



WINDOVER FARMS OF MELBOURNE

Homeowners Association, Inc.

*Message from the President
Sharon A. Savastio*

January/February 2010

Dear Homeowner,

This month I am once again trying to rally our community to a cause that has the potential to affect us all. As many of you may be aware, the Brevard County School Board is in the process of redistricting/rezoning Brevard County for school attendance boundaries.

Currently all Windover Farms students that attend public school in grades kindergarten thru six are assigned to Longleaf Elementary. However, that is subject to change if the School Board adopts one of the four options it is reviewing to achieve school populations that do not exceed 90% of their stated attendance capacity. Under one proposed plan currently being considered, one-third of Windover Farms homes would be reassigned to attend Croton Elementary located at the corner of Croton and Eau Gallie Boulevard.

While this may not sound like an important matter if you do not have children in your household, your children are home schooled or attending private school, the truth of the matter is this potential change could affect the future sale of your home. I am not saying this to cause panic but to simply make you aware of the situation. It is not unusual for families with children to purchase a home based on the school the area is zoned to attend.

*Unfortunately in the State of Florida, school boundaries are subject to change as populations grow and demographics shift. That is exactly what has happened to create the current situation necessitating the rezoning of most of Brevard County (locally Suntree Elementary is at 123 % of capacity and is in part responsible for our current situation). The question now is what action do we, as a community, need to take to address this situation? One answer is by attending the next School Board meeting on February 9th, 2010 starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Brevard County School Board office in Viera, located at 2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way. According to the original schedule the School Board is going to vote on a plan that will either establish new boundaries and a new school assignment for a portion of Windover Farms families or could choose to leave our subdivision intact with all Windover students currently (grades K - 6) attending Longleaf Elementary. I cannot stress enough how important it is that Windover Farms residents attend this very crucial meeting. In the past, School Board members and staff have responded to people appearing in mass to voice their concerns, long story short the squeaky wheel theory. However, it must be done in a controlled and respectful manner. With that said in addition to attending the meeting I urge you to contact by e-mail, phone or personal letter **ALL** of the School Board members, plus the key school employees listed on the attached list and let your opinion be heard.*

The very sad and unfortunate fallout from this rezoning is that it has created a situation that pits communities/subdivisions against each other. Longleaf Elementary has long been considered one of the best schools in the area and rightly so. Here in lies the problem; everyone wants their children to attend Longleaf. Families from Pineda Crossing, Deer Lakes, East Bay Plantation, Greystone, Parkway Meadows (and the list goes on) are hoping to have their children continue attending Longleaf. Additionally, the six separate communities of Grand Haven (Grand Haven has approximately the same number of homes as Windover with 306 children attending elementary school, Windover Farms currently has 152 children attending elementary school) have also stated their desire to attend Longleaf. These are just some of the communities in addition to Windover Farms that have stated a clear desire to attend Longleaf Elementary. My question at this point is, where do you draw the line as to who goes and who stays and what criteria do you use to make a decision that has such large impact to students and communities?

Currently a group of volunteers (parents and concerned residents) that feel any proposed change that would result in dividing the community is wrong are going door to door to collect signatures on petitions (also available at the office) that state their concerns. If you wish to become involved in this community effort and help please contact Pat at the office (259-2216), she will put you in touch with the volunteer coordinator. Again, you may think at first this proposed rezoning does not affect you because of your location in Windover Farms but keep in mind, what affects one part of our community affects us all. Our community needs to have a united front and that cannot be accomplished if you do not become involved. Your attendance at the February 9th meeting is crucial.

In January the annual Board of Directors election was held. The results of the election have Rich Folio and me returning for another two year term along with the newest member of our Board T.J. Doad. This year's officers and positions are as follows; Sharon Savastio President, Chuck Norris Vice-President, Steve Grigsby Secretary, Peter Cullen Treasurer, Rich Folio Director, and T.J. Doad as Alternate Director. I thank everyone who took the time to vote and I am looking forward to a great year.

In closing, I would like to emphasize once again how very important your attendance at the February 9th School Board meeting is to Windover Farms. Even if you do not wish to address the School Board your presence will speak volumes. I will be there to speak for Windover Farms, along with the entire Windover Farms Board and I hope to see you there.

Until next month,

Sharon