

OFFICIAL RECORDS

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DECLARATION OF  
COVENANTS, CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS  
FOR HICKORY CREEK, UNIT FOUR

THIS DECLARATION is made on the date hereinafter set forth by D. M. COPELAND & SONS CONSTRUCTION, INC., a Florida corporation, FLORIDA FIRST COAST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, a Florida corporation, and FIRST PIONEER CORPORATION, a Florida corporation, doing business as HICKORY CREEK JOINT VENTURE, hereinafter referred to as a "Declarant".

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W I T N E S S E T H:

WHEREAS, Declarant is the owner of all those certain properties in Duval County, Florida, being more particularly described as:

Hickory Creek, Unit Four, as recorded in Plat Book 45, Pages 61, 61A, 61B, 61C, of the current public records of Duval County, Florida.

Return to:  
NEWTON, SHEFFIELD & HURST  
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NOW, THEREFORE, Declarant hereby declares that all of the properties described above shall be held, sold, and conveyed subject to the following easements, restrictions, covenants and conditions, which are for the purpose of protecting the value and desirability of, and which shall run with, the real property and be binding on all parties having any right, title or interest in the described properties or any part thereof, their heirs, successors, and assigns, and shall inure to the benefit of each owner thereof.

ARTICLE I - DEFINITIONS

1. "Association" shall mean and refer to the Hickory Creek Association, Inc., a Florida corporation not for profit, its successors and assigns.

2. "Owner" shall mean and refer to the record owner, whether one or more persons or entities, of a fee simple title to any lot which is a part of the properties, including contract sellers, but excluding those having such interest merely as security for the performance of an obligation.

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3. "Properties" shall mean and refer to that certain real property hereinabove described and such additions thereto as may hereafter be brought within the jurisdiction of the Association.

4. "Common Areas" shall mean all real property (including the improvements thereto) owned by the Association for the common use and enjoyment of the owners. The Declarant may hereafter convey portions of the properties to the Association to constitute additional Common Areas but shall have no obligation to do so.

5. "Lot" shall mean and refer to the building plots of land shown upon the recorded subdivision plat of the properties described above.

6. "Declarant" shall mean and refer to D. M. Copeland & Sons Construction, Inc., Florida First Coast Development Corporation and First Pioneer Corporation, d/b/a Hickory Creek Joint Venture.

## ARTICLE II - PROPERTY RIGHTS

1. Owner's Easements of Enjoyment. Every owner and the Association shall have a right and easement of enjoyment in and to any Common Area which shall be appurtenant to and shall pass with the title to every lot, subject to the following provisions:

a) the right of the Association to charge reasonable admission and other fees for the use of any recreational facility hereafter situated upon any Common Area;

b) the right of the Association to suspend the voting rights and right to use of any recreational facilities, if any, as to any owner for any period during which any assessment against such owner's lot remains unpaid and for a period not to exceed 60 days for any infraction of the Association's published rules and regulations;

c) the right of the Association to dedicate or transfer all or any part of the Common Area to any public agency, authority, or utility for such purposes and subject to such

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conditions as may be agreed to by its members. No such dedication or transfer shall be effective unless an instrument agreeing to such dedication or transfer is signed by two-thirds of all votes eligible to be cast by both member classes of the Association.

2. Delegation of Use. Any owner may delegate, in accordance with the by-laws, such owner's right of enjoyment to the Common Area and facilities to the members of such owner's family, tenants, or contract purchasers who reside on the property.

## ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING RIGHTS

1. Assessment. Every owner of a lot which is subject to assessment shall be a member of the Association. Membership shall be appurtenant to and may not be separated from ownership of any lot which is subject to assessment.

2. Membership. The Association shall have two classes of voting membership: CLASS A - Class A members shall be all owners, with the exception of the Declarant, and shall be entitled to one vote for each lot owned. When more than one person holds an interest in any lot, all such persons shall be members. The vote for such lot shall be exercised as they determine, but in no event shall more than one vote be cast with respect to any lot.

CLASS B - The Class B member shall be the Declarant and shall be entitled to twelve (12) votes for each lot owned. The Class B membership shall cease and be converted to Class A membership on the happening of either of the following events, whichever occurs earlier:

a) when the total votes outstanding in the Class A membership equal the total votes outstanding in the Class B membership, or

b) on December 31, 1993, or

c) Declarant requests that Class B membership be converted to Class A membership.

