

Volume 3, Issue 2

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GRAND LAKE ESTATES POA

February 2017

Valentine's Days Not Elike It Used To Be

February 14 is Valentine's Day. Although it is celebrated as a lovers' holiday today, with the giving of candy, flowers, or other gifts between couples in love, it originated in 5th Century Rome as a tribute to St. Valentine, a Catholic bishop. For eight hundred years prior to the establishment of Valentine's Day, the Romans had practiced a pagan celebration in mid-February commemorating young men's rite of passage to the god Lupercus. The celebration featured a lottery in which young men would draw the names of teenage girls from a box. The girl assigned to each young man in that manner would be his sexual companion during the remaining year. In an effort to do away with the pagan festival, Pope Gelasius ordered a slight change in the lottery. Instead of the names of young women, the box would contain the names of saints. Both men and women were allowed to draw from the box, and the game was to emulate the ways of the saint they drew during the rest of the year. Needless to say, many of the young Roman men were not too pleased with the rule changes. Instead of the pagan god Lupercus, the Church looked for a suitable patron saint of love to take his place. They found an appropriate choice in Valentine, who, in AD 270 had been beheaded by Emperor Claudius. Claudius had determined that married men made poor soldiers, so he banned marriage from his empire. But Valentine would secretly marry young men that came to him. When Claudius found out about Valentine, he first tried to convert him to paganism. But Valentine reversed the strategy, trying instead to convert Claudius. When he failed, he was stoned and beheaded. During the days that Valentine was imprisoned, he fell in love with the blind daughter of his jailer. His love for her, and his great faith, managed to miraculously heal her from her blindness before his death. Before he was taken to his death, he signed a farewell message to her, "From your Valentine." The phrase has been used on his day ever since. Although the lottery for women had been banned by the church, the mid-February

holiday in commemoration of St. Valentine was still used by Roman men to seek the affection of women. It became a tradition for the men to give the ones they admired handwritten messages of affection, containing Valentine's name. The first Valentine card grew out of this practice. The first true Valentine card was sent in 1415 by Charles, Duke of Orleans, to his wife. He was imprisoned in the Tower of London at the time. Cupid, another symbol of the holiday, became associated with it because he was the son of Venus, the Roman god of love and beauty. Cupid often appears on Valentine cards.



Community Announcements

Missing out on the GLE newsletter? Go to http://www.peelinc.com/residentsNewsletterSubscriptions.php and sign up to have the newsletters sent directly to your mailbox. Prior versions of the newsletter may be found at the Peel website, as well as, on the GLE POA website.

GLE's Property Management Company is IMC Property Management and our property manager is Tammy Perry. Tammy can be reached at tammyperry@imcmanagement.net or 936-756-0032.

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Montgomery High School	936-276-3000
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GRAND LAKE ESTATES IT'S TIME TO GET SOCIAL!

GLE Getting Social - GLE Getting Social launched only a few months ago with the goal to create an environment of community, offering something for EVERYONE such as events and groups to join depending on your interests. We hope you have begun to participate in what is being offered and get involved. All leading these efforts are fellow residents, volunteering to make this an enjoyable place to live.

If you have not joined the Facebook page, search for "GLE Getting Social" and join it towday as it is the most up-to-date repository of information; it includes details and Facebook event invites where you can indicate if you will be attending/are interested in the various groups/events being offered.

Mark your calendars, over the next couple of months we have a lot of fun planned:

- GLE Getting Fit Walking/Jogging Club meets twice a week in the morning and evening
- Mommy & Me Playdates are in the park, twice a month (Tuesday/Wednesday)
- BUNCO for the women February 10th & March 10th (the 2nd Friday of every month)
- Poker for the men February 17th & March 17th (the 3rd Friday of every month)
 - Movies in the Park are monthly
 - Dinner Club February 23rd (every other month)
 - Easter Eggstravaganza April 8th

If you have ideas of new groups/events to add to GLE Getting Social and/or want to join the volunteers in leading what has begun contact Ellen Edwards at grandlakesocial@gmail.com



Flags across GLE - Our inaugural display of flags will launch this month with a celebration President's Day! All who have paid their \$40/ year for 1 flag OR for \$65/ year for 2 flags will have them placed near your driveway the day before President's Day;

then they will be removed and stored the day after President's Day. This initiative is sponsored by your GLE Social Group and 100% of the proceeds will be used to fund new community events in 2017 that include an Easter Eggstravaganza, Welcome

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Grand Lake Estates

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Wagon, Ice Cream Socials, July 4th Celebration, Fall Farmer's Market and more.

