



These tips can help make turkey terrific

Sweet potatoes may be stars; cornbread dressing a contender. Dinner rolls are divine and green bean casserole a go-to. But Thanksgiving dinner isn't complete without turkey.

Even in households that don't eat meat, plant-based turkey alternatives find their way onto the dinner table in a nod to Thanksgiving tradition. Given the emphasis placed on the main course each Thanksgiving, cooking a turkey can be intimidating. These turkey-cooking tips can calm anyone's nerves and result in a mouth-watering main course.

- Allow ample time for thawing. Some people may not be able to buy a fresh turkey, and millions of individuals purchase frozen turkeys each year. The Food Network says it can take 24 hours per every five pounds to thaw a turkey. Therefore, if you have a 15-pounder, allow for three days for thawing. Always thaw a turkey in a refrigerator.

- Get the right size bird. The general rule of thumb is 1 pound (uncooked) to 1 1/2 pounds of turkey per person if you're buying a whole turkey. Rather than purchasing the largest turkey you can find for a large crowd, consider two smaller turkeys or one turkey and one breast to make cooking more even. Smaller birds are more tender as well.

- Adjust the temperature. The food and cooking resource TheKitchn advises preheating an oven to 450 F, then dropping the temperature to 350 F after putting the turkey into the oven. Cook, on average,

13 minutes per each pound of turkey. The turkey is done when it registers a minimum temperature of 165 F in the thickest part of the thigh.

- To brine or not to brine? Many food fanatics swear by brining turkey to achieve more moist and flavorful meat. However, a wet brine may not lead to the crispiest skin possible. Good Housekeeping suggests trying a dry brine instead. This involves rubbing salt all over the raw turkey, placing the bird into a large plastic bag, and refrigerating overnight or up to two days before cooking; otherwise, purchase a kosher turkey, which already has been salted from the inside out.

- Avoid stuffing the bird. Rather than stuffing the turkey and cooking everything en masse, prepare the stuffing mixture separate from the turkey. This reduces the risk of contamination from the turkey's raw juices and helps to achieve a crispy coating on the stuffing guests will enjoy.

- Make an aromatic roasting rack. Turkeys typically are placed on a metal rack for cooking so the juices do not cause the turkey to stick to the pan. However, you also can cut onions and lay them with a bed of whole celery stalks and carrots to elevate the roast. This creates extra flavor in the bird and the vegetables also can be served or mixed into the stuffing.

Some turkey-roasting techniques can ensure a moist and flavorful main course this Thanksgiving.





to the neighborhood

Tanya Bonheur
3088 Country Club Blvd

Dylan & Victoria (Tori) Dillard
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Roylene Raulerson
563 Oakmont Drive

Jenru & Karina Castillo
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2322 Glenfinnan Drive

Jacob Woliver & Destiny Hartin
2349 Glenfinnan Drive

John "Doug" & Shannon David
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OPCC Board of Directors Meeting

October 17, 2023 / By Bob McKinney

It appears the weather changes have brought an end to cabana meetings until next year. We had a good turnout this month with questions from those in attendance. Attending our monthly meetings remains the best way to see and hear what is happening in our community.

Our finances remain within the budget. The 2024 budget will be available within the next few weeks and will be presented at the November meeting. There will be an open meeting prior to the official approval for our residents to ask questions and make suggestions. A large portion of our budget is determined by the big expense items (gate/security, landscape maintenance, shared expenses, and management costs). While we welcome suggestions, there is little wiggle room in our budget. I recommend that you look at the 2023 budget that is available on our website to get a true picture of what is required.

Tied to our budget is the recently completed Reserve Study that provides guidance about what we should plan/budget in the future. This study is available on our website. The numbers are truly daunting, but something we must factor into our plans to prepare for costs that will be coming. As our community ages, costs that have not been a big concern in the past, will certainly arise. Loch Rane's costs over the past couple of years should be a wakeup call for us.

The ARC approved one request for tree(s) removal, one roof, and one room extension.

By the time this issue arrives, our planned road-work will be completed. My thanks to our Roads Committee for tackling the hard work in determining what sections of our roads need work most while staying within our budget.

More effort is going into the golf course property as The Grove Team pursues what the final plan will be. They expect to begin work on the Club House in early 2024 as they continue to pursue the possibility of bringing back all/some of the golf course.

The state law restricting minors from driving golf carts went into effect October 1. Drivers under 18 must be at least 15 with a learner's permit or 16 with a driver's license.

