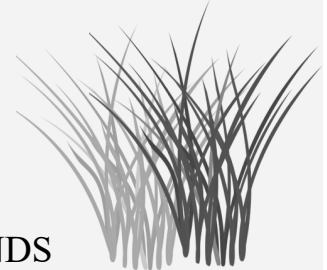


Heron



THE OFFICIAL *Newsletter* OF EAST LAKE WOODLANDS

A message from our President *Jermaine Jenkins*

*Keeping Our Community Safe,
Beautiful & Connected*

Community Safety & Security Update

When the current Board began its work, strengthening the safety and security of East Lake Woodlands was among our highest priorities. We are proud to report that those efforts are delivering real, measurable results.

Per Pinellas County Sheriff's Office crime data, our community is measurably safer today than at any point in recent history. With the restoration of guard coverage and the upgrade of our access control system, 2026 year-to-date crime activity is trending at an all-time low — averaging approximately 1.0 incident per month, compared to a peak of approximately 2.7 incidents per month during the unmanned gate period.

Most notably, vehicle burglaries have dropped to zero. During the 14-month unmanned period, East Lake Woodlands experienced more than 15 vehicle burglaries. Since guard coverage was restored, the community has recorded zero vehicle burglaries across 10 consecutive months — representing a 100% reduction in this category. Overall, crime activity is down approximately 70% compared to the unmanned gate period.

This is an encouraging and meaningful trend for every resident, family, and guest who calls East Lake Woodlands home. While no community can eliminate every safety risk, the data clearly demonstrates that stronger gate coverage, enhanced access controls, and consistent security oversight are making a tangible difference.

The Board remains committed to building on

this progress and extends its sincere thanks to the KT Security team for their around-the-clock presence, responsiveness, and dedication to keeping a watchful eye over our community.

Community Gate Access Platform Upgrade - Complete

The Board is pleased to announce that both phases of the community access control platform upgrade are now complete. This project reflects our ongoing commitment to improving community security, modernizing our infrastructure, and giving residents more flexibility and control.

Phase 1 focused on seamlessly transitioning existing RFID and barcode access to the new platform with minimal disruption to residents. Phase 2 introduced enhanced mobile access capabilities, enabling residents to manage guest and contractor entry directly from their smartphones via the CellGate mobile application.

In collaboration with Management & Associates and our partners at CellGate, the Board hosted four resident enablement and Q&A sessions to ensure a smooth transition. Turnout was excellent, and the engagement and feedback from residents throughout this process has been truly appreciated.

Questions about the CellGate app? Reach out to Rebekah Davis at Management & Associates, or contact CellGate customer support directly at 972-231-1999. The team is happy to help!

Cluster 4 - Sidewalk & Drainage Project: Complete

As promised, the Board is pleased to report that the sidewalk and drainage improvement work in Cluster IV Villas is now complete. This project addressed long-standing safety and drainage concerns along South

Woodlands Drive, an area that had become increasingly hazardous for walkers and residents over time.

The completed improvements include sidewalk replacements and drainage cuts designed to improve water flow, reduce standing water, and create a safer, more accessible path for pedestrians. In addition to improving safety, the work has also enhanced the overall appearance of this community in East Lake Woodlands.

We appreciate the patience and support of Cluster IV residents throughout this project. We also extend our thanks to the Cluster IV President and the residents who shared their feedback and helped bring continued attention to this important community need. The Board is delighted to see this long-standing issue resolved.

Community Tree Trimming & Common-Ground Maintenance

As promised, the Board remains firmly committed to ongoing clean-up, safety, and maintenance efforts throughout East Lake Woodlands. Tree trimming and common-ground work continues across ELW, with a focus on removing hazardous dead trees, completing canopy lifts, clearing debris, and performing general clean-up in common areas.

We are also placing added focus on removing excessive moss from trees along the parkway — work that directly improves both the safety and the visual appeal of our community for residents and visitors alike.

The Board will continue identifying areas where overgrowth removal and safety-focused landscaping work is needed, prioritizing these efforts as part of our broader commitment to enhancing the appearance, safety, and long-term care of our shared spaces.

Continued on page 5



Community Safety Reminder

Please be mindful of your speed when driving throughout our community. The safety of our residents, guests, and pets is vitally important. Remember, once you enter the community gates, you are essentially in your own driveway — and the same level of care and attentiveness should be applied when driving.

Thank you for helping to keep our neighborhood safe for everyone!

