

The League of Women Voters of Volusia County, Florida



THE **VOTER**

March 2007

Visit our Web site at: www.lwvvc.org

LWV Purpose : To promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected issues.

*Annual Meeting Saturday, April 28, 2007

Guest Speaker

**Attorney Diego Handel

"OVERVIEW OF CURRENT IMMIGRATION ISSUES"

Volusia Room at the Daytona Beach Airport

Free Short Term Parking: Get parking ticket validated at the restaurant.

9:15 Breakfast Buffet: \$15.00

***RSVP by Wednesday, April 25

10:00 Speaker

11:00 Annual Meeting

* See pages 3-10 for Annual Meeting information.

**See page 2 for Mr. Handel's biography.

***RSVP to, mail@lwvvc.org or Call Chris Mosley

Recycling (Garage) Sale

Saturday, March 24

Home of Dennis and Summer Clayton

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Set-Up: Friday, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Diego Handel, Esq.

Diego Handel received his B.A. with honors in 1980, and his Juris Doctor in 1983, both from the University of Miami. While at the university, he was editor of -Lawyer of the Americas: Journal of International Law. Beginning his career in 1984, he worked first in corporate law and litigation, and for a short period he clerked for Gutman and Elon, Counsel to the Labour Party, in Jerusalem, Israel. In 1986 he came to Daytona Beach and from 1992 to the present, he has been a partner in the Glasser and Handel law firm.

Mr. Handel is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. He has practiced for 22 years in the immigration area, which consists of family petitions, employer and investor petitions, administrative and federal litigation and naturalization, and employment sanctions enforcement issues. In addition to his extensive international law practice, he is a legal advisor to the Mexican Consulate in Orlando.

Mr. Handel is the recipient of the Florida Bar Pro Bono Circuit Award. He is a member of the Halifax Area Trade Council and the Center for International Business Education. Moreover, he even finds time to travel to Mexico where he is invited to teach university law courses.

President's Column: Garage Sale

Dear LWV-Volusia County Members:

I would like your help with an important fundraiser organized by the LWVVC Board of Directors, a **garage sale**, scheduled for **Saturday, March 24, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Our goal is to raise \$750. In the past we have sometimes raised more and sometimes less. However, you have always been generous with your contributions:

furniture	garden tools	luggage	glassware
small appliances	kitchen items	toys	art/frames
books	linens	clothes (good quality, only)	

From the above list you can see why we are so successful. We sell good quality STUFF, much collected from friends and neighbors. Also, we are our own best customers. The evening before the sale, when we are helping to set up, we pick out what we are going to buy the next day. And, we have fun!

Once again, we are indebted to Dennis and Summer Clayton for making their lovely, spacious Port Orange home available for this sale. Please join us at the Clayton's: 5830 Spruce Creek Woods Drive, off Taylor Road near Spruce Creek High School.

Here's how you can help: ___ Donate items for the sale; ___ Help with Set-up, 6-8 p.m, Friday evening; or ___ Help with Saturday sale, 9-11 a.m. or 11a.m-1 p.m.

Thank you!

Judy Moore

Coming in June...

Greg Northrup, Mayor of Daytona Beach Shores, will be the speaker at the Saturday, June 16 general meeting of the LWVVC. As a member of the Volusia County League of Cities Executive Board, Mayor Northrup is well positioned to speak about the role of area municipalities in developmental growth and what their recommendations are for the wise management of growth in Volusia County.

