



Long Leaf Sentinel

Board Meeting Highlights

The board met in January. The budget for 2025 was discussed. There is a slight increase in some line items as prices continue to rise for most goods and services. The board voted to adopt the new budget and it passed unanimously. The ACB has kept busy with the usual requests.

Regarding HOA membership, 95 residents have paid their dues for 2025. That's approximately 45% of the community. Our annual budget is based on 125 members. If you are one of the 55%, please consider joining so we can cover the projected expenses do not run a deficit this year.

The new state rules governing HOAs are being implemented. This requires new board members to take a course, so Teri and Georgette will be attending a class soon. Mike has the new members-only portal up and running and sign-in instructions will be given to dues-paying members for access.

The next HOA meeting is being held March 13th @ 6:30 PM at 958 Torchwood Drive. All are invited.

We now have an Architectural Control Board (ACB) chairperson. His name is Jim Hermann. Jim has been a resident of Long Leaf since 2006 and has served on the board in the past. I'm sure he will be an asset and provide continuity to the ACB. Please email ACB requests to: board@llphoa.org.

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

POISON CONTROL.....800-222-1222
W VOLUSIA CO POLICE, FIRE & EMS.....386 254-4657
Duke Energy800-228-8485
VOLUSIA CO ROAD & BRIDGE.....386-822-6422
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 STATION.....386-423-3862
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

Dear Fellow Homeowners:

I hope you have had a chance to enjoy this lovely spring weather, as my wife and I have! To be able to walk in our neighborhood and enjoy so many trees and the beautiful surroundings is truly a delight.

All of the above is a reminder of why our HOA rules are an important part of maintaining our property values and why our community remains highly desirable. As a deed restricted community, we were made aware of the covenants when we purchased our homes.

As the Chairman, I would like to express my appreciation for all the members of our Association for their energetic and financial support. And, as always, we welcome and look forward for more of our neighbors to join us.

Duncan MacKenzie
Chairman
Long Leaf Plantation Homeowners Association

COMING EVENTS



HOA Board meeting
March 13th @ 6:30 PM
Residence of Alan and Teri Whren
958 Torchwood Drive

Semi-annual Yard Sale
March 15th
7:30 AM to 1 PM



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Duncan MacKenzie - Chair
pdesign1001@att.net
386-873-7266

Michael Campany - Vice Chair
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408-721-1641

Georgette Varela - Secretary
786-237-9500
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Teri Christopher – Treasurer
jfctc@hotmail.com
386-956-8895

Teri Whren
Tess16301@yahoo.com
814-758-1204

Nada Acquaro
nadaacquaro@gmail.com
954-681-1313

COMMITTEES

—Maintenance—
Teri Christopher
386-956-8895

—Membership—
Nada Acquaro
954-681-1313

—Yard Beautification—
John & Teri Christopher
386-956-8895

—Architectural Control Board—
James Hermann
386-216-8589

NEWSLETTER

Rebecca Verrastro
386-310-2404

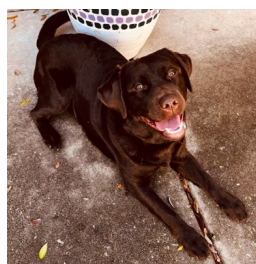
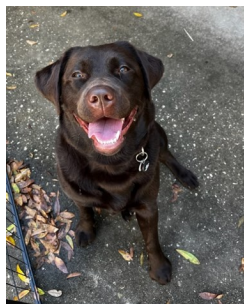
Teri Christopher
386-956-8895

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD IS GOING TO THE DOGS

by Teri Whren

Meet Duchess Abigail of Torchwood, who resides at 946 Torchwood Dr with her humans Gary & Tracy Bouton. She relocated to Longleaf Plantation in August of 2023 at the young age of 4 weeks with plans of this community being her “forever home”. Abby is a descendant of the English Chocolate Labrador family and differs from her American Labrador cousins in that she is shorter, wider and weighs in at about 65 lbs. Her nose is a bit shorter than her AL friends but she’s still really good at finding ALL the smells.

She loves the neighborhood, particularly the social walks around the loop and graciously entertains people conversation & pets . . . and TREATS? -Yes, please! One favorite game is playing tag with the squirrels and turkeys, but she is continually disappointed at the lack of participation of the cats. If you are strolling by, be sure that you wave to her in her dog lanai. No need for proper protocol -You may call her “Abby”.



PROPANE HACKS

by Jef Morris

Given my enjoyment of grilling in the summer and sitting out on my porch in the winter, I tend to use a good amount of propane in the summer and a lot of propane in the winter on my outdoor heaters. Here is a bit of information I have learned about propane the hard way. I’m going to tell you some things that propane vendors don’t want you to know. This article applies to standard 20lb propane tanks and is designed to help you pinch a few pennies in your propane bill.

Forbidden Propane Knowledge Tip #1

Most Propane Exchange Tanks Are More Expensive than getting them filled

As of the date of this article (January 2024), propane exchanges (where you already have your own container to exchange) cost approximately \$25 on average.

Forbidden Propane Knowledge Tip #2

Most Propane Exchange Companies only fill their tanks to about 2/3 full

Yes, you heard it correctly. The already expensive 20lb propane exchange tank is not completely full and is only filled to about 2/3 of its capacity.