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Jared Bancroft, Director	jgrant@mgmt-assoc.com
Brian Hiatt, Director	813-433-2024
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Jeffrey Sherman, Director	elw-fl.com or
	eastlakewoodlands.com

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Non-Emergency 727-784-8576 ext. 3864
Emergency 727-223-1273

FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

Location:	Phone Number:
Rover (Resident Request Number)	727-600-7818
Country Club	727-784-8576
ELW Water General Info/Accounting	727-784-8576 ex 3864
ELW Water Emergency Maintenance Line	727-488-4961
Pinellas County Sheriff, Non-emergency	727-582-6200
Management and Associates	
Barcode Information, Rebekah Davis	813-433-2028
Management and Associates	
Manager, James Grant	813-433-2024
Management and Associates	
Accounting, Jessica Baker	813-433-2012

For additional questions please contact:
Rebekah Davis at 813-433-2028
rdavis@mgmt-assoc.com

For FrontSteps access and email communication, please contact Rebekah Davis. Provide your name, address, and phone number to create an account to Login to FrontSteps



ELWCA MANAGEMENT COMPANIES

Management & Assocs. 813-433-2000	Ameri-Tech Prop. Mgmt. 727-726-8000 24701 US Hwy 19 N. Ste 102 Clearwater FL. 33763
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Cluster 3	Woods Landing
Cluster 4	Woodlands Estates
Cluster 5	Associa Gulf Coast
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Tampa Road Wall - Construction Underway

Hooray — construction of the Tampa Road wall is officially underway! After diligently navigating the county approval and permitting process, work has now begun, and residents should start seeing visible progress along the Tampa Road wall area.

This has been an important priority for the current Board, and we have remained committed to moving the project forward as efficiently as possible while ensuring all required approvals were properly addressed.

This is another meaningful step forward in enhancing the appearance, safety, and long-term upkeep of East Lake Woodlands — and we're excited for residents to see the results take shape.

Green Haven Sidewalk, Road & Infrastructure Preservation Project

The Board is working collaboratively with the Green Haven III Board to proactively evaluate trees that are significantly impacting, or may be at risk of impacting, nearby roads and sidewalks. This initiative reflects our shared commitment to preserving the long-term integrity of our community's infrastructure — protecting roads, sidewalks, and shared assets from avoidable damage. Work is currently scheduled to begin soon, and we will share additional updates as the project progresses. We appreciate the continued partnership and support from the Green Haven III Board as we work together on these important infrastructure needs.

Drainage, Shoulder Re-Grading & Cart Path Improvement Project

Drainage improvement work has begun near the golf cart crossing on East Lake Woodlands Parkway near Hunter's Crossing. This project includes modifications around the golf cart crossing, installation of underground drainage pipes, swale restoration, shoulder re-grading, cart path restoration, debris removal, and hydroseeding upon completion.

The shoulder work will extend along the south side of East Lake Woodlands Parkway from Hunters Drive west toward the Silverthorne entrance. These improvements are designed to reduce standing water after rain events, improve drainage flow, enhance safety and accessibility, and beautify one of our most highly traveled community corridors.

Landscaping & Sod Improvements

Following recent irrigation improvements, new sod has been installed from Woodlands Drive near the Tampa Road entrance down to Ardea. New plantings have also been added at the island

end-caps, and the area is looking great. Resident feedback has been very positive, and we appreciate the community's encouragement as we continue making visible improvements to our common areas and entrance corridors.

The Board is evaluating the next phase of sod installation from Ardea to the Truist entrance, as well as potential landscaping enhancements to the center island at the Tampa Road entrance. We will keep the community posted as these plans move forward — your input and feedback are always welcome.

Entrance Lighting Improvements — Complete

The final phase of our entrance uplifting improvements is now complete. Mighty Lights did an excellent job restoring and enhancing lighting across our main entrances, including Truist and Sunflower, as well as under the oak trees along the lake and behind the main East Lake Woodlands entrance sign.

This work included repairing broken fixtures, restoring lighting where it had been damaged or removed, and adding coverage where gaps previously existed. These enhancements reflect the Board's continued commitment to improving visibility, curb appeal, and the overall first impression our community makes — for residents and visitors alike.

Speeding & Traffic Safety — Community Reminder

Traffic safety remains a community-wide priority, and the Board continues to actively engage with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office to monitor and address speeding throughout East Lake Woodlands. Residents should continue to expect a visible law enforcement presence as part of this ongoing safety effort.

We ask all drivers to remain mindful of posted speed limits and to exercise extra caution throughout the community — particularly near crosswalks, intersections, amenity areas, and anywhere pedestrians, cyclists, golf carts, or children may be present.

Traffic safety is a shared responsibility. By slowing down, observing traffic signs, and driving with care, every one of us contributes to keeping East Lake Woodlands safe and welcoming for all.

