

## Board of Directors

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Pat Derstine Suzy Smith

## Dog Attacks in Long Leaf

There have been 2 recent attacks by a German Shepherd, one on a human and one on a dog being walked on a leash. Please be careful when walking in the area of Torchwood and northwest Red Mangrove in case the dog gets out again. Reports have been made to Animal Control. If you are chased or attacked or threatened by a dog, please call Animal Control and submit a written report immediately. Evidently, reports made after 7 days don't count. We love our Longleaf dogs, but they MUST be under control at all times.

## Time to Check Your Mailbox

Many LLP mailboxes could use some spring cleaning and/or repair. If it needs repair, please repair it. If it needs painting, please paint it. And if it needs replacing, please replace it.

If you decide to replace your mailbox, the ACB has preapproved an architectural mailbox that can be found at Lowes.\* Any other new mailboxes should be submitted to the ACB for approval prior to installation.

Call anyone of the members of the ACB listed in the newsletter with questions. If you need help, we have volunteers that would be happy to give you a hand. Thanks for helping to keep LLP looking good.

\*Gibraltar Mailbox MBPLAQ0B; Address Plaque NM160V01, Post LP000BZ0

## Recycling Do's & Don'ts

Kudos to those of you who are now removing the plastic tops from all your plastic water, soda, detergent bottles. Now, let's add another "Do" that some of you already practice: tearing down/flattening cardboard boxes into pieces no bigger than 4x4. If you have several, stack them on the ground next to your green bin and they will be picked up along with your other recycling items. No pizza boxes if they have food on them. This will contaminate the whole load!

Don't put Styrofoam or plastic bags in your recycling bins. Take them next time you go to Publix and put them in their big green bins outside the main entrance. Keep up the good work; the environment thanks you.



## Delicious Zuppa Toscana

### Ingredients:

- 1 lb bulk mild Italian sausage
- 1 1/4 tsp crushed red pepper flakes
- 4 slices bacon, cut into 1/2 inch pieces
- 1 lg onion, diced
- 1 Tbs minced garlic
- 5 (13.75 oz) cans chicken broth
- 6 potatoes, thinly sliced
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1/4 bunch fresh spinach, stems removed

### Directions:

1. Brown sausage & pepper flakes in a Dutch oven over med-high, 10-15 min. Drain and set aside.
2. Cook bacon in the same Dutch oven over med heat until crisp, about 10 min. Drain, leaving bacon & a few Tablespoons of drippings in the bottom of the Dutch oven. Stir in the onions & garlic; cook until onions are soft & translucent, about 5 min.
3. Pour chicken broth into the Dutch oven with the bacon & onion mixture; bring to a boil over high heat. Add potatoes & boil until fork tender, about 20 minutes. Reduce the heat to med & stir in heavy cream & cooked sausage; heat through. Mix spinach into the soup just before serving.



## Long Leaf Neighborhood Yard Sale

We hope everyone who participated in the community yard sale this month had a lot of success! The LLPHOA advertises the sale twice a year, so if you weren't able to hold a sale last weekend or you have more items to get rid of, we'll do it again in the fall.

*Want to Get Rid of Things and NOT Participate in a Yard Sale?* Consider the West Volusia Neighborhood Center. Their new Thrift Shoppe supports the mission of the Center which is preventing homelessness in addition to feeding the hungry and housing the homeless. If you have furniture, call 734-6006 for an appointment and they can pick up your items. Smaller household items, appliances, dishes, hardcover books, DVDs and CDs, etc., can be dropped off at the Thrift Shoppe at 434 S. Woodland Blvd in DeLand. This new Shoppe has very nice items, so drop in sometime just to look around. Open Tuesday - Saturday, 9 to 5.

## Could You Be a Victim?

Last month a burglary in the 1000 block of Torchwood was foiled while the owners were away by a monitored home security system. The police were called by the monitoring agency and responded with several officers and a canine unit. Nothing was stolen, but there was damage at the point of entry. However, this late night attempt could have been successful had proactive measures to protect the home not been taken. Here are a few ideas that you might find of some interest:

1. Make sure your garage door is locked. If you travel, consider unplugging the opener. Place rods in the tracks of sliding doors so they can't be opened.
2. Consider an alarm system that minimally protects all exterior openings. Interior motion/infrared sensors are a plus, as are chimes that alert you to an opened door. A home monitoring company will alert police to a break in, and a loud siren is a valuable deterrent. There are also many other do-it-yourself systems that can be Wi-Fi enabled to your smartphone.
3. Light your home (in and out) so it appears occupied by using timers and light bulbs with dusk-to-dawn sensors. Brazen thieves may still strike during the day, so take whatever measures you think appropriate to safeguard your home and valuables, including yard equipment.
4. Consider planting thorny shrubs near enough to points of entry that getting past them would be a painful endeavor. Speaking of outside deterrents, it's not a good idea to hide keys outdoor. Instead, give them to a trusted friend.
5. Put your mail and newspaper on hold during long trips, or have a neighbor pick them up until you return.

Do you research! There are plenty of resources online for additional recommendations from law enforcement & security professionals.

**Attention Long Leaf Musicians:** Would you be interested in joining a small band that plays in nursing homes occasionally? We need banjo, guitar or horn players (or any other instrument other than piano). No need to be a "pro", just hit most of the right notes. If you're interested or have questions call 734-6064. Thank you, Joyce Moran, a 32 year LLP resident.

## 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 and have not already done so, please send in your annual dues of \$100. If you have a yard you'd like to nominate, call Pat or Ron at 736-9584.



