



## 2017 LOWofJ March Newsletter

Introducing your new LOWofJ Board of Directors:

President:	Jerri DeKriek (LOW)
Vice President:	TBD
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 April 7th.**

**NEXT BOARD MEETING FOR LOJ will be held at 9:00 AM on April 7th, one half hour before the start of the LOWofJ Board meeting. Please plan accordingly.**

**Agendas are posted on the LOWofJ website two days before each meeting.**

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Newly-elected Board member Philip Lootens, had to drop off the Board due to scheduling conflicts. Philip said he will gladly participate as needed in a volunteer capacity. The Board looks forward to working with Philip.

To reach a Board member by e-mail type THEIR TITLE@lowofj.com. EXAMPLE: President@lowofj.com. Please allow twenty-four (24) hours for a return response. If you have the need to reach someone immediately, please contact Keys-Caldwell at 408-8293. Their phone is monitored 24/7. If it is a true emergency, call 911.

## **BOARD BUSINESS**

### **REMINDERS!**

Most of us have never lived in a community governed by a Home Owners' Association. I know I never did. We were courteous to our neighbors. We took care of our property. Nobody told us to keep things looking nice. Nobody put a neighbor in danger or spewed hatred. We just did what well-mannered people do, right? We all know that that simply isn't always the case. People didn't always behave in the manner we would have wished them to behave.

When we bought our Florida home we were all aware of the covenants and that we would all need to abide by them. For many that was one of the things that appealed to us. There was a standard set and everyone had to adhere to that standard. Rules were not meant to be the issue but the solution to keeping our property values up. We would not have purchased our home here if we thought those rules were unreasonable. There are some rules that you may not be aware of and it may be a good idea to spend a little time reviewing them. You can find them on the LOWofJ website under [www.lowofj.com](http://www.lowofj.com) then BOARD / DOCUMENTS in the blue section.

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There are some issues that are brought to the Board's attention often. The ones heard most often are regarding dog poop not being picked up and residents parking overnight on the street. Dog poop is not fun to step in when dogs are walked in the evening and on-street parking is dangerous when we are not expecting to see a car parked on the street.

Please take some time and check the covenants BEFORE you do something that may not seem right or courteous to your neighbor.

***Thank you from your LOWofJ Board of Directors***

## **MARCH BOARD MEETING UPDATES**

The following is a synopsis of the March 3rd Board Meeting.

1. Philip Lootens resigned from the Board due to scheduling conflicts. Philip will work with Judie Gollwitzer to review the LOWofJ Covenants and create an outline that will be simple for long-time residents and new residents to use as a guide to find and understand the rules and regulations of our community.
  2. The new Board members reviewed the Board commitment to on-going tasks and committees and determined, for consistency, which Board member would take the lead as liaisons where needed.
    - President, Jerri DeKriek will be the liaison for ARC
    - Secretary, Barbara O'Brien & Treasurer, David Smith will be the liaison for Landscaping
    - Secretary, Barbara O'Brien will be the liaison for the accuracy of the Newsletter and the new Communications Committee
    - Director, Patrick Kopfle will be the liaison for Roads
    - TBD, will be the liaison for Compliance. This would have been VP Philip
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Lootens.

- The Board in General will be the liaisons for the Lakes and Wetlands

3. The books have been audited and the CPA indicated that the numbers look good.

4. The Board voted to renew the landscaping contract with Artistree even though fees have gone up slightly. The contract is a 3-year commitment. Someone asked about the annuals being planted. The Board advised that they are replanted three times per year and that is an additional charge.

5. Barbara O'Brien received complaints about solicitations. It was determined that, although soliciting is not allowed, they only have control over door-to-door solicitation. There is nothing they can do about phone or advertising flyer solicitation.

6. Judie asked if the newsletter could go back to being a two-month issue with e-blasts going out if communication on specific events was needed. The Board said that would be fine. Presently, there are 871 LOWofJ homes in our community. We have 667 subscribers, plus one resident who has his newsletter mailed to him because he does not own a computer and one resident who is privately emailed a newsletter because he does not want his e-mail on the mailchimp server. That makes a total of 669 residents who received communications in our development. Leaving 202 residents who do not receive any news at all. I would ideally like to have 100% participation. Please refer to my message on "Communications" and if you have thoughts on how we can achieve that goal, I would love to hear from you. [bostongirlinflorida47@gmail.com](mailto:bostongirlinflorida47@gmail.com)

7. When Keys-Caldwell made their monthly drive through our development

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checking for any property that had been neglected, they were amazed at how few violations there were. Great job! Kudos to our residents! Thank you for taking pride in your property! (Message from the Board and Keys-Caldwell)

8. PARK ESTATES REPORT: Tom Gains wanted to call the Boards attention to non-residents fishing in our lakes. Only residents are allowed to fish in our lakes. If you have company visiting, they, of course, as your guests are welcomed to fish. Tom also said PE is in the process of replacing the signage.

