

SAPPHIRE LAKES NEWSLETTER

February 2024

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

ACTIVITIES TEAM CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2024

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

Thank You

The Activities Team extends heartfelt thanks to Jeff Chase and his **Classic Tracks Band** for their outstanding performance at the “Welcome Back” evening at Pool 3 on Sunday, January 7th. A very appreciative crowd of 80-90 residents thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

Chili Fiesta

Date: Saturday, February 17th (Rain Date: February 18th)

Place: Pool 3 Pavilion and Pool Deck 5:30 PM

Cost: \$15 per adult / \$10 for children 12 and under

Menu: a variety of chilis, cole slaw, corn bread and desserts. Music will be provided by the Acoustic Daze Trio, featuring Jeff Chase, a Sapphire resident.

Offers to make chili or corn muffins and reservations can be made by calling Toni at 724-681-2789, please reserve and pay by Wednesday, February 14th. **Reservations accepted between February 7th thru 14th only.**

Dessert donations are appreciated as well as food donations for St. Matthew's House. We will also be holding a 50/50 Raffle.

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:

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 following day.]

The Bocce season is underway with 28 teams consisting of 168 player and 28 substitutes. The season will run until the end of February. The Playoffs will begin March 6th. We can always use more subs. Contact: Keith Fogel text: 734-751-0589 email: kfogel243078mi@comcast.net

Book Club

The Book Club meets at Pool 3 at 1:00 PM on the second Monday of the month. We are making some changes to our book club for the 2024 season. Each month the member who suggests the book will lead the discussion.

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

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

Edie and Sue

Bridge Group

The Sapphire Lakes Bridge Group plays no-stress, fun, party bridge and meets every Thursday from 12:30 – 3:30 PM at the Pool 3 Cabana. Anyone with some experience playing bridge is welcome to attend. You do not need to bring a partner. Contact: Paula Culligan phone: 920-391-8068 email: Culliganmd@gmail.com

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.

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 will start golfing January 5th at Hibiscus Golf Club, golfing the back 9 holes with tee times starting at 7:30 am. The cost will be \$52.43 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). Please call me if you would like to join us. Sue Mears 248-231-5792

Men's Golf

The Sapphire Lakes Men's Golf League invites golfers to join us for play at Eagle Lakes Golf Course in Naples. We have guaranteed tee times each Friday morning through March. For more information please contact: Sam Shakespeare 757-615-0050 s.shakespeare@optimum.net or Paul Roche 703-447-1539 proche195@aol.com

Hand, Foot and Elbow

Hand, Foot and Elbow has started it's new season and everyone is enjoying playing! On our opening night, 42 people came to play the game!! Everyone had a great time. We welcome new players and there is always someone available to answer questions. Come join us anytime! If you have any questions, please call Debbie Pinto @ 508-930-7180 or Toni Nicastro @ 724-681-2789.

Horseshoes

Horseshoe players will meet Monday through Thursday at 9:00 AM in the Rec Area starting in January. Once enough players have shown interest, we will start casual play. If we have enough players we will begin League play. Contact: George Churchill First choice: geochurchi@gmail.com Second choice: 978-618-9373

Ladies Luncheon

Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2024

Place: Vergina's Restaurant

700 Fifth Avenue South

239-659-7008

Time: Noon Cost: \$30.00 All Inclusive - Paid In Advance Reserve By: Friday February 16, 2024

Menu: Avenue Salad (Spinach, walnuts, tangerines, goat cheese and honey mustard)

ENTREES: (Choice to be pre-ordered)

Chicken Parmesan, Pasta and Pomodoro Sauce

Salmon, Rice and Grilled Asparagus

Four Cheese Fiochi with Pear

DESSERT: Tiramisu Cake

BEVERAGES: Coffee, Iced Tea and Soda are included. A glass of house red or white wine \$12.00 tax and tip included. Your entree must be selected when you make your reservation. Thank you.
To reserve, please call Sue Mears 248-231-5792 or Connie Fullerton 239-353-3946. For your convenience you can make your check payable to Connie Fullerton (U.S. Funds) See you there!

Logo Sales: Clothing items with the Sapphire Lakes logo embroidered on them can now be ordered online through our website www.sapphirlakesnaples.net and clicking on "Activities". There will not be an on-site sales event this season. Any questions can be directed to Nan Foster email: NanFoster48@gmail.com

Mah Jongg (American)

Wed. 1-3, Pool 3; open play, no weekly/time commitment. Newcomers welcomed. Temporary cards available. Contacts: Marie Huester 570-357-0476 or Cathie Churchill 978-618-4874. If you have a mah jongg set, please bring it with you.

Mah Jongg (Cantonese)

Mondays, pool 3, from 1:00 - 3:00 **EXCEPT Feb 12th: from 2:30 -4:30** after Book Club. Similar to Gin Rummy. Open play, no weekly or time commitment; newcomers welcomed. Diana Todorsky and Pat Williamson have kindly agreed to replace me on Jan 29th and Feb 5th.

