



Long Leaf Sentinel

Board Meeting Highlights

The first board meeting of 2024 was held January 11th. This meeting focused on the finances of the HOA. Teri Christopher, treasurer, presented the 2024 budget, which was approved by a unanimous vote. The board then had a discussion on whether it is prudent to purchase a CD with some of the HOA funds or leave all funds in a non-interest-bearing checking account. This discussion included current interest rates at various banking institutions. The board voted to purchase a CD or multiple CDs, not to exceed \$9999.99.)

The board also discussed the need to retain an attorney as the attorney we used in the past is no longer available. A committee was formed to research and interview firms specializing in homeowners association representation.

Four HOA members were awarded gift certificates in December as their homes were winners of the Holiday Lighting Contest.

Requests to the ACB have slowed down considerably, as is normal for this time of year. Again, tree removal remains the no. 1 request.

Approximately 90 residents have joined the HOA so far this year. We hope to exceed last year's membership of 127. We all benefit from having a well-maintained neighborhood, but this costs money. The dues of \$100 for the year (\$8.33 per month) are certainly affordable for everyone living here. If you have not done so, please consider joining.

At the January 23rd special meeting, the board voted to purchase a CD or multiple CDs, not to exceed \$9999.99.) We also voted to retain the firm of ShuffieldLowman for all legal work.

The Spring Yard Sale was scheduled for March 9th with a rain date of March 16th.

The next board meeting will be held March 14th at 6:30 PM at 494 Black Ironwood

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

- POISON CONTROL.....800-222-1222
- W VOLUSIA CO POLICE, FIRE & EMS.....386 254-4657
- Duke Energy.....800-228-8485
- VOLUSIA CO ROAD & BRIDGE.....386-822-6422
- Report pot holes, drainage issues, signs & mowing
- VOLUSIA CO ANIMAL CONTROL.....386-248-1790
- VOLUSIA CO CODE ENFORCEMENT.....386-736-5925
- In residential areas, motor vehicles my 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:

At a recent board meeting, during the Community Members Comments portion, I was made aware that a statement I made at the Annual Meeting last November was incorrect. I had shared with those present, the sad news that a long time member of the Long Leaf Plantation community, a Mr. Wingle had recently died. The gentleman's name was actually Mr. Robert Lingle, Jr. of 545 Black Ironwood. To his family and friends, I do apologize.

To ensure that the Long Leaf Plantation Homeowners Association remains in compliance with Florida law, and to properly represent the association to the homeowners, legal representation is necessary. The board learned in December that the law firm which had served association for several years was no longer in business. A search committee headed by board members Jef Morris and Michael Campany was tasked with finding a law firm specializing in representation of Florida homeowners associations. After meeting with representatives, the firm of ShuffieldLowman has been contracted by the Long Leaf Plantation Homeowners Association to now represent its legal interests.

You may have noticed at the back of each newsletter are advertisements for several local businesses. These advertisements represent an additional revenue stream as these businesses pay the HOA for these advertisements. I would ask that you consider these vendors, and mention that their sponsorship of the HOA is the reason for your consideration. Not to be redundant but, as it says on the masthead of the page:

**Many Thanks To Our Advertisers For Their Support!
{Please patronize their business!}**

Duncan MacKenzie
Chairman
Long Leaf Plantation Homeowners Association

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—Membership—

Nada Acquaro
954-681-1313

—Yard Beautification—

John & Teri Christopher
386-956-8895

NEWSLETTER

Rebecca Verrastro
386-310-2404

Teri Christopher
386-956-8895

CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS

Doug and Tammie Phillips
1093 Torchwood Dr.

Michele Cechowski
493 Princewood Dr.

Johnny and Rhonda Long
859 Torchwood Dr.

Scott and Hanna Carraro
917 Torchwood Dr.

INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK

International Dark Sky Week is a worldwide celebration of the dark and natural night. This year, the 2024 celebration is April 2 to April 8, April 8 also being the day of the solar eclipse!

For many, the dark night is often misunderstood, unfamiliar, and frightening. But the natural night is filled with wonder and awe, and is critical to the health and wellbeing of our planet.

DID YOU KNOW that light can be a pollutant? Overly bright and unnecessary outdoor lighting creates glare and sky-glow, destroying critical nocturnal wildlife habitats, harming human health, and diminishing our view of the stars. As lighting options become more inexpensive and brighter, we are illuminating the night more and more. Every eight years, light pollution around the world doubles! Today, 80% of the world's population lives beneath light-polluted skies. 8 out of 10 children will grow up never seeing the Milky Way.

While lighting at night is necessary in today's world, there are easy steps you can take to ensure your lights protect the night!

DID YOU KNOW plants and animals depend on natural light cycles to govern life-sustaining behaviors such as reproduction, nourishment, sleep, and protection from predators? Scientific evidence suggests that artificial light at night has deadly effects on many creatures, contributing to the decline of biodiversity worldwide.

Migratory birds: Artificial lights can cause migrating birds to wander off course towards dangerous nighttime landscapes and cities. Millions of birds die colliding with needlessly illuminated buildings and towers every year.

