

# WEEKLY MANAGER'S REPORT

## TOWN OF LADY LAKE, FLORIDA

By Bill Lawrence, Town Manager

July 3, 2025

### DEPARTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT (William Lawrence):

#### **Shoutouts & Acknowledgments**

This week's shoutout goes to **Thad Carroll**, who stepped in as Town Manager while I was away on vacation. Thad navigated some rough waters and did an excellent job keeping everyone informed. Thank you, Thad, for your leadership and dedication.

#### **Statement on the Lake County JPA Joint Planning Agreement Meeting**

*Held at the Venetian Center, Leesburg – Monday Afternoon*

The recent Lake County JPA (Joint Planning Agreement) meeting brought together elected officials and managers from Lake County's 14 municipalities. While the intent of the meeting was to foster collaboration, it unfortunately highlighted ongoing issues that must be addressed if true cooperation is to be achieved.

As a representative of the Town of Lady Lake, I must express concern over a clear and longstanding disconnect between Lake County and our town. For over a decade, we have urged the County to prioritize improvements to Rolling Acres Road. Despite the collection of road impact fees from our area, we have received no transparency or accountability on how those funds have been used—or why this essential road continues to be ignored.

Equally troubling were some of the remarks made by County officials. It was both disappointing and disheartening to hear statements that implied cities and towns "don't know what they're doing." These comments are not only unproductive but disrespectful to the hardworking professionals in municipalities like Lady Lake. Our staff thoroughly evaluates each annexation proposal and have turned several down based on infrastructure and long-term planning—not politics.

In fact, the developer of Hammock Oaks has already committed to contributing toward improvements on Rolling Acres Road, showing that when towns and developers work together, progress is possible. Meanwhile, Lake County continues to approve developments in rural areas without sufficient infrastructure planning, placing further strain on the regional transportation network.

Commissioner Kirby Smith's claim that towns are responsible for the poor condition of county roads due to municipal growth is misleading. The reality is that Lake County has chronically

underfunded road infrastructure for years. Despite collecting impact fees and receiving FDOT funding, the County has not prioritized transportation in its budgeting process—focusing instead on parks and recreational projects.

The result of this neglect? An estimated \$500 million in needed road repairs. Rather than take responsibility, there is now an effort to shift this financial burden onto towns, which could lead to higher millage rates for our residents. While some towns have expressed a willingness to take over certain county roads—*after necessary repairs are made*—the County has failed to follow up.

Additionally, the County has not utilized the available 5-cent gas tax that could be earmarked for road improvements. This funding remains untouched, despite the pressing need.

Furthermore, allegations by Commissioner Anthony Sabatini that towns are "pocketing money from developers" are reckless and without evidence. In Florida, elected officials are required to file a Form 1 Financial Disclosure annually, reporting all personal assets. These accusations do nothing to advance the conversation and only serve to erode trust.

If we are to move forward with a meaningful Joint Planning Agreement, the County must demonstrate a commitment to honest dialogue, mutual respect, and shared responsibility. The blame game must end. Our residents deserve collaboration that results in real, long-term solutions—not political posturing.

### **Manager's Meeting**

The Manager's Meeting was held Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the Commission Chambers. We reviewed the upcoming **Commission Meeting Agenda for July 7 at 6:00 p.m.** Additionally, we discussed the final budget review and began identifying areas where cuts may be necessary. Joella and I met with some of the managers and made some cuts in the budget. We will be bringing a balanced budget with no recommended millage rate increase for the upcoming fiscal year.

### **CLERK'S OFFICE (Carol Osborne):**

The agenda for the Commission Meeting on July 7 was finalized and posted.

At the commission meeting on July 7, a proclamation will be read designating July as "Park and Recreation" month. The Town's Parks and Recreation programs have expanded from a few annual programs to many well-planned events. This is in addition to the Parks and Recreation staff's daily maintenance of our parks and ball fields. This recognition is well-deserved.

### **COMMUNICATIONS (Elisha Pappacoda):**

We issued a [press release](#) on the 2-year-anniversary of the murder of Bryson Leverette. The release was picked up by all our local media, the Orlando TV stations, Yahoo News, and even Unsolved

Mysteries' website. I enjoyed getting to know Det. Ronnie Williams better as we worked together on getting the story out in the hopes of new leads. Det. Williams represented the Police Department and family well.

Here is the story on WESH: [Mother renews calls for justice two years after son's murder](#)

The Big Bang was a great success. Congrats to Mike, Amy and all involved in a wonderful community event.

Communications had 66 opt-in text alert subscribers for The Big Bang, over 1,600 Facebook RSVPs, and the Big Bang thank you post with fireworks photo was our top post in June with 5.4k views. We had multiple news stories promoting the event prior and large spread with photos in the Daily Sun the day after.

