

Historic Lakewood Estates

Est 1925

Fall 2020 Newsletter

Fall has come to Lakewood Estates. The leaves are changing, the temperatures are falling, Halloween decorations are going up, and football, 2020 style, has begun.

Mums are one of the favorite fall flowers. They come in a variety of colors, and after blooming in a container can be transplanted into the ground to continue giving you color year after year.



This is a goldenrod gall, formed by a fly larvae.



Also in bloom are numerous wildflowers, including Goldenrod. Goldenrod is often mistaken as a cause of allergies, but in fact the pollen of Goldenrod is too heavy to float in the air and into your nose to cause allergies and depends on bees and butterflies for pollination. The culprit is usually ragweed, which has inconspicuous flowers and small pollen and relies on airborne pollination, and while floating through the air can end up in your nose and cause misery.

And after your goldenrod blooms please leave the stems in place during the fall and winter, as they may harbor Goldenrod Gall Larvae, which can provide a tasty treat for a chickadee or downy woodpecker on a cold winter day.

There has been talk among our board of installing a gravel walking trail around the lake. We would probably have to raise money to do this, and a board member is determining the estimated costs of the project. Please let your board members know what you think of this idea. Would you be more likely to walk around the lake and enjoy its features if there was a walking trail to use? Would you be willing to donate to this project?

Board members are Tony Patterson, Brian Kendrick, Anthony Underwood, DaVeene Boles, Elmore Bend, Stan Prewett, and Joe Openshaw.



This is a nice spider web at the lake's edge one recent morning.

As it stands now, we will be lighting the lake Christmas tree on Sunday, November 22. More information later, on Nextdoor, Facebook and with signs.

Halloween is approaching, and the Board is advising everyone to use caution and follow the CDC guidelines for safer Trick or Treating.

Make trick-or-treating safer

- Avoid direct contact with trick-or-treaters.
- Give out treats outdoors, if possible.
- Set up a station with individually bagged treats for kids to take.
- Wash hands before handling treats.
- Wear a mask.

Watercress Darter Update

Watercress Darter habitat improvement is still underway, with US Fish and Wildlife and Freshwater Land Trust leading the way. Covid has slowed things down, but informative signs are being developed, further privet removal is in the future, and a walking trail beside the spring run is a possibility.

Stay safe; there have now been over 900 cases of Covid-19 in 35020. It's going to be difficult, but experts are now recommending to NOT have family gatherings at Thanksgiving, as these types of gatherings have been determined to be a major cause of Covid spread. Wear masks, keep your distance, and avoid crowds indoors.

Vote on or before November 3.

So far in 2020 only 30 people have paid their dues to our association. We often have people waiting until the last quarter of the year to pay, so this is a gentle reminder.

Some of you who have paid overlooked our increase to \$150 and paid the old fee of \$125. We raised the dues by \$25 at our 2019 General Meeting to offset the increased cost of mowing.

If you have not submitted your payment, please do so soon. We accept cash or check or CashApp or Venmo, or PayPal.

We will not be having a General Meeting this year because of Covid. Please address any concerns or suggestions to your street board member.

Meadow Lane – Tony Patterson

Lakewood Drive – Brian Kendrick, Anthony Underwood,

Waverly Circle – Stan Prewett

Woodland Road – Elmore Bend

Hillside Road – DaVeene Boles

Environmental Officer – Fred Jones

President – Joe Openshaw

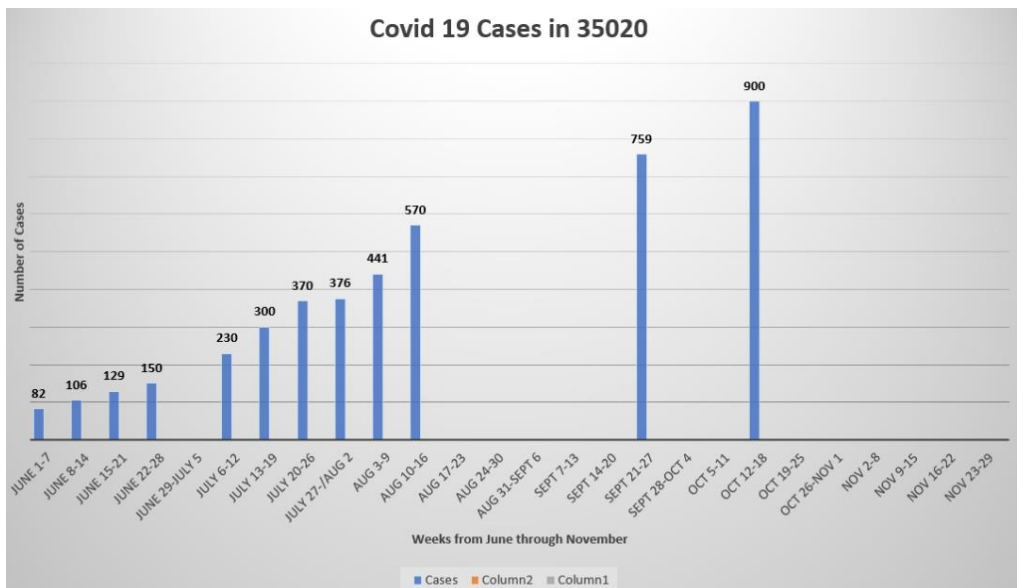


A goldfinch perched on one of our sunflower heads, eating the ripened seeds.

Covid-19 is still a concern in our community. The number of cases is increasing at a rate that does not allow the curve to flatten, as shown on this chart based on numbers for our zip code from the Jefferson County Health Department.

We have had at least one person in our neighborhood who contracted Covid-19. Others have had to quarantine after being exposed.

Please continue to take precautions and let your neighbors or your director know if you need anything, or are stuck in your house isolating yourself and need something from the store.



This big spider, spotted in our back yard, about sums up 2020, with the pandemic, the fires, the hurricanes, the social unrest, the toilet paper shortage. Let's all hope for a better 2021.

Always remember to keep your dogs in a fenced enclosure or on a leash. Bessemer has leash laws and our neighborhood covenants reflect these laws. If you see a wandering canine and can't locate its owner, please call Bessemer Animal Control at 205-426-5586.