A Message from Your Board

The progress reflected in this newsletter is a direct result of collaboration — between your Board, our management team, our service partners, and most importantly, our residents. Every improvement to our safety, our infrastructure, and our community's appearance is a shared achievement. As always, we welcome your feedback, questions, and engagement. East Lake Woodlands is a special place — and together, we're making it even better !!

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— Jessica and Brad Hampton, New Homeowners



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*Council of North
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Representing
communities in
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The Council of North County Neighborhoods (CNCN) works to bring together North Pinellas County neighborhoods to promote communication and cooperation and to foster a sense of community. CNCN acts as a neighborhood advocate for the benefit of member organizations and brings a common voice to county government.

Watch for upcoming candidate and legislative forums



**ELWCA meetings
are conducted using
TEAMS.**

**Please contact
M & A for a meeting
link or you are
welcome to attend
in-person at M & A.**

*Do you have a
positive word
to share about
someone or
something
in our ELW
community?*

*Please submit
information
to
jbakerehwca@gmail.com*

You are welcome to attend ELWCA meetings. Please join us to learn more about your ELWCA community. Meeting dates and times are posted on the message boards and in the calendar on our website elw-fl.com or eastlakewoodlands.com



**DRIVE SLOWLY AND WATCH FOR
PEDESTRIANS AND WILDLIFE**

Woman in the Word • Lenore Lawrow



I am starting a Bible study once a month on Wednesdays, meeting at Ardea Country Club.

Meetings are the second Wednesday of each month at Ardea (upstairs) at 1:00. Next meetings are June 10th and July 8th. Please bring your Bible.

Please call Lenore Lawrow with any questions at 631-375- 5127.

The Pinellas Wind Symphony • Gary Williams



INTERESTED IN JOINING THE PINELLAS WIND SYMPHONY?

The Pinellas Wind Symphony is a vibrant advanced level community band featuring wind, brass, percussion, string bass, piano & harp players. By visiting the band's website, pinellaswindsymphony.org, you can learn more about the group's mission and the types of music performed. If you have an interest in joining the band at the start of the fall season simply click the Auditions button and complete the form.

The band rehearses and performs at the Dunedin Community Center. Rehearsals take place on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 8:45.

Also, for string players the Pinellas Park Orchestra has a Summer Strings program during June and July at the Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center. You can think of this as a summer music camp for adults. To learn more about this program go to the orchestra's website, pinellasparkorchestra.org and access Summer Strings 2026.

So if you've been thinking of pulling that dusty instrument case out of the closet and doing something enjoyable for yourself and the community, here are two opportunities to get started. By the way, you'll note from the websites that both of these groups perform under the baton of a distinguished Music Director, Dr. Martin Seggelke.

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Please remember there is no fishing in ponds. The ponds are private property and unsafe!

Cluster IV Villas

The residents and I in Cluster IV would like to express our thanks for the sidewalk replacements and drainage cuts that are being completed along S. Woodlands Dr. This has been a very hazardous area for walkers in our community for a very long time & we all just want to express our gratitude for the quality of the work being done. You have made our little section of East Lake Woodlands not only safer but have improved the appearance of our neighborhood tremendously. Thank you.

Cathy McCarthy, President, ELW Cluster IV



RAT POISONS DON'T JUST KILL RATS.
RAT POISONS ALSO KILL THE WILDLIFE THAT EAT RATS AND MICE, LIKE HAWKS, OWLS, FOXES, BOBCATS, COUGARS, COYOTE, RACCOONS, SNAKES, AND SKUNKS.
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New From East Lake Water

Dear East Lake Water Department Customer,

Thank you for being a loyal and valued customer. We truly appreciate the trust you place in our team and the services we provide to the community.

From time to time, we receive comments that customers are unable to reach the Water Department only to discover that the call was made to a former employee's personal cell phone or to a number that has been disconnected. To ensure your request is received, documented, and responded to promptly, **please always contact us directly at 727-784-8576.**

This phone line is our official department number and allows us to properly track all inbound and outbound calls, work orders, and follow-up actions. When a call is made to someone's personal cell phone, that communication cannot be logged in our system, which increases the chance that a request could unintentionally slip through the cracks.

In addition to calling, you may also reach us via email at eastlakewatermanagement@invitedclubs.com. This inbox is continuously monitored, ensuring your message is received regardless of staffing changes. In an effort to ensure our records are current, please e-mail any changes to your contact information to this e-mail and we will update our records.

Thank you again for your continued support and cooperation. We remain committed to providing the highest level of service to our East Lake community.

Sincerely, East Lake Water Department

East Lake Woodlands Water - 2026

The rate for irrigation is a flat \$143 per quarter per single family home.

