



THE LAKE FOREST

SPRING 2026

News



OFFICIAL *Newsletter* OF LAKE FOREST

Message From The President

Dear Lake Forest Residents,

My name is Amy Herrick, and I am currently serving as your Acting Board President. With over 12 years of experience managing HOA communities, I am committed to using my background and knowledge to help bring our community back to the standards you expect and deserve.

Over the past few months, we have experienced several changes within both the Board and management. While transitions can sometimes be challenging, please know that your current Board is working diligently to restore organization, consistency, and progress throughout the community.

I would like to take a moment to recognize two individuals who have gone above and beyond during this time:

Regina Spieler, Secretary – Regina has worked tirelessly managing the office, organizing and addressing work orders, and developing detailed spreadsheets to track the many repairs our community needs. Her dedication and effort have been invaluable, and we truly appreciate everything she has done.

Greg Burnett, Treasurer – Greg has been working hard to bring clarity to our financials, assisting with collections, and ensuring invoices are properly managed. His diligence has been critical in helping us regain financial organization.

As we continue moving forward, we are also looking for fresh perspectives and new ideas. If you have an interest in contributing to the future of Lake Forest, we strongly encourage you to consider joining the Board. Community involvement is essential to our success, and your voice matters. Please email amyhlakeforest@gmail.com if you're interested.

We understand that the recent changes may have caused some frustration, and we sincerely appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to get everything back on track. Our goal is to build a stronger, more organized, and thriving community for everyone.

Thank you for your continued support.

Keeping Our Community Clean: A Friendly Reminder for Dog Owners

Our neighborhood is a wonderful place to live, walk, and enjoy the outdoors—and our furry friends are a big part of that! As more residents take advantage of our sidewalks, green spaces, and walking paths, it's important that we all do our part to keep these shared areas clean and welcoming.

If you're walking your dog, please remember to always pick up after them. Pet waste left behind is not only unpleasant, but it can also pose health risks and negatively impact the environment. Carrying waste bags with you on every walk ensures you're always prepared.

We're fortunate to have designated pet waste bins conveniently placed throughout the community. After picking up your dog's waste, please use these bins for disposal rather than leaving bags on the ground or placing them in inappropriate areas. These bins are there to make cleanup easy and efficient for everyone.

By taking a few simple steps—using waste bags, picking up promptly, and using the proper disposal bins—you help maintain the beauty, cleanliness, and safety of our neighborhood for all residents.

Thank you for being a responsible pet owner and helping keep our community a great place to call home!





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Amy Herrick
(AmyHLakeForest@gmail.com)

Secretary - Regina Spieler
(ReginaSLakeForest@gmail.com)

Treasurer - Greg Bernitt
(gregbernittlakeforest@gmail.com)



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Office Hours: 10am - 3pm
Pool Hours: Dawn to Dusk
Lake Forest Homeowner's Assoc.
Website: condo.cincwebaxis.com



Treasurer's Report • Fiscal Summary December 2025 Greg Bernitt

Consolidated Current Assets

	<u>12/31/2025</u>	vs	<u>11/30/2025</u>
Total Current Assets	405,217		419,442
Net Operating Cash	219,123		229,914
Common Reserve liabilities	367,568		388,971
Ltd Common Reserve liabilities	332,888		304,578
Total Reserves Cash	700,456		693,549

Common To Date vs Budget

	<u>12/31/2025</u>	vs	<u>Budget</u>
Common Operating Revenue	390,159		381,782
Common Operating Expenses	450,727		381,784
Common Operating Cash	51,268		
Common Reserve Funding	110,060		100,737

Ltd Common To Date vs Budget

	<u>12/31/2025</u>	vs	<u>Budget</u>
Ltd Common Operating Revenue	451,078		408,786
Ltd Common Operating Expenses	427,607		408,784
Ltd Common Operating Cash	167,855		
Ltd Common Reserve Funding	396,385		363,249

Clubs and Committees

Love to Eat? Join the Lake Forest Dinner Club. Once a month a group of Lake Forest Residents go out to dinner on a Friday evening. We like to try different restaurants. If you would like to join us please send an email to Larry: larrykthomas438@gmail.com

The Coffee Club held their first meeting in February on a Saturday. Several residents attend and we all enjoyed trivia, pizza, and coffee chat. It is a great time to meet or reconnect with neighbors. If you have any ideas for future meetings or guest speakers please email Larry larrykthomas438@gmail.com

The Lake & Landscape Committees held the first meeting on January 15, 2026 at 6:30pm at the Lake Forest Clubhouse.

