

THE WILDWOOD Independent

Friday, March 17, 2023

theunion.com/news/twi/

Volume 46 No. 6

GM Report

LWA GENERAL MANAGER



Bryan Cox

Greetings to our wonderful community, As many of you are aware, this time of year is when we prepare and approve our operating budgets for the next fiscal year. We have just completed that process for our 2023/2024 community operating budgets. Over the last three years, managing and controlling expenses, forecasting revenues in an environment that was unpredictable, and anticipating the unknown has been one of the most challenging budget processes I have ever experienced in my career. Looking back on the financial challenges of the PSPS shutdowns, Covid 19, fires, smoke, weather power outages, labor shortages—all have had their impact on the effective operation of running and maintaining this community. So, our biggest challenge this year was mostly concentrated on how we control the uncontrollable expenses. Minimum wage went up 3% again as forecasted. This increase acts like a ripple in the pond and affects other wages, benefits, payroll taxes, and increases our cost of goods and services. Businesses pass that 3% on to us in all areas. With all the work we do in our community to reduce the risk of the spread of fire, these efforts are overrun by the danger of fire outside of our community, which we have very little control over. Our liability insurance increased over 150% due to uncontrollable circumstances. We had to look for ways to compensate in the daily operating budgets to reduce the impact on to the

community as best we could without lowering the quality of our amenities and the maintenance and repair of them as well.

Inflation, according to the CPI increased at a rate of 6.6%. Key cost of goods items in our food and beverage department have increased 25-40%. There is no way we cannot pass those costs on to you, our membership. We all go to the store and see the increase and lack of supply. We are experiencing these challenges in all our departments, from Golf Course Maintenance and Public Works tools and services, oil, gas, and utilities. Without the insurance impact, we were able to only raise the budget expenses by 2.9%. This reduction weighed against inflation is a huge cut in our operations budgets. The department Directors and Managers all did a great job at contributing to reducing expenses to compensate for the uncontrollable costs. Only to be overshadowed by the insurance increase, we are looking at a large increase in the Annual Assessments.

I would like to steer your attention to the Board Treasurer's Analysis. In this edition, it is stated in very clear and precise language describing what the budget challenges are by the numbers.

Additionally, we are improving in so many ways without adding expenses. Food and Beverage now has online reservations, we hired a very talented Food and Beverage Director and Manager that is improving the service, menu options, managing the condition of our clubhouse, and increasing revenues. Our Fire Fuel maintenance crews have done so much work at removing challenged trees and brush that we are seeing our lowest amount of storm damage and downed trees that can be remembered, thus, reducing overtime and allowing them to concentrate on maintenance and repair. The Golf Course is ever increasing its condition while reducing expenses. If you have noticed, our parks are looking the best they have ever looked. The detail of care, planting of replacement trees, grooming, and detail is much improved. Our newly titled Member Services is really doing great, and they are working daily to improve and introduce new ways of improved service. If you already haven't noticed our new online presence and social media platforms, this improved communication is helping us in all our decisions in regard to your needs and wants. The online surveys, comment cards and feedback are so valuable to us.

I would like to thank the community for its patience during all our challenges. We cannot do anything without you and your support. The team of Lake Wildwood is always here to help you and create a lifestyle for everyone.

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Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Dora Scott

EDITOR'S NOTE

I hope you are wearing green today to save yourself from any pinching! After the terrible blight of weather we've had over the past few weeks, hopefully a rainbow will reveal itself soon. Better yet, have a pot full of gold waiting for some lucky person at its end.

What was originally a religious holiday that marked the death of Saint Patrick, who spread Christianity in Ireland, has now become an international holiday promoting all things Irish. Even the original color that signified the holiday was once blue, not green. In Ireland, pubs used to close on St. Patrick's Day due to its religious origins, but towards the turn of the millennia, Ireland turned the holiday into a something to boost tourism.

Shamrocks were believed to be used to explain the Holy Trinity, but now are used as a symbol of good luck. I remember the joy of happening across a patch of clovers, and the hunt that ensued to find the rare, four-leafed luck-bringer.

Leprechauns, which come from Ireland's Celtic backgrounds, originally had no connection to St. Patrick's Day. Like most small mythical creatures, Leprechauns are known for their trickery and cranky demeanor. Maybe that's where the pinching tradition came from—we all take on a bit of their mischievousness.

I hope your day is filled with luck and joy!

The Wildwood Independent Editor



www.twi-news.com

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LWA OFFICIAL NEWS

Budget Analysis FY23-24

As of 3/7/2023

Lake Wildwood Association Board of Directors

The Board of Directors (BOD) have spent considerable time reviewing the Operational, Capital, and Reserve Fund budgets for Lake Wildwood Association. Over 20 meetings were scheduled by Management with staff and/or the BOD, many open to public, during the past three months to review and refine the budget. Member input is a vital part of this process and has been a major contributing factor.

Executive Summary

The Fiscal Year 2023/2024 budget has been developed using the following assumptions:

1. The budget must support the overall service levels and amenities as delivered in prior years.
2. The budget target is to keep the controllable operational expenses flat or reduced from prior years (adjusted to inflation) and Staff levels flat.
3. Two uncontrollable expenses will impact the budget. They are a raise in minimum wage and substantially increased insurance costs.
4. We must continue to fund the Reserves to fund existing and future infrastructure needs.

This year was a particularly challenging year to develop a budget due to continued high inflationary prices (6.6% annually), supply chain issues and skyrocketing insurance premiums.

For Fiscal year 23/24 the Net Assessment per Lot is \$3,405, an increase of 14.8%. The attached FY 23/24 Budget Analysis Recap breaks down the contributors to the overall increase. Of note though, is that 10.4% of the increase is due to uncontrollable costs of insurance and minimum wage increases.

In the following analysis we separate controllable costs from uncontrollable costs. Controllable costs are those expenses that make up the operational budget that we have full control over in deciding what expenses to incur. Uncontrollable costs are those items that are required expenses and we have no control over their amounts. In this analysis the uncontrollable costs are minimum wage increase and insurance premiums.

Controllable Operational Costs are Slightly Reduced Year Over Year (Adjusted for Inflation/CPI)

Through the hard work of the LWA Staff and budget team, for the fiscal 23-24 budget we were able to slightly reduce the inflation adjusted operational costs for the Association from last year. With inflation the controllable expenses only increased 2.9%, under the 6.6% inflation number, which on a year-to-year basis adjusted for inflation is a good reduction.

Based on the most recent Bureau of Labor Statistics data as of January 2023 the annual Consumer Price index (CPI) inflation rate is 6.6%. The insurance issues have greatly exceeded normal CPI increases as shown on the next page. For the purposes of this discussion insurance has been excluded to highlight the year over year Assessment increases attributable to all other costs being managed by the Association over the past six (6) years.

Presented below is a table comparing the annual CPI inflation rates to the annual increases in Net Assessment per lot (excluding insurance). FY18/19 serves as the baseline year and is increased each year by CPI. This baseline value adjusted for inflation is then compared to the actual Net Assessment (excluding insurance) for each of the last five years.

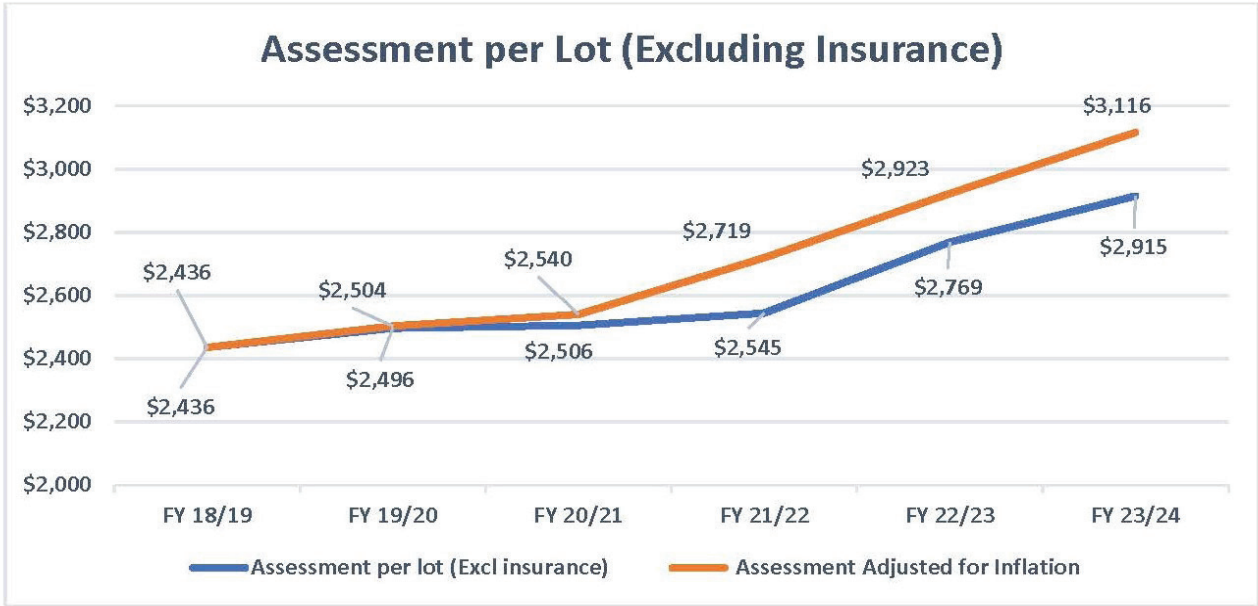
	Net Assessment per lot (Excl insurance)	FY18/19 Baseline (Adj for Inflation)	CPI
FY 18/19	\$2,436	\$2,436	<baseline
FY 19/20	\$2,496	\$2,504	2.78%
FY 20/21	\$2,506	\$2,540	1.47%
FY 21/22	\$2,545	\$2,719	7.05%
FY 22/23	\$2,769	\$2,923	7.50%
FY 23/24	\$2,915	\$3,116	6.60%

Continued on Page 3

BUDGET ANALYSIS

From page 2

This table clearly shows that the FY 23/24 general assessment rate would have been \$201 higher if we simply increased the general assessment by CPI since FY 18/19.



