

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA.



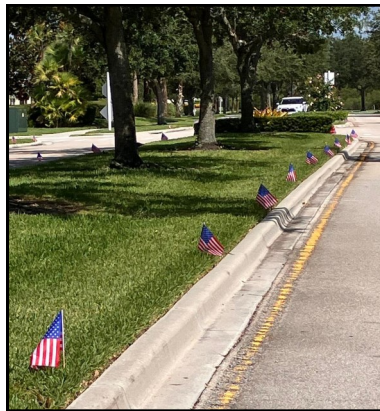
Special Edition

A Newsletter Covering Life In The Lakes

July, 2026

“We The People Of The Lakes” Came Together To Celebrate America’s 250th

On Wednesday July 1st, volunteers placed 450 flags along Tradition Lakes Blvd. and then decorated the clubhouse in preparation for Lakes residents to come together and celebrate America’s 250th birthday.



Banner Courtesy Of Gene & Lucille Wesnofske



Thank You Volunteers

*Thought
For The Day*

“Where liberty dwells,
there is my country.”
- Benjamin Franklin

Then On Friday July 3rd, "We The People Of The Lakes" Celebrated America!!



Reading Of The
Declaration Of Independence.



About 100 Residents Gathered To Celebrate



Lots Of Great Food Served!

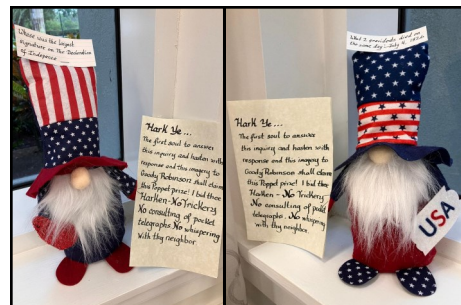




Dancing To YMCA!



Face Painting A Star

Face Painted
American Flag

Answer The Trivia Quiz & Win The Poppit!



Kiss By A Rose provided the music



Ringin' Of The Bell Of Liberty.

Gathering To Sing Lee Greenwood's "God Bless The USA"
To Close Out The Celebration.

The Lakes Life

Editor: Elise Ross
Layout and Design: Thomas Klein
Staff Writer: Carolyn Hammer

PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE!



Trivia Night is scheduled for July 24th at 7:00pm
Doors Open at 6:30pm.
\$5.00 entry fee.

Celebrating 10 Years Of Trivia, Together!!

Shaping Our Future: Mayor Shannon Martin Visits The Lakes

By Thom Epsky

On June 3rd, nearly 60 residents gathered at the Clubhouse for an insightful evening with Port St. Lucie Mayor Shannon Martin, Police Chief Leo Niemczyk, and Public Works Director Colt Schwerdt. The interactive Q&A provided a firsthand look at how our city is managing its vibrant future.

Key discussions focused on localized traffic solutions, proactive community policing, and municipal fiscal policies to support property tax relief. The leadership team also highlighted major economic expansions along the Southern Grove corridor and nearby park developments designed to enhance our neighborhood's quality of life.

Our guests shared remarkable context about our rapidly evolving home. Spanning 120 square miles, Port St. Lucie is now the sixth-largest city in Florida, with a population exceeding 260,000.

Remarkably, despite a historic 30% growth surge since 2020 that makes us the nation's fastest-growing city, we have maintained our status as Florida's safest large city for over a decade.

Thank you to everyone who participated! Your civic engagement directly impacts the city's citizen-led planning. To stay informed on upcoming infrastructure projects, local safety data, or to view the municipal budget, please visit the city's official website at cityofpsl.com.



Clubhouse Tower Hoots

By Elise Ross

Lakes residents were delighted to see two tiny, fluffy owlets peering down from the Clubhouse Tower at those in the resident pool area at the end of May and beginning of June.

We watched as they seemed to get bigger each day and with delight as they attempted to fly in the early evening hours under the watchful eye of their mom. Their heart faces simply made them even more endearing.

Word has it that this is the third or fourth year that mom and dad have chosen our Clubhouse Tower for their new family. We hope to be so lucky for many years to come.



