



# Long Leaf Sentinel

## Spring Edition Board Meeting Highlights

The board met at Teri Christopher's home on February 18, 2021.

There was ongoing discussion and complaints from several residents about the multitude of flags in the community. The chairman thanked the members for their concerns and responded by advising the covenants are completely silent on flags and related fines. Seeking enforcement might thus be cost prohibitive. The Chairman clarified to members that voting on the 2020 revisions to the covenants never received a quorum and thus were never accepted. A motion was made, and approved, to remove the last (2020) revisions. The chair also made a motion, which was approved, to organize a covenant workshop in March 2021.

The secretary's LLPHOA Board activity reports for 1/14/2021 and 1/21/2021 were approved.

Treasurer's report for 1/31/2021 was also approved.

Maintenance committee reported a sprinkler/pipe issue likely caused by the installation of sidewalks at Stratford/Princewood. This caused a significant increase in the LLP water bill, which Teri Christopher has worked with the city/county to resolve and get credit for the overcharge.

Architectural Control Board members are now: Nancy Roeder, chair, Preston McCready, and now Debbie Kurthausen.

Website committee is developing the new website, to enable all residents to access reports, newsletters, and information on Long Leaf.

### .....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 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
- Eastern Standard Time...Even house # Sun, Odd house # Sat

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Neighbors,

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have had our neighborhood garage sale, a glimpse of what will hopefully be our return to some level of normalcy.

We have implemented our website, llphoa.org. On it, you can find pertinent information related to our community. It is a work in progress, so please be patient and let us know if you have any issue viewing or accessing the information. We hope to soon be able to accept membership payments online. If you intend to be a member this year, and you have yet to pay your membership dues, please accept this letter as your friendly reminder to do so as soon as possible. Please make your check for \$100.00 payable to Long Leaf Plantation Homeowner's Association, Inc and send it to PO Box 766, Deland, FL 32721-0766.

We have recently terminated our efforts to pass the revisions to the covenants we sent out last year because we did not have enough community members return their ballots. The board will meet to finalize new revised covenants that will be thereafter sent to you via ballot. We will be posting the proposed revised covenants to the website, and we invite comment on them through the "contact us" page or at our upcoming meeting.

Among the issues to be addressed is flags, which has been an ongoing source of frustration of many members of the community. Because our current covenants are silent regarding flags, we have limited ability to enforce the content of flags. We will provide a proposed covenant that will allow the community to decide the type, number, place, and context of flags being displayed in the community. It is more important than ever that if you are concerned with this issue, that you vote on the forthcoming covenant revisions. You do not need to be a member to vote, and you may pick and choose which covenant revisions to approve or reject. Even a decision not to participate is a decision to allow the current state of affairs to continue.

We have had recent complaints regarding house painting without prior approval, commercial vehicles with lettering parked in driveways, and non-compliant mailboxes. Please remember that all changes to the appearance of your property, including paint colors, should be submitted to the ACB for approval. You may submit requests for proposed changes via our "contact us" form on our website which is referenced above. Commercial vehicles, including vehicles with lettering, are not permitted in our community, unless it is enclosed in a garage. Please also take a look at your mailbox and make sure that it is in good condition and complies with our covenants.

On a positive note, I would like to recognize Rick Studer, who was instrumental in the process of getting our new sidewalk placed on Stratford. Also, Teri Christopher deserves recognition for fighting to get the County to accept responsibility for repairing our sprinklers and getting them to pay a water bill that would have wiped nearly 1/3 of the funds from our annual budget.

On a final note, a brief look at the Victoria Oaks project currently in development shows a stark contrast between the aesthetics that its commercial developers value, and what we value as a community. Even if they reversed course and started to repair their destruction to the neighboring forests, it would take decades or longer to correct. For this reason, please consider planting one or more trees on your property for this upcoming Arbor Day. Just a small effort would make a huge impact on the aesthetics of the community and the collective values of our property.

Thank you for being members of the most beautiful neighborhood that Volusia County has to offer.

Sincerely,

*Jeff Morris*

Jeffery Morris  
Chairman, Longleaf Plantation Homeowners Association

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Debbie Kurthausen

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acquaro391@yahoo.com

Yard Beautification

John & Teri Christopher

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## NEWSLETTER

Nancy Roeder

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Carol Noyes

386-943-8944

Suzy Smith

sa\_smith@bellsouth.net

## WINTER GARDENING TIPS

### April

**What to Plant:** Annuals: New varieties of coleus do well in sun or shade and provide vivid colors and patterns for months. Bulbs: Planting early-, mid-, and late-blooming varieties of daylily ensures months of color from these low-maintenance plants. Herbs: Add nasturtiums to your herb garden. The leaves and flowers add a peppery zest to salads. Vegetables: Continue planting warm-season crops, such as beans, sweet corn, and squash. Mulch well to prevent weeds and provide water if the weather has been dry.

