

# Hidden Lake Homeowners Association of Pinellas, Inc

Newsletter- September 15, 2012



## Letter From The President

The new Board of Directors is listed in this newsletter. I want to express my appreciation for the past BOD for the dedicated work and time that they spent this last fiscal year. We accomplished adding to our Deed Restrictions & By-Laws, writing the guidelines for the enforcing of the restrictions & by-laws, and repairs in the park (including sod and irrigation repairs). During the annual June meeting there was some positive feedback on the new restrictions and by-laws. The new BOD will be looking into all of the suggestions that were presented at the meeting.

There has been some confusion on the violations that were sent out back in July. The BOD was given several properties that were considered to be in violation. We sent out a preliminary letter to those properties with the request as to what the property owner is intending to do to remedy the violation. We received a great response, with most of the properties in the process of correcting the violation or keeping in touch with the BOD as to what their plans are for remedying the violation. Others ignored our letter and after we set up a violation committee, the violations were handed over to the committee for their review and recommendation. If the property was in violation, a first warning was sent out. If no response was given from the first warning, a second notice was sent out. After the second notice, with no response, there will be a fine placed on the violating property. These restrictions and by-laws were approved by this association and are listed on our web site (<http://www.hiddenlakehoa.com>). The violation committee that has volunteered has asked to remain anonymous for fear of any retribution from violators. If you have any questions or concerns please contact anyone of the board members or attend the BOD meeting that is held on the second Thursday of the month at the Palm Harbor High School (details are in this news letter and on the web site).

Yours,  
Mike Manion  
President HLHOA

## New in Hidden Lake

- Halloween & Christmas Decorating Contests
- Annual Picnic- Nov 10
- New Board Members

**Sign up to have the newsletter emailed to you- details below.**

**Have something to share?  
Email Lauren Vonderau your request at  
[lvonderau@ccfninsurance.com](mailto:lvonderau@ccfninsurance.com)**

## Board Meetings

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm- Palm Harbor University Room 103
- September 13
- October 11
- November 8
- No meeting in December
- January 10
- February 14
- March 14
- April 11
- May 9
- June 13 (Annual Meeting in auditorium)

## Maintenance Report

Thanks to the summer rains, the park grass is looking great. It couldn't pass for a golf course, but is ideal for picnics and family outings. Visit the park and enjoy and if you need a shelter, we have gazebos in storage for use by residents.

The Alt 19 field has been landscaped with new sod and this should halt the erosion of the hill that has been occurring. The pump house has been demolished and removed and the sprinkler system controller/timer mounted behind the border hedge along with the power outlet.

Although the maintenance committee works to keep everything in ship shape, we can always use more help to do the little things that beautify as well as enhance the value of our properties. Let a board member know if you have any ideas to improve our community. Thanks.

## Finance Report

Finance - Expended vs. budget as of August 31, 2012.

	Budget	Expended	% spent	Balance
<b>Administrative</b>	8,370	2,988	36%	5,382
<b>Maintenance</b>	24,700	6,660	27%	18,040
<b>Utilities</b>	3,800	619	16%	3,181
<b>Other</b>	680	-	0%	680
<b>Total</b>	37,550	10,267	27%	27,283

Note: Administrative includes insurance budget (\$2,200) which has been fully paid.

## Sign Up To Have The Newsletter Emailed To You

Go online to the Contact Us page at [www.HiddenLakeHOA.com](http://www.HiddenLakeHOA.com) and send us a message using your current email address. Once we confirm you are a member we will add you to our email list that allows you to receive in your email a notification from the BOD that will link to our newsletter when it becomes available. After opening these links you are free to save or print copies for yourself or a neighbor.

## Recipe of the Month:

### Pumpkin Spice Kiss Cookies

1 ½ cups sugar

½ cup butter

1 tsp vanilla

2 eggs

2 ¾ cups flour

1 tsp baking powder

½ tsp salt

2 tsp cinnamon

1 tsp ground nutmeg

½ tsp ground ginger

1 pkg pumpkin spice Hershey  
kisses

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.  
Unwrap Hershey Kisses and set  
aside

In a large mixing bowl, cream  
butter & sugar Add vanilla & eggs  
& beat until light & fluffy.

In separate bowl, whisk together  
flour, baking powder, salt,  
cinnamon, nutmeg, & ginger.  
Gradually add to butter mixture.  
Mix until just combined.

Place rounded tablespoons 1 inch  
apart on parchment lined cookie  
sheet. Bake 8-10 minutes.  
Remove from oven & add Hershey  
Kiss into cookie.

