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~ Working to Make Our Neighborhoods Beautiful and Safe ~

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Plan your next celebration  
 at the  
**Pine Castle Woman's Club**  
 5901 S. Orange Avenue - Corner of Oak Ridge  
  
 Call 407-494-9118



## Pine Castle Preservation Press

"Home is a shelter from storms – all sorts of storms." -William J. Bennett

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

**Meetings**  
**First Monday of Every Month, Except Holidays at 7 p.m.**  
 5901 S. Orange Ave.  
 Corner of Oak Ridge Road

**Board Members**  
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**President Jackie Davenport**  
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**Secretary Suzanne Robey**  
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**Parliamentarian Nancy Trout**

### Important Numbers

- 911 EMERGENCY
- 211 Crisis & Elder Hotline
- 411 Telephone Directory
- 511 Traffic Info
- 611 Telephone Repair
- 711 Hearing Impaired
- 811 Call Before You Dig

Orange County Sheriff's Office  
 Non-Emergency Complaint line  
 407-836-4357

Contact:  
 Jackie Davenport, President  
[ljdave@bellsouth.net](mailto:ljdave@bellsouth.net)



Jackie Davenport  
 President's Message

Dear Friends and Neighbors:  
 In the context of safety, the security of our homes flows from secure neighborhoods. Generally, we rely on government to provide safety, health, and welfare through the provision of adequate services, such as water, electricity, law enforcement, and code compliance. But, failure of code enforcement leads to blight such as graffiti, trash, environmental hazards, etc.; poor drainage such as clogged ditches and overgrown waterways and retention ponds leads to flooding; lack of road maintenance such as potholes, overgrown trees, and broken sidewalks lead to disrepair; and non-responsive law enforcement permits parking violations. When issues such as these create hazards and affect the environment, etc., we have to ask ourselves, "Is our passive reliance on government alone misplaced."

**The answer: Yes, It Is.** Your active participation in reporting the issues that adversely affect our safety, health, and welfare is required. Yes, you can make a difference whether you act alone or with the community and whether you agree or disagree with a particular topic.

Not only can you make a difference, you have to. Approximately three years ago, many high school students gathered to pick up trash along 5 miles of South Orange Blossom Trail in their "Loving the Trail" endeavor (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7u3kye3ATWw>). Almost every day of the year, for many years, one neighbor takes her walk along the path of Lake Jessamine Drive, from Tomoka to the Trail, picking up trash that insensitive folks drop along our waterways and streets. Equally as important, this neighbor calls 311 to report trash dumping along Tomoka, Makoma, and Lake Jessamine. Another neighbor, who does lawn work for several in the community, cuts the overgrown grass of swales as she travels from one job to the other in the neighborhood.

Just this past month, a resident's emails to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) motivated the agency to clean the retention pond at the intersection of Lake Jessamine Drive and Makoma Drive. The FDOT also cleaned the canal across from the pond that runs along Lake Jessamine Drive and empties into Lake Tyner. In addition, that neighbor alerted FDOT that the 15'x15'x25' area at the corner of the intersections of OBT and Lake Jessamine Drive and OBT and Woodsmere Avenue (all property of FDOT) need segregation and maintenance to provide the visibility intended for safe traffic. The agency confirmed ownership and enforced the clearing of the area.

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

We are now seeking for the agency or the County to provide landscaping for those areas to avoid the blight that these poorly maintained areas currently invite.

Some accomplishments include:

**CAMP Orange** (Center for Addiction and Mental Health) at the 4201 S. OBT motel): A united group of District 3 (us) and District 6 residents (with special help from a business owner on the commercial side) tendered 243 petitions. As a result, the applicant has temporarily withdrawn the application for special exception to provide housing. However, the County did issue them a permit to provide outpatient services. The residents are monitoring further action by the County in relation to providing funds for the operation of the business.

**City of Edgewood Industrial Project on the Randall Knives Property:** Notwithstanding the outcry against this project with supported presentations, and even though the only member of the public who spoke in favor was the Council president's wife, the residents were denied the opportunity to appeal the decision of the planning and zoning board, the notarization of the application in question, etc., the City Council approved the application. Many are still working on this matter, which is before the state government for approval. A special thank you to Sandra Castano for the excellent videos that have garnered traction regarding the additional OBT traffic that would result to our local roads. A major concern is the addition of traffic that this massive project will bring to our heavily congested OBT, local roads, including the intersections of Holden & Orange and Gatlin & Orange.

