A Great End to a Successful Year

The new year will end my term as president of the REALTORS® Association of Citrus County (RACC). As my term ends on a new one begins. Ruth Edwards will step up to the role of president in the new year. Before she ball drops signals both the end and the beginning of many things. I would like to touch on a few high points of 2018.

The REALTORS® made the case for the necessity of utilizing a local REALTOR® and the difference between a licensed real estate agent and the value that a REALTOR® brings. REALTORS® must adhere to a higher ethical rule than a real estate licensees. Our code of ethics demands that we practice within the boundaries of our profession to distinguish us from real estate brokers.

One of the first actions early in my term was to emphasize the benefits to our residents of utilizing a knowledgeable local REALTOR® — an important point that cannot be overstated. Our area real estate agents who are unfamiliar with the properties, HOAs, current road projects, waterfront ordinances and the neighborhoods of Citrus County have done great damage to our fellow citizens. Please do yourself a great service and make a New Year resolution to choose a local REALTOR® when buying or selling property.

REALTORS® also defended property owners and renters by supporting the passage of Amendment 2. This amendment confirmed the 30-year limit on property tax hikes on commercial property. The amendment will help keep rent affordable for our residents. Tax hikes are still allowed, but only for a reasonable amount.

RACC stepped up to the plate for the Citrus citizenry by pushing for a smarter way of limiting the nitrogen contamination of our springs. The REALTORS® Association of Citrus County opposed a plan that would have allowed severely stressed lake communities to feel the impact of the new law. The law has been delayed. More work and diligence are required to ensure the local and state government bodies understand the burden of this tax on low-income homeowners.

The REALTORS® feel that a solution that addresses fertilizer usage along with septic tank technology is the current and equitable path to clean water. During the year, RACC raised nearly $15,000 for local charities. As president, in January, I selected three charities to receive these funds. Jessie’s Place Chid Resource Center and Humane Animal Care Foundation and Suncoast Hospice.

Finally, 2018 continued the robust real estate market. The steady rise of home prices is built on a solid foundation of increased economic activity. There is no reason to believe that 2019 will be any different.

As I end my term and pass the gavel, I wish to thank the local REALTORS® citizens that the REALTORS® Association of Citrus County will always be on your side. Thank you for the privilege of service.

CJ Dixon, 2018 President, REALTORS® Association of Citrus County

A Mystery for Christmas

The RACC held its Annual Christmas Party on Dec. 13 with RACC members bringing unwrapped toys to donate to the Citrus County Family Resource Center for distribution for Christmas. The RACC YPN (Young Professionals Network) coordinated the delivery of the toys to the Center. Pictured is RACC President and Broker/Owner of ERA American/Suncoast (CJ Dixon is Broker-Owner of ERA American Realty and ERA Suncoast Realtors, and a retired U.S. Navy commander.)