

The Lakes

Lake of the Woods of Jacaranda Newsletter



Messages from Your Board

LOWOJ Wetlands Committee

The Lake of the Woods of Jacaranda established a Wetlands Task Force in September, 2024. In the interim, the head of our Wetlands Committee, Art Bradley, has resigned. We would like to thank Art for many years of dedication and commitment to maintaining and preserving the community’s lakes and wetlands. His expertise will be missed, and we wish him all the best.

As a result of Art’s resignation, the Wetlands Task Force has now been elevated (and renamed) to serve as the Wetlands Committee, reporting directly to the LOWOJ Master Board of Directors.

The newly formed committee has already been hard at work. Initially, we have been reviewing all of the existing drawings and technical information at our disposal. While that process is still ongoing, the Committee has now been able to produce a composite Drainage Plan drawing for the entire LOWOJ community that will support the committee’s work, moving forward.

The committee is currently reviewing short-, mid- and long-term goals to maintain our wet ponds, as

UPCOMING EVENTS

LOJ Clubhouse Events (LOJ only)

- 11/22: Sip n' Dip Event (5pm-7pm)
- 12/6: LOJ Board Meeting (10 am)
- 12/13: Community Mixer (7pm-9pm)
- 12/20: Morning Coffee (10am-11)
- Pilates (every Tuesday/Thursday 8:30 – 9:30 am)
- Tai Chi (every Tuesday 9:45-10:45 am)

