



LOWofJ 2017 April / May Newsletter

Editor: Judie Gollwitzer

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President:	Jerri DeKriek (LOW)
Vice President:	Colleen Najm (LOW, NEW APPOINTMENT)
Treasurer:	David Smith (LOJ)
Secretary:	Barbara O'Brien (LOJ)
Director at Large:	Patrick Kopfle (LOW)

NEXT BOARD MEETING FOR LOWofJ will be held at 9:30 AM on June 2nd.

Agendas are posted on bulletin boards and the LOWofJ website two days before each meeting.

BOARD BUSINESS

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Each year one or two outstanding residents are selected for recognition. Traditionally the Board has selected the recipient. This year the Board is asking for your recommendations. If you have someone you'd like to recommend, please send your recommendation to Barbara O'Brien at

barbaraobrien5@aol.com by May 26th. Once someone has been chosen he or she will be publicly recognized and their name will go onto the plaque which hangs on the wall in the clubhouse. The person nominated must have volunteered on projects or had leadership roles representing the LOWofJ (Master Association). Although all volunteers are needed and appreciated, this honor traditionally goes to someone who is not volunteering within a sub-community such as LOJ or PE.

WATERING ISSUE

When to water is a County mandate and we here at the Lake of the Woods of Jacaranda (LOWofJ) need to comply. Some residents are either abusing this mandate or are not aware of it. As your Board of Directors, we are doing our due diligence by letting you know the County's expectation.

(1) The following message is located at the bottom of every water bill and is in red lettering.

"Irrigation Restrictions: Even Addresses Tuesday Only - Odd Addresses Thursday Only. No irrigation allowed on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm on any day for most properties. To report violations call (941) 861-5000."

(2) If you have new sod or new plantings, the following applies and is quoted below directly from the *Water Restriction Quick Guide for Citizens of Sarasota County, dated June 2012*.

"On the first day of installation only, new lawns may be irrigated any time of the day and any day of the week. After the first day, new lawns may be irrigated any day for another 29 days, before 10:00 a.m. and after 4:00 p.m. On days 31 through 60, new lawns may be irrigated up to 3 times a week, before 10:00 a.m. and after 4:00 p.m. New lawns / plantings must be at least 50 percent of the area being irrigated. Areas less than 50 percent must comply with hand watering instructions stated below."

(3) For hand watering of lawns / sod, plants, County defines this as:

"Hand watering hanging baskets, or gardens and other non-lawn plant material is allowed any day of the week and any time. Hand watering of lawns is allowed but only on the allowable day or for a special need, such as application of fertilizer or pest control. All hand watering by a hose requires the use of a shut-off nozzle."

If you are caught fines can be levied.

PUMP HOUSE:

Bids went out for improvements to the pump house. A decision was made and now the work can begin.

MAILBOXES:

The lack of a roof was brought up by a Board member and the discussion centered around the hurricane restrictions required. The Board will look into what is involved for this construction. As for previously planned work, the Board needs to determine when the disruption

would be at a minimum since they will need to shut down the mail to proceed.

SIGNAGE:

1) There was a proposal to purchase 6 dog waste disposal signs and attach them to existing sign posts. Residents continue to abuse the fact that dog waste needs to be picked up AND disposed of in a proper container - not under a bush along the walking path. The board approved the purchase.

2) A Board member brought attention to a sign located near the north entrance of Lake of the Woods Drive that needs to be replaced. Since Lake of the Woods Drive is a County road, the Board agreed and suggested Keys-Caldwell be contacted to make arrangements to have the sign replaced.

FALLEN TREE:

A tree is dangerously leaning in the pine forest on common land and needs to come down. In order to properly remove the tree, grind the stump and prepare the area for future maintenance an estimate for the work was discussed. The Board made a motion to approve a not-to-exceed amount for tree removal and cleanup. The motion passed.

PLANTINGS AT MONUMENTS:

New plantings are scheduled, but the Board will assess it because the geraniums look so good.

COMMUNITY INSPECTION:

During the April inspection of our development, Keys-Caldwell noted that weeds, sidewalks and dirty roofs were the main concern. The overall inspection revealed very few violations. The results of the May inspection were similar.