The active management of cost has allowed the Association to improve its service level and the quality of Amenities over this period of time due to the active involvement of Management, the BOD, and the Members serving on numerous Committees.

Attached to this report is a one-page recap of the major changes to next year’s Budget and Assessments per Lot when compared to the prior year Budget. It is grouped first by operational vs. nonoperational budget changes and further categorized as either controllable or uncontrollable by Management.

The next section focuses on the impact of insurance on the Assessment rates.

Insurance Cost

The greatest challenge by far is our skyrocketing insurance premiums. This is an industry-wide problem with many communities experiencing huge increases in their premiums.

Insurance costs have increased year over year from a budgeted \$556,968 in FY 22/23 to \$1,394,004 in FY 23/24. This represents an increase of \$837,036 for FY 23/24. In addition, the FY 22/23 actual insurance cost significantly exceeded the budgeted amount requiring the BOD to include a Special Assessment of \$328,840 in FY23/24, and again in FY 24/25 to collect additional Assessments to cover the unbudgeted increases experienced. These two items total \$1,165,876 (or 93%) of the net increase in Assessments for FY23/24. The budget impact is not only an increase in the operational budget for 23/24, but also a special assessment to cover an overage in the 22/23 Budget.

Presented below are the budgeted insurance costs that have been included in determining the general Assessments since FY 18/19.

	Budgeted Insurance	% Change	Assessment per lot	Net Assessment per lot (Excl insurance)	Total Assessment per lot
FY 18/19	\$205,300		\$72	\$2,436	\$2,508
FY 19/20	\$204,120	-0.6%	\$72	\$2,496	\$2,568
FY 20/21	\$324,625	59.0%	\$114	\$2,506	\$2,620
FY 21/22	\$538,934	66.0%	\$189	\$2,545	\$2,734
FY 22/23	\$556,968	3.3%	\$196	\$2,769	\$2,965
FY 23/24	\$1,394,004	150.3%	\$490	\$2,915	\$3,405

During this period of time insurance has grown from being less than 3% of the general Assessment to over 14% of the general Assessment in FY 23/24. This insurance includes a number of different policies covering general liability, fire, fiduciary liability, officers and directors’ liability, umbrella, and other typical insurance policies for our association covering the services and amenities offered.

Our broker solicited 26 different insurance carriers trying to secure a cost-effective bundle of insurance and found only a few carriers that were willing to underwrite the risks they perceive to exist in our association.

A number of factors were cited as the reason behind this significant cost increase but the three major issues cited were:

- **General market condition** – as tight insurance market has caused higher than normal rate increases across the commercial insurance market in recent years.
- **Wildfire Risk** – Although LWA was recognized for its efforts to mitigate wildfire risk through its Firewise programs and the creation of the dedicated fire mitigation programs. (The fire management program budgeted expenses for FY 23/24 is \$322,206 or \$113 per Lot).
- **Legal Risks** – The E. coli legal issues experienced by LWA have been settled, however, the costs incurred by the insurance carriers is on record and will continue to impact LWA insurance costs for the next several years.

Summary

In summary, this year’s Assessment is a substantial increase from years past, due to uncontrollable factors. These factors may not change in the future. As a community we all have to work together to do what we can to address the financial challenges going forward. We do believe we can improve services and Amenities through optimization of our operation using technology, and smart management decisions. Therefore, we hope this year is an anomaly and not the norm for increases of our HOA Assessments.



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**18663 Lake Forest
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**14151 Lake Wildwood Dr
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Across from
Meadow Park
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**20529 Chaparral Cir.
Buildable Lot
Close to the Main Gate
and Parks
\$26,900**



**20253 Chaparral Cir.
Build Your
Dreamhome!
\$35,000**



**17896 Chaparral Dr.
3 Bed/2 Bath
1920 Sq. Ft.
Lots Of House
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\$310,000**



**18239 Lake Forest
\$585,000**



**19037 Hummingbird Dr
\$625,500**



**13214 Roadrunner Ct.
\$1,510,150**



**18896 Meadowlark
\$1,700,000**



**13399 Driftwood Ct.
\$1,600,000**



**17764 Redside Ct
\$705,000**



**11868 Goldfinch
\$405,000**



Robin is a fantastic realtor and did a great job for us in the sale of our home. We contacted her early in the planning process and she gave us very helpful information and recommendations to put our house on the market. She is extremely responsive and kept us informed about all steps in the process. I would highly recommend Robin!

The Garwood's

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BUDGET ANALYSIS
From page 3

Lake Wildwood Association
FY 23/24 Budget Analysis
Recap

	Total	Per Lot	%	Notes
Net Assessment FY 22/23	\$ 8,435,856	2,965		
Year Over Year Operational Budget Changes				
Uncontrollable needed to Maintain Current Service Level				
Increase in minimum wage	40,000	14		The minimum wage increase is a legal requirement & insurance cost are impacted by legal & wildfire risks
Insurance	837,036	294		
Total Operational Budget - Uncontrollable	877,036	308	10.4%	
Controllable or Change Current Service Level				
Community Improvement	(78,784)	(28)		The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers increased 6.6% over the last 12 months ending January 2023
Salary & wages (excl min wage incr)	127,374	45		
All other operational budget changes, net	193,012	68		
Total Operational Budget - Controllable	241,602	85	2.9%	
Non Assessment Revenue Changes				
Increased Revenue - Golf	(96,462)	(34)		Home transfer fees are expected to decrease in FY23/24 reducing All other revenue
Increased Revenue - Food & Beverage	(174,806)	(61)		
Increased Revenue - All other	102,952	36		
Total Non Assessment Revenue Changes	(168,316)	(59)	-2.0%	
Year Over Year Non Operational Budget Changes				
FY 22/23 Act to Budget Carry-forward Adj	1,361,307	478		
FY23/24 Act to Budget Carry-forward Adj	(264,000)	(93)		
Decrease in Reserve Funding	(874,928)	(308)		
Special Assessment - Planning fund	(250,000)	(88)		
Special Assessment - FY22/23 Insurance increase	328,840	116		
Total Non Operational Budget change	301,219	106	3.6%	
Net Assessment FY 23/24	\$ 9,687,397	3,405	14.8%	

Lake Wildwood Association: Finance Committee Approval Letter

Date: March 6, 2023
To: Lake Wildwood Association Board of Directors
cc: Bryan Cox, General Manager and Finances Committee Members

Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Proposed Budget

The Finance Committee, as part of their responsibilities, participated in the Lake Wildwood Annual Budget Workshops for Fiscal Year 2023/2024. Six workshops, each consisting of detailed departmental budgets, were held on January 27, and February 3, 6, 14, 21, and 23.

During the development of the 2023/2024 Budget, the General Manager, Director of Finance, Department Managers, members of the Lake Wildwood Board of Directors, and community members discussed and debated relative merits, costs, specific needs, and alternatives to arrive at the version presented herewith.

The Finance Committee recommends approval of the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2023/2024. We commend Management on their commitment to improving the budgetary process each year and feel confident that the outcome reflects a realistic balance between resources and priorities.

We wish to specifically note that management has worked hard to buffer the unusual circumstances of an extremely inflationary environment coupled with a monumental and unexpected increase in insurance premiums. Items we wish to underscore that are of significance to the budgeted outcome (and, consequently, received the most attention during the workshops) are:

- Insurance premium increases require a special assessment. While Management and the Board are focused on addressing these costs, all expect that increased premiums will continue to impact future HOA fees.
- The annual Reserve Funds contribution has been increased due to expected cost increases for future community asset replacements, and
- Management has set aggressive targets to increase F&B revenue with new events and promotions, while continuing to manage costs.

