

# WEEKLY MANAGER'S REPORT

## TOWN OF LADY LAKE, FLORIDA

By Bill Lawrence, Town Manager

July 10, 2025

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

#### Shoutouts & Acknowledgments

I want to recognize the outstanding work done by the Children's Library team during their soft opening. The event drew a large crowd and many happy faces. Special thanks go **to Aly, Nicole, and Kourtney** for their exceptional efforts in making it a success.

**ClearGov Teams Meeting** was held this past Tuesday morning with participation from most department managers. At my request, Joella has been exploring alternatives to our outdated Excel spreadsheets for budget preparation. She has been in discussions with ClearGov, a platform already in use by nearby communities such as Fruitland Park. This software will significantly streamline the budgeting process. It will also empower department managers to view real-time expenditure by line item, reducing the need for monthly budget reports. I fully support Joella and the finance team in pursuing eligibility for the Budget Presentation Award.

#### FY25/26 Budget

The proposed FY25/26 budget is finalized and will be sent to print this week. Budget books will be made available to the Commission by Wednesday, July 16. A budget workshop is scheduled for Thursday, July 24. We are pleased to present a **balanced budget** and will be recommending **no millage rate increase**.

Please note that the **Solid Waste Special Assessment** and the **Villages Fire Assessment** have increased due to rising service costs. These two resolutions will be presented at the **July 21 Commission Meeting**. While these assessments are outside of our direct control, they will be reflected on your upcoming tax bill. The Communications Department will be sharing additional information in the coming weeks to help residents better understand these changes.

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

No report this week.

#### COMMUNICATIONS (Elisha Pappacoda):

This week, we issued two press releases: [Lady Lake Library hosts School Supplies for Fines](#) and [Town of Lady Lake's water system passes state inspection](#).

Crimeline is now offering a reward of up to \$5,000 for information about the murder of Bryson "Swift" Leverette. The Crimeline director was a guest this week on WDBO radio in Orlando, publicizing the story and reward, and giving additional attention to the case.

We attended and livestreamed the Town Commission meeting on Monday and shared the proclamation for Parks & Recreation Month via a Facebook post.

On Tuesday, we joined a webinar Joella arranged with department heads to discuss a budgeting solution. Communications' favorite aspect of the tool is its ability to create a well-designed, ADA-compliant budget book that can be shared on our website.

On Thursday, we will attend The Big Bang debrief meeting.

Communications worked with the Growth Management Department to complete the Quarter 2 Growth Management Newsletter. It is available in print at Town Hall and on our website.

Susyn has been researching a wireless audio accessibility solution for the Commission Chambers that could benefit both Commissioners and the public. The app-based product does not involve issuing equipment, but utilizes Bluetooth technology so that the persons needing accommodation could use their preferred listening device (hearing aid, headset, earbuds, etc.) This solution will not only meet the Chamber's needs but could potentially meet the future needs of the Library's new media spaces.

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

No report this week.

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

Growth Management sent site plan review comments to the applicant for the Church of Christ bathroom addition project located at 1421 Oak Street.

The minor site plan modification for the Water Oak Country Club Estates model home center conversion was approved on Monday. As part of this project, the three existing model homes located near the entrance of Water Oak will be converted into residential units. The existing gravel driveway will be removed, and a new asphalt street will be constructed in its place.

The development order was issued for the new Church at the Springs Lady Lake Campus. The project is located at 600 Rolling Acres Road and is the former home of the Daily Sun print shop. The existing building will be converted into a religious facility and an additional parking area will be added.

On Monday, the Town Commission cast final votes to approve the annexation of one property located on the north side of East Hermosa Street, approximately 105 feet east of Massachusetts Street, addressed as 129 East Hermosa Street; the property is approximately 2.29 acres. The

Future Land Use Map amendment for the property was also approved on Monday, changing the designation from Lake County Urban Medium Density to Lady Lake Single Family Low-Density (SF-LD). The zoning designation was also amended from Lake County Rural Residential to Lady Lake Single Family Low Density Residential.

Also approved at Monday's meeting was the final plat of the Boulevard Oaks Subdivision. The development will contain 160 non-age-restricted single-family residential lots on 41.22 acres. The property is zoned Planned Unit Development (PUD) and is located east of County Road 25/Teague Trail and north of Line Road, approximately 680 Linear feet south of the Marion County Line. The subdivision is currently under site construction.

A request for a development order extension was granted on Tuesday for Lady Lake Luxury Apartments. This project is located at 925 South Highway 27/441, just south of The Cove Apartments. 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.

Sixty building permits or revisions were received this week, and forty-seven permits were issued. Eighty inspections were completed in the field.

This week code enforcement opened thirteen new cases, closed sixteen cases, and conducted seventy-seven inspections for determinations of compliance or change of status.

