

# County cops boost presence in booming South Lake

## Sheriff says Four Corners area poses biggest challenge

MARILYN M. ACIEGO  
Staff Writer

With the tremendous growth in south Lake County, Lake County Sheriff Chris Daniels has stepped up police presence, especially in the Four Corners area.

Clermont, Groveland and Mascotte have their own police

forces, but the Lake County Sheriff's Office provides additional law enforcement for those cities.

"We provide an enhanced level of service in those areas," Daniels said.

Daniels, who was raised in Lake County, remembers when U.S. Highway 27 was miles of

orange groves between Leesburg and Walt Disney World.

For anybody who remembers that far back, south Lake County seemed like hundreds of miles away, Daniels said.

Things have changed in the past five years; Clermont went from being one of the smallest cities in the county to the largest. And the Four Corners area presents a particular challenge, Daniels said.

"It's a far area of the county, yet it's very densely populated," he said. "When people move here from out of state or out of the county, they don't understand why they are close to everything but it still takes 15 to 20 minutes for a deputy to arrive."

Areas of the county are split into zones. In 1977, the area from Four Corners to the south end of Tavares, near Howey-in-the-Hills, was only one zone. Now, it is six zones and will soon be split again, Daniels said.

"It is difficult always for a sheriff. My budget comes from the general fund (taxes) and it's always a challenge to make sure the budget fits growth," said Daniels.

There are nearly 300,000 people in the county.

"It's a constant battle," he said.

Daniels said there are tentative plans to build a jail in South Lake.

"If I can build a substation or jail in South Lake, I can reduce crime," said Daniels.

Building a jail in South Lake would drastically reduce the amount of time a deputy is out of service, Daniels said.

"I am acutely aware of the need to be responsible to our citizens," he added.




Daniels

**Patti Davies**  
REALTOR®  
Multi-Million Dollar Producer  
**352-267-3669**  
patti@mickirealty.com  
Fax: 352-394-5380  
450 E Hwy 50, Ste 1, Clermont, FL 34711



At Austin's  
it's all about Versatility



**Concepts in Hair**  
**352-536-2428**  
4420 US Hwy 27 STE 5, Clermont

★ **Jacobsen** ★ **Homes of Merit**  
★ **Fleetwood** ★

**Baird HOMES**  
OF FLORIDA, LLC

5 Year Factory Warranty  
Luxury Living Available Starting Under \$55,000  
\*Concept \*Construction \*Completion  
**UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT**

Email us at: [bairdbrooksville@bellsouth.net](mailto:bairdbrooksville@bellsouth.net)



Central Florida's Premiere Manufactured Home Sales Center  
**352-796-3925**  
or **800-544-4121**  
19280 Cortez Blvd.  
Brooksville, FL 34601

**Baird HOMES** OF FLORIDA, LLC  
**59 Years** Since 1947

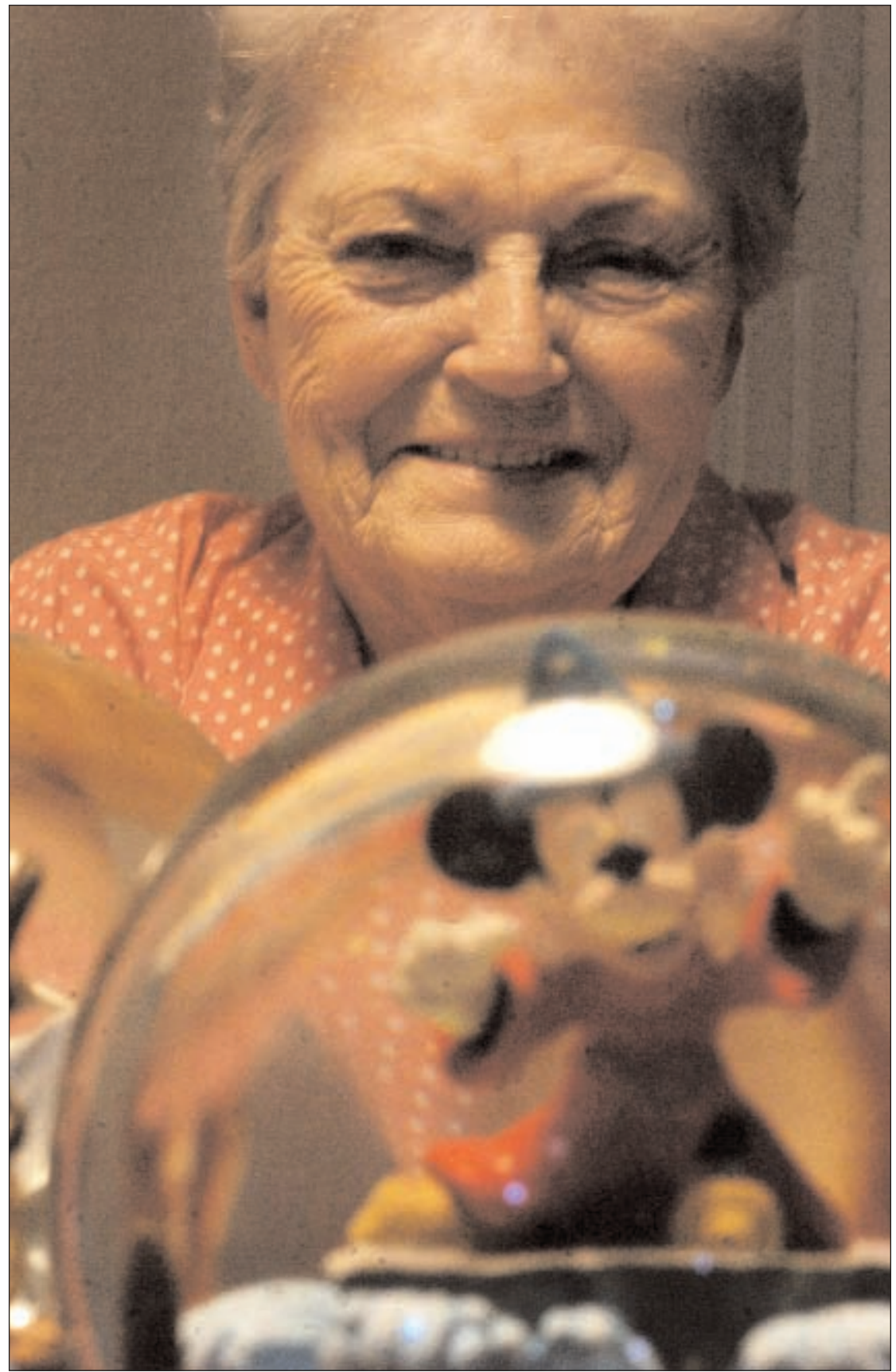
**New Homes on Your Lot**  
Over 80 plans from \$100K  
The Camellia (Elevation B)



