

NEWSLETTER#29

SO MUCH IS HAPPENING I JUST DON'T KNOW HOW I WAS ABLE TO WORK FULL TIME BEFORE I RETIRED. I'VE DOING A LOT OF WORK FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF HENDRY COUNTY. WE ARE ABOUT TO FINISH TWO HOUSES AND HAVE ALREADY STARTED TWO MORE HOUSES FOR WHICH WE HAVE FAMILIES WHO KNOW WHICH HOUSE IS GOING TO BE THEIR HOME. HABITAT'S FAMILY SELECTION COMMITTEE GETS MANY APPLICATIONS FROM PEOPLE WANTING A HABITAT HOUSE. THE COMMITTEE MUST THEN SCREEN EACH APPLICATION AS TO INCOME (BETWEEN \$10,000 TO \$30,000), CREDIT CHECK (AS TO PAYMENT HISTORY) AND SEVERAL OTHER THINGS INCLUDING HOW THEY TAKE CARE OF THE PLACE THEY ARE NOW LIVING.

THE COMMITTEE MUST THEN DETERMINE WHICH OF THE APPLICATIONS TO PROCESS AND NOTIFY THE OTHERS THEY WERE NOT ACCEPTED FOR CONSIDERATION AT THIS TIME. THOSE THAT ARE ACCEPTED ARE THEN INTERVIEWED BY THE COMMITTEE WHO WILL DECIDE WHICH FAMILIES WILL GET A HABITAT HOUSE. THE FAMILIES SELECTED MUST PUT IN 500 HOURS OF SWEAT EQUITY PLUS A SMALL CASH DOWN PAYMENT BY THE TIME THEIR HOME IS BUILT. AFTER THEY HAVE COMPLETED THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS AND SIGNED THE MORTGAGE (WHICH IS FOR ½ THE APPRAISED VALUE WITH MONTHLY PAYMENTS AT NO INTEREST ON THE MORTGAGE LOAN) HABITAT WILL HAVE A CLOSING CEREMONY WHERE THE KEYS TO THE NEW HOUSE ARE GIVEN TO THE NEW OWNER. HABITAT TAKES A SECOND MORTGAGE FOR THE OTHER ½ OF THE APPRAISED VALUE. THERE ARE NO PAYMENTS ON THIS SECOND MORTGAGE AND WHEN THE FIRST MORTGAGE IS PAID THE SECOND MORTGAGE IS FORGIVEN.

IN THE LAST NEWSLETTER I GAVE YOU THE WRONG ZIP CODE FOR THE HENDRY COUNTY COURTHOUSE. IT SHOULD BE 33975 AND I GAVE YOU 33739. SORRY IT WAS MY MISTAKE BUT DON'T LET THAT STOP YOU FROM GETTING YOUR LOT IN THE PROPER NAME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THE EXIT OFF I-75 AT HIGHWAY 80 TO COME TO LaBELLE HAS CHANGED FROM EXIT 25 AND IS NOW EXIT 141 WHICH IS THE SAME AS THE MILE MARKER. THIS HAS NEEDED DONE SINCE I-75 WAS BUILT. WITH THE EXITS HAVING THE SAME NUMBERS AS THE MILE MARKERS YOU HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF KNOWING WHERE YOU ARE. THE STATE STARTED AT THE VERY SOUTH END OF I-75 AND ARE CONTINUING NORTH UNTIL THEY GET TO GEORGIA.