The LWA Finance Committee

LAKE WILDWOOD ASSOCIATION								
Draft Budget For FY 2023/2024								
Budget Summary for Fiscal Year Ending May 31, 2024								
(Amounts in dollars)								
Operating Departments	Revenue	Cost of Goods Sold	Wages & Benefits	Operating Expenses	Utility Expenses	Departmental Net Operating Expense	Annual Assessment Per Lot	Monthly Assessment Per Lot
Environmental Mgmt.	(69,400)	0	99,801	71,033	4,028	105,462	37	3.09
Fire Management	0	0	199,038	123,170	0	322,208	113	9.44
Food & Beverage	(2,060,300)	675,600	1,572,776	220,172	118,306	526,554	185	15.42
Swimming Pool - Extended Season 4/1 - 10/31	(56,000)	8,640	122,780	36,175	38,200	149,795	53	4.39
Community Operations	(97,550)	35,700	398,186	77,014	55,160	468,510	165	13.72
Parks	0	0	354,128	80,450	25,209	459,787	162	13.47
Lake	0	0	11,753	297,150	36,000	344,903	121	10.10
Public Works	0	0	672,185	193,510	47,430	913,125	321	26.75
Security	(65,296)	0	0	1,117,203	28,433	1,080,340	380	31.64
Administration	(761,138)	0	1,078,218	1,836,137	132,610	2,285,827	803	66.95
Consolidated Golf	(1,402,735)	0	775,320	401,060	112,274	(114,081)	(40)	(3.34)
Tennis/Pickleball	(3,845)	0	28,370	5,100	3,192	32,817	12	0.96
BOD Contingency & Other	(2,000)	0	0	110,000	.	108,000	38	3.16
Sub-Total Operations	(4,518,264)	719,940	5,312,555	4,568,174	600,842	6,683,247	2,349	195.76
FY 2021/22 Carry-forward	(264,000)					(264,000)	(93)	(8)
Total Operations	(4,782,264)	719,940	5,312,555	4,568,174	600,842	6,419,247	2,256	188.03
Community Improvements						100,000	35	2.93
Special Assessment						328,840	116	9.63
Total Before Reserves						6,848,087	2,407	200.59
Reserves								
Reserves Funding Total						2,839,310	998	83.17
Total Assessment for the Fiscal Year 2023/24						9,687,397	3,405	283.75

Materials contained in this publication are available on the Member Website at www.lwwa.org.

The complete detailed Reserve Study is available on the website.

Detailed Departmental Operating Budgets can be requested at the Administration offices.

LAKE WILDWOOD ASSOCIATION: Draft Fee & Deposit Schedule FY 2023-24 (as of 1-30-2023)

Changes Approved Fiscal Year 2022-23

Proposed Changes Fiscal Year 2023-24

ADMINISTRATION		FY 22-23	FY 23-24
Filing / transfer fee		\$250	\$250
Modification transfer fee (family trust, etc.)		\$50	\$50
Inquiry seller fee (pre-sale information)		\$75	\$75
Rental owner administration fee (non-refundable)		\$125	\$125
Rental owner deposit (refundable)		\$500	\$500
Short-term rental owner administration fee (non-refundable)		\$50	\$50
Tenant deposit (refundable)		\$200	\$200
Handling charge for quarterly assessments		\$25	\$25
Variance appeal deposit		\$250	\$250
Additional Payment Coupon(s)		\$10	\$10
Returned check fee		\$25	\$25
In-House Payment Plan Set-up Fee		\$50	\$50
In-House Payment Plan Default Fee		\$100	\$100
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OPERATION		FY 22-23	FY 23-24
New Home Construction			
Construction deposit		\$1,000	\$1,000
Construction fee - per sq. ft.		50 cents	50 cents
Modifications - Living and Garage Additions			
Construction deposits:			
Up to 1000 sq. ft.		\$250	\$250
Over 1000 sq. ft.		\$1,000	\$1,000

Continued on Page 7

DRAFT FEE & DEPOSIT SCHEDULE

From page 6

Construction fee - per sq. ft.	50 cents	50 cents
Outbuildings, Alterations & Other Improvements		
OAO construction deposit	\$110	\$110
Improvement fee	\$100	\$100
In-Ground Swimming Pool		
Construction deposit	\$250	\$250
Construction fee	\$200	\$200
Annual Weed Abatement / Lot Clearing Program		
Lot clearing fee - Includes Administrative Processing Fee + 10% Administrative Fee	Actual Cost	Actual Cost
Slash clearing fee - Includes Administrative Processing Fee + 10% Administrative Fee	Actual Cost	Actual Cost
Variance Request Fee	\$125	\$125
Real Estate & Fire Wise Inspection Fee	\$125	\$150
Sign Retrieval Fee	\$50	\$50
SECURITY		
Outside Business Access Fees		
Class A Annual Key Card (Licensed Contractors, Business Owners,	\$ 150	\$ 150
Class B Annual Key Card (Individual Licensed Contractors, Business	\$ 100	\$ 100
Class C Annual Key Card (Regular Employees of Class A Employer)	\$ 50	\$ 50
Class D Annual Key Card (Delivery Vehicles)	\$ 100	\$ 100
Class R Annual Key Card (Real Estate Broker or Agent)	\$ 100	\$ 100
Daily Guest Parking Permit	\$ 5	\$ 5
Guest Key Card (Annual)	\$ 25	\$ 25
Owner, Resident/Household Member, or Tenant Key Card (LWA	\$ 25	\$ 25
Amenity Access Card (14+ years old)	\$ 15	\$ 15
Additional Decal (with GM approval only) per Security R-10.20.10	\$ 25	\$ 25
Overnight Parking Fee at CH or CC (Daily) GM Approval only	\$ 25	\$ 25
Dog Pick-up Fees		
Dog pick-up and transportation fee	\$150	\$150
Dog pick-up fee	\$100	\$100

BOAT REGISTRATION (boats w/ 'CF' number)

Boats under 16' (Includes Trolling Motors).
Boats 16' and over
Non Motorized
Boat transfer fee

ANNUAL BOAT STORAGE

Slip Rental - pontoon
Slip Rental - non-pontoon
Rack Rental - Kayak Storage
Rack Rental - Kayak Storage Second Kayak in Rack
Meadow Park Dry-Dock storage
Storage Wait List (One time fee - Applies to first year's
Key Deposit (Refundable)

OTHER**Motorcycle**

Main and North Gate Assigned Parking annual fee

Campground

A' space (over 450 sq.ft.) RV storage annual fee
B' space (300 sq.ft. - 450 sq.ft.) RV storage annual
C' space (smaller than 300 sq.ft.) RV storage
Storage Wait List (One time fee - Applies to first year's

GOLF

Annual, adult (unlimited rounds)
Annual, 9-Hole Daily Unlimited
Annual, junior (age 16+)
Annual, child (age 15 & under)
Annual cart registration

FY 22-23

\$100	\$100
\$225	\$225
free	free
\$50	\$50

FY 22-23

\$1,050	\$1,210
\$880	\$1,000
\$150	\$180
\$75	\$75
\$600	\$700
50% of fee	50% of fee
\$100	\$100

FY 22-23

\$150	\$180
\$480	\$540
\$420	\$480
\$360	\$420
50% of fee	50% of fee

FY 22-23

\$2,220	\$2,220 / \$185
\$1,385	\$1,385 / \$115
\$285	\$288 / \$24
\$130	\$132 / \$11
\$445	\$444 / \$37

FY 23-24

\$100
\$225
free
\$50

FY 23-24

\$1,210
\$1,000
\$180
\$75
\$700
50% of fee
\$100

FY 23-24

\$180
\$540
\$480
\$420
50% of fee

FY 23-24

\$2,400
\$1,495
\$285
\$130
\$480

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION MONTHLY PAYMENT

\$2400 / \$200
\$1,495 / \$125
\$288 / \$24
\$132 / \$11
\$480 / \$40

Continued on Page 8

DRAFT FEE & DEPOSIT SCHEDULE

From page 7

Cart Daily Usage Fee - 9 holes Per Person Double Rider	\$11	\$11
Cart Daily Usage Fee - 9 holes Per Person Single Rider	\$17	\$17
Cart Daily Usage Fee - 18 holes Per Person Double Rider	\$17	\$17
Cart Daily Usage Fee - 18 holes Per Person Single Rider	\$22	\$22
Trail Usage Fee - 9 holes Per Person Double Rider	\$10	\$10
Trail Usage Fee - 9 holes Per Person Single Rider	\$15	\$15
Trail Usage Fee - 18 holes Per Person Double Rider	\$15	\$15
Trail Usage Fee - 18 holes Per Person Single Rider	\$22	\$20
Daily, member - 18 holes	\$39	\$42
Twilight Daily, member - 18 holes	\$28	\$30
Daily, member - 9 holes	\$28	\$30
Twilight Daily, member - 9 holes	\$17	\$18
Daily guest - 18 holes Friday - Sunday	\$56	\$61
Daily guest - 18 holes Monday - Thursday	\$44	\$48
Twilight Daily guest - 18 holes	\$39	\$43
Daily guest - 9 holes Friday - Sunday	\$39	\$43
Daily guest - 9 holes Monday - Thursday	\$33	\$36
Twilight Daily guest - 9 holes	\$28	\$30
Daily guest - 10 rounds guest pass	\$444	\$480
Daily junior member 9 -18 holes	\$6	\$6
Daily junior guest 9 -18 holes	\$11	\$11
Tenant Golf ID	\$165	\$179
Cart transfer fee	\$50	\$54
Reciprocal fee	\$60	\$65
Annual, outside package (unlimited rounds)	\$2,930	\$3,165

* Two annual memberships qualifies minor children (under 18) in the home for free annual pay.

