

# NEWS



# BOLE

WINTER 2025 EDITION

[www.forestlakesclub.org](http://www.forestlakesclub.org)

## UPCOMING MEETINGS.....

The FLC Board meets the second Monday of each month, 8 PM at the clubhouse. All members in good standing are invited to attend.

**Winter meetings: Jan 13th, Feb 10th & March 10th**

## UPCOMING EVENT CALENDAR

Feb. 22nd	Trivia Night
TBD	Margaritaville Night
March 29th	Fish Stocking

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS.....

Board Position:	Name:	Election Year:
Chairman	Gary Branning	2025
Vice Chairman	Debbie Devenny	2026
President	Jack Quirk	2025
Vice President	Len Bicher	2025
Treasurer	Greg Smith	2026
Secretary	Randy Palin	2025
Member	Eric Dietz	2026

## LAKE NEWS.....

### Snow doubt about it, winter is here!

Wow! It's amazing how fast the seasons change around here. We still have some leaves hanging on to some of the trees but I guess Mother Nature didn't get the memo because I woke up the other day to a beautiful winter wonderland out my window. Got to love Forest Lakes.

Some things never change. It was inevitable that fall brought cold crisp days, leaves turned to brown and fell to the ground, some birds flew south and the gas men continued to slowly make their way around the lake, disturbing our peace and quiet and a bit of our peace of mind. Good news is they have started hooking up to homes and some of our neighbors will hopefully be seeing some savings to their energy bills this winter. Bad news is, I'm still waiting on mine.

Couple of fun activities took place this past fall. Back in September, Jack Quirk and Joe Smith

organized the fourth annual Cornhole Tournament. It was a little drizzly this year but it did not spoil the sportsman-like camaraderie of the competition. Unfortunately, after several elimination rounds, the title was taken by two outsiders: J. P. Healy from Lake Mohawk and Brian McClaughry from Cranberry Lake. What!! This can't stand! Start practicing Forest Lakes people. Bring that



*Continued on next page*



# LAKE NEWS.....continued

trophy home next year!

October brought out a lot of scary creativity around the lake. Nothing like a little horror ambience to spruce up the neighborhood! Every year it seems more and more skeletons and ghouls are hanging out at some of our neighbor's houses. Another fun set of Halloween parties took place at the end of the month. Thank you to Zach Ripps, Cinthia Rodriguez, Kelly Ryfa and Chelsea Asbury as well as the FL recreation committee, who hosted and transformed the clubhouse; that was some crazy Halloween décor! It certainly added to the frightful festivities. Hats off to the wonderful and creative costumes that came out to both the adult and kid's parties...always a fun time!

Thank you to Jeri Quirk, who, with the help of the Forest Lakes Swim Team, arranged for another great holiday wreath decorating event at Nester's Greenhouse. There were about 70 people in attendance. All the proceeds went to benefit the Forest Lakes Swim Team. It was a fun evening of creativity and everyone walked away with a beautiful handmade holiday piece. I hope this stays a holiday tradition.

A big thanks to Jeri and Jack Quirk for organizing our fourth annual Christmas tree lighting. Attendees enjoyed sipping hot chocolate, hanging some homemade ornaments and listening to some local talent. Ava Matanzo, Olivia Gutwein, Lucy Smith, and Kaylee Mathews all performed Christmas songs on the piano. Thank you to Van Aukens for setting up. Alexandra Palen sang a wonderful Christmas song. Santa made a special appearance to the festivities. The night concluded with the count-down to see the lighting of our beautiful Forest Lakes Christmas Tree.





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Email: [forestlakesclub@yahoo.com](mailto:forestlakesclub@yahoo.com)

# SOME MORE FALL PHOTOS.....





## MORE LAKE NEWS.....

### Community Upkeep

In preparation for winter, the docks, floats and lane lines have all been removed from the lake and the beach house has been winterized. The deck at the clubhouse also needed to have some repairs done to it this season.

Did you see people walking around on the dam as you drove past it? The state requires that we have the dam inspected every two years, by a certified engineer. Also as required by Dam Safety, every spring and fall we have unwanted vegetation cleared from it. The crew was out working on it for a couple of days and cleared away a lot of unwanted brush.

Speaking of our dam, if you see any kids (or adults) throwing rocks from the dam area into the lake, please ask them to stop. We paid for those rocks to be put there for a reason. And it does not help if they are relocated offshore.

Also wanted to remind you again, if you are lucky to have one of Forest Lake's 48 or so fire hydrants near your home, along with your good fortune, comes some responsibility. While proximity to a hydrant is good for your insurance premiums, an accessible hydrant improves firefighters' response efforts, possibly saving lives and reducing property damage. If you are able, please maintain a 3' perimeter clear of any snow this winter and vegetation year-round. And let's hope it's never needed.