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

Pickleball

The Sapphire Lakes Pickleball Committee held its Annual Opening Day on Sunday, January 14th at the Pool 3 Cabana and had a great turnout. Here are some upcoming Pickleball events:

Sunday February 4th Brunch on Courtside 10:00 AM

Sunday February 11th Beginner Lessons 3:00 PM (Instructors Carol and Jeff Chase)

To sign up contact Ken: 508-280-3150

Friday March 1st Social at Pool 3 6:00 PM

Pinochle

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

Poetry

I am trying to start a poetry group that will meet twice, once in February and again in March. Participants will share their favorite poets, share Florida inspired poems, as well as any other written poems. We will also explore new forms of poetry. If interested please contact Liz Dalton-Tuttle 239-231-2585 or eadalton@alumnae.smith.edu

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 is Tuesday evenings from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm at Pool #4. Contact: Don Schroer 312-404-8620.

Tennis

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.

Yoga

Chair Yoga is offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Pool 3 at 9:00 AM. Will then be offered every Tuesday and Thursday each week. Come join us to improve your strength, balance, and flexibility. May help arthritis, joint pain, and help reduce falls. Can also improve and benefit our mental health and mindfulness as well. Cost is \$5.00

For more information or questions, please contact Sue Chapin – 239-398-6181.

BLUE ZONE

ADVENTURE WALKERS- Kathleen Lickteig 502-235-3892 k.lickteig@icloud.com & Stephanie Roche 703-447-7935 rochesteph2008@gmail.com

Feb 7 local walk to nearby neighborhoods. Meet at pool 3 at 8am.

Feb 14 & 28 East Naples Community Park 3500 Thomasson Drive. Meet at 8am at the park.

Feb 21 Naples Botanical Garden 4820 Bayshore Drive. Meet at 7:45 at the front entrance of the Garden. BLUE ZONE T- shirt required for admission. And as always wear your Blue Zone T-shirt on all walks. E-mail Kathleen Lickteig if you need a BZ T-shirt.

BIKE OUTINGS- Becky Earney raearney@gmail.com

Mondays meet at the front gate at 8am. A local radius of 8-10 miles is ridden each week. The temperature must be 65 degrees by 7:15 or the ride is cancelled.

RUMMIKUB - Pat Williamson pattywilly@live.com

Join us every Friday from 1-3 pm - pool 3.

CULTURAL EVENTS - Marie Huester Mariehuester25@gmail.com

Collier County Libraries offer FREE lectures, concerts, movies, & more. Go to collierlibrary.org/events for monthly calendars to see what is scheduled. Those who are on our Blue Zone list receive regular e-mails highlighting selected (1) library events & (2) cultural activities in Naples.

FISHING- Bob Smith birchwoodbob1@gmail.com

Two fishing trips are planned for March & April. One is a 1/2 day (5 hour) ten thousand islands excursion. The other is a full day on the Gulf - 50 miles out - prime grouper fishing. Bob has pamphlets regarding costs etc.

HARRY CHAPIN FOOD BANK - Kathleen Lickteig 502-235-3892 k.lickteig@icloud.com

This organization offers us an opportunity to give back to our community by volunteering.

Harrychapinfoodbank.org. Contact Kathleen for additional information at the Naples Warehouse.

NETFLIX offers an informative program "LIVE to 100 - Secrets of the Blue Zone"

BLUE ZONE is a community wide well-being improvement to making healthy choices in our lifestyles. We welcome newcomers & everyone to all activities. Contact Becky at raearney@gmail.com to be added to our existing Blue Zone mailing list.

SAPPHIRE LAKES MASTER ASSOCIATION

Condominium Association Presidents/Master Board

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

Our full slate of community activities is now under way as we move into the month of February. Many of them are described in this newsletter and all of them are detailed on our website www.sapphirelakesnaples.net as well.

At the January 17th Master Board meeting I reviewed the result of the Residents Technology Survey that was conducted in December 2023, and I also listed the highlights of the renewal contract that we are working on with Comcast with the assistance of our consultant, Converged Services Inc. (CSI). We plan to bring the written renewal contract to the Master Board for approval at the February Board meeting. I emailed the highlights of the contract that we have agreed upon to date to all of the residents on my e-mail contact list on January 17th. If you are not receiving periodic emails from me and /or didn't get that list, please email me as rwfoster22@gmail.com and I will send you the info and add you to my contact group. Suffice to say at this point that the Executive Committee is very excited about the terms that Comcast has agreed to be included in our renewed contract that we expect to go into effect around June 1st.

One improvement that you will see in early February in the Recreation Area is that the tennis and pickleball courts will be resurfaced by our contractor U.S. Tennis. The south end of the facility will have six pickleball courts that will be painted with three colors: green, dark blue and light blue in the "kitchen" areas. The two tennis courts on the north end will be only used for tennis and will have the U.S. Open colors of green and blue.

