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SAVE THE DATE!

Meet Your Neighbors Cocktail Party

Date: Saturday, May 14

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Playhouse Patio

Join your neighbors for beer & wine, food, and lively conversation on the lovely Playhouse patio!

Members get in free.
Non-members: \$10.

Lake Ida: From Swampland to Settled Neighborhood

By Paula Detwiller

Have you ever wondered what the Lake Ida neighborhood looked like in the early days, before homes were built and people moved in?

You may already know that Lake Ida was named for Ida Linton, wife of Michigan Congressman William Linton, an early settler who named the town after himself. (The name was later changed to "Delray" after Linton defaulted on his land payments.) Here's what else we learned one afternoon at the Delray Beach Historical Society Archives:

- In the early days, Lake Ida was very deep and twice as large as it is now, almost reaching Atlantic Avenue on the south end!

- Water was abundant all around Delray, which became a major pineapple-growing area in the early 1900s. One resident remembers that "...the water level was so high, we kids could dig down three or four feet anywhere in town and find water."

- As you can imagine, Lake Ida was a huge breeding ground for insects. Local resident Haild Zeder is quoted as saying the mosquitoes were "so big and black, like a swarm of bees; we'd have to run!"

- Lake Ida receded to its current size after the Everglades draining was done around 1917 by the Lake Worth Draining System.

- In the mid-1930s, Lake Ida was a

popular place for fishing contests. Local angler Randall Davis proclaimed in one of his scrapbooks: "On Lake Ida, black bass grow plenty big."



Randall Davis on Lake Ida in 1935 with a fresh-caught bass. Photo from Davis' scrapbook, courtesy of the Delray Beach Historical Society.

What about the land around the lake? An unnamed person jotted these notes on the back of a newspaper clipping that found its way into the Archives:

"Around Lake Ida in those days was nothing but pine and weeds and people only went out to fish and hunt. When Mr. Grimes came, he did a lot to help make the lake as it is today."

Continued on page 7

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Message from the President

Dear Lake Ida Residents,

I wanted to introduce myself. I am Lainie Lewis, the new President of the Lake Ida Property Owners Association. I grew up outside of Pittsburgh, PA, moved to South Florida in the early 1970s, and attended FAU. I have lived in the Lake Ida area for over 34 years. I would not live anywhere else. I have raised both of my daughters, Annie and Katrina Sorensen, here and this is where all of us call "home."

I would like to thank our past president, JoAnn Peart, for all the blood, sweat, tears and hard work she has put into the Lake Ida Property Owners Association for more than 10 years. We couldn't be one of the best, well known, and sought-after neighborhoods in Palm Beach County without her.

I would also like to welcome our new Board members: Sam Shannon, Lourie Albanese and Dominic Montazemi. I am looking forward to all of their wonderful and exciting new ideas.

Please check out our new website -- www.LakeIdaDelray.com. We will be updating it much more often with photos of the children's events, adult parties, and other information pertinent to our neighborhood.

One last note: we desperately need more Citizens Observer Patrol (COP) volunteers to drive through Lake Ida to keep our neighborhood safe and crime-free as possible. It's actually a lot of fun --you get to meet your neighbors and wear that nifty blue uniform shirt! All of that for only two hours a week. Please sign up now. You can find the application on our website.

Please feel free to contact me with any important issues, concerns, or just to say hello.

Thank you,

Lainie Lewis
(561) 278-9799
lainielewi@aol.com



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Real Estate on the Rebound in Lake Ida? By Paula Detwiller

As the summer heat approaches, things seem to be heating up in the Lake Ida real estate market. Local real estate agents report an increase in the volume of home sales since late 2010, with purchase prices beginning to inch higher.

"The last month or so, I've seen an upswing in prices," says RE/MAX Services agent Brian Boles, a Lake Ida resident. "Last year we were seeing homes selling for under \$200 per square foot. Now we're seeing some homes selling for more than \$275 per square foot." In the "heyday" of Lake Ida real estate, he says, homes sold in the \$300-per-square-foot range.

The general feeling among real estate analysts is that South Florida's housing market has hit bottom, but that recovery will be slow due to a high inventory of homes on the

market and the lack of widely available financing. Local Realtors are optimistic about Lake Ida's recovery, however, because the neighborhood remains desirable.

