



FORT LAUDERDALE CURRENTS

Neighborhood News

Submitted by Linda Bird, President of the Improvement Association of Lake Estates, Inc.

Lake Estates is a perfect example of the "Venice of America" label that the City of Fort Lauderdale has achieved. It consists of 168 homes in an all-waterfront community which was established in 1956, east of Federal Highway and north of Commercial Boulevard. It has the distinction of being the first community in Fort Lauderdale to have a Beautification Project with the creation of our linear park dedicated by then Fort Lauderdale Mayor Virginia Young in 1973. A beautiful tree lined street resulted from the foresight of our combined effort with the city to buffer the commercial district from our residential neighborhood.

Lake Estates is a very desirable neighborhood with waterfront access to the ocean. The original developer told potential buyers that a construction bridge located on Bayview Drive would be removed upon completion of construction of the Landings and the east border of Lake Estates. Purchasers scooped up lots and had their homes built. The construction bridge was never removed.

With the support of our community, the City did approve a Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Bond Program line item to establish the gateway to Lake Estates-cobblestone street cutouts and an entrance marker, along with landscaping to add to the linear park. The landscaping and trees have served a valuable function protecting Lake Estates from commercial light spillage and noise. Another successful public private partnership was made with the local car dealership to install a wall the length of our bordering street.

Over the years, deep friendships evolved as families raised their children, became empty nesters, and sold their homes to new young families as renaissance continues. The property values have held their own in weak markets and surged during the stronger markets. Pride in the neighborhood abounds. A tradition during the holidays called "Light Up the Lakes," began in 1982 and continues to this day. The streets are lined each year with luminary candles, providing a beautiful backdrop as neighbors get together

for the Annual Meeting and Block Dinner Party to share the joy of the season and celebrate together.

A monthly newsletter is sent out to neighbors called "Lake Estates New and Views," updating everyone on our Crime Watch and issues facing our community. Emails are sent to residents for emergency updates and code issues. An all-volunteer Board of Directors works together to keep Lake Estates a desirable community in which to live.