Property Owners'

"VILLAGERS UNITED FOR THEIR COMMON GOOD" SINCE 1975

BULLETIN - FEBRUARY 1998

POA

Association of The Villages

MORE AND MORE MILLIONS OF \$55

As a Village resident, you had better be informed about the amount of money it will cost <u>you</u> to pay off what the C.D.D.s are borrowing.

There are three different C.C.D.s with five different budgets!

So what, you say? You need to look at the whole picture. \$149 million to date - - and it's not stopping there! It will go higher, so you had better be informed.

Starting with the February P.O.A. meeting, meet me after adjournment with your coffee in hand and come to the front of the room by the stage, and let's learn together what we have to do to save what we have.

Joe Gottfried

NOTICE OF P.O.A. MEETINGS

Board of Directors - 1st Tuesday

February 3rd - 7:00 P.M. March 3rd - - 7:00 P.M. Charlie Chaplin Room

GENERAL MEETING - 3rd Wednesday

February 18th -- 7:00 P.M. Paradise Recreation Center

Speaker: Sumter County Sheriff William O. "Bill" Farmer (see page 5 for details)

Membership sign-up - 6:30 to 7:00 P.M 50 - 50 Drawing Refreshments following the meeting.

P.O.A. MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO ALL RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGES

LET OUR VOICES BE HEARD!

One of the first things I did when I became President of the P.O.A. was to go through old papers and tapes.

I played a tape dating back to 1989 when the developer said he had surveyed the residents about initiating an annual trail fee of \$120 because of the cost of maintenance of the courses.

Those residents said "NO WAY"! And they went about doing what they had to do to make him listen to them.

Now, in 1998, I am calling on you to listen to me.

We have C.C.D.s in place with large budgets. So why don't we ask them to remove the trail fee for the executive courses?

Don't we have as much spunk as the residents of 1989? Let's let our voices be heard!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH



"NOTHING IS POLITICALLY RIGHT THAT IS MORALLY WRONG."

- THOMAS JEFFERSON

TIME SHARE CLUB

Do you own a time share? Would you like to rent it out this year?

Call Joe Gottfried, President, at 750-5469 for more information.

A supplement to the Lady Lake Magazine.

DO C.D.D.S WORK FOR US?

I stopped by the Village Center Community Development District office and picked up a booklet on "All about Community Development Districts... and How they Work For You".

C.D.D.s are non-profit public entities and, as such, realize savings which could be passed on to property owners within a district. C.D.D.s pay no sales tax on goods and services which automatically saves seven (7) per cent.

So, why does the V.C.C.D.D. tack a sales tax of \$8.40 onto the \$120 executive golf courses trail fees? Shouldn't they be tax free? SOMETHING IS WRONG!

Who owns the C.C.D.s? Because they are governments, no one really owns them. Created by the developer under Chapter 190 of Florida Statutes and approved at the appropriate local levels, they are designed to exist in perpetuity for the benefit of current and future Village residents.

So.... why don't their Boards of Supervisors listen to the voices of the residents?

Joe Gottfried -

TO: ALL VILLAGE NEWCOMERS

You are cordially invited to come to our meetings at 7:00 P.M. on the third Wednesday of each month at the Paradise Center. Plan to stay to have a cup of coffee with us - your neighbors - at the social period following the meetings.

65 MILLION DOLLARS

The V.C.C.D.D. (Village Center Community Development District) did it again! See below for a list of property they paid \$65 million for:

AREA 29. Tierra Del Sol Recreation Complex. A 987 square feet office building, parking lot, swimming pool, and courts for tennis, pickleball, shuffleboard and bocce ball.

My opinion of its worth: \$2 million

AREA 30. Santa Domingo Post Office. A building containing employee restroom, mail workroom, ATM, parking lot and landscaping.

My opinion of its worth: - 0 -

AREA 31. El Diablo Golf Courts. A 9-hole, par 3 executive golf course.

