

Grand Lake GAZETTE

Volume 4, Issue 3

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GRAND LAKE ESTATES POA

March 2018

News and Notes from the Board

JANUARY 2018

President Thomas Clare reviewed the project report. The road repairs have been completed. The Connie Lane grading has been completed. Pending projects include the reserve purchase and the LED signs, which have been ordered.

The Capital Improvement Plan – the septic study has been completed but bid work is still being done on the trails around the pond.

Guinevere Spillway Maintenance – a bid of \$3,011 has been approved by the Board and the company will be contacted to begin repairs.

Common Area Maintenance (Kirsten's Court to Reserve) – a bid of \$22,724 has been approved by the Board to begin work.

Connie Lane Drainage Extension – a bid of \$18,452.78 was approved by the Board to finish two additional driveways.

Gate Maintenance – a bid of \$5,000 was approved by the Board to do maintenance and the replacement of some parts on the gates. This will include a \$125 per quarter inspection and lube of the gates.

Email Service Charges – the email service will be updated to Office 365, which will be a cost savings of \$125 per year after the conversion. The email will be down only a few hours during the transition and a 24-hour notice will be given before the transition begins.

Wing Wall on Connie Lane – a bid of \$1,200 was approved by the Board for a six foot wing wall on Connie Lane. The contractor will be contacted to begin the project.

Storage Building – a bid of up to \$8,000 was approved by the Board for a 16 X 20 to 16 X 24 foot storage building to store the GLE decorations and other materials.

Social Committee Report – 200 flags were ordered in this campaign, up from 155 from the previous year. The Welcome Wagon team gave our 50 gifts to new residents in 2017.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Missing out on the GLE newsletter? Go to Peel, Inc. Newsletter Subscription 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.

GLE POA's new website is up and running. Just go to glepoa.com to check it out. If you have any questions concerning the new website, please contact Tammy Perry at IMC Property Management.

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Montgomery County Sheriff.....	936-760-5800

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Memorial Hermann-The Woodlands.....	281-364-2300
St. Luke's – The Woodlands.....	936-266-2000

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Lone Star Elementary.....	936-276-4500
Montgomery Intermediate	936-276-4700
Montgomery Middle School	936-276-3700
Montgomery Junior High	936-276-3300
Montgomery High School.....	936-276-3000

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Driver's License Info.....	936-442-2810
Montgomery Central Appraisal	936-756-3354
Montgomery County Registration & Titling...	936-539-7896

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GRAND LAKE ESTATES GOLF COURSE

Clubhouse.....	936-447-4653
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GLE GETTING SOCIAL SCHEDULE

- **BUNCO** GLE ladies meet at various homes on the 2nd Friday of each month
- **Walking Club** (Wednesdays at the park)
- **Mommy & Me Playdate** (March 21st)
- **Easter Eggstravaganza** (March 25th)

The "GLE Getting Social" Facebook page includes the most up-to-date details, times, & locations.

If you have an event or special interest that you want to see offered to our community or are interested in getting involved with any activities we have planned, contact Ellen Edwards to be a part of Getting Social in GLE at grandlakesocial@gmail.com.

MARCH YARD OF THE MONTH



The March 2018 Yard of the Month is the home of David and Nikki Martin located at 11420 Mary's Ct. The Martin's move to GLE in November 2014 from Shelton, Connecticut. They chose the area for its school district, large lot size, move-in ready home, and they liked that the houses were spread out. They have two children, Parker and Jack.

To keep their yard looking good, they spend about 20 hours each month maintaining the landscaping. They have nice pine trees, crepe myrtles, and magnolias in their yard in addition to grass. The crepe myrtles are Nikki's favorite. Several small shrubs showcase the front elevation of their home and you'll even find birds bathing in the bird bath.

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued from Page 2)

The Martin's are especially fond of the setback of their house and the backyard. They have one of the community reserves to the rear of their home which creates a very relaxing backyard environment.

Congratulations David and Nikki and thank you for helping make Grand Lake Estates a wonderful place to live.

MOMMY & ME PLAYDATE

Do you have preschool aged kids? Would you like to meet other moms in GLE? Then come out to the GLE park every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10am! We look forward to meeting new friends!!!

GLE GETTING HEALTHY!

Continue or restart your New Year's Resolutions to get healthy by joining the GLE Walking Club. Connect with the community, meet your neighbors and have a little fun while working out.

Join us at the park on Wednesdays at 5:00pm; we will walk from there and return before dark.

FLAGS ACROSS GLE

The 2018 Flag Fundraiser has received a wonderful response. We have increased enrollment from 2017's total of 155 flags (5 dedication flags) to an astonishing 193 flags (8 dedication flags) for 2018!



