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Orange County, Florida, Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2023

Pine Castle Preservation Press



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Pine Castle Safe Communities Preservation Assn., Inc.
7:00 p.m. on the 1st Monday of every month (except holidays)
at Pine Castle Woman's Club – 5901 S. Orange Ave.**
***In person.*
Check Facebook, www.OCSafeNeighborhoods.net, or PineCastleSafeCommunities@pcscpa.org for updates.

2023 Board Members
PresidentJune Schumann
TreasurerJackie Davenport
Parliamentarian.....Nancy Trout

Pine Castle Safe Communities Preservation Assn., Inc.
A volunteer association for residents and businesses of Pine Castle recognized as a 501(c)(3) public charity by the Internal Revenue Service.
Proof of certification is available upon request.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 6 **
Community Meeting
At 7 p.m.

April 3 **
Community Meeting
At 7 p.m.

May 1 **
Community Meeting
At 7 p.m.

** IN PERSON at the
Pine Castle Woman's
Club
5901 S. Orange Ave.

Message from the President:

~~~~~June Schumann

In Memoriam:

Gone too soon, our beloved Pine Castle Pioneer, **Marie Toye**, passed away on January 4. Marie was a past treasurer of the Pine Castle Safe Communities Preservation Association, Inc., and a member Emeritus of the Pine Castle Woman's Club, where she will be honored with the placement of a brick in Flossie's Garden, says **Sandra P. Chandler**, the club's president.

For a story of a life well lived and that recites the rich history of the City of Pine Castle through the eyes of its loyal pioneer, partake of Marie Toye's interview in Orlando Memory at:

<https://orlandomemory.info/people/marie-toye-oral-history-interview-pine-castle-pioneer-family/>,

where Marie speaks of her experiences from toddler to adulthood about Pine Castle in the making.

Link courtesy of **Jane Tracy, Librarian**, Orange County Library System.



**Florence Marie Bailey Toye**

## The Pine Castle Safe Communities Preservation Association, Inc.

Section 505 of the Orange County Charter endows the Orange County Board of County Commissioners with the power to "designate as preservation districts any areas of Orange County that are not within municipalities and that have existing historical and cohesive residential communities located within rural settlements as identified by the County's comprehensive plan (or within such successor land-use categories as the board may from time to time use in the comprehensive plan)." The Pine Castle Urban Preservation District is in unincorporated Orange County and is comprised of existing historical and residential communities that form a cohesive whole. Its boundaries and description are identified in Appendixes "A" and "B" to Orange County Ordinance No. 2002-11.

Orange County created the Pine Castle Safe Communities Preservation Association, Inc. in October 2010. It is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing programs that advance the quality of life and safety of the target community, which includes: to the West, Orange Blossom Trail; to the East, the City of Belle Isle; to the North, Redman Street and the City of Edgewood; and to the South, bounded by Sand Lake Road. An important function of the association is to provide recommendations to Orange County agencies in furtherance of the association's goals. You are invited to attend the monthly meetings at the Pine Castle Woman's Club, the first Monday of every month, at 7:00 p.m. There is no fee for membership. All are welcome.

## Reporting a Code Violation – Call 311

Jordan Hodge, Lead Code Inspector, Neighborhood Services Division

In the growing lexicon of technology, “Google it” has become the proverbial crutch we’ve adopted, forever propping us up with baked salmon recipes or the biking distance from Albuquerque to Saskatchewan. Albeit on a much smaller scale, Orange County has established its own pillar of information in our community. You may be familiar with the 311 non-emergency help and information service, but speaking from the code compliance perspective, you may be curious about what violations should be reported. Well, at the risk of sounding biased or vague, let’s just agree with the tried and true, “If you see something, say something,” as our baseline. If what you’re witnessing appears to be unusual behavior, is bothersome to you, or could otherwise be seemingly problematic for the public at large, report it to 311.

That aside, let’s also try to reveal more of what constitutes an actual code violation. Beginning with what is perhaps the most emblematic issue associated with code violations, let’s focus on high grass and weeds. The operative piece of this complaint is twofold: length and definition. High grass and weeds that meet or exceed 18 inches in height is a verifiable violation, but that only satisfies the first portion of the complaint. How vegetation is defined is the second part. The definition of grass and weeds does not include bushes, shrubs, trees, vines, flowering plants, or any other living plant life typically used and being used for landscaping purposes. Keeping these two points in mind, if your neighbor’s property is filled with exotic flowers, aromatic shrubbery, and the grass is kept at 17 ½ inches, a code violation cannot be issued.

