JUNE-JULY 2026 EDITION

The Lakes

Lake of the Woods of Jacaranda Newsletter

News and Events

Mediation Work on Wet Pond System

Beginning on June 16th, the HOA's contractor, SOLitude will be on-site to perform mediation work at the Mitered End Section (MES) structures and transfer pipes along, and between, each of our wet ponds within the Lake of the Woods of Jacaranda HOA property. An MES is nothing more than the outlet for the storm water that enters the street drains that empty into our wet pond system. It is anticipated that this work effort will continue into the first week of July before completion.

The work they are doing will be related to clearing vegetation, concrete repair, shoreline and MES mitigation including placement of rip-rap (large rocks) and 57 rock (smaller rocks), and localized sediment removal adjacent to the MES control structures.

To perform their scope of work, personnel from SOLitude and their subcontractor will be entering properties along the drainage easements that reside on top of a line between the street drain and the MES outlet into the wet ponds. In addition, they will be using a small excavator within those drainage easements, which will be used to scoop up sediment and place it along the shorelines on either side of the MES that they are working on at the time. If there is a street drain in front of your home, it is likely that you will be

UPCOMING EVENTS

General Community Events

7/10 and 8/07: LOJ Board Meeting (10 am)
7/09 and 8/13: Landscaping Committee (10-12 am)
7/10 and 8/07: LOWOJ Board Meeting (11 am)
6/22, 7/13, 7/27, 8/10, 8/24: ARC Committee Meeting (10:00-11:00) at the LOJ Clubhouse
7/13 and 8/10: Wetlands Committee Meeting (11:30-12) at the LOJ Clubhouse

Upcoming LOJ Clubhouse Activities (LOJ only)

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

impacted by this work. This affects any property throughout the HOA that is adjacent to a wet pond (i.e., properties that share and abut the footage along a wet pond and/or designated environmental enhancement areas). Many homeowners have placed irrigation heads within these drainage easements. Every effort will be made to avoid damaging those. However, placing small flags at the location of each of your sprinkler heads within those easements will help SOLitude to avoid damage. Some residents have planted shrubs and/or planting beds in these areas. Every reasonable effort will be made to avoid any damage. However, some minor damage to these areas will always be a possibility in the performance of such a project.

Please allow these contractors to perform their work scope without interference.

It is also likely that for brief periods, their vehicles, trailers and equipment may create some traffic congestion on our private streets. During this time all vehicles should proceed with care and operate at speeds that are consistent with such temporary congestion caused by contractor vehicles.

Messages from the Board

Our Contract with RealManage begins July 1st!

The Association's onboarding period with its new management company, RealManage LLC is currently in progress. During this onboarding period, information that is needed by RealManage to set up our accounts in their management software, called CiraNet, is being transferred from the Boards of Directors and Keys-Caldwell, Inc. to RealManage for installation in the new Board and Homeowner portals in their software.

Resident Welcome Letters will be mailed out on June 15, 2026, by RealManage via USPS mail. If you do not receive a letter by 48 hours before the Townhall Meeting, please send an email to president-lowoj@lowofj.com informing us of that.

The letter will contain information that helps homeowners understand how to set up a login, so they can access their account. It will also provide directions on how to set up autopay for assessment

payments, if homeowners would like to have that feature set up in their account.

RealManage will also conduct a Townhall meeting for our homeowners, which is scheduled for Tuesday, June 30 at 6 PM at the LOJ Clubhouse. Homeowners can attend in person or virtually (a link will be provided prior to the meeting). The Townhall Meeting will provide in-depth information to our homeowners and include a breakdown of the resident portal, including what they will be able to access, and where to find these things within the portal. Townhall meetings normally take around 30 minutes to an hour, depending on the number of questions that homeowners have.

A new email has been established for LOWOJ that will be used for communication between homeowners and RealManage. The new RealManage email is: LOWOJFL@ciramail.com. **This email will only become active on July 1, 2026 and should not be used before then. Please do not attempt to contact RealManage before July 1st since they are not under contract until that date.**

RealManage has also notified the Association that they have assigned a new CAM to our account. CAM stands for Community Association Manager and is a licensed professional (or firm) hired by the HOA's board of directors to handle the day-to-day business, operations, and administration of the neighborhood. Her name is Aimee Davezac, who comes to this position with years of CAM experience.

