

NEWS



BOLE

SPRING 2025 EDITION

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.

Annual Budget Meeting: April 14th

UPCOMING EVENT CALENDAR

March 29th	Fish Stocking
April 5th	Fishing Opening Day
April 19th	Easter Egg Hunt
April 26th	Beach Cleanup
April 26th	Tree Planting
May 24th	Beach Opening Day
June 6th	Friday Night Cocktails begin
June 20th	Open Mic night
July 12th	Ya Gotta Regatta
July 26	Walkkill Swim Championships
TBD	Volleyball League starts
TBD	Kids End of School Beach Party
Aug 16th	Adult Beach Party

LAKE NEWS.....

Hello Spring!

Spring is here! The days are getting warmer and longer. Flowers and trees are starting to bloom. People and animals are out and about. The gas company project is nearing completion and the potholes are back!



Spring is the time we prepare the lake for the 2025 season. Opening day is May 24th!

Continued on next page

ANNOUNCEMENTS.....

FLC Summer Job Openings:

The Forest Lakes Board is accepting applications for the following positions for the 2025 Summer season:

1. LIFEGUARD
2. SWIM INSTRUCTOR
3. MAINTENANCE

See website for application....

Forest Lakes Nursery School

Pick up pre-school registration information, Monday, April 14th at 12:30 pm at the Forest Lakes Clubhouse. You may also take a tour of the classroom.

If you have any questions, please contact Molly McClung at Forestlakesns@gmail.com or 908-295-9428

Forest Lakes Swim Team

Community Championship Meeting:

March 31st, 7pm at the clubhouse

Swim Team Parent Meeting & Registration:

Tuesday April 29th at 7pm, upstairs at the clubhouse. For swimmers ages 5-18.

If you have any questions, contact Molly McClung at forestlakesns@gmail.com or 908-295-9428



LAKE NEWS.....continued

Docks and floats will be going in soon. Fishing and boating seasons are near, so don't forget your boats need to be registered and tags displayed prominently. Don't miss fish stocking day which is coming up on March 29th, always a fun and slippery event. Opening day for fishing is April 5th so as to give the fish a fighting chance.

The annual beach clean up is scheduled for April 26th, rain date on the 27th, please volunteer. It's such a worthwhile and needed endeavor. We really need your help because nobody likes to shuffle through old leaves and sticks buried in the sand with bare feet. Every spring our crew of volunteers save the community some pretty big bucks by pitching in and cleaning it up ourselves. The more people that help, the quicker it goes and the better it looks. It is a wonderful feeling of accomplishment and camaraderie. It's also a great

lesson to show the youngest members of our community, how we can all make this a truly special place.

We have it so nice, it takes work to keep it nice. Please mark your calendars and help out this year!

As you know the FLC offers several fun community events, scattered throughout the year. We try to schedule parties and activities that hopefully will bring our community closer. It's a place where neighbors can meet other neighbors, have some laughs and hopefully connect and make some new friends. We strive to schedule at least one event each month, some for families, some for just the adults. Sometimes the turnout is not what we hoped for. We want to fix that. If you would like to help run or have suggestions for new or existing events, we want to know about it.

Please email us any ideas you have to: forestlakesclub@yahoo.com.

LAKE INFO.....

Walkkill Valley Swim Conference Championships Are Coming!

This year the Forest Lakes swim team has the honor of hosting the Walkkill Valley Swim Conference Championships. This event will occur on Saturday, July 26th (with a rain date of Sunday, July 27th).

Hosting Championships is expected of all teams in the league, and as such, becomes our responsibility approximately once every 10 years. The last time our team hosted this event was in 2013.

We want to let you know the scope of the event, which will be happening here, as well as to reach out for your support. Hosting this event is a large under-

taking, as it will mean approximately 500 people, made up of swimmers, coaches, and spectators, will pass through our community within an approximate 8 hour period.

A lot of preparation will need to go into ensuring the day runs smoothly. We want to run this event with as little inconvenience as possible to the people in Forest Lakes.