Candidates for the two open seats on the Board of Directors must submit their candidate applications by 5 p.m. on November 9. The applications can be placed in the mail slot at the Community Building.

The next monthly meeting will be held at the Community Building at 6 p.m. on November 21.

Submit Your Stories

Help contribute to your community newsletter!

This newsletter is produced for Loch Rane and Orange Park Country Club. If you'd like to offer content for publication, here's how to get started:

Stories/Photography: Send your articles and/or high-resolution JPEGs to Randy Rutan at randy@randyrutan.com. Articles should be sent as Microsoft Word attachments that are saved

as ".doc" files. Photos should also be sent as attachments not embedded in an email.

The December 2023 Deadline for content: Sunday, November 19, 2023.

About this Newsletter
Publishing/Advertising:
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Publication Policy

The function of the community newsletter, "Behind the Gate" is to serve the entire gated community of Loch Rane and Orange Park Country Club and is a product of Clay Today.

Priority will be given to reporting news and activities of the community and other news and events that directly affect the residents. Second priority will be given to articles of general interest as space permits. Articles and photos must be sent to Randy Rutan at randy@randyrutan.com by the deadline date below. Due to space limitation, all articles are subject to editing.

Letters of opinion must be signed, as well as brief and in good taste. Views expressed are those of the writer and do not express the viewpoint of the publisher, OPCCOA or LRIA.

Acceptance of advertising does not constitute an endorsement or approval of any product or services by the publisher, OPCCOA or LRIA. The publisher reserves the right to refuse advertising that does not meet the standards of the publication.

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Loch Rane Board of Directors Meeting

By Brian Rogers

The October 2023 meeting of the Loch Rane Board of Directors was held on 10/26 in the Community Building and sparsely attended by residents.

Roving Patrol Discussion:

Chuck Bryner has been researching the roving patrol activity for the past few months and has unfortunately discovered some significant deficiencies compared to what we expect per the contract with Giddens security. The current contract dictates the roving patrol is on duty 8 hours a night from 6pm to 2am and is tasked with driving the patrol car through every street in the neighborhood (both OPCC and LR). According to the GPS tracking on the vehicle (provided by Giddens), they were able to identify a significant shortcoming in the distance traveled each evening compared to reasonable expectations for patrolling the community in nightly 8-hour shift.

Giddens themselves agreed that the distance traveled by the patrol car each evening was not in line with our expectations for an 8 hour shift and provided the options to either correct the problem to improve the performance of the roving patrol so that it provided the community with the expected level of "roving" for the full 8 hour shift in line with the cost of the roving patrol officers salary and Giddens provided vehicle/gas. (in 2023 this cost was approximately \$75,000 dollars give or take).

Another option offered was to reduce the hours of the roving patrol and thus reducing the cost of the gatehouse security contract by a significant margin each year not only saving both communities a hefty amount of money and putting things more in line with what was recorded during the sample GPS data provided by Giddens.

A final option would be to eliminate the roving patrol entirely thus saving the association approximately 75 to 80 thousand dollars a year for this line item alone which is a fairly significant number. Though this would result in the only security staff day or night being those physically in the gatehouse itself.

Side note: We have reached out to CCSO to explore the option of employing off duty uniformed officers in patrol cars on a nightly basis to provide a much more effective and visible deterrent as well as providing a legitimate law enforcement presence within the community during overnight hours. The downside to this, however, is that the hourly cost of an off duty CCSO deputy is roughly 2 times that of the roving patrol thru Giddens and as such if this option

were pursued, budget limitations would likely result in only a few hours each night that a CCSO deputy would actively patrol the neighborhood streets.

The LR BOD is working together with the OPCC BOD to discuss these findings and explore these options further in the hopes of making a decision before the gatehouse security contract is renewed next year! Residents' opinions are instrumental in helping us decide which option would be the best for both communities so if you have an opinion on the matter, please reach out and let us know!

Gatehouse Lighting:

We would like to thank <https://getlitjax.com> for their work in replacing the lighting at the gatehouse, it looks terrific! This company is owned by a Loch Rane homeowner, and they performed this job at a deeply discounted rate! Feel free to reach out thru their website if you have the need for holiday lighting yourself or just to say thanks! It is fantastic when residents and or their businesses are able to improve the community itself!