Forest Lakes Club remains the life-force of this community. Many activities and organizations were established and operated by our volunteer members. We aim to sustain the community spirit on which the Lake was founded. Without a doubt, there is something for everyone in Forest Lakes!

## Need a Helping Hand?

This is a list of non-professional Forest Lakes members who have made themselves available for services. You must be a member to be listed here. FLC does not guarantee the accuracy of information or imply endorsement of anyone on this list.

#### Babysitters

NAME	AGE	TELEPHONE	CERTIFIED
Hanna Reardon	19	973-529-3411	CPR & Sitter Certified
Callie McCall	12	973-945-5423	

#### Mother's Helper

NAME	AGE	TELEPHONE
Callie McCall	12	973-945-5423

#### Dog Walkers and Pet Sitters

NAME	AGE	TELEPHONE	SPECIALTY
Hanna Reardon	19	973-529-3411	Dog Walker & Sitter

If you would like your name to be added/removed/changed please contact: forestlakesclub@yahoo.com



## TIDBITS.....

### Bobcats, totally ROAR-some

Actually, bobcats don't roar but they are awesome. Bobcats are truly a symbol of wildness. The tufted-eared felines were once plentiful in our region, but their population fell to near zero in the 1970s, mostly due to habitat loss. Restoration efforts by the state and conservation organizations over the last few decades have included relocating 24 wild cats here from Maine and placing the bobcat on the state's endangered species list.

A bobcat typically is territorial and will maintain the same territory throughout its life. Territories range in size from 1 to 40 acres. In 2014, The Nature Conservancy launched an ambitious initiative to build Bobcat Alley, a protected wildlife corridor that provides state-endangered bobcats and other wildlife space to move between the Kittatinny and Highlands ridges within New Jersey's Appalachian Mountains. The TNC and their partners aim to protect 10,000 acres in Bobcat Alley by 2030.

Bobcats are a medium sized-cat, about two feet tall, larger than a housecat, but much smaller than a mountain lion. Adult females weigh between 18 and 25 lbs. adult males can weigh as much as 35 lbs. Their fur ranges from yellowish brown to reddish brown and bears markings that vary from 'tabby' stripes to heavy spotting. They possess slightly tufted ears and a short, bobbed tail

between three and seven inches long that is black above at the tip.

Bobcats have excellent vision and hearing which aids them in their hunting. They are ambush predators that wait motionless and then pounce on their prey. The soft pads on their feet help them sneak up quietly on their prey. They prey on rabbits, mice, squirrels, ground-nesting songbirds, turkeys, and even small or sick deer. They only eat about 3 pounds of meat at a time, so if they

manage to catch a larger animal, they will drag it to a safe spot, cover it up, and return later to feed again.

Bobcats generally breed between February and June, and have a litter size of 1-6 young (2-3 is typical). They den in rock crevices, under fallen logs or in thick tangles of vegetation. As the spotted kittens are weaned at around 12 weeks, they begin eating meat that the mother brings back for them. Later, she will bring live animals, like mice, back to the den so the kittens can practice hunting. A bobcat

becomes independent of its mother at about 10-12 months of age, and may live 12-13 years in the wild.

They are extremely shy, elusive animals that are seldom seen by humans. Although as their numbers have increased in northern parts of the state, more and more people are seeing them, even in their backyards.





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## Swan Squabble

One morning back in early November, our neighborhood swans were out fighting off a couple of interlopers, defending their territory. At least I think that was what they were doing. I watched them for over a half an hour chase these other swans back and forth across the lake by Boardwalk Beach. It was amazing and beautiful to watch. Flying low, just at the water's surface, necks outstretched as they slapped their wings against the water. Some teamwork, lots of splashing, back and forth, over and over. They eventually chased them across the lake and out of my viewing range. I guess they succeeded in getting the new pair to move on because it seemed we were back to our usual group later in the week. Although, to be honest, the swans all look alike to me, so this may actually now be a new set.



**FEBRUARY 22 ND**

**Trivia Night**

**MEMBERS 21+**

**BYOB • CLUB HOUSE**

**Prizes / Snacks / High Jinks**

*What is a group of flamingos called?*

*What is the northernmost capital city in the world?*

*What animal is known to laugh and has been proven to have a sense of humor?*




## NEWS BOLE



**The Spring edition will be coming up soon**

- Do you want to announce something? Let us do that for you.
- Want to be listed in the Need a Helping Hand list? Tell us.
- We welcome your input for upcoming article ideas.
- Got some old photos of the lake showing days gone by, or perhaps an interesting new one? We would love to include some in future issues.

