

SAPPHIRE LAKES NEWSLETTER

April 2023

Activities Team

Nancy Foster, Chairperson
Jon Campeau, Treasurer
Ross McQuade, Secretary
Peter Bifano
Cathie Churchill

Kathy McQuade
Toni NiCastro
Ed Normand
Brian North
Debbie Pinto

Nancy Simonetti
Bob Simpson
Bill Stover
Kathy Stover
Suzanne Whittingstall

Message from the Team: Thank you to our Sapphire Lakes residents for your support at all of our events this season. We truly appreciate your attendance as well as the assistance from the many volunteers who help with the prep work, serving and clean up at each event. Thanks to all of you we can continue to apply our profits to the maintenance and enhancement of our various activities and equipment.

ACTIVITIES TEAM CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023-2024

Holiday Gathering: Sunday, December 3, 2023 4:00 PM at the Pool 3 Cabana

January Picnic: Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 1:00 PM

Chili Fiesta: Saturday, February 17, 2024 at 5:30 PM at the Pool 3 Cabana

Bake Sale: Saturday, March 9, 2024 9:00 – 11:00 AM at the Pool 3 Cabana

Bocce Pizza Party: Wednesday, March 13, 2024

March Picnic: Saturday, March 23, 2024 at 1:00 PM

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

April Picnic - Tuesday, April 11th at 1:00 pm in the Picnic Area (Rain date: Wednesday, April 12th)

Lunch includes hamburgers, hot dogs, Italian sausages, potato salad and cole slaw. If you prefer a veggie burger, please request one when you make your reservation. The cost is \$15 and reservations, as well as cash payment can be made by contacting Debbie Pinto at 508-930-7180. The deadline for reservations is April 7th. Desserts are also appreciated. We look forward to seeing you at this final event of the season!

Aquatics

Aquatics are held Monday to Saturday at both Pool #1 and Pool #2. Pool #1 begins at 9:00 am and Pool #2 at 9:15 am. Classes are 45 minutes, and everyone is welcome.

Bocce League

Bocce dates for 2024:

New Players Workshop	12/20/23
Captain's Meeting	1/8/24
2 nd New Players' Workshop	1/8/24
Referee Workshop	1/8/24
Season begins	1/15/24
Playoffs – 1 st Round	3/6/24
Playoffs - Semi-Finals	3/7/24
Super Bocce / Pizza Party	3/13/24
Gender Game	3/20/24

[all rain outs will be played the next day.]

This season we had 168 regular players on 28 teams and 35 substitutes. It was a great season that culminated with our playoffs:

Playoffs: Semi-Finals: Cardinals defeated Red Wings
Hawks defeated Celtics

Super Bocce: Cardinals defeated Hawks

Gender Game: The Men's team avenged last year's loss to the Ladies team and eked out a hard won victory in a very competitive match.

Bocce Court 2 will be rebuilt over the off season to match Bocce Court 1. Thanks are extended to all of the hard workers who volunteered their time: Brian, Chris, Chet, Peter, Carl and many others. All of the 2023 regular players and "in the hat" players will automatically be counted on for the 2024 season (unless they notify the Bocce Committee otherwise by calling Keith at: 734-751-0589

Book Club

April book club is cancelled due to holidays. We are also making some changes to our book club in 2024 to bring more interest to our readers. Each month the member who suggests the book will lead the discussion.

November 2023.....Horse by Geraldine Brooks.

No book for December.

Jan.2024.....The American Dirt by Janine Cummings. Leader: Kathleen Licktieg

Feb.2024.....Lessons in Chemistry....Bonnie Garmus. Leader: Edie Leshaw

Mar..2024.....Lucy by Sea by Elizabeth Strout. Leader: Liz Dalton

Edie and Sue

Bridge Club

The Sapphire Lakes Bridge Club meets every Thursday from January 2nd through April 15 at the Pool 3 Cabana. We play 24 hands starting at 11:30 am and finishing about 2:00 pm. After 4 hands we change partners. This enables us to play with 6 different people. We encourage anyone interested to join us. Please call Paula Culligan at (920-391-8068). Hope to hear from many of you!

Crocheting

For those who crochet or knit, or want to learn, please come to pool 4 on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm. We have a lively group of crafty yarners.