All communications metrics measured monthly were up in June. Some highlights include:

Facebook views are up over 86% for the month at 81,994, organically with no paid ads

We gained over 100 followers on Facebook

Our YouTube subscribers have grown to 132

Police bodycam video continues to perform best on YouTube, with the latest having nearly 2,000 views

LinkedIn has grown to 336 followers, with 15 new followers in June

LinkedIn impressions grew over 55%, with 2,199

Livestream views remain steady with a slight increase of 75 views in June

Website users were 6.4k for the month, with 5.7 k new users - an increase of 11%. Top drivers to the site are search engines followed by Facebook.

This week, we also completed the design of the 35-page final Police Accreditation report and 10 Centennial history panel designs.

### **FINANCE (Joella LeDonne)**

Interviews were conducted last Thursday (6/26) for the Assistant Finance Director position. A candidate was selected and was made an offer. Currently in the process of verification. Will announce when all is finalized by HR. We have one week until we "go live" with Springbrook. Department budgets are still being reviewed by the Town Manager. All fun stuff. Everyone have a safe and wonderful 4<sup>th</sup>!

### **GROWTH MANAGEMENT (Thad Carroll):**

A building permit application and plans were received to demolish the existing lighting system, use and extend circuits as needed, and install a new lighting system at Skechers, located at 610 North Highway 27/441.

Building plan revisions were received for a new 400 square foot pesticide storage building located at 860 Duck Lake Road. Plan revisions were also received for a new clubhouse and pool pavilion for the Cresswind development located at Hammock Oaks.

The final plat for the Hammock Oaks Commercial Park Phase I was submitted on Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. Phase I has three lots; the proposed Walmart Neighborhood Market will be located on Lot One. The remaining unplatted portion of the commercial site will be platted at some point in the future.

Comments were sent to the applicant this week for the Lady Lake Crossings Phase 2 project located southeast of Sportsman's Warehouse, and west of Highway 27/441.

The following site plans are currently under review:

- Chase Bank – 3,490 square foot bank with drive-thru located at the intersection of Teague Trail and North Highway 27/441
- Lady Lake Crossings Phase 2 (AKA Lady Lake Landings) – located at just south of Sportsman's Warehouse
- Church at the Springs Rolling Acres Campus (Major Modification) – convert 27,604 square foot building from industrial to institutional use
- Water Oak Sales Center Conversion (Minor Modification) – convert existing model homes/lots into residential lots
- La Reina Restaurant Façade Renovation (Minor Modification) – Patio and façade renovations to La Reina restaurant located at the corner of Alvarez Avenue and Alonzo Avenue

Seventy-one building permits or revisions were received this week, and forty-eight permits were issued. Two hundred and seven inspections were completed in the field.

This week, code enforcement opened sixteen new cases, closed seventeen cases, performed 53 inspections, and removed twelve signs from the Town's right-of-way.

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES (Tamika DeLee):**

Next week is jam-packed with interviews. The police officer interview is scheduled for July 8th. An interview for a mechanic is scheduled for July 9th. We are currently working on scheduling interviews for the permitting technician position. The HR department participated in the PRM webinar presented by Davis. We are currently working on background checks for the following positions: town clerk, public works operator I, and youth services-library assistant I.

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (John Pearl):**

No report this week.

**LIBRARY (Aly Herman):**

Last week, we received a call from County Library Director George Taylor, who wanted to share how impressed he was with the jump in youth materials checkouts—just in the first three days of our new space being open! He expressed how proud and pleased he was with the new youth area.

Three years ago, the Lady Lake Library launched *School Supplies for Fines*, a program held each July—and we're proud to say we're the only library in the county offering it! During this month, patrons can pay off their fines by donating new school supplies (excluding fees for lost or damaged items). It's a win-win: you clear your account while helping support our local schools. So, for the month of July, bring in your school supplies and take part in this great community program!

My family and I attended The Big Bang! last Saturday, and it did not disappoint. My daughter had a blast in the bounce houses and foam area, the music was fantastic, and my almost one-year-old son got to see his very first fireworks show—he loved it! Huge shoutout to Amy, Mike, the Parks & Rec crew, Public Works, and everyone else involved in making the event so much fun. We can't wait for next year!

There will be no Summer Reading Program today, as it's always a bit tricky to schedule performers during the week of the 4th of July. But next week, we're excited to welcome Steven Turner for a Drumming Circle! Join us at 10:30 AM in the meeting room.