We appreciate our neighbors who were involved with putting inserts at new homes as well as those who helped to put flags out for President's Day weekend. It was so beautiful and humbling to drive through and see such a patriotic display.

Please remember 100% of the proceeds of the patriotic beautification project directly funds the social activities for the neighborhood, which include the Easter Eggstravaganza, Welcome Wagon, Family Fun Nights, Ice Cream Socials, July 4th Patriotic & Proud, and National Night Out.

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 25th.

Bring your family to the GLE park to meet the Easter Bunny and participate in our GLE Easter Egg Hunt. If you have any questions or would like to help, contact Holly Yen at grandlakesocial@gmail.com



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Grand Lake Estates

HERBS FRAGRANT, TASTY, AND BEAUTIFUL — PLANT THEM OUTDOORS OR INDOORS

Patches of garden that seem to sprout nothing but weeds should not be written off. "If you can't grow anything else," says gardening and food writer Sally Freeman, "herbs are the answer." Herbs have a long, noble history. They've been used to flavor food, prepare medicinal brews, beautify gardens — even line the pockets of merchants, as they tried to fill the demand for herbs and spices during the Middle Ages. Growing herbs isn't difficult, as Freeman, author of *Herbs for All Seasons* (Penguin, 1991) and *Every Woman's Guide to Natural Home Remedies* (Holt, 1997), explains here.

Essentials For An Herb Garden: Ideally, there are three essentials for an herb garden: good drainage, plenty of sunlight, and light soil enriched with compost. Try to keep your garden away from trees; the roots rob soil of moisture and nutrients. But many herbs will do well without all three. Rosemary doesn't mind some shade. Basil, fennel, dill, Italian parsley, and chives do well in soil suitable for growing vegetables. Peppermint doesn't mind wet conditions. Thyme tolerates acid soil, while lavender requires more alkalinity than most herbs.

Indoor Herb Gardens: If your windows face south, you should have adequate light for even sun-loving herbs, such as dill, coriander, oregano, thyme, and marjoram. If your windows face in other directions, you should be able to grow rosemary, sweet woodruff, or

bay laurel in natural light. You may have to augment natural light with special lighting. Be sure to place herb containers as far as possible from radiators and other heating appliances, in a room that is cool, moist, and well ventilated. On very cold winter days they should be placed away from windows.

Growing From Seed: Most herbs will grow easily from seed, germinating in five to seven days. There are exceptions. Lavender can take up to a month to germinate. Rosemary is best propagated by cuttings, and French tarragon, which is more flavorful than the Russian variety and preferable for cooking, must be propagated by root division. Parsley can be very difficult to germinate. Italian parsley is easier to grow than regular parsley, and, to my mind, tastes better.

Fertilizer of Choice: Compost is best because it won't burn the tender roots. Enrich your compost pile by including some weeds, especially dandelion, whose long roots bring up minerals from deep in the soil. A layer of mulch conserves moisture and suppresses weeds in the summer.

Watering Herbs: Water herbs as soon as the soil feels dry. Rosemary, especially, should never be allowed to dry out. You may need to water every day. Your herbs will also app

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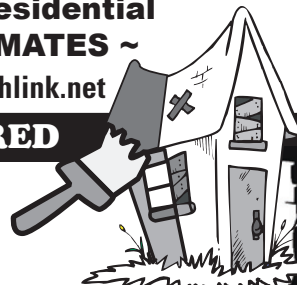
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IS IT A TURTLE OR A TORTOISE?

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center



Some lump anything with an outside shell into the turtle category when in fact there are distinct differences between turtles and tortoises. Both are reptiles but turtles live in the water and the tortoise is a land-dweller.

Turtles are identifiable by their webbed feet and long claws. The webbing helps them swim. The tortoise has a heavier shell than the turtle and has short sturdy legs. Turtles are omnivores meaning they eat vegetation and meat. Tortoises tend to be herbivores but have been known to occasionally eat meat.

Both turtles and tortoises date back 220 million years! They both have a very long lifespan with sea turtles living up to 70 years and the more common turtles living up to 40 years. Tortoises can live up to 150 years!

Red-eared slider turtles became popular as pets when they were made available in dime stores. I know I had one in the 1950's so they've been around a very long time! Their popularity soared when the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle movie came out. Because the turtles

were released into the wild when pet owners got tired of them, they are now considered invasive in some states. A couple of states have outlawed the sale of them. These turtles tend to be a bit aggressive and make it difficult for other native species to compete for food and habitats. They can also introduce unknown diseases to the wild population when pet turtles are released into the wild.

Probably the most unique turtle in our area is the softshell turtle. They live in the water and are carnivores. It has a flat shell and will often bury itself at the bottom of a lake, stream, or bayou leaving only its neck and head exposed. It can breathe under water much like a fish.

