

HEADLINER



HEATHER LAKES OF BRANDON PUBLICATION

Attention All Parents and Students:

August 23, 2011 is the first day of school.

Please remember that every Monday all Hillsborough Country Schools are released one hour early this school year.

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2011

The Heather Lakes Headliner

Published quarterly by the
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A Message From The President

Heather Costa

Happy summer Heather Lakes! Hopefully you are staying cool and enjoying some time with friends and family.

With the kids heading back to school in August, we have included the most recent calendar for Hillsborough County Public Schools. I also wanted to remind you that all HCPS will be released one hour early every Monday this school year. Please look out for our kids as they walk to/from school and wait for the bus.

This is also the time of year for many yard and house improvements. Please remember, the ACC committee must approve all changes. We have included a form in this newsletter and some articles on home fixes.

Well, it has taken a bit longer than anticipated but the walls around the neighborhood are painted! We ran in to some problem areas on the wall but they have been addressed and fixed. It makes a great impact when driving the neighborhood. We have a few more projects to

beatify the neighborhood before the year is out. So, look for some more changes!

Many of you have asked about the fencing along Heather Lakes Boulevard. You want it replaced but our homeowners association is not legally allowed to replace that fencing because those homes do not belong to the association. Association money cannot go toward non-association homes. One of your neighbors is trying to fix this fencing by starting a Taxing District in Heather Lakes. He will be having a meeting to explain what is a Taxing District, how will it affect you, and what he needs to do for this to happen. If interested in hearing about this, please look for signs advertising his meeting.

In closing, I want to invite all of you out to our monthly board meetings. We like to meet our neighbors. Please understand that the board is made up of volunteers with full time jobs and families. We rarely have to cancel a meeting due to lack of a quorum but it can happen.

JULY 4TH -

ENJOY A SAFE INDEPENDENCE DAY IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

Americans love to celebrate with fireworks. Fireworks used to be enjoyed only on Independence Day. Now in many parts of the county, fireworks are a mainstay for weddings, birthday parties and any other occasion of celebration. The National Council on Fireworks Safety - so you can avoid serious injuries and damage to your property or your neighbor's property. The Consumer Product Safety Commission and the National Council on Fireworks Safety put together a great list of helpful tips to keep you and your family safe.

Fireworks Safety Tips:

- Read and follow the directions on the fireworks labels. (That means READ and Follow Directions!)
- Always have at least two adults present.
- Purchase your fireworks for reliable sellers.
- Never use fireworks inside.
- Keep water handy - a garden hose and a bucket of water nearby.
- Never re-light a "dud" firework - wait 15 to 20 minutes and then soak it in a bucket of water.
- Never give fireworks to small children. (Even sparklers can be dangerous, supervise young children at all time.
- Dispose of fireworks properly by soaking them in water and then disposing of them in your trashcan.
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
- Wear eye protection and never have any part of your body over the fireworks.
- Don't shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.


Consider Your Pets and Other Animals in the Neighborhood:

July 4th celebrations can be a lot of fun for people but can be downright scary for animals, especially cats and dogs. The sites sounds and commotion of fireworks can confuse animals and make them nervous, which may cause them to run away or harm themselves. To keep your animals from becoming overly stressed on Independence Day follow these tips.

Keep pets indoors and away from crowds so that they feel more protected.

Animals that are already crate trained may feel safest in their crate.

The 4th of July is a good time to make sure your pet is wearing an ID collar and is micro-chipped.



Heather Lakes

Board Of Director Meetings

July 14, 2011
 Monthly Meeting- 7:15 pm
 at the Bloomingdale Regional Library
 The ACC committee will meet at 7:00 pm.

August 11, 2011
 Board of Directors Meeting- 7:15 pm
 at the Bloomingdale Regional Library
 The ACC committee will meet at 7:00 pm.

September 8, 2011
 Board of Directors Meeting- 7:15 pm
 at the Bloomingdale Regional Library
 The ACC committee will meet at 7:00 pm.

Due to work obligations of our volunteer board, meetings are subject to change. Please call COA to confirm the meeting.

