

The Lakes

Lake of the Woods of Jacaranda Newsletter



News and Events

Street Sign Repair and Replacement

Street/Safety Sign Replacement: During the December LOWOJ Board of Directors meeting, Director Mike Gnaegy presented his findings regarding the condition of street and safety signs within the community. During a recent survey, Mike identified 38 signs in need of repair or replacement. Twenty-eight of those signs are located on Lake of the Woods Drive, which is under the jurisdiction of Sarasota County. Ten signs are located on HOA-maintained private streets. Mike recommended two Board action items: 1) Contact Sarasota County officials to request the repair or replacement of county-maintained signs; and 2) Obtain bids from private vendors for the repair and replacement of HOA-maintained signs.

One of the homeowners noted that many signs, some over 30 years old, are worn, illegible, and give a poor impression of the community. The Board agreed to assess the condition of signs and prioritize replacements where needed, particularly for HOA-controlled signs. The Board discussed the safety risks of downed stop signs and missing crosswalk signs.

Repairs are expected to begin in the last week of January.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LOJ Clubhouse Events (LOJ only)

1/10: Community Mixer (7pm-9pm)

1/17: Morning Coffee (10am-11)

1/24: Sip n' Dip Event (5pm-7pm)

1/31: Italian Food Truck at the LOJ Clubhouse (3pm-7:30pm)

Yoga/Pilates (every Tuesday/Thursday 8:30 – 9:30 am)

Tai Chi (every Tuesday/Thursday 9:45-10:45 am)

General Community Events

1/13 and 1/27: LoWoJ ARC Meeting (10am) at the LOJ Clubhouse

2/7: LOJ Board Meeting (9 am)

2/7: LOWOJ Board Meeting (10 am)

2/11: Annual HOA meeting and Board Member elections (6:30 pm at the Jacaranda Public Library)



Road Resurfacing Throughout the Community is Coming Soon!

At the January Board of Directors Meeting, John McCann, from Anderson Paving, the selected asphalt contractor, presented the timeline and project details for implementing the approved street repaving project.

Mr. McCann discussed the road milling and paving process, emphasizing the importance of advanced notice to residents. He explained that the process would involve milling the existing asphalt, followed by paving, and that the milling process would create a rough surface but would not harm vehicles. John also mentioned that the paving process would be done in sections, with color-coded maps provided for each street. He reassured residents that the process would not cause significant inconvenience, with only minor closures expected. John also addressed concerns about sinkholes and compromised roadbeds, stating that these issues would be addressed as they arise.

Residents are advised to park their vehicles elsewhere (adjacent streets and/or Lake of the Woods Drive) during the paving process to avoid any potential issues.

The actual timeline for the project will be posted on the LOWofJ.com website and will be updated during the project in real-time to provide continuously updated information to homeowners on when they can expect resurfacing work to happen on their streets. Additionally, information that will be helpful to homeowners regarding parking and preparation that may be necessary will also be posted there.

The resurfacing project is expected to last four to six weeks.

Annual Christmas Party at the LOJ Clubhouse

The annual Christmas Party was well attended by the community, and everyone appeared to enjoy the entertainer (singer, Holly Rae). Nearly 70 tickets were sold for this year's event. Unfortunately, a few people were sick so the event organizers packed up their meals and made sure they received them. In all, the party offered an atmosphere of fun for all and the result was a magical evening with the attendees joyfully participating in dancing and singing throughout the evening.

A good time was had by all. The participants enjoyed a catered Italian meal and lots of dancing to the entertainment of singer Holly Rae. The social events committee worked hard to make the evening fun and affordable for all. The clubhouse was festive and packed with people from the community. Many new friends were made and the Social Committee looks forward to building on this with other events during the year.



LOJ Book Club

The LOJ book club had their holiday luncheon in The Library room, at the British Open Pub on Dec 5.

The Lakes of Jacaranda Book Club meets on the first Thursday of each month (except for January- meeting is 1/9/25) at 1 pm at the LOJ Clubhouse. If you enjoy being transported to another place/time through reading, please join the book club to participate in discussions of books chosen by our members and led by our members. We are eager to welcome new members to our lively discussions. Please contact Lisa Gold at 734.272.6600 for additional information.



Changes coming to Frontier Communications Internet Service

On September 5, 2024 Verizon reached a deal to acquire Frontier Communications for \$9.6 billion in cash and taking over \$10 billion in debt held by Frontier. Subject to regulatory and shareholder approval, the acquisition is expected to be completed in 18 months.

In 2009, Verizon sold about 4.8 million access lines to Frontier for stock valued at \$8.6 billion. Frontier said at the time that the transaction made it [the largest rural service provider](#) in the U.S. and the fifth largest incumbent local exchange provider (ILEC). With this proposed deal, Verizon is getting those assets and more back for the price of \$20 billion. Click the link below for more details.

<https://www.channelfutures.com/channel-business/verizon-frontier-deal-gets-mixed-channel-reaction>

Sarasota County Natural Christmas Tree Pickup

If you don't want to dispose of your Christmas tree in the trash, you can repurpose it for composting, mulch, or to nourish soil. You can also place your tree on the curb before 7 am on the regularly scheduled yard-waste service day. Click on the link below for more information.

[What to do when you're done with your Christmas Tree](#)

How to Take Care of Issues with Street Lights

There appears to be some confusion among homeowners as to responsibility for damaged poles, lights, etc.

With the recent storms, there have been a number of streetlights and poles that sustained damaged and/or not functioning correctly.

All streetlights in the LOWOJ HOA are FPL owned. As such, it is FPL's responsibility to repair/maintain them. And it is the homeowners' responsibility to report any problems.