Mark your calendars now: Saturday, June 16, 9:45 Brunch, Palmetto Club

Proposed Budget 2007-2008

		Budget 05-06	Budget 06-07	Budget 07-08
				Proposed
INCOME:				
	Membership Dues ⁽¹⁾	3,825	3,750	4,275
	Contributions	800	500	500
	Membership Fund ⁽⁵⁾	0	72	75
	Fundraising ⁽²⁾	3,900	850	4,000
	Interest	5	5	5
	Meetings	1,500	1,500	900
	Voter Sponsorship	500	750	500
	Other Income	0	0	0
	Subtotal	\$10,530	\$7,427	\$10,255
EXPENSE:				
A.	Operating Expenses			
	PO Box	126	65	65
	Postage	300	300	300
	Printing	125	125	175
	Supplies	175	175	175
	Telephone	490	490	490
	Web Page (ISP) ⁽⁶⁾			100
B.	Board & Administration	100	100	100
C.	Delegate Expenses ⁽³⁾			
	LWVF Convention	400	270	400
	LWVF Legislative Seminar	510	270	472
	LWVUS Convention	1,000	0	1,000
D.	PMP			
	LWVF ⁽⁴⁾	972	975	1,112
	LWVUS ⁽⁴⁾	1,755	1,785	2,291
E.	Voter Expense	1,080	1,200	750
F.	Meetings, Pubs, Award	1,397	1,400	1,000
G.	Fundraising ⁽²⁾	1,900	100	1,600
H.	Miscellaneous			
	Other	100	50	100
	Workshops	100	50	50
	Membership Fund ⁽⁵⁾	0	72	75
	Subtotal	\$10,530	\$7,427	\$10,255

NOTES

(1) Membership as of January 2007, projecting no change

	<u>members</u>	<u>dues</u>	<u>total</u>
Local Individual	61	\$50	\$3,050
Household (2)	16	75	1,200
National	15	0	0
Honorary	1	0	0
Student	1	25	25
Associates	2	0	0
	112 members		\$4,275

LWVVC dues are not increased over 2006-07 dues . (continued on next page)

(2) Fundraising
 Fundraising includes 'Politicos on Parade in 2007-08. There are substantial income and expenses associated with this event. In 2006-07, the major fundraising project is the 'Garage Sale' The income is substantially less, but so are the expenses.

(3) Delegate Expenses
 Expenses include the Florida Convention
 The Florida Legislative Seminar and
 The National Convention

(4) PMP National (\$26.80 per individual)

	<u>members</u>	<u>dues</u>	<u>total</u>
Local Individual	61	\$26.80	\$1,635
Household (2)	16	40.20	643
National	15	0.00	0
Honorary	1	0.00	0
Student	1	13.40	13
			<u>\$2,291</u>

PMP Florida (\$13.00 per individual)

	<u>members</u>	<u>dues</u>	<u>total</u>
Local Individual	61	\$13.00	\$793
Household (2)	16	19.50	312
National	15	0.00	0
Honorary	1	0.00	0
Student	1	6.50	7
			<u>\$1,112</u>

(5) Membership Fund This is carryover from a 2005-06 fundraising project.

(6) Web page expenses are for an Internet Service Provider (ISP). New in 07-08.

Current Elected LWVVC Officers and Directors

President	Judy Moore (2005-2007)
First-Vice President	Vacant (2005-2007)
Second Vice-President	Jean Bragg (2005-2007)
Secretary	Lois Filipic (2006-2008)
Treasurer	Christina Moseley (2006-2008)

Directors (2005-2007)

Rosemarie Gore
 Sandra Horikami

Directors (2006-2008)

Betty Johnson
 Annette Parker
 Ann H. Smith

Nominating Committee (2006-2007)

Larry Moore, Chair
 Ann Harrell
 Virginia Roche

Nominated Officers and Directors

President	Sandra Horikami (2007-2009)
First Vice-President	Mary "Kitty" Garber (2007-2009)
Second Vice-President	Claudia Roth (2007-2009)

Directors (2007-2009)

Rosemarie Gore
 Linda Sullivan

Nominating Committee (2007-2008)

Joanne Pinkston-McDuffie, Chair
 Ann Harrell
 Carolyn West

LWVUS Bylaws Changes

LWVUS Bylaws Changes do not require a vote, just compliance.

According to LWVUS policy, as stated in *In League*, the first three articles of all local and state League bylaws must be consistent with those of the LWVUS in order to define and maintain the unity of the organization and the powers and privileges of members.

(A thick dotted line indicates deleted words, and [words in brackets] indicate added words)

The amendments approved at LWVUS Convention 2006 affect these articles.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSES AND POLICY

Section 1. Purposes. The purposes of LWVVC shall be to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government, and to act on selected governmental issues.

EXPLANATION: *The first amendment removes the words “of citizens” from Article II.*

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 2. Types of Membership.

- A. Voting Members. Citizens at least 18 years of age residing within the United States, a territory, or an associated commonwealth who join the LWVVC shall be voting members of the LWVVC, the LWVF and the LWVUS.
 1. Individuals who live within Volusia County may join the LWVVC or any other local league.
 2. Those who reside outside the area of any local league may join the LWVVC or may be LWVF members at large.
 3. Those who make a lump sum life membership payment to the LWVUS shall be paid life members and those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be [honorary] life members excused from the payment of dues.