A promising sign: less than 10 percent of Lake Ida home sales this year have been short sales. And while cash is still "king" (about half of the sales this year have been cash deals), investors have re-entered the market and are improving property values. For example, a home at 530 N. Swinton Ave. sold for \$362,000 in February to an investor who remodeled the property and sold it in April for \$525,000 (see chart below).

"Lake Ida has its own special appeal," says Boles. "It will come back faster than other neighborhoods."



Sales of Existing Lake Ida Homes, Late 2010 through April 15, 2011

| CLOSING DATE | ADDRESS | HOW PURCHASED | PURCHASE PRICE |
|--------------|--|---------------|----------------|
| 12/29/10 | 620 NW 8 th Ave. | FINANCED | \$1,050,000 |
| 12/30/10 | 25 NW 8 th Street | CASH | \$201,500 |
| 12/30/10 | 1515 Pine Lane | FINANCED | \$320,000 |
| 12/30/10 | 202 NW 16 th St. | FINANCED | \$261,000 |
| 12/31/10 | 218 NW 17 th Street | FINANCED | \$222,000 |
| 1/4/11 | 1750 Lake Dr. | FINANCED | \$1,400,000 |
| 1/14/11 | 1104 NW 6 th Ave. | FINANCED | \$475,000 |
| 1/14/11 | 312 Beverly Dr. | CASH | \$244,000 |
| 1/14/11 | 615 NW 7 th St. | CASH | \$420,000 |
| 1/21/11 | 102 NW 7 th St. | FINANCED | \$390,000 |
| 1/21/11 | 1209 NW 3 rd Ave. | FINANCED | \$895,000 |
| 1/24/11 | 609 NW 1 st Ave | CASH | \$350,000 |
| 2/16/11 | 530 N Swinton Ave. | CASH | \$362,000 |
| 2/22/11 | 10 NW 25 th Court | CASH | \$235,000 |
| 3/4/11 | 1127 NW 3 rd Ave. | CASH | \$375,000 |
| 3/22/11 | 715 Sunshine Dr. | CASH | \$280,000 |
| 3/29/11 | 508 NW 8 th Ave. | FINANCED | \$470,000 |
| 4/7/11 | 1112 NW 4 th Ave. | FINANCED | \$368,000 |
| 4/8/11 | 101 NW 11 th St. | FINANCED | \$955,000 |
| 4/13/11 | 12 NW 11 th St. | CASH | \$500,000 |
| 4/14/11 | 515 NW 1 st Ave. | FINANCED | \$435,000 |
| 4/15/11 | 530 N Swinton Ave. (remodeled & resold) | FINANCED | \$525,000 |

Source: Multiple Listing Service

Retired Police Lieutenant Says "Don't Stop!"

By Lt. Marc Woods, Ret., Delray Beach Police

Don't stop keeping an eye on your neighbor's houses. Crime is down, and "kudos" to the Lake Ida Citizens Observers Patrol. They put in a lot of hours patrolling, and you residents have been alert to what goes on there. It certainly pays off, as you can see by the dramatic reduction in daytime burglaries. However...

- Don't stop calling the police when you see someone who is "not right." Be sure to get a description of their clothing or car, and call the police at 243-7800.
- Don't stop keeping an eye on your neighbor's house when they are working or out of town. Share your plans, too.
- Don't stop walking and riding your bike in the neighborhood. It helps and it's good for your legs. Don't forget to bring along your cell phone.
- Don't stop keeping a note pad and pen in your car. It's easier to write stuff down than try to remember license plate numbers, etc.
- Don't stop setting your alarm, even for short trips. Someone may see you leaving.
- Don't stop locking all the doors and sliders! On Spring days, we sometimes forget to lock them.
- Don't stop being a nosy neighbor... Nosy neighbors called in the best arrests for burglary in Lake Ida!!

Don't relax just because crime is down in Lake Ida. Criminals will come back, and you want them to pick a place besides Lake Ida to do their thing. Police Patrols, Observer Patrols, people walking, and neighbors looking around... it all pays off in fewer crimes.



We think it's safe to say that former Delray Police Lieutenant Marc Woods is enjoying retirement.