Watering Schedule - Residential

MONDAY:

Addresses ending in the numbers 0 or 1

TUESDAY:

Addresses ending in the numbers 2 or 3

WEDNESDAY:

Addresses ending in the numbers 4 or 5

THURSDAY:

Addresses ending in the numbers 6 or 7

FRIDAY:

Addresses ending in the numbers 8 or 9

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY: NO WATERING ALLOWED (Pumps are turned off)

STANDARD WATERING TIMES ARE BETWEEN 7:00pm-7:00am

(NO WATERING IS PERMITTED BETWEEN 7:00am-7:00pm)

Sprinkler maintenance can be done Monday – Friday from 8:00am to 3:30pm

All times and days are subject to change if over demand on our lakes put the water levels below those set forth by Southwest Florida Water Management District.

If we all work together, we can avoid watering cutbacks in the future.

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WHY 3/4 OF HOME SELLERS DON'T GET THE PRICE THEY WANT FOR THEIR HOMES

East Lake Woodlands - A new report has just been released which reveals 7 costly mistakes that most homeowners make when selling their home, and a 9 Step System that can help you sell your home fast and for the most amount of money. This industry report shows clearly how the traditional ways of selling homes have become increasingly less and less effective in today's market. The fact of the matter is that fully three quarters of home sellers don't get what they want for their homes and become disillusioned and - worse - financially disadvantaged when they put their homes on the market. As this report uncovers, most home sellers make 7 deadly mistakes that cost them literally thousands of dollars. The good news is that each and every one of these mistakes is entirely preventable. In answer to this issue, industry insiders

have prepared a free special report entitled "The 9 Step System to Get Your Home Sold Fast and For Top Dollar". To order a FREE Special Report, visit www.ELWHomes.com/ mistakes or to hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report, call toll-free 1-866-945-9308 and enter 1000. You can call anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Get your free special report NOW to find out how you can get the most money for your home.



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We share space with wildlife including coyotes, alligators, and snakes. Please do not leave children or pets unattended.



Planting a Solution for Erosion *Margo Cooper, Cross Creek*

I am writing to share some important information with the residents of East Lake Woodlands. Ever since we moved into our Cross Creek home 4 years ago, we, along with many other homeowners on our street (where our homes back up to a creek/pond), have been concerned about the erosion that is eating away at our back yards. Long-time residents have witnessed a loss of several feet of land from behind their homes over the past twenty years along with the loss of many trees that have fallen into the creek. Just last summer our next-door neighbor's large tree crashed into the creek.

After efforts to find help from several related agencies and companies yielded no assistance, we took a different approach to solving our erosion concerns.

In 2024, my husband and I hired a reputable lakes company to plant many Pickerel & Arrowhead plants in the water behind our home hoping to grow a natural barrier. We paid them \$500. The plants did not flourish – in fact most died.

In April 2025, we planted a particular NATIVE yellow canna plant that I found at a FL native plant nursery in Parrish, FL. I bought 12 pots of medium-sized cannas to experiment with. Each pot was jam packed with many rhizomes & plants. We planted them ourselves(!) in the water right next to our severe drop-off shoreline. In November 2025, since they were looking so healthy, we planted 15 more. I am so happy to report that all the cannas are doing beautifully and are multiplying all along our shoreline. YAY! Bonus – this week we got our first beautiful yellow flower! Also, they did not freeze in the severe cold spell in earlier this year.

This possibly is the solution that we have been looking for – a lovely natural green wall to halt the erosion! There are several Florida native plant nurseries in the area, but I purchased the native "FLACCIDA" Yellow Canna plants in pots from:

Sweet Bay Nursery
10824 Erie Road
Parish, FL
Phone: 941-776-0501

I have included 3 photos that show the beautiful improvement added by these plants! Feel free to contact me for more information.

Margo Cooper • margocooper@gmail.com • 407-628-5604



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FIVE STAR RATED

All weather radar sets can determine the direction and distance from the radar set to an object. This allows any radar to measure the intensity of precipitation by the strength of the reflected radar waves. What makes Doppler radar different is its ability to measure the horizontal speed of an object in a direction either directly toward or directly away from the radar set.

Here is a simple example of the Doppler Effect. If you throw a stone into a calm pond, you will see a series of circular ripples created at the location the stone hit the water surface. These ripples will propagate across the pond in a regular pattern at a constant spacing or wavelength. Most of us have seen this in action. If you have not, try it in a pond or even in your bathtub at home.