9. LAKES OF JACARANDA REPORT: Dave Smith indicated that they hoped to have the pool up and running by Friday. (Followup - the pool is open)

10. The Board voted to include Hal Holcomb to the Architecture Review Committee (ARC). Hal will attend the next ARC meeting. ARC meets the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 10:00 AM. The Committee welcomes Hal to the team. Presently the Committee consists of: Tom Gaines, Bill Meints, Cookie Sonnabend, Bill Gollwitzer & Warren Major.

11. Jim Kraut, our Keys-Caldwell representative and President of Keys-Caldwell Management indicated that they are still dealing with the ongoing issue of shrub removal from a Plantation resident who removed shrubs and trees on property belonging to the LOWofJ so they could sell their home advertising a water view. No Trespassing signs have been ordered to prevent this from occurring again.

12. Resident Comments:

a. The bees are back in a new spot along the walking trail. Tom Gains will work with the bee-removal people to have them spray a chemical to discourage them from nesting. This is considered a humane approach.

b. The pump house condition was questioned and the message is that

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repairs are still needed and the Board is aware that it needs a new roof.

c. Residents were concerned about an escalating issue with their neighbor and wanted the Board to take a ride by and see this for themselves. Keys-Caldwell did ride by during their monthly inspection, but said they would ride by again with a keener eye.

13. The Directory is ready, but Judie is trying to make it the best it can be as a source of information. She will e-mail the front introductory section to the Board for their approval and comments. How residents will receive the updated directory is still being worked out. Preferably she would like to have the Block Captains make the deliveries. This would ensure that everyone receives an update. The form used for inclusion in and changes to the directory will be attached to each issue. If your information is incorrect, this will give you an opportunity to make the correction.

## **COMMITTEE NEWS . . .**

**ARC:** (Meetings are the 1st & 3rd Monday of the month at 10:00 AM)

The Architectural Review Committee (ARC) would like to remind all residents that any plans you may have for the exterior of your home need to have ARC approval, and that includes painting. The form can be downloaded from the [www.lowofj.com](http://www.lowofj.com) website under BOARD / DOCUMENTS (bottom section) in the BLUE section. They can be filled out and submitted to Keys-Caldwell prior to a scheduled meeting, but be sure all your samples and/or pictures are included with the signed form. You are encouraged to come to the ARC meeting in case there are any questions that arise. For simple requests you can bring your form, pictures and/or samples directly to the ARC meeting if you wish. ARC meets the 1st and 3rd Monday at 10:00 AM at the LOJ clubhouse.

*Submitted by: Bill Gollwitzer*

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**DPP:** (No meetings planned at this time)

### **Weather Alerts . . .**

Our Management Company, Keys-Caldwell, recommended that information on the Sarasota's **CODE RED** early-warning program be passed along to our residents. Jim at Keys-Caldwell said he signed up for the program and has received notifications on his cell and home telephone informing him of a tornado warnings in his area. Please share this information with residents and friends. The warning system is for Sarasota and for Venice. To register please go to: <https://public.coderedweb.com/cne/en-US/8F1CFDD0CA9A> and get yourself signed up.

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

I have been meeting with a variety of residents, realtors and staff at Keys-Caldwell to better understand the flow of information in, out and within our community. I am also reviewing our website to see what information is available for both potential new residents and residents who currently use it. My goal is to educate myself on the system that is in place, and where necessary, make recommendations to the LOWofJ Board on how to make the system more user friendly.

Your input is important. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you see a way of doing things more efficiently. I will be putting a small committee together to review my findings, examine the proposed changes and then preparing a presentation to the Board. If you wish to contact me, please write to [bostongirlinflorida47@gmail.com](mailto:bostongirlinflorida47@gmail.com). I prefer being contacted by e-mail so I have a record of your ideas. Let me know if you wish to be part of the team of five (5) or just want to share your thoughts and ideas.