Dedicated Volunteers



Paula and Tom Honker of Lake Ida were recently honored by the Delray Beach Police Department for their "Outstanding Performance and Assistance" as volunteers in the Lake Ida Citizens Observer Patrol (COP) program. The Honkers and others were recognized for their hard work and dedication during the Delray Beach Volunteer Luncheon held March 24 at the Delray Beach Golf Club.

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Hello, Neighbors!

YOU'RE INVITED

Annual "Meet the Neighbors" Party

Sponsored by the Lake Ida Property Owners Association

Saturday, May 14

6:00 p.m.

Delray Beach Playhouse Patio

Members: FREE

Non-members: \$10

Beer, wine, and food will be provided. If you like, bring your favorite homemade appetizer or dessert to share. See you there!

For more information, call Sue Heglin at (561) 702-0252

LAKE IDA PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

<http://lakeida.net/>

“Support the Future of Your Neighborhood”

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND RENEWAL

May 2011– May 2012

If you have already paid your 2011-2012 dues please ignore this form, or better yet, pass it on to a neighbor who might be interested in joining. If you are not sure of your membership status please call 265-2915 or email paulahonker@bellsouth.net for an update. If you call please leave a message if no answer.

(PLEASE “X” APPROPRIATE BOXES)

New Membership

Date: _____

Membership Renewal

Family, Household or Individual (\$25)

Sponsor (\$100)

Donation

CHECK PAYABLE TO: LAKE IDA PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Please Print

NAME AS YOU WISH TO APPEAR ON MAILINGS

STREET ADDRESS

RESIDENTIAL TELEPHONE NUMBER

E-MAIL ADDRESS*

* Many event and meeting notices are sent out via e-mail; we will not use your e-mail for any other purposes.

We need your help. If you are able to participate in the operation of your association, please indicate your areas of interest.

Board of Directors

Membership committee

Code Enforcement

Adult Functions

Newsletter

Children’s Events

Attend City Meetings

Citizens Observer Patrol

Comments and/or suggestions for a more effective association:

PLEASE MAIL CHECK PAYABLE TO: LAKE IDA PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION AND APPLICATION TO:

**Lake Ida Property Owners Association
777 E. Atlantic Ave. Suite C2-353
Delray Beach, FL 33483**

Swampland to Neighborhood

Continued from page 1

That's a reference to investor and developer Warren G. Grimes, who is credited with being the first and main builder of residential property around Lake Ida in the mid-1950s. Grimes and his wife later donated land to build Unity Church on SE 22nd Street and set up the Grimes Foundation, which funded many charitable causes.

Now that you know a little more about Lake Ida's history, next time you stroll through the neighborhood, tip your hat to Mr. Grimes—and the effectiveness of modern-day mosquito control!



An unknown boater on Lake Ida, circa 1935. From a Randall Davis scrapbook, courtesy of the Delray Beach Historical Society.

Donation Made to Family of Police Officer Killed in February Car Crash

The Lake Ida Property Owners Association Board of Directors recently voted to donate \$250 to the family of Delray Police Sergeant Adam Rosenthal, who died in a car crash at the age of 39, leaving behind a wife and four children.

"The Board felt this was the least we could do," said President Lainie Lewis.

"Years ago, Sgt. Rosenthal patrolled the Lake Ida neighborhood, and I felt we had to give back," Lewis said. "Delray Police Chief Anthony Strianese was very appreciative of the donation."

Rosenthal was well-liked on the police force that he served with distinction for 16 years. More than 1,000 people turned out at his funeral, and a fundraiser sponsored by a local radio station raised \$7,000 for his family.

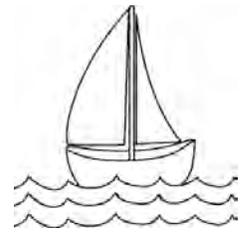


Delray Police Sergeant

Adam Rosenthal

*Photo courtesy
of Delray Beach
Police Department*

Individual donations in support of Rosenthal's family can be sent to: Delray Citizens for Delray Police, 300 W. Atlantic Ave. Delray Beach, FL 33444. Write Adam Rosenthal's name in the memo portion of the check.



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