

Clay Gates

As residents of Prairie Creek Park since 1991, my family and I have really appreciated the life style and beauty of our Southwestern Florida community. With some 2,300 acres of homes, greenbelts, trails, and well-maintained common areas, our subdivision, and its equestrian life style offers a unique, and relatively undiscovered opportunity to experience living in Florida in a most enjoyable way.

My entire 47-year working career and service has been devoted to the field of Land Surveying and Civil Engineering. Prior to our relocating to Florida, we lived in Vermont, where I worked with the Agency of Transportation for the State of Vermont. After moving to Florida, and as a registered Professional Surveyor and Mapper in Florida, I have worked with Civil Engineering and Land Surveying firms on critical infrastructure programs such as roadways and bridge projects both locally in Punta Gorda area, and on the east coast of Florida.

Over my nearly 30 years as a resident in the Subdivision, and my 28 of service on the board of directors, I have been significantly involved with our community's important maintenance and development of our drainage system. From my professional background with areas of civil engineering and surveying, I both understand, and appreciate the enormous value our drainage system has to our property owners. Throughout those years of service to our community, I have work with others on the board to achieve the significant improvements the Subdivision has made, and to bring our drainage system to their current levels of maintenance and efficiency.

Having seen our subdivision experience patterns of regular flooding and poor drainage in the early years, mainly during our summer rainy season, the fact that the disruptive road flooding and other indicators of the improper maintenance of our drainage system and now infrequently happening, itself, a strong testament to the success of the Subdivision's efforts with drainage system maintenance. I am strongly aware of the need for constant maintenance of our ditches and structures. During my 28 years of service on the board, I worked with other board members to ensure these issues received their appropriate priority, and we continued to build on the progress made each preceding year to achieve the most efficient and effective operation throughout the Subdivision.

My approach to service for our community has always been without an agenda. I believe what matters is what is best for Prairie Creek Park, and its property owners. I've experienced the difficult year in 2012 when the Association voted to remove a sitting board of directors for their failure to fulfill their responsibilities to the community. Many of our new residents may not be aware of this. The sitting Board used \$25,000 of Subdivision money attempting to fight legally what the community voted for. The Florida statutes are quite clear regarding this process, ultimately the Association prevailed, as it should.

I support the Association's efforts to approve and establish a 'restricted' road reserve account that is requires both the approval of a majority of the Association to set up, and prevents any diversion or misuse of these funds for other projects by a future board.

I disagree with the misinformation and mischaracterizations I have seen on platforms such as next door, and the way it is being used to spread rumors and false information. I believe it should be device that brings us together as neighbors, rather than to divide us, and pit neighbor against neighbor. That simply is not appropriate.

I intend to continue living in Prairie Creek Park and hope to continue to be involved, and serve. I appreciate your votes for me in the past, and ask you to, once again, extend your support for my reelection to the board of directors during our election this November. I sincerely thank you for your support.

Clay Gates