If you're interested in joining please email Greg Bernitt at GregBernittLakeForest@gmail.com

Community Safety Reminder: Lock Up and Stay Aware



Keeping our neighborhood safe is a shared responsibility, and a few simple habits can make a big difference. We'd like to remind all residents to take extra care when it comes to securing your home and vehicles.

Please remember to close your garage door when it is not in use, especially overnight or when you are away. An open garage can unintentionally invite theft or unauthorized access. Taking a moment to double-check before heading inside or leaving the house can help prevent issues.

In addition, always lock your vehicles—even if they are parked in your driveway or just for a short time. Many incidents occur simply because doors were left unlocked. Be sure to remove or hide valuables such as bags, electronics, or garage door openers to reduce temptation.

Our neighborhood is also occasionally monitored by staffed police patrols to help enhance community safety. If you see something unusual or suspicious, please don't hesitate to report it to the officers on patrol or notify local authorities. Your awareness and willingness to speak up can make a real difference.

By working together and practicing these simple safety steps, we can help maintain a secure and comfortable environment for everyone.

Thank you for doing your part to keep our community safe!

Wildlife Spotlight: The Wood Stork

Many residents in our community have likely noticed the large, striking birds wading in nearby waters or nesting high in the trees—these are wood storks, one of Florida’s most unique and fascinating native species.

The wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) is a large wading bird, standing over three feet tall with a wingspan of nearly five feet. They are easy to recognize by their white bodies, black wing feathers, long legs, and distinctive bald, dark-colored head. Wood storks feed in shallow water, using their long bills to sense and snap up fish—a technique that makes them highly adapted to wetland environments.

Wood storks are especially important in Florida, where they rely on healthy wetlands to survive and reproduce. For many years, they were listed on the endangered species list due to loss of habitat, however they were recently (March 12, 2026) delisted but are still protected under state and federal rules. This means it is important to avoid disturbing nesting areas and to help preserve the natural habitats they depend on.



Our neighborhood is fortunate to have an established wood stork presence—these birds have been nesting in Lake Forest since 2007. Nesting colonies, also called rookeries, are critical to their survival, and wood storks often return to the same areas year after year as long as conditions remain suitable.

Did you know:

- Wood storks are the **only species of stork that breeds in North America**.
- They nest in large groups, often in trees surrounded by water to help protect their young from predators.
- Their feeding style is unique—they hunt by touch rather than sight, snapping their bills shut in milliseconds when they detect prey.
- Their bald head actually helps keep them clean while feeding in muddy water!

We are lucky to share our community with these remarkable birds. By respecting their space and protecting our local environment, we can help ensure that wood storks continue to thrive in Lake Forest for years to come.

Enjoy Fishing in Lake Forest: A Few Friendly Reminders

Fishing in the Lake Forest lakes is one of the many enjoyable ways residents can relax and spend time outdoors. Whether you’re an experienced angler or just looking for a peaceful afternoon by the water, our lakes provide a great setting to unwind and connect with nature.

Before casting your line, please remember that a valid fishing permit or license may be required in accordance with local and state regulations. Be sure to check current requirements to ensure you are fishing legally and responsibly.

While fishing is a fun and rewarding activity, safety should always come first. Our lakes are home to natural wildlife, including alligators. Be aware of your surroundings, keep a safe distance from the water’s edge, and never feed or approach wildlife. If you see an alligator nearby, calmly move away and give it plenty of space.

We also ask all residents to help keep our lakes clean and safe. Please

be sure to collect and properly dispose of any fishing lines, hooks, bait containers, or lures when you are finished. Discarded fishing gear can be harmful to wildlife and detracts from the beauty of our community.

By following these simple guidelines—having the proper permits, staying aware of wildlife, and cleaning up after yourself—we can all continue to enjoy fishing in Lake Forest for years to come.

Tight lines and happy fishing!





