

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Preserving quality of life is crucial

I hear folks saying this or that is too good for our city or that it doesn't fit our current character (perhaps that's good?) or it's too sophisticated. This refrain has almost degenerated to, "Heck, we're just not worth it."

But, as president of the Temple Terrace Preservation Society, I view our city from a broader perspective.

In 1920s Temple Terrace the question was where to place the 50-car chauffeur's garage (full of Duisenbergs and Pierce-Arrows) designed by a famous architect? Post-Depression the question was and sadly still is how do we construct the cheapest building while making my pals and me tons of money? As an architect interested in history, I think Temple Terrace today is much like visiting the ruins of imperial Rome with its intriguing glimpses of past glory, but it's mostly covered with the babblings of the Dark Ages.

Our city is indeed in over its head in our citywide rejuvenation, but what city wouldn't be in the "not-too-progressive" Central Florida? We're overwhelmed because for the past 80 years our city's simple goals have been saving taxpayers money and the perpetuation of a system based less on merit and more on connections. At least today we strive to go in a direction with a future, and we're making progress.

We all know Temple Terrace is superb at being value conscious, but what remains to be seen is are we capable of investing in our city wisely to ensure that our city has a respectable future. This will require the careful balance of affordability with an investment in preserving the quality of life and, to a degree, our self-respect.

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Temple Terrace

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