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## ARTICLE IV - COVENANT FOR MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENTS

1. Creation of the Lien and Personal Obligation for Assessments. The Declarant, for each lot owned within the Properties, hereby covenants, and each owner of any lot by acceptance of a deed therefor, whether or not it shall be so expressed in such deed, is deemed to covenant and agree to pay to the Association: 1) annual assessments or charges, and (2) special assessments for capital improvements, such assessments to be established and collected as hereinafter provided. The annual and special assessments, together with interest, costs, and reasonable attorney's fees, shall be a charge on the land and shall be a continuing lien upon the lot against which each such assessment is made. Each such assessment, together with interest, costs and reasonable attorney's fees, shall also be the personal obligation of the person who was the owner of such property at the time when the assessment fell due. The personal obligation for delinquent assessments shall not pass to such owner's successors in title unless expressly assumed by them, but the lien shall survive any conveyance of title.

2. Purpose of Assessments. The assessments levied by the Association shall be used exclusively to promote the recreation, health, safety and welfare of the residents in the Properties and for the improvement and maintenance of the common areas, islands in roadways, lakes, and lake systems. Said maintenance, in addition to the foregoing, shall include the continual maintenance and cleaning of the filter system for drainage and the storm water management system required by the Department of Environmental Regulation and/or the St. Johns River Water Management District. Said continual maintenance and cleaning shall be the sole responsibility of the Association.

3. Maximum Annual Assessment. Until January 1 of the year immediately following the conveyance of the first lot to an owner, the maximum assessment shall be \$48.00 per year per lot.

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a) From and after January 1 of the year immediately following the conveyance of the first lot to an owner, the maximum assessment may be increased each year but not more than 5% above the maximum assessment for the previous year without a vote of the membership.

b) From and after January 1 of the year immediately following the conveyance of the first lot to an owner, the maximum assessment may be increased more than 5% by a vote of two-thirds of each class of members who are voting in person or by proxy, at a meeting duly called for such purpose.

c) The Board of Directors shall fix the assessment annually at amounts not in excess of the maximum.

4. Special Assessments for Capital Improvements. In addition to the annual assessments authorized above, the Association may levy, in any assessment year, a special assessment applicable to that year only for the purpose of defraying, in whole or in part, the cost of any construction, re-construction, repair or replacement of a capital improvement upon any common area, including fixtures and personal property related thereto; provided that any such special assessment shall have the assent of two-thirds of the votes of each class of members who are voting in person or by proxy at a meeting duly called for such purpose.

5. Notice and Quorum for any Action Authorized Under Sections 3 and 4. Written notice of any meeting called for the purpose of taking any action authorized under Section 3 or 4 shall be sent to all members not less than 30 days nor more than 60 days in advance of the meeting. At the first such meeting called, the presence of members or of proxies entitled to cast 60% of all the votes of each class of membership shall constitute a quorum. If the required quorum is not present, another meeting may be called subject to the same notice requirement, and the required quorum at the subsequent meeting shall be one-half of

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the required quorum at the preceding meeting. No such subsequent meeting shall be held more than 60 days following the preceding meeting.

6. Uniform Rate of Assessment. Both annual and special assessments must be fixed at a uniform rate for all lots and may be collected on a quarterly basis.

7. Date of Commencement of Annual Assessments. Due Dates: The annual assessments provided for herein shall commence as to all lots on the date of the recording of this Declaration in the public records of Duval County, Florida. No lot owned by the Declarant shall be subject to any assessment until a residence has been constructed thereon and occupied. The first annual assessment shall be adjusted according to the number of months remaining in the calendar year. The Board of Directors shall fix the amount of the annual assessment against each lot at least 30 days in advance of each annual assessment period. Written notice of the annual assessment shall be sent to every owner subject thereto. The due dates shall be established by the Board of Directors. The Association shall, upon demand, and for a reasonable charge, furnish a certificate signed by an officer of the Association setting forth whether or not the assessments on a specified lot have been paid. A properly executed certificate of the Association as to the status of assessments on a lot is binding upon the Association as of the date of its issuance.

8. Effect of Nonpayment of Assessments: Remedies of the Association. Any assessment not paid within 30 days after the due date shall bear interest from the due date at the rate of 10% per annum. The Association may bring an action at law against the owner personally obligated to pay the same, or foreclose the lien against the property involved, or both. No owner may waive or otherwise escape liability for the assessments provided for herein by non-use of the common area or abandonment of such owner's lot.

