

LIVE, SHOP AND PLAY.



With more than 8 acres of community space,
there is something for everyone to enjoy!

- 1.25 mile pedestrian circuit with fitness zones
- Community garden
- Rooftop park with community center
- Outdoor yoga classes
- Dog park
- Public artwork displays by local artists

LIVE | GALLERIA

LAKE RIDGE *NEWS*

UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Michael Albetta

2016 is here and the Lake Ridge Civic Association has voted in a new board! It is my pleasure to introduce you to your Board of Directors:

- Michael A. Albetta, President
- Juliette Rocque, Vice President
- Lynn Elsasser, Treasurer
- Erin Keenan, Secretary
- Robert "Bob" Oelke
- Derek Maingot
- Joan Booz

All are homeowners in Lake Ridge and long-time residents of the area. We are very privileged to have a mosaic of people on the board with great institutional knowledge of the area and of Fort Lauderdale.

LRCA meets every 3rd Thursday at ArtServe at 7pm. All are welcome, renters, homeowners and businesses. It is our intention to inform the community of current happenings, events and issues in the Lake Ridge neighborhood and in Fort Lauderdale.

This year, we plan to have four clean-ups throughout Lake

President's message continued on page 3

LAKE RIDGE
CIVIC ASSOCIATION
Invites you to join us for
a **BOGO** Wine Social

mod
wine lounge

1828 E Sunrise Blvd
(next to the Gateway Theater)
Thursday March 17th 7-9pm

Join us on St Patrick's Day...
We'll have a **blast!**



UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS
7pm at ArtServe (3rd Thursday of month)
NE 14th Ave @ Sunrise Blvd

March 17 we will meet at Mod Wine Lounge
April 14
May 19

June 16: TASTE OF ITALY at Café Vico

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LAKE RIDGE *NEWS*
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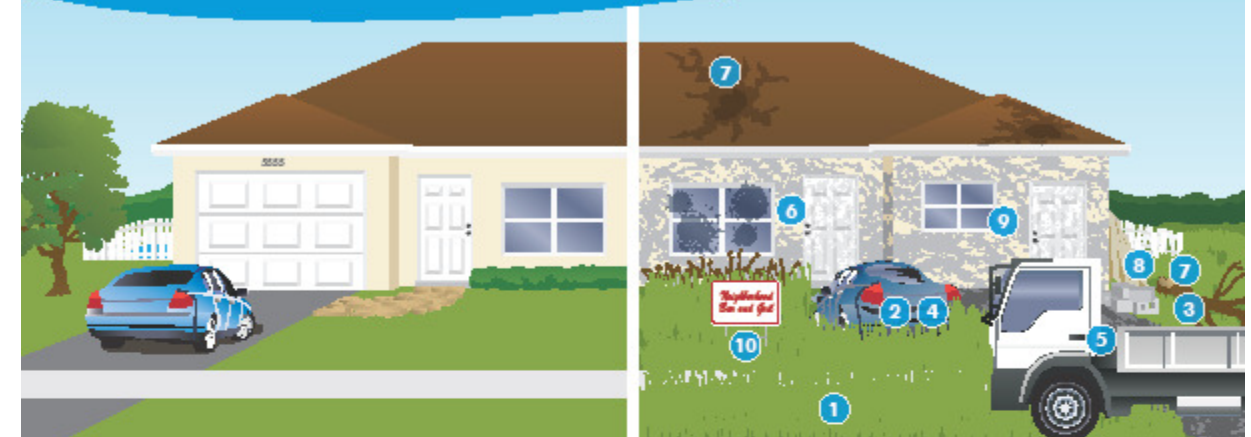
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CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

CODE COMPLIANCE DIVISION



COMMON CODE VIOLATIONS

1. YARD MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

Maintenance of yards and swales/rights-of-way abutting property are the responsibility of the property owner. The right-of-way must be free of obstructions caused by trees, vegetation, or other objects.

2. INOPERATIVE MOTOR VEHICLES

Inoperative and/or derelict vehicles are not permitted. A vehicle is considered inoperative if a current tag isn't displayed and/or it is not fully equipped to legally and safely operate on public streets.