PLANTATION - CONTINUING ISSUE:

This issue of unauthorized shrub removal on LOJ property by a Plantation resident whose property abuts the Lakes of Jacaranda has been an issue for quite some time. Letters were sent to all home owners along the lake where LOJ property abuts Plantation's property. As you may recall, the Plantation property owner removed growth on our property giving the Plantation homeowner a lake view. The Board has decided to move forward immediately to have the plantings replaced. Art Bradley, who originally planted the shrubs on the property in question, offered to replant.

LIGHTING @ MAIN ENTRANCE:

There are lights out at the main entrance. The Board is getting bids at this time. The first bid was too high so they are waiting for the second bid to come in.

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY:

In April a sample of the updated directory was handed to each Board member and Keys-Caldwell for their final review and approval. Permission to go to print and disseminate was given. There were twenty residents who came forward to help bag the new directory inserts. Thank you so very much to everyone who responded to my SOS along with Bob and Yvonne Cordero and the Block Captains. These inserts should replace the 2013 directory in your

3-ring binder. If you do not have a 3-ring binder, please contact Judie Gollwitzer at bostongirlinflorida47@gmail.com and I will leave one on the bench outside my front door for you or a helpful neighbor to pick up.

COMMITTEE NEWS

ARC (Architectural Review Committee):

In April, the Co-chair for ARC instructed Keys-Caldwell to hold any violation letters for a property with overgrown issues. ARC is working with the homeowner who plans to have the property resurveyed.

In May, Cookie Sonnabend volunteered to become the Chairperson and leader of ARC. Cookie has been on the ARC Committee for the past few years and will now take a leadership role. We thank Tom Gaines and Bill Meints for their leadership over the past few years and know they will be there to support Cookie if needed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Suggestions continue to come in for better communication in our community. All recommendations are being noted and improvements, once identified, will be made. Presently, Jerri DeKriek, Phil Lootens and Judie Gollwitzer will be reviewing an outline of the Covenants that was developed years ago. This outline will be helpful to both new and seasoned residents as a quick reference. Covenants in their entirety are located on the www.lowofj.com website in the BOARD Section under Documents.

These are some updates on some of the areas we are working on:

- * A helpful and informative welcome package for new residents
- * Evaluation of the existing website and assignment of a liaison from the Board to be sure it is always kept up to date. To help us evaluate the website the Board received a statistical report from our Webmaster, Bob Valenziano, which will help us determine how to review the website to better meet the needs of the community.

LAKES AND WETLANDS:

Our lakes are due for inspection and re-certification by June 17th. Thomas Walker Engineering will conduct the inspection required by Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), then, at our request, give an overall assessment of our water flow and drainage system. Since we are on a five-year schedule for inspections, the Board thought, and Art recommended, we opt for the inspection now rather than wait until we have an issue.

Unlike many varieties of fish that can be hooked, talapia cannot. They reproduce often and use up

precious oxygen in the lakes which can be serious when the water levels are low. This is why they need to be harvested professionally and why you may see a boat in the lakes. A resident at the last Board meeting asked if they would be taking out any of the bass, and the answer is no they will not.

WHAT IS CERTIFICATION?

Certification begins with an engineering company inspecting the system and listing any discrepancies that must be corrected. After the repair work is completed the engineering firm notifies SWFWMD. If the HOA does not correct the discrepancies, SWFWMD has the authority to levy fines on the HOA. More importantly, failure of the storm water drainage system could result in local flooding.

HOW DO WE PREVENT FLOODING?

As rainfall increases the volume of water in the system, the system is designed for water to flow from lake to wetland to lake to the outfall structures and into the Alligator Creek Conservation Area. If the system becomes blocked and the water cannot flow properly we would experience water backing up into our roads.

HOW DOES THE FILTRATION SYSTEM WORK?

You may ask why all residents are requested to not cut or remove any vegetation in or near the water high water mark.