**Septage Treatment Plant on South OBT:** The Board of County Commissioners (BCC) denied the applicant's request to operate a septage treatment plant. Through community effort, approximately 1,800 petitions were signed and attendance at community and BCC meetings exceeded 100. Thank you to all of you who so bravely participated and a special thank you to those who spoke at the presentations.

Whether you sign a petition, let your home and curb appeal represent you, call 311 if you see trash, such as mattresses, furniture, etc. along the rights of way; call the Sheriff's non-emergency number (407-836-4357) or use the 311 app to report parking violations; or join in helping fight the big issues, such as brownfields, disabled vehicle storage or need assistance with an issue, etc., I invite you to our monthly meetings. Come for the camaraderie and give us your input. You Can and DO Make a Positive Difference in making our homes and communities shelters from all sorts of storms.

I welcome the opportunity to add you to our contacts mailing list.

Visit: [infosafecommunities@pcscpa.org](mailto:infosafecommunities@pcscpa.org)

# 2025 Upcoming Events May-December

**MAY 5**—Special presentations: 1) Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association, Inc.; (2) Redistricting and what it means for us; and (3) Vision 2050 Update.

**JUNE 2**—Orange County Fire Rescue Department: Preparing for Hurricane Season.

**JULY 7**—OBT Board: OBT—Happenings & Plans for Future Improvements.

**AUGUST**—Lake Boards & that Mysterious Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU) on your Tax Bill.

~~~~**SEPTEMBER 1, 2025—LABOR DAY NO MEETING**~~~~

**OCTOBER 7**—Asset Protection and Estate Planning: Protection for You & for Yours.

**NOVEMBER 3**—Orange County Property Appraiser will present a primer on Homestead Exemption and Save Our Home. Learn how to take advantage of these benefits.

**DECEMBER 1**—Christmas Celebration and Gathering—Bring friends, family, and your favorite dish to Share with the Community. Join in the celebration where we will break bread, and enjoy the camaraderie as we get to know our neighbors. Enjoy music and door prizes.

## Are You A Good Neighbor?

Being a good neighbor is important to you and to others. It promotes feelings of safety, and comfort. It also creates a more welcoming and secure environment by developing well-being and a sense of community.

Do you practice good neighbor etiquette? Keeping your front yard free of loose trash not only gives your home curb appeal, it sets an example for your neighbors to follow.

In addition to maintaining your property, being a good neighbor includes:

- 1) Being mindful of your surroundings, such as bringing the garbage and trash cans in promptly; especially during Holidays and Weekends. It also includes respect;
- 2) Recognizing noise levels. You may be having a party, but be mindful of the neighbor across the street who may be undergoing a crisis;
- 3) Maintain responsible control of your pets by using leashes and cleaning up after them;
- 4) Respect traffic laws about speeding and parking;
- 5) Show the neighborhood some love: avoid littering and pick up trash or call 311 to report issues with specific area information.

## Alert! Unwanted SPAM —Emails & Texts: How to Spot & What to Do ??

The **unsubscribe link** speaks for you. Therefore, if the spam is actually a scam, you may be setting yourself up for even more trouble because when you unsubscribe you may be advising scammers that your email is active. So, expect more spam. The Statista data firm reports that spammers, who use any email list that they can access, send an average of 3.4 billion spam emails every day.

Deleting spam is not enough. In fact, you may be making the built-in protections in your service less effective. Therefore, when you identify spam, mark it as such. If you use Outlook, you can label an email as junk, phishing, or not junk, a report automatically goes to Microsoft, which helps refine its filters. If you use Gmail: click on the stop sign with an exclamation mark to report spam. Google will then use that information to improve future filtering.