Association dues are due on the first of July and October

** If you cannot find your new assessment package, contact COA (813) 685-6473 immediately to avoid late fees.*

Advertisement

Dollar Plus Store

Party Supplies / Balloons
 Hair Accessories / Costume Jewelry
 Seasonal Items / Silk Flowers
 Gift Bags & Greeting Cards
 Florida Souvenirs / T-Shirts
 Kitchen & Bath Accessories
 Phone Cards / Cold Drinks & Snacks
 Toys for Kids and Pets

Bring this ad in for 7% off of your purchase

1965 Lumsden Road
 Corner of Providence & Lumsden
 Bone Fish Grill / Home Goods Plaza
 (813) 655-9805

Hours:
 Monday – Saturday:
 10:00 – 6:30 pm
 Sunday: 12:00 – 4:00



Happy
 Fourth Of July!

2011 HURRICANE SEASON JUNE 1ST – NOVEMBER 30TH

Hurricane season is upon us and runs until November 30th. Be ready to take of yourself at least for a few days, maybe longer. Active season or not, you must plan for that one big storm.

Here is a checklist to help you and your family:

- Flashlights and extra bulbs
- Battery-operated radio
- Fully charged battery-operated lanterns. Don't get candles and kerosene lanterns. They are a fire hazard.
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Matches
- Clock (wind-up or battery-operated)
- Plastic garbage bags
- Working fire extinguishers
- Scissors
- Clean change of clothes, rain gear, boots
- Drinking water - store at least a two-week supply for each member of your family. That means at least 1 gallon of drinking water per person per day.
- Ice - bag up what you can in the freezer while there's still power.
- Food - have at least a three-day supply of nonperishable food on hand. Some suggestions:
 - Peanut butter and jelly, granola bars, canned meats such as tuna fish, vegetables, canned juices, staples such as salt, pepper, sugar, instant coffee. If you have a grill, have handy easily grilled items like hotdogs and hamburgers.
- Store pet food if you have animals.
- Buy throwaway tableware such as paper plates, napkins, paper or plastic cups, plastic forks, knives and spoons, as well as plenty of garbage bags, paper towels and toilet paper.

Have plenty of cleaning agents such as liquid soap, hand sanitizer, wet wipes, laundry detergent and a bucket for washing clothes until power is restored. Have a manual can opener handy.

- See that your first aid kit has bandages, antiseptics, tape, compresses, pain relievers, anti-diarrhea medication and antacids, as well as meds for routine illnesses such as colds.
- Supplies for elderly or the ill should include Depends, bed pads, medications, special foods.
- For infants have medicines, diapers, formula, bottles, wipes.
- Stock a two-week supply of vitamins and medications.

Some additional website resources to visit:

How can I find my evacuation zone?

http://gisweb.hillsboroughcounty.org/heat/Evac_lookups/menu_cf.cfm

If I don't own a means of transportation, how can I evacuate?

www.gohart.org/departments/marketing/detours/hurricane-evacuation-routes.html

How can I prepare my special needs, elderly or disabled family member?

www.hillsboroughcounty.org/emergency/hurricaneinfo/disabledprep.cfm

How should I plan to keep my pet(s) safe?

www.hillsboroughcounty.org/emergency/hurricaneinfo/pets.cfm

Where are the Hurricane Shelters?

www.hillsboroughcounty.org/emergency/hurricaneinfo/shelter.cfm

What should be in my hurricane supply shopping list? (12 week suggestions)

www.hillsboroughcounty.org/emergency/resources/publications/hurricanekitsupplylist.pdf

A RAIN BARREL CAN I HAVE ONE AND HOW CAN I MAKE ONE?

A rain barrel is a wonderful thing especially in the winter when watering restrictions may keep you from watering your hanging plants as often as you might want. Most Home Owners Associations do not allow rain barrels to be visible from the street. That doesn't mean that you cannot have one. Most roofs shed 1000 gallons of water per side per hour during rainy periods. That's a lot of water going to waste. Your rain barrel will help by catching 55 gallons of fresh water to use on thirsty plants. Finding a 50-55 gallon food safe barrel is not hard to do. Checking Craigslist, Free cycle and local gardening groups can put you in possession of a barrel for a relatively low cost.

Things you'll need:

- 50 gallon barrel
- Wire mesh to cover top
- Y hose coupling
- 1 ½ inch piece of pipe
- 6" garden hose

Clean barrel with soap and water. Rinse well. A fifty gallon barrel is a good size.

Place the barrel beneath the downspout from your roof. If you don't have a downspout, put the barrel just below your roof edge and it will fill quickly with water. Level the barrel.

Cut an opening in the top of the barrel, if it doesn't already have one. You will want the opening to be the size of the downspout. If there is already an opening in the top of the barrel, position the barrel so that the downspout is aimed at the opening.