Please have submissions in by March 4th

Email us at: forestlakesclub@yahoo.com

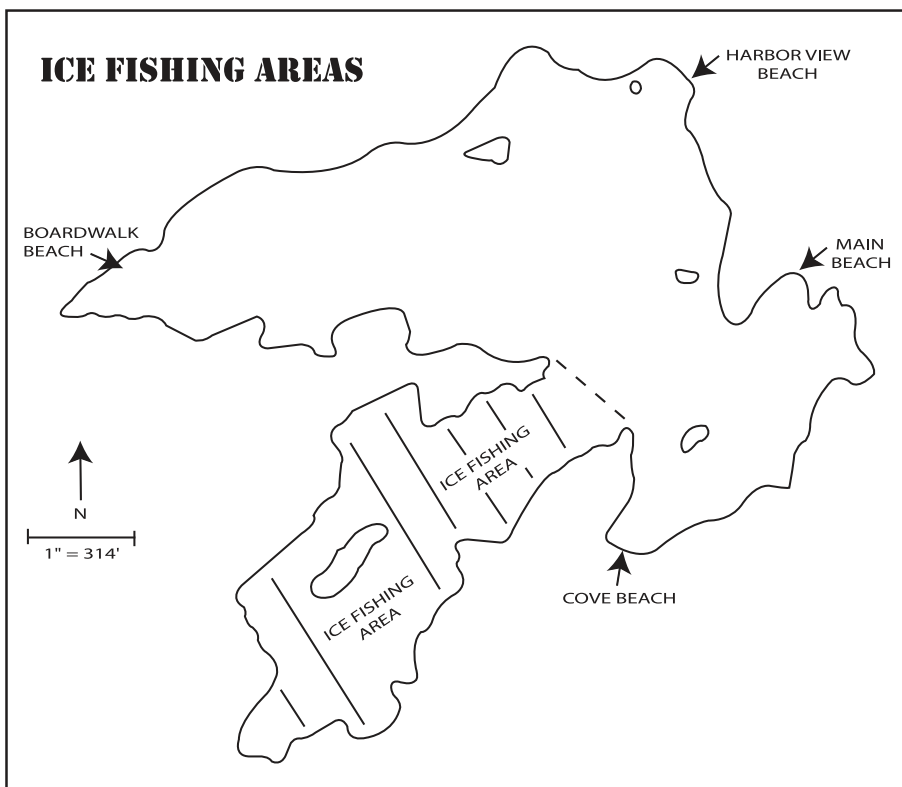




# LAKE SAFETY FOR WINTER

The Forest Lakes Club Board would like to remind everyone of the ice safety rules for the lake. Have a fun and safe winter 2025.

- **ICE SKATING AND ICE FISHING ARE ALWAYS AT YOUR OWN RISK**
- **DO NOT WALK ON ICE UNTIL IT IS FROZEN 4in-6in THICK ALL THE WAY ACROSS LAKE**
- **VEHICLES ARE NOT PERMITTED ON THE ICE AT FOREST LAKES**
- **ALWAYS SKATE WITH A PARTNER**
- **CHILDREN MUST BE SUPERVISED AT ALL TIMES WHILE ON THE ICE**



## RULES OF THE ICE

1. **SKATE AT YOUR OWN RISK.**  
The lake should be uniformly frozen to a depth of 4"-6" before it is safe for skating.
2. **NEVER SKATE ALONE .**  
You never know when you might fall in and need assistance.
3. **DO NOT SKATE IN ICE FISHING AREAS.**  
This is the area just west beyond Cove Beach (see map above).
4. Cars, ATVs, snowmobiles, bicycles and motorcycles are not permitted on the ice.
5. No alcoholic beverages or glass containers permitted on the lake or the beaches.
6. No fires are permitted on the lake, beaches or islands.
7. **MEMBERSHIP BADGES MUST BE WORN.**



# FOREST LAKES CLUB POLICIES



## DESIGNATED SWIM AREAS

- Main Beach** – As designated by roped areas.
- Cove Beach** – From the beach to the last swim team lane line. The back of the left dock is considered outside the swim area and the far ladder on the left swim team dock can be used when swimming across the lake.
- Harbor View** – This beach is unguarded and there is no defined swim area.
- Boardwalk** - As designated by roped areas.



