



# Happenings

## “YOUR VOICE IN THE PARK”

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Forest Lake Estates, Zephyrhills, Florida Spetember 2017

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### Message from the Desk of the Forest Lake Estates Home Owners' Association (FLE HOA) President

Sorry for the delay in getting this issue out. I have been a little busy plus I was hoping to have more information about the water and wastewater rates in this edition (more to follow). All is going very well in the park and if you didn't have someone taking care of your home over the summer you will have lots of work to do when you return. It has been really rainy and all you have to do is look at the lake and see several private docks partially under water. In this edition I will give you an update on Current Water Status, Why Utilities Inc. of Florida (UIF) Flushes Monthly, Memorial Park, Pool Status, Divider Status, and Activities this Past Month.

We were hoping to have the new water and wastewater rates by now. The Public Service Commission (PSC) approved the consolidated rate structure, which UIF proposed over a year ago, on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. This rate structure will have the same water and wastewater rates for all communities. In the past the rates across the UIK networks were all different with us having the highest rates. If we had a project done for us it would directly affect our rates. Now if we have a project it is shared across all. This new rate structure will help our rates to go down significantly. As of today, September 1<sup>st</sup>, the PSC Staff has yet to issue the Final Order even though it was due out on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. It's my understanding they're working through some fallout calculations that are complex with the goal of getting it right. They are aware of the importance of getting this done ASAP as we and other customers are anxious to get the rate reductions right away. I think our rates for both water and wastewater will go down about \$22 per thousand gallons and the base rate will go down \$3-4 per month. I will send out special email as soon as we see the new rates!



I have also been working with UIF on the question of flushing and why they flush every month. I received the following response from UIF:

Many Forest Lake Estates residents have seen Utilities, Inc. of Florida field staff flushing hydrants each month. The purpose of this article is to inform you of why we flush water at key locations within the community on a recurring schedule. Our water source is the Upper Floridian aquifer, which contains a measurable amount of iron. When iron is in solution, it doesn't generally present a problem. However, iron can easily precipitate out of solution depending on water chemistry and impact water quality. Iron will add color to the water, affect the taste and stain clothes and surfaces. The Utility combats this by adding a sequestrant (a polyphosphate compound that is EPA approved for water treatment) to the water at our water plant in proportion to the water pumped from our wells. This chemical keeps the iron in solution in order to avoid the negative impacts of the iron noted above. However, as the water ages in the distribution system, the sequestrant slowly loses its effectiveness. In order to maintain water quality, our field staff flush water out of hydrants on the first Monday of each month in order to reduce the age of the water, the time interval between the withdrawal of the water from the ground and the use of the water.

Frequently asked questions:

- Does our water meet drinking water standards?

Yes, per EPA and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regulations, iron is considered a secondary drinking water parameter and its presence is an aesthetic issue. It is not a health risk.

- Do we flush each month because otherwise water tests would fail?  
No, whether we flush or not, our water meets all drinking water standards as set by EPA and enforced by DEP. The purpose of flushing is solely to improve the aesthetics of the water.
- Do you sample the water after flushing?  
The Utility follows a comprehensive sampling schedule that conforms to DEP regulations for various parameters. For instance, at least two bacteriological samples are taken each month at various locations within the distribution system as well as from each of our two wells.
- Why do you flush the first week of the month and not later?  
There is no requirement to flush at that time. The first Monday was suggested as a reasonable time to flush each month, which was agreed to by the Forest Lake Estates Co-Op. The Utility is open to an alternative time if that suits the customers better.
- Who pays for the water used for flushing?  
Flushing the mains on a monthly basis is a routine operating expense incurred in order to maintain the distribution system. As such, it is built into the water rate structure.

I hope this helps you to better understand why the flushing is done!

Memorial Park is progressing nicely. Our Team met with BrightView Landscape Services and ELS-Forest Lake Estates last week and the design is approved and ready to go. All we are waiting on now is for BrightView to get the work permits from Pasco County. We have received all the flags and flagpoles for the Park. In addition we have also received the two statues for the Veterans and the First Responders. As you can see, the Soldiers' Battle Cross and the Eagle are beautiful. Finally, we have ordered the three dedication plaques for the Park. We have set November 10, 2017 as the dedication date. We will have a wonderful ceremony and a light lunch after. We will give out tickets at the ceremony for lunch. So please mark your calendars and come out and help us dedicate the Park and say thanks to all our Veterans, First Responders and fellow Residents.