Here are the youth program stats for this week:

-Zoo Mom:216

-Lego Master: 19

-Craft Corner: 35

-Tiny Tots: 28

-Family Crafting: 20

-Storytime with Ms.Bunn:78

-Reading with Scarlett: 12



Figure 1 New Youth Library

[www.facebook.com/lakelakelibrary225](https://www.facebook.com/lakelakelibrary225)

**PARKS AND RECREATION (Mike Burske):**

No report this week.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT (Chief Steve Hunt):**

No report this week.

**PUBLIC WORKS/UTILITIES DEPARTMENT (C.T. Eagle):**

**Administration (C.T. Eagle — Director and Peggy Smith – Admin Assistant to Director):**

At the July 21<sup>st</sup> Town Commission Meeting, there will be an agenda item for consideration of a proposal from our Engineers to perform services related to the potential upcoming Town's Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) aka Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion project that is anticipated to require funding through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) State Revolving Fund (SRF) program. In order to utilize FDEP SRF funding for design and/or construction funding, the SRF Program must approve a Water Facilities Plan. The services outlined within this proposal will complete a plan for the SRF Clean Water (CW) funding program review and approval. Once the plan is approved, the Town will be eligible to submit funding requests related to design, permitting, and/or construction-related services. This is a needed step in the process to secure a low-interest funding source for whatever type of expansion the Commission approves moving forward. These applications must be submitted within a certain timeframe to be eligible for

funding. Upon approval, the engineer will be able to move forward in the process to ensure the application is submitted within the required timeframe and secure the needed funding.

We have multiple positions open here at Public Works; open positions can be found here:

<https://www.ladylakefl.gov/210/Human-Resources>

Information regarding current Town Projects can be found here:

<https://www.ladylakefl.gov/167/Town-Projects>

**Maintenance Department (Ted Williams, Supervisor):**

Performed driveway apron inspections.

Assisted in coordinating the Big Bang Fireworks event with Parks and Rec, and PD.

Coordinated with PD and contractor to install a new Tesla EV charger at the PD.

**Streets (Kon Scott, Travis Lacey, and Justin Wallace - Lead Operators; Todd Foster - Operator II):**

Performed litter pickup along roadways in Town. Continued cleaning or replacing street and stop signs townwide. Cleaned storm drains. Patched potholes and road cuts. Mowed Town maintained rights of ways.

Monitored retention ponds after rain events.

Staffed and assisted Parks and Rec and PD with the Big Bang Fireworks event.

Cleaned up right of way on Mark Ave and cleaned up downed tree in Town retention pond in the area.

Cleaned up downed trees on Lake Griffin Rd and Brevard Ave.

**Facilities Maintenance (Mark Walls - Lead Operator, and Phillip Perna - Operator I):**

Staff completed multiple work orders at Town facilities. Transported chairs to the Library.

Repaired a leak in the roof at the Community Building. Repaired the faucet in the Library.

Continued performing groundskeeping at Town Hall, PD, and the Library.

**Motor Pool (Billy Kohler - Lead Mechanic):**

Ongoing repair and maintenance on Town Vehicles and Equipment.

Staffed and assisted Parks and Rec and PD with the Big Bang Fireworks event.

**Utilities — Water and Sewer (Thomas “Butch” Goodman - Supervisor, and Mary Levesque - Staff Assistant to Supervisor):**

Coordinated with multiple contractors, engineers, vendors, developers, and other departments regarding future and current in-process projects going on around Town.

Current project coordination with Hammock Oaks (Multiple Phases), Boulevard Oaks, Lake Ella Estates, and Green Key Village, phases 5 and 6.

**Distribution and Collection Systems Field Operations (Robert Barnes, Lead Operator):**

Issued and rescinded a Boil Water Notice in the Skyline Hills area due to a broken main water line.

Coordinate and complete various work orders, working on new accounts, meter reading, and re-reads.

Completed 811 dig ticket location requests. Coordinating new fiber optic line locations.

Completed FDEP submittals, Water/Sewer/Reuse physical availability requests, Utility Quotes, CO inspection requests, and required back-flow device verification audits.

Performed weekly fueling and testing of emergency equipment, pumps, vehicles, and generators.

**Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants (Daniel Myklejord – Lead Water Plant Operator, Darryl Flanders – Lead Wastewater Plant Operator, and Steve Pfouts – Treatment Plants Operations Manager)**

Water, Wastewater, and Reuse Systems Master Planning Project in process by the Town Engineer, Jason Shepler. The results and suggested projects will be presented to the Town Commission for consideration of approval this Fiscal Year.

The Consumptive Use Permit (CUP) renewal project with St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) is nearing the submittal phase to the regulatory agency for review. Projected completion of renewal is by the end of this year or early 2026.