



Long Leaf Sentinel

Board Meeting Highlights

We have finished the year with 127 members, 1 more than last year. Hopefully our membership will increase even more in 2024.

A board meeting was held in September, mostly for planning of the Biannual Yard Sale and Oktoberfest. Both were a success.

Our annual meeting was held on November 2nd. Once again, only 26 members attended but we had enough mail-in ballots for a quorum and the two board members running for re-election were both voted another 2-year term.

The big project this year was Improvements to the medians and entrances. The entrance signs were pressure washed, hopefully extending their lives for a few more years. All plants that had "passed their prime" have been removed and replaced with more drought-tolerant ones. Everything now looks cleaner and fresher and visibility at the intersections has been greatly improved.

The board is Grateful for all residents who follow the HOA Covenants. This is most of you. The board's only intent is to keep up the standards of our neighborhood, which were established at its inception. We all have our own idea of beauty, which is not always shared by others. Too much personal expression can lead to disharmony. Let's keep the exteriors calm and peaceful and go wild on the inside.

.....Key Information.....

- POISON CONTROL800-222-1222
- W VOLUSIA CO POLICE, FIRE & EMS.386 254-4657
- Duke Energy800-228-8485
- VOLUSIA CO ROAD & BRIDGE386-822-6422
- Report pot holes, drainage issues, signs & mowing
- VOLUSIA CO ANIMAL CONTROL386-248-1790
- VOLUSIA CO CODE ENFORCEMENT.....386-736-5925
- In residential areas, motor vehicles may not be parked in the front yard except on driveways.
- W VOLUSIA TRANSFER STATION386-423-3862
- For recycling and household hazardous waste
- WATERING DAYS (before 10am)/*Daylight Saving Time*...
- Even house # Thurs & Sun; Odd house # Wed & Sat

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

For all of those who attended the Annual Meeting of the Long Leaf Homeowners Association on Thursday, November 2, 2023, thank you for being present. For those who could not attend, we look forward to seeing you next year. We had a successful meeting in which Board members Teri Christopher and myself were re-elected to serve a two year term. The Board is looking forward to continued steps in maintaining a desirable neighborhood for Long Leaf Plantation.

As noted during the meeting, this year's Oktoberfest was well attended and enjoyed by all. Thanks to Russ and Nancy Grant for their continued hosting of the event; to Greg Hanson for the food; and to Sandra Black for sharing her menagerie of inflatable balloon animals.

I wish to thank you again for your support of Long Leaf Plantation. If you are not already a member, please consider becoming one. The highly reasonable fee of \$100 a year is most helpful toward supporting the needs of the Long Leaf community. Your membership would be very much appreciated. Dues statements will be arriving via the US mail for the 2024 year. Take a moment to write a check and send it back per the instructions enclosed with the statement.

The Board, along with their families, wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and safe holidays, along with a healthy and prosperous New Year.

If you have improvement suggestions for the association, please forward them to our website: <https://llphoa.org/contact-us>

Duncan MacKenzie
Chairman, Long Leaf Plantation Homeowners Association

Cicero:

"Gratitude is not only the greatest of the virtues, but the parent of all the others."

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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—Membership—

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—Yard Beautification—

John & Teri Christopher
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NEWSLETTER

Rebecca Verrastro
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Teri Christopher
386-956-8895

HOLIDAY LIGHTING CONTEST

The annual tradition continues here in Long Leaf. Each year we choose 4 homes and each receives a \$25 gift card to Publix. We had some beautiful decorations last year and it was hard to choose just 4. The winners will be chosen on **December 20th** so make sure the lights are shining bright on that night especially.



Remember, you must be an **HOA member** to win.

SPECIAL THANKS

The board would like to give a special thanks to: Steve and Gem Mercer (686 Torchwood) for donating 6 coontie plants to complete the first median at East Taylor Rd. Your generosity helped stretch the refurbishment budget and is much appreciated.

Russell and Nancy Grant who make their home and property available to the HOA for the 4th of July celebration as well as Oktoberfest. Thank you for helping us keep these traditions alive.

Last but not least, a big thank you to Ralph for doing a superb job manning the grill for Oktoberfest.