RECREATION AND POOL

Water Exercise/Aerobics classes per visit	\$5	\$5
Water Exercise/Aerobics classes per visit - Guests	\$9	\$9
Water Aerobics - 20 visit punch pass	\$100	\$100
Water Aerobics - 20 visit punch pass - Guests	\$180	\$180
Swim team - member / resident	\$90	\$90
Swim team - non-residents	\$132	\$132
Swim lessons - One Week Session - members/residents	\$30	\$30
Swim lessons - One Week Session - non-residents	\$42	\$42
Swim lessons - private half-hour	\$25	\$25
Day camp - full day weekly rate (\$150 for each additional child)	\$175	\$200
Day camp - full day daily rate	\$50	\$60
Equipment Rentals		
Paddle Boat - one hour	\$15	\$10
Paddle Boat - two hours	\$20	\$15
Stand Up Paddle Board - one hour	\$15	\$10
Stand Up Paddle Board - two hours	\$25	\$15
Kayak - one hour	\$20	\$15
Kayak - two hour	\$30	\$25
AquaTrike - one hour	\$20	\$15
AquaTrike - Two hour	\$30	\$25
BBQ Charcoal or Gas Grill (grill only no tank)	\$25	\$25
BBQ Gas Grill with tank	\$40	\$40
Popcorn Machine/day (does not include popcorn/bags, ask for price)	\$20	\$40
Canopy 20x20	\$250	\$250
Pool Picnic Area per hour	\$25	\$50
Pool Party - Summer (rate per hour) Saturday & Sunday		
Less than 50 People	\$150	\$150
50 - 99 People	\$250	\$250
100 - 150 People	\$300	\$300
Parks (No charge for LWA Committees and Chartered Clubs)		
Groups under 40 - Reservation Fee	\$50	\$100

Continued on Page 9

DRAFT FEE & DEPOSIT SCHEDULE

From page 8

Groups 40-75	
Groups 76 -150	
Deposit (Refundable)	
Usage/Set-Up Fee	
Outdoor Chair and Umbrella Rental (2 Chairs + 1 Umbrella)	
Replacement Chair \$39, Umbrella \$80	
Banquet Chair Rental (1 ea.)	
Replacement Chair \$20 ea.	
TENNIS / PICKLEBALL	
Season play - Official USTA or Pickleball League team member	
Ball machine rental	

\$100	\$200
\$150	\$300
\$150	\$150
Based on Needs	Based on Needs
\$20	\$20
\$1	\$1
FY 22 -23	FY 23-24
\$25	remove (not occurring)
\$5	\$5

COMMUNITY CENTER

Room Rentals Fees <i>(Includes room, tables, chairs, basic set-up)</i>
Lake Room
Marina Rec Room
Add Use of Kitchen (\$100 Fee plus \$100 Refundable Cleaning Dep
Manzanita Room
Deck
Dogwood Room
Redbud Room
Use of Outside Caterer - All Rooms and Parks

FY 22-23		FY 23-24	
General	LWA	General	LWA
\$ 500	waived	\$ 500	waived
\$ 200	waived	\$ 200	waived
\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 300	\$ 200
\$ 250	waived	\$ 250	waived
\$ 150	waived	\$ 150	waived
\$ 150	waived	\$ 150	waived
\$ 150	waived	\$ 150	waived
		\$ 300	\$300

THE OAKS CLUBHOUSE**FEES - ROOM USE WITH F&B****Cedar Room and Exclusive use of Pine Room**

Breakfast & Luncheon
Dinner

FY 22-23		FY 23-24	
General	LWA Sanctioned	General	LWA Sanctioned
\$ 500	\$ 250	\$ 500	\$ 250
\$ 1000	\$ 500	\$ 1000	\$ 500
\$ 500	\$ 250	\$ 500	\$ 250
\$ 1000	\$ 500	\$ 1000	\$ 500
\$ 200	\$ 100	\$ 200	\$ 100

Terrace on the Green

Breakfast & Luncheon
Dinner or Special Event/Wedding Ceremony

Acorn Room (with F&B)**ROOM USE ONLY FEES (No F&B - Subject to Booking Restrictions/ Limitations)** *(Includes room, tables, chairs, basic set-up)*

Cedar Room and Exclusive use of Pine Room
Acorn Room

\$ 500	waived	\$ 500	waived
waived	waived	\$ 50	waived

OTHER FEES AT COMMUNITY CENTER & THE OAKS**Other Fees**

Bar Service - minimum billing for two hours, fees applied towards
ABC Liquor Permit (Community Center)
Stage Set-up
Dance Floor Set-up
Shuttle Service - per hour, 2 hour minimum

FY 22-23		FY 23-24	
		General	LWA Sanctioned
	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 250
	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100
	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200
	\$ 100	\$ 150	\$ 150
	\$ 25	\$ 45	\$ 45

Security Deposits (refundable)