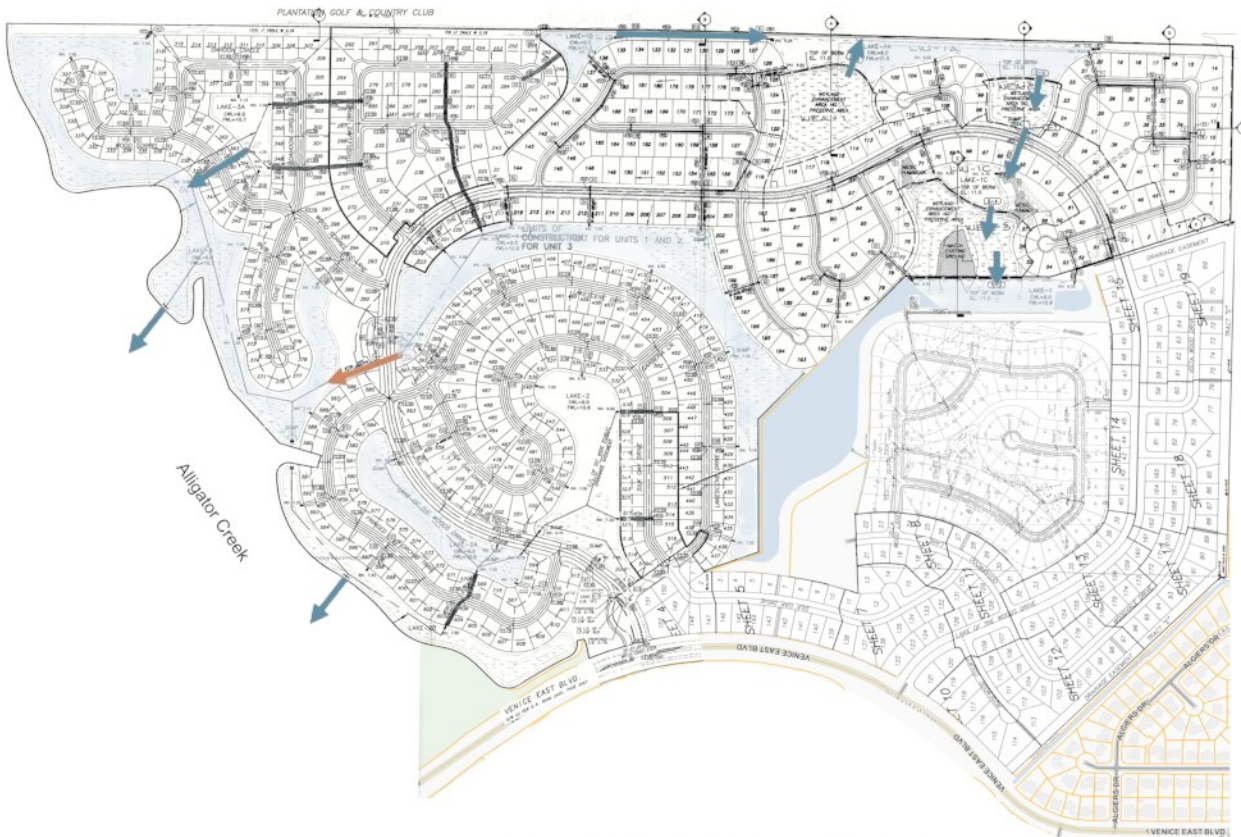
General Community Events

- 11/25 and 12/19: LoWoJ Architectural Review Committee Meeting (10am) at the LOJ Clubhouse
- 12/6: LoWoJ Board Meeting @ 10 am



well as planning/budgeting for the action items that will be recommended to the BOD.

The image below is a low-resolution version of the composite drawing that the committee has put together, using a variety of resources that have been assembled from existing drawings as well as information that was obtained from Sarasota County. This drawing shows how the water flows in our drainage system. The dark black lines represent underground pipes that carry water from the drains to the wet ponds. The blue arrows show how water flows through the wet pond system, flowing ultimately into the Alligator Creek preserve. The orange arrow shows the high volume double culvert that handles about 70% of the outflow from the wet ponds.



LAKE OF THE WOODS OF JACARANDA
Composite Drainage Plan

There will be more information forthcoming in the next few weeks. However, we have provided some preliminary information below about what we, as a community, need to do to ensure the future health and vibrancy of our wet ponds, under the “Information about Policies and Rules” section below.

Newsletter Team

We are pleased to welcome a new member to our Newsletter Team. Please welcome Lynn Gnaegy who has agreed to help support the development of newsletter content that is of interest to our community. We could



still use two or more additional members on the team. If you are interested in participating in the newsletter, please contact Bob Last at rlasthoabod@gmail.com.

Registration of Contact Information with Keys-Caldwell

The Board of Directors and Keys-Caldwell are continuing with an effort to obtain electronic contact information for ALL LOWOJ residents. Currently, we have 116 homeowners who have not provided opt-in email information on the Keys-Caldwell website. In order to keep your annual assessments as low as possible, we request that ALL RESIDENTS have an opt-in email on-file with Keys-Caldwell. Reducing the number of USPS mailings will reduce our costs and allow us to keep your annual assessments as low as possible. If the HOA is successful in moving to all-electronic notifications, we can save both time and money, and better use the funds that our homeowners have entrusted us with.

If you're uncomfortable with obtaining an email address, we can help you to set this up and provide any coaching that's needed to make it work for you. It's very easy to do! Please contact Keys-Caldwell for additional information and consider submitting a valid email address if you have not already done so.

Information about Policies and Rules

Our Declaration of Covenants (paragraph 7.19, as amended) specifically states that: "... it is the lot owner's responsibility not to remove native vegetation (including cattails) that become established within the wet detention ponds abutting their property. Removal includes dredging, the application of herbicides or algacides, introduction of Grass carp, and cutting. Lot owners should address any question regarding authorized activities within the wet detention pond to SWFWMD, Venice Permitting Department."



As the Wetlands Committee and the Board of Directors review implementing our policies and procedures related to our wetlands areas, we ask all residents to consider the following:

What You Can Do to Keep Our Wetlands Healthy

Nearly all of our wet ponds are man-made and all of them connect to each other, ultimately flowing into Alligator Creek.