EXPLANATION: *The second change was to Section 2, Article III, which defines types of members. The amendment deleted the “lifetime membership” category. It has not been offered by LWVUS for many years. This membership type is often confused with “honorary members,” individuals who have been members for 50+ years. This latter category “honorary members” has not changed.*



Proposed LWVVC Bylaws Change (This change must be voted on.)

The proposed change is reflected below. A thick dotted line indicates deleted words, and [words in brackets] indicate added words.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

Section 1. Election/Qualifications and Term. The officers of the LWVVC shall be a President, [or two Co-Presidents,] two Vice Presidents, a Recording Secretary, and a Treasurer. These officers shall be elected by the membership at the Annual Meeting for a term of two years to take office July 1. The President [or two Co-Presidents], the First Vice-President, and the Second Vice-President shall be elected in the odd-numbered years. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected in the even numbered years.

EXPLANATION: *At the March 14, 2007 meeting of the LWVVC Board of Directors, Larry Moore, Nominating Committee Chair, recommended a bylaws change so that if the need ever arises, there can be two Co-Presidents.*

If this change is passed, other necessary editorial changes regarding the presidency will be made in the bylaws.

LWVVC PROGRAM: PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The League of Women Voters of Volusia County supports efforts to make children's services a priority in Volusia County, with the emphasis on early intervention, prevention, and prenatal care.

COUNTY CHARTER

The League

1. Supports protections of the County Charter and its principles, to include monitoring County Council to ensure that the principles are implemented.
2. Supports an appointed (rather than elected) sheriff, property appraiser, and supervisor of elections, all with professional qualifications.

GOVERNMENT (revised position adopted 4/23/05)

The League of Women Voters of Volusia County supports the following efforts:

1. Volusia County and the municipalities within its borders should work together to protect the Environment while providing reasonable use of land.
2. The Volusia County Comprehensive Plan should involve the means to discourage cities from extending their boundaries into unincorporated areas needed for recreation and open spaces.
3. Public interest should be given priority regarding the conservation of our natural habitats in Volusia County.
4. More attention needs to be given to the Potable Water issues in Volusia County within the Comprehensive Plan.
5. The Volusia County Comprehensive Plan must emphasize the need for effective drainage systems, in order to enhance recharge and retention, and to avoid flooding issues.

Proposed New and Revised Position to Replace the Current Government Position

Government *The League of Women Voters of Volusia County is concerned about the negative consequences of rapid growth throughout the region. In order to preserve the quality of life in Volusia County:*

LWVVC supports Volusia County and the municipalities within its borders working together to protect the environment while providing reasonable use of the land and restricting the use of wetland mitigation.

LWVVC supports buffering of environmentally sensitive land and water bodies and encourages developing open, recreational and green spaces to enhance and maintain quality of life within the county and its municipalities.

LWVVC supports giving public interest priority regarding the conservation of our natural habitats in Volusia County.

LWVVC supports increased consideration to potable water issues, including the assurance of clean water in the Comprehensive Plans of Volusia County and its municipalities.

LWVVC supports development of effective drainage systems to improve recharge and retention areas and reduce flooding in Volusia County and its municipalities.

LWVVC encourages Volusia County and its municipalities to work together to direct regional growth in a responsible manner.

LWVVC supports that any comprehensive-plan amendment or rezoning that permits increased residential density may be approved only if adequate public schools can be timely planned and constructed to serve the projected increase in student population.

Submitted by the LWVVC Local Government Study Committee: Sandy Horikami, Summer Clayton, Rosemarie Gore, Larry Moore and Jean Snyder, Chair.

