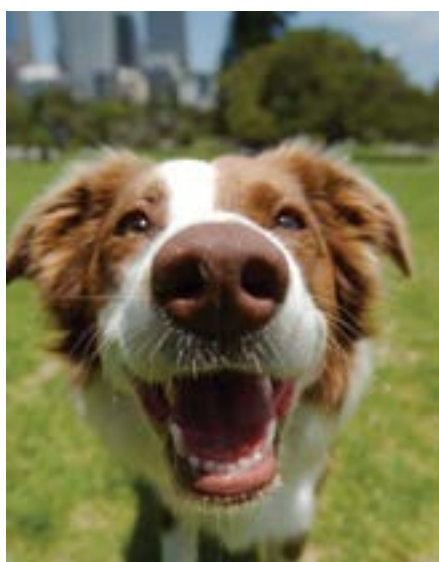


ORANGE PARK COUNTRY CLUB/LOCH RANE

Behind the Gate

JULY 2024 HAPPY 4TH OF JULY VOLUME 5 • ISSUE 7

Protect pets in hot weather



Warm weather brings many changes. Warm weather can make travel more enjoyable and affords people more time to comfortably enjoy the great outdoors.

It's best to keep safety in mind when soaking up the sun. That's important for all members of the family, including pets. Cats and dogs are as susceptible to

heat-related illnesses as their human companions.

Recognize heat stroke

Pets can suffer from heat stroke, according to the American Red Cross. Certain breeds of dogs are highly susceptible, particularly those with short snouts, such as pugs and bulldogs. Excessive exercise in hot weather, lack of appropriate shelter outdoors and leaving a dog in a hot car may precipitate an episode of heat stroke. It's important to get the pet out of direct heat right away and check for signs of shock, which include seizures, a body temperature of 104 F or higher, stupor, increased heart rate, or excessive panting. Placing water-soaked towels on the pet's feet, head, neck, and abdomen can bring down its temperature.

Be cautious of hot surfaces

Humans wear shoes on their feet for protection, but pets do not have that luxury. Think about how hot your feet can feel when

you scurry barefoot across hot sand en route to the shoreline or to cross a deck to get to the pool. When the sun beats down on surfaces, those surface temperatures rise quickly. According to a 2010 study by Liberty Home and Pet Services, at peak afternoon sun and an ambient temperature of 95 F in southern Florida, the temperature of cement was measured at 125 F, red brick at 135 F, blacktop at 140 F, and grass at 102 F. Individuals who think a car is safer for their dog or cat may be surprised the informal study measured 152 F on seat surfaces.

Provide extra water

It's likely you will need to fill your pets' water bowls more frequently in warm weather than during other times of the year. Be sure to provide constant access to fresh water, even for young puppies who may be learning to house train.

Avoid cutting fur too short

If a veterinarian suggests a hair cut may be beneficial for keeping a pet cool or comfortable, resist the urge to shave down to the skin. Having at least one inch of fur will protect the pet from sunburn.

Outdoor hazards

Warm weather may bring out a high number of insects and wildlife. Use a flea and tick preventative product and medication to protect against heartworm, which is transmitted through mosquitoes. Snakes, skunks, raccoons, foxes, and other animals may be roaming around, and a scuffle with your pet can result in injury.

Pets need extra care during the warm weather to avoid damage and sickness from the sun, heat and more.



OPCCOA/LRIA Steering Committee Report

June 20, 2024/ by Randy Rutan

There was a quorum of committee members present at the June meeting. The April meeting minutes and financials were approved. It was noted that in the Giddens invoice there was a \$45 monthly fee for a cell phone. This charge has been included each month since January, but there is no cell phone at the Gate. Giddens will be asked give us a credit in the June invoice for \$225.00. It was also noted that there was no information about the expenses and income generated by the garage sale. The May Gatehouse Summary was accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Joint Landscape Committee

Randy Rutan reported that the committee is getting a quote to repair the backflow valve at the pump on Loch Rane Blvd. In the meantime, the irrigation along Loch Rane Blvd. is being run manually.

Roads Committee – No Report

The committee requested an update on maintenance/repairs of the brick walls at the 4-way.

OLD BUSINESS

Issues with CCSO Billing

A notebook has been made for the officers and some progress has been made on submittals of CCS officers' invoices. Gary McMahill noted that CCSO covered 13 nights in May.

