

The Lakes

Lake of the Woods of Jacaranda Newsletter



News and Events

Street Sign Repair and Replacement

Repair of the street signs on our private roads was delayed slightly. The contractor found signs that needed to be completely replaced. The repair of the street signs on our private roads has now been completed and the old, worn and damaged signs have been replaced.

Please note that the signs along Lake of the Woods Drive belong to Sarasota County. We have been in frequent contact with them and have placed work orders with them to get the County-owned signs replaced or repaired. However, progress has been slow.

The LOWOJ Road Resurfacing Project is Nearing Completion!

By the time that you read this newsletter, our street paving project should be drawing to a close. It's been a difficult process, with a lot of unexpected delays. But the streets that have been resurfaced look great!

The anticipated timeline for the remaining streets in the project is posted on the LOWofJ.com website and updated daily, as

UPCOMING EVENTS

LOJ Clubhouse Events (LOJ only)

3/21: Morning Coffee (10am-11)

3/28: Sip n' Dip Event (5pm-7pm)

4/3: LOJ Book Club (1-2 pm at the Clubhouse)

4/11: Community Mixer (7pm-9pm)

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

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

General Community Events

4/4: LOJ Board Meeting (9 am)

4/4: LOWOJ Board Meeting (10 am)

4/14 and 4/28: LoWoJ ARC Meeting (10am) at the LOJ Clubhouse

4/14: LOWOJ Wetlands Committee Meeting (11:30 am) at the LOJ Clubhouse

4/26: Spring Yard Sale



long as we have update information from Anderson Paving. Depending upon the availability of those updates, we will continue to update the website until the project is complete.

New Trash Service

Sarasota County recently contracted for Trash, recycling and yard waste services. For residents in our area, these services will be provided by [FCC Environmental Services of Florida, LLC](#). Their phone number is: [941-557-5040](#) or you can click on the company's name above to go to their website.

The new contracts take effect on March 30, 2025, and the new collection services begin on March 31, 2025. Until then, unincorporated Sarasota County residents and businesses should continue to follow current disposal guidelines for collection services. As of March 31, 2025 our pickup day is switching to Thursday, instead of Friday.

Residents in unincorporated areas had until New Year's Eve (December 31, 2024) to select their new garbage carts. You should have already received your new trash can, provided you ordered by the deadline.

All garbage must fit inside the new cart for collection. Items left outside the cart will no longer be collected after March 29.

Each Class I residential property is also eligible for four free bulk pick-ups (up to 10 cubic yards) per calendar year with the option to request additional bulk collection services (supplemental collection fees apply). Requests for bulk pickups must be scheduled in advance with the service provider.

For more information [click here!](#)

Have you Considered Animal Liability Coverage?

If someone gets injured by your pet, it could cost you. Consider adding animal liability coverage to your existing policy and protect you and your pet in the new year.

Here are some things to consider:

- When obtaining insurance, speak with your agent and let them know of any pets you may have at home
- In most policies, the liability coverage on your policy excludes injuries sustained or caused by a pet, purchasing animal liability will provide this needed protection.

Depending upon your insurance company of choice, this coverage can be obtained for as little as \$25 / year.

The Spring Yard Sale is Coming Soon!

The Lake of the Woods of Jacaranda Spring Yard Sale will happen on April 26, 2025 from 9 am to 2 pm. Do you have items that you are ready to part with? What better way to recycle your 'treasures' than selling them to others?!

The LoWoJ Spring yard sale is a great opportunity to re-home all that stuff. Clear out your garage, cabinets, closets and shelves and participate in the neighborhood spring yard sale. It's also a great socializing activity,



presenting a great opportunity to meet and greet neighbors you might not know!

In the event of inclement weather, the rain date will be Sunday 04/27). If you have questions, contact Lisa Gold lisachroniclesofborea@gmail.com (734) 272-6600.

We Have Otters!

Lakes of Jacaranda resident Barbara Johnson (she lives on Wood Sorrel) was out for a walk near her home and noticed a family of otters living in the wet pond on the north side of the LOWOJ community where our wet ponds empty into the Alligator Creek Preserve.

This is a really good omen since otters prefer clean water and fish to survive. Otters are sensitive to pollution and their presence indicates a healthy aquatic ecosystem.



