Twin Lakes “ECHO” HOA Newsletter
Published for the Residents of Twin Lakes of Brandon  October 2008

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Reflections….

By: David Campbell, President

I know it will sound like a cliché, but it is hard to believe that another year has gone by so fast. On October 18, 2007, the Twin Lakes Community met at our Annual Members Meeting to hear about our Community and to elect a new Board of Directors. The Board was Vice Presidents Mark Gaudio and Roy Nyquist, Treasurer Rick Swartwood, and Secretary Karen Huber (a few months back, Karen moved out of the neighborhood and the Board appointed Natalie Denty as the new Secretary for the HOA). I had the privilege of being selected as the President of the Twin Lakes HOA for a second time. At last year’s Meeting, the new Board listened to the Community and we committed ourselves to refocusing on the needs and wishes of the Community. We put into action ideas that were brought forward from the Community in the 2007 Community Survey. While we couldn’t address everything, we did our best to address your wishes and we worked hard for you. So in reflection, I would first like to thank the 2007-2008 Board of Directors for all of their efforts, help, dedication and support in making this past year a great year for Twin Lakes – they have served you and the Community extremely well.

I would also like to express extreme gratitude to all of the volunteers who have helped in the various events over this past year and have served on our Committees. I would like to recognize a few individuals in particular for extraordinary commitment and support that they have provided to the Community this past year. First, for their efforts to restore Lake Stearns and Lake Michaela, I would like to thank Paula Gaudio, Tom Mack, and Mike Albrecht. And for their continued support and service to the Community, I would like to thank Lisa Harmon and Jay Kent. And finally, a special thanks and a true debt of gratitude goes out to Lou Bloom; there is not another individual more committed to making Twin Lakes a great place to live than Lou and we all owe him so much – thanks Lou, you are GREAT!!

By the time you receive this final Newsletter for the 2007-2008 Board, you will have received an Annual Survey from the Community Outreach Committee. I would encourage everyone in Twin Lakes to fill out the Survey and return it; this is a great way to help next year’s Board of Directors know what issues concern you and what direction you want the Community to go in during the upcoming year. Please take the time to fill out the Survey and return it – we will be discussing it at the Annual Meeting.

Speaking of the Annual Meeting, it will be held on October 21, 2008 at 7:00pm at the Campo YMCA Multi-Purpose Room. By the time you get this Newsletter, you will have received your announcement in the mail along with a Proxy Ballot. While it would be nice to see a large turn-out at the Meeting, I also understand commitments that you have on your time, so I would encourage and ask that if you are not going to attend that you complete your Proxy and return it to Communities of America. Without a quorum, we cannot elect a new Board of Directors.

Speaking of the elections, there are three existing Board members who will be seeking re-election; Mark Gaudio, Natalie Denty, and me. We will be electing five (5) Board Members at the October 21st Annual Meeting, which means we need at least two other people to run for Board positions. The Nominating Committee is currently scouring the neighborhoods to find a few good men and women to serve on the 2008-2009 Board of Directors. If you have an interest in serving on the Board, please contact me at President@tlbhoa.org, or you can be nominated from the floor at the Annual Meeting on October 21st.

Again, thanks to all who have served the Twin Lakes Community this past year and I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting (and possibly serving you for another year).

Check out tlbhoa.org for the latest information about Twin Lakes
TOWN HALL MEETING

The Twin Lakes of Brandon Community Outreach Committee held their third in a series of Town Hall Meetings on August 21st at the Campo YMCA. The Meeting was attended by approximately 40 residents of Twin Lakes and by four of the Twin Lakes Board of Directors.

Specific topics for the Meeting were the discussion of a proposal by residents along Lake Stearns to purchase common area land located directly behind their properties and the revamping of some of the rules and guidelines under which Twin Lakes operates. The Lakes Stearns homeowner’s proposal was withdrawn prior to the meeting and is no longer being pursued by the residents.

Members of the Community Outreach Committee discussed several of the ideas for Rules changes. Those ideas are being put into a Community Survey, which will be distributed to the Community for their opinions. The Survey results will be discussed at the Annual Homeowners Meeting in October and will guide the Committee and the Board of Directors as they consider Rule changes in the future.

Have Something to Sell? Post it on www.tlbhoa.org

Just A Reminder – 4th Quarter Assessments are due on October 1st.

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Thank you, Lisa Harmon

Lisa has been an involved and active Community Volunteer for many years. Whenever there was a need for more help to plan and prepare for a Community Event, Lisa was always willing and ready to pitch in. The “Art In The Park Festival” on September 20th ABSOLUTELY WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED if Lisa had not invested her time, energy and intellect to make it happen. She single-handedly rescued the Festival from cancellation. She was untiring in her efforts to make the Festival the great success that it was. It was great fun and, hopefully, will be back next year. Lisa, our Community is grateful that you are one of our neighbors.

