

The Lakes

Lake of the Woods of Jacaranda Newsletter



News and Events

Spring Yard and Clubhouse Sales

The Spring Community Yard and Clubhouse sales were held on Saturday March 28. There were many households who took the opportunity to clean out garages, cabinets, closets and shelves and participated in the neighborhood event. Sales of used books, puzzles, crafts and smaller items in the LOJ Club house were also a great success. Now is the time to begin collecting items for our next community sale to be held in the Fall of this year.

Newsletter Team

Our newsletter team is growing. Current members include Sharon Cullinan, Lisa Gold, Robert Last, Greg Kaspar, Greg Sanders and Nancy Scott. Anyone interested in joining the Newsletter team or submitting an article for a future Newsletter, please contact newsletterteam@lowofj.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

General Events

4/10 and 5/1: LOJ Board Meeting (10 am)

4/9 and 5/14: Landscaping Committee (2-3 pm)

4/10 and 5/1: LOWOJ Board Meeting (11 am)

4/13, 4/27, 5/11, 5/25: ARC Committee Meeting (10:00-11:00) at the LOJ Clubhouse

4/13 and 5/11: Wetlands Committee Meeting (11:30-12) at the LOJ Clubhouse

LOJ Upcoming LOJ Clubhouse Activities (LOJ only)

See "LOJ Clubhouse Activities" at the end of this newsletter



Messages from the Board

Request from the Board of Directors

The LOWOJ and LOJ Board of Directors is requesting that all of our homeowners update their profile information in Vantaca. We have a lot of emails that get returned because the email address is no longer valid. We save our homeowners a lot of cost by using electronic communications. This helps keep your annual dues down to a reasonable level. USPS mailings have become very expensive.

Please consider helping us out by logging into your Vantaca account, clicking on "My Profile" and then editing your information so that only your current address, phone number and email are shown (click on the small "pencil" next to the information that you want to update).

Clubhouse Audio System

Over the past few months, we have experienced many problems with the audio-visual system in the LOJ Clubhouse. Many Zoom users have reported that they are unable to hear what the Board is discussing.

Originally the LOJ Board obtained a quotation from a professional sound company to acquire and install new equipment. However, that quote was for more than \$22,000. Both Boards agreed that the proposal was overkill for what was needed and too expensive.

As a result, the Lake of the Woods of Jacaranda Master Association and the Lakes of Jacaranda sub-association agreed, during the March 6, 2026 Board meeting to split the costs for a new system to replace the aging equipment in the Clubhouse.

The Boards of Directors each approved a not-to-exceed \$1,000 for each Board to purchase new equipment. The Lakes of Jacaranda HOA has purchased a new mini-PC, desktop monitor repeaters and a video equipment cart. LOWOJ has purchased new PA speakers, a 6-microphone wireless UHF system, a mixer board and associated cables. Recently, the new system was subjected to a dry-run test at the LOJ clubhouse with a connected Zoom meeting and performed flawlessly.

The system will be used for the April 10, 2026 Board meetings for the first time.

Reserve / Carryover Voting Results from the Annual Meeting in February

During the annual members meeting in February, homeowners voted on reserve carryover measures that were on the ballot. The result of the voting were as follows:

Reserve Account Creation - Y=131 / N= 5
 Surplus Carry Forward - Y=136 / N=1
 Transfer Surplus to Reserve - Y= 126 / N= 11
 Reserve Transfer - Y= 128 / N= 10

Reserve Account Elimination - Y= 132 / N= 4
 Reserve Interest Transfer - Y=128 / N= 10
 Reserve Funds Use for Emergencies - Y= 131 / N= 5



New Mailbox Resolution Passed by the Board of Directors

The Board has passed a new resolution on our stand-alone mailboxes. The new resolution does not apply to cluster mailboxes.

The resolution, which creates a rule and creates a standard for mailbox maintenance, can temporarily be found on the LOWOFJ.COM website at the following locations (both the resolution and the appendix mentioned below will eventually be posted to our management company's website):

Resolution: https://lowofj.com/mailbox-rule-02242026_final-2/

An appendix to the resolution was also created which includes information on model, color, and maintenance can be found at:

Appendix: https://lowofj.com/mailbox_rule_02242026_final_appendix_a/

For more details refer to article in the News for Homeowners section of this newsletter (pages 4 - 5).