The Wet Pond behind Wood Sorrel Lane has the legal name "Lake 3". All of our wet detention ponds are interconnected and the flow of storm water runs from pond to pond, with each pond functioning as a "filter" until the storm water ultimately ends up in "Lake 3" where our family of otters now live. From Lake 3, the storm water passes out into the Alligator Alley preserve via two "control structures". Control Structure is an engineering term for an outlet or discharge structure that regulates the flow of water out of the pond, ensuring stormwater is released at a controlled rate to prevent downstream erosion and flooding, and to allow for proper water quality treatment. One of these structures is located on the west side of the "Lake 3" wet pond and a little to the south of where the otters were observed.

Many thanks to our neighbor, Barbara Johnson, for contributing the material for this article!



Messages from Your Board

March 7, 2025 Board Meeting

There was a LOT on the March agenda, including new Rules and Resolutions on various topics. The Board of Directors of the Lake of the Woods of Jacaranda Homeowners Association discussed and voted on a number of important topics new rules and resolutions. All of the documents which were approved by the Board will be posted in the “documents” section of the Keys-Caldwell website.

Here is a short-list of the new Rules and Resolutions which the Board approved:

- Resolution establishing a Rule requiring Buffer Zones (no-mow zones) around all wet ponds and wetlands (passed)
- Revised Flag Display Rule (passed)
- Board Resolution on Permanent Control Point remarking/re-monumenting (passed)
- Board Resolution to create a Board of Directors Code of Conduct Policy (passed)
- Establishment of a Safety and Security Committee (tabled for additional consideration)
- Establishment of a new Charter for the Landscape Committee (passed)
- Establishment of a new Charter for the ARC Committee (passed)
- Establishment of a new Charter for the Wetlands Committee (passed)
- Board Resolution to establish a new Rule on sidewalk maintenance and repair for the Lake of the Woods of Jacaranda and all sub-associations (passed)
- Board Resolution on a New LOWOJ Board email hosting service (passed)

New Email Service for the Board of Directors

According to Florida Statutes, HOAs are required to maintain official records, including emails related to association business, for at least seven years, unless the governing documents of the association specify a longer period.

The new email hosting service that is being employed by the LOWOJ HOA, Inc Board of Directors meets these requirements and ensures portability as Board members come and go. Effective March 7, 2025, all official Board emails will pass through the following accounts:

President-LOWOJ@lowofj.com (currently assigned to Jeff Carman)
VicePresident-LOWOJ@lowofj.com (currently assigned to Rob McCoy)
Secretary-LOWOJ@lowofj.com (currently assigned to Robert Last)
Treasurer-LOWOJ@lowofj.com (currently assigned to Chantal Arnassan)
Director-LOWOJ@lowofj.com (currently assigned to Mike Gnaegy)

LOWOJ Wetlands Committee

The Wetlands Committee that reports directly to the Board of Directors has been very active in keeping our wet pond system working properly. The committee consists of eight homeowner members who offer expertise in engineering, biology, and water management, and is currently



receiving proposals to perform our short-term goals and priorities, including addressing wet pond erosion, vegetative overgrowth, sedimentation, eco-system health, and invasive species.

The maintenance project on our short-term goals (which are largely related to maintaining the system that transfers storm water from one pond to another until it ultimately ends up in the Alligator Creek Preserve) will probably begin in late April. We'll keep our neighbors informed as we progress!

The Board of Directors recently approved a NO-MOW zone rule which requires that all properties abutting a wet pond establish a no-mow zone. There is a lot of research and data behind the crafting of this new rule. You can review the LOWOJ Rule by clicking this link (login required at Keys-Caldwell).

The Wetlands Committee and the Board of Directors will soon be embarking on 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.

Establishing no-mow zones and letting our wet pond shores "Go Wild" naturally stabilizes the shore, filters and cleans dirty runoff, maintains greater privacy, increases property value, enhances scenic beauty, prevents erosion and allows for healthy habitat for fish, birds, and other important species.

If you want to catch up on how these no-mow zones work, you can learn about why no-mow zones are important in southwest Florida by [clicking on this link](#).

The committee is also currently considering drone mapping of the wetland and wet pond areas, as a means of offering an assessment of how successful we, as a community, are being in maintaining our wet pond system. As soon as the short-term goals project begins, the committee will begin to concentrate on intermediate goals, which were provided by a TGW Engineering study in 2022.

Landscape Committee

While it may seem like it was a long time ago, the lasting effects of last season's hurricanes are still being dealt with. Nine pallets of sod were recently installed along Lake or Woods Drive. It will probably be necessary to install another 5 pallets near the clubhouse. This re-sodding became necessary as a result of the storm debris piles that killed the underlying turf.

One hundred annual flowers were installed near the entrances, just to provide a bit of color.