3. JUNK, TRASH AND DEBRIS

Junk, auto parts, furniture, trash, fires, building materials, tree trimmings, and any other debris cannot be left in the yard and must be properly disposed of.

4. PARKING

Parking is permitted for passenger cars and motorcycles in residential properties only on a legal driveway or in a garage.

5. COMMERCIAL EQUIPMENT

Commercial equipment and vehicles cannot be parked or stored in a residential area unless they are in a fully enclosed structure.

6. MAINTENANCE OF STRUCTURES

Exterior building structures and walls shall be maintained in a secure and attractive manner.

7. CONDITION OF STRUCTURES

Any wood, siding, shingles, roof covering, railings, fences, walls, ceilings, porches, doors, windows, screens, and other exterior parts of a structure must be maintained in weather tight, rodent proof, sound condition and in good repair. An owner may need to board up a vacant structure.

8. OUTDOOR STORAGE

Outdoor storage is prohibited. You may not keep indoor furniture, household appliances, auto parts, building materials, or any other similar items outside.

9. ILLEGAL DWELLING UNITS

Dwelling units added to interior/exterior of a structure without proper permits are illegal regardless of how long they have existed.

10. PROHIBITED BUSINESSES

Most businesses are not allowed to operate in residential areas. Engaging in a business requires a Business Tax Receipt and zoning approval.

For more information, call (954) 828-5207 or visit www.fortlauderdale.gov.

STREETLIGHT OUT? SEE A POTHOLE? LAUDERSERV'S THE APP FOR THAT!

Download Lauderserv from the App Store or Google Play and submit customer service requests 24/7 from your mobile device. Access Lauderserv on your smartphone at www.fortlauderdale.gov/lauderserv or call 954-828-8000.

if you **SEE**
something
SAY
something

LEONARD CHAMPAGNE

Code Compliance Officer serving Lake Ridge

954-828-6348

Ichampagne@fortlauderdale.gov





Pedestrians: Don't jaywalk -- cross at marked intersections and cross with the light. Pay attention to the flow of traffic. Walk on a sidewalk (if available). Wear light colored clothing after dark.

Cyclists: Ride with the flow of traffic, yield to pedestrians, stop at all stop signs and signals. Have reflectors and use a light after dark.

Drivers: Slow down, obey traffic signals, yield for pedestrians, give cyclists 3' of clearance. Pay attention to traffic, not your smart phone. Don't park blocking sidewalks or crosswalks.

Property Owners: Trim vegetation away from sidewalks, bike routes and near traffic signs. Don't park across sidewalks, Remove sidewalk obstructions.