**What to Do:** Pests: Monitor landscape plants weekly for aphids on tender new growth. Beneficials: Identify and conserve beneficial insects. Some insects should be encouraged in your yard. Flowering plants: Check for thrips if leaves and/or flowers of gardenias and roses are damaged. Perennials and bulbs: Divide clumps of bulbs, ornamental grasses, or herbaceous perennials to expand or rejuvenate garden beds or to pass along to friends. Lawn insects: Rule out cultural problems, such as lack of water, that resemble insect damage before applying a pesticide. Lawns: Apply fertilizer after new growth has started which is usually early April in north-central and central Florida. Choose a fertilizer (not a "weed and feed") with little or no phosphorus unless a soil test indicates the need for it. A fertilizer with controlled-release nitrogen yields longer-lasting results. Shrubs: Choose from a wide variety of shrubs to add to the landscape now. We have an abundance of nurseries with knowledgeable gardeners. Mulch: Add mulch to minimize weeds and conserve moisture during dry weather. Organic mulches add nutrients to the soil.

### May

**What to Plant:** Annuals: Plants that can take summer heat include salvia, torenia, wax begonia, coleus, and ornamental pepper. Bulbs: Some lilies do better when their roots are crowded. Try planting Amazon, Aztec, and Clivia lilies in containers to increase blooming. Herbs: Plant heat-loving herbs, including basil, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary. Vegetables: Southern favorites to plant now are okra, southern peas, and sweet potato.

**What to Do:** Pests: Watch for thrips, scale, and mites on ornamental plants because they become more active in warm weather. Gardenias: Distinguish between the normal yellowing of older leaves and the yellowing of new growth, which usually indicates a micronutrient deficiency. Oleanders: Inspect chewed or ragged leaves for oleander caterpillars at

### May cont.

not work. Lawns: Watch for damage from chinch bugs in St. Augustine grass and begin scouting for newly hatched mole crickets in bahia grass lawns. May is usually a dry month; do not mistake irrigation problems with a pest infestation. Lawns: Prevent or minimize disease by following proper cultural practices. Tomatoes: Watch for pests, disease, and nutritional disorders on tomato plants. Trees: Prepare for hurricane season by checking trees for damaged or weak branches and pruning if needed. Hire an ISA-certified arborist, particularly if you want to remove a tree due to its disease or impingement on your property (ie- septic tank).

### June

**What to Plant:** Annuals: Annuals that can take full sun during the increasingly hot summer months include celosia, portulaca, vinca, and some coleus. Palms: Summer's warm, rainy months are the perfect time to plant palms. Make sure not to cover the trunk with soil. Herbs: Plant heat-loving herbs, including basil, Mexican tarragon, and rosemary. Pinch back regularly to prevent flowering and enhance branching. Vegetables: Plant okra, southern pea, calabaza, Malabar spinach, and sweet potato. It is too late to plant tomatoes.

**What to Do:** Pests: Monitor the landscape and garden weekly for harmful insects. Knowing which insects attack a plant can aid in identification and treatment. Irrigation: Watch for drought stress and water as needed if rainfall has been spotty. Focus on new plantings and follow watering restrictions. When rains begin, shut down the irrigation system. Propagation: Produce more plants by air layering, grafting, division, or cuttings. Palms and cycads: Watch for nutrient deficiencies or other problems and use an appropriate treatment. Keep lawn fertilizers away from the root zone. Pruning: Lightly prune summer-flowering shrubs, like hibiscus, oleander, and crape myrtle, during the warmer months because they bloom on new growth. Azaleas can still be pruned until the middle of next month without harming next spring's buds. Fertilizer Bans: Some municipalities in central Florida prohibit the application of fertilizer to lawns and/or landscape plants during the summer rainy season (June–September). See if such an ordinance exists in your area.

## EASY CHICKEN SALAD RECIPE

(Serves 7 people. Calories 195. Easy and Healthy, great for those hot days when you don't want to cook)

½ c. plain greek yogurt

½ cup chopped walnuts

¼ t. garlic powder

¼ t black pepper

2 cups cooked chicken, shredded or chopped (I always get the Sams Club rotisserie chicken to use)

½ c. chopped celery

½ c quartered grapes (can substitute chopped apple or dried cranberries or cherries)

¼ c. finely chopped sweet onion (optional)

Bread, croissants or lettuce for serving

### Instructions:

In large bowl, stir together the plain yogurt, garlic powder, salt and pepper. Add the cooked chicken, celery, nuts, grapes and red onion (if using). Stir until well combined. Taste and adjust seasonings as needed. Serve as a sandwich on bread or croissants, or wrapped in lettuce.

## NEIGHBORS BEWARE

Recently a couple was spotted , during the night, placing politically inflammatory, untrue, and insulting flyers to every mailbox in Long Leaf. Fortunately it was reported early in the day, and EACH AND EVERY FLYER was removed and destroyed. About 10% of the residents did get the flyers before they were removed, and their responses to our website (llphoa.org) were unanimously against the message of the flyer. Attaching solicitations/flyers (particularly political propaganda) to a federal mailbox is not allowed, and in fact is a federal crime.

Please be on the alert for future intrusions like this, and we encourage you to call the county sheriff if you see anyone doing this again. Thank you!



## 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 943-8812.



### February

Robert and Eileen Lingle  
545 Black Ironwood



### March

Sheila Fuller  
791 Torchwood



Please join us in welcoming our new neighbors to Long Leaf

**Cynthia Olson and Heck William Joseph**  
789 Torchwood

**Michael and Kathy Company**  
872 Torchwood

**Michelle Cecchowski**  
493 Torchwood

**Rocco Dibenardo**  
822 Torchwood

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