Assume that the ripples pass a rowboat that is sitting still in the water at a frequency of 1 ripple every 5 seconds. What will happen if the rowboat starts to move toward the point where the stone hit the water? Since the rowboat is moving toward the location from which the ripples are coming, an observer in the rowboat will see ripples pass by at shorter time intervals. For example, the rowboat may be moving fast enough to have a ripple pass by at a frequency of 1 ripple every 3 seconds.

The relative motion between the rowboat and the ripples has caused a change in the observed frequency of the ripples as they pass by the rowboat. Since the observed frequency has increased, the measured wavelength of these ripples will decrease. This change in the observed frequency and observed wavelength is called the Doppler Shift or Doppler Effect.

When a radar wave is reflected off a moving object such as rain, the frequency of the reflected radar wave will undergo a shift that is proportional to the speed at which the object is moving directly toward, or directly away from, the radar set. This Doppler Shift allows the radar unit to measure the speed at which the object is moving directly toward, or directly away from, the radar set. Because this is only one component of the speed, more than one Doppler Radar is needed to get a complete measurement of the horizontal wind field. A collection of Doppler radars can allow meteorologists to measure the horizontal wind field in the region with great accuracy.

This same effect will occur if the sensor is moving, which might occur if the sensor unit is mounted on a vehicle, ship or aircraft. The key parameter is how quickly the distance between the sensor and the target object is changing.

The Doppler effect can be generated either by the movement of the wave source, the movement of the observer, or a combination of both. The important requirement is that the distance between the wave source and the observer (or the distance between the radar unit and the radar target) is changing. If both the wave source and the observer are moving in the same direction at the same speed, the distance between them will not be changing, and there will be no observable Doppler effect. Since Doppler shifts will only occur for motions along the direct line of sight between the radar unit and the target, Doppler shifts will only allow determining speeds along this line of sight direction. If an object is moving from right to left (or left to right) across the line of sight, the Doppler shift will not provide any information about the right to left

(or left to right) motion at all. This is why police radar units are usually located as close as possible to the roadway. With this location, the speed of the vehicle is mostly within the line of sight, and will therefore create a Doppler shift. When the radar unit is further from the roadway, less of the vehicle speed will be within the line of sight to create a Doppler shift, so the measured vehicle speed will be less than the actual speed.

Take a look at these applets that illustrate how a moving object can appear to squeeze electromagnetic or sound waves in the direction of motion, or stretch the waves in the opposite direction.

<http://www.lon-capa.org/~mmp/applist/doppler/d.htm>
<http://www.acs.psu.edu/drussell/Demos/doppler/doppler.html>

Most of the Doppler radar systems used in weather forecasting are located at the National Weather Service Forecast Offices (NWSFO) around the country. The website listed below shows the locations of these radar stations.

In addition, some private organizations have their own Doppler weather radar systems. Some of these include military facilities, local television stations around the country and universities. This website shows the combined output of the NWSFO Doppler radar network. <http://radar.weather.gov/>



East Lake Fire Rescue • Fire Marshal, Pamela DeMeo

The East Lake Tarpon Special Fire Control District is proud to announce Firefighter/Paramedic Tyler Barr as the 2025 Firefighter of the Year. This prestigious honor recognizes firefighters who exemplify excellence, leadership, initiative, and an unwavering commitment to serving our East Lake community. After careful review of all nominations and thorough evaluation by the Firefighter of the Year Selection Team, Firefighter/Paramedic Barr clearly distinguished himself through his contributions to the district.

Over the past year, Firefighter/Paramedic Barr has consistently demonstrated professionalism and leadership well beyond his rank. Frequently serving in acting roles as Driver Engineer and Lieutenant, he has earned the trust and respect of department members across all levels of the organization.

As the Water Extrication Team (WET) Leader, Firefighter/Paramedic Barr has made a significant impact by enhancing training programs, updating operational protocols, expanding team membership, and securing new water rescue equipment. His leadership has strengthened operational readiness and improved the district's ability to serve the East Lake community.

Firefighter/Paramedic Barr's professional development is also noteworthy. In just four years of service with the district, he has earned an academic degree and achieved numerous state certifications, including Pump Operator, Fire Inspector, Fire Instructor, and Fire Officer II, while also completing all prerequisites required to test for the position of Lieutenant. His dedication to continuous improvement sets the right example for firefighters at every stage of their careers.

Department wide, Firefighter/Paramedic Barr is recognized for his initiative, strong work ethic, and commitment to professional growth. Please join us in congratulating Firefighter/Paramedic Tyler Barr as the 2025 Firefighter of the Year and thank him for his outstanding community service.