TRAFFIC NOTES

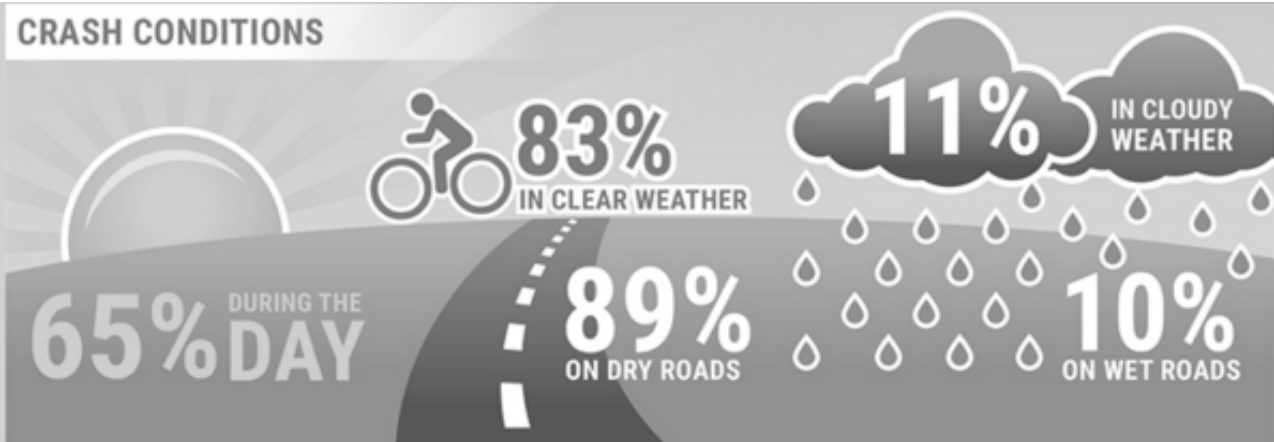
By Bob Oelke

Fort Lauderdale has the dubious distinction of being one of the most dangerous places in the country for bikers and pedestrians. Between 2009 and 2014, 58 pedestrians were killed on Fort Lauderdale streets and another 881 were injured; 14 cyclists were killed and 568 injured. Walkers and bikers account for more than half of Fort Lauderdale's traffic fatalities. Most fatalities occur along higher-speed roads, like NE 15th Avenue, Federal Highway and Sunrise Boulevard. More than four of every five pedestrian fatalities occur mid-block (only 18% occur at intersections).

Fort Lauderdale's long-term "Vision Zero" plan aims to eliminate traffic fatalities by designing and building safer places to walk and bike; encouraging safer behavior on our roadways; and greater enforcement efforts.



Expect to see more police activity around Lake Ridge in the coming weeks and months. The FLPD will conduct high-visibility traffic enforcement campaign this spring, saturating accident-prone areas such as US1. The enforcement campaign consists of three stages -- during the education stage, violators will receive safety tips and educational brochures to assist them with being safer during their travels. The second stage will result in written warning violations. In the final stage of the campaign, violators will receive traffic citations.



Lake Ridge News is the Official Publication of the



P.O. Box 4506 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33338

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/lakeridgecivicassociation>

President	Michael Albetta
Vice President	Juliette Rocque
Secretary	Erin Keenan
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Please note: The views and opinions stated in this newsletter are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Board nor the members of the Lake Ridge Civic Association.

**The Lake Ridge News is published quarterly:
March, June, September and November
and is delivered to all residential and business
addresses in Lake Ridge**

**Please contact us for advertising rates & deadlines
for camera-ready art 954-560-8649**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *continued from page 1*

Ridge (one that has taken place already!). The next one will be on April 30th. details on page 9 of this newsletter.

We plan to have three social events in 2016: one on March 17th at MOD Wine Lounge next to the Gateway Theater. We'll have our fabulous annual "Taste of Italy" at Cafe Vico on June 16th and our Holiday Party in December. These are great opportunities to relax and socialize with neighbors interested in making Lake Ridge a better place to live. Keep an eye on future newsletters for details.

We are planning to have a joint Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations' CANDIDATES NIGHT before the August primaries so that our residents can be introduced to the candidates for Judicial, County, State and Federal offices. These have proved to be very informative in the past, and should be again this year. More details will be announced in the next newsletter -- please watch for the announcement.

Thank you for your time and please join and become active in the Lake Ridge Civic Association. "Unity in the Community!" Unity is Strength.

Respectfully,

Michael A. Albetta

PS. If you haven't already registered to vote, there's still time to do so before the primary elections on August 30st (registration deadline August 1st) and the general election on November 8th (deadline October 11th). For details contact the Supervisor of Elections at 954-357-7050 or BrowardSOE.org

2016 Membership Application

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

Membership: New ☐ Renewal ☐ Family (\$35) ☐ Senior (\$20) ☐ Renter (\$10) ☐ Business (\$50) ☐

I'd like to help with neighborhood efforts: ☐ Public Safety ☐ Beautification ☐ Traffic ☐ Member/Social ☐ Other ☐

For advertising info (954) 560-8649

STAY SAFE

By Juliette Rocque

It's tax season and scammers are looking for ways to steal your refund check. Often you won't know that you've been scammed until you file your tax return and the IRS notifies you that your refund has already been sent to someone else. By that time your identity has been stolen and your troubles are just beginning. There are a few steps you can take to protect yourself against identity theft.

- Protect your personal data. Don't routinely carry your Social Security card. Make sure your tax records are secure. Treat your personal information like you do your cash; don't leave it lying around.
- Shred documents with sensitive personal data (see next page)
- Always use security software with firewall and anti-virus protections. Make sure the security software is always turned on and can automatically update. Encrypt sensitive files such as tax records you store on your computer. Use strong passwords.
- Look for the lock icon on e-commerce websites to know that your personal data will be transmitted safely. Don't share personal information online unless you know and trust the recipient.
- Learn to recognize and avoid phishing emails, threatening calls and texts from thieves posing as legitimate organizations such as your bank, credit card company and even the IRS. Do not click on links or download attachments from unknown or suspicious emails.

