

The Guardians of Martin County, a Florida non-profit corporation, are a non-partisan group of residents and voters dedicated to supporting the integrity of the Martin County Comprehensive Growth Management Plan through increasing public awareness.

Protecting our county from the sprawl and over-development that produces higher taxes, increased traffic, overcrowded public facilities, and a rising crime rate that surrounds us in Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and St. Lucie Counties became our goal. The quality of life in Martin County depends on upholding our Growth Management Plan from the destructive amendments that are sought by special interests seeking to exploit our county.

Responding to the popularity and progress of The Guardians of Martin County, it is with great pleasure that the Guardians announce several changes in the organization of its administration.

The Guardians will now implement a Board of Directors that includes nine members.

These members include Bernhard Auer, former publisher of Time Magazine and longtime Martin County resident, who will serve as Chairman of the Board. Mr. Auer is a founder and immediate past president of the Guardians.

Robert Y. Garrett III, of Jupiter Island, will serve as President. Mr. Garrett was formerly an investment banker with Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, and is a board member of local and national philanthropic organizations.

Serving as Vice-President will be Peter H. Conze, Jr., a former senior executive with several major US domestic and international commercial banks.

Additional Guardians Board members include: George "Skip" Shattuck, a retired insurance executive and philanthropist, of Hobe Sound; Linda Grand, an award-winning newspaper editor who is a 20-year resident of Palm City; Virginia Pitt Sherlock of Stuart, prominent attorney and outstanding civic activist; Sally O'Connell of Stuart, well-known community leader on county, state, and national issues; H. Curtis Wood, a retired Ford Motor Company executive, who is Past President of Audubon of Martin County, and a former board member of Habitat for Humanity; and, Len Sucsy, an expert in both environmentally-sensitive development issues and low income housing.

Our founders, donors, and volunteers from all around the county have been generous with time and money as our community presence increased. Our mission has always been informational, non-partisan and non-political. Additionally we have been instrumental in supporting other Martin County grassroots organizations, including the Martin County Conservation Alliance, the Martin County Consensus, and Florida Hometown Democracy.

Television commercials, newspaper ads, newspaper articles and columns, DVDs, and an interactive website are all part of the Guardians strength in Martin County. One of the reasons for the great increase of the Guardians popularity has been our clip-and-send ads, printed in the Palm Beach Post and the Stuart News, which have generated thousands of responses by Martin County residents to county commissioners and state officials. At one point, the Martin County administrator talked about hiring extra help to tabulate the responses to Guardians ads.

The Guardians Amendment, first proposed in 2003, has called for changes to strengthen our Comprehensive Plan through referenda and a super-majority. In recent years, the Florida Department of Community Affairs proposed a similar plan with a super-majority for the state. Many counties around Florida are also following the Guardians' example.

The Guardians will work to keep Martin County a great place to live, and with your help, we will continue at the forefront for years to come. For more information, please view The Guardians website at:

[www.TheGuardiansofMartinCounty.com](http://www.TheGuardiansofMartinCounty.com)