### March

Bonnie & Karl Schaefer  
676 Torchwood Drive



### April

Richard & Carolyn McGarity  
1045 Torchwood Drive

## Spring Gardening Tips

The time to trim crepe myrtles is now, according to neighborhood experts. It is also time to put the pre-emergent weed killer and fertilizer on your lawn. Using the St John's Water Management District as a guide, here are some tips for using water wisely throughout the coming months:

First, water your lawn only when it needs it. The amount of rainfall our area receives should dictate how often you water your lawn and how much water to apply. A hearty rain eliminates the need for watering for as long as 2 weeks. Irrigation during the rainy season is detrimental. Too much water encourages weed growth, fungus and disease.

Be sure your sprinkler system is equipped with a working rain shutoff device, which overrides the system when enough rain has fallen. It automatically resets the system when the turf requires more water.

Water lawns during the early morning or early evening hours when temperature and wind speed are lowest. This reduces loss from evaporation that can occur in the middle of the day. This also allows the water to seep into the ground to the grass and plant roots, promoting healthier plants with deep root systems. Watering early also reduces the potential for disease development. Odd numbered house are allowed to use their irrigation on Wed and Sat and even numbered houses may water on Thurs and Sun.

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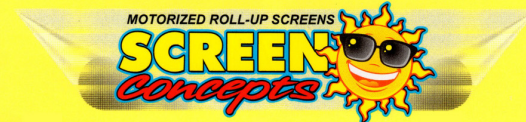


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Spring Edition – April 2018

# Long Leaf Sentinel

## March Board Meeting

03/13/2018 – Meeting was held at 852 Torchwood with most board members & a number of residents in attendance. Treasurer reported that 110 (55%) of LLP homeowners have paid their dues to date. Reminders will ask remaining homeowners to send \$100 to LLP HOA Inc, P.O. Box 766, DeLand, 32721. A safety concern was raised relating to poor street lighting at the north end of Torchwood & Stratford and has been reported. Tree losses are increasing at an alarming rate as our Laurel Oaks reach maturity & neighbors do not replant. Trees 6" in diameter must have ACB approval to be removed. Residents can now view exterior color guidelines, ACB project approvals and info about the newly-approved architectural mailboxes at [www.answerbooth.com](http://www.answerbooth.com). A letter will be drafted to residents whose mailboxes are in disrepair. A follow up will be made regarding a solicitation problem with AT&T. A letter will be drafted to the City Commission requesting a commitment that the same increase to buffers and lot sizes in Phase 1 of Victoria Oaks will be enforced in its final phase that will back up to LLP. We will also request that the proposed emergency entrance through LLP's pump house be moved to DR Horton's own property off Taylor Rd. Vice Chair Ryan Svolto is moving and will leave the Board. The next meeting will be held Monday, 04/09/18 at 494 Black Ironwood at 6:30pm.

## Letter from the Chairman

It's hard to believe it's already time for my second quarterly letter to you. I can report that the new board is settling in, addressing issues, and gathering community support. At our March board meeting, we agreed to hold meetings monthly instead of bimonthly in April, May, and June. This decision was driven by the amount of discussion at the last two board meetings. Opening up the board meetings to all homeowners has worked well; and helped immensely in building community consensus and letting homeowners know their concerns are being addressed. It does take more time, however, and hence the more frequent meetings.

One of the greatest issues of concern to Longleaf residents is our tree canopy. Particularly since we have a mature canopy, and over the course of natural events, including hurricanes and age, our canopy is diminishing. The only way to prevent this is to plant more trees, new trees, which will grow to replace trees which die or

are damaged by natural causes. Thus, the Board is encouraging residents to plant, plant, and replant new trees anytime one is taken down, or just to improve your yard. The Architectural Control Board is now bringing the subject up every time a tree removal request is received. While it is not required that a removed tree be replaced, we strongly believe that it is the best way to ensure our community retains a vibrant, healthy canopy, and is an urban forestry management best practice. It also guarantees our community will remain one of the most desirable places to live in DeLand.

Please avail yourself of the city's annual free tree giveaway this month if you can, as outlined below.

Sincerely,

*Jon Freeburg*  
Chairman, Long Leaf Plantation  
Homeowners Association, Inc.

## Long Leaf Plantation is now on Facebook

In an effort to foster more communication between neighbors and the HOA, Long Leaf Plantation now has a private group page on Facebook! You can find it at [www.facebook.com/groups/LongLeafPlantation](http://www.facebook.com/groups/LongLeafPlantation). All requests to join the group will be reviewed by an administrator to ensure that only LLP residents have access to the posts and comments on the page.

This page is completely optional to join as it will not replace any of our current points of contact (we'll still send out letters, emails and newsletters and place signs in the median). It will just be one more avenue for the HOA to share neighborhood events & community information while providing a forum for neighbors to share and ask questions.

**We need your help!** While walking or driving, please report any concerns regarding covenant compliance to an ACB member. If we do not have your current email address, please forward it to: Pat Derstine at [patnron@cfl.rr.com](mailto:patnron@cfl.rr.com). All of us benefit from a well-maintained median & two entrances, so if you have not yet paid your 2018 dues, please send a check to P.O. Box 766, DeLand, FL 32721.

## FREE TREE GIVEAWAY - SATURDAY, APRIL 21 - STARTING AT 8AM

Between recent storms and our maturing trees, Long Leaf Plantation has been losing more and more trees every year. Our canopy is part of what makes this neighborhood so special, and we ask that our neighbors do their best to preserve it by replanting whenever possible. The City of DeLand is hosting a tree giveaway this month at 1102 South Garfield Avenue. They are giving away up to **FOUR FREE TREES** with proof of residence (first come, first served). For more information or to download a form, visit [www.deland.org/events/annual-tree-giveaway](http://www.deland.org/events/annual-tree-giveaway)