The Board of Directors will provide more information as it becomes available.

LOWOJ Landscape Committee June 2026 Updates

Recent Approvals and Projects

The LOWOJ Landscape Committee has been meeting monthly on the second Thursday at 2 pm in the LOJ Clubhouse. Recently, we have added several members to the committee of nine, as we have four seasonal members who will be rejoining us in the fall. The committee is responsible for plantings in front of the walls and monuments as well as the common areas. We are not responsible for the LOJ Clubhouse or community members' home landscapes.

Monument and wall restoration is progressing with work beginning by Bryant Stucco at the end of June. The work includes 11 monuments and walls which will be pressure washed, repaired, rebuilt, and primed. Painting of the monuments will be completed by fall, and hopefully irrigation restoration, planting and mulching.

The pump house on Lake Meredith will be cleaned and painted mid-summer. Both collected bids and paint colors will be approved at the June meeting.

Jacaranda trees have been planted across from the LOJ Clubhouse. The trees are being cared for by Twin Palm and have a one-year warranty. We look forward to future spring blooms!

Community members are invited to attend our open meetings.

Come join us!

News for Homeowners

Meet Your Neighbors

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

Introducing Mike Gnaegy

One of the many things that makes Lakes of Jacaranda such a special community is the interesting people who choose to call it home. This month, we'd like to introduce Board member Mike Gnaegy and share a little about his journey to Venice.

Mike and his wife, Lynn, moved to Lakes of Jacaranda in November 2021 after retiring and searching for the perfect place to enjoy the next chapter of their lives. They live at 727 Thistle Lake Dr. Originally from Bedford, New Hampshire, just north of Boston, the couple had long envisioned Florida as their retirement destination. With family roots in the Sunshine State, the move felt like a natural fit.

Before settling in Venice, Mike and Lynn explored Sarasota but found it a bit too busy for their lifestyle. When they discovered Venice—and eventually Lakes of Jacaranda—they knew they had found the community they were looking for.

Family has always been at the center of Mike's life. He and Lynn have been married for nearly 50 years, celebrating their milestone anniversary this July. Together they raised two children, Alex and Allison, both of whom attended Miami University in Ohio, where Mike and Lynn first met. Today, Allison lives in San Diego with her fiancé, while Alex resides in Cincinnati.

A native of St. Louis, Mike remains a loyal St. Louis Cardinals fan. His professional career was equally impressive. He spent many years in international business, specializing in the sale of materials used in the electronics industry around the world. His work took him to approximately 30 countries, giving him a unique global perspective. Mike retired in 2019 as Vice President of Global Sales. Lynn dedicated her career to the educational system, helping shape the lives of countless students.

Retirement has allowed Mike to devote more time to his many interests. He enjoys playing guitar, reading, and researching genealogy, serving as the family historian. In earlier years he was an avid scuba diver. Another passion is home renovation. Mike enjoys tackling major remodeling projects and has renovated virtually every room in his home. His latest undertaking is a complete kitchen renovation.

Not long after moving into Lakes of Jacaranda, Mike was presented with an opportunity to become involved in the community's leadership. He joined the Board of Directors in 2024 and currently serves as Treasurer, a position he assumed in October 2025 following the resignation of former Treasurer Chantal Arnassan. Mike also serves as Chairman of the Architectural Review Committee and Board liaison to the Landscaping Committee.

Mike describes his Board service as both rewarding and challenging. While the past year has brought its share of pressures and responsibilities, he values the opportunity to contribute to the community and help guide its future.

When asked what message he would like to share with fellow residents, Mike's answer is simple: get involved. Whether serving on a committee, volunteering for a project, or participating on the Board, community involvement creates opportunities to meet neighbors, build friendships, and make a positive difference.

Lakes of Jacaranda is fortunate to benefit from Mike's experience, leadership, and dedication. Thank you, Mike, for your service to our community.

