



LOWofJ 2017 July / August Newsletter

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President:	Jerri DeKriek (LOW)
Vice President:	Colleen Najm (LOW)
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 Friday, September 1st. Note that this is a schedule change. At this time no August meeting has been scheduled.

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

BOARD BUSINESS . . .

ENTRANCES:

Lighting: The lighting at the North and South entrances has been replaced. They were under warranty, with a labor cost of \$1,300.

Landscaping: Secretary, Barbara O'Brien recommended that money be set aside to completely redo and redesign the decorative landscaping at both entrances.

ROAD RESURFACING:

Bruce Callahan provided the Board with a proposed plan for the recoating and crack sealing. The plan would involve Silk Oak (South section), Cedarwood Lane, Rosewood Court, Woodvale Drive and Vista Wood Drive. To prepare the roads for sealing, they will be looking for volunteers to help spray weeds growing in the roads.

DOG WASTE SIGNS: The new signs are ready for installation.

LANDSCAPE:

Dave Smith said the Australian pines around the mailbox area have been cut back and all dead vincas have been replaced with Lantanas.

PUMP HOUSE: Renovation of the pump house is tentatively scheduled for the end of August.

MANAGEMENT COMPANY REPORT:

- Due to two lot owners not complying with our community's deed restrictions, the board approved legal action.
- Dirty roofs and weeds seen in the last drive-through inspection caused 97 letters to be generated.

COMMITTEE REPORTS . . .

STANDING COMMITTEES

Architectural Review (ARC)

A Friendly Reminder: If you plan to make any changes to the exterior of your home you need to first go through the Architectural Review Committee. That includes painting your home, changing your landscaping and adding anything permanent to your exterior (to name a

few.) There is a handbook that was put together by Sarasota County on Florida landscaping that you may want to look at before you plant anything that will disappoint you later. This guide will discuss how things grow in Florida, which trees and shrubs will thrive as a Florida-friendly planting along with which are native to Florida. We recommend that you check it out and save it in your "favorites." ***Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Handbook***, https://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/materials/FYN_Handbook_2015_web.pdf.

Lakes & Wetlands:

- Art Bradley thanked Judie Gollwitzer for sending the e-mail blast out requesting volunteers to help clean up trash along Venice East Blvd.
- He also announced the completion of the certification of our lakes and that they were approved by South West Florida Water Management Division (SWFWMD). Their Engineer, Thomas Walker, looked at the pipes for sediment and was satisfied that there were no blockages. Other recommendations will be reviewed and implemented as necessary. The next certification is due in 2022.

Avoiding Fish Kills in Our Lakes

We checked the street drains in all of Lake of the Woods of Jacaranda and found them to be clear as of noon July 31. There are no back ups in our streets as a result of the heavy rain.

By law we are mandated to have our lakes inspected by a certified engineer and we are pleased to say our lakes have passed the certification. If we did not have their commitment we could have had serious issues such as a fish kill. This happens suddenly. You would see dead fish floating in our lakes which causes considerable concern for residents. People's first reaction is to suspect that our lake management company has put harmful chemicals in the lake and caused the fish to die, this has never been the case in our neighborhood. The majority of fish kills result from natural causes. While the action of humans can contribute to a fish kill, most result from a lack of dissolved oxygen in the water according to the Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission.

For dissolved oxygen deficiency fish kill to occur it requires a combination of environmental conditions that happen simultaneously. Weather, water temperature, depth and water quality and the type of plant growth in the body of water all play a role in a fish kill. Lakes located in a residential area are very vulnerable to dissolved oxygen problems. **These lakes normally contain high amounts of nutrients, from fertilizers applied to our lawns, that enter the lakes from runoff during heavy rains. Grass clippings that enter the lakes decompose**

and as bacteria begins to break down the grass clippings, the increased activity results in a loss of oxygen. Therefore, it is recommended that residents do not blow their grass clippings into the lakes.

