

Suzie D. Baylis

I started my professional career after graduating the University of Miami in accounting and took a job with the fortune 500 company C.H. Robinson, eventually holding positions as the Operations administrator and Assistant Comptroller. I retired after 20 years in 2009. However, volunteering for charities has always been my passion.

Our family moved to Twin Lakes of Brandon from Hawaii in April 2015. Since arriving in Valrico, I have raised nearly \$200,000 for local charities by organizing events such as charity balls. In Hawaii I worked with the USO and the Navy Marine Relief Society raising money and providing support and assistance to active-duty military and veterans. Prior to Hawaii, our family lived in England, just outside of Cambridge, where as a treasurer of the British & American Friendship Society at Royal Airforce Base Molesworth I helped organize donations and distribute assistance to service members in need. Volunteering for me, comes naturally.

I was asked to join the HOA board as Vice President in 2020 and became president of the board in 2021. My husband was president of a 1,547-home community in Broward County for three years, having observed him as well as the other Twin Lakes HOA boards prior to joining, I incorporated many of the positive things my predecessors have done for our community.

Since being President of the HOA board, I have instilled an era of transparency and integrity between the HOA and the residents. I have streamlined the Architectural review process, where it is now online and residents have near instant status of their request and what is needed for approval. This eliminated board meetings which went nearly two hours and waiting for the next meeting to find out if your request was approved.

I organized several events to bring our community together, despite the pandemic we had a Valentine Day card making for the kids, March Madness basketball tournament, Mother's Day Gift Fair, a Viking Festival, 4th of July celebration, Halloween Haunts in the park and our Holiday Season extravaganza with show dancing and live music.

I love gardening, so I pay especially close attention to our entrance and landscaping. Rather than hire a service, I organized residents and we replaced dead and damaged hedges and plants at the entrance throughout the year, saving the community thousands of dollars.

Over the years several issues have developed that required immediate maintenance or replacing. Many of these issues were overlooked by the property management company. I am very careful with how the HOA money is spent; however, we cannot let small problems fester into large problems. If we can fix small things with just a handful of board members or residents (painting the reclaimed water pipes; scraping off rust; repainting a bench; chopping up a dead tree, or replacing a signpost, etc.) then I will make sure it gets done with minimal expense and just some sweat. I care a great deal about our community, unfortunately I still haven't figured out the best way to rid ourselves of misinformation, falsehoods and negativity.