If you see or have a problem with a streetlight or damaged pole, it can be reported in one of two ways:



1. Call FPL directly at 800-4-OUTAGE (800-468-8243) and provide the address of the light pole or the 11-digit pole number which can be found on a tag on each FPL pole.
2. Report the problem directly through the FPL website at..... <https://www.fpl.com> › my-account › streetlight.html

Messages from Your Board

LOWOJ Wetlands Committee

The former Wetlands Task Force has recently been transformed into a newly formalized Wetlands Committee that reports directly to the Board of Directors. The committee now consists of eight homeowner members who offer expertise in engineering, biology, and water management. The committee is currently reviewing short-term goals and priorities, including addressing wet pond erosion, vegetative overgrowth, sedimentation, eco-system health, and invasive species.

One of the key aspects being considered by the Committee and the Board of Directors is an effort to provide HOA homeowners with educational resources that address the rationale for establishing Buffer (or No-Mow) Zones, as well as guidelines to help homeowners and contractors with proper maintenance practices to prevent further erosion and wet pond deterioration.

The Wetlands Committee is considering a recommendation to the Board to establish clear guidelines and rules to promote wet pond health and function. The committee is also considering drone mapping of the wetland and wet pond areas, as a means of aiding an assessment of areas that may be difficult to access but may likely need attention.

Landscape Committee

During the January Board meeting, Jim Schell presented information about the current status of the landscape in the common areas, including the two entrances. While quite a bit of work has been accomplished at the entrances, and storm debris cleanup has been mostly accomplished, there is still much to be done. Many of the resources available to the HOA were sidetracked with storm cleanup efforts, which slowed down the expected completion of the work in the common areas.

The Board discussed ongoing concerns with BrightView, the HOA's landscaping contractor, regarding incomplete storm debris cleanup. While areas were cleared before and after the recent hurricanes, some of the debris in our common areas and along the wet pond perimeters has not been fully removed. Concerns were also raised about remaining debris and large branches along both sides of Lake of the Woods Drive (near the two wet ponds in that area), which remain uncollected and risk falling into the water.

BrightView is currently operating on a short-term, one-year contract due to past performance concerns. That contract extension included clear expectations for improvement, and if key performance standards are not met going forward, the Board may consider a new contractor in the future.



Revisions to the HOA Compliance Policy

The Board has approved an update of the HOA's compliance policy which has been designed to simplify the compliance process and improve communications with homeowners. Under the new policy, homeowners will receive a single violation letter with a 30-day cure period. If the issue is not resolved, the matter will then be passed to the Board of Directors for a vote on whether to levy a fine. If approved by the Board, the fine will be sent to the Compliance Committee, which operates fully independently of the Board of Directors. Their task is to either approve or reject the fine levied by the Board.

For repeat violations of the same offense within two years, the cure period has been shortened to 14 days instead of 30, the statutory minimum. Other than that change, the overall process remains the same for both first-time and repeat offenses.

The process will be published on the Keys-Caldwell website and a link will be provided to all homeowners via an eblast from Keys-Caldwell in the near future.

Newsletter Team

The Newsletter team is in urgent need of a couple of volunteers who are willing to work collaboratively with the two Boards and our homeowners to create newsletter content. If you are interested in participating in the newsletter, please contact Bob Last at rlasthoabod@gmail.com.

HOA Annual Meeting

The annual meeting and Board Member elections will occur on February 11th at 6:30 pm at the Jacaranda Public Library. Please plan on participating either in person or via Zoom. Your Board of Directors is working hard to make this a great community to live in. We appreciate your confidence, your input and your vote!

Please look for the annual meeting package that you will be receiving, and especially the included voting proxy information. It's important that our homeowners participate in this meeting! We are counting on your support and attendance.

IMPORTANT: 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. This is especially important as we head into our annual meeting, because of the importance of participation of as many homeowners as possible.

If you're uncomfortable with obtaining an email address, we can help you to set this up and provide any training/coaching that's needed to make it work for you. It's really very easy to do! Keys-Caldwell has developed special training tools to help those who don't know how to approach this. You can contact Keys-Caldwell for additional information and assistance. Please consider submitting a valid email address if you



have not already done so.

We previously provided details on how to add your email into the opt-in list [in the June Newsletter on the first page](#) (click link to open).

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](#)

Member News

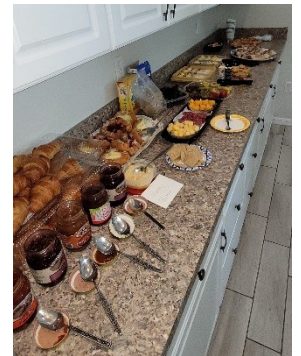
Profile: Chantal Arnassan, Treasurer, Lake of the Woods of Jacaranda Board of Directors



Hello, my name is Chantal Arnassan, a happy full-time resident of Lake of the Woods of Jacaranda. I have lived here with my husband, Bruno since July 2021. I am the Treasurer of the Board of Directors and enjoy applying my knowledge of Finance for the benefit of our HOA. I also was the Treasurer of another HOA in Duck, NC.

I was born in a suburb of Paris, France and moved with my parents to Canada when I was 6 years old. I was blessed to discover this passion in Finance from an early age and pursued a career in that field right after graduating and obtaining my diploma! My husband's career was also in Finance (Certified Accountant), and working for multinational companies, allowed us the opportunity to work in Minnesota and Virginia while discovering these 2 states after the birth of our 2 children in Canada.

We retired in Venice 3 years ago and have been traveling the world including going to France regularly where we both still have family. Of course, we enjoy life everyday, staying active in our wonderful community!



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 and Thursday 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 Morning Coffee

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.