Reservation and Security Deposit
Chartered Club Deposit on File
AV Equipment

\$ 250	\$ 250	\$150 on file
\$150		
\$ 150	\$ 150	\$50

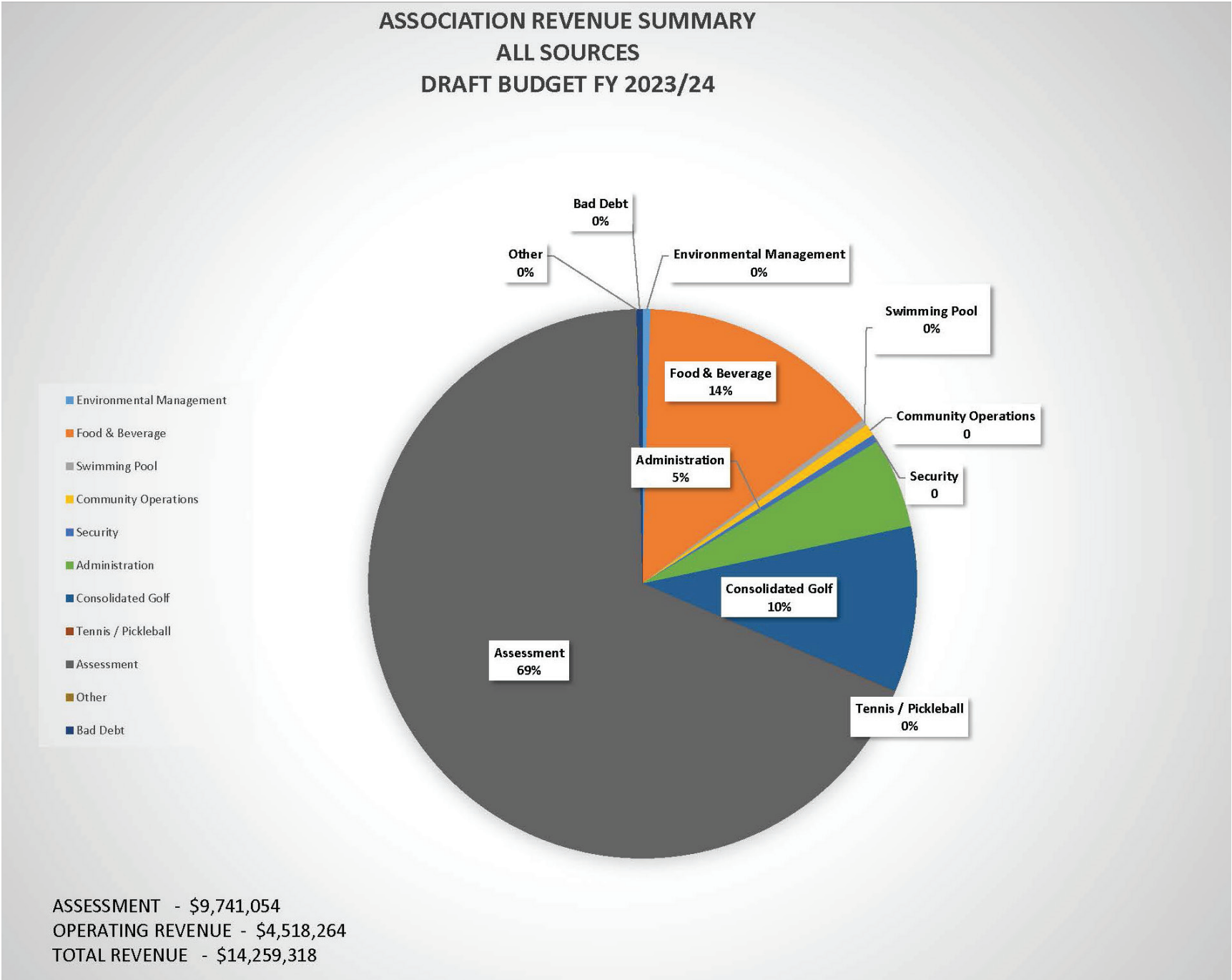
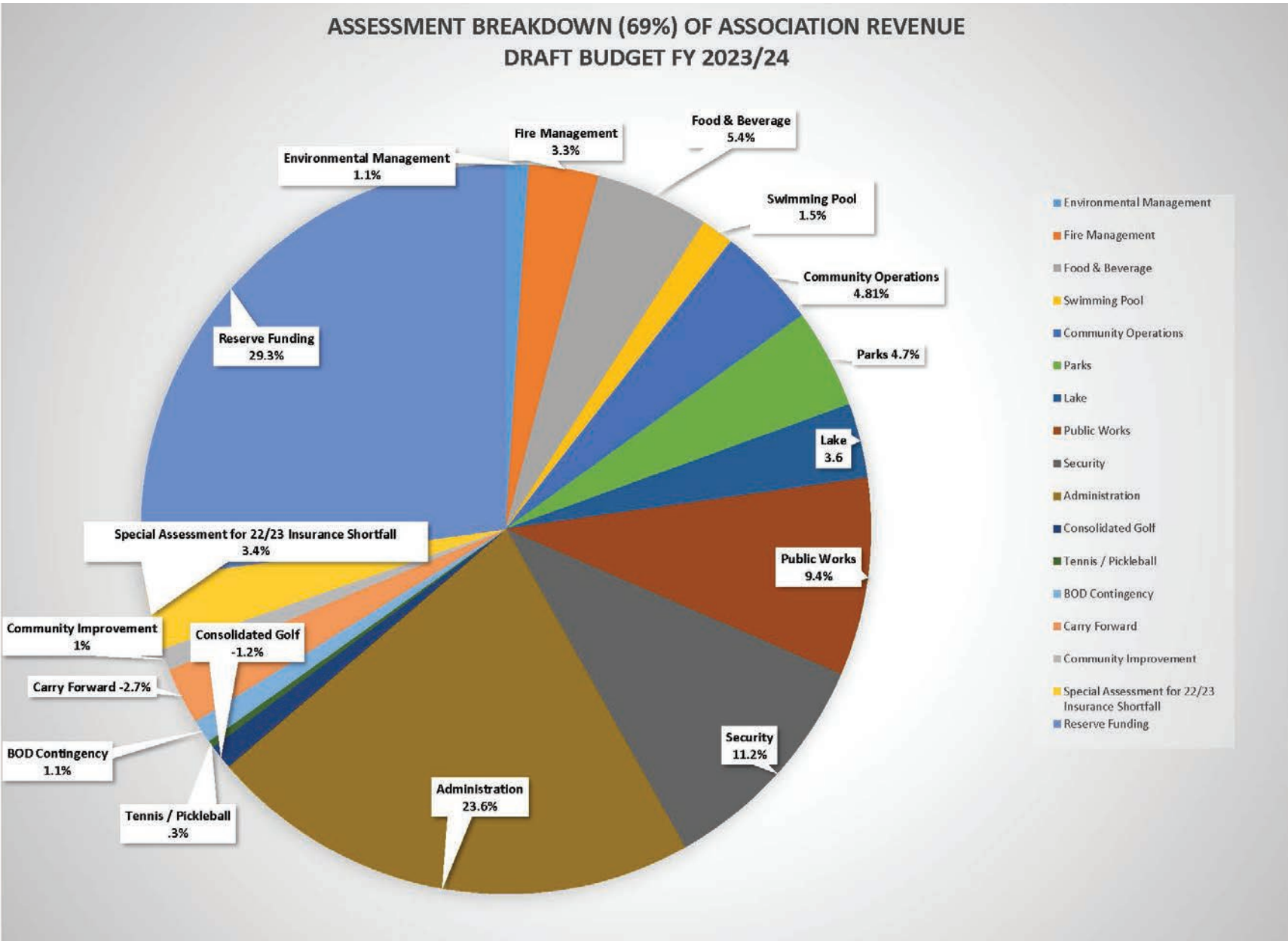
Parking *(no parking fee for Celebration of Life)*

Event Parking (0-25 guests)
Event Parking (26-50 guests)
Eventy Parking (51-100 guests)
Event Parking (+100 guests)

\$ 25	\$ 50	waived
\$ 50	\$ 100	waived
\$ 100	\$ 200	waived
\$ 175	\$ 300	waived

Notes: No Outside Food or Beverage allowed at The Oaks. (Exception for Wine with Corkage Fee).

Continued on Page 10



LWA OFFICIAL NEWS

Don't Miss Out on this Year's Spring Faire

By Paula Earle, Parks and Recreation Committee



On Saturday April 1, 2023, there will be a Spring Faire at the Community Center. Doors will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Families can welcome the Easter Bunny, who will visit with children on his Bunny Bench by the main entrance.

The Lake Room will be set up for egg hunts, divided into age groups, starting at 11 a.m. The Bunny Cafe will also open at 11 a.m. and serve hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and drinks for hungry egg hunters.

Several Clubs and groups will be manning booths inside and outside the Community Center, providing information about the Fire Wise Committee, the Niners Golf Group, the Garden Club, and Bingo. At the Fishing Club's booth, those interested can sign up for the family-friendly fishing tournament scheduled for April 16. The Social Committee will be handing out free popcorn in the Marina Rec Room, and the Penn Valley 4-H Club will host a petting zoo on the lower lawn near the Marina from 10 a.m. to noon. After petting the animals, be sure to visit with "the bubble man" and enjoy his bubbly display. Children will be given a paper egg when they arrive so that they can collect stickers at the various booths. The kids can drop off their paper eggs and stickers on their way out, and they will be entered into a raffle. Visit with the Easter Bunny, and play with baby goats, bunnies, and chickens. Stop by the various booths and grab a burger or hot dog. Chat with neighbors and friends and celebrate the arrival of spring.

Dust off your bunny baskets and come to the Spring Faire on April 1, 2023, and learn more about our community.



Submitted photos

LWA OFFICIAL NEWS

Tools Trash and Treasures

By Paula Earle, Parks and Recreation Committee

Spring is just around the corner and it's that time of year to search nooks and crannies for unwanted items to sell at our annual Tools Trash and Treasures event (TT&T). Lake Wildwood's north side TT&T is scheduled for April 22 and 23, 2023. The Community Center (lower Marina) parking lot TT&T will also be held on April 22. The south side TT&T is scheduled for April 29 and 30, 2023.

Placards for home sales and for the parking lot are \$25 each and go on sale starting March 27 at the Member Services Office. Placards must be displayed at homes and in the Community Center parking lot in order to participate.

Lakewood Wildwood's swim team, the Water Otters, will be selling breakfast and barbecue lunch items at Commodore Park on Saturday, April 22, and at Vista Park on Saturday, April 29. This is a fundraiser for the swim team, so if shopping makes you hungry be sure and stop by for a bite to eat.

Shoppers hop into your golf carts on the TT&T weekends in April and come hunt for that hidden treasure!



Submitted photos



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LWA OFFICIAL NEWS

Free Help. Renters Too!

DSAV



Steve
Roddy

Who couldn't use a little helping hand, especially when it's free? There is unused defensible space grant money available. This is part of the ongoing Access and Functional Needs program. Many members of our community have already received help. This program is also available for renters with permission from the property owner.

The Fire Safe Council of Nevada County is accepting applications now. The application is easy and there are several ways to qualify. For more information go to www.areyoufiresafe.com/programs/access-functional-needs-afn. Apply now! What do you have to lose?



Deja vu

CATHY'S SPACE



Cathy
Fagan

Last year at this time, I was writing about my snow train experience from Roseville to Reno. It was late December, and my family and I were treating ourselves to a trip on the infamous snow train ride. It usually is a four-hour train trip through the Sierra on an Amtrak train and passes through the beautiful mountains over flowing streams, trestle bridges, and gorgeous scenery.

The experience was far from pleasant

because of the heavy snow storms in the entire area that blocked the train because of fallen trees, snow-covered tracks, plows that couldn't get through, and so on and so on.

We thought we had a very bad experience until we learned that many people living in Nevada County were literally snowed in, without power, and the inability to get the basic necessities to survive.

Fast-forward to March, 2023, and we find ourselves in the same situation. The snow levels once again fell to as low of 1000 to 1500 feet, and even Grass Valley was shut down this year. As I write this, more snow is scheduled to fall this week. What in the world is happening to our weather patterns?

I have lived in this area for more than 27 years and cannot remember such extremes. Yes, we had snowy winters and some hot days in the summer, but nothing like this. Will these events make us re-think how we prepare for future Nevada County winters? Should those in the more rural areas make sure they have generators to handle the power failures, purchase individual snowplows to clear the streets and back roads, and stockpile food and household goods? Do local governments need to re-evaluate how they handle these emergencies especially in the remote areas that are only accessible by one-lane gravel roads? Do residents who chose to live in those remote areas need to form teams that train to handle these emergencies? A lot to think about.

Here in Lake Wildwood a good deal of effort is put into our safety, such as our Fire Safety Committee. Luckily we have not had to deal with heavy snow and flooding, but I am certain that the residents here would step up and form special committees to deal with such incidents should they become issues. I love living in this community.