My opinion of its worth: \$1.5 million

AREA 32. Alhambra Post Office. A building containing an employee restroom, mail workroom, parking lot, landscaping and an ATM.

My opinion of its worth: - 0 -

AREA 33. El Camino RV parking lot. A fenced in, secured and lighted area to hold approximately 200 RVs, boats and other vehicles.

My opinion of its worth: \$750,000

AREA 34. Laguna Madre and Lago Paquito lakes. Two water retention ponds in a flood plain area.

My opinion of its worth: - 0 -

Plus some re-investing of a total of \$65 MILLION.

NO WAY - NO WAY - NO WAY

But that's OK, because they have a company (Fishbind and Associates, Inc.) to express an opinion as to the value of the real estate and related

facilities and they - under the income approach to value - (a) the price tag is in the best interests of the district, and (b) the residents were in good shape to re-pay this \$65 million bond.

\$4 million plus on one side. \$65 million on the other side. WHAT A DEAL....

Community Development District meetings are, by law, open to the public. A schedule can be obtained by calling 753-4508.

Residents are encouraged to attend those meetings where decisions are made which affect their district.

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DO YOU LIKE TO READ THE P.O.A. BULLETIN?

We are nearing 9,000 homes here in The Villages; and, with an increase of 100 homes a month, they will number 10,000 by the end of the year.

We are proud to have our Bulletin reach each home every month. With no coverage of our organization's activities in either the Daily Sun or on VNN, it is our only means of contact with our fellow residents.

This rapid monthly increase in homes means a monthly increase in the number of Bulletins that need to be printed - - and an increase in printing costs.

Advertisements help to offset the bulk of the cost of printing and, for that reason, we ask our residents to patronize our advertisers.

Still - - we are going to need help with a shortfall we couldn't have predicted. Therefore, we would appreciate any suggestions you might have for generating funds to cover our printing costs.

Please don't hestitate to contact any member of the Board of Directors if you have suggestions for resolving this shortfall.



EXPECT MIGRATING BIRDS IN FEBRUARY

Sometime this month we can expect a visit from some of the birds migrating back north. And, to me, it always seems they are heading back before weather conditions there would be ideal for their return.

While here some will feast on our berry bearing trees and shrubs in preparation for the next leg of their journey. All, that is, except the robins which find their food on the ground.

These birds are some we left behind when we migrated to Florida, and I think of their arrival here as a sign Spring is on its way in both places!

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Blood Bank

Dorothy Hoerst 753-9021

By-laws & Procedures

Jean Tuttle 753-3610

Nominating

Sadie Woollard 753-0615

Refreshments

Ruth Kosovan 753-1785

Vial of Life - Lake County Terry Berube 753-0314

Vial of Life - Sumter County Joyce Gottfried 750-1141

Members interested in assisting on any of these committees may contact the chairman.

BUMPER STICKER OF THE MONTH



IF YOU DON'T LIKE MY **DRIVING, STAY** OFF THE SIDEWALK



What one has, one ought to use; and whatever he does he should do with all his might.



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I hope you remembered to make out your check to the V.A.C. (Village Action Committee) to help provide the funds needed for the litigation by Russell & Raili Day against the developer and the V.C.C.D.D.

If not, please mail it to:

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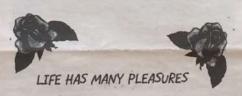
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WONDERFUL TO RECALL,

BUT OF ITS MANY TREASURES

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF ALL IS LOVE.

Robert William Lawrence

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

P.O.A. OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

750-5469 Joe Gottfried President 753-2928 "Win" Shook Vice-Pres. Carol Kope Secretary 750-0394 Merle Barefoot Treasurer 753-3974

Patricia Carter 753-7659 Russell Day 750-3108 Harold Heller 753-9154 Dorothy Hokr 753-5864 Don Lathom 753-5429 Paul Luge 750-4419 753-2591 Dick Moulton 753-2678 Tom Ritter Sadie Woollard 753-0615

ANOTHER PRIVILEGE LOST?