The Forest Lakes Swim Team has always appreciated the support that the community has given us over the years. It is with this spirit that we decided to ask if there are members of the community

willing to lend us assistance with planning, staffing





www.forestlakesclub.org

Email: forestlakesclub@yahoo.com

LAKE INFO.....

on the day of the event, or providing donations for the event. We will be having our first championship meeting on Monday, March 31st at 7:00pm at the clubhouse. We welcome any community members who are interested in helping with the planning to join us for this first meeting, or if you are unable to attend but wish to assist the team, please fill out the enclosed questionnaire, and drop it off at 26 Crescent Drive South.

Whether or not you can assist with this event, we ask for your continued support by coming down to

our meets during the month of July.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

Team Manager:
(908) 295-9428

Molly McClung
Forestlakesns@gmail.com

Asst. Manager:
(973) 223-6884

Amy Smith
AmyCKSmith@gmail.com

Head Coach:
(973) 600-4470

Jessica Gutwein
Jessgutwein@gmail.com

2025 WVSC Championship 'Community Support Pledge'

To help kick off our planning for this event, it would be a big help if we had a preliminary idea of what type of support we have available. If you can assist the team in any way, please fill out the form below and drop it off at 26 Crescent Drive South. Thank you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Please select any of the following choices that you would like to assist with:

- I pledge to assist with planning the event (getting sponsors, coordinating logistics, parking, food, apparel, communications, etc.)
- I pledge to assist at the event (cooking, set-up/clean-up, information, concessions, etc.)
- I pledge to make a financial donation of _____ (checks payable to Forest Lakes Swim Team)
- I have access to a company which may be able to assist with donations
- Other _____

Thank you for your continued support of the Forest Lakes Swim Team!



SOME OTHER LAKE INFO.....

Information from FLWC, about gas installation, water company costs and future street restorations happening in Forest Lakes

This is a letter from the water company that will be included in the next water bill

Dear Forest Lakes Water Company Members,

March 21, 2025

We hope this letter finds you well. Your Board of Trustees is committed to ensuring the reliability and quality of our water service. We understand the importance of clear communication and want to inform you of some significant developments that are affecting the water company.

Some things to consider first. Elizabethtown gas has the right to build in their franchise territory, as regulated by the state, and we are in that territory. A few years ago, the town council lobbied for natural gas in Byram in response to the many, many people asking for it and complaining that we didn't have gas in town. This is bolstered and evidenced by adoption rates of 50% to 80% in areas that have already been completed, such as East and West Brookwood, and the Forest West section of Byram. It is also important to realize how the interaction between the gas company and the water company works.

The gas company calls for mark outs of the water lines, as required by NJ law, and the water company must respond. There is a cost to this mark out work that the water company must bear. Subsequently, if the gas company hits a water main when installing the gas lines, two things can happen: if the water mark out is accurate, the cost to repair the water main is paid for by the gas company, as it should be. If the mark out is NOT accurate, then the gas company has no responsibility, and the financial burden of the repair falls to the water company. Your next question would be that whoever is marking out the water lines and mismarks the line resulting in the break should pay for the repair, right? The answer is that our water lines are made of transite pipe, made of concrete, not iron, so it is nearly impossible to accurately locate the pipe. Ground penetrating radar does not work. Everyone we contacted to locate and mark the lines said they would do their best to locate them, but nobody would guarantee their accuracy. We used the company who has the most experience working in the lake and was also the least expensive. In the end, if the water main is broken where the line is mis-marked, the water company has to pay for these expenses as a cost of progress. We appreciate that you may not like this, or don't want to pay for the repairs, or maybe you feel you shouldn't pay it because you didn't choose to get gas and may never hook up. But in the

end, ours is a small, community-owned utility that pays for itself and needs to do what is needed to remain solvent. (Note: Much of this paragraph was taken from a Facebook response from our mayor, Alex Rubenstein, as his opinion was requested by members of our community, and we thank him for his response.)