***Submitted by: Judie Gollwitzer***

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## **LAKES & WETLANDS:**

Over the years we have received many questions concerning the plants growing along the shoreline in our lakes and wetlands. The areas these plants are growing in are littoral zones. They are shallow down-sloping shelves of the lakes in our neighborhood designed to support aquatic vegetation and remove pollutants from the water that will drain from Lake of the Woods of Jacaranda's storm water drainage system into Alligator Creek Conservation Area and ultimately into the Gulf of Mexico. The vegetation in the littoral zones absorbs the excess nutrients, prevents shoreline erosion and helps clean the water released into the water shed.

Sarasota County requires 30 percent of the surface area of storm water retention ponds (our lakes) to consist of vegetated littoral zones. The county also requires a monitoring plan, a maintenance plan and a guarantee that 85 percent of the plants survive or that replanting be done. Littoral plants are not to be removed, mowed, or sprayed with herbicides.

Sarasota County does inspect all littoral zones for compliance. If our littoral zones are not sufficiently populated with plant growth the HOA may be required to add plants or additional littoral zones. Our HOA would be notified if an inspection process is scheduled to take place in our neighborhood and the Lakes and Wetlands Committee would provide information concerning the inspection via the newsletter.

If you have any question concerning our lakes and wetlands please e-mail Art and Barbara Bradley at the Lakes and Wetlands Committee at [suniparadise42@msn.com](mailto:suniparadise42@msn.com).

## **SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES (ongoing) . . .**

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(The following social opportunities are for LOW, LOJ & PE)

**GAME NIGHT:** (4th Thursday of each month, 7:00 PM at the LOJ Clubhouse)

We held our first game night in February and played Mexican Train. We had one table, but had enough games for three tables. If you want to join us on March 23rd at 7:00 PM, please put this on your calendar. BYOB as always. You can bring a simple snack if you wish, but we decided we don't need more food at that hour of the evening. If you have questions, please contact me at [bostongirlinflorida47@gmail.com](mailto:bostongirlinflorida47@gmail.com).

*Submitted by: Judie Gollwitzer*

## **LECTURES:**

(All lectures are free and are held at the LOJ clubhouse)

### **Lecture #1: March 22nd @ 2:00 PM**

A lecture is planned for Wednesday, March 22nd at the LOJ Clubhouse. You are invited to show your support for resident Vincent Monluc who is a very talented artist and painted a series of watercolors showing life in Vietnam, where he was born. You will have the opportunity to see Vincent's work. He recently was contacted to have a one-person showing. I just learned today that Vincent won 1st prize in the Professional category for the Paint-Out Light Chasers. You will be able to see his painting at the Phillippi Park Mansion in Sarasota.

### **Lecture #2: TBD April ?**

I am trying to put together a lecture for the evening of April 11th, but as of this newsletter I have not been able to do so. The lecture by Sarasota County Deputy Sheriff, Cathy Duff was highly recommended by LOWofJ resident Dori Reiley for a lecture on Safety in our homes. As you know many residents in our community and surrounding communities in Venice have been victims of theft. Cathy said she

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can address that and/or a wide variety of topics that would be of interest to our community. I spoke to Officer Duff a few weeks ago, but have not been able to secure a date. When and if I do, I will send out an e-blast to residents so you can put the date and time on your calendar. I am trying for an evening lecture to maximize the attendance.

**Lecture #3: May 10 @ 1:00 PM**

Resident Aiko Anderson will give us a demonstration on the art of sumi-e, the art of Japanese painting. Aiko was born in Japan and moved to the United States with her family in 1986. She studied Sumi-e in Tokyo for ten years before leaving Japan. She started learning Japanese calligraphy at the age of eight (8). Please plan to join your fellow residents for this live demonstration.

Other lectures that resident Terri Saus, who you may remember conducted an informative talk on photography, recommended that I will look in to are:

- \* History of Venice by Kim Cool, Author of History of Venice
- \* Home decorating by decorator Colleen Fosnough
- \* Historical experience of a former U2 pilot by retired Brigadier General Joe McIlmyole
- \* Flower arranging, history and technique by former floral arranger, Judie Gollwitzer
- \* Hypnosis explained and benefits by Cindy Thomas

If you have an ideas for a lecture, please contact me at  
bostongirlinflorida47@gmail.com