## New Board Members

Mike Manion, president	786-1263
Jerry Kozlowski, vice president	474-6240
Lauren Vonderau, recording secretary	434-2220
Jim Rhyne, corresponding secretary	447-2425
Bob Griffiths, treasurer	789-9309
Lisa Cleveland, director	771-2955
Charles Gauna, director	763-6626

## Quote of the Day:

*“Whether you  
think you can or  
think you can’t,  
you’re right.”  
– Henry Ford*

**Annual Picnic-** Saturday, November 10. Come join us for food, fun and games. Check the website for more details.

**Halloween & Christmas Decorating Contest-** The holidays are quickly approaching. This year we will have contests and prizes for the most festive and creative houses. Prizes will be announced on the website. Residents will be able to vote for their favorite house on the website. Check back for additional details.



**We want your recipes!  
Email Lauren Vonderau if you would like to  
submit a recipe to be included in the  
newsletter.**

## Neighborhood Watch Tips

If you would like to make life even harder for crooks - remember the following tips:

- Exterior doors should have "dead bolt" locks with a 1 inch strong metal bar extending into the frame.
- Sliding doors and windows should all have "ventilation" locks as well as auxiliary locks to bolster security.
- Be sure to include good locks for garage, cellar, patio or other doors that lead out through storage areas or a spare room.

Don't let them knock your block off!

Want to know the best crime prevention tool ever invented? A GOOD NEIGHBOR!

- Law enforcement officers can't be everywhere at once, but you and your neighbors can. You're the ones who really know what's going on in the neighborhood.
- Put that neighborhood know-how to work. It's simple: just use your eyes and ears - then your telephone. If you spot something suspicious, call the police or sheriff immediately.



## Having Trouble Viewing Our Website? You Are Not Alone

It has come to our attention that some web browsers have displayed all of the typed characters in an extremely small sized font; so small in fact it is absolutely un-readable!

Behold, there is a simple fix without grabbing your super-sized magnifiers!

After the web page with the miniature fonts appears on your screen press the Ctrl key and the 0 key (that's the zero key) together and release.

This is a known issue with some web browsers such as Firefox, Internet Explorer, and Google Chrome that strangely affects only some Internet pages and HiddenLakeHOA.com happens to be one of those sometimes affected. This problem does not happen to everyone so details of a long term fix from the web browser developers has been limited with more denial of this issue than a resolution timetable. Accusations have been pointed at incorrect web page code, out of date browser updates, virus protection conflicts, even a computer virus.

If this unusual problem appears on every web site, or, if this simple fix does not resolve this problem perhaps you should consider further investigations with a computer professional.

Just remember this simple fix will be needed for every page viewed where this issue occurs.



## Lawn Care

We all enjoy the look of a nice healthy lawn. Not only do lawns increase the value of our properties, they cool the air, combat glare and noise, and reduce soil erosion. Most importantly, a healthy lawn actively filters and traps sediment and pollutants that could otherwise contaminate surface waters and groundwater.

It is very important that we use Best Management Practices (BMPs) when maintaining our lawns. Failure to follow BMPs can result in pollution of Florida's surface or groundwater resources. To learn more about a healthy, Florida-Friendly lawn, please read these easy-to-follow tips:

## Lawns Get Hungry

All lawns benefit from regular fertilizer applications throughout the growing season. Applying the proper amount of fertilizer for your grass species will help to promote a vigorous, healthy lawn that can outcompete weeds.

In June of 2007, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) passed a rule regulating labeling requirements for urban turf (home lawn) fertilizers intended to reduce potential pollution that might result from applying excess fertilizer. The new labeling requirements make it easier to find lawn fertilizers with both slow-release nitrogen and low or no phosphorus. Slow-release nitrogen may be safer for your lawn and the environment, and it will provide a longer-lasting response from the grass. The low phosphorus will not be harmful for most lawns in Florida because most Florida soils are already high in phosphorus, and turf requirements for this nutrient are generally low. It is important to test your soil to determine phosphorus levels. Check with the Pinellas County Extension Office for information on how to submit soil samples for phosphorus testing.

No matter what kind of grass you have, you should apply only up to 1 lb of nitrogen for every 1000 square feet of lawn each time you apply fertilizer, if that fertilizer has 30 percent or more slow-release content. If the fertilizer has 15–30 percent slow-release content, apply up to .5 lb of nitrogen per 1000 square feet with each application. You should not exceed the application rate of 1 lb of nitrogen per 1000 square feet at any one time.

- Wait until the danger of frost has passed before you apply fertilizer in the spring. The fall fertilizer application should be around mid-October. Do not apply fertilizer if heavy rainfall is forecast in the next 24 hours.
- When applying fertilizer to areas that adjoin a sidewalk or pavement, use a spreader equipped with a deflector shield that will spread the fertilizer in a 180° arc to keep it away from the paved area. Use the same shield when you are fertilizing areas next to water bodies. Leave a 10-ft strip of turf around the water body unfertilized to avoid polluting the water.
- Always sweep up fertilizer spilled on the driveway, sidewalk, or lawn, and put it back in the bag rather than rinsing it away. Spilled fertilizer easily finds its way down storm drains or into the ground and from there into the water supply. Store unused fertilizer where it will stay dry. Do not store it next to pesticides, fuel, or solvents.