Road Paving:

Kudzue Paving has put us on the schedule for December 7th and 8th to perform the repaving of Glenlyon and Cameron Drive. Their original quote from earlier in the year only fluctuated by a few hundred dollars and thankfully they were able to find a week before the end of the year to complete the project. Homeowners on these streets please mark your calendar and ensure that no vehicles are parked on the street at all during these two days. The final cost for this contract is \$163,500 (part of the 2023 special assessment funds)

2024 BOD Election:

The seats of 3 BOD members are up for election in 2024 and one other BOD member has informed us they will not be able to complete their 2-year term after this year is up. We urge anyone who wishes to volunteer to serve on the BOD to submit their bio to lochrane@thecamteam.com BEFORE the November meeting next month to ensure they are included on the ballot. Instructions on how/where to submit your bio are posted on the lochraneonline.com website, were included in an eblast last week, and will also be published in the Behind the Gate newsletter for November. I assure you that it is a unique experience that will provide you with a much more enlightened view on what it takes to manage our neighborhood!

2023 Loch Rane Board of Directors

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John Burke, Member at Large
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2023 Steering Committee

Kathy Marko, Chairman

Gary McMahonill, Member

Chuck Bryner, Member

Randy Rutan, Member

Daniel Butler, Member

The Steering Committee meets on the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the community building. The purpose of the committee is to oversee issues of joint interest in the common areas of Loch Rane and OPCC. Homeowners of both communities are invited to attend.



FUN TIMES AT THE OPCC CABANA

OPCC – GAME ON!!

At the October's OPCCOA Board Meeting resident, Larry Ward, made a very professional and convincing presentation regarding the installation of a cabinet and a 75" TV screen at the cabana so that people could gather to watch football games or have movie nights. Larry had done such a thorough job that a Maintenance Committee had been set up and residents had already made donations so that there would be no cost to the Association for the purchase and installation of the cabinet and TV. The Board unanimously approved. Kudos to Corey Scott and Jerry Deans who were instrumental in installing the equipment and getting the word out for donations. The first Game Day took place on Saturday, October 28 in honor of the Florida/Georgia game. It was so much fun to get together with neighbors to watch the game. Folks brought food and drinks to share. The grills were lit up and we enjoyed hotdogs and hamburgers while watching the game. Tom Mackin even brought a popcorn machine. The next Game Day was on Sunday, October 29 when the Jaguars played. We will keep you posted on future events and hope you will join us.



HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY

On Sunday, October 29 we hosted a Halloween Costume Party at the cabana. Families were invited to dress up and show off. They came in wonderful costumes and brought food and drinks to share. Tom Mackin brought his popcorn machine and we had candy, of course! Kevin Schad and family provided music which prompted many of the kids to dance. Tommy Schad led the participants in a parade around the cabana. There were games as well. It was a lot of fun! Thanks to everyone who participated.





JOIN THE FUN GET FIT AND STAY FIT EXERCISE CLASS FOR WINTER MONTHS

Join us at the Cabana for an exercise class with Robin. She will lead the group in exercises using light weights and stretching for strength and balance. The class will begin on Tuesday, November 7 at 9 a.m. Classes will be every Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. and will continue through March 2024. No sign-up is required...just show up.



How to participate in GivingTuesday

The period between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day is widely referred to as the holiday season. Holidays such as Chanukah, Christmas and Kwanzaa all take place in this typically six-week window. During this period, there's another, possibly lesser known, event that can elicit many of the same warm feelings generated by more recognizable holidays.

GivingTuesday is held on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving every year. Though that typically means the day is celebrated after the calendar turns to December, this year GivingTuesday takes place on Tuesday, November 30.

What is GivingTuesday?

GivingTuesday organizers describe the event as a "movement that

unleashes the power of radical generosity around the world." GivingTuesday is often characterized as hashtag activism, which involves social media users employing Twitter hashtags to show support for a cause. Twitter hashtags do not utilize spaces between words, so GivingTuesday references adhere to this practice.

How can people participate in GivingTuesday?

The organizers behind GivingTuesday note that the day is about all types of giving. Individuals who want to participate can donate money, food and/or clothing; start an advocacy campaign; help a neighbor; or commit an act of generosity. Participants need not make their GivingTuesday efforts part of any official event associated with the day, but those who want to can visit VolunteerMatch.org

to look for volunteering opportunities in and around their communities. Employers and even local governments also may sponsor or host events on GivingTuesday. Twitter users also can use the hashtag #GivingTuesday to promote causes and/or encourage donations throughout the day. Some organizations may match users' donations up to a predetermined dollar amount, and users can enter #GivingTuesday into the Twitter search engine to discover such efforts. Parents can even help children find ways to participate by visiting GivingTuesdaySpark.org.

