it to EDITOR@tlbhoa.org. We will publish Questions (and Answers) in each edition of the Newsletter.

Community Bulletin Board Twin Lakes has a Community Bulletin Board webpage on our website. This page is a convenient place where residents of Twin Lakes can post non-commercial listings such as personal items for sale, lost and found items, offers for babysitting or other services and post events like book clubs, card clubs or other events of Community interest. Information and rules for these listings may be found on the Bulletin Board page at www.tlbhoa.org.

NEED A MAILBOX POST? Communities of America has found a company that will provide lightweight concrete mailbox post replicas that meet the standards of our Community. Take a look at the mailbox post at the Entrance of Twin Lakes to see what they look like. If you would like more information, please call Communities of America at 685-6473.

Would you like to be the Newsletter's "Village Reporter" for your Village? E-mail Editor@tlbhoa.org

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Featured Home



Congratulations to the Powers Family of 2855 Lake Michaela Blvd. Their home is this season's featured home. Every Halloween, this house attracts hundreds of visitors with all the fun and abundant decorations. They spend several weeks putting everything up, from skeletons hanging in the trees and on the roof to life-size characters by the door. This year there was even a movie playing on the garage door. The Powers will receive a gift card to Outback Steakhouse in honor of their selection as this season's featured home.

The next featured home will be chosen from the Villages of Heron Point and Ibis Point. Please nominate your favorite home by January 5th by contacting editor@tlbhoa.org or calling Communities of America at 685-6473.

TWIN LAKES REAL ESTATE STATISTICS*

SOLD HOMES IN 2010

Address	BR/		Sold	Price	Date	Type
	SF	BA				
2908 Hickory Grove Dr.	2130	3/2	164K	Sept	Foreclosure	
3004 Partridge Point Tr.	1878	3/2	175K	Sept	Reg. Resale	
3149 Beaver Pond Tr.	2202	4/2	195K	June	Reg. Resale	
5126 Whispering Leaf	2778	4/3	190K	July	Foreclosure	
3133 Beaver Pond Tr.	2084	4/2	195K	Mar.	Reg. Resale	
3163 Beaver Pond Tr.	2174	4/2	198K	June	Reg. Resale	
4809 Water Lark Way	2157	4/2.5	205K	Aug.	Reg. Resale	
4706 Barn Owl Ct.	2695	4/3	260K	Apr.	Reg. Resale	
5202 Whispering Leaf	2672	4/3	250K	Oct.	Reg. Resale	
2816 Mossy Timber Tr.	2979	4/3	295K	Jan.	Short Sale	
2843 Mossy Timber Tr.	3004	4/3	350K	Oct.	Reg. Resale	
2839 Lake Michaela	2987	4/3	343K	June	Reg. Resale	
2908 Winding Tr.	4158	4/3	365K	Oct.	Reg. Resale	
2825 Lake Michaela	3225	4/3.5	380K	July	Short Sale	
5516 Winding Brook Ln Resale	3242	4/3	425K	April	Regular	

ACTIVE HOMES ON THE MARKET

Address	BR/		List
	SF	BA	
3052 Beaver Pond Tr.	1725	3/2	162.5K
3203 Beaver Pond Tr.	2106	4/2	189.9K
4903 Otter Creek Ct.	2078	4/2	195.0K
3110 Beaver Pond Tr.	1864	4/2	209.0K
3102 Partridge Point Tr.	2281	4/3	214.9K
4702 Water Lark Wy.	2662	4/3	220.0K
5128 Whispering Leaf	2987	4/3	250.0K
5005 Whispering Leaf	2878	4/2.5	315.0K
2907 Mossy Timber Tr.	2982	4/3	340.0K

UNDER CONTRACT - PENDING CLOSING

Address	BR/		List	Est. Closing
	SF	BA		
5004 Whispering Leaf	2557	4/3	186.0K	Dec. 17
3015 Partridge Point Tr.	2066	4/2	212.0K	Dec. 7
4705 Water Lark Wy.	2592	4/3	268.8K	Nov. 24
2823 Lake Michaela	2610	4/3	329.0K	Nov. 19

*Statistics from the Mid Florida Regional MLS system on 11/16/10

WARNING! BUFO TOAD & PET POISONING

Submitted by the Ross Family

You may already know about the Bufo marinus, the giant or cane toad, a common threat to south Florida dogs. We unfortunately did not realize there was a large one in our backyard, just outside of our pool enclosure. Around 9:00 PM in early August our seven year old Westie, Lilly, bit into it and sadly passed away after being treated by a local Animal Hospital. The amount of poison in her system was too much and she died about 36 hours after biting into the head of the toad. This species of toad produces a pasty yellow-white toxin in the parotid glands, which extend from the head backward over the shoulder region and is released through pinhole openings in the skin. When a dog mouths or bites a Bufo toad the toxin is released and rapidly absorbed across the mucus membranes of the mouth.