Moving on, perhaps what you’re viewing isn’t located on the exterior of the home and is, instead, an interior issue. Do you see what appears to be a construction crew actively replacing a roof, tearing down walls, or converting a garage into an enclosed living space? These could be perfectly legal scenarios, but the appropriate permits are required. For these examples, if there are no permits issued, they would constitute as code violations. Including, but not limited to these examples of new construction and existing alterations, you can always call 311 and staff will determine whether the applicable permits were issued.

Wait, there’s more. Vehicles located on a property without a license plate/registration tag, trash/junk/debris strewn about the yard, roosters being kept on residential properties, recreational vehicles playing host and remaining occupied for periods of time, etc. are all representative examples of what you should report to 311. Taking this point a step further, a Code Compliance Inspector only has authority within the property’s boundaries. This is to say, if what you’re witnessing is on the sidewalk or in the street, there’s a good chance another division is responsible for addressing the matter, but you should still report it to 311. The matter will be referred to the appropriate agency to ensure it is handled as appropriate.

## The Castle in the Pines — How Did Pine Castle Get Its Name?

It was 1869. William Wallace Harney moved from Kentucky to Florida in search of a healthy climate for his ill wife. Shortly after the move, she passed away, and Will was left with an infant son and 160 acres of pine forest. What was Will going to do? Well, he knew he had been the editor-in-chief of a leading newspaper in Kentucky, so he decided to put his writing skills to work. Again, he was successful writing articles for magazines, newspapers, etc.

In 1870, he began to clear his 160 acres of pine forest. He wrote that he cleared land and built his home with turrets or towers reaching up toward the beautiful blue sky above. Will built his wilderness home on the western shores of Lake Conway. His home was his castle, nestled there in the pine forest. Will happily named his home Pine Castle. But he didn’t stop there. Will’s Pine Castle was designed for parties and a place for the locals to gather. He founded the Orange Glee Club, a group that sang and entertained at Will’s Pine Castle.

Will was influential in the community. He continued to establish a post office, a school, and a church, each of which was named Pine Castle, after his castle in the pines. Pine Castle United States Post Office was the first in the area.

Later cleared land became farms, and farms became housing developments with names we know today: Pine Castle, Sky Lake, American Heritage, Lake Jessamine, Lake Gloria, etc. These areas and hundreds of families make up the Pine Castle Safe Communities. If you live or own a business in the Pine Castle area, you are a member of the Pine Castle Community.

## Orange County Tenant’s Bill of Rights

Orange County’s Board of County Commissioners voted on January 24 to enact a Tenant’s Bill of Rights Ordinance. The ordinance establishes an Orange County Office of Tenant Services, among other things.

The Office of Tenant Services is established to increase tenant awareness of their rights and to provide guidance to tenants regarding available community resources. The Office may enforce violations of the Rental Notices Ordinance and the Tenant’s Bill of Rights Ordinance by issuing noncriminal civil citations.

The Tenant’s Bill of Rights Ordinance may be found in Chapter 25, Article XIII, Division 3 of the Orange County Code. The effective date is March 1, 2023. The Office of Tenant Services may be reached at telephone number 407-836-RENT (-7368).

## Citizen Planner Academy Monthly workshops

The Citizen Planner Academy consists of monthly workshops usually held on the last Saturday of each month. The classes teach the public about planning for a sustainable community, the land development process, and special topics within the planning field. The academy’s goal is to empower citizens with the tools and knowledge to become active decision makers within their community.

Visit [www.ocfl.net/citizenplanneracademy](http://www.ocfl.net/citizenplanneracademy) to register.

### 2023 Workshop Schedule (9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.):

|               |                                    |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| March 25:     | Sustainability                     |
| April 29:     | Economic Development/Redevelopment |
| May 27:       | Emergency Management               |
| June 24:      | Housing and Community Development  |
| July:         | No workshop                        |
| August 26:    | Mobility                           |
| September 30: | Planning Basics & Sustainability   |

GWFC

**The Pine Castle Woman’s Club**  
5901 S. Orange Ave, Orlando FL 32809  
[www.pinecastlewomansclub.com](http://www.pinecastlewomansclub.com)  
pcwc1940@gmail.com

Renovations are underway. Construction began on January 16, says Ruthie Harrell, Renovations Committee Chair. It is finally happening. Our contractor, Brent Walters, has the subs lined up to go fast. We are excited that we will have such a beautiful kitchen for the Club and the Corner Rose Tea Room. We are taking reservations for events to be held after construction is finished.

**TO BOOK TEA ROOM RESERVATIONS**

Corner Rose Tea Room

To confirm reservations for teas, call Maggi at 716-239-6077. Visit our Facebook page for menu examples.

We accommodate most food allergies, as well as vegetarian and gluten-free options. (The gluten-free option is an additional \$5.00 donation.) Children as young as 4 years old are welcome.