Since the majority of our lakes are man made and designed to contain water that runs from the streets and surrounding areas during heavy rainfall, the excess water drains into Alligator Creek's Conservation Area. When roads are built, and construction means driveways and houses will replace the natural drainage process, a filtering system is necessary since the potential for flooding increases. Our 3 wetlands are strategically placed and have native plants growing in them. These plants are designed to filter the water and remove sediment and excess chemicals as the water flows from lake to wetland to lake on the way to Alligator Creek's Conservation Area and ultimately to the Gulf of Mexico. Plants in the lakes also perform an important function of reducing erosion and filtering lawn products such as nitrogen from entering the water way. The Sarasota Environment Protection Agency is charged with the responsibility of ensuring the plants in our system meet their standards, they can levy fines on our HOA if we are not in compliance.

Submitted by Art & Barbara Bradley

LECTURE SERIES:

PAST LECTURES THAT WERE WELL RECEIVED BY RESIDENTS . . .

JAPANESE CALLIGRAPHY:

Those who were able to join LOJ resident Aiko Anderson at the clubhouse last Wednesday learned a lot about Japanese Calligraphy and its history. Aiko explained its base in Chinese writing and how in Japan it transitioned over time, influenced by poetry and modern times. Aiko belongs to the Sarasota chapter of the Sumi-e Society of America. Recently she was selected to create the cover for both their National and Sarasota Membership Directories. If you are interested in learning the art of Japanese calligraphy you can contact Aiko. If anybody is

interested in doing shirt-leaf painting or observe her calligraphy class please contact Aiko at aikoandy@hotmail.com.

SAFETY:

The Safety lecture in April by Officer Duff was well attended and well received. She gave us a wealth of safety information showing what you could do to protect yourself in your home. She also said that Venice has a low crime rate compared to Sarasota and Northport. We were all glad to hear that. She also relayed some incidents in our area where a crime could have been prevented if only neighbors, who were suspicious, called 911. If you suspect anything where either a person or property may be in danger of being violated, she encouraged everyone to call 911. If it is a non-emergency the telephone number to call is 941-316-1201. This non-emergency number is listed in the front of your LOWofJ community directory.

LECTURES BEING CONSIDERED IN THE FALL:

THE AMAZING WORLD OF COLOR AND HOW TO USE IT IN YOUR HOME:

Barbara O'Brien will discuss color and the emotional and psychological responses to color and how to use it in your home.

FLOWER ARRANGING:

Judie Gollwitzer will conduct a lecture on the history of flower arranging and how history has influenced design. Then she will show you how flowers can play a part in your home's decor.

RUSSIA: ITS HISTORY AND POLITICS (AND WHAT IT WANTS)

Dr. Tom Boeke will share his considerable knowledge with us of Russian history.

SOCIAL

Now that our seasonal residents have gone north, we will cancel Game Night for the summer months. Please mark your calendars for October 26th at 7:00 PM when Game Night will resume. Enjoy your summer!

THE HISTORY BENEATH OUR FEET (New)

This is a new feature we are introducing in the newsletter. We thought we'd begin with a history of our own development. At my request, Art Bradley shared his knowledge of how our community began. I also copied information from our website which captured our beginnings as well. I hope you enjoy the historical information. We thank Art Bradley and Bill Meints for walking us down memory lane.



IN THE BEGINNING:

In 1917 Herman Kluge first came to this area as a timber cruiser for a New York company. His assignment was to survey the area and determine whether the virgin pine forest between Venice and Port Charlotte Harbor was suitable for commercial timbering. At that moment in history, lumber was urgently needed in Britain and France for ship building and other uses during World War I. In 1918, the Manasota Land and Timber Company built a large sawmill southeast of Venice. Three years later another company bought it and gave it the name of Woodmere. Although the town of Woodmere only existed for a few years in the 1920s, at the time it had more residents than Venice. The Woodmere name survives in this area in the names of roads, parks and residential and commercial developments.

The holdings of the lumber company were a part of an 1884 753,000 acre State of Florida land grant given to the Tampa, Peace Creed and St. Johns River Railroad, which later changed its name to the Jacksonville, Tampa and Key West Railway Company. The state deeded to any railroad 10,000 acres of land for each mile of railroad built.