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9. Subordination of the Lien to Mortgages. The lien for the assessments provided for herein shall be subordinate to the lien of any institutional first mortgage. Sale or transfer of any lot shall not affect the assessment lien. However, the sale or transfer of any lot pursuant to mortgage foreclosure or any proceeding in lieu thereof, shall extinguish the lien of such assessment as to payments which became due prior to such sale or transfer. No sale or transfer shall relieve such lot from liability for any assessments thereafter becoming due or from the lien thereof.

## ARTICLE V - LAND USE AND BUILDING TYPE

1. Land Use and Building Type. No one other than Declarant shall use any lot except for residential purposes. Unless otherwise specifically allowed or permitted under these covenants, no structure shall be erected, altered, placed, or permitted to remain on any lot other than one detached single-family dwelling not to exceed two stories in height. No out-building or other structure at any time situate on said land shall be used as a hospital, sanitarium, church, charitable, religious or philanthropic institution, or for business or manufacturing purposes, and no duplex residence, garage apartment or apartment house shall be erected or placed on or allowed to occupy said land.

2. Declarant's Right to Resubdivide or Replat. Declarant shall have the right to resubdivide or replat any of the said land owned by it. In the event any of said land is resubdivided or replatted for rights-of-way for roads, streets or easements, none of the restrictions contained herein shall apply to the portions thereof used for such purposes.

3. Garage. Each home shall have an attached two car garage. No garage shall be permanently enclosed or converted to another use. All garages shall contain at least 400 square feet of usable space appropriate for parking automobiles. All garages

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must have doors which shall be maintained in a useful condition and shall be kept closed when not in use. Carports shall not be permitted.

4. Outbuildings. No outbuilding shall be erected, placed or altered on any lot.

5. Approval of Structure. No residence, structure, wall or swimming pool shall be erected, placed or altered on any lot until the construction plans and specifications and a plan showing the location of the structure have been approved by the Architectural Control Committee as to quality of workmanship and materials, harmony of external design with existing structures, and as to location of improvements with respect to topography and finished grade elevation. No exposed block or built up roof will be permitted in the construction of any dwelling. Approval shall be as provided in paragraph 22 below. No outbuildings or drives, walks, fences, walls or swimming pools shall be erected or constructed on any lot prior to the erection or construction of a permanent residence thereon. No fence, wall, bulkhead or structure of any kind will be permitted below the top of the slope of the lake bank as shown on the final survey on waterfront lots. Docks shall not be permitted.

6. Dwelling Size. Unless specifically approved in writing by the Architectural Control Committee, no dwelling shall be permitted on any lot unless the ground floor area of the main structure, exclusive of one-story open porches and garages, shall contain at least 1400 square feet for a one-story dwelling and at least 900 square feet for the ground floor of a dwelling of more than one story, with at least 1400 square feet for both stories combined.

7. Building Location. No building shall be located on any lot nearer than 25 feet to the front line or nearer than 15 feet to any side street line. No building shall be located nearer than 7.5 feet to an interior lot line. No dwelling shall be

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located on any lot nearer than 10 feet to the rear lot line, or nearer to the rear lot line than the rear building restriction line. No dwelling shall be located closer than 15 feet from any existing dwelling. The Architectural Control Committee shall be empowered to issue a variance in regard to the above measurements as it may deem prudent.

8. Lot Area. No dwelling shall be erected or placed on any lot having an area of less than 8,800 square feet.

9. Nuisances. No noxious or offensive activity shall be carried on upon any lot, nor shall anything be done thereon which may be or may become an annoyance or nuisance to the neighborhood.

10. Recreational and Commercial Vehicles. No commercial vehicles, boats or trailers of any type shall be permitted to be placed on any lot subject to these covenants, unless such shall be placed or parked in a fenced side yard or fenced rear yard of a lot, but not placed in the side yard of a corner lot on the side abutting a street. No wheeled vehicles of any kind or any other offensive objects may be kept or parked in a state of disrepair between the paved road and residential structures. No automobiles, trailers, or boats shall be parked in the roadways or on the right-of-way adjoining the lots. For purposes of this paragraph, a vehicle which is a 3/4 ton or less truck used as transportation to and from the lot owner's employment shall not be considered a commercial vehicle. Travel trailers and motorized homes shall not be permitted.

11. Temporary Structures. No structure of a temporary character, trailer, tent, motorized home, shack, garage, barn or other outbuilding shall be used on any lot at any time as a residence either temporarily or permanently.