Euchre

Thank you for participating. Stay safe and have a great summer!

GOLF

Ladies Golf – Sapphire Swingers

We welcome all lady golfers to our Friday morning Golf League whether you are a new golfer or a seasoned one!! We have been swinging 8 weeks now at Hibiscus Golf Club, golfing the back 9 holes with tee times starting at 7:38am. The cost is \$47.09 including cart and tax. We are not an official league so you don't have to come out every week, just when you can or want to. As always, we are a fun group of girls and go out to breakfast/lunch after (optional). March will be our last month to golf this season, because Hibiscus will be closing on April 1st to do some upgrades to the course. Hope to see everyone back in 2024. It's been a great season as usual, thanks Swingers ☺.

Sue Mears 248-231-5792 cell.

Men's Golf

Our golf season is coming to an end in what we call "March Madness". Clever name. Don't know where that name came from. Must be some obscure basketball tournament out there. Our season ending tournament starts with our "Sweet Sixteen". Our top sixteen golfers qualified to play against each other on March 10 with the eight winners facing off in our "Elite Eight" round on March 17th. These four winners will play in our "Final Four" match on March 24th.

The four of our "Best" golfers who will play for the league Championship are Phil Carlino, Guy Spina, Brian Jones, and Tom Pryce. Good luck to them all. We won't know the winner at press time. But if you see one of those gentlemen walking around with a 2023 Champion hat, be sure to congratulate him for a great playoff performance. This is just a sample of the great fun we have every year January thru March. If you would like to join us next season, please let Guy Spina know at 617-835-1281. We always have room for more players so come join us for some great fun at the challenging game of golf.

Sunday Couples Golf

The Sunday Couples Golf group needs a few more couples when they start to play in January. They tee off at 1:00 pm and the course fees are reasonable. If you are interested or need more information, call or email Keith Fogel at 734-751-0589 or email: kfogel243078mi@comcast.net.

Hand & Foot

March was our last month of play, and due to the lack of players, we will not host Hand & Foot next year. Thank you to all that have been having fun playing. Rita Lavallee and Cathie Churchill.

Hand, Foot and Elbow

Hand, Foot and Elbow continues to be played every Tuesday night at 5:30. Come and join the fun! As always, new players are welcome. Our last night of play this year will be on Tuesday, March 28, 2023. It has been a great season of play! If you have any questions, please call Debbie Pinto @ 508-930-7180 or Toni Nicasastro @ 724-681-2789.

Horseshoes

I would like to thank all who participated in horseshoes this season. We still continue to play Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at 9:00 am at the Horseshoe pits in the Rec Area. Information on next year's play will be posted on our Sapphire Lakes website, and in the January 2024 newsletter.

George Churchill geochurchi@gmail.com 978-618-4874

Mah Jongg (American)

Wed.1-3; Pool 3; open play; no weekly commitment. Newcomers welcomed. Temporary cards available. Text contacts: Marie Hueter, 570-357-0476 or Cathie Churchill, 978-618-4874. The last day of play is April 5.

Mah Jongg (Cantonese)

Time flies when we're having fun! I would like to thank all those who participated. Some food for thought until next season: I would appreciate occasional help should I be unable to attend; I hate to have to cancel if I cannot be there. Looking forward to seeing you in 2024 - same time/same place (pool 3 Mondays 1-3). Stay safe and have a great summer!!!

Suzanne Whittingstall - text @ 514-229-6516 or email: suewhitt19@gmail.com

Pickleball

Our Annual Brunch on Courtside held on Sunday, March 5th was a great success! We had a large turnout of members and guests. A great array of different dishes, an exhibition match, pickleball playing and great conversations made this an event to remember. A second event that was held in March was our Annual Pizza Party on Sunday, March 26th which included music, pizza, salad, dessert and of course lots of pickleball playing! Mark your calendar for Friday, April 14th at 6:00 PM when we will hold our end of season Sapphire Pot Luck Supper at Pool 3. Members and guests are welcome.

Pickleball Schedule: From April 1st to December 31st the six courts are available every day starting at 8:00 AM.

Pinochle

Pinochle is played at 1:00 pm at Pool # 1 each day depending on availability of participants.