- LOWOJ will soon consider establishing a No Mow Zone (NMZ) HOA rule for the shoreline around all of our wet ponds.
- Having a NMZ keeps heavy equipment and chemicals away from the shoreline.
- Taller plant life helps stabilize the bank with deeper roots.
- DO NOT MOW within 6 feet of any pond.
- Master Association contractors will be responsible for trimming the NMZ when it gets too tall.
- Do not put ANYTHING in the storm drains! EVERYTHING that enters the storm drains ends up in the ponds. Never put trash, yard waste, pet waste, or other debris down the storm drains. All of these



decompose slowly and lead to build-up of "pond muck".

- Minimize chemicals used to wash driveways, decks, and roofs and instruct your contractors/vendors to do this as well.
- Preferably, you should wash your car at an outside car wash.
- Don't overwater your yard and don't water your lawn during the hot part of the day. Follow the [watering rules set by Sarasota County](#). Install a rain sensor or reduce watering when it rains.
- Most importantly, when you see someone violating these guidelines, speak up!

Fertilizing Guidelines

- Fertilizers containing fast-release nitrogen or phosphorus are prohibited.
- Iron products with micro-nutrients keep lawns green through summer.
- Get better dirt. Add compost to improve your soil and give your garden a boost.
- Plants adapted to Florida need less fertilizer, water, pesticides, and overall care.
- Keep your clippings. Leave grass clippings on your lawn. Mow high for health. If you don't want to do this, then please rake and bag all leaves and yard/driveway debris.
- Sarasota County requires at least 50 percent slow-release nitrogen in fertilizers.
- Keep fertilizer at least 10 feet away from waterways.
- Skip the phosphorus. Sarasota County is naturally rich in phosphorus.
- Use a spreader with deflector shield/edge guard to apply fertilizer only where needed.
- If the problem is soil pH imbalance, pest invasion or disease, then fertilizer is no help.
- Sarasota County has a [fertilizer blackout period from June 1 to Sept. 30](#) during which no fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorus should be applied to turf or landscape plants. See the [fertilization restrictions promulgated by Sarasota County](#).

Compliance Policy

During the November Board Meeting, the LOWOJ Board approved the establishment of a revised, and more streamlined compliance process: A new compliance procedure was proposed to improve efficiency. The revised process would reduce compliance times to 30 days, down from 90 days, and clarify steps for residents. The draft policy will be distributed to the Community, detailing expectations and timelines for addressing violations.

The details on the new policy will be communicated to our homeowners soon.



Announcements and Events

Road Resurfacing Has Been Approved for LOWOJ

The Board of Directors approved a project to resurfacing our community streets in Spring 2025 with subsequent resealing in the Spring of 2026. A competitively bid \$1,100,000 project will be awarded to Anderson Asphalt and completed in January through March 2025 (because of the cooler temperatures and limited rainfall). Our non-county roads require resurfacing soon to prevent more extensive repairs in the future. The project will not require any special assessments to HOA homeowners, because the Board has been building up a reserve fund for several years to pay for this work.



2025 LOWOJ Budget

The Proposed 2025 LOWOJ Budget will soon be sent to all of our homeowners for review. The proposed 2025 budget will be voted on by the Board at the December 6, 2024, Board meeting. The proposed 2025 budget includes a very small increase in the annual assessment from \$585 per year to \$605 per year. Considering that we have faced many challenges in the past year (four hurricanes, for example) and increasing challenges associated with our aging infrastructure (wetlands drainage system, for example) the Board believes that this small increase in annual assessment is justified. The Lake of the Woods of Jacaranda HOA offers one of the lowest homeowner assessments of any HOA of our size in the area.