Upgrade Gate Key to Gate Sentry

Following a ZOOM meeting with Gate Sentry attended by Giddens and both Boards and information provided by Gate Key, it became clear that Gate Key provides all of the services that we need to deal with additional traffic brought in by The Grove. The links provided to us by Gate Key will be sent to Giddens so that they can get operator manuals and utilize the training videos available on Gate Key's website.

NEW BUSINESS

Air Engineers

Air Engineers completed the semi-annual inspection of the A/C equipment on 6/11/24 and everything was found to be in satisfactory condition.

Repairs and Maintenance needed at the Gatehouse

Kathy Marko provided each member a copy of a list of repairs and other needs for the gate some of which have already been taken care of. After review the committee approved making the repairs.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

It was suggested that Giddens and both Boards be invited to attend the September 19, 2024 Steering Committee meeting in an effort to improve communication. The 2025 Budget will be discussed at that meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2024 at 6 pm.

THE HISTORY BEHIND THE 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS



The Fourth of July—also known as Independence Day or July 4th—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. On July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues. The Fourth of July 2024 is on Thursday, July 4.

The tradition of setting off fireworks on the 4th of July began in Philadelphia on July 4, 1777, one year after the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. During this first organized celebration of Independence Day, a ship's cannon fired a 13-gun salute in honor of the 13 colonies. The *Pennsylvania Evening Post* reported: "at night there was a grand exhibition of fireworks (which began and concluded with thirteen rockets) on the Commons, and the city was beautifully illuminated." That same night, the Sons of Liberty set off fireworks over Boston Common.

Although the tradition of fireworks on the 4th of July has been going on for 247 years as of 2024, it is still one of the most enjoyable sights and sounds for all patriotic Americans. May you have a great 4th of July.

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 August 2024 Deadline for content: Sunday, July 21st, 2024.

About this Newsletter
Publishing/Advertising:
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904-264-3200 Office Phone
386-316-4936 Cell Phone



OPCC Board of Directors Meeting

June 18, 2024 / By Bob McKinney

The attendance was a bit lower than usual for this meeting, but business went on as required.

Our finances remain strong although we have some rather large and unexpected expenses coming. There are two locations that have drainage line issues that must be addressed.

The Board authorized the scoping of those pipes to determine the next steps. Stay tuned for updates.

The ARC approved three tree removals and one patio enclosure. Several requests were put on hold to acquire additional information.

The Board approved five tree removals on HOA property due to safety of property concerns.

We are beginning the process of working with our Gate Key system to upgrade and take advantage of features that have not been used. We will soon be advertising the new capabilities and providing training for those interested. It is important for those not signed up for our eBlasts and not using Gate Key that you do so. Attempting to call the gate for visitors/service workers will

result in delays since the gate staff must give priority to moving people through the gate and answering the phone will take a backseat to those requirements. Gate Key is simple to use and anyone that regularly uses that system can tell you how great it is.

The Grove has indicated they will be providing an update of their work that is underway and what the future will hold at next month's meeting. The Hub Pickleball expects the fitness center to be up and running by mid-August. The pickleball courts should be open by the end of the year.

The Board will be reviewing the updated Covenants prior to the July meeting, and we hope to have open meetings on that issue in July/August and September. We plan a community vote this year.

The next monthly meeting will be held on July 16, 2024 at the Community Center.

2024 OPCC Board of Directors

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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.

The publisher of "Behind the Gate" agrees to indemnify and hold harmless OPCCOA and LRIA for any claims asserted against or financial liabilities incurred by them arising from commercial content of this publication or anything contained in any advertising copy, including without limitation any claims of whatever nature asserted by advertisers or potential advertisers.

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Loch Rane Board of Directors Meeting

By Brian Rogers

The July 22 meeting of the Loch Rane BOD was held on J25, 2024 and we were happy to see an increase in attendance both in person and online, thank you for all who came!

Budget/Financials:

As we reach the midpoint of the year, we have not had any surprises in the budget, though we have not yet begun any of the expected infrastructure repair (drains/roads/ponds) projects slated for this year so we anticipate significant upcoming expenditures.

The CAM Team has reported that more than 200 homeowners have not yet paid any of the 2024 special assessment. Please reach out to the CAM Team to make arrangements for payment to avoid late fees and collections enforcement. 100% of this money goes to the repair of our roads and drains!