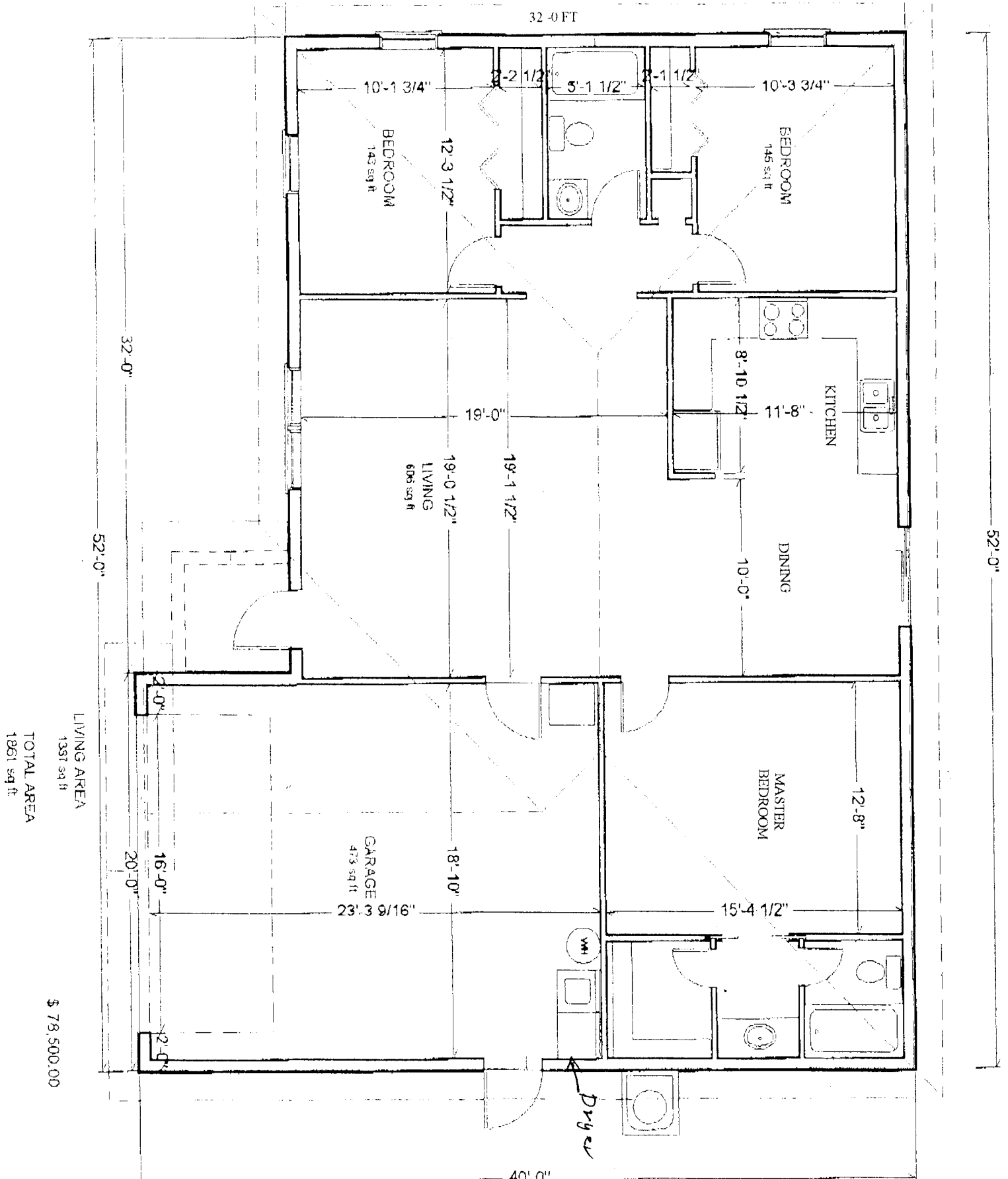
SOME OF YOU WILL GET THIS NEWSLETTER IN A HAND ADDRESSED ENVELOPE BECAUSE MY LABEL PRINTER JUST QUIT WHILE I WAS PRINTING THE MAILING LABELS FOR THIS LETTER.