NATURAL RESOURCES

1. **The League of Women Voters of Volusia County supports efforts to conserve and protect our water supply as an essential part of ecosystem management. These efforts include:**
 - a) **The County Council's continued implementation of Volusia County's stormwater management ordinance.**
 - b) **LWVVC's continued participation in the LWV Coalition to monitor the St. Johns River Water Management District.**
 - c) **Sound management of Volusia County's designated sole source aquifer.**
 - d) **Protection of Volusia County's recharge area.**
 - e) **Establishment of a county-wide entity to govern water usage.**

2. **LWVVC opposes the development of a Ponce Inlet Marina.**

STORMWATER

1. **Because stormwater basins and sub-canal systems cross city/community boundaries, LWVVC believes that Volusia County should be primarily responsible for their maintenance.**
2. **LWVVC supports both county and local stormwater fees.**
3. **There should be incentives for using reclaimed water.**
4. **Local municipalities should include streetsweeping in their stormwater management plans.**
5. **In addition to preventing flooding, effective stormwater management plans must provide for:**
 - a) **reduction of pollutants entering the waterways,**
 - b) **reduction of desalination of salt water tributaries in the county,**
 - c) **reclamation of stormwater to reduce the demands on the aquifer and**
 - d) **reduction of runoff pollution entering the aquifer.**

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE – ZERO TO FIVE

1. **Recommendations to the Florida Legislature:**
 - **Improve pay and benefits for child care staff.**
 - **Amend statutes to require improved ratios of adults to children.**
 - **Provide funding to assist facilities in becoming Gold Seal facilities.**
 - **Increase payments for subcontracted centers.****Permit child placing agencies to evaluate child care facilities and to provide information to parents to help them make informed decisions.**

2. **Recommendations to the Florida Legislature and the Volusia County Council:**
 - **Require licensing of all Family Child Care Homes.**
 - **Provide funding for additional licensing personnel.**
 - **Develop a training program for all Family Care Child Care Homes.**

3. **Recommendations for Community Involvement:**
 - **Develop facilities for night and weekend child care.**
 - **Develop alternative programs for ill children.**
 - **Encourage companies to collaborate on establishing quality child care for employees.**



Overview: Federal Immigration Policy and Proposed Reforms
By Deborah Macmillan, LWVUS Study Committee
Federal Immigration Policy

Federal immigration policy applies directly to anyone who has immigrated or who wishes to immigrate to the U.S. It does not apply to persons born in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories, as these are native-born U.S. citizens. Federal policy determines, Who may immigrate to the U.S., How or if they may become citizens, and Many aspects of their lives once here.

Legal immigrants and categories under which they may enter the U.S.:

Immigrants who enter the U.S. legally today are most likely to do so as a spouse or child of a citizen or permanent resident, or as another family member. The next largest group enters under an employment-based preference or as a refugee/asylee. Diversity immigrants, the last group of any size, come from a variety of countries under a “lottery” system without respect to the number entering from their countries via other visa groups.

In 1965, a major revision of immigration law set quotas for these various groups. These quotas indicate the primary foci for U.S. immigration policy:

Employer need and employment-based preferences, including high-level professionals and entrepreneurs who provide work for others

Family reunification

For citizens

For other permanent residents

Reunification with immediate relatives (spouses, children)

Human rights issues related to needs for refuge, asylum or other protected status *Diversity* of country of origin

The quotas for these different groups are complicated. For example, the total quota for family-based immigration is 480,000, but immediate relatives of U.S. citizens are exempt, and actual totals generally exceed 600,000.

The 1965 legislation eliminated the 1924 country-based quotas heavily weighted to immigration from Germany, Great Britain and Ireland, and opened immigration to all countries. The 1965 diversity requirement set a maximum for each country of 7 percent of the total immigration in a given year (excluding refugees), but eventually led to de facto quotas. Originally, that quota was 20,000 immigrants per country per year; since 1990 it has grown to slightly over 25,000 per year. As a result, legal immigration from Mexico, China, India and the Philippines, the countries that send us the most immigrants, is markedly lower than it would be if entry from a country were proportionate to those who wanted to come.

Temporary visitors: Federal policy also determines who may enter the U.S. on a temporary basis, for instance as a tourist, a student or a guest worker. Temporary work quotas are also complicated. For example, in 2005 the quota for skilled professional workers was 65,000, but the actual number of these temporary workers was roughly 124,000. This number includes 20,000 workers with advanced degrees, not counted against the quota, who worked for the government, nonprofit organizations and educational institutions. Temporary visitors should, as the name implies, have little relevance for permanent immigration, but 25 to 40 percent of unauthorized immigrants are individuals who have overstayed temporary visas. Adjustment from temporary to permanent status is frequent.