Gatehouse Update:

We have implemented a new feature within Gate Key that will now allow your guests to be sent a gate pass when you add them to your list using the Gate Key software! This is a fantastic way to improve the check in process at the gate for both your visitors and the gate staff! If you input your guests email address when you create their new entry for an upcoming visit or event, a guest pass will be instantly sent to them and this pass can be opened right on their phone/mobile device or printed out and provided to the gate staff to scan as they enter in the visitors lane! The pass will already have the visitors name and information and is automatically entered into the system and you are alerted when that pass is scanned by the guard! We hope residents take advantage of this new feature!

If you are not currently using Gate Key there is a link on the lochraneonline.com homepage with instructions on how to access it through your home computer or even better as an app on your phone! If you have any questions or issues please reach out to the BOD or the CAM Team and we will be happy to help you! It really is a much better process than calling the gate as that phone rings all day every day!

Off Duty CCSO traffic patrol:

We have corrected the issue related to the off-duty officer who does traffic patrol within Loch Rane and on the Blvd and this service has

continued. One recent shift reported 5 issued speeding tickets as well as one for running a stop sign showing that we continue to have a systemic problem with inattentive and impatient drivers. We hope these patrols and citations have an impact on reducing both!

Community Pressure Washing:

Neeld Pressure washing (owned by a LR resident) completed the BOD approved pressure washing project of the mailboxes and mailbox areas as well as all the street signs (including on the Blvd). The difference is impressive!

Tennis/Pickleball Courts:

We continue to work with our landscape company to address the issues of dead grass and weeds as well as the irrigation system at the tennis courts. We are also researching bids/costs on replacing the wind screens as the previously donated ones have clearly reached their end of life! Lastly the BOD approved project to soft wash the tennis courts was also completed this month! We hope everyone who uses the courts enjoys the clean new look!

Joint OPCC/LRIA board member meetings

Recently it was agreed upon by both boards to schedule an in-person meeting of all Board members twice a year to discuss any common issues or subjects that involve all of us living behind the gate! We hope these meetings will prove beneficial to both communities moving forward!

4th of July Flags!

We plan to line the BLVD with flags for the 4th of July again this year and volunteers make this process so much quicker! These annual events always generate the most positive feedback from residents and guests who drive through the neighborhood and see all the flags! We plan to put the flags out late Tuesday afternoon @ 6:30 pm to try to beat the heat as much as possible and plan to leave them up all weekend! Please join us at the Community Center if you wish to help out!

The next BOD meeting will be held on July 23rd @ 6:30 pm at the Community Center. All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

2024 Loch Rane Board of Directors

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Kathryn Marko, Member at Large
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Sonya Kirk, Member at Large
addedrevenue12@gmail.com

Charles Honaker, Member at Large
wade247@yahoo.com

2024 Steering Committee

Daniel Butler, Chairman

Randy Rutan, Secretary

Jerry Deans, Member

Kathy Marko, Member

Gary McMahill, 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.



Travel North in the Warm Days of Summer

Do you like to travel to exotic places and interesting landmarks? How about a trip North to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park? Here you will find a diverse landscape that is wild and historic. It can be a little busy in the Summer months, but well worth the trip.

If you are a camper, there are plenty of campgrounds around and within the National Park. There are major roads that allow you to drive through the park. The third tallest mountain east of the Mississippi River is Clingmans Dome. A great spot to check out. Try to time your visit to avoid the heaviest crowds.

Cades Cove is a particularly interesting part of the park. It includes several old homesteads that once housed families that lived on the land. Eventually the properties became part of the Park. There are also several old churches with their cemeteries. All are well

worth a look into the past. From May through September, Cades Cove circle road is closed on Wednesdays to vehicular traffic so pedestrians and bicyclists can enjoy the narrow roadways without cars and traffic.

Nearby Great Smoky Mountains National Park are several interesting towns, like Cherokee, NC;

Maggie Valley, NC; Gatlinburg, TN; Sevierville, TN, and Pigeon Forge, TN.

There is no entrance fee to enter Great Smoky Mountains National Park. However, there is a Parking Tag fee. For all information about this Park and what to do, fees, etc., please check out their website: <https://www.nps.gov/grsm/index.htm>

Within Several Weeks, 7 of Our Country Club Houses are Under Contract to Sell!

