

# COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, INC.

## ☀ BULLETIN ☀

### Living with Alligators!

Several calls have been received from concerned residents who have witnessed alligators in neighborhoods or on the golf course.

University Park is a native habitat to various species and among them are alligators that can be witnessed sunning on the pond side banks, traversing over roadways from pond to pond, or in close proximity to the golf course grounds. This is normal activity. If left alone, alligators will eventually retreat to more preferred, isolated areas away from people. This time of year is mating season and alligators can be more active; and therefore, more visible.

Alligators are an important part of Florida's heritage and play an important role in the ecology of our State's wetlands and native habitat.

### Safety Tips:

- Pay attention to your surroundings! Leave alligators alone. Florida State Law prohibits killing, harassing or feeding alligators. Alligators are most active between dusk and dawn.
- Closely supervise children or pets when near the ponds. Dogs are more susceptible to being attacked than humans as they resemble an alligator's natural prey. Do not let your pet outside unattended, even on your pool cage.
- If an alligator exhibits aggressive behavior such as stalking you, coming up to your pool cage during your enjoyment of same, enters your garage or door entry area, or poses any other threat, call the Alligator Hotline at 866-392-4286. Your complaint will be evaluated and if necessary a contracted trapper will respond to remove the alligator. Alligators become the property of the trapper who normally does not relocate them, but instead kills them for their hide and meat.

A broader knowledge of alligator behavior will help ensure that humans and alligators can continue to coexist safely.

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