

# REAL ESTATE

There are ways to buy a home despite bad credit. 31.

## NEIGHBORHOODS



STAFF PHOTOS/BARRY MCCARTHY

The Littlefield family — from left, Chas, Anne, Casey, Bob and Miles — likes its Tudor home convenient to new elementary school.

# Woodlands II: Natural Beauty

## Family Neighborhood Offers Extensive Lots In a Woodsy Setting

By DOROTHY STOCKBRIDGE  
Staff Writer

**F**ive years ago, the Woodlands II area of Bent Tree opened with a model center called Dream Street. Its eight large and luxury-filled models set the tone for the last phase of Bent Tree, located on 305 acres off Sarasota's Proctor Road, east of Interstate 75.

"Woodlands II feels more private today because the lots are larger (about three-quarters acre) and the mature pines provide a woody, Northern look. It's well located, with lots that back up to lakes or nature preserves," said Gary Roberts of Bamboo Building and Development. "We've done well here, selling about eight homes."

Bamboo's blue French country house on Dream Street was bought by former President Reagan's chief of staff, Donald Regan. Other buyers were attracted by the Bent Tree golf course, where the Ladies Professional Golf Association played several tournaments sponsored by Coast Federal Savings, while CFS Ventures Inc. was marketing lots.

"We really like the location. The pines make it a beautiful setting and we're close enough to get

to the beach or go boating," said Sally Reichert. "We like the security, and our neighbors are very nice and helpful."

She and her husband, John, bought a stucco model with high ceilings by King Agna, which built 14 homes in Woodlands II. They found the Bent Tree course too crowded and now play golf at Laurel Oak, six minutes from their home.

Bob and Anne Littlefield have lived for three years in a Tudor home by Bamboo that's "a little like the Regan home with the peaks and triple windows."

"We wanted the traditional feeling of the Regan home, but we needed five bedrooms and a playground," she said. "We like the neighborhood a lot — the space, trees, sidewalks for bikes. Our back yard usually is full of kids."

Moving from Massachusetts, Anne Littlefield said Woodlands II was an easy neighborhood for getting acquainted. She likes the mixture of retirees and younger families. She served for a while on the neighborhood board, which helped put in crosswalks and more stop signs for the safety of children. She said that residents have had various luncheons and dinners and "we had a wonderful newsletter for a couple of years."

Bob Littlefield says it's an easy 25-minute commute on the interstate to his work at Tropicana in Bradenton.

"I was commuting an hour and a half from Connecticut to New York. This is a real nice family area and very convenient to the new elementary school (Lakeview). Our other two children go to Pine View," he said. "We enjoy our tennis and social membership at Bent Tree."



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