Fun Things to do in Venice

Are you looking for something fun to do in Venice this month? Here's a clickable link to a great source of information on fun things to do in the Venice area! → [Fun Things to do in Venice](#)

Committee Information and Updates

We have numerous committees within the Lake of the Woods of Jacaranda master HOA. The most important of these are the ARC Committee, the Landscape Committee, the Lakes and Wetlands Committee, and the Compliance Committee and there are a host of more loosely organized social activities. In each issue of our newsletter, we will try to provide informative updates from selected committees and teams to help our residents understand and be aware of the things going on in our community.

Landscape Committee

Landscape Committee leader, Jim Schell, recently reported to the Board of Directors on the status of many challenges which have kept the HOA's landscaping resources very busy as they address immediate problems including irrigation repairs and hurricane cleanup.

This month, Sarasota County began the pickup of storm debris in our community, primarily from Hurricane Milton. HOA vendors have been engaged to move storm debris in the common areas to curbside in preparation for pickup. As of the date of this newsletter, the process of storm debris pickup has not yet been completed.



ARC Committee

The largest category of ARC requests continues to be roofing, with painting a close second. While the volume of requests is high, the ARC has noted that some homeowners are undertaking projects, especially roof replacements, without ARC approval. We would like to remind all residents that all such projects require ARC approval. [The process for doing that is outlined here](#) (Keys-Caldwell resident login required).

The Architectural Review Committee (ARC) is looking to fill a vacancy. The ARC reports to the Board of the Lake of the Woods of Jacaranda, reviewing all proposed exterior architectural and landscape improvements by the homeowners in the Association to ensure that they comply with our covenants and established criteria to satisfy legal and aesthetic standards.

The ARC meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at the LOJ Clubhouse for 1 to 1½ hours to review applications submitted by homeowners. Committee membership typically requires 4-6 hours of time per month consisting of meeting times and pre-meeting review of applications by each member. There is no special expertise/background required... just a desire to be part of a committee doing important work on behalf of the Association and all homeowners.

Ideally, we would like to find someone from Grassy Oaks II or III, as we have no members representing those associations but will certainly entertain applications from anyone interested in serving.

If you are interested, please respond to lowojarc@gmail.com with the following:

- 1) Name
- 2) Street Address
- 3) Email address
- 4) Phone number
- 5) Brief statement telling the Committee a little bit about yourself, how long you have lived here and why you are interested in being on the Committee.

Member News

Profile: Mike Gnaegy, Lake of the Woods of Jacaranda Board of Directors



I'm Mike Gnaegy. My wife, Lynn and I live on Thistlelake Dr. I was born and raised in St Louis and met my wife at Miami University in Oxford OH where I majored in International Relations and Foreign Affairs. From there, I pursued an MBA in Marketing at St. Louis University in the evenings while starting my working career. My professional life was spent in international technical sales management in electronics materials and equipment for several companies ranging from medium sized to multi-national corporations, most recently as VP of Global Sales for Xenon Corp in Boston.

Lynn was of necessity, a highly flexible educator, finding new work with every transfer or new employment opportunity. We are the parents of twin adult children... a son Alex living in Cincinnati and a daughter Allison in San Diego.

We moved here three years ago, having made the decision to say goodbye to northern



winters and enjoy full-time retirement in Venice. As we searched for a place to buy, we found ourselves attracted to Lake of the Woods of Jacaranda, drawn by the neighborhood feel we found lacking in many other locations we considered. The community is safe, well maintained and aesthetically pleasing.

I know from experience that this does not happen by accident. It takes people dedicated to making it the kind of place we all enjoy. So, with retirement and the luxury of time to contribute to the community, I applied for membership on the Architectural Review Committee, reporting to the LOWOJ Board and have led the Committee since March of this year. Last month I was appointed to the LOWOJ Board in an at-large role, due to a resignation. I look forward to serving the Community in this capacity and look forward to the opportunity Board membership provides to get to know so many of you who call Lake Of The Woods of Jacaranda home.

Did you Know?

Why does Abraham Lincoln's Image Appear on the Penny?