A few other things to consider: A poll was taken of many of the communities who neighbor Forest Lakes, including Forest West, East and West Brookwood, Newton, Netcong, Stanhope, and Hopatcong. The average water bill is between \$75 and \$100 per month, and all have meters, so the more water you use, the more you pay. Forest Lakes residents pay \$41.67 per month (\$125 per quarter) for UNLIMITED water use, no meters. Also, the Forest Lakes Water Company is all of us, anyone living in the lake who uses water from the water company, which is all but a handful of homes. We have nearly 10 miles of water main, and 412 consumers / members. The system is comprised of two wells, a booster station, and storage of 160,000 gallons of high-quality water.

The Elizabethtown Gas project has reached the point where the main gas lines have all been installed. Only the individual hook-ups remain, should homeowners decide to have the gas installed. For the entire project, the water main was hit a total of 13 times, and the

Continued on next page



repairs were all for mismarked lines. This is for almost 10 miles of nearly undetectable water main. In comparison, West Brookwood, with less than 10 miles of water main, and less than the 412 consumers that we have, had NJ Natural Gas break their water mains 25 times. West Brookwood charged each of their customers \$261 as a one-time assessment, and they also have a \$30 assessment in every quarterly bill, so they have savings for unexpected expenses.

In order to pay for the 13 breaks that required repair during this project, in this quarterly bill, there will be a one-time assessment of \$200 for each Forest Lakes Water company consumer. You will see this assessment as a separate line on your bill. As a volunteer board, and as your neighbors, we understand that any cost increase can be challenging. We have made every effort to keep this assessment as reasonable as possible. This assessment applies to all of us. Please note that this decision was not made lightly and is essential to maintain the quality and dependability of our water service. The alternative to having this assessment would be to not pay for the repairs and become insolvent, and then sell the water company to Veolia, who recently purchased the water company in East Brookwood. They would most likely first replace the transite pipe we have with new water mains at a cost of between \$5 million and \$10 million dollars, which we and other customers would pay as an assessment over a number of years, and the installation of meters at our homes, so we would pay by the gallon as all the other communities do. West Brookwood got an estimate to replace their water mains at a cost of about \$5 million dollars, and they are smaller than we are. The board feels that paying this \$200 assessment for all consumers and keeping ownership of our community water company is the best choice for now. It should be noted this is only the second water company assessment over the last 25 or so years. The other was for the generators that were installed, as mandated by the state of NJ, when hurricane Sandy hit in 2012, and we were out of water for nearly two weeks.

A few other things. Many of you have complained about the paving job being done once the gas lines are installed, and with good reason. But final paving could

not be done in the winter. Elizabethtown Gas will be repaving in the late spring, similarly to how they have paved in front of CO Johnson park, from the curb on the side of the gas line installation to nearly the center of the road. There is no charge to the homeowners for this. Also, if you do connect the gas, as many already have, and they left a mess in your yard, or damaged your sidewalk or a rock wall, for example, they will be back in late spring to repair the damage. There is no charge to the homeowner for this either. We highly recommend that if you are thinking of connecting to gas, do so soon, as currently the hookup from the road to your home is at no cost to you, under normal install conditions. You are not required to do a complete conversion to natural gas to receive this benefit. You need to only connect ONE appliance, like a grill, for example. If you do not connect at least one appliance while the gas line construction is in progress, you will have to pay for a connection should you decide to do so at a later date, and you will need a street opening permit as well. Also, in 2026, the town will be paving the roads in Forest Lakes, and you will not be able to connect to the gas utility again until after 2031, as a five-year moratorium prohibiting non-emergency road openings will be in effect. Did you know that having natural gas available at your home increases your home value by 6%, according to local realtors and an AI search on any search engine? For a \$400,000 home, that is an increase in home value of \$24,000!

To receive the cost saving benefit of converting at least one appliance to gas now, contact Elizabethtown Gas at 1-844-886-8488. For more information about the Forest Lakes Water Company, our community owned water company, check out our website at www.flwaterco.com. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation at this time. Should you have any questions or concerns, log onto the website and send us a message. We are here to assist you and address any inquiries you may have. Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our community. We welcome your attendance and participation at any of our monthly meetings.