Employment visas and trade agreements: Employment is a major goal for both immigration and visitor policy, but trade agreements and immigration laws and policies can be spectacularly out of sync. For example, since 1994 the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) contributed to the substantial increase in trade between the U.S. and Mexico, while immigration from Mexico to the U.S. grew more restricted and more problematic.

Quotas as policy: Numeric quotas are indicative of the importance of family unification, employment (mostly skilled) and diversity. These quotas also indicate a desire to limit immigration in order to minimize the disruption of large-scale or uncontrolled immigration. Much of the current focus on control stems in part from the very visible increase in immigration over the last several decades. This is true even though the percentage of

immigrants today in terms of current population figures is no larger than it was in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Nationally our foreign-born percentage increased From less than 5 percent in 1970, its lowest point since before 1850 when records were first kept, To 9 percent in 1990, To 12 percent in 2000, To between 12 and 13 percent in 2005.

A: In 1990, our foreign-born were concentrated in a few states. Only five coastal states showed 12 percent or higher.

B: Today 14 states have populations with 12 percent or higher foreign-born, including Illinois and Arizona as well as several coastal states and the District of Columbia.

C: Many states with a relatively low percentage of foreign-born in 1990 remain below the 12 percent threshold today. Nonetheless, they have experienced a doubling or tripling of the percentage of foreign-born residents. This marked increase in communities and states other than traditional immigration centers has been a major factor in nationalizing the attention paid to immigration.

Covert border crossings: A large group of immigrants enter this country illegally many by covertly crossing the U.S. border with Mexico. Originally this group was predominantly male and highly transient with workers making frequent trips to and from Mexico. Illegal border crossing has become more publicized and difficult, return trips have decreased and migrating groups often include entire families. As a result, more children of unauthorized immigrants have been born in the U.S., and permanent residence has become a more likely prospect for their families.

Naturalization and rights of naturalized citizens: Immigrants who wish to become citizens may do so through the naturalization process. The process requires five years of residence (three for spouses of U.S. citizens or members of the military); the ability to read, write and speak simple words and phrases in English; and a basic knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of American history and principles of U.S. government. An immigrant seeking naturalization must have maintained good moral character for the requisite five years. A naturalized citizen has all of the rights of a native-born citizen with the exception that a naturalized citizen cannot become president of the United States. However, naturalized citizens may serve in positions that could lead to the presidency. Henry Kissinger and Madeleine Albright did so as Secretaries of State, and currently Carlos Gutierrez and Elaine Chao are Secretaries of Commerce and Labor, respectively. Because of a ruling in a recent lawsuit, naturalized citizens may remain subject to deportation/removal in certain instances.

Rights of other immigrants: Immigrants who have not gone through the naturalization process, as well as unauthorized immigrants and immigrants legalized in the 1986 amnesty program, have many of the same rights as native-born citizens, including constitutional rights guaranteed in the **Bill of Rights**.

Only citizens, native-born and naturalized, may vote in federal elections. In the past, non-citizens have been able to vote in many state and local elections, but currently, few jurisdictions allow non-citizens to vote. Like native-born and naturalized citizens, permanent (legal) immigrants may sponsor immediate relatives (spouses and children under 21) and other family members, but at a lower priority than citizens. Since 1996 permanent residents other than refugees have faced increasing restrictions with respect to access to the courts and use of social services such as Temporary Aid For Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, Social Security and other welfare services.

Rights of U.S. citizens by virtue of birth: Children born in this country are U.S. citizens, with all the rights of other U.S. citizens. This includes U.S.-born children of unauthorized immigrants. Legal challenges to their citizen status have been unsuccessful, but procedural challenges may have more impact. For example, because proof of citizenship is now required for a child to receive treatment under Medicaid, treatment could be denied to a new born infant until proof of citizenship is verified; this could take several weeks.

Changes and proposals since 2001: In 2002, the PATRIOT Act extended the criteria for foreign-born entrance (or for denial of entrance) to include security and terrorist concerns, health grounds, criminal history, indigence and previous removal. People judged to be “anarchists and political extremists” have been excluded since the assassination of President McKinley by a Polish anarchist in 1901. The 2005 Sensenbrenner bill proposed extending deportable offenses to include drunken driving, as well as provisions for building 700 miles of security fencing along the Mexican border.

Visit our Web site at: www.lwvvc.org
Follow the link to the LWWUS Immigration Study for more articles.