**HUMAN RESOURCES (Tamika DeLee):**

This week, a total of three interviews were conducted for the following positions: permitting technician, mechanic, and police officer. A conditional offer letter is currently pending for the mechanic position. The Town currently has six new hires who are expected to join their respective teams in the coming weeks. We look forward to welcoming them aboard!

Open Enrollment is scheduled to begin on August 1st. Additional details will be shared soon to help employees prepare.

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (John Pearl):**

No report this week.

**LIBRARY (Aly Herman):**

This Monday, we were featured on the front page of *The Villages Daily Sun* local section for the soft opening of our Youth Library! Thank you, Elisha, for coordinating this for us.

On Monday, I attended the commission meeting, where the county requested that all member libraries extend their interlocal agreements with the Lake County Library System.

For the Lady Lake Library, this extension will be for one year, allowing time for all parties to work together on updating the agreement.

Shout out goes to Joella LeDonne this week. Joella took the initiative to organize a Teams meeting with all the department heads to introduce a product that could greatly benefit our budgeting process—helping us move beyond Excel spreadsheets and into the 21st century!

She also did an outstanding job submitting all the necessary paperwork to County Finance for reimbursement through our Impact Fee Grant. Once approved, the county will issue a check to the town within a two-week period. Thank you, Joella, for your hard work and dedication!

Later today, a staff member from Library County headquarters will visit to tour our new spaces. I truly enjoy showing them off—what can I say? I'm incredibly proud of how far we've come! A lot of hard work went into making this project a reality, and it means so much to see it benefit our community.

We're excited to welcome Steven Turner for a *Drumming Circle* today at 10:30 AM in the meeting room. Drumming Circle brings Social Emotional Learning to life—through rhythm, movement, and fun. Picture a room full of kids drumming, dancing, smiling, and celebrating *together* in a joyful, interactive experience.

Here are the youth program stats for this week:

-Craft Corner: 35

-Tiny Tots: 60

-Family Crafting: 33

-Storytime (Be Kind):50

-Reading with Scarlett: 19

- Scavenger Hunt: 23

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

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

The Parks and Recreation Department has been performing routine maintenance this week with the maintenance crew mowing and performing daily duties. We are moving forward with the contract for the Recreation Center Study and will see the gazebo roof starting soon.



*Figure 1 Rolling Acres Soccer Field Lighting*

The lighting project at the Rolling Acres Sports Complex is coming along well. As mentioned, we will have to have the contractor come back as we will have to wait for the Osprey to abandon the nest. Unfortunately, she seems quite content right now and will have to wait for the baby to fly the nest.

After the last couple of weeks and breaking down from all of the events for this time of year it has been nice to have a slower than usual week.

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

I represented the department at the quarterly Village Center Community Development District meeting and provided our law enforcement update. I was able to share about the recent drug arrests at Paradise Park and a few of the scams we have been seeing of late. I was also able to share with the supervisors the value of the Villages Community Watch program and the collaborative relationship that we share.

We had the honor of attending the monthly meeting at the American Legion Post 347 where they recognized and showed their appreciation for our Officer of the Year, Corporal Lidia Maya. We are so thankful for the support from our friends at the Legion.

Officer Redmond attended the Statewide School Resource Officer one-week conference.

The department held our monthly supervisors meeting.

On a personal note, I experienced a very nice and needed vacation. I have returned renewed and invigorated to continue the great progress we are continuing to make as a department. Full steam ahead.

**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, along with the previously mentioned proposal from our Engineers to perform services related to developing a Water Facilities Plan for SRF funding in last week's report, staff will be requesting an official vote on the extension of the City of Fruitland Park's Wastewater Treatment agreement with the Town. This was previously discussed in meetings and at the workshop held last month. The current 10-year agreement expires on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Previous commission consensus was to extend the agreement to 2 years to allow the city time to construct its own new treatment plant. If approved at the next meeting, the agreement would be extended until September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2028. Upon approval, staff and the Town attorney will then move forward drafting an amended agreement with the new term. As a side note, and as was previously discussed at the previous workshop meeting, the removal of the City of Fruitland Park from the Town's wastewater system does not eliminate the need for future expansion of the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Anticipated future growth (residential and commercial), current large projects under construction, accelerated build-out schedule, and development of already annexed properties with existing entitlements, potentially beginning construction, are setting the timeframe for the needed expansion.

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.

Met with residents regarding stormwater issues and tree trimming concerns.

**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.

Trimmed trees on Del Rio, Ventura, and Algonquin.

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

Staff completed multiple work orders at Town facilities. Assembled a new podium for the Library. Cleaned out drains at Town Hall.

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.

**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):**

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.

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.