POKER

Wednesday Night Poker

More players are needed for Wednesday night poker games beginning at 5:00 pm on Wednesdays at the Pool 4 Meeting Room. The stakes are reasonable. For more information call: Larry Kurtz (239-352-0407)

Poor Man's Poker

Our poker nights concluded at the end of March, but we plan to resume in January 2024 on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm at Pool #3. Don Schroer 312-404-8620.

Tennis

Starting on April 1st through December 31st Tennis for men and women is played at the tennis courts on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 8:00 – 10:00 am if there are enough players available. New male and female players are encouraged to join us for informal tennis with a group that is very welcoming. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays tennis can be played on the two north courts starting at 8:00 am by any residents.

Yoga

Our last "Gentle Yoga" classes will be on April 6th. Our instructor, Roberta, hopes to set up a video or zoom class once a month during the summer. She will email us the information. We want to thank her for her dedication to our Sapphire Lakes Yoga classes which will again continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 AM for chair yoga beginning in January 2024. If there is enough interest in a floor yoga class, we will have another instructor. Thanks to all the chair yogi's and keep up the meditation and mindfulness. For any further information, please let me know.

Sue Chapin - 239-398-6181

BLUE ZONE

National Walking Day Celebration

North Collier Regional Park - April 5 - 5:30 to 6:30 pm

Click on the link to register. <https://BZP-NationalWalkingDay.eventbrite.com>.

It is FREE. Location: 15000 Livingston Road. Snacks, prize drawings and Blue Zone t-shirts will be given away. It is a one-mile walk. Wear your Blue Zone shirt for this special event.

Other Activities

The Walking, Biking, Rummikub, Lunches, Kayaking, Fishing, Harry Chapin Food Bank and our "Wine at 5" will be back again this fall and in 2024. Watch for the emails for the activity dates.

THANK YOU for your enthusiasm & participation! It is our joy to share with you

SAPPHIRE LAKES MASTER ASSOCIATION

Condominium Association Presidents/MasterBoard

Amber	Sharon Bonnet
Amethyst	Daria Murphy
Diamond	Kit Ingeme
Emerald	Ken Grissoni
Garnet	Irwin LeShaw
Hematite	Paul French
Jade	Bob Foster
Jasper	John Azzinaro
Malachite	Mike Mears
Opal	Linda Rafferty
Quartz	Charlie Lorenzo
Spinel	Connie Fullerton
Topaz	Suzanne Chapin
Tourmaline	Ken Werra
Turquoise	Marian Vella

Master Board Executive Committee

President:	Bob Foster
Vice-President:	Ken Grissoni
Treasurer:	Mike Mears
Secretary:	Sue Chapin
Officer at Large:	Connie Fullerton

Management Company

Resort Management
2685 Horseshoe Dr. S., #215
Phone: (239) 649-5526

Sapphire Lakes Property Manager

Suzanne Foster
Gate House Phone: (239)353-2465
Email: SFoster@resortgroupinc.com

President's Corner

As the 2022 - 2023 winter season comes to an end at Sapphire Lakes, I would like to wish all of our residents who will be migrating northward a safe trip as well as a healthy and safe summer wherever you may be headed. We have had another great season within the community and I would like to thank all of the volunteers that make this such an active community with a wide variety of activities and events in which to participate. The Activities Team, Bocce, Blue Zone, and Pickleball Committees, as well as all of the individuals that head up the countless activities around the community work selflessly to make this the welcoming, active community that it has become. We have a number of new residents that have enjoyed their first winter season here, and hardly a day goes by that someone doesn't approach me to express their amazement as to the spirit and positive vibe that they feel in this community. While we always have some issues that we are working on, such as the entrance gate problems caused by the two vehicle accidents, we always manage to work our way through them. Hopefully, by the time you read this newsletter, the front gates will be totally operational. Property Manager Suzanne Foster has just completed her first year working in the community, and she has proven to be a dedicated and communicative leader who enjoys her job, and she has been whole heartedly welcomed by our residents, as well as the Master Board.

One change that you may notice in April is our new irrigation company, Stahlman-England Irrigation. They started working on the property on March 27th, and will work closely with our landscaping company, Hampton Lawns, to keep our community looking beautiful. If you have any concerns with the irrigation in your area, you should email Suzanne Foster and explain the issue. She will see that it gets to the right person at Stahlman-England.