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Father's Day "Build with Dad" Party**June 5th - 2pm to 5pm
at Let'sCo! Oldsmar**

Celebrate Father's Day with a fun afternoon of STEM building, food, & quality family time. Kids and dads will work together to build a hands-on toy to take home! Scan QR code to register. Registration: \$30 per family



RGA Network Meetings**Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday Mornings
7:00am to 9:00am**

RGA Network is a relationship-focused business networking community designed to help professionals connect, collaborate, and grow through meaningful connections and local networking events. Join fellow entrepreneurs and business leaders for engaging conversations, referrals, and opportunities to build real business relationships.

Ignite Mastermind Tampa**Every 2nd Thursday Evening
5:00pm to 9:00pm**

Ignite Mastermind Tampa brings together entrepreneurs, professionals, and business leaders for collaborative networking, accountability, and growth-focused discussions designed to inspire success. Connect with like-minded individuals, share ideas, and gain valuable insight to help elevate your business and personal goals.

**East Lake Woodlands Inaugural
Yankee Doodle Ride & Roll****July 3, 2026
Parade starts at 9am**

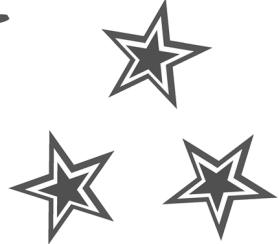
🇺🇸 Join us for the inaugural Yankee Doodle Ride & Roll, a fun-filled Independence Day celebration featuring a patriotic golf cart and bicycle parade through East Lake Woodlands.

Families, friends, and neighbors are invited to decorate their rides, enjoy community spirit, food trucks, and help support local veterans and community initiatives.





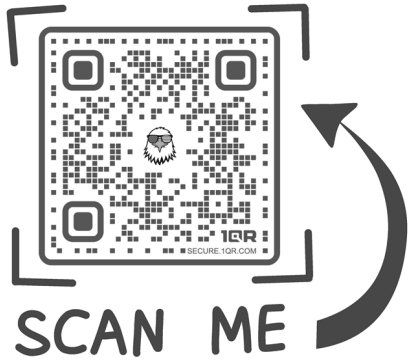
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Protecting Baby Screech Owls in Suburban Landscapes

Each spring across Florida, the soft trills of the Eastern Screech Owl signal the beginning of another nesting season. Hidden inside natural tree cavities, palm hollows, old woodpecker holes, and nest boxes, tiny owlets hatch beneath the careful protection of their parents. For a short time, these small predators thrive quietly in the shadows of neighborhoods, parks, pine forests, and suburban greenspaces. But every year, many of these young owls are brought into care because their nesting habitats have been disturbed — often suddenly and unintentionally.

Tampa Bay Raptor Rescue and our partners respond annually to numerous calls involving displaced screech owls. Some are early fledglings found on the ground before they are fully capable of flight. Others are victims of tree trimming, cavity removal, storm cleanup, development, or habitat loss. Unfortunately, many cases end tragically before help can arrive.

The Dangerous Time Between Nest and Flight

Young screech owls naturally leave the nest cavity before they are expert fliers. During this “branching” stage, they may climb, hop, flutter, and explore nearby vegetation while their parents continue to feed and protect them.

To many people, these young owls appear abandoned. In reality, the parents are often nearby — quietly watching from dense cover. The problem is that modern landscapes create hazards these owls were never meant to face. Grounded fledglings may suddenly find themselves surrounded by:

- Outdoor cats
- Loose dogs
- Cars and traffic
- Crows and jays that aggressively mob young owls
- Human disturbance
- Lawn equipment and landscaping crews
- Artificial lighting and noise
- Glue traps
- Poison

Even well-meaning human intervention can separate young owls from their parents unnecessarily. Tree trimming and cavity loss is one of the most heartbreaking situations. It involves active nesting cavities destroyed during tree trimming or removal. In many cases, workers simply do not realize an owl family is hidden inside.

Screech owls rely heavily on natural cavities for nesting and daytime shelter. Mature oaks, longleaf pines, cabbage palms, dead snags, and older native trees provide the hollows these birds need to survive.

When these trees are removed or aggressively trimmed during nesting season, the results can be devastating:

- Eggs exposed to weather or predators
- Nestlings falling from cavities
- Parents abandoning the site
- Fatal injuries to young birds or adults
- Entire family groups displaced

This year alone, we witnessed especially painful cases involving mother owls that perished while protecting their eggs. These losses remind us how fragile nesting success can be when habitat disturbances occur during breeding season.

Why Native Habitat Matters

Healthy owl populations depend on healthy native ecosystems. Native plants support insects, moths, beetles, lizards, frogs, and small rodents — all critical prey for screech owls. They love cockroaches!

Dense native vegetation also provides camouflage and protective cover for young owls learning to navigate the world.