If you missed the deadlines and want to participate, complete the form found on the Getting Social Facebook Page. Please note at this time we cannot guarantee you will have a flag for President's Day; however, by sending by the end of February will guarantee you a flag for the Memorial Day display (there are no prorated subscriptions).

Contact Brandie Joy at grandlakesocial@gmail.com for additional information on how you can get involved being a part of this patriotic beautification, we are seeking volunteers to help with setting up and taking down the flags.

GLE Dinner Club – For those who love to cook, entertain and/or appreciate good food and meeting new friends, the GLE Dinner Club is just for you. Dinner Club is an evening out for adults, both individuals and couples are welcomed! GLE Dinner Club will be hosted at a different home throughout the year and the host will create an evening to remember given his/her culinary delights. We will meet every other month on the last Thursday of the month, details of each month's Dinner Club will be provided in an invite on the GLE Getting Social Facebook Page (reservations required).

Our first Dinner Club is Thursday, February 23rd and will be hosted by Jason & Ellen Edwards. In February we will enjoy a 4-course meal and a hands-on mixology class! You will also leave a with a couple of recipes including the Bloody May Cocktail Sauce & the Bread Pudding & Crème Anglaise.

2017 Dinner Club Dates: February 23rd, April 27th June 29th, August 31st and October 26th. We are looking for a few more hosts, get details on hosting a Dinner Club evening from Ellen Edwards, contact Ellen at grandlakesocial@gmail.com.



Welcome Wagon -Beginning in 2017 we are welcoming our new GLE residents to the neighborhood! We want to ensure all are greeted as they move to the

neighborhood and feel a part of the community. The volunteers of the Welcome Wagon, led by Morgan Borths have handouts of good things to know when you are new. Those along with an apple pie will be delivered to the new residents each month.

Morgan is looking participants to help in (1) picking up the pies from Pie in the Sky, (2) helping to assemble the gift and/or (3)

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Grand Lake Estates

(Continued from Page 3)

deliver the gift to the 2-4 new residents each month (this number may vary). Please contact Morgan at grandlakesocial@gmail. com to be a part of this wonderful new initiative welcoming new residents to GLE.



Easter Eggstravaganza

- The Easter Bunny is coming to GLE! Mark your calendars to join the fun on Saturday, April 8th at the park for an Easter Egg Hunt and fun for whole family.

Additional information regarding our Easter Eggstravaganza will be detailed on on the GLE Getting Social Facebook Page.

As the planning begins we are in need of (1) filled eggs with wrapped candy as well as (2) volunteers willing to help set up and participate during the Easter Eggstravaganza to ensure it is a success! Please contact Holly Yen at grandlakesocial@gmail. com for additional information on how you can help make our first Easter Eggstravaganza a memorable one.

CROCK POT CHICKEN CHILI DIP

INGREDIENTS

3 - 4 Chicken Breasts

1 can Cream of Mushroom soup

1 can Cream of Celery soup

1 can Cream of Chicken soup

1 can of green salsa

116-oz can of chili (without beans)

1 small can of green chilies

4-6 nine-inch flour (or corn) tortilla, cut to 1" square strips 1 ½ cups grated American, Cheddar, & Gouda cheeses

DIRECTIONS

Boil chicken breasts in boiling water for 25-30 minutes, or until done; let cool. Tear chicken off the bones (unless boneless) into strips, or bite-size pieces. Place into crock pot. Add all other ingredients until blended. Place crock pot on low for 1 hour to heat thoroughly. Can be enjoyed by itself as an appetizer, or use hearty tortilla chips for a dip.