The Master Board will have a regular monthly Board meeting on Wednesday, February 21st at 10:00 am at Pool 3. All unit owners are welcome to attend.

Treasurer's Report

Financially Sapphire Lakes is in good shape. That being said, 2023 has been a tough year from a budget standpoint. As it stands right now with a few weeks before we close the books it looks like we could be over budget by around \$57,000. Inflation and irrigation issues are the main causes plus we had to make some adjustment for invoices charged to the wrong year. Areas where we are over budget;

1. Electricity \$6,000
2. Trash Removal \$4,000
3. Water \$5,000
4. Irrigation \$29,000
5. Building Maintenance \$6,000
6. Gates \$3,000
7. Landscaping \$15,000

The \$57,000 we are over budget will come out of our Contingency/Emergency account so we will end the year in that account with around \$51,000 in funds. Fortunately, with the signing of a new contract with Comcast this year that figure will go back up over \$100,000. For 2024 the Master budget will increase by 7%. That includes an increase of 9% in operating expense, 4% in cable fees and 4% in internet fees, 15% in reserve contribution. All basically due to high inflation. Contribution to reserve dollars went up by \$13,000 to \$102,000 from \$89,000. Again this is due to inflation. As far as interest on our reserves, we expect to be getting over 5% on CD'S and 4% on money market reserves. In 2023 we spent around \$52,000 out of our reserve account on the following items:

1. Fountain Repairs \$3,600
2. Irrigation Pumps \$14,400
3. Asaf street \$18,600
4. Tennis Court \$15,750

For 2024 the plan is to spend around \$54,000 in the following reserve items:

1. Tennis/Pickle ball court \$14,000
2. Pumps/Fountains \$15,200
3. Resurface pool decks \$7,000

These are only estimates, we will give the final numbers in the next newsletter and at the annual meeting in March. I want you all to know that your Master Board is working very hard to control expenses. It is really tough times right now with the age of our community and the way inflation is hitting us.

Thanks,

Mike Mears

SAPPHIRE LAKES INFORMATION

Front Gate Phone Number

Some residents have had problems letting visitors in through the front entrance and in some cases they have "blocked" the phone number probably thinking that it was a telemarketer calling. To avoid this from happening, we suggest that you add the "Front Gate" phone number into your contacts on your phone: **239-304-1893**

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 Also, please send Suzanne your email address if you are not receiving the periodic email blasts that include community updates.

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: sapphirelakesnaples.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 on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Recycling and Trash

Residents 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 nanfoster48@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.**"

February 2024 Activities

Adventure Walkers: Wednesdays, 8:00am (see newsletter article for details)

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

Biking: Mondays at 8:00 am, Meet outside the front gate

Blue Zone Events: (See newsletter article for details)

Bocce League: Team events as scheduled (see website for details: sapphirlakesnaples.net/activities/bocce-2) or see newsletter for upcoming events

Book Club: Second Monday of the month, at Pool 3 – 1:00 pm:

Bridge: Thursday 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

Hand, Foot and Elbow: Tuesdays at Pool 3 at 5:30 pm

Horseshoes: Open Play on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9:00 am at the Recreation Area

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

Pickleball: See newsletter article for details or go to: www.sapphirlakesnaples.net/activities/pickleball-2

Pinochle: Weekdays at Pool 1 at 1:00 pm

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

Poor Man's Poker: Wednesdays at Pool 3 at 7:00 pm

Rummikub: Fridays at Pool 3 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Tennis: see newsletter article for details or go to: www.sapphirlakesnaples.net/activities/tennis/

Trivial Pursuit:

Yoga: see newsletter article for detail

SWIMMING POOL RULES

NO SMOKING

ON THE POOL DECK OR IN THE CABANA, CAPACITY OF THIS POOL IS
23 PERSONS

Children 12 years of age and younger must be accompanied and supervised by a parent or other responsible person 16 years of age or older.

- Swimming is only permitted between dawn and dusk.
- All persons using any pool must be appropriately attired.
- All persons must shower before entering the pool.
- Pool safety equipment and cables should be kept in place and are not to be used except for their intended purpose.
- No inflatable devices over 2 feet in diameter are allowed. Noodles and swimming aids are allowed.
- No glass or animals in the fenced pool area (5 feet / 15.2 meters from unfenced pool.)
- Running, jumping, skating, bicycling or throwing any kind of item or any other activity that creates a danger or annoyance in the general pool area is prohibited.
- No food or beverage in the pool or on the wet deck. Commercially bottled water in plastic bottles is allowed on pool wet deck for pool patron hydration.
- Incontinent persons and infants not yet potty trained must wear pants specifically designed for use in the water, such as "little swimmers" while in any pool.
- Only radios with headphones may be used at the pool.

NO DIVING

Do not swallow the pool water

Pool MAXIMUM depth: **6 FT**