The IRS uses your Social Security Number to make sure your filing is accurate and complete, and that you get any refund you are due. Identity theft can affect how your tax return is processed. An unexpected notice or letter from the IRS could alert you that someone else is using your identity, however, the IRS doesn't start contact with a taxpayer by sending an email, text or social media message that asks for personal or financial information. If you get an email that claims to be from the IRS, do not reply or click on any links. Instead, forward it to phishing@irs.gov.

Another form of identity theft occurs when someone uses your Social Security number to get a job. The employer may report that person's income to the IRS using your number. When you file your tax return, you won't include those earnings. The IRS will send you a notice or letter saying you failed to report all of "your" income.

If you think someone used your Social Security number for a tax refund or a job — or the IRS sends you a notice or letter indicating a problem — contact the IRS immediately. 1-800-908-4490. Specialists will work with you to get your tax return filed, get you any refund you are due, and protect your IRS account from identity thieves in the future. Once identity thieves have your personal information, they can drain your bank account, run up charges on your credit cards, open new utility accounts, or get medical treatment on your health insurance.

Protect your children, too.

Each year, more than 50,000 children in Florida become victims of identity theft, and more than \$100 million is stolen from children whose identities have been compromised. Identity thieves target kids because they generally have clean credit histories, and years will pass before the crime is detected. It's never too early to start protecting your child from identity theft. Florida law gives kids an extra line of defense against identity theft. Credit reporting agencies are required to establish and freeze a credit record for a minor upon request by a parent or guardian. By freezing your child's credit, you can effectively block others from using it. To create a credit report for your child and freeze it, contact the following credit reporting agencies

- Equifax Security Freeze 1-800-685-1111
- Experian Security Freeze 1-888-397-3742
- TransUnion Consumer Freeze 1-800-916-8800

The fee to freeze your child's credit is \$10. If your child has already been the victim of identity theft, the fee is waived.

JOIN US



The Lake Ridge Civic Association invites everyone in the neighborhood to join us in making Lake Ridge a better place to live, work and play.

This year we are planning events to clean our neighborhood, plant more street trees, work with the city and county to calm our traffic, and help our public safety officials make Lake Ridge a safer place to live. If you'd like to help, we'd love to hear from you.

Membership form on page 3.

Fort Lauderdale City Commissioner Dean Trantalis swore-in the 2016 Lake Ridge Civic Association Board of Directors at our February meeting at Art Serve. From left to right: Bob Oelke, Joan Booz, Michael Albetta, Lynn Elsasser, Derek Maingot, Juliette Roque, Commissioner Trantalis, Erin Keenan. The Board will select officers for the upcoming year at its March board meeting



spring cleanup

Lake Ridge Civic Association is pleased to join the City of Fort Lauderdale for "Fort Lauderdale Cares Day" on April 30th. All volunteers willing to help clean up the neighborhood are welcome.

Saturday, April 30th
Volunteers meet up at 8:30 am
Corner of NE 11th St and 14th Ave
(behind the Publix road closure)



For more information 954-828-8658 NeighborVolunteerOffice@fortlauderdale.gov



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SHORT-TERM RENTALS

Tourism makes up a big part of Fort Lauderdale's DNA. Visitors have been flocking to our mom & pop motels and beach-front resorts for almost a century. In our city's earliest days, local residents would open their homes to visitors, or rent out "mother-in-law suites" to seasonal snowbirds or yacht crews making a stopover at the port. Today, new technology is bringing that business model back to life. AirBnB and other online services allow homeowners to easily connect with those looking for accommodations. In many cases it is a "win-win" for local property owners and visitors alike.

But short-term rentals can create friction with surrounding properties. Some irresponsible property owners have rented out their home as a "party pad", or visitors have simply taken advantage of a trusting homeowner. In an effort to mitigate those conflicts and preserve the character of residential neighborhoods, the City Commission adopted new rules in 2015 to address issues such as parking, garbage, noise and public safety concerns.