Jim Schell has been meeting with landscape professionals to develop a long-term plan for the entrance landscaping and landscape proposals for the landscape beds at the entrances have been shared with the Board.

Shrub trimming was conducted in the first half of March and palm tree trimming will occur in the coming weeks throughout the common areas.

An oak tree alongside Lake of the Woods Drive has been removed due to a fungus. Following inspection by an



arborist, it was determined that the tree was hollow and needed to be removed before it fell.

The irrigation system has been undergoing continual refinement. Aging components are being replaced.

Attention Homeowners!

The Lake of the Woods of Jacaranda is reformulating the Landscape Committee and is actively seeking volunteers interested in serving on this important Committee.

- The Committee's main purpose is to ensure the proper use, care, and upkeep of the Association Common Areas as well as to recommend improvements to the Board.
- The Committee will perform quarterly inspections to ensure the contractual obligations of our landscape contracts are fulfilled and notify the Board of areas of concern or potential matters that may require action of the Association.
- The Committee will work with the Board to employ professional landscape contractors on an as-needed basis. If a new general landscape company is required, the Committee will be responsible for obtaining bids, presenting the results and making a final recommendation to the Board.
- The Committee will evaluate the current landscaping conditions and make appropriate recommendations to the Board for review, comment, and approval.
- The Committee will be responsible for developing a short-term (one to two years) and long-term (three to five years) Landscaping Plan including projects, timing and estimated costs to the Board on an annual basis.
- The Committee will organize and supervise volunteer projects to improve landscaping in common areas as it sees fit.
- The Committee will forecast existing and anticipated contracts, vendor agreements and routine landscaping requirements such as seasonal plantings, decorations, etc. to the Board to help establish a Landscaping Budget.
- The time requirement will involve a monthly Committee meeting at the LOJ Clubhouse and such extra time as the Committee decides is necessary.

If you are interested in contributing to your Association in a very meaningful way, please consider volunteering for this important Committee.

We would like to get this new Committee up and running by the end of April.

If interested, please respond to Mike Gnaegy at Director-LOWOJ@lowofj.com

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. We have had to slow down the newsletter to bi-monthly because we don't have enough volunteer help from our neighbors to send it out monthly. If you are willing to volunteer a few hours a month to participating in the newsletter team, please contact Bob Last at secretary-LOWOJ@lowofj.com.

HOA Annual Meeting

The annual meeting and Board Member elections occurred on February 11, 2025 at 6:30 pm in the Jacaranda Public Library.

There were 134 lots that participated in the meeting either in person, by Zoom or by proxy. Unfortunately, that wasn't the turnout we had hoped for. **There are 871 units in LOWOJ. That means that our voter turnout was only about 15%.** Please make sure you review the agenda and vote at the annual meeting.



This year, three candidates ran to fill two vacant seats on the Board of Directors. Robert Last and Robert McCoy were both elected for 2-year terms each. Dennis Hashway was thanked for running and for his interest in serving on the Board.

There were 5 proxy items voted on by the owners:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. 2024 Surplus Carry Forward to the 2025 operating budget | Yes: 132, No: 1 (Passed) |
| 2. Allocate 2024 Reserve Interest to the Mitigation/Wetlands Reserve | Yes: 126, No: 5 (Passed) |
| 3. Transfer \$41,043.72 from the Emergency Relief / Insurance Reserve Account into the Roads Overlay Reserve Account | Yes: 111, No: 19 (Passed) |
| 4. Transfer \$21,574.82 from the Mail Center / Parking Lot Reserve Account into the Mitigation / Wetlands Reserve Account | Yes: 117, No: 13 (Passed) |
| 5. Transfer \$19,154.84 from the Roads Sealing Reserve Account into the Roads Overlay Reserve Account | Yes: 121, No: 8 (Passed) |

The members of your 2025 Board of Directors is as follows:

- Jeff Carman – President
- Rob McCoy – Vice President
- Chantal Arnassan - Treasurer
- Bob Last – Secretary
- Mike Gnaegy Director

The Board of Directors is working hard to make this a great community to live in. We appreciate your confidence, your input and your vote!

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 because of the importance of the participation by 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).

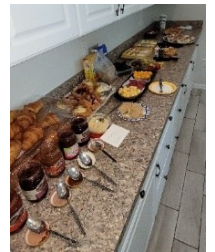
Fun Things to do in Venice

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](#)

Upcoming LOJ Clubhouse Activities (LOJ residents)

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

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. Coffee is provided; just show up with a breakfast dish to pass 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.