## Let the Mowing Begin!

Mowing may seem like the bane of your existence during the summer months, but it is actually one of the most important home-lawn management practices. Follow these suggestions for a healthy, happy lawn:

- Mow at the highest height for your grass species. For St. Augustinegrass and bahiagrass, this is 3.5–4 inches. If you have St. Augustinegrass "dwarf" cultivars 'Delmar' or 'Seville', mow at 2–2.5 inches. Mow centipedegrass at 1–2 inches.
- Never remove more than 1/3 of the leaf blade at any one time. Cutting too much of the leaf blade can stress your lawn and leave it susceptible to insect or disease invasion. If you miss a mowing session, raise the mower height and bring the grass back down to the recommended level gradually over the next few mowing sessions.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn. They do not contribute to thatch, and actually return a small amount of fertility and organic matter back to the lawn.
- Keep your mower blades sharp. Dull mowers tear the leaf blades, make the lawn look bad, and leave it susceptible to insect or disease invasion.
- Do not mow your lawn when it is wet. This is dangerous for you, tough on the mower, and bad for the grass.

## Irrigation or Irritation?

More lawns are damaged by improper irrigation practices than any other single cultural practice. Train your grass to be more drought tolerant using the following methods:

- Irrigate less frequently. Each time you water, water for a slightly longer time. This will help train your roots to grow deeper in the soil, which will in turn make your lawn more drought tolerant. Grasses irrigated in this manner will have a better chance of surviving watering restrictions.
- Turn your automatic sprinkler system to the "off" position, and turn it on when your lawn shows signs of needing irrigation. Adjust your timer seasonally. Irrigation frequency will vary depending on location, the amount of shade in the landscape, soil type, etc. Remember that functional rain shut-off sensors are required by Florida law on all irrigation systems installed since 1991.
- Irrigation is needed when the leaf blades show at least one of the three wilt signs: when leaf blades start to fold in half lengthwise, when the grass takes on a bluish cast, or when footprints remain visible in the lawn long after being made. Irrigate when about 50 percent of the lawn shows one of these signs, unless rain is forecast in the next 24 hrs.
- In most parts of Florida, irrigate to apply 1/2– 3/4 inch of water.
- To determine how long you need to run your irrigation system to apply 1/2– 3/4 inch of water to the whole lawn, place straight-sided cans around the perimeter of each irrigation zone. Turn on the irrigation system and monitor the cans to see how long it takes to fill them to 1/2– 3/4 inch. Time irrigation intervals for the zones accordingly.
- For an area with very sandy soil, you may need to apply the higher amount of water. Heavier clay soils may only need the 1/2-inch rate.
- If these amounts result in runoff, reduce the amount of water you apply. In some soils it may be necessary to apply half of the amount needed, let it percolate through the soil, and then apply the remaining water a short time later.
- Irrigate every 2–3 weeks during the winter months, even if your grass is dormant. The roots are still viable, and irrigating through the winter will help the grass green up more quickly in the spring.
- Irrigate around sunrise or in the early morning hours. The leaf blades must dry out fully during the day to ward off disease.

## Weed Woes

A healthy lawn that is properly fertilized, mowed, and irrigated will typically outcompete most weeds. However, some degree of weed control is often required to supplement even the best cultural practices. Whenever you apply chemicals, remember that the label is the law and that the directions must be followed!

- Some weeds can be chemically controlled after they have emerged. Others, particularly grassy weeds, are better controlled preemergence. To control the weeds in your lawn before they emerge, you need to know where they are and what they are. You then need to select the right product and to apply it at the right time.
- For preemergence crabgrass control, look for products containing pendimethalin (available under multiple brand names). Apply this at label rates around mid-February in central Florida. Note that there are no chemicals currently available for postemergence control of grassy weeds in St. Augustinegrass.
- For St. Augustinegrass lawns, atrazine is a commonly used herbicide for control of many broadleaf weeds. Be careful not to apply atrazine when temperatures are high (greater than 85°) because it may injure the grass.

The best defense against weeds or other lawn problems is to grow a happy, healthy, Florida-Friendly lawn by following the fertilization, mowing, and irrigation tips described above.

- This information was taken from the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences handout [Homeowner Best Management Practices for the Home Lawn](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/EP/EP23600.pdf) and edited for space. The full document is available online at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/EP/EP23600.pdf>
- The Pinellas County Extension Office Lawn and Garden Helpline Horticulture Helpline (582-2110) is available Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 9am to 12pm and from 1pm - 4pm, or visit their web site at <http://pinellas.ifas.ufl.edu/>.
- For current water service and watering restrictions call the Pinellas County Utility Customer Service at (727) 464-4000, or visit their web site at <http://www.pinellascounty.org/>.