OKTOBERFEST

Oktoberfest was a big hit this year. Over 70 people (residents and guests) attended. The bounce house got a lot of use by the kids who attended. The DJ was great. He had thousands of songs and welcomed requests. The dance floor was really hopping. One attendee was a balloon-ologist. She made balloon animals for the kids and even gave an impromptu workshop for us older kids. Thanks to Greg Hanson for once again providing the staples and to all who brought a side dish. The food was great and plentiful.

REAL ESTATE

This year saw a slow-down in real estate in general; but here in Long Leaf, sales remain stable. Ten (10) homes sold in 2023, 1 more than in 2022. Most 2022 sales occurred during the second half of the year whereas this year, sales were spread over the entire year. The average price per square foot increased by approximately 5% in 2023, which is good news. I'm sure you all have noticed that lot sizes are getting smaller and smaller each year. It is very rare to find lots the size of ours. All in all, our neighborhood remains a stable investment and a rare jewel in Volusia County.

THANKSGIVING TRIVIA

We all have heard about the first Thanksgiving celebrated sometime in the fall of 1622, but I thought it might be interesting to hear how and when it has been celebrated since. In 1789, Congress asked then President Washington proclaim a Special Day of Pray and Thanksgiving, which he did on October 3, establishing November 26th for this observance. In 1817, New York became the first state to adopt Thanksgiving as an annual holiday and other states followed, each picking a different date. Sarah Josepha Hale, the author of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*, campaigned for years to establish a nation day of observance on the last Thursday in November. Finally on October 3, 1863, Abraham Lincoln made it an official Federal holiday, granting Sarah's request. By the way, Sarah is now known as the mother of Thanksgiving. No, that's not the end of the story. In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt moved Thanksgiving up a week. That didn't last long though. In 1941, it was moved back to the 4th Thursday in November and has remained there ever since.

Here are some traditions observed on Thanksgiving:

1. Who can forget those lovely decorations we all made using our splayed-out hand to draw a turkey or those pilgrims costumes for the school play?
2. The Macy's Day Parade. Begun in 1924, the parade has been held every year except for during World War II (1942-1944).
3. The Presidential Turkey Pardon. The first pardon occurred in 1863 when President Lincoln set loose this meal mainstay at the insistence of his young son, Todd. President George W Bush pardoned a bird in 1989 and President Regan made it an annual tradition.
4. Football. Thanksgiving football dates to at least 1876, when Yale defeated Princeton, 2-0, on a cold, bleak afternoon in Hoboken, New Jersey. By the 1890s, many college and high school teams played on the holiday. The tradition finally become a bona fide institution in 1934 when the Detroit Lions hosted the powerhouse Chicago Bears in a Thanksgiving game broadcast nationally.
5. Last but not least – green bean casserole. Developed in 1955 Dorcas Reilly (1926–2018) the recipe in 1955 while working in the home economics department at the Campbell's Soup Company in Camden, New Jersey.[6][7] The recipe popularized the combination of the soup with green beans. Campbell's Soup now estimates that 40 percent of the Cream of Mushroom soup sold in the United States goes into making green bean casserole.[4] [15] As of 2020 Campbell's estimated it was served in 20 million Thanksgiving dinners in the US each year. [16][13] Campbell's in 2020 reported their online version of the recipe is viewed 4 million times each Thanksgiving Day.[13] According to Campbell's as of 2018, the recipe is the most popular ever developed in their kitchens.[17]

OKTOBERFEST PICTURES

One of the many benefits of living in our neighborhood is the plants and wildlife that we can all enjoy. Here are pictures taken by residents



YARDS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to our Yard of the Month Winners! Thank you for helping to make our neighborhood beautiful! Remember, only paid HOA members are eligible for this award, so if you'd like to be considered, make sure you've sent in your annual dues of \$100. And be a good neighbor and consider nominating a yard you love by calling John or Teri Christopher at 386-956-8895.

AUGUST

Jim and DJ Campbell
1064 Torchwood Dr



SEPTEMBER

Francis McNeil
699 Torchwood Dr



OCTOBER

Judy Phillips
860 Torchwood Dr



Buddha:
"A noble person is mindful and thankful of the favours he receives from others."

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