Fit a piece of wire mesh over the opening of the barrel. This will be used to keep debris out of the barrel and should be positioned between the downspout and top of the barrel.

Drill a hole on the side of the barrel, about two inches from the bottom. Drill the hole so that the 1½-inch piece of pipe can be threaded into the hole. Do not yet insert the pipe in the hole.

Thread the single end of the Y hose coupling onto the 1½-inch piece of pipe and then thread the pipe into the hole you drilled. Use a sealer to prevent leaking. Now a hose can be attached to the Y hose coupling and your rain barrel can be used to water plants.



2011/2012 Student Academic Calendar

Teacher Pre-Planning	Mon., August 15 – Mon., August 22
Students' First Day of School	Tuesday, August 23
Labor Day Holiday/Schools and District Offices Closed	Monday, September 5
End of 1 st Grading Period	Thursday, October 20
Non-Student Day	Friday, October 21
Veterans Day Holiday/Non-Student Day	Friday, November 11
Thanksgiving Holiday/Schools and District Offices Closed	Monday - Friday, November 21 - 25
Students Return to School	Monday, November 28
Winter Break/Schools and District Offices Closed	Monday - Friday, December 19 - 30
Students Return to School	Monday, January 2
End of 2 nd Grading Period (1 st Semester)	Friday, January 13
Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday/Schools and District Offices Closed	Monday, January 16
Non-Student Day	Tuesday, January 17
Florida State Fair Day/Non-Student Day/for schools in West Hillsborough County	Friday, February 10
Strawberry Festival/Non-Student Day/for schools in East Hillsborough County	Monday, March 5
Spring Break/Schools and District Offices Closed	Monday - Friday, March 12 - 16
Students Return to School	Monday, March 19
End of 3 rd Grading Period	Friday, March 30
Non-Student Day	Friday, April 6
Memorial Day Holiday/Schools and District Offices Closed	Monday, May 28
Last Day of School/End of 4 th Grading Period (2 nd Semester) dismissal 2.5 hours early	Friday, June 8
Teacher Post-Planning	Monday, June 11

Conference Days – Dates and times are determined by individual schools

Student Early Release – Each Monday one hour, early release



Heather Lakes Home Improvement Form

Name _____ Date _____

Street Address _____ Phone _____

Note: Heather Lakes approved paint colors can be viewed at local Porter Paints* stores. All color choices must still be submitted for approval. If your home improvement project includes replacement siding, the new siding color is also subject to approval.

Check the appropriate boxes:



_____ Painting

_____ Architectural Additions (property survey must be attached showing dimensions, etc.)

_____ Fencing- Only 6 foot privacy fencing is permitted with the exception of lake front property. (property survey must be attached showing dimensions, etc.)

_____ Shingles (attach a color sample and indicate the color of your home)

Note: You will need a county building permit for all types of construction.

PAINT	<u>Brand/Color</u>	<u>Finish</u>
Main House	_____	_____
House Trim	_____	_____
Other (be specific)	_____	_____



Please attach sample paint colors.

FENCING _____ White PVC _____ Natural Wood _____ White Painted Wood

By signing below, I agree not to begin property improvements until the board of directors has notified me in writing of their approval. If any change is made that is not approved, the board retains the right to have the property owner remove the change within a 30-day period. The cost of removal remains with the property owner. All approved requests must be started within 60 days of approval or the request becomes VOID.

Signature _____ Date _____

Send completed, signed form to Communities of America, c/o Heather Lakes at Brandon Architectural Review Board, PO Box 2608, Valrico, FL 33595-2608. The board will respond within a 30-day period from the time received. Heather Lakes does not assume responsibility for lost mail. For ARC status and questions, please contact COA at (813)685-6473.

Date Received by Association _____ Approved _____ Rejected _____

Association Approval by _____

WHO'S AFRAID OF A CAN OF PAINT?

Recently, I was watching a home improvement show and the host walked into a kitchen and asked, "Are you happy with this color?" The husband replied a bit mournfully, "No, we hate it but it came with the house". His response seemed to indicate that once a wall is painted you are stuck with it.

Are you living in a house and hate the colors? If so, WHY?

Painting is one of the cheapest, easiest, and fastest ways to update your home. Yes, it takes some preparation, and yes, it does take a few hours to paint a room. But the results will last for years. Sometimes people don't paint because they are afraid making the wrong color choice. The paint companies have an inexpensive solution. For just a couple dollars you can purchase sample size paints in any color. You pick out the color(s) and test them in several places in your room where the light hits it differently at different times of the day. Paint a couple areas in colors you are considering and live with them for a week or two. Or, if you aren't ready to commit to painting, paint a cheap poster board with the colors and prop it up in the room. Once you pick your color the hardest part is done.