As of November 1, 2015 any person operating a vacation rental must register with the city and have the property inspected to ensure that it meets minimum safety standards. A property manager must be available around-the-clock to address any complaints. Owners will have to keep a guest registry and post pertinent information about city ordinances regarding noise, trash and parking on-site. Homes cannot be rented to more than two people per bedroom, and all vehicles must be parked in the home's driveway. The city has increased Code Enforcement staff to enforce the new rules.

If you advertise as a short-term rental, or rent your home or cottage on a short-term basis (for period of 30 days or less) for three or more times during the year, you'll need to register with the city. You can find a checklist of new city requirements at the city's website.

www.fortlauderdale.gov/departments/sustainable-development/code-compliance/vacation-rental-registration-program



printed on 30% recycled paper

GREEN WORKS

www.fortlauderdale.gov/gyr-home-page

By Lynn Elsasser

Most of us have hazardous chemicals around the house that we no longer need or want. Don't flush them down the drain or put them in your garbage can, they'll simply end up in our waterways or drinking water supply. Your old electronic devices contain lead, mercury and other toxins. They need to be disposed of responsibly, too.

Fortunately, there's a convenient way to get to get rid of your unwanted household chemicals or electronics. On **April 9th**, the city will hold its next Hazardous Waste and Electronics Pickup in **Mill's Pond Park** between **9am-2pm**. Items collected at this event will be recycled, refurbished, or disposed of in an environmentally safe manner, including:

- Paint (oil or latex), paint thinner and stripper
- Automotive fluids, motor oil and filters, gasoline
- Pesticides/Insecticides
- Fertilizers and pool chemicals
- Fluorescent tubes
- Spot removers, oven and drain cleaners
- Furniture and metal polish
- Batteries, (rechargeable and automotive)
- Propane tanks and other fuels

- Computers, laptops, tablets, cell phones
- Monitors and televisions
- Keyboards, mice, cables, modems and terminals
- Printers, copy and fax machines
- Rechargeable batteries

Do NOT bring: alkaline batteries, business-generated chemicals or electronics, bio-hazardous waste, explosives, small appliances, microwave ovens, electric hand tools, stereos or speakers, musical instruments, VCR or DVD players.

Be sure to bring proof of Fort Lauderdale residency to drop off hazardous waste or electronics (drivers license with local address, utility bill or property tax bill.)

No proof of residency is required for Paper Shredding, Medication Takeback or donations to the Salvation Army.



Document Shredding

The city is holding its once-a-year paper shredding event to dispose of documents with sensitive personal information at **Mill's Pond Park, on Saturday, April 9th, 9am-2pm**. All shredding will be done on-site. You are welcome to watch your paperwork go through the shredder to verify that it won't fall into the hands of identity thieves. The city will accept documents from residents and businesses, no proof of residency required.

Medication Take back:

The FLPD will be collecting unused prescription drugs at **Mill's Pond Park on April 9th**. This service is available to all residents and non-residents. Help keep your drugs out of the hands of children and drug dealers ... and out of our water supply. The FLPD also collects prescription drugs 24/7/365. at its drop-off box in the lobby of the Police Station at 1000 W. Broward Blvd

Cleaning out your closet?

The Salvation Army will be collecting items in good condition including, clean clothing, shoes, linens, dishes, small household and kitchen items. No furniture, mattresses or other large items will be allowed on April 9th. You can schedule a pick up for larger items with the Salvation Army at 1-800-SA-TRUCK.

MILLS POND PARK
2201 N Powerline Road (NW 9th Ave)
Saturday, April 9th
9 am - 2 pm



KEEPING VALUES HIGH

The South Florida real estate market has rebounded from the Great Recession, and Lake Ridge is no exception. Our close proximity to downtown, shopping, the beach and many of the city's other premier destinations makes our neighborhood a very desirable location. We're seeing new developments spring out of the ground, and new neighbors moving in.

Rising property values benefit us all. Unfortunately it only takes one bad neighbor to make an entire block look bad and affect everyone's property values. Unkempt lawns, graffiti, peeling paint, untended pools and abandoned vehicles send a signal to potential homebuyers and criminal elements alike.

