

RENAISSANCE

FROM PAGE B1

Police say the program appears to have made a significant impact. In August 2005, there were 560 calls for service in the communities, though in April of this year there were only 202.

"It's exactly what we were shooting for," said Sgt. Kacey Donnell, Borges' supervisor. "I think we've met our goals ... and the community is better for it."

Borges noted a number of neighborhood activities have taken place, such as a community picnic and a cleanup day in Windmill Point I. About 250 bags of garbage were collected,

and a lawn company cut 80 yards for free.

The city's code enforcement and animal control departments also have worked to address blight and animal issues as part of the operation, Borges said.

"The goal of Renaissance was to improve the quality of life and to give the community a chance to take a stake in its own destiny," Donnell said. "Our job is just to give them the tools to do it."

Borges maintains an office in the Windmill Point I clubhouse and is available for residents to discuss anything from juvenile issues to domestic problems.

"I care about the people that live here," Borges said.

"They're good, hardworking families."

Lesko said Borges indicated that if his board of directors strengthened bylaws and implemented fines and violations "you will see the place clean up."

"Anytime anything happened in here, they were calling the cops — 911, 911 — so the police calls in this area were off the scale," Lesko said. "Now, they're barely out here at all and we don't have the problems."

Lynne Brown, Windmill Point I property owners association office manager, praised the police department's efforts.

"I think a lot has to do with their presence," she said. "People know they're here."

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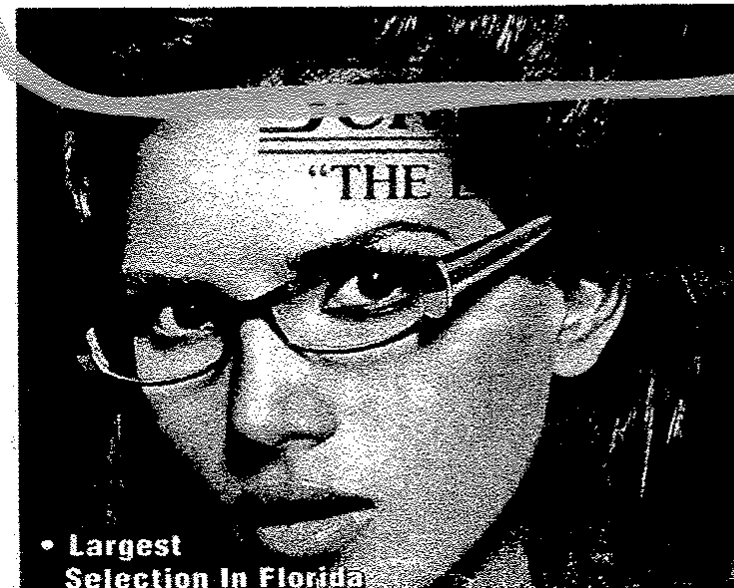
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