Next, you will need your painting supplies. There are a number of different ways to get the paint out of the can and on your wall. Brushes, rollers, sponges, paint pads are all commonly used. Some work better for one thing than another. The most often used for covering large areas of a wall is the roller. If you have internet access you can type in, "How do I paint a wall" or "How do I use a paint roller" into your internet browser and you will find a step by step plan for painting your room.

Remember to cover your furniture and protect your floor from drops of paint. You can use drop cloths or plastic sheeting. Don't use old sheets or untreated canvas. The paint may seep through.

Often, you will need to cut in or tape around ceilings, door frames, and windows. "Cutting in" simply means that you paint a small edge around doors, windows, mop boards, and ceilings. This should be done before painting the room and takes the most time. But it is one of the most important steps. When you cut in, you avoid getting paint on other surfaces. This gives your room a more professional finish.

So, what are you waiting for? Haven't you lived with a color you don't like long enough?

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES

This afternoon I worked in my yard cleaning up the effects of the freeze and replanting the annuals that the cold had killed off. I was hauling a big bag of yard waste to the curb. A young boy walked by. He looked at the bag and at me and said, "That's a lot of work". I replied that it was but, I enjoy it. He stopped for a moment and then said, "yard work is good for your yard and for you". I pondered that bit of wisdom as I finished up. What do we get out of keeping our yards up?

From the point of view of a neighborhood, keeping your yard nice creates the appearance of a desirable neighborhood. When it's time to refinance or sell, a house that is well maintained on the outside is viewed as being more valuable than one that isn't. All home values are increased when the houses in the neighborhood look well maintained and kept up.

But what do we personally get out of yard work? Besides fire ants, wasps, little lizards and the occasional snake, we get exercise, fresh air, and a feeling of community and belonging. We meet our neighbors and see old friends. We create an image of who we are to the people who pass by. Drive by a poorly maintained house and comments heard may not reflect the nice people who live inside that house. Drive by a nicely maintained, colorful yard and people assume that the rest of the house and its residents as just as nice as the "face" you see.

In a world increasingly more visually oriented, have a home that says you live here with pride. "This is our home and we take care of it." A nicely maintained home gives credibility. Walk outside and stand in front of your house. Does your home reflect who you are? Or does your home tell people a different story? If it doesn't look good or doesn't reflect who you are then pick up a lawn bag, grab the trimmers, pull on some gloves and give your "face to the neighborhood" a face lift.

Can't afford plants? Trade or check out Freecycle. Homeowners often list plants they are removing from their landscape and will give away free. Join a plant exchange through the extension service. Put the word out with family and friends that you are looking for landscape plants and are willing to dig them. You'd be surprised at just what you might get.

Have a little jingle for landscape plants? Go to local nurseries for Florida Friendly and Hardy plants to dress up your yard. The big box stores carry mainstream varieties. If you want something more exotic, check out the local nursery. You may find something that will make your home memorable. Remember to check the fully grown size. You don't want to plant a live oak in a tea cup. Nor would you want a miniature rose planted in a cauldron. Check the size before you buy to make sure the location will hold the plant at full size.



Happy Gardening!

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July 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

SUMMER DEALS

Every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday :
 Muvico Free Summer Film Fest (Free Children Movies)
 and Regal Summer Movie Express (\$1 Children Movies)
 Sunset Cinema @ Pier 60 in Clearwater (Free for the family)

Ybor City Saturday Market (Free)
 July 3- Fourth of July Special at MOSI
 (Buy one get one free)

July 1-4 Military Appreciation at the Zoo- Red, White, and Zoo- Free admission applies to active duty military, reservists or members of the Guard with a valid military I.D. and up to three direct dependents.

Rays and Storm games all summer long

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 7/1 Association dues are due
- 7/4 Happy Fourth of July!!!
- 7/6 Motley Crue
- 7/8 Gasparilla International Film Festival
Swagg Fest
- 7/15 Jason Aldean
- 8/2 Kings of Leon
- 8/3 Lil Wayne
- 8/13 Mayhem Festival
- 8/23 Back to school!!!
- 8/31 Train and Maroon 5
- 9/3 UPROAR festival