Important habitat features include:

- Native oaks and pines
- Palm trees with natural cavities
- Dead trees and snags when safe to retain
- Thick understory vegetation
- Wildlife-friendly yards free of excessive pesticide use
- Nest boxes installed in appropriate habitat

Removing every dead limb, clearing all understory vegetation, and replacing native habitat with sterile landscaping reduces the shelter and food resources owls need to raise their young successfully.

Florida’s screech owls have adapted remarkably well to living near people — but coexistence requires awareness and patience.

Before trimming or removing trees:

Check carefully for cavities and nesting activity

Avoid major trimming during nesting season whenever possible

Consult wildlife professionals if owls are present

If you find a young owl on the ground:

- Observe from a distance first
- Keep pets and people away
- Look for nearby parents
- Contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator before intervening
- Many young owls can successfully remain with their families if given protection and space.

Every Cavity Counts

In a rapidly developing landscape, every mature native tree and every safe nesting cavity becomes increasingly important.

A hollow oak branch may look insignificant to us, but to a screech owl family it can mean the difference between life and death.

By preserving native habitat, planting native vegetation, protecting cavity trees, and slowing down before trimming during nesting season, communities can help ensure that the next generation of screech owls continues to fill Florida nights with their unusual calls.

Sometimes the smallest owls need big voices speaking for them.



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EAST LAKE LIBRARY NEWS

Dino and Dragon Eggs

Thu, Jun 3 4th | 6:30pm

Students in grades 5–8 will unleash their creativity in this fantasy-inspired craft program as they sculpt their own unique dinosaur or dragon egg. They will design intricate patterns, add shimmering metal scales, and bring their summer “Unearth a Story” creation to life.

Reptiles and Adaptations

Sat, June 6th | 10am

Unearth a Story this summer as K–5th graders discover how cold-blooded creatures live, communicate, and move through their environments! From why frogs sing to how snakes eat without chewing, this engaging program features a variety of animals, including live demonstrations and an invertebrate encounter with educators from Dundee Farms. Every scale, sound, and survival skill tells a story!

Teen Bonfire Movie Night (Grades 9-12)

Fri, June 5th | 5:30pm

Join other teens as we enjoy smores by the East Lake Community Library fire pit! Come together to kick off the summer with friends, food, and a good movie.

5:30-6:00pm - Smoires by the East Lake Community Library Fire Pit

6:00-7:30pm - Mean Girls (PG-13) (2004)

Event intended for students in grades rising 9th - 12th.

Tampa Theatre: 100 Years of Movie Magic

Wed, June 10th | 6pm

Tampa Theatre opened in the heart of downtown Tampa on October 15, 1926, as the masterpiece of acclaimed theater architect John Ebersson. Since then, it has survived the advent of “talkies,” the Great Depression, World War II, a global pandemic, a harrowing rescue in the 1970s, and a century of changes in how people want to go to the movies. On the eve of its 100th anniversary, learn how Tampa Theatre has continued to grow and change, all the while holding fast to its century-old appeal.

Beginning Macrame

Tue, June 16th | 2pm

Join Theresa Bromm-Boesen in this BEGINNER macrame class! The goal of this class is to build a variety of macrame knot understanding and vocabulary for future classes. Each student will complete a small work to take home.

Florida Talks: Sea Level Rise and Heritage Sites in Florida with Dr. Baram

Sat, June 20th | 1pm

New weather patterns, larger storms, and rising sea levels are challenging communities and transforming conventional thinking.

Archaeologists document the shifting seascape’s destruction of archaeological and historical sites and offer long-term perspectives on human adaptation and maladaptation to environmental changes. This presentation is global in scope and includes Floridian archaeological perspectives.

Hamilton Watch Party - Teen Movie Night (Grades 6-12)

Fri, June 19th | 5:30pm

"Look around! Look around! How lucky we are to be alive right now!"

Enjoy a night of a great film, delicious snacks, and unforgettable memories with other teens (grades 6th - 12th) just like you! Snack included! Hamilton Bingo game and prizes!

Ancient Games

Sat, June 27th | 10am

Step into a relaxed, sensory-friendly space and discover historically significant games that have sparked strategy, creativity, and connection for generations. From timeless classics that challenged great thinkers to hands-on favorites that still inspire today, each game invites you to dig a little deeper and uncover the stories behind the moves. Featured games include Senet (3100 B.C., Egypt), Mancala (6000 B.C., Africa), Chess (6th Century, India), Shut-the-Box (12th Century, France), original wooden peg games (United States, 1960s) and more.

Melt Bead Craft (Grades 6th-12th)

Fri, June 26th | 5:30pm

Come and join us for an exciting 'Creative Melt Bead workshop! Discover the joy of designing and crafting your unique image with beads.