## RECOMMENDED LOCATIONS

FOR ACCESSING UNGUARDED AREAS OF THE LAKE

- Main Beach** – Enter/return area is off the volleyball court area
- Cove Beach** – Enter/return area is at the end of the left swim team dock. The ladder on the left swim team dock CAN be used to enter and return to Cove Beach from an open water swim.
- Harbor View Beach** – Enter/return at any point
- Boardwalk Beach** – Swimmers with or without flotation devices must enter/return anywhere to the right of the “Designated Swimming Area.”

## NO DUMPING

We've noticed lately that there is an increase in dumping on Forest Lakes property near the Lake.

A reminder to all that dumping on Forest Lakes property is strictly prohibited.

The dumping of any type of material, including: grass clippings, brush, logs, trees, tires, trash, old wood, construction materials, branches, leaves, etc., is prohibited and AGAINST THE LAW.

WE NEED YOUR HELP - don't dump, or if you see someone dumping on lake property, please report it to the Byram police immediately. This includes blowing leaves onto lake property.

Dumping on the lake property is harmful to our beautiful environment, looks terrible and, in the long run, lowers the value of all of our homes.



## DOG POLICY

**NO DOGS (OR ANY DOMESTIC PETS) WILL BE ALLOWED ON OUR BEACHES OR TO SWIM IN THE WATERS AT FOREST LAKES.**

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG BUT DO NOT PUT DOG WASTE IN BEACH TRASH CANS, AS IT MAY ATTRACT OTHER ANIMALS. PLEASE DISPOSE OF WASTE AT HOME.**

Byram Township and Andover Township **LEASH LAWS** require dogs to be on leashes at all times outside of their owner's residence (code 87.12 for Byram Twp., Chapter 20-21 for Andover Twp.).



## GUEST POLICY

A **GUEST** is a non-Forest Lakes resident that comes to the beach occasionally and is **ALWAYS** accompanied by a member in good standing. One exception is that **SENIORS** do not need to accompany guests.

The guest policy was not set up to give friends complimentary membership. It is there to enhance your membership experience.

Also, active members of the Forest Lakes Club may not extend guest privileges to non-member Forest Lakes residents.

Thank you.  
The Forest Lakes  
Board of Governors







# FOREST LAKES CLUB POLICIES



## SWIMMING & BEACH RULES

### LIFEGUARDS

When lifeguards are on duty....

- The Lifeguards and the Beach Manager are in charge of the beaches when on duty.
- The lifeguards may remove any swimmer from the water for failing to comply with the rules or creating a danger to themselves or others.
- The Beach Manager or Lifeguards may close the beach area or portion thereof, for such times as are necessary for maintenance and repair, special events, lightning storms and safety of the membership.
- Lifeguard responsibility is for swimmers in the "Designated Swimming Areas" ONLY.
- Those swimmers that swim outside the "Designated Swimming Areas," do so at their own risk.
- Swimmers wishing to swim outside the "Designated Swimming Areas" cannot access the Lake through the "Designated Swimming Areas" unless specifically noted. (\*See the "Recommended Locations for Accessing Unguarded Areas of the Lake") -



**Beaches Open @ 11:00 am**

When lifeguards are not on duty follow the rules posted on back of lifeguard chair!

### BEACHES/SWIMMING



- Children under 12 years of age must be accompanied by an adult or a responsible supervisor at all times while on the beach. A responsible supervisor must be 16 years of age or older.
- Toddlers must be attended to by an adult while in the water.
- Non-swimmers are not allowed beyond the rope.
- Swimmers of all abilities may use personal flotation devices such as swimmies, life preservers, tubes, etc., inside the ropes.
- The use of rafts is not permitted inside the ropes.
- Flotation devices may not be used in deep water to access the raft by non-swimmers.
- No pushing or shoving on the rafts or docks.
- No diving off the back of the rafts or docks (out of sight of the lifeguard).
- No swimming under or behind the rafts or docks.
- The docks at Cove are closed during swim team practice and meets.
- Loud, foul or abusive language and disruptive conduct is not permitted. The beaches are intended for family fun and relaxation.
- Glass containers are not permitted in beach areas.
- No Smoking on the beach.
- No swimming when lifeguard is off duty.
- No fishing is allowed inside of designated swimming areas, including after hours.

### BOATS



- All Boats and kayaks, MUST enter and return to shore outside of the "Designated Swim Areas"
- Life preservers are required for kayaks and boats

Thank you.

The Forest Lakes Board of Governors

### ATTENTION BOAT OWNERS

If you have your boat docked anywhere at Forest Lakes – in the boat racks or along the lake perimeter, you MUST have a CURRENT BOAT TAG. The Board will soon be inspecting ALL boats to see if boat tags are affixed.

If you don't have a current tag call Dorothy Gorman at 973-786-5111.