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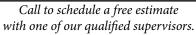


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Common Structural Termites

There are three main types of termites that can cause problems for homeowners in Texas- native subterranean termites, formosan subterranean termites and drywood termites.

Native subterranean termites have nests in the soil and must maintain contact with soil or an above-ground moisture source to survive. If native subterranean termites move to areas above ground they make shelter (mud) tubes of fecal material, saliva and soil to protect themselves.



Native subterranean termite workers and soldiers.

Formosan termites are a more voracious type of subterranean termite. These termites have been spread throughout Texas through transport of infested material or soil. Formosan termites build carton nests that allow them to survive above ground without contact with the soil. Nests are often located in hollow spaces, such as wall voids.



Formosan subterranean termite workers and soldiers.

Formosan termites feed on a wider variety of cellulose than other subterranean termites, including live plants (and can be found living and feeding on trees), consuming both spring and summer growth wood whereas native subterranean termites feed only on spring growth. Formosan termites have also been known to chew through non-cellulose materials such as soft metals, plaster or plastic.

Drywood termites do not need contact with soil and reside in sound, dry wood. These termites obtain moisture from the wood they digest. Drywood termites create a dry fecal pellet that can be used as an identifying characteristic. They have smaller coloniesaround 1,000 termites- than subterranean termites; they also do not build shelter tubes.



Drywood termite fecal pellets.

If you are concerned that you may have termites, call a pest management professional to inspect your home for termites.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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Does My Project Need ACC Approval?

-by Lonna Hord

GLE residents are often confused as to whether their project needs ACC approval or when they should begin the process to obtain ACC approval on their project. This is one of the most common questions answered by management. Lack of compliance on both renovation and new home projects in the last few years has been an indicator that many GLE residents don't have a strong understanding of the POA's current requirements. Some of this misunderstanding may be because each section of GLE has slightly different CCR requirements, making it difficult for homeowners to keep track of exactly what is acceptable in each section. To address these concerns, the board and management are working to standardize both ACC forms and policies as well as publish a Builders Packet and Building Guidelines book which will make both the homebuilding and project/renovation process in GLE easier to reference and understand. The goal of creating these documents is to create standards that take the guesswork out of the application and allow homeowners and the ACC committee to work from the same criteria for more consistent decision-making.

Below are some general guidelines and advice for homeowners regarding the ACC review process:

• If you are in doubt whether your project requires ACC

approval, call or email the management office and ask. It is better to be sure than to get that unwelcome letter informing you that your project is considered non-compliant - or worse - that you have to remove or modify an improvement or you have forfeited your construction deposit because the project is in violation.

- Make sure to submit a complete package. Each time that the management company has to call you to get more pieces to complete your package, this delays review of your application by the ACC committee, which means you will be that many days later getting the answer you want so you can start your project. If you have any questions about what to submit, management can help you.
- ALL ACC applications (except for paint color) require some type of plot plan or survey so that setbacks can be checked and this is often the most common element missing from applications for improvements.
- Remember that the approval process takes approximately 30 days from the time a COMPLETE package is received, so allow enough lead time in your plans.
- Ask management to review your application to determine if (Continued on Page 7)





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you will need a variance for any part of your plan when you submit it. If an application for a variance is needed, you will need to allow more time because variances must be approved by the board of directors and require a second step in the ACC process.

• Remember that changes to your project that occur AFTER you have gotten approval may require that you re-submit or amend your plans. If in doubt, ask management if an amendment is necessary for any changes.

Most importantly, keep in mind that both the ACC and the board is made up of volunteers who are your neighbors and they are working hard to look out for the entire community. Aside from stopping residents from painting pink polka dots on their houses, their job is to make sure that the size and style of the structures, the building materials being used and the overall look of the projects adhere to the POA's design requirements as outlined in the CCR's. Not only does this keep GLE looking cohesive, it also keep your property values up by preventing individual structures from standing out. Everyone in GLE appreciates the hard work that our residents put in to make their homes and our community beautiful. Keeping the ACC in the loop on all our building projects keeps GLElooking great!

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