

~ ~ *President's Message* ~ ~

Springtime in Rosemont reminds us of the natural beauty of the wildlife and foliage that winds throughout our neighborhoods. It is therefore critical to continue to support the efforts by SOGS and other residents to maintain the integrity and vitality of our community by preventing intrusive and massive development. The Board has updated goals that will be our guidepost for completing tasks for 2021-2022. We are targeting Community Outreach, Community Infrastructure, Safety and Code Enforcement. In addition, board members have attended the Virtual City of Orlando Summit, and virtual meetings provided by the City's District 3 Neighborhood Watch Workshop, and the City's Code Enforcement Workshop to maintain working relationships with local government entities.

All the initiatives mentioned and more will be highlighted in this newsletter with hopes that **you will also find an area of interest and volunteer to join us through your membership and participation.** I want to extend a word of appreciation to all who renewed their membership and joined us anew for 2021. We continue to have our virtual monthly board meetings. Let me know if you are interested in joining us.

*Respectfully, Kathy Nobles*

**LOHOA Goals for 2021-2022**

**Community Outreach** - Build strong communication and membership systems.

**Infrastructure** - Continue to address community-wide infrastructure to improve areas in landscaping, roadways, and cleanliness.

**Safety** - Continue to Foster a Safe Environment.

**Code Enforcement** - Support the orderly maintenance of properties.

The Board has developed objectives and specific activities to accompany these goals to ensure successful completion.

**REACTIVATED LOHOA WEBSITE**

One of our objectives to build strong communication is to expand our social media footprint; therefore, we have recently reactivated our LOHOA website: **www.Lake-Orlando.com**. **The website will go live by the end of May.** We are looking forward for **volunteers** to assist with our social media platform.

**Board Members attended City of Orlando Virtual Neighborhood & Community Summit**

The Summit was held on March 6, 2021 on the Whova platform from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. We were able to attend the "Ask the Mayor" session and a few breakout sessions. Examples of information shared with attendees are:

- \* The City hired a new Equity Manager, Merchon Greene, to ensure equity is incorporated throughout departments, policies and initiatives.
- \* Lots of permits are being requested for retail and apartments.
- \* The City is working with the homeless population via Cares Act Program and via the Housing First Program that includes wrap around supportive services to ensure long-term success.
- \* One of the breakout sessions "Creative Place Making" provided creative ideas for communities to enhance and engage neighborhoods.
- \* Exhibitors were also featured on the platform. We noted the anti-littering exhibit sponsored by the City of Orlando. Look for ideas we hope to incorporate to address the trash and litter we experience along our entranceways and along the curbside of Rosemont Preserve.

The Summit is given every year for communities and residents of Orlando.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT WORKSHOP TIPS**

Jemilah Felix, Neighborhood Relations Department, hosted a virtual Code Enforcement workshop on March 18, 2021 along with Dana Johnston, Code Enforcement Supervisor. Key information was provided on neighborhood code violations.

Some examples are as follows:

- ^ Lots or yards with untended growth or excessive weeds; stagnant waste water
- ^ Disabled motor vehicles sitting in yards
- ^ Exterior and interior of house surfaces in disrepair; roof with tattered tarps
- ^ Commercial vehicles parked in driveways or along curbside unless used for loading or unloading
- ^ Parking on lawns
- ^ Recreational and business vehicles parked in driveways
- ^ Excessive noise - call (321) 235-5300
- ^ Signs posted in City right-of way

To report these and other violations, please call (407) 246-2686; or email violation to [codeenforcement@orlando.gov](mailto:codeenforcement@orlando.gov); or refer to [orlando.gov/code violations](http://orlando.gov/code%20violations).