TWRC Wildlife Center cares for hundreds of turtles every year. Most are admitted because of injuries sustained from cars. In 2014, concerned citizens asked Missouri City to help protect turtles crossing the road. The City took a positive step by erecting road signs showing a mama turtle with three babies.

TWRC Wildlife Center is a 38-year-old non-profit organization that is your resource for wildlife questions and concerns. Check out our website at www.twrcwildlifecenter.org or give us a call at 713-468-TWRC.

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Carmelitas

32 caramel squares, unwrapped
¾ cup butter, melted

1 cup flour
6 ounces semisweet chocolate chips

½ cup heavy cream
¾ cup brown sugar,
packed
1 cup rolled oats
1 teaspoon baking soda



Combine caramels and cream in a small saucepan over low heat. Stir until completely smooth; set aside. In a separate bowl combine melted butter, brown sugar, flour, oats, and baking soda. Pat half of the oatmeal mixture into the bottom of an 8 x 8 inch pan. Bake at 350 degrees for ten minutes. Remove pan from oven and sprinkle chocolate chips over crust. Pour caramel mixture over chocolate chips. Crumble remaining oatmeal mixture over caramel. Return to oven and bake an additional 15 – 20 minutes, until the edges are lightly browned. Remove from oven and

cool completely before cutting.

Serve and store at room temperature.



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THE HISTORY AND LEGEND OF SAINT PATRICK'S DAY



The person who was to become St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born in Wales about AD 385. His given name was Maewyn, and he almost

didn't get the job of Bishop of Ireland because he lacked the required scholarship. Far from being a saint, until he was 16, he considered himself a pagan. At that age, he was sold into slavery by a group of Irish marauders that raided his village.

During his captivity, he became closer to God. He escaped from slavery after six years and went to Gaul where he studied in the monastery under St. Germain, Bishop of Auxerre for a period of twelve years. During his training he became aware that his calling was to convert the pagans to Christianity. His wishes were to return to Ireland, to convert the native pagans to Christianity. But his superiors instead appointed St. Palladius. But two years later, Palladius transferred to Scotland. Patrick, having adopted that Christian name earlier, was then appointed as second Bishop to Ireland.

Patrick was quite successful at winning converts. And this fact upset the Celtic Druids. Patrick was arrested several times but escaped each time. He traveled throughout Ireland, establishing monasteries across the country. He also set up schools and churches which would aid him in his conversion of the Irish country to Christianity. His mission in Ireland lasted for thirty years. After that time, Patrick retired to County Down. He died on March 17 in AD 461.

That day has been commemorated as St. Patrick's Day ever since. Much Irish folklore surrounds St. Patrick's Day. Not much of it is actually substantiated. Some of this lore includes the belief that Patrick raised people from the dead. He also is said to have given a sermon from a hilltop that drove all the snakes from Ireland. Of course, no snakes were ever native to Ireland, and some people think this is a metaphor for the conversion of the pagans. Though originally a Catholic holy day, St. Patrick's Day has evolved into more of a secular holiday.

One traditional icon of the day is the shamrock. And this stems from a more bona fide Irish tale that tells how Patrick used the three-leafed shamrock to explain the Trinity. He used it in his sermons to represent how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit could all exist as separate elements of the same entity. His followers adopted the custom of wearing a shamrock on his feast day. The St. Patrick's Day custom came to America in 1737. That was the first year St. Patrick's Day was publicly celebrated in this country, in Boston.

READING WITH YOUR CHILD: SIMPLE ACTIVITIES WILL HELP BUILD READING SKILLS

Children must learn to read before they can read to learn. How can parents help their children become readers? The Learning First Alliance, a group of education organizations, suggests that parents help in these ways:

- Read at bedtime. From the time your children are very young, get in the habit of reading aloud at bedtime. If you haven't started this tradition, it's not too late to begin.
- Enjoy the library together. Take your child to the public library regularly. Together, explore all the resources available. Spend some time looking at children's biographies one week. On your next visit, see what books are available on outer space... or dolphins...or ancient Egypt.
- Encourage your children to write. Look for ways to motivate children to write. Leave a note on the refrigerator and ask your child to write back. Buy your child a journal.
- Play rhyming games. Young children learn a lot as they think about rhyming words. They focus on the sounds inside words and start to hear the sounds that letters make. Choose a word, and have a contest to see who can think of the greatest number of rhyming words.

Remember - practice makes perfect. Young readers need lots of practice to polish their skills. Keep reading material around your house. Have your child read the recipes when you cook. And be sure you have a regular reading time every day.

SEND US YOUR EVENT PICTURES

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to grandlakeestates@peelinc.com Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption.

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