And, as cruel as this may sound to our snowed-in population, the one song that keeps running through my head is: "The weather outside is frightful, but the fire is so delightful. And since there's nowhere to go, Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow."

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

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A Bear Waved at Me



Y'THINK?

I was driving up Rough and Ready Highway, winding my way through the hills, when, just around a sharp curve...there it was...a bear. Startled, he reared unsteadily on his hind legs, with one paw half raised, facing me from the middle of the road. I panic-stopped, dumb-founded. Moments passed. He stood there. I stared. On a childish impulse, I waved at him. Astonishingly, he waved back, raising his paw a bit further and tilting it forward and back, forward and back, just as I was doing with my own paw. Maybe ten seconds passed. Then the bear lurched down to become a four-legged creature again, and ambled off into the woods.

I was charmed by the whole, rather surreal, experience. But there was no bear. There was only me, driving along Rough and Ready Highway, daydreaming, and thinking to myself, "What if I saw a bear today." Then I daydreamed the bear, and spun out the imaginary encounter. It was fun.

I remember another imaginary experience of a different sort. That time I was driving home late at night, and I had a hankering for donuts. Back then, my hankering had to be obeyed or the craving would nag me non-stop. Delayed satisfaction wasn't an option. My favorite 24-hour donut shop was mere minutes ahead, along El Camino Real, and that's where I was headed.

But I was torn. I loved donuts, but I didn't love what they were doing to my midsection. A thought came to me. I had read how imagination could create experiences that seem almost real, and could even generate false memories. I wondered if imagination could cure donut cravings. I decided to experiment.

While my unconscious mind took care of the driving, I engaged my imagination. I envisioned myself walking into the donut shop, smelling the smells and seeing dozens upon dozens of donuts. I imagined selecting a chocolate French and a maple old fashioned. I imagined a short, pleasant conversation with the clerk. I imagined the warmth of the shop, in contrast to the brisk, almost-midnight air outside. I imagined the feel of my wallet and the dollar bills I would hand to the clerk. When I left, I imagined the tinkling of the bell on the shop door. I even imagined the sound and feel my footsteps would make on my way back to the car. I made the imaginary experience as real as I could by including all the sights, sounds, smells,

and textures I would experience in the donut shop. Still driving along El Camino, I visualized reaching into the bag and pulling out the French donut...getting chocolate on my fingers...licking it off. Mmm...so good. I imagined the first bite—the exact resistance of the donut against my teeth, the taste of the chocolate frosting, the eclair-like texture of the donut itself, and then the flood of both flavor and satisfaction. My mouth is watering even now, as I'm remembering this imaginary donut feast. [Think: Pavlov's dogs.] It took me about as much time to imagine the experience as it would had I been eating actual donuts.

Imaginary donuts gone, imaginary frosting wiped off my mouth, and imaginary crumbs brushed off my shirt, I eased the brakes, slowing my car for the turn into the donut shop's parking lot.

But no. Somehow, my imagination had satisfied the craving. I thought, "Is that possible?" The craving was gone so, yes, it was possible. I drove on, and ten minutes or so later, pulled into my driveway, still bemused by the experience.

Isn't human imagination extraordinary?

If you occasionally read these columns, you know how fascinated I am by the mind. Imagination especially fascinates me. The fact that my mind can concoct whole experiences out of nothing other than its own creativity amazes me. When I'm writing my columns, I'm grateful for it. When I'm telling the grandkids bedtime stories, I'm grateful for it. When I come up with a useful solution to a problem, I'm grateful for it. And, of course, when I'm driving, especially long distances, I'm grateful for it.

Of all the things human beings can do, I think imagination is the most amazing, and the most useful. Imagination enabled Gutenberg to come up with the printing press, the Wright Brothers to fly, Michelangelo and Van Gogh to create their amazing art, and don't get me started on Steve Jobs and Elon Musk.

Some people think they're not creative...not imaginative at all. I beg to differ. If you can dream, you can imagine. You may have gotten out of the habit, or blocked your imagination with more practical things—living life in the real world tends to crowd out imagination—but the creativity is still there, inside, waiting for you to call it forth.

I urge you to do exactly that...call it forth, release it. Take a flight of fancy. Tap into your child-mind, no matter how awkward it feels. Give it a go, and do it a lot. You'll love it, I promise.

And when the bear waves at you, wave back.

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Lake Wildwood Women's Chorus Springtime Performances

By Sally Buckthal, Lake Wildwood Women's Chorus Publicity

It's almost time for two fantastic springtime musical performances coming up in April! The singers of the Lake Wildwood Women's Chorus will sing their hearts out on Saturday, April 15 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 16 at 2 p.m. in the Cedar Room at the Clubhouse. Order your \$20 per person tickets now with your credit card at www.purplepass.com/lwwomenschorus. Call Judy Reilly-Armstrong at 650-269-7856 if you need assistance. There will be a limited number of seats available at each concert and only a few available at the door, so order as soon as possible. First come, first served!

There will be something special in these performances. Two carefully-chosen songs will be presented as the gals will harmonize with the men of the Grass Valley Male Voice Choir! This is the first time that the two choruses have joined together. Vicki Goss (LWWC and Harmonics) and George Husaruk (GVMVC) have worked diligently to get a perfect blend with the mixed groups. You won't want to miss them!

In addition to music with the Men's Chorus, Lake Wildwood Women's Chorus will present many beloved tunes you'll enjoy! The small groups of Harmonics, Chimers, and Cordially Yours will also entertain. Mary Scovel directs the latter two ensembles. Janet Rossman, Lake Wildwood Women's Chorus accompanist; Steve Nicholson, guitar/string bass; Bill Hale, percussion will be instrumentalists.

Perhaps reserve dinner at the Clubhouse before the Saturday evening concert or try breakfast/lunch before or after the Sunday concert. Call 530-432-1153. You can also eat in the bar. We recommend all Clubhouse options!

We would like to cheer you up over Tax Time...come and enjoy our music with friends and family. Remember, these April concerts are earlier than usual. Buy your tickets now. We look forward to seeing you at one of the performances!

Lake Wildwood Yacht Club's St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Submitted by the Lake Wildwood Yacht Club

Let the Shenanigans Begin at the LWW Yacht Club's St. Patrick's Day Celebration on Friday, March 17, from 6-9 p.m., in the Community Center Lake Room.

Sing Irish tunes & join Irish dancers who will teach you a jig. Join in Irish toasting with a no-host bar. Eat a traditional Irish dinner of corned beef and cabbage, potatoes, carrots, onions, with mustards & soda bread (Catered by Chef Chris Fagan). Plus, enjoy Baileys Irish Cream coffee brownie for dessert. May the luck of the Irish be with you as you partake in mischievous Leprechaun games and vie for best dressed Lad and Lass in the St. Patrick's Day parade.

\$25 per Lake Wildwood Yacht Club member or \$30 per guest (guests save \$5 by becoming a member of the Lake Wildwood Yacht Club) and return payment no later than Thursday, March 9 by using flier listed at the Yacht Club tab on lwwa.org.

Contact Sandie Frawley at smfrawley@comcast.net or (925) 200-4000 for more information.

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Spring Faire Brings Joy to Garden Club

Submitted by the Lake Wildwood Garden Club

For many years, the Lake Wildwood Garden Club has participated in several community events, but few have brought more joy to the Garden Club than the Spring Faire. The Spring Faire offers the club a special opportunity to teach young children a simple formula for successful gardening. A formula which a youngster can understand, remembers, and has fun doing: *A plant needs rich soil, warm sunshine, water, and love.*

Basic and successful, no matter the size of the garden or the age of the gardener. The Garden Club welcomes all children to visit us at the Spring Faire, select a colorful terra cotta pot, learn how easy it is to grow plants using the formula, then take the pot with a living plant home to love. The Garden Club will again be located in the REDBUD ROOM (lower level) of the Community Center, on Saturday, April 1, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Future gardeners, join us as we share with you our passion for gardening and you bring your joy to the Garden Club.



Photos courtesy of the Lake Wildwood Garden Club



SPORTS

It's Easy to Halve the Potato Where There's Love

TEETALK



John Dickerson

Leprechauns might have messed with the players in yesterday's St. Patty's Day Tournament, chaired by Patti Linney, but the results were too late for this issue. We'll reveal the winner of

that elusive pot of gold in the next issue. Dodging the nasty weather wasn't easy, but the Lake Wildwood Women's Golf Club pulled it off and completed their Odd Holes Only Tournament on a beautiful sunny day in earlier this month. Only the odd numbered holes counted for tournament play but counting them all revealed some great golf by Chris Fridman (Low Net) and Penelope Crumpley (Low Gross). Notable play was also evident with Birdies by Penelope Crumpley, Joan Dickerson, Patti Linney, and Dawn Castaldo. Chip-ins were posted by Diana Mortara, Chris Fridman, Patti Linney, and Janice Pucci.