## **SAFETY AND DISTRICT 3 NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH WORKSHOP**

Georgeanna Butler, City of Orlando Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, provided a workshop on 3/25/21. Officer Steven Smith will visit and assist any resident with recommendations for optimum home security pointers. Some recommendations are:

- ~ Make sure your home address is clearly visible from the street for emergency assistance.
- ~ Outside lights should always be turned on overnight.
- ~ Shrubberies should be approximately 2 feet in height under windows.
- ~ Do not leave discarded TV or other electronic boxes on the curbside.
- ~ Interior door of the house (in garage area) should always be locked even when leaving home for a short errand.
- ~ Make sure sliding doors have a lock bolt at the base.
- ~ Always arm security system when leaving the house.
- ~ Report any suspicious activity by calling the non-emergency number (321) 235-5300.



An OPD Home Security video will be posted on YouTube for a virtual tour of home safety measures.

### **RoseArts District Update Continues...**

#### **THANK YOU VICKI VARGO, SAVE OUR GREEN SPACE (SOGS), MEMBERS OF THE LOHOA BOARD AND OTHERS**

Vicki Vargo and residents of Rosemont truly stepped up to the plate representing our community in retaining the stance of opposing a large and intrusive development proposal on the former golf course by Westside Capital Lake Orlando Landowners, LLC. Since our last newsletter in January, the appeals presented to the City of Orlando opposing the Municipal Planning Board RoseArts approval were addressed at the City Council Meeting on March 22 and April 12. Residents provided a range of issues that included technical analysis of infrastructure challenges that may lead to flooding and wastewater problems; traffic/roadway issues; size and height of the multifamily units; intrusion on wild life, foliage and trees; and incompatibility of the development with the single family homes. Along with the legal expertise of Vicki Vargo, Leonard Conner provided narrated videos of Rosemont; residents gave testimonies of living experiences and concerns of a large development imposing on their tranquil neighborhoods. There were a few residents who were in agreement with the project; however, residents in opposition were far greater in number and overall their presentations were professional, poignant and passionate.

Commissioner Stuart deserves kudos for providing at the March 22nd City Council meeting results of a strategic and objective survey he conducted that clearly depicted the density of the project would overwhelm the community. He compared this proposal to other developments in the City and in other cities in the United States and clearly showed how the units per acre far outpaced units per acre in other developments. He concluded by saying he will support the appeal. Commissioner Ortiz was concerned about the plans to accommodate the added traffic and Commissioner Sheehan questioned the imposition on the natural surroundings and wildlife. Although, Westside Capital requested time to revisit the plan to reduce the density, the recommendations they made at the meeting on April 12th did not properly address concerns about the density of the overall project. They withdrew their application for the RoseArts District before the commissioners could vote in support of the appeal and in opposition of the proposed development. Major Dyer asked Commissioner Stuart to get with the RoseArts representatives and residents to provide a collaborative proposal moving forward. *The fight continues...*

#### *The Save Our Greenspace Group and Neighbors celebrating the victory*



### **LYNX Transfer SuperStop, Rosemont Neighborhood Center Gym. Neighborhood Cleanup and Landscaping**

- \* We continue to be in communications with Jeff Reine, LYNX Manager, about the renovations slated for the Rosewood Way Bus Transfer Station. He reiterated that the renovation proposal and funds are approved. LYNX is in the process of finalizing a vendor to complete the renovations.
- \* The City should complete the building of the Rosemont Neighborhood Gym this year. Please ride by the center to see its progress.
- \* **We continue to have our Rosemont cleanup the first Saturday of each month; please join us.** In addition, Jody Buyas, Greenup Orlando, has toured the various communities of Rosemont to determine the need for trimming and planting on all the City's common grounds. Look for refreshed plantings and de-weeding along our entranceways and among our roundabouts and street islands.

**Current LOHOA Officers and Board Members: Kathy Nobles - President; George Morning - Vice President; Faye Henderson - Secretary; Annette Richardson - Treasurer; Leonard Conner; Leroy Bickley-Emeritus Michael Nobles; Charles Richardson; Janice P. Saulsby; Joseph Saulsby; Rick Stiskin; Johnathan Williams**