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mike Gnaegy reported that he was currently working with our Auditors on the final Year-End numbers. This has been a difficult challenge to pull together all 12 months of data due to the CINC to Vantaca system transition. The Board is hoping to have this information pulled together before the next Board meeting.

The Landscape Committee: Update

The Landscape Committee now has five year-round and three seasonal members, ensuring strong participation and a range of perspectives. While Committee membership is limited, we encourage any interested homeowners to attend and participate in our monthly meetings as we move to restore and improve our common areas.

Fire Ant Control

As a result of input from homeowners, the Committee decided to expand fire ant control beyond the Lake Meredith walking path. We decided to add all common area sidewalks on Lake of the Woods Dr. In the process, the Committee decided to terminate our contract with Purcor Pest Solutions and add year-round fire ant control to our current contract with Twin Palm Landscaping effective May 1st.

Monument Repair/Restoration and Painting

The Committee has requested estimates for repair and restoration of all monuments and walls in LOWOJ. We will be evaluating estimates at our April 9th meeting and will present a proposal to the Board of Directors on April 10th. With Board approval, work should commence in May. Before that, all vegetation within three feet in front and back of the monuments and walls will be cleared to allow access. After repairs, the monuments will be painted.



Note: Mulching of these areas will be postponed until after restoration and painting of the monuments and walls.

[Planting of new trees](#)

The Committee approved planting of Jacaranda trees along Lake of the Woods Drive across from the LOJ Clubhouse last month, but due to lack of rain and irrigation constraints set by the County, planting is tentatively scheduled for late spring.

[Irrigation System Update](#)

You may have noticed the green flags stuck in the ground around the community. The irrigation system throughout LOWOJ is being mapped and assessed for necessary repairs and replacements. The non-functioning controller, sprinkler heads, and drip lines at the entrance to Grassy Oaks II and along Lakescene Drive have been repaired thanks to the efforts of committee member Jerry Zguta, who brought our attention to the problem.

[Next Committee Meeting](#)

April 9th at 2 pm at the LOJ Clubhouse. All homeowners are welcome to attend.

News for Homeowners

Stand Alone Mailbox Information

Homeowners interested in replacement mailboxes, posts, and/or other parts for repairs of privately owned mailboxes in Lake of the Woods, Lakes of Jacaranda, Grassy Oaks II and Grassy Oaks III can contact:

Nostalgic Lampposts & Mailboxes Plus
P.O. Box 7202
North Port, FL 34290
(941) 223-1677
email: NLP1677@yahoo.com



Our Mailbox Model is Barcelona and Color is White. The current prices for new replacement mailboxes installed onto existing concrete slab are as follows: Barcelona Single \$695; Barcelona Double \$895; Barcelona Triple \$1095. The current Barcelona model they produce has a door with a cup for easier opening instead of a knob (see photo).

Replacement flags, latches, knobs, door hardware, and new numbers can also be purchased from Nostalgic Lampposts & Mailboxes Plus.

For those who want to give their mailbox a makeover, the original mailboxes are painted with industrial



acrylic gloss white paint from Sherwin Williams. They can also be painted with Rust-Oleum 2X Ultra Cover Gloss White in spray can, or brushed on. To refurbish a mailbox, a homeowner should use a wire cup brush to remove all oxidation and electrolysis back to solid aluminum.

Meet Your Neighbors

Profiles of your neighbors, including those who own local businesses, board members and other interesting individuals in our community.

Introducing Sharon Cullinan

We moved here from Western Massachusetts (Longmeadow) in 2005. It took us about 6 months to find the right house (525 Waterwood Lane, Park Estates). We were very lucky, as inventory at that time was very low and selling quickly.

Longmeadow Massachusetts is just north of Hartford Connecticut in the Connecticut River Valley. We were very close to many colleges and just south of the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, MA.

My entire career focused on working in the educational field. I began as secretary to the principal at the high school from which I graduated and moved on to become Administrative Assistant to the School Board and Superintendent of Schools in Longmeadow. When we retired 23 years later and came to Florida, I found that I couldn't just stay home, so went to work for the Sarasota County School Board for another 11 years. I spent a total of 50 years working in this field.

John and I enjoy going to Tiki Bars and just sitting by the water, relaxing. In the evening, I enjoy Cross-stitching, color art and reading.