Sea turtles: Hatchling sea turtles find the sea by detecting the bright horizon over the ocean. Artificial lights draw them away from the ocean. In Florida alone, millions of hatchlings die this way every year.

DID YOU KNOW our health is dependent on the dark? Over the past 100 years, humans have transformed the night, erasing the natural darkness with which we evolved. While artificial light at night is crucial to our modern world, it comes at a cost. Increasing scientific research indicates that

Cont. International Dark Sky Week

artificial light at night has detrimental effects on human health and well-being.

Circadian rhythm disruption: Largely influenced by the light and dark, our circadian rhythm is our body's natural 24-hour regulating clock. Circadian disruption has been linked to an increased risk of obesity, diabetes, mood disorders, reproductive problems, and cancers.

Decreased melatonin production: Exposure to light at night—even at dim levels—can suppress the body's production of melatonin, a hormone that regulates our sleep-wake cycle, metabolism, and immune system.

Glare impairs vision: Irresponsible outdoor lighting at night can increase dangers rather than safety. Overly bright and poorly shielded lighting creates blinding glare, impairing vision, leading to dangerous missteps and accidents.

PRACTICAL ACTIONS:

- Did you know you can self-certify that your home is dark-sky friendly and download a Dark Sky Friendly Certificate? Use the Five Principles above and follow the 4 steps at this link: <https://idsw.darksky.org/activities/dark-sky-friendly-home/>
- Take a night walk around your yard to check if all the lighting has a useful purpose.

If you notice your light is going into your neighbor's yard or into their home, consider an alternative to move your light, shield it, put it on a timer, add a motion sensor so it's activated only when needed, or install LED bulbs that are not more than 2700 Kelvin and not more than 800 lumens.

Come Celebrate the Dark Sky in Long Leaf Plantation!!

Carole Gilbert and Teri Christopher invite their neighbors to stargaze with them!

When: April 5TH from 8:30 PM to 9:30 PM (Alternate date due to bad weather is April 7TH).

Where: 504 Black Ironwood Drive

What to Bring Besides the Love of the Stars: Just Yourselfes! If you'd like, a Red Light flashlight, stargazing apps, binoculars, star charts, information to share and/or happy questions about constellations, nebulas, etc.

Please walk or bike so there is plenty of room for stargazers!!

Please show your support for LLP's Dark Sky Night by turning off your house and landscape lights during our dark sky viewing times!

GET WELL SOON

Some of you may have noticed that Ron Derstine has been missing from the neighborhood. Ron was a long-time resident of Long Leaf and continues to maintain our medians and provide lawn service to many of the residents. Ron had surgery and is now recuperating at home. We wish Ron a speedy recovery and hope to see him back in the neighborhood soon.



COMING EVENTS

Our semiannual Yard Sale will be held on March 9th with a rain date of March 16th. Clean out those closets. Time to get rid of all those things that you haven't used this past year. It might be just what someone is looking for.

FREE TREE GIVE AWAY



- Bring proof of DeLand residency
- Trees limited to residents within the DeLand Utility Service Area
- Three trees per residence/six per vehicle



- Bald Cypress
- Elderberry
- Live Oak
- Loquat*
- Persimmon
- Silky Dogwood*
- Snowbell*
- Southern Red Cedar
- Yellow Poplar

*Indicates less than 50 trees available

LIGHT TO PROTECT THE NIGHT

Five Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting



Illuminating
ENGINEERING SOCIETY



USEFUL



ALL LIGHT SHOULD HAVE A CLEAR PURPOSE

Before installing or replacing a light, determine if light is needed. Consider how the use of light will impact the area, including wildlife and the environment. Consider using reflective paints or self-luminous markers for signs, curbs, and steps to reduce the need for permanently installed outdoor lighting.

TARGETED



LIGHT SHOULD BE DIRECTED ONLY TO WHERE NEEDED

Use shielding and careful aiming to target the direction of the light beam so that it points downward and does not spill beyond where it is needed.

LOW LIGHT LEVELS



LIGHT SHOULD BE NO BRIGHTER THAN NECESSARY

Use the lowest light level required. Be mindful of surface conditions as some surfaces may reflect more light into the night sky than intended.

CONTROLLED



LIGHT SHOULD BE USED ONLY WHEN IT IS USEFUL

Use controls such as timers or motion detectors to ensure that light is available when it is needed, dimmed when possible, and turned off when not needed.

COLOR



USE WARMER COLOR LIGHTS WHERE POSSIBLE

Limit the amount of shorter wavelength (blue-violet) light to the least amount needed.

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.

NOVEMBER

Manny Amolat and
Dr. Myrna Garcia
404 Black Ironwood Dr.



DECEMBER

Ron Simonic
914 Torchwood

Where: 1101 S. Amelia Ave.

When: Saturday, April 27
8:00 AM to 11:00 AM

What: 3 trees per resident.

Once again, we are asking for volunteers. We especially need help on the Architectural Control Board and Newsletter Committee. Come to a meeting and see what it's all about. There are usually fresh-baked cookies.

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Matthew Maniscalco
President



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