Open to students in 6th - 12th grade

America’s 250th: The Revolution’s Hidden Stories and How it Still Defines America Today! with Alan Kay

Tue, June 30th | 2pm

Celebrate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in this anniversary special where we will bring to life the heroes and villains of our Revolution through their own eyes. How did everyday people: fathers, sons, scientists and shopkeepers make earth-shattering decisions that would destroy their country, their families and perhaps even their souls? Lives on all sides: free and slave, native and colonist, patriot and loyalist will be forever changed and the greatest revolution in modern history will change America and the world!

“American Seams”: PBS POV Summer Film & Conversation

Wed, July 8th | 6pm

In support of our summer reading theme of “Unearth a Story,” and America’s 250th birthday, we are celebrating the stories of others by watching the PBS POV documentary, “American Seams,” a film by Carly Jakins. East Lake Community Library invites the community to a free screening and conversation facilitated by library staff. This event is free and open to the public.

Pinellas Book Bus Summer Stop at ELCL!

Thu, July 9th | 1pm

Over the course of three weeks in July, the Juvenile Welfare Board’s (JWB) Summer Book Bus will make over 80 stops at community sites across Pinellas County to give away 10,000 FREE new books to eager young readers.

This is the ELCL North Pinellas stop and will

feature a special digital literacy demonstration and fun activities from myON, a personalized literacy program with over 7,000 titles available to Pinellas County students.

Adult Field Trip: Brooker Creek Preserve - Before They Were Native – A Brief History of Florida’s Flora

Fri, July 10th | 2pm

Over millions of years Florida’s geology and plant communities have undergone a myriad of changes. Driven by evolution, continental drift, ice ages and many more environmental pressures, today’s native plant communities are just a snapshot of the rich diversity spanning millennia. Let’s gently explore a simplified timeline of the events that lead to today’s Florida Native Plants.

Florida Talks: Telling Florida Food Stories with Dalia Colón

Wed, July 15th | 6pm

In this interactive program, journalist and author Dalia Colón provides an overview of Florida’s history through the lens of food, from indigenous foodways, to the rise and fall of the citrus industry, to modern sustainability efforts. Through audience story sharing and audio and video clips, Ms. Colón keeps the discussion energized and personalized for each community.

Teen Anime Club (Grades 6-12)

Thu, July 16th | 6pm

Do you know facts about Spy X Family, One Piece, JJK, Kaiju No. 8, and more? More comfortable with the classic DBZ, Sailor Moon, and Naruto? Then you’re ready for this jam-packed event! Enjoy trivia, snacks, crafts, and prizes all themed around anime and manga!

Open to students in grades 6th - 12th.

Celebrating Romantasy: Author Panel and Pop-Up Shop with Steamy Lit Bookstore

Sat, July 18th | 11am

Get ready to enter a world of magic and passion! East Lake Community Library and SteamyLit Bookstore are teaming up for a special Romantasy Celebration. Come enjoy an exclusive author panel hosted by SteamyLit, browse a curated pop-up shop featuring top SteamyLit titles, and dive into themed activities with the library. Plus, you’ll have the chance to win in our raffle giveaways!

Teen Taste Test Challenge (Grades 6th-12th)

Fri, July 17th | 5:30pm

Can you taste the difference between name brand and store brand? How well do you know your favorite snacks by taste alone?

Challenge yourself and enjoy some yummy snacks at the same time! Open to students in 6th-12th grade This program may not be best for participants with food allergies. Food may contain gluten, dairy, eggs, etc.

Amber Lab & Jurassic Park Movie

Sat, July 18th | 5pm

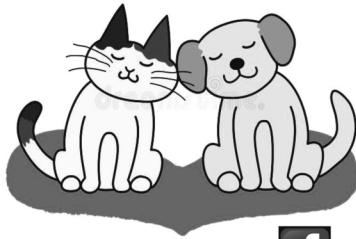
Join us for a FREE screening of Jurassic Park as part of ELCL’s summer Unearth a Story celebration! Registered participants will “unearth” their own real amber fossil to take home in a STEM-based lab activity, then relax with popcorn and refreshments while enjoying this thrilling dinosaur adventure on the big screen. Parents/guardians are responsible for determining appropriateness for their child. This film is rated PG-13.

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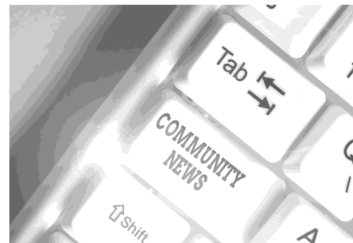
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