

# TOWN OF LOXAHATCHEE GROVES

155 F Road Loxahatchee Groves, FL 33470



## AGENDA MEMO

**TO:** Town Council

**FROM:** Valerie Oakes, CMC, Town Clerk

**VIA:** Francine L. Ramaglia, CPA, AICP, ICMA-CM, Town Manager

**DATE:** December 3, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Proclamation – Proclamation Recognizing Neighbors Helping Neighbors Initiative

---

### Background:

The Neighbors Helping Neighbors Initiative was integral to the Town of Loxahatchee Groves' recovery efforts following the impact of Hurricane Milton and subsequent tornado activity. Through the Neighbors Helping Neighbors initiative, sisters Jo and Jessie Siciliano (active in Loxahatchee Groves Landowners Association & CERT) organized a comprehensive volunteer-driven response to the extensive storm damage. They mobilized community volunteers, engaged local businesses, and collaborated with churches and organizations to provide immediate assistance to affected residents, ensuring efficient debris and vegetation cleanup across the town.

The Sicilianos' efforts extended beyond physical labor; they fostered a spirit of unity, resilience, and selflessness within the community, supporting countless neighbors in need and enhancing the town's overall disaster response capabilities. Their exemplary leadership and commitment to Loxahatchee Groves have left a lasting impact, making them deserving of special recognition.

We also recognize "it takes a town" and must also recognize the "Neighbors" who helped their "Neighbors": Karen Plante, Amy Hanson, Peter LoMuto, Geoff Sluggett, Deirdre Krause, Susan Lynn, Carol Bailey, Eric Green, OLou Favata, Dana Favata, Carol Tiroff, Ariel Pedrosa, Gabe Bove, Mary Beam, Bill Armfield, Cheryl Reed, Brad Reed, Brendan Cornea, John Cornea, Jesse Johansen, Bob Carr, Kim Kiely, Anita Kane, Aly Daly, Steve Herber, Fieduetch Fiere, Christian Brominski, Jenna Thomas, Jameson Tattersfield, Heather Cuhiles, Phillis Maniglia, Nancy Handwez, Josephine Grace, Zach VanGilder, Dianna Babington, Marielle Babington, Marge Herzog, Joanne Byron, Monique Vanderkamp, Scott Sibley, Mary McNicholas.

In addition, the following businesses have supported the Town through recovery: O'Neal Roofing—both Father and Son Neil O'Neal Sr and Neil O'Neal Jr, Ed's Wells, Moye Wells, Eric the Irrigation Guy, Everglades Farm Equipment –Chad Freedman, Red Barn Feed & Supply. Engenuity Engineering –Lisa Tropepe, Andre Rayman & Tara Bamber, Coppola Brothers, Christ Fellowship Westlake, John Archambo, our own Mr. Storm Recovery, with Ashbritt, Ashbritt— Brian Thomason, Bill Johnson, Thompson Consulting—Nate and Amanda Thompson, Coastal— Tonya Edwards, Trevor Black, John Casagrande, Brown Land Holdings—Steve & David Braswell, Keshavarz—Maziar & Amir Keshavarz and Randy Wertepny, Langan & Associates-- Brian Merritt & Ryan Wolf, Bove Company-- Joe & Gabe Bove.

Each of the above has received the attached Thank You Letter.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends that the Town Council adopt the attached proclamation honoring Jo Siciliano and Jessie Siciliano for their dedicated service and leadership in organizing the Neighbors Helping Neighbors initiative. This proclamation will serve as a formal acknowledgment of their invaluable contributions and encourage continued community involvement and support.