In 1909 the penny underwent a visual change that remains constant to this day. From 1859 to 1909, the U.S. penny depicted the silhouette of a fictitious [Native American person](#). In 1909, President Theodore Roosevelt decided to celebrate Abraham Lincoln's 100th birthday by [changing the coin's design](#) to feature Lincoln's face — making Lincoln the first real person to appear on U.S. coinage. To create the design, Roosevelt enlisted the acclaimed medalist Victor David Brenner, who designed the portrait of Lincoln that now appears on all pennies. George Washington [would later appear](#) on the quarter, beginning in 1932; Thomas Jefferson was added to the face of the nickel in [1938](#); and FDR showed up on dimes beginning in [1946](#).

Despite their storied history, pennies may not be around for much longer, due to the fact that they're so expensive to make. The [manufacturing cost](#) for a penny is more than double its value — in 2021, each penny cost 2.1 cents to strike.

First Ladies Haven't Always Been Married to the President

The role of first lady is traditionally filled by the president's spouse, other family members have stepped in several times in U.S. history. Though there's no constitutional requirement to have a first lady, it's always been the tradition, and in cases where the president has been widowed or unmarried, someone else has always filled the role. The first instance was Martha Jefferson Randolph, the eldest daughter of Thomas Jefferson. When Jefferson took office in 1801, he had been a widower for about 20 years, so Martha took on the first lady duties, which at the time largely entailed hosting social events. Future First Lady Dolley Madison also lent an unofficial hand during the Jefferson administration while her husband, James, was serving as secretary of state.



Figure 1: Emily Donelson

Another unique case was the presidency of Andrew Jackson, whose wife, Rachel Donelson Jackson, died just months before his 1829 inauguration. Jackson asked his niece Emily Donelson to be first lady, though she was later replaced by his daughter-in-law Sarah Yorke Jackson. This began a tradition of daughters-in-law acting as first ladies to widowed presidents, including Angelica Van Buren (to Martin Van Buren), Jane Harrison (to William Henry Harrison), and Priscilla Cooper Tyler (to John Tyler).



Later, from 1857 to 1861, Harriet Lane acted as first lady to her uncle James Buchanan, who was a lifelong bachelor. Widower Chester Arthur and then-bachelor Grover Cleveland, meanwhile, enlisted the help of their sisters Mary Arthur McElroy and Rose Cleveland, respectively. In the two most recent examples, presidents' daughters filled the role for their widowed fathers. Mary McKee was first lady to Benjamin Harrison from 1892 to 1893, and Margaret Wilson served as Woodrow Wilson's first lady from 1914 to 1915. Since then, the role has been exclusively held by the president's spouse.

Volunteer Opportunities

Venice Audubon Society

The Venice Area Audubon Society is powered by volunteers. They would love to have you join their team. See below for information about the types of volunteer opportunities available. You can contact them for more information at info@veniceaudubon.org or sign up now [by clicking here](#)

Greeter/Docent at 1927 Historic Venice Train Depot and Circus Train Car Museum

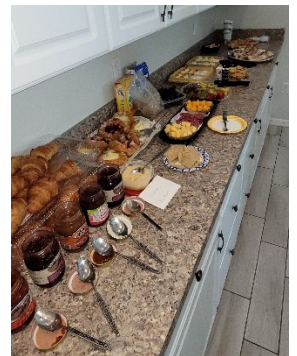
Do you like to meet new people from around the world? Are you interested in local history? Join the team as a greeter/docent at the 1927 Historic Venice Train Depot and the new Circus Train Car on the Depot Campus. Training is provided along with a Docent Shirt and nametag. If joining VAHS and becoming part of our team as either a greeter or docent interests you, please call 941-412-0151 or email information@veniceareahistoricalsociety.org

Upcoming LOJ Clubhouse Activities (LOJ residents)



Every month there are several activities for LOJ residents in the Clubhouse. These include the Monthly Mixer; Sip & Dip; Coffee and Conversation.