National language: The U.S. has never had an official language. The issue has been raised off and on since we first became a nation. Each time it has been rejected as impractical, generally because of the burden it would impose on major groups of citizens, residents and visitors. We do, however, require most immigrants to speak and understand simple English in order to become citizens. Several states, territories and communities have passed or attempted to pass legislation requiring English as the language of government or as one of two or three such languages. Most recently, Arizona passed a referendum in the November 2006 election to this effect, a second attempt following 1988 legislation which was overturned by both the state and the federal supreme courts. Similarly, Hazleton, PA, has revised its English-only law to try to ensure it will withstand court review. In addition, had the Senate's McCain-Kennedy bill passed the House as well, and had it retained the Inhofe amendment, English would now be our national language.

Additional Changes and Proposed Reforms

It is likely that there will be some new legislation and regulations over the next few years, not just concerning the language and security issues noted above, but in other areas as well.

Pathway to citizenship: As in 1986, Congress will likely create some path to citizenship for the large number of unauthorized immigrants currently in the United States. This legislation will probably be coupled with policies and regulations intended to limit the number of unauthorized immigrants in the future. In 2005, the McCain-Kennedy bill proposed that unauthorized immigrants in the country for five years or more could remain if they so chose. But, they would have to continue working, paying taxes and any back taxes, and learning English. Only after paying at least \$3,250 in fines and fees, could they become legal permanent residents.

Amnesty for children: Overall amnesty similar to that in the 1986 law seems unlikely. Amnesty for individuals educated in our schools whose parents brought them to this country when the children were too young to play any part in the decision to enter without documents or to overstay their visas is a more likely outcome.

Increased quotas: Increased quotas where the pressure is the highest could substantially cut the number of new unauthorized immigrants, especially if visa applications were processed promptly. Geographically this could benefit Mexico and possibly the rest of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as China, India and the Philippines. Increased quotas for temporary workers and low-skilled workers (both temporary and permanent) seem possible. The Senate's McCain-Kennedy bill in 2005 included an increase of 1.5 million guest farm workers with provision for earning permanent status. Increases in employment visas could result in further experimentation in enforcement by employers and in some collaboration between employers and government.

Changed status for children of unauthorized immigrants: Several proposed amendments to the 14th Amendment's citizenship clause have specified that a U.S.-born child would have automatic citizenship only if at least one parent were a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. Thus far, no such proposals have succeeded to the point of a general vote by either house of Congress.

State and local legislation and enforcement: Some reforms have been attempted at the local level by communities like Hazleton, PA; Riverside, NJ; and Escondido, CA. At the state level, Arizona passed a number of referenda in 2006 in addition to the language referendum referred to above. Most of these reforms appear to be attempts to exercise local control when federal control is perceived as weak or absent. Some seem aimed at limiting local expenses or at seeking redistribution of incomes to cover local expenses. To complement efforts of local and state governments, some in the federal government are seeking to push back responsibilities to the local level. These local efforts run counter to the norm established in the late 1800s. At that time, the creation of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and construction of the administration buildings and hospitals on Ellis Island spurred the federal government's action to concentrate responsibility and action at the federal level and to make immigration policy uniform across the country. That uniformity will be at issue today if there is, in fact, a move away from federal to local/state immigration laws and policies.

To learn more about the LWVUS Immigration study, go to www.lwv.org . Click on the Immigration Study and look for the following background papers: "Immigration and the Economy," "Economic Aspects of Authorized and Unauthorized Immigration," "Effects of Global Interdependence on Migration," and "Immigration: Diversity and Inclusion."

Observer Corps

Holly Hill City Commission: Most of the issues with Holly Hill relate to land development. There is an attempt to circumvent neighborhood boundaries by changing the residential planned urban development regulations (RPUD) effecting zoning density in residential areas from 5 down to 2 acres and in the commercial planned urban development (CPUD) from 2 to 1 acre. This appears to be in response to the recent citizen outcry to a builder trying to put high density housing in a low density neighborhood. The citizens response was 100% against, but the commissioners voted 3-2 for. Only Reed and Anderson voted with the citizens. The second reading will be the 22 of March.