If you have NOT been receiving any periodic e-mail updates from me about various community issues (including this newsletter), please e-mail me at: rwfoster22@gmail.com and I will add you to my list. In closing I would like to wish you all a very safe and happy summer season wherever you may be, and I look forward to seeing you again for an even better winter season in 2023 - 2024.

Bob Foster

Treasurer's Report

As reported at the annual meeting on March 15th, financially Sapphire Lakes is in good shape. It was disappointing that we went over budget by \$4,320 but considering for a while it looked like we could be over budget by as much as \$30,000 and that was before Hurricane Ian hit us costing us \$8,500, I think that's pretty

good. The \$4,320 over budget will come out of our contingency fund ending the year with \$107,496 in it. Reserves, we ended the year with \$309,698 compared to \$286,875 last year.

We also discussed how we would be gaining more interest in 2023 in both CD's and Money Market accounts. Currently LMCU is paying 4.50% on new 1 year CD'S, they also have a money market account paying 3.30% which we just changed from CIT that was only paying .75%.

2023 Budget: With almost three months into 2023 we are trending to be over budget by \$11,000. Main cause is due to the board voting to change irrigation companies at the annual meeting. While it is a good decision and I support it, it will cause us to go over budget in the irrigation account by \$18,000. Any dollars over budget at the end of 2023 will come out of our Contingency fund,

Reserves: We ended the year with \$309,698.

For 2023 the plan is to contribute \$89,000 but only spend around \$17,100. That will leave around \$384,869 in reserves at the year's end.

Listed below are the areas and dollars planned to be spent out of reserves for 2023.

1. Parking lot repairs \$2,000
2. Concrete repairs \$2,000
3. Pumps/Fountains \$12,500
4. Sewer clean-out \$600

Mike Mears

SAPPHIRE LAKES INFORMATION

Communications

Report any change in **telephone numbers** for updating of the entry gate system as well as the telephone directory, by e-mail, SFoster@resortgroupinc.com and Toni Nicastro @ tmnicastro@gmail.com

St. Matthew's House

We will continue to collect non-perishable items to donate to St. Matthew's House. This wonderful organization prepares meals daily for their residents and many others. They also assist needy families with weekly groceries. Please bring items to donate to our Sapphire Lakes gatherings, such as the picnics. Also, I will deliver donations when you may be cleaning out your cupboards. Your past generosity has been much appreciated. Please contact Sue Mears 248-231-5792 or Nan Foster 508-965-1396.

Internet at the 4 Pools

"sapphire" is the password at all of the pools for internet.

Sapphire Lakes Website

Information about Sapphire Lakes as well as photos from our activities can be found on our website: sapphirlakesnaples.net.

Collier County Lift Assistance

If someone falls and needs assistance getting up, but not to go to the hospital, one can call **239-252-9300** for assistance.

Pool Telephones

The landline telephones have been removed from all four pools and replaced with 911 Emergency Cell Phones.

Rental of Cabanas

Any resident wishing to use any of the cabanas for personal gatherings must apply fourteen (14) days in advance. Applications can be obtained from Suzanne Foster, Property Manager. This applies only to cabanas. Pools and pool decks are always open to all residents and may not be reserved or rented. A deposit of \$50 is required which

will be refunded if the area is cleaned up properly. **Social distancing and hygiene plans will be reviewed with applicant before approval.** Further details are available in the application.

Attention Walkers, Bikers and Drivers

Walkers: please make sure that you walk AGAINST the traffic when walking the streets at Sapphire Lakes and wear light colors and/or reflective clothing when walking in non-daylight hours. **Bikers:** please make sure to ride WITH the traffic and to have reflectors and/or lights on your bicycle. Helmets are recommended. We want everyone to be safe!!

And vehicles, please obey the Stop signs **including those at the driveways.** **Please be aware of those on the street walking or biking in these areas.** We have been fortunate that no one has caused an accident yet but the potential is there. Please do this for the safety of all!

Entrance Gates

Unit owners may purchase additional gate access cards and vehicle bar codes at a **cost of \$25.00** by check or money order only and are available from our Property Manager, Suzanne Foster. Credit cards are now accepted but there is a \$1.06 service charge. NO CASH.