*Submitted by: Judie Gollwitzer*

**Mah Jongg:** (2nd and 4th Monday of each month at 10:00 AM at the LOJ  
Clubhouse)

If you love to play, please join the group. You can order your new cards now. I

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order mine on the National Mah Jongg League, Inc.'s website [www.nationalmahjonggleague.org](http://www.nationalmahjonggleague.org). The prices are \$8 for a standard size card and \$9 for a large print. You could also purchase them at Venice Stationers in downtown Venice. I suggest calling them to see when they will get them in. Phone number: 488-6113

*Organizer: Sharon Flender*

**Book Club:** (1st Thursday of each month at 10:00 AM at the LOJ Clubhouse)

The leaders of the Book Club are:

Bonnie Surma: 496-7873

Cindie Kollman: [804-337-0289](tel:804-337-0289)

The books to be discussed for April 6th and May 4th are:

APRIL: ***The Nightingale, by Kristin Hannah***

MAY: ***How the Light Gets In, by Louise Penny***

NO BOOK CLUB MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN JUNE, JULY & AUGUST

SEPTEMBER 7th they will resume and plan to discuss ***The Wright Brothers, by David McCullough.***

## **UPCOMING EVENTS (Annual Events) . . .**

(The following activities are for LOW, LOJ & PE)

**LAKES COMMUNITY CAR SHOW:** (Sunday, April 23rd @ 1:00 PM at the LOJ Clubhouse)

It is an opportunity to display your vehicle and check out other interesting cars/motorcycles/vehicles. It's casual and free. Classics and newer appealing vehicles are welcome. Come to the Lakes of Jacaranda Clubhouse parking lot on

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Sunday, April 23rd at 1:00 PM. Cruse on in. Hope you'll BE THERE!

Organizer: *Bill Hickman* [941-256-3356](tel:941-256-3356)

## **Thank you!**

Thank you to Sally Atkinson for the great job she did setting our community up for the annual garage sale. Great job! The next community garage sale will be in the fall.

## **PROPOSED ACTIVITIES (for all residents) . . .**

(The following activities are for LOW, LOJ & PE)

A survey was taken in the Lakes of Jacaranda community on a variety of activities people may wish to enjoy. Many of the on-going activities could be held in people's homes or places in town. Here are the ones that could fit that bill. If you are interested in any of these, please let me know and I will put you in touch with like-minded people.

\_\_\_\_\_ Couples Bridge

\_\_\_\_\_ Card night

\_\_\_\_\_ Gardening

\_\_\_\_\_ Cooking / Sharing recipes

\_\_\_\_\_ Gourmet group

\_\_\_\_\_ Not-so gourmet group

\_\_\_\_\_ Lunch bunch

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\_\_\_\_\_ Bowling

Let me know if you can think of other activities. Some we've done in the past are:

Casino day trips

Motorcycle rides

Dining out

We are also looking to one-time offerings that would be open to the entire community, but would be held at the LOJ clubhouse. They are:

\_\_\_\_\_ Flower Arranging History and Demonstration

\_\_\_\_\_ Making an organic herb wreath

\_\_\_\_\_ Jewelry making



Our Management Company President, Jim Kraut, thought you might like to know the following.

### **SEA TURTLE NESTING**

The City of Venice is sponsoring a free presentation for the public on sea turtle lighting at 9:00 AM, Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> in Council Chambers at City Hall, 401 W. Venice Avenue. In 2016 according to the Mote Marine Laboratory, sea turtle nests totaled 4,588 surpassing the 2015 season of just 2,475. If you have any questions,

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you can contact Lorraine Anderson, City of Venice Public Information Officer at [941-486-2626 ext. 7401](tel:941-486-2626) or call her directly at [941-882-7401](tel:941-882-7401).

## **BOOK FAIR AND WRITER'S FESTIVAL**

March 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Tampa Avenue

## **JOY OF JAZZ**

March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Centennial Park

Looking for more to do in Venice? Check out the Venice Main Street calendar at: <http://www.visitvenicefl.org/calendar>

## **NEWCOMERS OF VENICE**

Newcomers is a very active organization that is always looking for new members. If you are interested in meeting people with interests similar to yours, you may want to go to their membership website at: [membership@venice-newcomers.org](mailto:membership@venice-newcomers.org). Current Membership Co-Chairs are Camille Cenicola and Bruce & Phyllis Snyder.

## **VOLUNTEERING!**

**There is a feeling of purpose when you decide to become a Volunteer. I believe the world can't turn without Volunteers! Share your talents, share your interests, share your joy! Someone is waiting to receive it.**

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Also visit [lowofj.com](http://lowofj.com)

**Our mailing address is:**

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