The code compliance officers who patrol our neighborhood are looking for your assistance in keeping *your neighborhood* clean, healthy and prosperous. If you see a possible code violation you can report it at 954-828-5207, use the city's mobile app: Lauderserv, or email: code@fortlauderdale.gov.

If you wish to report a violation anonymously, please phone the code officer (emails received by the city are subject to public record searches). Or you can contact the Lake Ridge Civic Association and we'll report it on behalf of the neighborhood. Our neighborhood's code compliance officer is **Leonard Champagne 954-828-6348**.

Inside the back cover you'll find common code compliance violations. Some are public health issues: untreated pools breed mosquitoes; unkempt landscaping can be infested with rodents and insects; pools need to be fenced, with gates that are self-closing to prevent child drownings. Others issues affect the quality of life in Lake Ridge: inoperable, unlicensed vehicles must be stored in an fully-enclosed area; vehicles must be parked on hard surfaces not on lawns; Buildings must be in good repair (no broken windows, peeling paint, cracked roof tiles); mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems operable; entry points to buildings must be secured. Fences and gates must be in good repair. Trailers, RVs, or boats must be fully screened from public view. Larger boats must be stored in side or rear yards.



CLUES THAT YOUR IDENTITY HAS BEEN STOLEN

- You see withdrawals from your bank account that you can't explain.
- You don't get your bills or other mail.
- Merchants refuse your checks.
- Debt collectors call you about debts that aren't yours.
- You find unfamiliar accounts or charges on your credit report.
- Medical providers bill you for services you didn't use.
- Your health plan rejects your legitimate medical claim because the records show you've reached your benefits limit.
- A health plan won't cover you because your medical records show a condition you don't have.
- The IRS notifies you that more than one tax return was filed in your name, or that you have income from an employer you don't work for.
- You get notice that your information was compromised by a data breach at a company where you do business or have an account.

FREE DOCUMENT SHREDDING
Mills Pond Park April 9th 9 am -2 pm
Open to all residents, businesses & non-profit organizations.
No proof of residency required
PROTECT YOURSELF



printed on 30% recycled paper

DOING GOOD IN LAKE RIDGE

We are very fortunate to have some hard-working non-profits making Lake Ridge a better place to call home.

RECYCLABLE BICYCLE EXCHANGE (RBX) gives unused bikes a second life by refurbishing them and getting them into the hands of deserving young riders. Founded in 2012 by Lake Ridge resident Jeff Torkleson, the all-volunteer exchange has rehabbed and given away hundreds of bikes. (Jeff is also our neighborhood's representative on the Central City Community Redevelopment Agency and is executive director of B-Bike, Broward County's bike sharing program.) If you have a bike to recycle or would like to volunteer, check out www.rbxfl.org or call 954.540.7609

ABANDONED PET RESCUE (APR) was founded in 1996 to shelter abused or neglected pets and find them new homes. APR located at 1137 NE 9th Ave is one of the largest **no-kill** animal shelters in South Florida and is devoted to the welfare of all animals. While pet overpopulation is declining throughout the country, the number of animals brought to South Florida shelters is increasing. apr.rescuegroups.org (954) 728-9010 apr954@att.net

PANTRY OF BROWARD is a "one-stop shop" for seniors (ages 60+) struggling to live on low fixed incomes, Grandparents thrust into the role of caring for their grandchildren often need assistance with obtaining benefits for those children. The Pantry of Broward walks those clients through the proper channels so that they can work through the court system. Donations of food or cash are welcomed at 610 NW Third Avenue 954.358.1481 info@thepantryofbroward.org www.thepantryofbroward.org

EMPIRE STAGE brings Off-Broadway to Flagler Drive. This artist-driven collective produces new and existing works for the diverse audiences of Ft Lauderdale, including the LGBT and Senior populations. Empire Stage offers theater artists a supportive environment where they can collaborate, take risks and develop as writers, as directors, as actors, as designers and as producers. www.empirestage.com 1140 N Flagler Drive 954-678-1496 info@empirestage.com

Save the date for our 4th Annual

Taste of Italy

Thursday June 16th 6-9 pm

Cafe Vico Ristorante
★★★★

A Summer Fundraiser benefiting the Lake Ridge Civic Association

Wine & Beer • Appetizers • Raffle • Silent Auction
Good food...Good times