3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms  
1878 Heated Sq. Ft.

**America's Home Place**  
9540 W. Colonial Drive • Ocoee, FL 34761  
**407-292-2784 • 1 800 New House**  
www.AmericasHomePlace.com

Photo and show options not included in base price.



Staff photo by David Manning

Eighty-one-year-old Disney employee Mary Hoppin overshadows a snowglobe of Mickey Mouse in her apartment in Cagans Crossings in Four Corners on May 18. Hoppin is one of many Disney employees who call the South Lake community home.

# Disney creates growing residential market in Lake

MEGAN SHANNON  
Staff Writer

## FOUR CORNERS

Cagan Crossings residents said Orlando was too congested and Kissimmee was kind of a bad area — but south Lake County was just right.

Cagan Crossings owner and developer Sandy Cagan said Disney World's Animal Kingdom is only five miles away from her apartment complex, which may be the reason 62 percent of its 1,200 tenants work there.

Almost a decade ago, Lake County was still foreign to many Disney employees, Cagan said. But as apartments dwindled in the area, making way for tons of condos, people began considering all options.

"People thought if you drove west of Animal Kingdom you'd fall off the face of the earth," she said. "It was an uphill battle just to get people to come up here."

Most Disney employees still live in Orlando and Kissim-

mee, but Media Relations Manager Lisette Campos said about 10 percent live in Lake County — about 5,000 people, making Disney one of the largest employers of Lake county residents.

And for those employees, it couldn't feel more like home than when half of a 1,000 unit complex was designed with them in mind. Cagan said one section built in 1994 is known as South Lake Apartments but the other half built in 1996 is known as Aurora at Cagan Crossings. Cagan said she foresaw Disney employees making their home in the second section and built it to suit them.

"When I used to rent I never knew my neighbor. I didn't want it to be like that," Cagan said. "I'm trying to prompt a different atmosphere."

Susan Korza said she heard Cagan Crossings from her manager at Disney. She said she was blown away by the price.

"These places remind me of little haciendas," she said. "I loved the theme. But the price. It's definitely the cheaper place around."

Mary Hoppin has been a hostess at a Disney restaurant for 12 years. She moved to Cagan Crossings in 2000.

"And I'm still here so they must be darn good," she said.

Hoppin said not only is the place affordable, but it's also one of the only apartment complexes in the area, let alone Orlando. She said it also takes less than 20 minutes to get to work via the scenic route on County Road 429.

Cagan is planning to build about 600 more apartments on the 600-acre property. Soon, 56,000 square feet of retail will sit in front of the property, and atop the stores will be 50 condos.

"We wanted to add options for the Disney people who want to own something," she said.

Your Financial Future, Just Like Any Journey,

*Begins With A Single Step.*

No one knows what tomorrow will bring. Being prepared for the days ahead begins with having a plan in place which will allow your dreams to come true. It also helps to have the right financial resources at your fingertips. At Public Bank, we're standing ready to devote the best in banking for your future. Come share your journey with us. We're here to help you...  
*with every single step.*

**Public Bank**  
Florida

Altamonte Springs  
407-865-7137  
Groveland  
352-429-2131

Kissimmee  
407-933-7137  
West Clermont  
352-394-8525

St. Cloud  
407-892-7137  
Leesburg  
352-323-6200

ChampionsGate  
407-397-7137  
East Clermont  
352-241-2104