

## **The Spanish Lake Community Association Celebrates 10 Years!**

by Dora R. Gianoulakis, President, Board of Directors  
Spanish Lake Community Association

When the Spanish Lake Community Association was formed in 1999 by the County Planning Department, probably no one thought the association would last very long. After all they had no money and no staff. And the community that they wanted to serve was really large – 23,000 residents and 19 square miles. And although it was called Spanish Lake, it was unincorporated. It was a community without a strong identity.

What has the community association done these past ten years? Have they served the residents of Spanish Lake? Having served as president now for ten years, I am probably more than a little prejudiced. I do think alot has been accomplished, but I also know that there is much more that needs to be done.

One important accomplishment is that Spanish Lake is developing a real identity. There are now two new roadside welcome signs in our community. Maps now identify this area as Spanish Lake (rarely did they before). The association conducts Town Hall meetings and publishes a quarterly newsletter (circulation: 2,000). Every year very informative Welcome Packets to New Homeowners are distributed – 1,850 of them to date.

Another important accomplishment is the purchase, in 2005, of The Twillman House. We are renovating it as a Community Center. We also work collaboratively with schools, St. Louis County staff, businesses and churches. Our Youth and Family Council is developing many new initiatives to meet needs in our community previously not being met, particularly for families and youth. Many grant applications have been written – and a number funded – and these funds are used to improve our community. We've got a great informative website up and running – [www.spanishlakemo.org](http://www.spanishlakemo.org).

Everything has been accomplished through the work of many, many volunteers who give generously of their time and talents. Over 400 memberships support us through their dues. Dues account for less than 1/3 of our income, so fund-raising projects, donations from individuals, businesses and grants are extremely important to our fiscal viability.

Many folks still do not know that there is a Community Association in Spanish Lake. We encourage you to find out more. Check out the website. Read the informational sign at The Twillman House. Come help us at the Larimore and Trampe Gardens, at The Twillman House; get our newsletter ready for mailings. Attend Town Hall meetings. Become a member. Support us financially. We could do so much more with your involvement! We encourage your support of your Community Association.