Kenneth Hahn P.A. REALTOR®

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Your "Behind the Gate" Loch Rane and Orange Park Country Club Resident and Realtor



THINGS TO DO IN CLAY COUNTY THIS MONTH

www.exploreclay.com

- Jul 1** Moccasin Slough Nature Walk, 4393 Raggedy Point Rd, Fleming Island, 9:00 am. <https://exploreclay.com/attraction/moccasin-slough-county-park/>
- Jul 4** American Pride Fourth of July, Moosehaven, 1701 Park Avenue, Orange Park, Time: 5:00 – 9:30 pm., fireworks start at 9:30 pm.
- Jul 4** City of Keystone Heights 4th of July celebration at Keystone Heights Pavilion at Lake Geneva, 565 S. Lawrence Blvd. 8:00 am – 9:30 pm, fireworks start at 9:30 pm. <https://www.facebook.com/events/469091238846031/?ref=newsfeed>
- Jul 5** Food Truck Friday in Green Cove Springs, Spring Park, 200 Spring St, Green Cove Springs, Time: 5:00 – 9:00 pm.
- Jul 5** Love Monkey in Concert (Summer Concert Series), Talons at Eagle Harbor, 2217 Eagle Harbor Pkwy, Fleming Island; Time: 7:00 – 10:00 pm. <https://www.facebook.com/EagleHarborGC/>
- Jul 6** Fleming Island Saturday Market, 1st Saturday, Village Square Shopping Center, 2245 Plantation Center Dr., Fleming Island; time: 9:30 am – 2:00 pm.
- Jul 6** Live Music at Stone's Irish Pub, 323 NE Commercial Circle, Keystone Heights; Saturdays, Jul 27 Time: 7:00 – 10:00 pm.
- Jul 11** Fun in the Sun Children's Event, Vera Francis Hall Park, 1503 Martin Luther King, Jr., BLVD, Green Cove Springs; Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.; [Family Friendly](#), [Just for Kids](#)
- Jul 13** "The Spongebob Musical" at the Spotlight Center, 1809 East-West Pkwy, Fleming Island;
- Aug 3** Times vary. <https://www.spotlighteventscenter.com/spotlight-events-center-events/live-performances>
- Jul 12** Hibiscus Painting Class, The Art Room, 408 Walnut St, Green Cove Springs; 6:00 pm <https://www.welcometoheartroom.com/eventworkshop/acrylic-painting>
- Jul 14** Clarke House Tours, 1039 Kingsley Ave, Orange Park, Time: 2:00 – 4:00 pm. [Historical Society of Orange Park \(ophistory.org\)](http://HistoricalSocietyofOrangePark.org)
- Jul 16** - Greater Jacksonville Junior Championship, (Golf), Eagle Harbor Golf Club, 2217 Eagle Harbor Pkwy, Fleming Island, Times: 8:00 am – 8:00 pm each day. <https://www.bluegolf.com/junior/events/nfjgf2424/index.htm>
- Jul 19** Sarah Sawyer & James Berry in Concert, Talons Restaurant Summer Concert Series, 2217 Eagle Harbor Pkwy, Fleming Island; Time: 7:00 – 10:00 pm. <https://www.facebook.com/EagleHarborGC/>
- Jul 25** "Sister Act: The Musical," at the Spotlight Center, 1809 East-West Pkwy, Fleming Island
- Aug 17** Times vary. [Upcoming Live Performances \(spotlighteventscenter.com\)](http://UpcomingLivePerformances.spotlighteventscenter.com)
- Jul 25** Jim Murdock in Concert, Talons Restaurant Summer Concert Series, 2217 Eagle Harbor Pkwy, Fleming Island; Time 6:00 – 9:00 pm. <https://www.facebook.com/EagleHarborGC/>
- Jul 26** Dharma in Concert, Talons Restaurant Summer Concert Series, 2217 Eagle Harbor Pkwy, Fleming Island; Time 7:00 – 10:00 pm. <https://www.facebook.com/EagleHarborGC/>

ORANGE PARK WOMEN'S CLUB ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

By Norma Layton

Bargain Hunters Alert! Mark your calendars for July 26 – 27 as the dates of the Annual Rummage Sale held at the Orange Park Woman's Club! This HUGE indoor sale is one of the premier summer traditions of OPWC and all avid community shoppers. This Friday – Saturday extravaganza is held from 8AM – 2PM at the OPWC clubhouse located at 130 Kingsley Avenue. Just 10 minutes due east of our gatehouse you will find a plethora of treasures at unbelievable bargain prices. Household items, clothing and accessories, books, children's toys, seasonal decorations, tools, and yard equipment – something for everyone! In addition, community vendors are invited to rent an outdoor space for your own private sale. This is an excellent opportunity for any crafters with creations to sell or those remaining "leftovers" from the Loch Rane/OPCC Community Yard Sale in May! Call OPWC at 904-264-8269 for more information regarding availability of outdoor spaces.