Lakes with high levels of nutrients produce dense growths of microscopic plants called algae. When sunlight is available algae uses nutrients and produces oxygen through the process of photosynthesis. Most of the oxygen in the lakes available to the fish comes from algae and is produced this way. However, the level of nutrients in the water must be managed to prevent dense growths of algae that can cover the lake. During nighttime and periods of cloudy weather the lack of sunlight causes the algae to switch from photosynthesis to a process of respiration, which consumes the oxygen normally used by the fish. During a severe or extended period of time the fish can begin to suffocate. In Florida most dissolved oxygen fish kills occur during the months from May to September. Keeping the dissolved oxygen level in the lakes is a matter of lake management and luck in having appropriate weather.

Also, tilapia reproduces at a rapid rate, so the Lakes and Wetlands Committee recently had contractors remove thousands of pounds of Tilapia from our lakes. This also reduces the risk of overpopulation and a subsequent fish kill.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Communications:

The Communications Committee has been working on putting a useful package together for new residents. The intention is to make it easier for you to navigate the governing documents and to better understand the joy and benefits of living in a deed-restricted community. If you have anything in particular that you would like to see in a welcome package, please feel free to let us know. Contact Judie Gollwitzer at bostongirlinflorida47@gmail.com.

Social:

SAVE THE DATE!

Holiday Dinner Dance

Mark your calendars,
Polish your shoes,
Select the perfect cocktail dress,

and get ready for our annual **Holiday Dinner Dance!**

When: Saturday, December 9th
Where: Jacaranda West Country Club
Venue: Dinner and Dancing

The band Heart and Soul will perform for us again. Details on price and meal selections will be available in the October Newsletter. If you would like to help, please contact Judie Gollwitzer at bostongirlinflorida47@gmail.com.

Lectures:

We have three lectures scheduled for the fall. Please mark your calendars so you don't miss out.

1. COLOR YOUR WORLD - by Barbara O'Brien

Thursday, October 19th at 1:00 PM @ the LOJ Clubhouse

Brief Introduction: Barbara O'Brien is an Interior Designer and taught interior design for several years at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT. She owned Interior Design Associates in Connecticut and as a professional member of ASID, she has designed interiors for hotels, medical facilities, restaurants and yachts in addition to residential projects in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and Florida and has had her work published in trade magazines. Barbara will teach us how to understand and apply color effectively in our own homes. She will explain color schemes and harmony, the use of tints, tones and shades. She will guide us on whether to choose a neutral or colorful palette, and determine if it should be warm, cool or both. Also discussed will be the psychological impact of color.

2. FLORAL ARRANGEMENT FOR YOUR DECOR - by Judie Gollwitzer

Wednesday, November 8th at 1:00 PM @ the LOJ Clubhouse

Brief Introduction: Judie Gollwitzer owned a floral design company prior to retiring to Florida. Her love of floral design began during her membership in the Laurel Gardeners Garden Club back in the 70's where she designed and the Club raffled a floral quilt. In the early 80's she moved to a new town and joined the Westford Garden Club. It was there that her love for design grew. She was honored to take the lead on decorating a room in one of Westford's historic homes for their holiday tour of homes. From craft fairs to floral competitions to custom design to teaching and lecturing, her career began to have a pulse of its own. The logical next step was to open Judie's Floral Designs, where her commitment to "individual" design was her mantra.

Judie will do a live demonstration and share tips on how you can put together an arrangement in your home too.

3. THE RISE AND FALL OF RUSSIA AND WHAT THEY WANT - by Dr. Thomas Boeke

Wednesday, December 13th at 1:00 PM @ the LOJ clubhouse

Brief Introduction: Dr. Boeke is a professor of political science. He received his B.A. from Ohio State University in Political Science and his Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Boeke has graced us with lectures on the Middle East that were extremely well attended and received. This time he will speak to us about Russia since it is front and center in our lives and in our news.

Dr. Boeke has taught many courses, including the courses listed below.

- United States in World Affairs
- Russia in World Affairs
- International Relations

I recommend that you arrive early to get your seat. He starts on time and you won't want to miss a word.