In my spare time, I am on the Board of Directors for the Sarasota County Coalition on Substance Abuse (SCoSA), Committed to help people reclaim their lives from substance abuse and improve their quality of life through awareness and advocacy for substance abuse free environments.

I spent 4 years on Park Estates Board of Directors, and one year on Lake of the Woods of Jacaranda Master Board. I would like to continue to keep communication lines open for all members of the Association and help to make our community the best we can be.

As Secretary to LOWOJ I will be responsible to maintain all of records from Agendas, Minutes, Documents, etc., and respond to all members of the associations with questions they may have. I also will be the Board representative on the Newsletter committee.

I am looking forward to working on the board and helping to get all important information out to our community.



[Introducing Nancy Scott](#)

I have lived at 484 Lake of the Woods Drive since 2017 and in Florida since 2012. Before I moved to Florida, I lived the longest in Pittsburgh, PA. I own a home watch / home manage & catering business: Nancy's Concierge & Home Watch Services, Inc. I inspect homes for snowbirds or long-time travelers. I have a detailed checklist that I do to ensure your home is safe and secure when you cannot be there (see below). We prepare your home during storm season both pre and post storms. I am your neighbor who can be there at a moment's notice. I have handymen and a long list of trusted vendors to keep up with the upkeep of your home. During the months most homeowners are home, I serve up catering out of my commercial kitchen on Venice Island. My business is 8 years old and counting, and my lifetime has been spent in home care, hospitality and hotel management. My hobbies are tennis, anything fitness, food, family and fun. I have recently joined the LoWoJ Newsletter team.



Stop by and say hi, call or email me if you would like to meet me.

Sincerely, Nancy Scott, owner of Nancy's Concierge & Home Watch Services, Inc.

941-445-0319.

[Preparation for Departure from your home for the season.](#)

This is the time to begin the upkeep on your home before you leave. However if for any reason, you don't get the jobs done or you don't feel like doing them, you may call Nancy's Concierge Services where we can manage the whole project from start to finish and see that jobs get completed.

- Updates to your home?? If you have done any updates to your home, we can make sure they are all completed and that everything is in order and working properly. Example, installation of new cabinets. You want to make sure all the doors and drawers are working great and not find something broken when you come home in 6 months when you will never see the cabinet people again.
- Painting: Do you have any painting or wall repairs?
- Repairs - Fix the loose door knob, lock, drawer handle, loose tile, etc...
- Replace /change HVAC filters
- Hot water tank
- Test dishwasher/ garbage disposal/ coffee machine/ any specialty appliance in your home?



- What food will you leave behind?
- Ice maker off
- Locks - Make sure all the locks on all the doors and windows are in good working order.
- Cameras / Security
- Lawn / Landscaping
- We can arrange for tree trimming to be done by a local arborist
- Gutters / Roof - Clean the gutters, clean the roof and power wash your driveway, especially in an HOA community.
- What is your plan for storm season? - Do you have furniture to come inside? Shutters?
- Pool - Make sure your pool company does a full check of your pool and filter system.
- Have you had any pest or rodent issues?
- How are your roof and ceilings in your home?
- Are there any cracks in ceilings or walls to be monitored?
- What is the condition of your Vehicles?
- Any Neighbors to notify?
- Plants or flowers to be watered?
- Have you had mold issues?
- Leaky faucets or toilets
- Mail - Where will your mail go?

Our Cute Little Lizards

The cute little brown lizards (lower picture to the right) that we see all the time are Brown Anoles (*Anolis sagrei*), which got here from Cuba in the early 1970s. They are native to various Caribbean islands and central America. The somewhat similar looking green lizards (upper picture to the right) are Green Anoles (*Anolis carolinensis*), which have been in Florida (also from Cuba!) for at least three million years, which is even longer than Sandhill Cranes. Actually, the oldest unequivocally Sandhill Crane fossil is from Florida and dates to about 2.5 million years ago, whereas almost all other species of living birds are no older than 1.8 million years. In contrast, the oldest undisputed lizard fossil is roughly 240 million years old (the Triassic period).



Brown anoles are much more wary of humans than are other kinds of anoles. We probably all see an occasional small young brown anole in our houses, and they are most easily caught uninjured by putting a tee shirt over them and gathering them up with both hands. Anoles will not harm you, and generally do not carry diseases, although they do leave droppings (which look like dark brownish-gray grains of rice).