12. No Subdivision. No Lot located within the Property shall be subdivided to constitute more than one building plot.

13. Mailboxes. Declarant shall provide locations and

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construct cluster mailbox receptacles, as approved by the United States Postal Service. No individual lot owner shall cause to be constructed any mailbox facility other than those provided by the Declarant.

14. Fences. All fences shall be constructed of natural wood. No fence shall be installed which restricts or prohibits ingress and egress as granted by easements herein. No fence or wall shall be erected, placed or altered on any lot nearer to any street than the rear of the house or the side of the house in the case of a corner lot unless approved by the Architectural Control Committee and in no event shall any fence exceed a maximum height of six (6) feet or be lower than a minimum height of five (5) feet unless approved by such committee. All fences shall be constructed and maintained to present a pleasing appearance as to quality of workmanship and materials, harmony of external design with existing structures and as to location with respect to topography and finished grade elevation. It shall be within the sole and exclusive purview of the Architectural Control Committee to make the determination as to whether or not a fence is pleasing in appearance as provided herein. Picket fences will not be permitted. Declarant reserve the right to release areas such as sewer lift stations, playgrounds, etc., from the above fence restrictions.

15. Signs. No sign of any kind shall be displayed to the public view on any lot without the prior written approval of the Architectural Control Committee except one sign of not more than two square feet advertising the property for sale, or after one (1) year from the closing date on the Lot, one sign of not more than two (2) square feet advertising the property for rent, or signs used by a builder to advertise the property during the construction and sales period. The entranceway identification sign shall be exempt from this provision and shall remain for the enjoyment of the owners of all Lots. The Architectural Control

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Committee shall have the right to promulgate standards for the quality, size, appearance, location and type of all signs to be displayed to public view.

16. Clotheslines. There shall not be permitted any exterior clotheslines on any lots.

17. Oil and Mining Operations. No oil drilling, oil development operations, oil refining, quarrying or mining operations of any kind shall be permitted upon or in any lot, nor shall oil wells, tanks, tunnels, mineral excavation or shafts be permitted upon or in any lot. No derrick or other structure designed for use in boring for oil or natural gas shall be erected, maintained or permitted upon any lot.

18. Livestock and Poultry. No animals, livestock or poultry of any kind shall be raised, bred or kept on any lot, except that dogs, cats or other household pets may be kept provided they are not kept, bred or maintained for any commercial use.

19. Garbage and Refuse Disposal. No lot shall be used or maintained as a dumping ground for rubbish, trash, garbage or other waste. Rubbish, trash, garbage or other waste shall be kept in closed sanitary containers constructed of metal or rigid plastic. All equipment for the storage or disposal of such material shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition and shall not be visible from the street except on scheduled garbage pick up days.

20. Motorists' Vision to Remain Unobstructed. The Declarant shall have the right, but not the obligation, to remove or require the removal of any fence, wall, hedge, shrub, bush, tree or other thing, natural or artificial, placed or located on any lot, if the location of same will, in the sole judgment and opinion of the Declarant, obstruct the vision of motorists upon any of the streets.

21. Landscaping. The mass indiscriminate cutting down of

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trees is expressly prohibited without the written consent of the Architectural Control Committee, EXCEPT those areas where buildings and other improvements shall be located; i.e. homes, patios, driveways, gardens, parking and recreational areas, etc. Also, selective cutting and thinning for lawns and other general improvements shall be permitted. All disturbed areas on any lot must be seeded or covered with sod or mulch and maintained to present a pleasing appearance and to prevent the growth of weeds. It is the responsibility of each lot owner whose lot abuts a lake to maintain the lake bank to the waters' edge. It is the responsibility of each lot owner to maintain the area between the front property line of his lot and the street, as well as the side property line and the street in the case of corner lots. It is the responsibility of each lot owner to prevent erosion on all areas of his lot, including easements, by sodding, seeding and mulching, or other methods which may be deemed appropriate.

22. Architectural Control Committee.

a) Membership. The Architectural Control Committee shall be composed of three (3) persons appointed by Declarant. A majority of the committee may designate a representative to act for it. In the event of the death or resignation of any member of the committee, the remaining members shall have full authority to designate a successor. Neither the members of the committee nor its designated representative shall be entitled to any compensation for services performed pursuant to this covenant. So long as Declarant owns lots in the subdivision, Declarant shall have the right to appoint the members of such committee. At any time after Declarant has sold all lots or has waived, in writing, its right to appoint such committee members, the then record owners of a majority of the lots shall have the power and right through a duly recorded written instrument to elect the members of the committee, to change the membership of the committee or to withdraw from the committee or restore to it any