Odd Holes Only Results

- Flight One:** 1st Chris Fridman, 2nd Jody Bond, 3rd Mo Mazzocco
- Flight Two:** 1st Linda Thode, 2nd Dianna Mortara, 3rd Joanne Zemetra
- Flight Three:** 1st Verda Powers, 2nd Alma Ortega-Avery, 3rd Sandy Sammon
- Flight Four:** 1st Sandra Turzak, 2nd Jerri Morello, 3rd Rose Frazier-Hart

Lake Wildwood's travelers to Mexico returned safely just before deadline but leaked not a single bit of juice about their Fun in the Sun escapade. I guess what happens in Mexico stays in Mexico!

Famous Golf Quotes

"The simplest things upset her on the links. That last missed putt was because of the uproar of the butterflies in the adjacent meadow."
-PG Wodehouse

The Lake Wildwood Women's Golf Club plays weekly on Thursday mornings and is always looking for new members who enjoy some friendly 18-hole competition. If you are a woman resident of Lake Wildwood and want to play golf with some fun gals, contact Patti Egge at (530) 432-3545 for details on how to join. Club-related information and success stories about members who did well at an Away Day or Invitational can be sent to jbd3886@gmail.com. The deadline for the next issue is March 12. Your help makes this article possible. Keep smiling and stay healthy... We'll see you on the Green!



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SPORTS

I Dink-Therefore I AM: Coming to Grips with My Pickleball Addiction Book Review

By: Sandie Frawley

O, what can I write? Time was definitely running out.
Nar an idea was coming to mind; I was ready to shout!

When, out of the blue, appeared a white knight in his shiny golf cart;
He handed me a small book, and, voila, this article got its kick start.

Eighty-six easy-to-read pages were devoured in one night,
Totally entertaining, seven chapters read before midnight.

It appears Frank Cerabino, the author, humor writer and columnist,
Found himself swept away with pickleball, just like most of us!

He describes his newly found sport, as a cultural phenomenon,
Being totally obsessed with the pickleball wave he’s now riding on.

Each chapter is cleverly written and has quite amusing names,
Like, “Taking a Dink out of Crime” and “Joining the Cult”
- addicting game.

My most favorite section of all, was the last chapter - number eight,
“A Pickleball Glossary A to Z,” fun read with terms very much up to date.

I’ve selected seven of the Pickleball Letters and explained what each
stands for,
I’d never heard of these strange pickleball terms; do read his book if you
want more!

A is for “**Aggro Dinking**” Def: This is pickleball slang for aggressive
dinking on the non-volley line. It’s kind of a dink-battle shot that makes
your opponent have to shuffle to the side or reach with a backhand to
return the dink to you. The object of aggro dinking is to force a pop up
return that allows you to break the back-and forth gentle returns over
the net with a hard volley for a winner. Maybe even a “meat volley.”
What’s that, you ask? Be sure to read on.

D is for “**Dead Dink**” Def: An ineffective dink that doesn’t make your
opponent move or reach to his/her side. It’s a squandered opportunity
to hit an unattackable dink that can sometimes result in a ball hit into the
net, or pop-up that will allow you to slam the return.

E is for “**Erne**” Def: This is a difficult pickleball shot named after
Erne Perry, the player who popularized it. An Erne is accomplished by
jumping or stepping outside the no-volley zone, ending up on the side of
the court to volley a ball to the other side, often around the outside of the
post. For it to be legal, your feet must be outside the kitchen area, and
you have to hit the ball when it is on your side of the net without making
any contact with the net.

F is for “**Falafel**” Def: A shot that comes dead off the paddle and falls
short of the net.

G is for “**Getting Pickled**” Def: Getting pickled is losing a game 11-0.

M is for “**Meat Volley**” Def: Intentionally or unintentionally winning a
rally by smashing a ball into the body of a defenseless player standing
across the court at the non-volley zone line. This is also sometimes
called a “body bag.”

S is for “**Shake & Bake**” Def: The “shake and bake” is an aggressive
offensive strategy that involves one partner hitting a low-and-hard drive
(as an alternative to a drop shot) while his /her partner crashes the net,
looking for a put away from a weak, pop-up return.

My review is completed, and I hope I’ve enticed you to read Frank
Cerabino’s really fun book.

You can purchase “I DINK therefore I AM: Coming to Grips with My
Pickleball Addiction” online or order it at your local book nook.

In closing, I wish to thank my beloved white knight, who absolutely
saved my stressed tush.

Without your timely kindness, Bill Sikes, completing this article on
time would have been a huge push!!

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SPORTS

Bocce Club

From eBits



Photo from eBits

Come meet new friends. Join us on Mondays, Wednesdays, and/or Thursdays at 2 p.m. at the Bocce Courts at Meadow Park. Bundle up, stop by, and have some fun. If it's not raining, we're usually playing. We will be hosting our Bocce tournament on Friday, March 17 at 2 p.m. This will also be a happy hour. Bring your own drinks and an appetizer or snack to share.

Save the date! We will be hosting our first potluck social for the new year on Thursday, April 27 at the Bocce Courts at 2 p.m. This will be the last day of our winter hours. Then on Monday, May 1, we will switch to our spring/summer hours. The new hours will be Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 9 a.m. and again at 4 p.m.

Membership dues will be coming up in April. New and existing members are \$20/year. Details to follow in the next couple of weeks by way of email and in eBits for both the social and how to pay dues. If you'd like to join us for any of our open play or events, just show up at regular play times or call Janice for more information. Hope to see you all soon! Janice Bowlin (President) at (209) 598-9331.



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SPORTS

Lake Wildwood Fishing Club Presents...

Submitted by the Lake Wildwood Fishing Club



Photo courtesy of Lake Wildwood Fishing Club | Ron Minor

The first Family Friendly Fishing Derby will be held on April 16 at Lake Wildwood, registration at 6 a.m., Commodore Park, fishing starting at 7 a.m. The Derby is open to all Lake Wildwood Residents and their guests, and we'll have a junior division (\$5 entry fee) and an adult division (\$10 entry fee). We'll have awards for the winners, raffle prizes, and hot dogs after. Participants can fish from the banks, in kayaks or boats, (lake wildwood boats only) and we'll have experienced fishermen and woman helping. We're really looking forward to introducing fishing to the young anglers.

We'll have a booth at the Lake Wildwood Spring Faire where you can register and get some fishing tips from our experienced anglers so come out and join us. The Derby Flyer and registration information is on LWVA.org under the fishing club section and will be in eBits the next few weeks. For more information, contact Fishing Club President, Jeremy Zimmerman at 530-701-1851 or Jeremy.zimmerman@me.com or Bob Chappell, 650-515-8719. Looking forward to seeing you.

Meet Your Neighbor

From eBits

For today's Meet Your Neighbor, we would like to introduce **Bernie and Barbara Theobald**.

Bernie and Barbara moved to Lake Wildwood from the East Bay Area five years ago where they lived for twenty-five years. Originally from the East Coast, they moved to Alamo, California when Bernie was recruited for an executive publishing career opportunity. Since then, they have not looked back.

While in the East Bay, Barbara also managed a paralegal office in Walnut Creek for 10 years. They have two children. Their daughter and her husband live in the Bay Area and their son lives in Wisconsin with his wife and their two boys. When they retired they wanted to stay in California, and fortunately found Lake Wildwood.

Bernie and Barbara love golf, live acoustic music, and bocce, which are some of their favorite things about living in Lake Wildwood. They also enjoy the country lifestyle in the Sierra Foothills. They both feel our community has been very welcoming and they have made some wonderful friends. Because of the Lake, the Amenities, LWA Security, the beautiful vistas, the great weather, and nice people, they have been very happy to be active Members in Lake Wildwood.

We asked Bernie what the most ridiculous fact he knows is and where he learned it,



Photo from eBits

and he said, "You could be right, or you could be married! I don't remember where I learned it, but whoever said it was pretty savvy."

If you or someone you know would like to

be featured on Meet Your Neighbor, please email connect@lwwa.org with your first and last name and the subject line "Meet Your Neighbor". All Members are selected at random.



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Letter-writing campaign to save Rough and Ready Fire

By Marianne Boll-See

“The Rough and Ready Fire Department will be out of money by June,” Chairman Bruce Stephenson, Chairman of the Penn Valley Fire Protection District, said at a town hall meeting held at the Penn Valley fire station.

“It may even be sooner,” Stephenson said.

Residents from both Rough and Ready and Penn Valley attended the meeting, asking questions about the challenging options to either close the fire department or consolidate with a neighboring fire district.

Stephenson was asked if it was possible that Rough and Ready residents could end up with no fire protection, and that in the case of an emergency, neighboring districts with available engines would be the only assistance.

“It’s possible.” Stephenson and Don Wagner, Fire Chief at Penn Valley Fire, responded.

Leaders from local fire districts urged residents to write letters expressing positive statements regarding the importance of the fire district to the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, state and federal representatives.

Letters from residents throughout the county should tell government officials that the Rough and Ready Fire Protection District (R&RFPD) sits in the middle of a fire-prone rural area. The potential for a fire emergency is real.