You can see from the pictures that the brown anole has a shorter snout than the green anole. Despite being able to change color to match their environment, brown anoles are never green. And brown anoles have a ridge down their back stretching from just behind their head to their tail (easily seen in leftmost image below) which does not occur in green anoles. The dewlap under the chin of brown anoles is usually some shade of yellow, orange, or red. For green anoles, the dewlap is usually pink or reddish. Anoles depend heavily on vision, and dewlap color may help them ensure they are mating with their own species. Brown anoles prey on young green anoles and have driven the green anoles up into the trees and tall bushes, to the point where we don't usually see any green anoles when walking around.

An anole will eat almost anything that will fit in its mouth -- worms, snails, smaller lizards (including hatchlings of their own species) -- but they eat mostly arthropods (bugs with no interior skeleton), including spiders. Spiders may prey on anole hatchlings, and some evidence suggests that brown anoles may keep spider populations in check.

Female brown anoles tend to stay on the ground, often under bushes. In contrast, males tend to perch off the ground and then regard the ground below as their personal territory. If two males of similar size encounter each other on the ground or on the same perch, the smaller male is more likely to bob its head toward the larger, and the larger male is more likely to attack to possess the territory. But a male is not likely to make the effort to leave its perch just to engage with another male down below. And anoles of either sex prefer to stay in their existing territory, as migration takes energy and risks predation.

Females lay one egg at a time, usually one every week or two. The egg hatches in about four weeks. Neither parent stays around to tend eggs, and a hatchling is immediately completely on its own. The young mature and can reproduce within a year.

Greg Sanders



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.



Music on the Lanai: A Resounding Success!

Our recent "Music on the Lanai" event with former neighbor Joe Mullan was a fantastic success! Approximately 60 residents gathered for a gorgeous evening by the clubhouse pool, enjoying a musical journey through the decades starting from the 1950s. The community truly outdid itself with a spread of amazing food, ensuring no one left hungry. Best of all, we met our financial goal of breaking even.

While the formal Social Committee has disbanded, we want to see this momentum continue. We encourage any residents with ideas for future community events to please send Jesse an email at secretary-loj@lowofj.com. Let's make the most of our beautiful shared spaces!

Nancy Vachon and Heather Lundberg

Pickleball Socials: Keeping the Spirit Alive

Even without courts on-site, our pickleball community is as active as ever! On the first Wednesday of every month, a dedicated group of players gathers at the clubhouse from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM for a pickleball social.

With attendance ranging from a dozen players to a packed house, these potlucks are the perfect way to catch up with friends off the court. Everyone brings a dish to share, and the energy is amazing. Whether you're a regular player or just a fan of the game, we'd love to see you there!

Nancy Vachon

Also included in Clubhouse Activities are The Book Club, Crafts, Mah-Jongg, Men's Poker, Water Aerobics, Pilates, Chair Yoga and Tai-Chi. Participating in the Clubhouse Activities is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors and make new friends. If you are interested in joining in on the fun, here is some contact information:



Water Aerobics

Weekly, 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

Weekly, 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

Weekly, Tuesday and Thursday 9:45 - 10:30 am at the clubhouse. Contact : Patty (patricia2br@gmail.com)

Book Club

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

Contact: Linda Sullivan (lojbookclub@gmail.com)

LOJ Mixer

Second (2nd) Friday of the month, potluck & BYOB at the clubhouse 7 – 9pm.

Contact: Joyce (jk1770@comcast.net)

LOJ Morning Coffee

Third (3rd) Friday of the month, 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: Patti and Gary Gardwell (mppgardwell@gmail.com)

LOJ Sip & Dip

Fourth (4th) Friday of the month, 5 -7 pm. Potluck and BYOB at clubhouse.

Contact: Patty (patricia2br@gmail.com)

Chair Yoga

Weekly, every Saturday from 9 am – 9:45 am at the LOJ Clubhouse. Bring a resistance band if you have one (optional). Teacher is Felicia Scherrer.

Contact: Patty (patricia2br@gmail.com)

Crafts

Third (3rd) Monday of the month, from 10 am -12 noon at the LOJ Clubhouse. Different crafts and projects monthly, or bring your own.

Contact: Patty (patricia2br@gmail.com)

