

# NEWSLETTER#31

December 9, 2002 Linda and I celebrated our 30<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. This was on a Monday and she had just gotten back on Sunday from a medical mission to the Dominican Republic where she had been the nurse on some surgical cases. The 5:30 Monday afternoon party was a real surprise but she knew something was up when friends came about 4:30 with 10 large platters of food, 2 platters of shrimp, a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake and etc., etc.. In spite of a very rainy evening, guests started to arrive minutes after 5:00 and kept coming until we had 89 friends here to help us celebrate. Fortunately the temperature was very comfortable and people could spread out on the patio and in the house without being crowded, so we hope everyone had a good time.

At 3:00 on December 9, 2002, before the party, we had a PLUS (Port LaBelle Utility System) advisory board meeting where we had too much on the agenda for me to miss. First Mr. Chuck Svirk (known to many of you as C.F.S. Properties and to others as COUNTRY HOMES & LAND) was at that meeting to ask the status of the water lines to Units 10, 11, 12 and 13 (Banyan Village). He was told that our plan was to put the water lines in when we had the money and he told us that he would prefer seeing the water lines go in now. We offered another meeting in about 30 days where Mr. Svirk would come back with some thoughts for getting financing to put the water lines in now. I hope to have good news about water lines to Banyan Village by the next newsletter.

Next on the agenda was the engineer the county has hired to oversee the building of a new water treatment facility for Port LaBelle. The board had several changes to be made before signing the contract so since we are coming back in about 30 days to meet with Mr. Svirk we will have the meeting when both parties are ready but not much more than 30 days because we want to get the water plant started and also hope to get started with the water lines to Banyan Village.

The meeting couldn't break up until our Superintendent Roger gave his report in which he again recommended to the board that he move the office from the courthouse back to Port Labelle and rent the CDD office. It was decided the rent and size were both more than was needed for the office even if customers would be coming to the office to pay bills. At this time Chuck Svirk said he would be interested in sharing the building and the rent so the board asked Roger and Chuck to get together and see what could be worked out and come back before the board at our next meeting in about 30 days. We were then able to adjourn and several of the people there came out, in the rain, to our party.

Chuck Svirk is still building houses and selling lots in Port LaBelle and it is so great to see activity after so many years of nothing happening. I want him to make money so he will continue to invest in our community.

The four laning of Highway 80 West of Labelle is moving along and now has the right-of-way cleared to the Hendry County line. There is some work done in Lee County and it's my understanding these are different contractors so let's hope the entire road west of Labelle is done in 2003.

Highway 80 east of Labelle to highway 27 is in the pipeline now so work should start to four lane that section in the next few years. Our Governor Bush moved both of these road projects ahead of schedule when he was here last. Highway 80 west of Labelle from 5 years to 2 years and highway 80 east of Labelle was moved ahead at least 15 years.

Habitat for Humanity of Hendry County is now building houses # 6 and 7. We were all much honored on Saturday, November 23, 2002 to have the founder of Habitat, Mr. Millard Fuller as our guest speaker. He spoke at our annual meeting and breakfast where there wasn't a dry eye in the place from the stories he told of families and how they worked to get their house. Habitat now builds houses in 67 countries and the number of countries is increasing every year. He then presented the new residents of house #5 with the keys to the house, which will be theirs in 20 years if the payments are made.

Habitat for Humanity of Lee County has now completed the purchase of a large building and about nine acres of land in Labelle which will be used by Habitat for Humanity of Hendry County. First we are using the space to build side walls and roof members for the houses we build. Now that we have a place of our own we



can build jigs for the different houses we build. The goal is to have our offices in the building, a thrift shop and other offices which haven't been decided yet. The land is next to the Lee Memorial Health System and the Winn-Dixie Super Market so when we build the retirement center people won't have to go onto the highway to get to medical attention or go to the Super Market. Here is a copy to show what I mean.