Bonnie McMillan

New Smyrna City Commission: The decision keep NSB High School as some kind of educational institution has made many environmentalists happy because it would hopefully prevent the sale of the land for condominiums along the sensitive river and estuary. Several groups are still hoping for some kind of Marine Science research facility, possibly university associated, for the site.

The NSB Planning and Zoning Board has received a recommendation from the City's Director of Developmental Services requesting a review of the coastal management element of the city's Comprehensive Plan. He wants to allow coastal property owners permits for seawalls along an extensive area of the beach in NSB. This has been debated by experts for years, suggesting that armoring the coastline contributes to further beach loss. The current concern is that properties, including large condominiums, are in danger of structural damage or, at worst, falling into the ocean. This is only part of the permitting process required, which includes regulations, restrictions and prohibitions by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and other NSB city code ordinances. The Planning and Zoning Board was split 2-3 and withheld approval on the request, at least for the time being. I know, from my many years of community activity in Bethune Beach that the beach armoring issue, the coastal set-back line issue and compliance with the state, county and city plans regarding the beach are serious and difficult to solve problems.

Carolyn Creech,

Orange City Commission: Currently the commissioners are excitedly preparing for their 125th anniversary of the establishment of Orange City to be celebrated the week-end of March 16-18.

It looks as if plans for developing the land set aside for the failed west side convention center are going forward. The alternative development plan passed the first reading at the meeting on the 13th. The second reading should occur March 27.

Bob Miller

Ponce Inlet City Commission: One of the liveliest meeting of the year occurred at the February 21 city council meeting when young teen-agers exercised their civic responsibility by respectfully and forcefully addressing the commissioners in favor of a skateboard park. They clearly made an impression and changed votes in their favor. They will get their park; location and details to follow. Details will involve up-front costs and maintenance, exact location, sound barriers, lighting, supervision, equipment and limits on hours of use.

The meeting on this date lasted late into the night, so it was altogether fitting that they also had on the agenda a commitment to a "time certain" for meetings to conclude.

An important but long discussion was held on concurrency with the Florida League of Cities positions for lobbying activities in the upcoming legislative session. The commissioners agreed to put Ponce Inlet Issues at the top of the list followed by their concurrency with the issues agreed to by the Council of Cities. Ponce Inlet is interested in waterfront values assessed by use and mandatory inspections of all septic systems among other issues unique to their city.

Pat Gadbaw

Daytona Beach: The February 21st meeting was an overflow crowd, with at least three dozen people standing in the hall. The subject that brought out so many was giving developers density bonuses downtown. Two of the Commissioners wanted to wait to approve the issue until the new vision plan is given later in the year, but they were outvoted.

Annette Parker

Port Orange City Commission: The city council and city manager are concerned about possible changes in property tax laws at the state level that will reduce city revenue. The council asked Port Orange residents for suggestion on ways to cut the budget and increase revenue. There may be new fees and a reduction in services. About 40 people attended this meeting. They broke into small groups to discuss ideas and then a designee from each group gave a list of concepts discussed in the group. Most of the ideas were already in the Port Orange 20 year plan. Main concerns with the group were population density, maintaining height restrictions, green space, and traffic. It was interesting that when the 40 odd people attending were asked to put 7 dots on the approximately 14 general topics listed by staff, all 14 topics received dots. The 14 topics included water, transportation, "green", security, land use, recreation, among others.

The Environmental Advisory Board is removing the invasive Brazilian Pepper Tree from the Dunlawton Causeway.

There was a long discussion about the rezoning of 10 acres at the Yorktown Road Extension. The developer asked that a man-made canal to be reconfigured to accommodate a shopping center. The Planning Board and City Manager recommended approval; however, staff recommended denial. The canal feeds into Spruce Creek. The zoning was approved on first reading.

Five community improvement grants for up to \$5000 will be awarded at the upcoming city council meeting.

Port Orange has constructed two of the largest treated water ponds in the state. The ponds store reclaimed water that can be used for irrigation or can percolate down to the aquifer

The city has postponed replacing a 21-year old brush truck and a 23-year old tanker truck because of funding. These trucks are used for fire prevention and control. They clear brush and supply water. Cost of replacement is approximately \$400,000. Council expects to find funding in the next several months.

Summer Clayton

Recycling (Garage) Sale Saturday, March 24

League of Women Voters of
Volusia County Florida
P.O. Box 9695
Daytona Beach FL 32120