YESTERDAY AT 2:00 WE HAD A MEETING OF THE PORT LaBELLE UTILITIES ADVISSORY BOARD WERE WE HAD A REPORT FROM WILKISON & ASSOCIATES ON OUR NEW WATER PLANT PROJECT. THEY STILL DIDN'T HAVE ALL THE STATE AND FEDERAL PERMITS NEEDED TO GO FORWARD WITH THIS PROJECT. THE TYPE OF SYSTEM WE GO WITH WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE PERMITS AND THE COST TO COMPLY BASED ON WHICH SYSTEM WE CAN AFFORD TO GO WITH. IN ANY CASE WE ARE EXPERIENCING GROWTH, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS AND MUST BE PREPARED FOR THE GREATER DEMAND FOR POTABLE WATER.

OUR WATER PLANT HAS TWO LARGE WELLS TO SUPPLY OUR WATER AND THE WATER IS DIFFERENT FROM EACH WELL AND EACH REQUIRES A DIFFERENT DEGREE OF TREATMENT TO MAKE IT POTABLE. WE HAVE ALWAYS USED A LIME TREATMENT METHOD TO GET POTABLE WATER. THIS HAS ALWAYS REQUIRED THE WORKERS AT THE WATER PLANT TO OPEN BAGS OF LIME TO DUMP INTO THE MACHINE TO START THE TREATMENT PROCESS. THIS IS AT BEST A NASTY AND DISAGREEABLE PLUS TIME CONSUMING PROCESS SO IF WE ARE FORCED TO CONTINUE TO USE THIS TREATMENT METHOD WE WILL INSTALL A LIME SILO TO ELIMINATE THE HANDS HANDLING THE LIME. JUST THE LIME SILO INSTALLED AND WORKING WILL COST FROM \$150,000 TO \$200,000. WE MUST HAVE A NEW BUILDING TO PROVIDE THE ADDITIONAL SPACE NEEDED PLUS THE SECURITY AN OPEN BUILDING CAN'T PROVIDE. ALSO WE NEED TO ADD A LABORATORY IN THE NEW BUILDING. THIS WILL ALLOW THE WATER PLANT EMPLOYEES TO TEST OUR WATER THERE INSTEAD OF TAKE IT OUT FOR TESTING.

CHL HOLDINGS HAS A 3 BEDROOM 2 BATH MODEL HOUSE IN UNIT 2 WITH PRICE OF \$124,900 AND HAS 5 OTHER HOUSES UNDER CONSTRUCTION. PORT LaBELLE IS GETTING MORE ATTENTION, AND IN MY OPINION WILL GET MUCH MORE ACTIVITY AS HOMESITES IN LEE AND COLLIER COUNTIES WEST OF US BECOME MORE AND MORE SCARCE AND EXPENSIVE, AND WHEN HIGHWAY 80 CONSTRUCTION TO 4 LANES GETS COMPLETED I THINK WE WILL BECOME THE BEDROOM COMMUNITY FOR LEE COUNTY IN THE YEARS TO COME. THE LOT PRICES HERE MAKE BUYING A HOUSE VERY ATTRACTIVE TO THE BUYER AND TO THE LENDER.

MOST HOME BUYERS DON'T HAVE THE TIME, MONEY OR EXPERIENCE TO BUY A LOT AND HAVE A HOUSE BUILT. MY WIFE AND I OWN SEVERAL LOTS IN PORT LaBELLE BUT BECAUSE OF MY WORK WITH HABITAT I DON'T FEEL THAT I SHOULD BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN BUILDING HOUSES IN PORT LaBELLE. I HAVE TALKED TO A LOCAL REALTOR AND WE HAVE TALKED TO A LOCAL BUILDER AND HAVE COME UP WITH SOME VERY ATTRACTIVE FIGURES. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BUILD ONE OR MORE HOUSES IN PORT LaBELLE WITH ABOUT 20% RETURN ON YOUR SECURED INVESTMENT CALL ME FOR MORE DETAILS. 863-675-0215 OR FAX AT 863-675-6510 OR E-MAIL AT reecer@olsusa.com BELOW IS ONE OF THE FLOOR PLANS AND THE BUILDERS PRICE TO BUILD THE HOUSE. THE COST TO BRING ALL LOTS UP TO HEALTH DEPT. REQUIREMENTS IS ABOUT \$11,000.



Harold