

The Lakes HOA Newsletter

Spring 2013



Crawfish Boil this Saturday!!



The Lakes Annual Crawfish Boil will be held 4 p.m., Saturday, May 18. Y'all come! As usual, the crawfish and all their fixin's (potatoes, sausage, mushrooms, corn, beer, and soda pop) will be furnished by the HOA.

There will be hot dogs served in the gate house for those who eschew – or don't chew – mudbugs. All you have to bring are hungry tummies.

Actually, you should also bring your own plates, flatware (if you feel the need for it!), and chairs. (Tables will be provided as will cups and ice for the drinks.) Music will be provided by the ever popular *Tout Les Soir*. Dancing is optional; talking to your neighbors, however, is not optional; it's mandatory!

The crawfish boil is free to all residents of the Lakes. Those who wish to bring a guest should contact Bill Phillips and arrange to pay the \$5 per guest fee.

Desserts are *not* provided by the HOA, but are normally brought by generous residents who share their culinary expertise with us. In the past, we have had some REALLY delicious desserts.

Last year, there were not many desserts at all, but what were there were VERY popular and disappeared very rapidly. So hopefully, the cooking gods will inspire some more of our residents to offer up some tasty morsels to top off your meal.

I can promise you NO ONE (least of all your editor) will criticize your efforts!! (In fact, it's a really easy way to have your ego boosted!)

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As of this writing, the weather is supposed to be good, but should that change, we'll let you know somehow.

Watch your email and the gate house bulletin board for any weather-related change notice.

P.S. The party will be over when the crawfish are gone and everyone stops eating and talking!

Geese in bayou are protected species; not for target practice

Canadian Geese are protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Act of 1918. This Act makes it illegal to harm or injure a goose, or to damage or move its eggs and/or nest without a Federal permit. Non-compliance with the Federal Act can result in fines ranging from **\$5,000 to \$10,000**. This also applies to an untrained dog's actions.

Two or three years ago, a goose was found beaten to death at the traffic circle at the end of Longvue. Earlier this month two boys were stopped by a resident from throwing sticks at the area in the bayou where the newly hatched Canadian Geese babies are learning to swim with their parents.

(To continue, see Geese on Pg 2)

LHOA Phone Directory digitalization surveyed

Your LHOA Board members have been discussing the merits and demerits of putting the Association Phone Directory accessible only on line, and would like your input as to how you feel about it.

Since many residents seem to misplace their hard copies and we do have people moving in and out of the sub-division at various times of the year, having the directory on line would make it easily updatable versus having it be at least partially out of date soon after each annual publication. Plus, it would save printing costs.

We would password protect the directory in order to protect privacy and could remove children's names if that is desired.

You could opt out of the directory, if you wanted.

The current directory has a list of baby sitters, pet sitters and yard workers - mostly our teen-agers - with their birth months and years and phone numbers. You will need to decide if you want that section to continue and/or if you want your child to be included in it.

Residents could download and print their own copies if they prefer a paper version.

Please let a board member know your thoughts on this issue.



Hearing noises at night?

One of our residents has had some unexpected company that simply won't get the hint that they have WAYYYYYYYY overstayed their welcome.

Upon investigation, they found that an entire nursery of raccoons had taken up residence in their attic. And while they adult raccoons were no doubt raising their young in the attic, a 'nursery' is what you call a group of raccoons. (Who knew? Other than the folks at Fish and Wildlife, of course!)

Traps have been laid. Most of the critters have been trapped, and the rest will be removed soon; but if you hear strange noises in your home, you might just check out your attic.

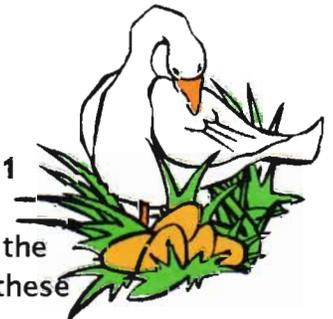
Should you find any unwanted four-legged guests, you might want to let your fingers do the walking thru the Yellow Pages and find yourself an exterminator!

Geese, Continued from Pg 1

Please make sure your children understand the ramifications of harming these beautiful animals.

We also have a growing clan of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, as well as beautiful Wood Ducks, Grey Herons, Egrets, and Loons, and all of these are part of what make our neighborhood unique.

