



# The Orchid Lake Heron

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## **PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS**

Our first major snowstorm (and power outage) of the season, made me realize that we need to be concerned with not only our own needs but also those of our neighbors during an event like this. If you enjoy the benefit of a back-up generator or wood-burning stove, take a moment to check on your neighbor to see that they are also safe and warm. And, if you're like me and need to go to work no matter what the weather, see if your neighbors need groceries or medications which you could pick up while out. I like being a part of a community that is caring for each other and would encourage you to get involved. It could be something as simple as shoveling a driveway, cleaning off a car, or picking up the mail for your neighbor.

Another way I encourage everyone to care for our neighborhood is with regard to the roads. While residents volunteer their time to maintain the roads, something as simple as obeying the posted speed limit of 15 MPH can make all the difference in the funds we need to spend on yearly upkeep. Following the speed limit also means that our neighbors walking their dogs or out walking with their children are also safe.

Just a reminder that you'll be receiving your Annual Dues Notice this month. The

annual dues collected by Orchid Lake Estates are used for the maintenance (mowing, roadwork, snow plowing, beaches, dam, etc.) and upkeep/improvement of our public facilities. Please remember that as a resident and/or lot owner, you have use of OLE roads and all facilities, so it's important that dues are paid in a timely manner. If you experience difficulty in meeting your obligation, you can set up a payment plan. Details will be included with your dues notice.

Finally, the January Board of Directors' meeting will be held on January 22, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom. For details on how to connect, email [OrchidLake1@gmail.com](mailto:OrchidLake1@gmail.com).

Stay safe and healthy,  
*Debbie Blanchard*

## **JANUARY BOARD MEETING**

**WHEN:** Saturday, January 22 at 2:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Via Zoom (email [OrchidLake1@gmail.com](mailto:OrchidLake1@gmail.com) for a link.

***See you there!***

Also, be sure to visit our website at [www.orchidlake.net](http://www.orchidlake.net) to find the latest information on activities, Board minutes, etc.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (CIC)**

The CIC is going to be very busy in 2022! We're planning for regular gatherings on various topics and activities such as beekeeping, making bee houses, craft days, and gardening. If you have a special skill and want to share it with your neighbors, please let us know!

Currently, we're looking for someone to teach basic CPR and/or first aid so we can help our neighbors in case of an emergency. If you are able or know someone who can donate their time, let me know. Other projects for 2022 include a community garden, fixing up the entrance, the well area, the pavilion, and picnic tables. LinLee George, our neighbor on Deer, gave us some great plans and advice for the community garden and beautifying the areas mentioned above. If you are unable to help with the physical work, please consider starting seeds for the garden, making a trellis, or other ideas. Please contact Chris DeMaioribus at [olecic23065@gmail.com](mailto:olecic23065@gmail.com) or call/text 804.664.0888. Happy 2022!

### **Dam Committee**

The Dam Committee has engaged the services of a trapper to remove the muskrats burrowing into the dam. Residents will be notified prior to trapping beginning. During the trapping period, you are asked to keep your dogs on a leash while walking on the dam side of the lake. While the majority of the traps will be in the water, you are still asked to

exercise caution since the trapper will be identifying burrows around the lake.

### **Environmental Committee**

One of the items identified by the trapper hired to remove the muskrats was that the grasses growing along the dam side of the lake are contributing to muskrats choosing to build burrows in our dam. By removing the grasses, we will hopefully prevent the muskrats from returning.

The Committee has been given approval by the Board to purchase a special rake for removing the grasses and tarps to prevent future growth of invasive grasses. As weather permits, work will begin on grass removal.

**Questions:** Contact Prentiss de Jesus at [prentiss.dejesus@gmail.com](mailto:prentiss.dejesus@gmail.com) or at 571.239.3800.



### **IDEAS, QUESTIONS, CONCERNS?**

If you have any idea, questions, or concerns, it's now easier than ever to share your thoughts with the OLE Board. Just email [OrchidLake1@gmail.com](mailto:OrchidLake1@gmail.com).