The Orange Park Woman's Club Annual Rummage Sale supports scholarship and educational programs within Clay County. This year we were thrilled to award \$8000.00 in scholarships to eight outstanding Clay County graduating seniors, each receiving \$1000 for further education or training. YOUR "bargain hunting" experience on July 26-27 will benefit such educational endeavors in the future.

HUGE Rummage Sale
Orange Park Woman's Club • 130 Kingsley Avenue, OP
July 26-27 8AM – 2PM



WELCOME

to the neighborhood

Lorna Foster
2564 Huntington Way

John & Marie Hartis
819 Westminster Drive

Judy McClain
724 Westminster Dr.

Juan Hernandez & Jessica McWhirter
599 Oakmont Dr.

Robert & Suzanne Reynolds
771 Ennis Drive

Cindy Sapp
777 Cameron Drive

Odie & Akiko Smith
778 Arran Court

Cari Thompson
778 Duart Drive

Phyllis Toon
2636 Country Club Blvd.

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THINGS TO DO IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD THIS MONTH

WATER AEROBICS CLASSES are held from 9 – 10 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday through September at the pool. The charge is \$15/month.

OPCC JULY 4TH CELEBRATION

Join us at 6:30 at the cabana for a **POTLUCK DINNER**. BYOB and a dish to share. Remember, no glass containers or bottles of any kind are allowed inside the pool/cabana area. Our great neighbor, Larry Ward, will be grilling hotdogs and providing buns and condiments. There will be music provided by our favorite DJ, Kevin Shad and of course great conversation.

At approximately 8:45 the **FIREWORKS DISPLAY** will begin. It will take place in the mailbox parking lot near the pools.

FOOD TRUCK FRIDAYS will be **July 12** and **July 26** from 5- 7:30 at the pool parking lot.



WATER SPORTS IN OUR AREA

Do you love the water? We all can enjoy splashing around in a pool, swimming, and working out. But what about other Water Sports?

Do you know how to Paddle Board? This has become an increasing popular sport. Some say it is easier than canoeing or kayaking. There are places in the local area when you can rent paddleboards and paddles. Don't forget to have your personal flotation device (PFD) or life jacket. Check it out. You can find rental locations at Jacksonville Beach, Atlantic Beach, and Neptune Beach. Or, if you prefer the river, there are also rental locations near popular spots. Do a search online for paddleboard rentals in Jacksonville.

MESSAGE FROM THE GATEHOUSE

We ask that all properties have an account set up in Gate Key Plus. PLEASE!!

Gate Key Plus is an Internet based resident and guest management system for gated communities. Gate Key Plus provides you with the ability to update your household's information, manage your guests, and create guest arrival notifications and reports. Your information is immediately available to the Gate House.

Access your account by visiting: www.GateKeyPlusResident.com and entering username and password (assigned by the Gate staff). If you do not know your login and password please contact the Gate House.

If you are using a phone number as your username, enter the numbers only, without spaces or symbols (ex: enter 1234567890, not (123) 456-7890).

Quick Setup: Click on **Account** and change your password, Click on **My Contacts** to add or update your contact information, and Click on **Permanent Visitors** to add your approved visitors.

Did you know that if you know your Visitor's email and enter it under Visitor E-Mail and an e-pass can be sent to the visitor by email? This will help speed your visitor through the check in process. The Grove recently had a disc golf event. They entered all of their 85 guests and their email addresses into the Gate Key system. Each guest received an e-pass, showed it at the gate, had easy access and there were no delays or blockages at the gate.

You can get more information about Gate Key Plus by going to

<https://www.gatekey.com/resident-help.html> where you can print out the resident manual. It is also available on the Neighborhood page of the opcc.info website and on lochraneonline.com.

By using Gate Key Plus you are helping yourself, your neighbors and the gatehouse staff.

If you are interested in kayaking or canoeing, rentals for the crafts are also available. Check online for resources near you. Check out all the details before arriving for your rental. You may need to bring your own personal flotation device (PFD) or life jacket. You might even find facilities that teach lessons in kayaking and canoeing.

If you'd rather just float along, there is still the great fun of Ichetucknee Springs State Park. There are vendors that will provide you the flotation rings or rafts and ferry you from one end of the stream to the other. A great way to cool down on a hot summer day. <https://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/ichetucknee-springs-state-park>

Whichever way you try to enjoy the water this summer, you are sure to have a great time!