**Remember:** you can permanently delete contents of junk folders anytime; however, these folders usually auto-empty every 30 days.

**Spam texts:** To report spam texts to your carrier, forward the message to 7726 (SPAM), then block the number. Beware of messages pretending to be from your bank, a government agency, a delivery service, etc. Often, these include links claiming to fix a problem with your account or purport to provide an update on a delivery. These *links may lead to malware designed to steal your personal information*. As with email scams, look for grammatical errors, generic greetings (“Hello, Dear”) and a sense of urgency designed to pressure you into clicking or responding. Even if the message appears legitimate, you should never click on a unless you have verified it. **Always contact the sender directly using official contact information.**

## Commissioner’s Corner

Mayra Uribe, District 3



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As the warm weather rolls in and the school year comes to a close, I want to take a moment to welcome the sunshine and all the excitement that summertime brings to our community. There's something special about this time of year — the laughter of kids on break, neighbors gathering outdoors, and a renewed sense of connection across our district. I hope you and your loved ones find time to relax, recharge, and enjoy everything the season has to offer.

I also want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all our graduates across Orange County. Whether you're moving on from preschool, high school, college, or any other milestone, know that we are incredibly proud of you. Your hard work, determination, and resilience have not gone unnoticed. This is a moment worth celebrating and I wish you every success as you step into the next chapter of your journey.

As we head into summer, I encourage you to stay connected with our community newsletter. We have a full calendar of events planned from family friendly gatherings and outdoor movie nights to food drives and volunteer opportunities. These are the moments that bring us closer, and we'd love for you to be a part of them. Details will be shared throughout the season, so be sure to stay tuned and sign up for our monthly newsletter — email [district3@ocfl.net](mailto:district3@ocfl.net) or call us at 407-836-5140.

Thank you for being the heart of this district. I'm honored to serve you, and I look forward to seeing many of you out and about this summer. Please contact us if we can ever be of assistance.

With warmest regards,

*Mayra Uribe*

Mayra Uribe, District 3 Commissioner



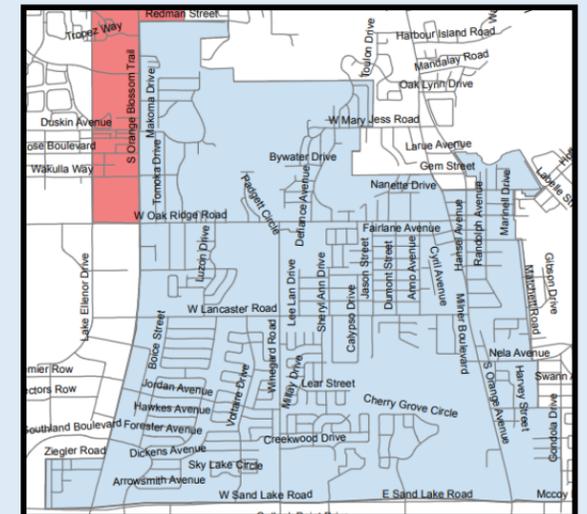
### Pine Castle/Skylake Safe Neighborhood

To the West is Orange Blossom Trail, to the East is the City of Belle Isle, to the North is Redman Street and the City of Edgewood, and to the South is Sand Lake Road.

Pine Castle Safe Communities Preservation Association, Inc.

Meets the first Monday of the Month at 7 p.m.  
Pine Castle Women’s Club  
5901 S. Orange Ave. / Corner of Oak Ridge Road

Pine Castle Safe Communities Preservation Association, Inc. is a volunteer association for Residents and Businesses of Pine Castle that is recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization.



### Sheriff’s Office



**FRIDAY, JUNE 20 | 12 - 2 PM**

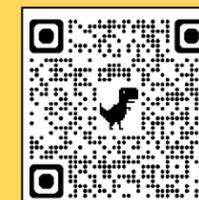
*This class is for Women 55+*

EAST ORANGE COMMUNITY CENTER  
12050 EAST COLONIAL DRIVE | ORLANDO, FL 32826

REGISTER AT [OCSO.COM/SELF-DEFENSE](https://www.ocso.com/self-defense)

### Visit OCSO’s Facebook

page or call  
407-254-7000 for more  
event information



### ORANGE COUNTY HURRICANE EXPO

**JUNE 21, 2025,  
9AM-1PM  
EVANS HIGH  
SCHOOL**