Also included in Clubhouse Activities are The Book Club, Mah-Jongg, Men's Poker, Water Aerobics, Pilates and Tai-Chi. If you are interested in joining in on the fun, here is some contact information:



Water Aerobics

Monday & Thursday 10-10:45 am. Bring a noodle. At the clubhouse pool. (Summer only, May-November: when water temp is greater than 78 degrees)

Contact: Helmine (helmine.junger@gmail.com)

Yoga /Pilates

Tuesday & Thursday 8:30-9:30 am bring mat, strap and weight, if you have them. At the clubhouse.

Contact : Patty (patricia2br@gmail.com)



Tai-Chi

Tuesday 9:45 - 10:30 am at the clubhouse.

Contact : Patty (patricia2br@gmail.com)

Book Club

First Thursday of the month 1 – 2 pm (October – May)

Contact: Lisa Gold LHGold246@gmail.com

Summer Contact: Joyce (jkl770@comcast.net) schedule varies in summer

LOJ Mixer

Every month on the 2nd Friday, potluck & BYOB at the clubhouse 7 – 9pm.

Contact: Joyce (jkl770@comcast.net)

LOJ Coffee and Conversation

Every month on the 3rd Friday, at the clubhouse 10:00-11:30 am, bring a mug. This event is hosted; just show up and enjoy!

Contact: Lynn (l.gnaegy@comcast.net)

LOJ Sip & Dip

Every month on the 4th Friday, 5 -7 pm. Potluck and BYOB at clubhouse.

Contact: Patty (patricia2br@gmail.com)

You can also check the [LOJ calendar on the Keys-Caldwell website](#) for the dates/times for all the activities. Participating in the Clubhouse Activities is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors and make new friends.

LOJ Social Committee Events

Ticket sales for the December 6th “A Clubhouse Christmas” continue.

Doors open at 5:30 with dinner from 6:00 – 7:00. Dinner choices are Chicken Parmesan, Chicken Bryan, and Penne Alfredo, catered by Carrabba's Italian Grill.

Entertainment will be provided from 7:00 - 9:00 by the talented singer, Holly Ray (performing songs from the 60's, 70's and 80's as well as some seasonal favorites).

Tickets can be obtained by calling or texting Debi Mitchell-Tighe, (LOJ Social Events Committee Chair) at 402 980-0055. Get your tickets now!

Tips, Health and Well-Being, and DIY Advice

Some Tasty Recipes to Try

This [baked spinach gratin](#) “Cheesy Spinach Bake” is similar to creamed spinach but has even more going on. It's rich but uses half-and-half, so it's not too heavy, and it's crunchy with crisp toasted bread crumbs. It's a



recipe that might be a good non-traditional add to your Thanksgiving or Christmas dining room table!

The [Waldorf Salad](#) is an age-old recipe that people have forgotten about. The original recipe was created by the maitre d'hotel Oscar Tschirky at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City in 1893. It was served at a supper for 1,500 society folks from Boston, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and of course New York which celebrated the opening of the famed hotel which at the time was just called the Waldorf Hotel. Here's a recipe that rivals the original Waldorf Hotel recipe!



Quote of the Month

**“Do the Best You Can Until
You Know Better, Then
When You Know Better, Do
Better.”**

--Maya Angelou

This quote is a reminder that growth is a continuous process. It acknowledges that nobody starts with all the answers or the ability to make perfect choices.

It's about taking those initial steps, doing your best with what you have, and then, as you gain wisdom and insight, using that knowledge to make more informed decisions and positive contributions to the world.

In essence, it's a call to embrace lifelong learning and self-improvement. It encourages us to be humble in our journey, recognising that we're always evolving and that the path to becoming the best version of ourselves is a perpetual one.

So, strive to do your best today, learn from it tomorrow, and always endeavour to do better as you continue to grow and evolve.

