



## journalnotes

Do you ever get the feeling that life is just one long checklist? You look at your personal planner and think: okay, today I need to do this list of things, and tomorrow this and that, and then I will be through with this project—check. Meanwhile, your life is rushing by at warp speed, and the next thing you know you're a senior citizen. Or maybe it's just me!

I love the old episode of *The Andy Griffith Show* where a guest preacher comes to Mayberry and shares that people are just too busy. He states, "Slow down; what's your hurry?" That expression became kind of a joking reminder in my family to do exactly that—slow down and notice what is happening in the here and now.

However, this isn't 1960, you probably don't work in Mayberry, and your assistant might or might not be as competent as Barney Fife. As a current commercial reminds us, life comes at you fast. "Slow down" is not in the vocabulary.

What is needed is wisdom, both in how you prioritize your day and how you plan your time. A good definition for wisdom is "knowledge applied." Knowledge without application might be valuable in a debate, but not in real life. When knowledge is applied, it often makes the difference between an efficient or inefficient manager or board member.

One shortcut you can take in gaining knowledge is to learn from the successes and failures of others. After all, there is time invested in both the successes and the failures. If you can evaluate the results without having to personally commit the time, you are ahead of the game. That is where we come in. We believe that one of the most important services we perform is profiling communities that are operating efficiently. That's one reason why we are featuring more community profiles in our pages this year. (This month we feature five, a new record for us!) So I encourage you to read, learn, apply, and prosper!

Hurricane season, one of the unavoidable realities of living in the Sunshine State, is upon us, and it is time to examine your community's disaster preparedness plan. To help you do this, we are including a special section next month that will include tools for use both before and after a storm. We hope for another mild season, but hurricane preparedness is not an option!

Let me hear from you!

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*Florida Community Association Journal*  
is published monthly by

**Advantage Publishing Co., Inc.**

1000 Nix Road  
Little Rock, AR 72211-3235  
Email: [Info@FLCAJ.com](mailto:Info@FLCAJ.com)  
Website: [FLCAJ.com](http://FLCAJ.com)

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**Subscription Rates**

\$18 for one year, \$36 for three years. Single issues are \$4 each plus postage. Back issues are available for \$4 each plus postage. Reproductions of any part of this publication without the written consent of the publisher is prohibited.

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**Postmaster**

Send address changes to:  
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1000 Nix Road  
Little Rock, AR 72211-3235

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