

WELCOME TO THE GUILFORD LAKES. . . .

As a newcomer you will want to know about GLIA, the Guilford Lakes Improvement Association, so here's a bit of history and information:

In the 1930's the area was originally developed as a summer colony, with the 3 lakes, a golf course, a clubhouse and tennis courts. The original clubhouse and tennis courts have long since disappeared, and now the area is comprised mainly of 'year round' residents.

In 1963 the GLIA was incorporated by an act of the state legislature. This act granted GLIA the right of taxation for the purpose of maintaining and improving the lakes, beaches and dams, acquiring property and providing for the general welfare of the residents. The map shows the areas which comprise the association. Membership is determined by the location of a land parcel within the GLIA district and comes with the deed for each parcel. The Articles incorporating GLIA also provide that any parcel of land contiguous to GLIA may also become part of GLIA by application of the owner(s) and approval of GLIA.

GLIA is administered by a board of nine governors each of whom is elected for a 3 year term. Terms are staggered so that each year there are 3 members up for election. The Board elects from its ranks a president and vice president. The Board is assisted by a secretary, treasurer, newsletter editor and webmaster from the general membership. They each receive a token stipend for their services. The Board meets on the first Monday of each month. Any association member is welcome to attend any meeting and minutes are on file in the Guilford Town Hall. You may also contact any Board member with any questions or concerns. A list of current Board Members is included. Information is also published on our website and from time to time in the GLIA Newsletter.

An annual meeting of the entire GLIA membership is held in June at which the officers present the year's budget for discussion and approval. At this time the Board reports to the Association on current GLIA projects and activities, and the membership has the opportunity to discuss and present ideas and pose any questions or concerns. For voting at the annual meeting, there is one vote per household and only owners who are current on their GLIA tax obligations may vote. Upon approval of the budget, a mil rate is set and applied to the LAND in each property per the assessed value of this land on the Town of Guilford Grand List. This tax must be paid within 30 days of the July 1 due date. Interest is collected on delinquent taxes and a lien is placed on the property.

Annual association taxes go primarily to the upkeep of the Association's dams, lakes and beaches. During 1990-1994 the lakes were deepened by dredging to prevent the regrowth of water weeds which had made the lakes difficult to swim in. Dams were also rebuilt at this time. The cost of this project was shared by all members via a portion of their GLIA taxes.

Membership in GLIA entitles you to the use of the beaches both on White Birch Drive at the corner of North Madison Road and on Lakeside Drive. These are referred to as the First or Lower Lake Beach and Second or Middle Lake Beach respectively. There is no lifeguard on duty at either beach. Swimming is at your own risk. In the spring the Board has the water quality tested. Rules and regulations are included in this packet. The beaches are available for renters as well as owners in good standing in GLIA. Power boats are not permitted on the lakes but rowboats, canoes, kayaks and small sailboats are popular modes of recreation. Swimming lessons have been made available when there is an interest and the Board can arrange for a Certified Instructor. On a selected Saturday in summer there is a 'GLIA day' – a field day for children of all ages, with land and water games, contests and a barbecue and potluck supper – a terrific way to meet other association members and have some fun.

Each fall the lakes are lowered to minimize ice pressure against the dams; they are raised again in the spring. In spring time you may see 'soapsuds' floating in the lakes and streams but this is a natural phenomenon caused by decaying leaves. The lakes are fed mainly by Iron Stream whose inlet is at the northeast end of Third or Upper Lake and by smaller streams which enter the other two lakes. Northward from the Guilford Lakes golf course and surrounding most of the Third Lake is the 'Timberlands', a town-owned forest which has miles of excellent hiking and horseback trails, wildlife and spectacular rock outcrops. A printable trail map is available at

<http://www.ci.guilford.ct.us/wp-content/uploads/TimberlandTrail-Map.pdf>

The GLIA Newsletter is published to inform residents of events, issues of interest and news from members. Listings are welcome for services such as babysitting, snowplowing and mowing, items for sale or swap, etc. New members are welcomed in the newsletter along with any special information they would like to share, a hobby or business service.

Membership in GLIA entitles you to discounted services such as garbage and recyclables pick up. Current information is available from Sheila Strait – 203-458-0838 – sstrait@comcast.net.

Living by the Lakes: In GLIA we are free to choose how we will manage our lawns, or whether we even have a lawn or instead a ground cover. We are aware that our homes are on a watershed for our lakes where children swim. Organic options for lawn care are widely available, and there's growing awareness that chemical interventions can have unfortunate health consequences, especially for children. Many people have believed that lawn chemicals are safe if they are allowed to be sold. However the approval of products by regulators is influenced by the manufacturers of the products. "The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) evaluates products on the basis of "risk-reward," in which the potential health risks of a product are balanced against its potential economic value to the manufacturer The EPA, by its own admission, states that approval of a lawn care product in no way guarantees product safety." quote from <http://www.safelawns.org/faqs.cfm>. The Watershed Partnership document in this GLIA welcome packet has more information.

Portions of GLIA are within the Town's Groundwater Protection District. This fact plus the small land area for on-site waste water treatment in a majority of GLIA's households makes it especially desirable for residents to be aware of how to take care of their septic systems. Information on Keeping our Lakes Healthy is included in this packet. These lands, like all in Guilford are subject to regulation of the Guilford Inland Wetlands Commission. Any work around lakes or streams must be approved by this Commission.

Social activities are scheduled from time to time and notification is given in the newsletter which is distributed to all residents by your street representative and website. Volunteers are always welcome in any capacity. All residents of the Guilford Lakes are encouraged to participate in the continuing betterment of our community. Whether it involves organizing a social activity, working on a committee, being a Street Rep or serving on the Board of Governors, everyone can help to insure that the Guilford Lakes can provide opportunities for neighborly and community fellowship and continues to be a desirable place to live.

If you have any questions, or would like to help in any way, please contact your street rep or any Board Member. Board members are listed in this packet.

(Street reps fill in this info. below when bringing a welcome packet to new residents.)

YOUR STREET REP: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.guilfordlakes.com