Eventually the property where our community is located became part of the Jacaranda P.U.D (Public Utilities Development) and residential development began by Gulfstream Development Corporation. The first phase known as Jacaranda West, began in the mid 1970's along the eastern end of Shamrock Blvd. Shortly after this, part of Jacaranda Boulevard. was constructed from Center Road to Alligator Creek. The golf course and county club at Jacaranda West was constructed at that time.

During the 1980's, East Village, Meadow Run and Quail Lake were developed along Venice East Boulevard. Indian Hills Boulevard replaced Sklar Drive as the connecting road between Jacaranda Boulevard and Venice East Boulevard. At the end of the 1980's, Gulfstream Development began to construct Lake of the Woods as it was originally called. However, it was discovered that another development on the other coast of Florida already had that name and so our community was incorporated in August of 1989 as Lake of the Woods of Jacaranda.

Initially, the only access to Lake of the Woods of Jacaranda was what is now known as the south entrance to Lake of the Woods Drive. The completion of Venice East Boulevard to Center Road was yet to come. It was during this period Gulfstream Development Corporation experienced financial difficulty and declared bankruptcy. Our community was in legal "limbo" during this time. Park Estates was being developed as a sub-development of Lake of the Woods of Jacaranda with the intention of making it a separate entity but still governed by the master association documents.

On April 25, 1991 Taylor Woodrow, a developer, filed an application to develop 474.80 acres that is now known as Lake of The Woods of Jacaranda. The permit application was filed with South West Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), the state agency charged with the management and storage of surface water. Once approved, this authorized Taylor Woodrow to perform the work necessary to develop a storm-water drainage system which was mandatory prior to constructing houses. Their system consisted of 9 lakes and 3 wetlands totaling 77.20 acres.

The civil engineering firm challenged with designing the system was Smalley, Wellford and Naiven, now known as Kimerly-Horn. The system had to be approved by SWFWMD. The permit contains 16 specific conditions that outline the Home Owners Association's (HOA's) responsibilities for maintaining the drainage system. The major requirement is a mandatory certification process that occurs every 4 years.

The new developer entered into an agreement with J & J Homes Inc., to rename the undeveloped section of Lake of the Woods of Jacaranda to the Lakes of Jacaranda. Like Park Estates, the Lakes of Jacaranda are a part of the master association but they also operate as a separate entity with deed restrictions of their own.

We hope you enjoyed this "kick-off" to THE HISTORY BENEATH OUR FEET.

Submitted by: Judie Gollwitzer

From Writings by: Art Bradley and Bill Meints



LOCAL EVENTS & SARASOTA COUNTY NEWS

HURRICANE EXPO 2017

Venice Community Center, 325 Nokomis Avenue South
Friday, May 12 & Saturday, May 13 from
9:30 A. M. - 5:00 P. M.
Free Admission

The City of Venice is partnering with the Venice Gondolier Sun this year to hold a two-day

Hurricane Expo as a public service prior to hurricane season from June-November.

Speakers from the city that Friday will include Police Chief Tom Mattmuller, Fire Chief Shawn Carvey and City Engineer Kathleen Weeden, with City Manager Ed Lavallee giving opening remarks. Speakers from the county, Sheriff's Office, Red Cross and Suncoast Humane Society are also planned, along with ABC-7 meteorologist Bob Harrigan.

This Expo format will allow a lot more people to listen to the scheduled speakers – the VCC will have seating for 300, and standing room for more. Around 30 vendors, an iHeartMedia radio remote, raffles and other giveaways, and a Friday morning ribbon-cutting with the Mayor are also planned. Food and drinks will be available.

CONCERTS IN THE PARK @ the Gazebo, Centennial Park

Bring a chair or blanket and enjoy!

Al Fuller

Friday, May 26th
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Andy Perry Country

Friday, June 9th
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

The Kat Crosby Band

Friday, June 23rd
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

SARASOTA COUNTY

Sarasota County has a community e-newsletter. If you have questions, ideas for articles, or feedback relating to their newsletter, contact them at communications@scgov.net.

Sarasota County Government

1660 Ringling Blvd.,
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[941-861-5000](tel:941-861-5000)

TTY: 7-1-1 or [1-800-955-8771](tel:1-800-955-8771)

communications@scgov.net

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