PETS GET READY FOR HALLOWEEN!

Many people love the fun of Halloween and want to include their pets, but sometimes aren’t sure exactly how. Isolated and random events that may cast a lasting spell on dogs and cats tend to converge on Halloween. Ringing doorbells, lots of candy, high-pitched yelling or screaming, and clothing that covers a stranger’s eyes or head can all be disconcerting to pets – especially when they’re experienced together on the same night.

With this being said, you can still have a ‘frightfully fun’ night with your pets as long as you practice caution. Yvonne Guibert of Groovy Cats & Dogs in Tampa explains how Halloween can be ‘groovy’ this year!

• **Dress up!** Doggie costumes are great; but most pups don’t actually like wearing the costume. This doesn’t have to be the end to dress up however. Guibert explains how Groovy Cats & Dogs has Halloween themed bandanas, party collars and t-shirts, which might prove to be ultra comfy for your pet!

• **“Get creative!”** says Guibert. “Make your own simple Bandana. Either buy a piece of cloth at the fabric store with a Halloween themed print, or cut up an old sheet, t-shirt or dish towel. Using a permanent marker, add a cute saying like: “Bone Head”, “Will Howl for Treats” or “Trick for a Treat”. Use spooky-looking letters by creating jagged edges or adding drips of blood with red ink. If you want a more polished look, have the saying embroidered. This is a fun project for kids as well.”

• **“Pets love toys and treats!”** says Guibert. “Make sure toys and treats are made especially for pets…again, you don’t want to give your pet anything they may choke on and/or that may be harmful.

• **“Be sure to keep the kids loot bags away from pets.”** Chocolate is toxic to dogs and can cause serious illness or even death. Halloween can be a ‘frightfully fun’ night with your pets as long as you practice caution. Yvonne Guibert of Groovy Cats & Dogs in Tampa explains how Halloween can be ‘groovy’ this year!

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LET THERE BE LIGHT!

The Board of Directors has approved a $14,000 expenditure to have electricity installed in Zeina Park. Many of our residents have been asking for this and the HOA appreciates this action by the Board. Being able to have lights in Zeina Park will allow our residents to use this wonderful Community asset during the evening hours and provide the opportunity for the Communications and Social Activities Committee to sponsor additional events for the enjoyment of our Community.

WANTED: ASSOCIATE EDITORS

The Twin Lakes Newsletter is looking for individuals who would like to become actively involved in the publication of the Newsletter. You will find this to be a very enjoyable and fulfilling experience. To learn more about this opportunity, please e-mail Editor@tlbhoa.org

ADVERTISERS WANTED

If you would like to advertise in the Twin Lakes Newsletter, please contact Editor@tlbhoa.org.

SEEKING CONTRIBUTORS

If you would like to have an article published in our Newsletter, please submit your item to Editor@tlbhoa.org.

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GREAT TIPS!

1. Broken Glass - Use a wet cotton ball or Q-tip to pick up the small pieces.
2. Reopening Envelope - If you seal an envelope and then realize you forgot to include something inside, just your sealed envelope in the garbage can.
3. Get Rid of Ants - Put small piles of cornmeal where you see ants. If the ants eat it, take it "home", can't digest it so kills them. It may take a week or so, especially if it rains, but it works & you don't have to worry about pets or small children be harmed.

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Homes of the Season

Congratulations to the Barlow family of 3143 Beaver Pond Trail and the Currao family of 3155 Beaver Pond Trail for their homes being selected as the Twin Lakes of Brandon “Featured Homes” for October, 2008. In each Edition of our Newsletter, homes that exemplify the care, pride and attention that the residents of Twin Lakes invest in their homes will be featured. The Barlow’s and Currao’s will each receive a Gift Certificate from Outback Steakhouse in honor of their selection. Our “Featured Home” for December will be from the Village of Eagle’s Nest. Please nominate your favorite home by September 8th. Contact www.ACC@tlbhoa.org or call Communities of America at 685-6473. Thank you.

Community Bulletin Board!

Twin Lakes has a Community Bulletin Board webpage on our website. This page is a convenient place where residents of Twin Lakes can post non-commercial listings such as personal items for sale, lost and found items, offers for babysitting or other services and post events like book clubs, card clubs or other events of Community interest. Information and rules for these listings may be found on the Bulletin Board page at www.tlbhoa.org.

Check out our Website: www.tlbhoa.org

DISCLAIMER
The (CSAC), Communications and Social Activities Committee has made every effort to provide accurate, relevant and timely information. However, errors and omissions can occur. By using the information herein, the reader assumes all risks associated with such use. The Homeowner’s Association, (CSAC), Communications and Social Activities Committee or contributing authors shall not be responsible for any special, consequential or other exemplary damages resulting from any reader’s use, interpretation or reliance upon any information contained herein.
ASK THE BOARD If you have a question that you would like to ask the Board, please send it to Editor@tlbhoa.org. We will publish questions (and answers) in each edition of the Newsletter.