Wine & Cheese Event Caused Excitement

By Thom Epsky

The Lakes at Tradition Clubhouse was buzzing with excitement on Saturday, June 6, for the **Your Neighbors** social group's first-ever Wine & Cheese Night! Wow!

About 50 neighbors came out to enjoy shared wine and charcuterie fixings with great conversation and amazing folk music by Russell Breiter Acoustic.

Attendees brought their favorite bottles and a spectacular variety of cheeses, creating a fantastic community feast.

The soulful acoustic tunes provided the perfect backdrop for catching up with old friends and welcoming new ones. Thank you to everyone who made this debut event an unforgettable success.



Celebrating Success!!

By Elise Ross



Dee & Jim Morris celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary this past July 5th. Our congratulations to you both.



HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Experiencing A Hurricane In The Lakes - Part 2

By Tom Klein

Preparing As The Hurricane Approaches:

Bring everything inside that could be blown around outside including: all potted plants, all furniture, BBQ grille, landscape figurines, flags and welcome mats. Don't put them in your garage, that's for your car (don't forget, several roof tiles could be blown off by high winds causing damage to cars parked outside).

- When installing your hurricane shutters, *make sure* each shutter panel is pushed *all the way up fully* into the top of the upper bracket before securing with the wingnuts. If not pushed all the way up, the top of the shutters will rattle violently during the storm, causing you to worry: "could they be blown away by the howling winds?" It's not a very pleasant experience listening to that loud violent rattling for hours while hurricane winds howl.

- Fill your car's fuel tank. The very few gas stations that might be open immediately after a storm will have very long lines.

- Get \$300-\$400 from the ATM. For several days after, ATM's may not work, businesses may not have internet access and so, won't accept credit cards. It's usually cash only for a short while after a hurricane.

- Anticipate losing electricity by: lowering your air conditioner thermostat setting, lower the food freezer thermostat setting; fill freezer open spaces between frozen foods w/already used half-gallon milk jugs refilled 3/4 full with water.

- Get caught up on your laundry now, because you won't have time (or maybe electricity) after.

- Seal your bathtub drain and fill the tub with water. Place an empty one-gallon bucket next to the tub. If we lose water pressure, you can pour a bucket of water into the toilet bowl to flush it.

- Be sure to have hooded rain gear & boots on hand; streets may be flooded after (you'll wish you had them).

- Keep your cell phone fully charged and have a portable cell charger battery for backup.

- And the very last thing to do is: *take a warm shower* (it may be your very last warm one for a while).



Immediately After The Hurricane:

- If you lose electricity, turn off all appliances, so there isn't a huge electrical surge when it's restored, causing another immediate outage. But do leave one light switch turned on, so you'll know when electricity has been restored.

- If we do lose electricity, you're going to need to have one battery operated lantern for each room, a small flashlight for each person & spare batteries for each. *Never* use candles to illuminate rooms at night, that's how house fires start.

- Before removing your shutters, look from the inside of the window to see if there are any snakes or other animals that may have taken refuge from the winds behind your shutters. You don't want to be surprised when you're removing shutters.

- Be careful when outside and watch where you are walking. Snakes, alligators or other animals who have been driven from their normal habitat by high water will be highly stressed and may become more aggressive than normal. Don't go out at night at all, as alligators or boars may be roaming.

- As a precaution, for the first few days after a hurricane, use *only* bottled water for drinking purposes; don't use tap water. If the city water plant lost power (even if only temporary), water may not be safe to drink.

- Take "after" photos of all damages for insurance purposes before cleaning up.

- At the curb, have separate piles for landscape debris and for damaged structure debris. Garbage and recycling is placed at the curb on their normal days. There probably will be a delay picking up the landscape & damaged structure debris.

- Without electricity, you will need your bbq grill for cooking. Have on hand an extra 20# propane tank.

- Extended family will want to hear from you. Text your family that you are okay (cell tower lines will be so busy with calls after a storm that texts are much more likely to go through, even if cell phone calls won't).

