

THE Lakes

WHITEFISH

The Lakes Master HOA 1st Quarter Newsletter 2024



Granite Park Chalet by Rhyan McLaury



Think Spring! – As spring blooms around us, it's the perfect time to start planning any landscaping updates for your properties to ensure compliance with our community's rules and regulations. We encourage proactive planning to ensure any landscaping projects align with our standards and enhance the overall aesthetics of our community. Whether it's refreshing flower beds, pruning trees, or installing new features, your efforts play a vital role in maintaining The Lakes as a wonderful place to call home. Please take this opportunity to review the landscaping requirements outlined in our community guidelines. If you have any questions or need clarification on specific regulations, don't hesitate to reach out to the office.



Store Trash Containers - All waste containers are to be kept out of sight of the street, and kept either concealed in the garage, behind fences or approved screening. Trash containers may be brought out for collection no earlier than 4am on the morning of collection day. Containers must be properly stored in their secure location no later than 7pm on collection day.

Annual Garage Sale – 7/19/24 & 7/20/24

Spring cleaning is right around the corner! The Lakes HOA Annual Garage Sale will be here before we know it. Mark your calendars for July 19th and 20th as these dates promise fantastic bargains and treasures waiting to be discovered. This is not only an excellent opportunity to declutter your home but also a chance to connect with your neighbors and support our community. Let's make this community garage sale the best one yet!



Santa?! Is that you? - As we revel in the joyous arrival of spring, it seems some of our festive decorations have missed the memo. We're not saying Santa's lost his way, but those Christmas lights might need a GPS to find their way back to storage!



While we admire the dedication to keeping the holiday spirit alive, it's probably time for the reindeer to hitch a ride back to the North Pole and for the inflatable snowman to deflate gracefully until next winter. Remember, just because we've sprung forward doesn't mean we're skipping over the seasons!

Let's tidy up our winter wonderland and make way for the blossoming beauty of spring. And who knows, maybe the Easter Bunny will appreciate having a bit more elbow room to hop around!

Report a Problem

As stewards of our beloved Lakes community, it's essential to remember that while we strive to maintain our neighborhood to the highest standards, our scope is limited to our residential area.

We've heard some concerns regarding issues outside our HOA boundaries. While we empathize with these concerns, it's important to clarify that our jurisdiction extends solely to The Lakes.

If you encounter any issues beyond our residential area, we kindly ask you to utilize the City of Whitefish's "Report a Problem" link. This ensures that the appropriate authorities are made aware of the situation promptly. Together, we can contribute to the well-being of our entire community.

Crack the Code: City Offers 50/50 Split for Sidewalk Repairs!

We are excited to share that The Lakes Board of Directors is working with the City of Whitefish to have all the sidewalks repaired in the neighborhood at one time later this summer. This won't happen by itself though. Sign up for this great cost sharing program today using the link below.

<https://www.cityofwhitefish.org/DocumentCenter/View/518/Sidewalk-Cost-Sharing-Agreement-Form-PDF>

Don't let your sidewalk be the 'cracked' topic of conversation in the neighborhood. Remember, a smooth sidewalk benefits everyone. Let's pave the way to a safer and more beautiful community together.



The Unsung Heroes The Lakes Wetlands

In the intricate tapestry of ecosystems, some elements often go unnoticed despite their crucial roles. Cattails, those slender, reedy plants often seen lining the edges of ponds and marshes, are among these unsung heroes. While they may appear as mere decorations, cattails play a vital role in maintaining the health and balance of our water systems. Here's how cattails benefit our aquatic environment.

Water Filtration: One of the most significant contributions of cattails to water systems is their exceptional ability to filter pollutants. These plants act as natural water purifiers, absorbing excess nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus from the water. These nutrients are often byproducts of agricultural runoff or wastewater discharge and can lead to harmful algae blooms and water quality degradation. Cattails absorb and store these nutrients in their biomass, effectively reducing the nutrient load in the water and improving overall water quality.

Habitat Creation: Cattails provide essential habitat and shelter for a diverse array of wildlife. Their dense stands offer nesting sites and refuge for birds such as red-winged blackbirds, ducks, and marsh wrens. Additionally, fish and amphibians find shelter among the roots and stems of cattails, while insects and small invertebrates thrive in the intricate microhabitats they create.