FRIDAY is main trash day (Recycling, Regular pickup & yard trimmings)

Leave bagged yard trimmings at curb near garbage bins. Boxes need to be broken down to fit inside the recycle bin. Do NOT leave any furniture, mattresses, or over-sized boxes out. The city will not take anything that doesn't fit in your garbage container. **Tuesday is only regular trash bin.** Don't forget to put away your trash bins!

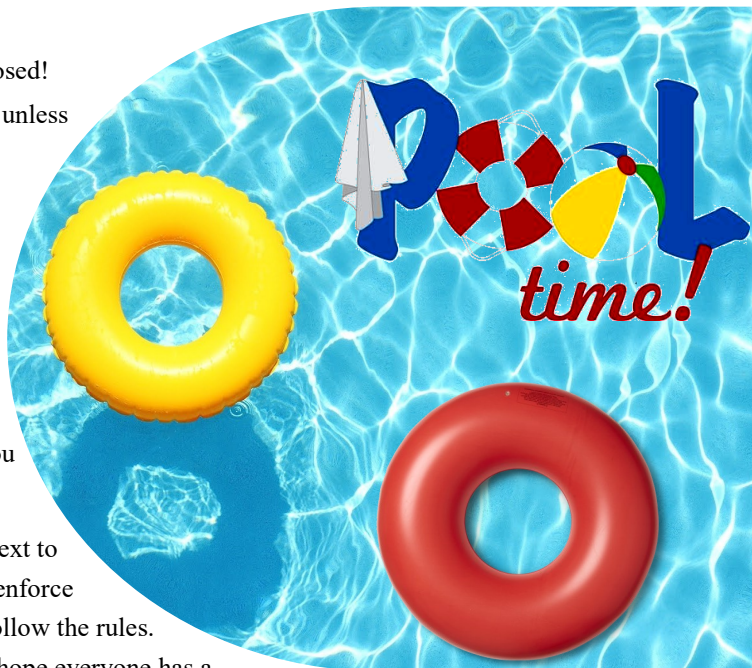
Farewell to a Valued Neighbor

After 36 wonderful years in Lake Forest, we say a heartfelt farewell to longtime resident Rosemary Holt and her husband, Robert, who will be moving at the end of this month. Over the years, Rosemary has been a familiar and valued member of our community, and neighbors like Rosemary and Robert help shape the sense of connection and pride we all enjoy. While we will certainly miss them, we wish Rosemary and Robert all the very best in their new home. Thank you for being a part of our community—you will always be part of the Lake Forest family!

It's that time of year again when the weather is warm enough to want to cool off. Already kids are splashing and enjoying the beautiful sun with their families or working on their swimming skills. The pool is available for all residents in good standing and up to 4 guests. Please use your fob to enter.

Here is a small reminder about some of the pool facility rules below. You can also review the Florida Statutes CHAPTER 64E-9 PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHING PLACES

- Pool is open from sunrise to sunset daily
- Stay off the Rope – This is very important. If it breaks the pool is closed!
- Pool gate must remain closed at all times and do not let strangers in unless you are taking responsibility.
- No thong-like or string bikinis and no street clothes.
- Pool parties are not allowed
- No food or drinks are allowed on the deck (Picnic area is outside or you can use the benches in the grass north side of the pool)
- No running, diving, or rough housing and no hard balls
- For the full list of rules see the boards on either side of the pool or look for them when you sign in or the pool monitor can also give you a copy.



If you want to have a party or picnic, you can use the covered pavilion next to the playground. Pool monitors will be present many hours of the day to enforce rules posted at the pool. Monitors will remind pool users of all ages to follow the rules.

Please be respectful of the monitors and of others while at the pool. We hope everyone has a chance to enjoy the beautiful weather and at the pool and the other surrounding facilities this summer.

Parents, please take supervision of your children seriously to prevent injuries and damage. Pool warnings may result in temporary suspension of access privileges.



Please be aware of your surroundings and use caution when approaching any of the lakes' edges since alligators may be present. Stay at least 30 feet away, especially when walking with small dogs or children. Pay attention to the posted warning signs. **Do not feed the wildlife!**

Newsletter:

Sarah Johnson – Spbrennan@gmail.com.
Please email me with any ideas, articles, and/or neighborhood photos you would like to submit for the next newsletter.