Q: Earlier this year, there was a great deal of activity on Lake Michaela....dredging, cutting and pulling of vegetation and the Community Clean-Up Day on May 17th. As I look at Lake Michaela today, it seems little changed from how it looked before all of the work was done. Would you please provide commentary on the current status and future of Lake Michaela?

A: In March of this year, the Board of Directors retained Florida Natives Nursery to commence a “clean-up” of Lake Michaela. Florida Natives sprayed, dredged, and cut the invasive species as permitted by the Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. They then planted a variety of trees, wetland shrubs and aquatic plants (including Sweet Gum, Bald Cypress, Red Maple, American Elm and Dahoon Holly trees as well as Buttonbush, Sandcord Grass, Golden Canna, Pickerlweed and Arrowhead). In April, Florida Natives proposed that Twin Lakes initiate a yearly Maintenance Program for Lake Michaela. On May 17th, a group of hearty residents participated in “Clean-Up Lake Michaela Day” and pulled out trash, debris, and other litter that had been swept into the Lake from the storm drains in the Community. In June, negotiations were underway to establish a competitive pricing structure for the maintenance work with Florida Natives and the HOA Board approved the Maintenance Plan at the July Board Meeting. Florida Natives commenced the yearly Maintenance Program in August. To date, there have been applications of herbicides targeting the invasive and nuisance vegetation, as well as treatments for the controlled reduction of the lilies (spatterdock). It is important to remember that the invasive species are incredibly aggressive and resilient. They will constantly attempt to reassert themselves in Lake Michaela and our task is to stay ahead of their growth. We have contracted with Florida Natives to address Lake Michaela on a monthly basis for a year and you should continue to see progress. This contract will be reviewed annually by the HOA Board.

Some residents have commented about the difference of the appearance of the maintenance of Lake Michaela versus Lake Stearns. We would like to clarify that the Lake Stearns shoreline and wetlands, with the exception of the gazebo area, is currently maintained solely by the efforts and private funds of the Lake Stearns homeowners.

If you would like to help maintain our 2 Lakes in our Community, please contact Mark Gaudio at vicepres2@tlbhoa.org
## TWIN LAKES OF BRANDON HOA ANNUAL MEETING

**OCTOBER 21, 2008**

**CAMPO YMCA ON CULBREATH ROAD**

**7 PM**

- Year In Review
- Committee Reports
- 2008 Community Survey Review
- Presentation on Fence Guideline Modifications
- Election of Board Members for 2008-2009

## ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT IN ZEINA PARK

**DECEMBER 13, 2008**

**7 PM**

- MUSIC OF THE SEASON AND TRADITIONAL FAVORITES

- Featuring
  - The Bloomingdale High School Chamber Orchestra *AND*
  - Ambassadors Chorus

SPEND A PLEASANT EVENING UNDER THE STARS AND LET THE MUSIC AND THE SINGING CARRY YOU INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT
Neighbors:

Over the summer we were introduced to MonaVie, www.monavie.com

MonaVie is a potent fruit juice blend of 19 fruits with its main ingredient...the Acai Berry which was named the #1 anti-aging super food in the world.

People who drink MonaVie have experienced:

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- Lowering of Blood Pressure & Cholesterol
- Reduced Arthritis and Joint Pain
- Reduced Acid Reflux
- ...just to name a few

The Acai Berry has been everywhere lately in the news, magazines, television and it is truly a wonderful discovery and something that can have a profound impact on your life, both physically and financially!

We are in the process of setting up informal tastings at our home in the upcoming fall months, it will be on a weeknight after work more than likely. I realize that all of us are busy, however, this will only require a couple hours of your time.

In addition, there are business opportunities also available. We are looking for dynamic and energetic individuals to become distributors and be part of the fastest growing privately owned company in US history!

We are all about the juice!

I am not a salesperson by any means but I really want to share this with everyone and get as many people on board as possible. Even if you don’t want to do it as a business opportunity, than do it just to drink the juice and live a healthy lifestyle!

When you sign up and become a distributor (one time fee $49), whether to drink or sell or both, you automatically can get the juice monthly for 25% off the monthly price and have it delivered right to your front door. In dollars and cents, it averages out to about $4 a day....skip that Starbucks or going out to lunch and make an investment in yourself!

We would really love to talk to you more about it and hope that this peaks your interest to attend an upcoming tasting. Please contact me via cell phone 484-1843 or email magic19juice@aol.com and let me know if you are interested.

Drink it, Feel it, Share it, Bring a friend!