COYOTES IN NEIGHBORHOODS:

We do not want to alarm anyone, but a coyote was spotted in our community. If you are out walking your dog, you may want to be aware of your surroundings. It might be a good idea to carry some sort of noise maker to scare them away. Pennies in a tin can can be an easy fix. The coyote pictured here was not photographed in our community.

Community Garage Sale

Barbara O'Brien, LOWofJ Board Secretary, has offered to set up a community garage sale for the fall. We are looking for someone to take over this task in the Spring. Holding a community garage sale attracts a large number of people and increases your chances of selling those items that just don't work for you any more. If you are interested, please contact Barbara O'Brien at 408-7238. Meanwhile, mark your calendars for:

DATE: Saturday, October 28th (with a rain date of Sunday, October 29th)
TIME: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
PLACE: Your yard

Signs will be put up and the newspaper will be notified, however, you may want to purchase a disposable GARAGE SALE sign (not home made) to put at the end of your street, so buyers will know enough to come down your way. Those signs may be put up the night before the event, but need to be taken down immediately after the event.

HURRICANE SEASON:

The official date that ends the hurricane season is November 30th. Although we've been lucky for the past twelve years, it can and has happened here in Venice. You should be prepared to make some decisions such as:

Should I stay or should I go?

Is there a shelter that will take me AND my pet(s)?

How will I get word to my family that I'm all right?

Will I have enough food and water if needed?

These are just a few of the things you should be thinking about and find answers to. You can check the wealth of information located on our website www.lowofj.com under DPP. You also should have a list of shelters that accept you AND your pets in the back of our community telephone directory. If you do not, please let me know and I will send one to you via e-mail. Contact Judie Gollwitzer at bostongirlinflorida47@gmail.com.

Community Directory:

If you do not have a copy of our community Telephone Directory, please contact Judie Gollwitzer at bostongirlinflorida47@gmail.com. If you are new to the community, the previous owner should have left one for you. If not, no problem. If you received the insert and didn't receive the binder, again no problem. The solution is the same. **If you are not in the recently-updated directory, you need to fill out a form, sign it and turn it in to Keys-Caldwell. The form (located on the www.lowofj.com website under BOARD, DOCUMENTS, Publications & Forms) will allow you to be included in both the directory and the database for the newsletter.**

HISTORY OF OUR AREA:

In a book titled *Venice, Journey From Horse and Chaise*, by Historian Janet Snyder Matthews, we learn how the land of Venice, once below shallow waters sixty-three million years ago, slowly increased its elevation. Although Florida appears above sea level, the continental shelf that surrounds it is equal to the land area of the state. At Venice the shelf extends more than 100 miles into the Gulf. It is speculated that the

sea levels may have risen to their current levels 4,000 to 4,500 years ago.

Watershed formations, channeling surface water across the land to the bays and seas, formed two drainage basins known as Cow Pen Slough and Shake It Creek, eventually becoming Sarasota County. Life began to flourish along the shore, growing coastal hammocks and the essential mangrove system. Mangrove swamps and tidal marshes, termed estuarine terraces, created a buffer between salty bay waters and uplands. Dona, Roberts and Lemon Bay became refuge areas and nursery grounds for young fish. Sloughs and waterways eventually offered habitats for freshwater fish, otters and waterfowl. During prehistoric times, these waterways became transportation routes.

Early man known as the Paleo Indians inhabited the area leaving artifacts dating from 10,000 to 12,000 years ago. Lanceolate-shaped stone projectile points, tipped darts, or spears were discovered by a Venice man named Vincent Gory and are housed at the Sarasota County Department of Historical Resources or were when this book was published in 1989.

Look for the NEXT HISTORICAL ISSUE where the period of the Paleo Indians will be featured.

VENICE MAIN STREET:

FREE CONCERTS AT THE GAZEBO.

Koko Ray

CONCERT IN THE PARK

August 25th

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Kat and the Rythm Gators

CONCERT IN THE PARK

September 8th

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM



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