The pools are coming along. The small pool is done and looks absolutely wonderful. The large pool will look just like the small pool in color. As you can see, most of the tiling has been completed on the large pool and all the work should be complete by September 30<sup>th</sup>. Steve told me that once the large pool is completed then he will close down both pools for a few days to seal the pavers around both pools and to repaint the doors on the bathroom. With the addition of the outdoor kitchen and the complete renovation of both pools, this area will be awesome to get together with friends and family to relax and have a barbeque. I am working with Steve to come up with a policy on the use of the outdoor kitchen.

The Divider in the Club House is now installed and it is awesome. You can see from the pictures that we now can have functions on both sides of the Club House and not interfere with each other. Stewart and I stood on one side of the Divider and had to yell really loud for anyone to hear us on the other side. This is a great addition to the Club House and will give Eileen Lane lots of flexibility to schedule our ongoing and new activities.

Eileen Lane has been keeping our activities going during the summer. She continues to have Pizza and Movie Nights and Sing-Alongs. Thanks to Gayle and John Natale for helping with all the music and movies. We have a pot-luck scheduled for Labor Day and our next outdoor BBQ is scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup>. We had a wonderful time at the Caribbean Summer Dinner on August 27<sup>th</sup> with a steel drummer playing music. Mark Matthews and his team did a wonderful job putting on the event. We had 150 residents come out and enjoy the dinner. So you can see Eileen Lane and all her help has been busy with summer activities. Thanks to all who have and are helping out.

So you can see we are keeping busy and making things so much better for when you all return. Our first Board Meeting is scheduled for October 6<sup>th</sup> and our first General Membership Meeting will be on October 12<sup>th</sup>. For those who are here please come out and support your HOA. Janice Collins has been working hard on the 2018 Directory and 2018 Membership Drive. She will start selling 2018 memberships in late October. Please read next month's calendar to see her detailed schedule. Another month or so and the park will begin to fill up. Can't wait to see all our family and friends back home. We will have our first full Newsletter edition in October. Until next month...Cheers!

Thanks  
Jim Dill



The small pool is complete and looks wonderful. Unfortunately rain has delayed the completion of the big pool but as you can see, it's getting there.





**The new partition has been installed in the Club House**



**Memorial Park Statues**



**Soldiers' Battle Cross**



**Eagle**



The Caribbean Dinner was a huge success. Rain (again) caused the meal to be served indoors but with about 150 in attendance, everyone had a wonderful time.



## September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Movie, 1P, "On The Waterfront"	Pot Luck, 4P				Activities Committee Mtg, 10A	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Movie, 1P, "To Kill A Mockingbird"	Ticket Sales, 10A-Noon	Ticket Sales, 10A-Noon				Sing-A-Long, 7P
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Movie, 1P, "History Of The World, Part 1"	Ticket Sales, 10A-Noon	Ticket Sales, 10A-Noon				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Movie, 1P, "Planes, Trains and Automobiles"	Hamburger, Hot Dog or Bratwurst, 5P, Ticket needed		Sunshine Ladies, 11:30A			
<b>Recurring Events</b>						
9-10A- Interfaith Services 5:30P - Polish Poker	7-45A - Line Dancing Exer. 9A - Senior Exercise 10A- Pool Exercise 6P - Poker 6:30P - Hand & Foot	7-45A - Line Dancing Exer. 9A - Senior Exercise 9:30A - Shuffleboard 10A - Beginner Bible Study 10A - Pool Exercise 6:30P - Dominos		1P - Pinochle 1P - Mahjong 6P - Ping Pong 6:30P - Pass The Ace 6:30P - Hand & Foot	7:50A - Line Dancing Exer. 9A - Senior Exercise 10A - Pool Exercise 1P - Chimes 6:30P - Pinochle 7P - Michigan Rummy	9:30A - Pass the Ace

**Movies are free – Bring a drink and a snack.**

**Bingo starts October 3.**

**Sunshine Ladies – Meet at clubhouse at 11:30A, Sunrise Eatery, Color-Green, Virginia Swank-8623250.**

**Christmas Craft Fair – December 2 – Need a table contact Nancy Matthews, 813-469-1303 – Looking for volunteers to help set-up on Friday night.**