Each and every one of us needs to do our very best to protect this little piece of heaven we have here for them as well as ourselves.



Gate House Party Info



Having a party for more than your house can hold? Remember, all residents may use the gatehouse for free once a year for parties of less than 100 guests. For children's parties, the maximum is 50 children and at least one adult for each 10 children. For minors aged 11 and up, if the party has 30 or more attendees, a security guard must also be on duty. For reservations contact Candy Fitch, 626-7879. Usage is on a first come, first serve-basis.

Use of the gatehouse is restricted to private parties or to meetings of non-commercial/ nonpolitical organizations; the person who reserved the gatehouse **MUST** be present throughout the event.

Before using the gatehouse, you will need to sign a liability waiver and pay a \$50 non-refundable cleaning fee and a \$200 refund-able damage/extra cleaning deposit. If you have already used your freebie for the year, you will also need to pay a non-refundable usage fee of \$75. Usage fees pay for utility costs and supplies such as soap and other cleaners, paper products, etc.

If the facility is clean and undamaged, the damage deposit will be refunded when the key is returned to Cathy Fitch.



What's new at LHOA?

A General LHOA Update:

- Entrance road, road cracks and speed bumps have all been repaired, filled or put in place.
- The Gate House maintenance and repairs are underway and should be finished very soon – maybe by the time you read this! Work includes pressure washing and repainting the porches and fixing the ceiling fans, lights and light switches.
- All housing dues have been collected from residents and been deposited into the LHOA bank account.
- The project to replace the lake water level control system, which had corroded to the point that it was inoperative and unrepairable, is now complete. The new system will allow the lake level to be lowered if there is a danger of imminent flooding. The outflow control apparatus will be located in the same area as before, next to the weir/dam at the northwest corner of the lake. Some consideration was given to building a hurricane-proof control building next to the dam, but the board members figured that the operator would likely abandon the building at the first sign of a hurricane, so the matter was voted down.
- Three houses are now for sale in the neighborhood.
- Yard Waste: Just piling your yard waste out by the street is probably not going to get it picked up by WM. If they haven't gotten it after a week, it's not likely that it is going to move by itself. If you can load it in the trash cans you've got a chance; if you cut it down to 3 foot lengths and tie it up with rope in small bundles you've got a really good chance it will disappear on the next trash pick up day.

Yards of the Month

No, that's not a typo in the headline. Since your editor has been so remiss in getting this newsletter out, she figured she'd make amends by letting you all know who won Yard of the Month since our last issue went out!

- December: 7004 Longvue (Jim Rather)
 January: 7031 Walden Place (Michael & Gayle Triay)
 February: 6010 Walden Place (Jim & Cheryl Klein)
 March: 6007 Walden Place (Adam & Betsy Hankins)
 April: 3001 Walden Place (Thomas & Lauren Cosgriff)
 May: 3091 Walden Place (Maria Compagno)



It seems Walden Place is becoming the most beautiful street in our neighborhood! Your editor begs your forgiveness that she did not get this info out to you in time for you to see each yard in its prime, but feels confident that the above named yards are just as lovely now as they were when named Yard of the Month.

2012 – 2013 Board Members

Bill Phillips.....624-8745	Pres.
Tom Ballantine... 624-9183	Exec VP/Sec'y/SLJO
Ken Lozano.....626-7184	VP
Billy Duncan..... 727-9300	VP
Kathy Gibbs.....624-9151	Newsletter

Committee Chairs:

Carol Ballantine 624-9183	Yard of Month Coord
Candy Fitch 626-7879	Gate House Resv.

Contact your board members at:

<http://www.lakeshoa.com/html/comment.html>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

<http://www.lakeshoa.com/index.html>

The newsletter will soon be a web-based publication; please send your email address to kathygibbs3@bellsouth.net. If you don't have an email account, please let Kathy know at 985-624-9151 so we can work something out.



Extra time on your hands?

Not that many of us have a lot of extra time these days, not with summer fast approaching, but your Lakes HOA board could use some help.

Consider volunteering. You can help with putting up the various holiday decorations at the gate house; help plan a holiday party for the adults or a summer party for the children of the Lakes or organizing a community-wide garage sale.

Any of your board members will be thrilled and delighted to hear from you if you have some ideas for interesting activities and can find the time to help.