Sincerely,
Board of Trustees, Forest Lakes Water Company



www.forestlakesclub.org

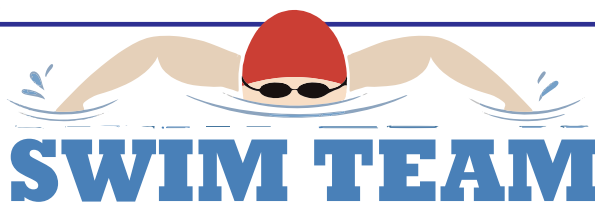
Email: forestlakesclub@yahoo.com



We had another fun Trivia Night, testing our brains, and enjoying some laughs. Thank you to all that came out to play. Special Thank you to our master of ceremonies, Sandi Wozniak, and to Ed Wozniak for those fine background tunes and Bernie Bukowski for keeping score and keeping us honest.

We just had our first but hopefully not last Margaritaville Party which was so much fun. Special shout out to Eric Dietz for suggesting the idea, manning the grill, loads of cooking, and providing the tunes. Thank you to all that came out. And a big thank you to all the Rec. Committee volunteers for organizing such fun events.

FOREST LAKES



**NOW REGISTERING
NEW & RETURNING
SWIMMERS
FOR THE 2025 SEASON!**

Registration & parent meeting will be upstairs at the clubhouse, April 29th at 7pm

Forest Lakes Swim Team is open to any child 5-18 years of age who can swim 25 meters and whose family are active members in good standing of the Forest Lakes Club.

Swim Team practice begins once school is out of session (date TBD) and generally concludes the last week in July/1st week of August with Championships. Practice is Monday-Friday for 45-60 minutes, generally in the morning or early afternoon depending on age bracket.

A final practice schedule will be made available in early June once registration is closed. There are usually 2 swim meets per week, 1/2 home and 1/2 away in neighboring town lakes/pools. Going on vacation and can't make every practice or every meet? Don't fret! It may still be possible to participate!

If you would like any information regarding our Team, please contact: Molly McClung at Forestlakesns@gmail.com or 908-295-9428



TIDBITS.....

Bear Essentials

Native to New Jersey, black bears are the largest land mammal in the Garden State. Nearly wiped out a century ago by habitat destruction and indiscriminate killing, black bears today are thriving, particularly in our little area of the state. The mere presence of a black bear is not considered a problem. Generally, bears tend to be wary of humans.

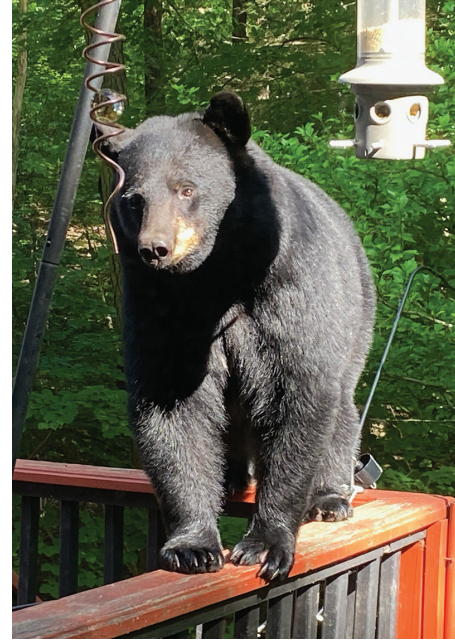
Black bears are usually solitary animals that are most active at dawn and dusk. They have excellent senses of smell and hearing. They can run up to 35 miles per hour. They are strong swimmers and excellent climbers. Both adults and cubs will climb trees for food and to escape disturbances. The bears eat both plants and animals.

Black bears are opportunistic feeders and will supplement their diet with food or garbage left out by people. They also love your bird feeders, compost, barbecues and pet food, which will lure them into yards, porches and even inside houses.

Black bears learn very quickly. Bears that are fed intentionally – or unintentionally by carelessly leaving out food or garbage – will associate food with people. These bears can

become a nuisance or aggressive and may have to be destroyed.

Adult females average 185 pounds; adult males average 400 pounds. Black bears are not true hibernators. In their winter den, they enter a period of dormancy, called torpor, to avoid severe weather and food shortages. Bears may leave their den if disturbed or in search of food on mild winter days. Breeding season runs from late May until August. The average litter size is three cubs weighing about 8 to 16 ounces each. Cubs remain with their mother until she breeds again.