Rapid fire response is crucial to maintaining homeowner’s insurance in an area where insurance is becoming more expensive and harder to obtain.

Moreover, letters could express that, like many other rural fire departments, R&RFPD is facing financial difficulties due to increasing expenses and mandated requirements, while income from taxes and assessments remain static.

New mandates are expensive and are not funded, such as a new bill Nevada County Supervisor Sue Hoek mentioned, where all fire stations have to purchase generators for power outages.

“Where is the money coming from to do that?



Photo by Marianne Boll-See

Those are the things we need to keep on the fire line with our legislators... on both sides of the aisle [they] need to be working for us when it comes to fire safety,” Hoek said. “I’m frustrated. New mandates, no money.”

Finances are tight at local and neighboring districts for similar reasons, according to Chief Wagner, especially special districts like R&RFPD.

Representatives need to understand the urgency of the situation and ask them to work quickly to obtain new and sustainable funding to save the R&RFPD, according to Doug Wittler, Director of R&RFPD.

Senator Alex Padilla, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Congressman Kevin Kiley, Governor Gavin Newsom, Senator Brian Dahle, Assemblywoman Megan Dahle, and the Nevada County Board of Supervisors are all listed on the R&RFPD website with addresses and formal titles to address letters in support of the R&RFPD.

An effort was made to ask for help from the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, according to Wittler, however the attempts were rejected.

“I want to get on their agenda. I think it deserves the board’s attention,” Wittler said in a follow-up interview. I called the clerk of the board to get on

the agenda and was told if I was asking for money, it was a non-starter.”

Wittler was told to express his concerns during public comment periods.

“If there is a fire incident in Rough and Ready, which there could be, everyone in the area is affected,” Wittler said.

“The agendas are set far in advance and review committees do a lot of work before an item is placed on an agenda,” Chairperson Ed Scofield, District 2 said. “No one is trying to be rude. We understand the urgency of the matter.”

Working with Supervisor Sue Hoek of District 4 to have her bring it to the board was the advice offered by Scofield. If anyone wants a voice sooner, they are welcomed to a three minute presentation during public comment, according to Scofield.

The town hall questions also included the role of Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) and SR Jones, Executive Officer in Nevada County.

Consolidating with a neighboring fire district who is also “hanging by a shoe string” is not a situation that LAFCo would probably support, Stephenson said.

“Lafco would have to approve. They don’t want to take the money from Penn Valley residents,” Stephenson said.

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R&RFPD has tapped into every funding source, including grants, and at the town hall meeting it was suggested that a campaign be implemented to collect donations to keep the fire station in operation.

“Proposition 13 was good in the eyes of the homeowner, but it was the worst thing that could happen to special districts,” Chief Wagner said.

It comes down to the tax reallocation and how the district distributes money.

“The majority of funding for special districts comes from parcel tax assessments and a percentage of a 1% ad valorem from secured property taxes collected by the County. In addition, Nevada County is one of only six counties in the state of California that also share a percentage of Prop 172 funds with local fire districts,” as stated on the R&RFPD website.

Ad valorem is a Latin phrase meaning the amount is in proportion to the estimated value of the goods concerned.

Proposition 172 was placed on the ballot by the legislature and the governor during a special election in 1993 to partially replace the \$2.6 billion in property taxes shifted from local agencies such as police and fire departments to local school districts.

To contact Staff Writer Marianne Boll-See, email mboll-see@theunTWion.com.

Golf Course Maintenance

By Bill Hamilton



Courtesy photo

Now I know where we got the saying about the month of March: "Comes in like a lion, and goes out like a lamb." We are definitely in drought-buster mode. Locally, we have had over 50 inches of precipitation since the start of the rainy season, September 1. All the reservoirs should be filling up nicely. The bad weather is holding up our pending construction project..

Now I'm not sure when we'll begin as the Atmospheric River is up and running. The project will include reworking the bunkers and surrounding areas on holes 15 through 18. Also included is the renovation of the practice chipping and pitching area. The chipping green will be expanded and the plastic pitching green will be replaced with real turf. Once completed, I think this will be a great improvement to the facility. During the whole process we'll incorporate some temporary greens into the fairways so you can still play the hole. In most cases, only one hole will be closed for construction. There will be days when two holes will need to be closed as the contractor shifts to the next hole while the previous hole gets sodded with new grass. We want the golf holes to be completed before renovating the practice area.

This will give the new sod a chance to heal on the Golf Course before the end of May when the tournaments begin.

You can find the Golf Course Master Plan on the lwwa.org website for more information. In the short term, we will be starting a new round of "Maintenance Mondays" whereby the Course is closed until 1 p.m. on the second Monday of the warm months. Another reminder of spring is the April aerification of greens and fairways. Those dates are April 11 through April 14. Plan your away games now, but ask to know when your destination course is aerifying their own greens and fairways. It is setting up to be a wild spring in the foothills. There is going to be an explosion of chlorophyll coming when March turns into a lamb.

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Simple is better: Better nutrition begins with fresh, whole foods

By Mary Beth TeSelle

Most of us know that one of the key ingredients to better health is a better diet. Eating healthy is known to help prevent chronic diseases, including heart disease, Type 2 diabetes and certain cancers. Yet, the diets of most Americans are woefully inadequate.

The Centers for Disease Control reports that nine out of ten Americans consume too much sodium; nine out of ten do not eat enough fruits or vegetables; and roughly half of all adults (and 60% of kids) consume at least one sugary drink every day.

The CDC says there are many reasons for our poor nutritional habits. When healthy options are not available, people may settle for foods that are higher in calories and lower in nutritional value. In addition, people in low-income communities and some racial and ethnic groups often lack access to convenient places that offer affordable, healthier foods.

March is National Nutrition Month — a great time to identify ways we can incorporate better nutrition into our daily habits. The CDC says a good first step is to look for opportunities to reduce how often you consume heavily processed foods, including canned soups, sauce mixes, chips and crackers, and frozen meals.

For many people, the reliance on processed foods stems from convenience and cost. It can seem cheaper and easier to eat heavily processed food, like what we find in fast food restaurants or in the center aisles at our grocery stores. And fresh produce and whole foods, when not purchased strategically, can be expensive.

Fortunately, there are steps you can take to make healthy food both affordable and convenient. First and foremost, when it comes to price, it matters both where and when you shop. Do some comparison shopping at local grocery stores and farmers markets. See where produce is most affordable and who has which items on sale that week. Try to purchase fruits and vegetables that are in-season. They will be more affordable and better tasting.

Studying the weekly sale flyers for your local market can help you plan your menu, particularly when it comes to produce and lean meats that are on sale. If the price is really good, consider stocking up and freezing it for later use.

If fresh produce isn't an option, consider frozen or canned fruits and vegetables. They are typically less expensive and have a long shelf-life. Just be sure that canned fruit is in 100% fruit juice and that vegetables have "low sodium" or "no salt added" on the label.

In addition to fruits and vegetables, whole grains are an important — and affordable — part of a healthy diet. Whole grains like barley, brown rice, oats and quinoa are all a great source of nutrients at relatively low cost.

The key is to buy grains in their original form (not processed or with added salts and flavors) and then cook them yourself. For added convenience, many grains can be cooked in advance and simply reheated or



Reducing our consumption of highly processed foods can help to improve our overall nutrition. One strategy to do that is to focus on shopping the outer edges of the grocery store, where you will find fresh produce and meats.

eaten cold like a salad.

Snack food can be another food that, while convenient, is actually a nutritional and budgetary landmine. Rather than buying individual-sized yogurts, buy large tubs and mix in your own fruits, nuts or granola.

For trail mix, purchase nuts, dried fruit and whole grain pretzels or cereal in bulk and package individually. Air popped popcorn and whole, fresh fruits and berries in season also tend to cost less compared to pre-packaged items.

When it comes to shifting your diet away from highly processed foods, the key is to keep it simple: Buy fresh, whole foods and prepare them yourself. It will taste better, be easier on your budget, and be good for your health.

Good nutrition starts at the grocery store. And our grocery shopping should start with list — using a list helps ensure we get what we need and what we will use and can help prevent impulse purchases that may not align with a healthier diet. Keep your list focused on healthful ingredients based on foods from the five food groups: fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins and low-fat or fat-free dairy foods.

- **Produce:** Buying a variety of colors can help ensure you eat a variety of nutrients.
- **Grains:** Choose mostly whole-grain versions of bread, cereal, rice and pasta, like 100% whole-wheat bread, oatmeal, shredded wheat, brown rice and whole-wheat spaghetti. You can save time with quick-cook grains like quinoa or rice.
- **Dairy:** Select low-fat and fat-free versions of milk, yogurt and cheese. Compare added sugar levels in yogurt products and choose those with lower amounts.
- **Protein:** Choose lean meats, skinless poultry, fatty fish (salmon, tuna or sardines), and plant proteins like nuts, seeds, nut butters, beans, peas and lentils.
- **Oils:** For cooking and baking, choose a liquid vegetable oil like olive, canola, corn, cottonseed safflower, soybean or sunflower oil. Oils contain less saturated fat than solid fats like butter and lard.

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