How to Beat the Propane Exchange Companies

To maximize your money, try filling your tank at a local hardware store. There, if your tank will take a full 20 lbs of propane (more on that in a moment) it will cost approximately \$18. Taking into account that you are also getting a full 20lb tank of propane, as opposed to the 13.2 pounds you get in an exchange tank, your savings is roughly 40% from the exchange price.

Forbidden Propane Knowledge Tip #3

Most Propane Tanks aren’t actually empty, even when you think they are.

Because most propane tanks are not completely empty when you think they are, you may be wasting money by paying for a 20 lb fill. Many vendors set the scale on the refill station to tip at 20 lbs after accounting for only the weight of a propane tank and the refill nozzle. This means that a 20 lb fill does not mean you are getting the 20 lbs of propane you are paying for. This is because they turn the pump off as soon as the scale reaches 20lbs regardless of how much was already in the tank.

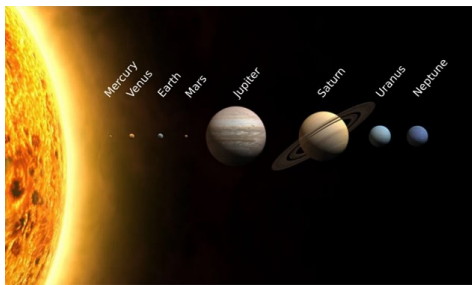
How to beat the 20lb fill conundrum

If the vendor filling your propane gives you the option of refilling by the gallon, try this option to further maximize your savings. I find that by doing it this way, you receive an additional 20% savings.

"KEEP LOOKING UP"

by Rebecca Verrastro

Maybe it's the time of year, or maybe I never took the time to look up before; but the night sky seems unusually dark and full of stars. My interest began when I noticed a very bright light in the sky. At first I thought it was a plane but it was not moving. With further research, I found out it was the planet Venus. Amazing. I have continued to research other "bright spots" and have discovered there are all kinds of things going on above us. For example, tomorrow, February 28th, there will be a "planetary parade" with all 7 planets lined up in a row. All but two, Neptune and Uranus, can be seen with the naked eye. On March 13-14th there will be a total lunar eclipse, the only one this year. The moon will look red, earning the name "blood moon". You might need a nap on the 13th to catch this one. It will begin at 1:09 AM EDT on the 14th with the period of totality from 2:26 AM to 3:32 AM. A bonus for your efforts - a lunar eclipse does not require eye protection as does a solar eclipse.



All this reminded me of the mnemonic I was taught to remember the planets in order: **MVEMJSUP** (Mary's Violet Eyes Make John Sit Up Nights Period) Mercury, Venus Earth, Mars, Jupiter,

Saturn, Uranus, Pluto.

Sadly Pluto has been demoted from a planet to a dwarf planet and the mnemonic is now: **MVEMJSUN** (My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Nachos

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.

DECEMBER 2024

Bonnie Lindberg
695 Black Ironwood Dr.



FEBRUARY

Don and Doreen Courtheyn
483 Princewood Dr.

REAL ESTATE UPDATE

Five (5) homes have sold in the last 3 months and there are currently no homes listed for sale, indicating Long Leaf remains a desirable place to live. Our hills and mature trees make this a unique neighborhood as the new developments "clear cut" the entire property, removing all trees, and level out the land.



Prices are holding steady and mortgage rates are finally heading in the right direction. The 30-year fixed mortgage rate has been decreasing steadily for two weeks and the average 30-year rate is now at its lowest point since October.

MANY THANKS TO OUR ADVERTISERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT!

{ Please patronize their business! }



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Licensed Psychologists

Anita K. Sanz, Ph.D. (PY5640)
Donald L. Sanz, Ph.D. (PY5066)

(386) 943-9040 Fax (386) 943-9937

sanzandsanz.com



Greg & Vicki Hanson — Owners

844 E. New York Ave DeLand, FL (386) 736-9340
915 N. Spring Garden DeLand, FL (386) 734-9460
1501 S. Volusia Ave Orange, City, FL (386) 774-5525

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**Little
Free
Library**

504 Black Ironwood

Take a book
Leave a book

Open dawn to dusk

Our Little Free Library welcomes all readers to "Take a Book, Share a Book!" About once a week, I read any written notes from those who've stopped by about authors and books they're looking forward to seeing in the library. Next, I check to see if that book has been donated and is waiting in my "book closet" to be placed in the library. If not, I'll put this book on my list to look for at the local Family Book Shop on Woodland Blvd, or in the books for sale events with the Deland Public Library, or on line at World of Books which has used books with pricing depending upon the quality (and often has buy 3, get 1 free). Once I find it, I'll write a note letting the reader know the book is in the library waiting (hopefully!) for them the next time they stop by! The Little Free Library.org also has used book bundles by age groups that can be purchased.

I love reading the notes!! "Dogman and Cat Kid please! I just saw the movie!" "Donated 2 books, will bring more." "Looking for mystery graphic novels for teens. Thank you!" "So excited to read Corsair by Clive Cussler! Will bring it back; thank you!"

Ideas to make the library space even more fabulous? Please include those, too!! The painted rocks were an idea from a reader and several people were part of the "Take a Rock, Share a Rock" theme, with rocks in the flower pot still available to bring home, decorate and bring back!

A huge thank you to everyone who stops by, checks for a book, shares a book, writes a note, leaves an idea, donates a book, donates bookmarks, adds seasonal decorations underneath the library, waves and smiles--you've all made the little library a magical place for our neighborhood!!