Symptoms of Bufo poisoning occur suddenly and may include: profuse salivation, vomiting, vocalizing and pawing at the mouth, brick-red gums, incoordination or a stiff gait, difficulty breathing. The intoxication can rapidly progress to seizures and death.

The severity of the poisoning depends on the size of the dog and the amount of toxin absorbed into the blood stream. Puppies and small breed dogs such as Dachshunds, Westies, Mini-Pins, Jack Russell Terriers and miniature Schnauzers are more seriously affected because they get "more poison per pound" than a large breed dog. Lilly weighed 16 pounds.

Bufo toads are typically most active in the spring and summer months when it is warm and moist outside. They are also nocturnal, therefore most poisonings occur in the evening, late-night or early-morning hours. Poisonings can happen very quickly and even dogs being leash-walked have been known to grab a toad and be poisoned

Our sweet Lilly



What to do

If your dog is poisoned by a Bufo toad:

Step 1) DO NOT PANIC!!! You need to be able to think clearly and act quickly to help save your pet. Panicking will only keep you from acting properly!

Step 2) IMMEDIATELY rinse the dog's mouth out with a large amount of water using either a hose, kitchen sink sprayer, shower sprayer or water bottle. Rinse the mouth from side to side. **DO NOT DROWN THE ANIMAL BY FORCING WATER DOWN ITS THROAT.** The toxin is very sticky and may need to be gently rubbed off of the mucus membranes of the mouth. Be very careful so as not to get bitten by your pet. Even the gentlest animal may bite if it is scared, in pain or having a seizure. Lilly did have several seizures very soon after the bite and on the way to the Animal Hospital.

Step 3) Calmly transport the dog to your veterinarian for further care.

PLAN AHEAD! Save time in an emergency by preparing now. Keep the phone number of your veterinarian by the telephone. Since most poisonings occur at night **CALL FIRST** to make sure that the hospital is open.

You don't want to waste time driving to a closed facility. Keep the phone number and address of a nearby emergency clinic near the phone too, in case your regular veterinarian is not available. We took Lilly to the Florida Veterinary Specialists located at 607 Lumsden Professional Court in Brandon. Their phone number is (813) 571-3303 and they are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There may be other hospitals in the area. The staff at FVS were very professional, compassionate and treated Lilly as well as possible, but she had already ingested a very large dose of the toxin and it was just too much for her system to flush.

There is no specific antidote for Bufo-toxin and treatment consists mainly of supportive care. The toxin can affect the heart, causing it to beat in an irregular pattern and hyperthermia (body temperature greater than 105 degrees) may develop from seizing. Intravenous fluids, cool-water baths and anti-arrhythmic drugs are all used in the treatment of Bufo intoxication.



So what can you do to prevent your pet from being poisoned? First of all, learn to recognize what a Bufo toad looks like. Adults can be as large as 6 to 9 inches in length and have brown, or gray-brown warty skin. Younger toads are much smaller but just as dangerous. Bufo toads are ground dwelling animals. Do not confuse them with tree frogs, which have suction-cup feet and may be found crawling up the side of your house.

Bufo toads live near water such as ponds, canals and swimming pools. Search your yard in the late evening for them. In addition to eating insects, small animals, snakes and vegetation, Bufo toads are especially fond of pet food. You can avoid attracting toads to your yard by not leaving bowls of dog or cat food down on the ground. Because we live in an area inhabited by Bufo toads, you need to be especially careful. Direct supervision while

your pet is outside is crucial and may prevent a tragedy. If you have a fenced-in yard you can make it harder for the toads to get through the slats by putting chicken-wire fencing along the bottom edge.

What do you do when you find one in your yard? The most humane way to kill juvenile and adult toads is to catch them and put them into a secure container with air holes (plastic takeaway food containers are ideal). Put the container in a refrigerator overnight which causes the toad to go into a coma-like state. Then move the container to the freezer the next morning and freeze until the next garbage collection day.

There is a bunch of information on the internet about these toads and most of the information here was rewritten with permission from the following site: <http://www.healthyhomesforkidsandpets.com/articles/bufo.html>

Here is another very good site that explains that the toads are NOT part of an endangered species list: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw046>

We hope this information educates our friends and neighbors in Twin Lakes and possibly helps avoid an unfortunate tragedy, as in our very sad case. Lilly was a huge part of our family and she is missed greatly.