Normal noise made walking on a trail should alert a bear to your presence, prompting it to leave before you see it.

Use caution in areas where bears are likely to venture. If you see a bear, use common sense. Never approach the animal; observe it only from a distance. If you see a bear, make it aware of your presence by clapping, talking, singing or making other noise.

If you encounter a bear at close range, remain standing, avoid direct eye contact, back up slowly and speak in a calm, assertive voice.

Be smart and safe.

Most of this advice is from NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife.

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	
Emily Watkins	14	201-417-6677	

Mother's Helper

NAME	AGE	TELEPHONE
Callie McCall	12	973-945-5423
Emily Watkins	14	201-417-6677

Dog Walkers and Pet Sitters

NAME	AGE	TELEPHONE	SPECIALTY
Hanna Reardon	19	973-529-3411	Dog Walker & Sitter
Callie McCall	12	973-945-5423	Dog Walker & Sitter

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

BOARD OF GOVENORS.....

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS SPRING AT FOREST LAKES.....

Come meet, greet and help move in our new fish neighbors.

Annual Fish Stocking!

Saturday March 29th

at 10:30 am

at Boardwalk

Beach



Members only.

Please bring your own

5 gallon bucket to help put the fish in the lake.

The Fishing Club will be accepting cash donations for future events/stocking

HAVE AN EGGCELLENT TIME!

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday April 19th

at 11am

at Main Beach



Please Bring Your Own Basket.

Children 10 and under.

Members only please.

2025 Forest Lakes Club Adult Coed Volleyball League

FLC NEEDS PLAYERS & TEAM CAPTAINS!

The 2025 FLC Volleyball League will begin in the middle of June! Games are scheduled for Monday and Tuesday nights at 7:00PM and 8:00PM. The volleyball season is approximately 8 weeks long and extends through the middle of August depending on the number of teams and the weather. Each player will be provided a schedule for the season once it is finalized.

Each team consists of six players. A minimum of two players must be female. All participants must be active members in good standing. Due to insurance company policy, all participants must sign a release form prior to being allowed to play.

New players (and new teams) are welcome to join! Please contact Kevin Campbell at 973-600-9398 if you recently moved into the lake and you are interested in playing!





Forest Lakes Annual Tree Planting

Planting the seedling is one of the activities that helps the club maintain our "farmland assessment" for the property around the lake. This assessment saves the club thousands in property taxes. We have 200 very small seedlings approximately 8 - 12 inches to plant.

Time spent amongst trees is never wasted time.

- Katrina Mayer

Pick up at
Debbie Devenny's garage
179 Forest Lakes Dr.
(rain or shine)

April 26th - 9am - 10:30am

ANNUAL BEACH CLEAN UP



We need your help!

To save money, each year we ask our amazing community members to pitch in and rake out last years leaves and debris from our beaches and other areas and help ready our lake for the new season.

for the **love** of our Lake
PLEASE Volunteer!

If you spend 4 hours cleaning up the beach areas, you will be entered into a contest where you can

WIN 1/2 OFF
your club dues.

SAT. APRIL 26th 10:30am • Meet at Main Beach

If you can, please bring rakes and other helpful tools

Rain Date April 27th

Opening Day!

Saturday, May 24th

Hot Dog Cart from 12:00 - 3:30 p.m. at Main Beach.



Friday Night Cocktails



An Impromptu Gathering!

At Boardwalk Beach, beginning June 6th at 7:00 pm • for Members 21+
Weather permitting • BYOB and if you like an app or dessert to share.

Great way to shake off the work week and kick off the weekend!



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.

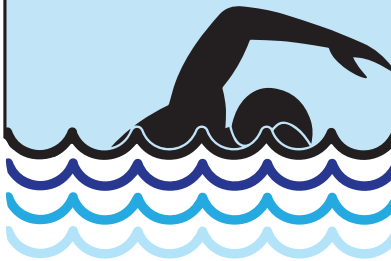


FOREST LAKES CLUB POLICIES



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