Pool Umbrellas

All pools have umbrellas on the decks. If you are the last to leave the pool area, please be responsible and lower any umbrellas that are open. Thank you.

Defibrillators

An Automated Electronic Defibrillator (AED) is installed at the cabana at the Recreation area restroom and all four pools.

Before using the AED machine, assure that **911** has been called. Turn on the AED and follow the audio prompts.

Central Car Washing Area

There is an area located near the recreation area washroom facility for residents to wash cars. It is **mandatory** for boats to be washed only in this area. Boat rinsing should be limited to 15 minutes after it has been in saltwater.

Comcast Issues

Any Comcast related issues should be addressed with Comcast by calling 1-800-XFINITY stating you are part of the Bulk Services Contract at Sapphire Lakes. It is also important to note that every Sapphire Lakes unit has a Comcast account. If you sell your unit, please be sure your name is removed from the account to ensure that you are not billed in the future. It would also be prudent to turn in your equipment to Comcast allowing the new owner to set up their own account with Comcast.

Your Pets

Please report any violations of the pet rules that you witness or observe to our Property Manager, Suzanne Foster (353-2465) so that proper action can be taken against offenders.

Reminder!!! And also –Please do not feed the wild animals including feral cats, squirrels and ducks! They are creatures of the wild and should fend for themselves. After Association meetings at the Pools or gatherings at the Picnic area, any garbage should be removed and placed in a dumpster nearby.

Garden Waste

Plant debris should be piled or bagged and placed along the street, not at the dumpsters or parking lots, for pick up by the landscaping company Tuesday and Friday. **You are urged to please help the environment by recycling whenever possible. Newspaper, flyers, flattened small cardboard boxes, catalogs, magazines, telephone books, paper grocery bags, clear, green and brown bottles and jars, aluminum and steel/tin food and beverage cans, all plastics #1 through #7 can all be placed in the recycle bins.**

Please, please, do not put plastic bags or garbage into the re-cycling bins!!!!

Before placing large cardboard boxes in the garbage bins, please **break them down** to ensure that the dumpsters are not filled before the garbage truck arrives. Small boxes should be collapsed and placed in the recycling containers.

For those units that have individual trash and recycling tote bins, please call **Collier County at 239-252-2380** for disposal of larger items such as TV's, mattresses, furniture, etc. For those using large dumpsters please contact **Roberto at 239-316-6452**. There is a charge for special pickup.

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ARTICLES BESIDE THE DUMPSTERS!!

For hazardous wastes such as paint, oil or solvents, they may be taken to the Waste Disposal site at 2640 Corporate Flight Drive with no fee. They are open Tuesday to Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Collier Area Para Transit

After approval, this service is provided to residents of Collier County needing assistance mainly traveling to medical appointments or nutrition sites. Information regarding this service can be obtained by calling Para Transit System at 239-252-7272.

Suspicious Activity

Please contact the Sheriffs' Office at **239-774-4434** to report any suspicious activities or persons.

"New to You"- Free Items

Anything you wish to "**give away**" may be listed in the newsletter. This does **not** include items you wish to sell. Just give the information to one of the Activities Team or email it to rwfoster22@gmail.com with "for the newsletter" in the subject matter. Unknown email addresses will not be opened without the subject line completed. "**One person's junk is another's treasure!**"

April 2023 Activities

April Picnic: Tuesday, April 11th at the Picnic Area \$15 pp. See details in this newsletter.

Aquatics: Pool 1 Monday – Saturday 9:00 am Pool 2 Monday – Saturday 9:15 am

Blue Zone Events: (See newsletter article for details)

Bridge Club: Thursdays at 12:30 at Pool 3

Crocheting/Knitting: Tuesdays at 1:00 pm at Pool 4

Golf: See newsletter articles for Men's and Women's Golf details

Mah Jongg: American is at Pool 3 on Wednesdays from 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Pickleball: April 1st to December 31st the Pickleball Courts are open to all daily starting at 8:00 AM

Pinochle: Weekdays at Pool 1 at 1:00 pm

Poker: Wednesdays at the Pool 4 meeting room at 5:00 pm

Tennis: April 1st to December 31st the two north tennis courts are open to all tennis players daily at 8:00 AM

Yoga: see newsletter article for details.