Soil Stabilization: The extensive root systems of cattails play a vital role in stabilizing soil along the edges of water bodies. These roots help prevent erosion by anchoring the soil in place, reducing sedimentation, and maintaining the integrity of shorelines. By stabilizing the soil, cattails also contribute to the prevention of nutrient runoff and the preservation of water clarity.

Water Regulation: Cattails play a role in regulating water levels within wetlands and marshes. Their dense root systems slow down water flow and trap sediments, allowing for water to be retained within the ecosystem. During periods of heavy rainfall or flooding, cattails help absorb excess water and reduce the risk of downstream flooding. Conversely, during dry periods, they release stored water back into the environment, helping to maintain consistent water levels.

Cattails are much more than just ornamental plants; they are integral components of healthy water systems. From filtering pollutants and providing habitat to stabilizing soil and regulating water levels, these unassuming plants perform a multitude of essential functions that contribute to the overall health and resilience of our pond system.

Maximize Convenience and Peace of Mind with Quarterly Autopay for HOA Dues

Are you looking for a hassle-free way to manage your HOA dues? Look no further than our convenient quarterly autopay option! Signing up for quarterly autopay offers numerous benefits that can simplify your life and enhance your peace of mind.

Avoid Late Fees: Life can get busy, and it's easy to overlook payment deadlines amidst our hectic schedules. With quarterly autopay, you can rest assured that your HOA dues will always be paid on time, eliminating the risk of late fees.

Support Community Operations: By enrolling in quarterly autopay, you're not just benefiting yourself – you're also contributing to the smooth operation of our community. Timely and consistent HOA dues payments enable us to maintain common areas, fund essential services, and uphold property values for the benefit of all residents.



Signing up for quarterly autopay is quick and easy, and it offers a host of advantages that can save you time, reduce stress, and support our community's well-being.

If you're interested in enrolling in quarterly autopay or have any questions about the process, please don't hesitate to contact the office. We're here to assist you every step of the way.



The Canoe Club 1st Quarter Newsletter 2024



Whitefish Mountain Resort from City Beach by Rhyan McLaury



The Canoe Club Hot Tub – Toy Free Zone

During a recent routine inspection of our shared clubhouse facilities, we noticed that toys were found lodged in the pipes of the hot tub. As a gentle reminder, please refrain from allowing toys in the hot tub area.

Just as we would treat our own homes with care, let's extend the same courtesy to our shared spaces. Keeping the hot tub free of toys helps ensure its proper functioning and prevents costly damage to the plumbing system.

Share Your Feedback in Our Community Survey!

At The Canoe Club, we strive to create a vibrant and welcoming community that meets the diverse needs and preferences of our residents. To ensure that we continue to enhance our facilities in alignment with your expectations, we are excited to announce the launch of our community survey!

Your feedback is invaluable to us, and this survey provides an opportunity for you to share your thoughts, experiences, and suggestions regarding the amenities and facilities offered at The Canoe Club. We want to hear from you about what you use, how often you use it, and what amenities you would like to see in the future.

Whether you're a frequent visitor to our clubhouse, enjoy relaxing by the pool, or appreciate the tranquility of our walking trails, your input will help us better understand the preferences and priorities of our residents. Your feedback will guide our decision-making process as we work to maintain and enhance our community offerings.



Participating in the survey is easy – simply keep an eye on your email inbox for a link to the survey questionnaire that will be sent out next month. We encourage all residents to take a few moments to complete the survey and share your valuable insights.

We believe that by working together and listening to the voices of our residents, we can continue to foster a thriving community that we are all proud to call home. Thank you in advance for your participation and for helping us shape the future of The Canoe Club!

New Boat House Procedures Coming Summer 2024

As we gear up for another exciting summer season at The Canoe Club, we want to take a moment to remind everyone of the importance of returning kayaks to the boat house and access keys to the office at the end of the season. Your cooperation in this matter is crucial to maintaining the efficiency and integrity of our community amenities.

Unfortunately, at the end of last season, two kayaks were not returned as expected, which has prompted us to implement a new check-out process for the upcoming summer 2024 season. While we understand that accidents and oversights can happen, it's essential for all residents to adhere to the guidelines and procedures in place to ensure the smooth functioning of our facilities.

Clubhouse expectations will be outlined in an email to residents later this spring with the new check-out process for the summer 2024 season.



See you around the neighborhood this spring!

Sincerely,

Your Team at The Lakes HOA & Canoe Club