GivingTuesday is a global effort that emphasizes the power of generosity. Individuals can learn more at GivingTuesday.org.



CALL FOR CANDIDATES FOR 2024 LOCH RANE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the end of 2023, the terms of office for three members of the Loch Rane Improvement Association (LRIA) Board of Directors (BOD) will end. Volunteers are being sought to fill these positions. Do you have a desire to serve our community in a positive way? Are you a community minded team player? Please consider running for the Board.

Qualifications for BOD members include: possess a desire to positively serve the community; have the ability to serve a two-year term and attend monthly meetings; be a homeowner "in good standing" (not delinquent in paying Association dues or assessments); be familiar with and regularly utilize email communications; and be a community-minded team player willing to take on and complete the many responsibilities and projects that fall under the purview of the BOD. In addition, Florida Statutes require that Board members read and become familiar with the governing documents for the community. Aspiring members can find these documents on our website at www.lochraneonline.com. After logging in, select the Neighborhood tab at the top and go to LRIA Governing Documents.

The Annual Meeting will tentatively be held on Tuesday January 16, 2024 at 7p.m. at the Advent Lutheran Church located just outside the gate.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any BOD member or the Community Association Manager, Gina Cabral of The CAM Team at (904) 278-2338.

Could your time, talents and professionalism positively affect the place we all call home? If so, our community needs you to volunteer as a member of the LRIA Board of Directors. If you are interested in running for a vacant position, submit an application following the guidelines below.

LRIA 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATE APPLICATION

Application deadline is the November BOD meeting @ 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday November 28, 2023. Applications received after the deadline will not be included on official ballots. Candidates' completed applications will be posted on the LRIA website, the Loch Rane Board of Directors Facebook page and appear in the December edition of Behind the Gate. Please mail the completed application to Loch Rane c/o The CAM Team, Inc. 2233 Park Avenue, Suite 103 Orange Park, FL 32073 or email to the Community Association Manager, Gina Cabral, at lochrane@thecamteam.com. The application must include the following information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

STATEMENT: (Note: your address, phone number and email address will not be posted or included on the ballot). The Statement should be no more than 500 words and include your name, state your qualifications and why you wish to serve on the Board. Since the statement will be scanned and posted online and placed in the December issue of Behind the Gate, it is recommended that candidates type the information.



MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS: Dimitri and Inna
2605 Country Club Boulevard
By Virginia Butler



We all watched with interest as a new home slowly took shape at the corner of Country Club Boulevard and Austin Rose Lane. But how many of us realize that the owners, builders, subcontractors and now happy residents are one and the same.

Inna and Dimitri Evgrafova moved to the Jacksonville area in 2003. Before that they lived in a small town in Iowa where they settled after coming to the US from their native Kazakstan in 1998. They have two children, Alexander (20) and Diana (17).

The Evgrafovas have been involved in the painting industry for many years, having opened their business, DIDA of North Florida, in 2006. Though they have many home finishing skills as evidenced by the beautiful work, both exterior and interior, that they did on their own home, they are only licensed for painting of all kinds as well as pressure washing.

When asked what they liked about living in Orange Park Country Club, Inna immediately replied “security”. She also cited being in a friendly and beautiful neighborhood.

If you have any painting projects in mind, do not hesitate to call DIDA of North Florida. (904 610 3210 or innaevgrafova@yahoo.com) I can attest from work that they have done in our home that they are professional, meticulous, efficient and timely.

OPCC REMINDERS AND UPDATES

- SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**
The Board will meet on 11/02 at 6 p.m. at the Community Building to discuss some issues regarding roving patrol.
- ROAD REPAIRS**
Due to mechanical issues with equipment, the seal coating and striping of the mailbox parking lot could not be completed on 10/29 as scheduled. The work is rescheduled for Sunday, 11/5 for completion. Striping of Country Club Blvd will also be completed on that date.
- CANDIDATES FOR OPCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
Candidate application forms must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Thursday 11/9. They can be placed in the mail slot at the Community Building.
- 2024 BUDGET**
The 2024 Budget will be submitted for approval at the 11/21 Board meeting.



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