

## They're Back...Sand Hill Cranes

Our community sandhill crane couple is back in town! Please be careful driving in the neighborhood. If you aren't aware our community is the winter home to a pair of sandhill cranes who return every winter. In the past, they have returned with a baby or two in tow, but not this year. The sandhill crane has a red forehead, white cheeks and a long dark pointed bill. If you are not aware – the Florida Sandhill Crane is endangered and as such, should not be fed. These cranes are omnivorous and will eat things like seeds, worms, insects, lizards, crayfish and mice. Sandhill Cranes will normally mate for life (monogamous) and will lay one or two eggs on their nest, which is often on the waters edge for protection from predators. Should we name them? If you have any suggestions, please send a note to the website – [www.PiedmontLakesHOA.com](http://www.PiedmontLakesHOA.com)



## Thank You Neighbor! No Thank You Neighbor!

**Thank you** – Jacqui & Erik for watching our pets over the holiday!

**Thank you** – Maggie & Clay for a fabulous Halloween spectacular, what's the theme for next year?

**No Thank you** – Speeders in the neighborhood, it is not safe for our children.

**Thank you** – Al for your spectacular Christmas decorations! We drive thru Lake Jackson just to see them every year!

**Thank you** - James & Susan for taking care of your yard and giving us something nice to view every day!

**No Thank you** – Litters for trashing our community and allowing it to wash into our beautiful lakes.

Have someone you want to "Thank or "No Thank" send a note to us at [www.PiedmontLakesHOA.com](http://www.PiedmontLakesHOA.com)

## "Know Your Days" - New Watering Rules



Are you aware of the new St. John's Water Management irrigation rules? If not, please be aware that starting from the first Sunday in November until the second Sunday in March irrigation is limited to no more than one day per week on residential lawns. If your address ends in an odd number – irrigate on Saturday. If your address ends in an even number – irrigate on Sunday. Also keep in mind, irrigation is prohibited between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. So set your sprinklers

appropriately and save water! For additional information head over to the St. Johns Water Management District web site: <http://sjr.state.fl.us/wateringrestrictions/index.html>

- More -

## FREE Apopka WiFi

The City of Apopka has installed a wireless mesh network within the City limits. This wireless network will provide Law Enforcement, Emergency Response Teams and all City Workers real time access to the resources they need to provide the highest quality services to citizens. As an added bonus, this network will also allow residents access to broadband speed Internet service. The initial roll-out will cover about 70% of the City, with plans to expand the coverage to the rest of the City early next year. Parts of Piedmont Lakes, all City parks and recreation areas are now covered.



To access the network, a person must have a wireless card and agree to user terms. Although the system has been designed as an outdoor system, residents who live near transmitters set up throughout the city will be able to use the Internet indoors (although reliability can not be guaranteed). Additionally, through the use of a wireless outdoor gateway, most residents will be able to access the outdoor WiFi network as well as extend the usable range indoors. For additional information, please visit the city's website at [www.apopka.net](http://www.apopka.net) or [www.iloveapopka.net](http://www.iloveapopka.net). For Apopka WiFi Support please call 321-396-5140.

## Holiday Crime Prevention Tips



- 1 Make sure all doors & windows have secondary locks (window pins, deadbolts, dowels, etc.) and use them!
- 2 Ensure that dark areas and entrances have outdoor lights that are turned on after dark or that are activated by sensors.
- 3 Place gifts where they can't be seen from the outside.
- 4 Avoid opening the door to strangers. Legitimate delivery people will be able to show identification.
- 5 Be sure to mail cards with money, checks or gift certificates from the Post Office or a blue US Postal Service collection box. Don't use your home mail box!
- 6 If traveling, use timers for lights and radios while you're away. Ask a trusted friend or neighbor to watch your home. Remember to make arrangements for mail and newspapers.
- 7 Lock your car doors when parked in driveway or on the street. Don't be an easy target!
- 8 Call Apopka Police at 911 or 407-703-1771 to report suspicious people in neighborhood.

## Operation Holiday Red Bows!

1, 2, 3 .....23, 24, 25....50, 51, 52... 100! How many red bows can we as a neighborhood place on our street side oak trees? Many years ago, the neighborhood was festooned with red bows on our trees. The concentration was on Piedmont Lakes Boulevard, but it doesn't have to be just the one street. Wouldn't it be wonderful to be greeted home every evening this month with red ribbons on all our trees? What can we do as a community? Hang a red bow in honor or remembrance of a loved one. One small effort on each of our behalf can create one large community wide event. Let's see what we can accomplish! Let's see which blocks can achieve 100% participation!



## Holiday Decoration Contest



Who can outdo who? If you love holiday decorating and some competition – put on your best outdoor holiday display! The HOA board will be reviewing the community's efforts and rewarding 3 lucky homeowners with a gift card to Wal-Mart! First prize is \$50, Second prize is \$25, and Third prize is \$15. Voting will wrap up on December 20<sup>th</sup> with gift cards handed out by the end of the year. *Please note – Contest participants must be current in their dues payments to be eligible to win.*