Nancy Scott

Hurricane Season Preparation

The Atlantic hurricane season is six months long, beginning on June 1 and ending on November 30. No hurricanes made landfall in Florida during the quiet 2025 hurricane season, so we caught a needed break from the storms. Colorado State University (CSU) tropical weather specialists predict a "somewhat below-average" season for 2026. A likely transition to the El Niño climate pattern is one factor behind this year's forecast. CSU researchers predict that 13 named storms will develop in the Atlantic this season. Of those storms, six will become hurricanes, with two reaching major hurricane status (Category 3 and above). CSU is also forecasting a below-average probability for major hurricane landfalls along the US Coast and Caribbean. While this forecast is encouraging, everyone should continue with preparedness.

Sarasota County maintains an extensive menu of information (click link) under the emergency services section of their website that provides excellent information that you will need in the event that a hurricane is coming our way.

They also have a specific guide for homeowners (click link) 2025 Emergency Preparedness Guide.

One of the most important things for new residents to know is what their evacuation level is. You can find that information for your property/location by clicking this link find information for your property/location by clicking this link. Your evacuation zone is also on your annual tax notice (Notice of Ad Valorem taxes and Non-Ad Valorem Assessments): it's near the right margin, about 2½ inches from the top of the first page.

Before storm season begins, here are some **steps to protect your home**:

Inspect, secure and reinforce your roof, windows and doors (check seals), including garage doors. If your garage door locks, test it.

Trim trees to keep debris from damaging your home. Consider a consultation with a tree expert.

Secure loose rain gutters and downspouts, and clear clogged areas or debris.

Learn how and when to turn off gas, water and electricity.

Test your generators.

What is your plan for your vehicles? If you want to store a vehicle at a storage unit, make calls to see who will take your vehicle.

If you have boats, jet skis or other water toys make sure you have what is needed to secure them at your home, storage unit or marina.

Planning for the worst:

Keep all your important papers in a safe or protective case in the event of a flood.

Escape plan: If you do leave town, have a plan where you will go and what you will bring with you. Make a List.

Escape Tote: Pack a bag, just in case. Put it in the back of your closet and know where it is in case you need to RUN OUT quickly. A change of clothes, socks, hat, towel, blanket, toiletries, … anything you might need in a 24 hr span. A fair amount of cash in case gas stations or restaurants along your route cannot process credit cards due to storm damage (also ATMs along your route may be down). Keep a full tank of gas in your car during storm season, as most gas stations normally run out of gas when everyone is evacuating (and because all the stations are out, it often takes some days to resupply them).

Family: Tell your family from out of town about your preliminary plan in case you lose touch with them during a storm and all power and communication networks are down.

Summer vacations/snowbirds: Make sure you have someone look after your home when you are away. Have a plan with your home watch specialist so you are all on the same page with protocols.

Stay up to date with all your bills. Storms can be life changing and distract you. It is important to keep current with your bills.

Planning to protect the health of you and your pets:

Medication: Talk to your Doctors and make sure if you need your medication during a storm or after, that you will have access to your medication.

If you are disabled: Make a plan for who will care for you.

If you know someone who is disabled: Make sure you converse with them to make sure they are taken care of.

Animals: Make sure you have food, medicine, fresh water, pillows, towels, blankets and anything you need to keep your pet safe. If you have a chip in your animal, make sure it is connected. Have a collar with name/phone number on it.

Once the storm hits, here is a **Checklist for Sheltering in Place**:

- Clean bathtub or other large containers and fill with water.
- Drinking water, one gallon per person, per day, for at least three days.
- Canned food and a can opener.
- Paper items.
- Baby needs.
- Medications, prescriptions and a first aid kit.
- Battery-operated television or radio, flashlight and extra batteries.
- Cash (ATMs may be out-of-service).
- Pet supplies.
- Photocopies of important documents (birth certificate, license, auto and property insurance). Contact info for your insurance companies and agents.
- Full tank of gasoline in your car.

Getting through a hurricane is only the first step. Once the hurricane has passed, there is an extensive recovery period that is commonly necessary. The Sarasota County Emergency Preparedness Guide (click link) also includes a section titled *After the Storm*, with useful information to help you deal with the recovery period.

Upcoming LOJ Clubhouse Activities (LOJ residents)

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

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 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 (mgpgardwell@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 9:00–9:45 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)

Participating in the Clubhouse Activities is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors and make new friends.