We are hearing that V.C.C.D.D. Manager Pete Wahl has told all bus companies except one that they cannot pick up people in the Villages to take them on

Not at the Square. Not at Publix. Not at Winn Dixie. Not in The Villages - period

We are checking into all angles of this matter and will have a report for you at our February 18th meeting.

Could this be the last straw?

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PSST!! - Thougts and facts about trail fees and other golfing matters

"MIDDLE CLASS" GOLFERS ARE BEING TAKEN BY THE VILLAGES

This month I want to tell you about how — like the federal government — our "middle class" golfers are being taken. How? With the help of Pete Wahl as manager of the C.D.D.s!

There are three groups of golfers who do not pay annual trail fees:

- 1) Those who prefer to walk.
- 2) Those who join the country clubs but prefer to pay cart fees each time they play. (Our "snowbirds" may fall into this category.)
- 3) And our Orange Blossom friends who do not pay the annual trail fee to play on the two executive courses on the east side, but who are required to pay the fee if they choose to play those on the west side.

The rest of us - an approximate 1,000 "middle class" golfers - - who either can't come up with the \$330 dues and the \$330 plus tax trail fee (or are limited to nine-hole play) have to pay for our "free golf" because we moved here too late to be included in the Orange Blossom exemption.

Why? Their answer is: "It's been a tradition." I want to know what your feeling is about this.

Come to the P.O.A. meetings in Paradise Center on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. and voice your thoughts.



WHEN A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS!

JOE SAYS: Look at the picture below of the cart path at the first hole at the Mira Mesa course or check it the next time you play golf there.



This is an eight inch drop-off from the cart path that extends about 30 feet! All it needs is dirt.

Also at the first hole, the next picture shows a shoe brush that saw its last day a year ago.



I guess dirt is too expensive or there is not enough money in the budget for it or a new shoe brush. But the

executive golf committee reports everything is OK!

See you next month with more pictures from around the Villages' golf courses. What spot do you dislike the most? I'll show you mine next month.

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COLLECTION OF TRAIL FEES

As I'm sure you know, our golf and country clubs are owned by the developer - - not by the V.C.C.D.D. - - and their dues and fees are collected by The Villages.

The V.C.C.D.D. collects the \$120 plus tax trail fee for use of the executive courses. BUT, when golfing country club members pay a trail fee of \$330 in addition to their \$330 annual dues, it includes the executive courses!

Now, does the V.C.C.D.D. receive \$120 of the \$330 trail fee collected by the developer? No!

Pete Wahl says there is a credit and debit system between the V.C.C.D.D. and the developer whereby the help received from golf pro Steve Wresh and his maintenance crew makes an even debit and credit.

Taking an estimated 4,500 carts @ \$120, you will arrive at a figure of a little over half a million dollars that goes to the developer -- not to the V.C.C.D.D.!!

Now, if you believe this one, I would like to sell you part of a bridge in Brooklyn!

Another half million dollars GONE...

OUT THE BACK WINDOW!

When the V.C.C.D.D. purchased the amenities from the developer, they made a few deals in their contract.

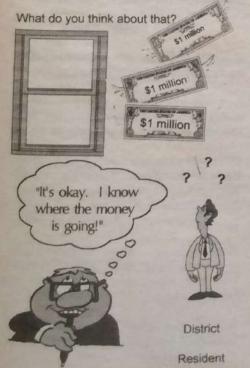
First, every new home owner's amenities fee would not go to the V.C.C.D.D. but to the developer to build new recreational facilities such as swimming pools, tennis courts, nine-hole golf courses, etc.

Now, take this section of 1,800 all new homes (from June 1, 1996 to October 31, 1997) and multiply by \$99 monthly amenities fees for 17 months. Comes to just over \$3 million.

1 and 1/2 million dollars to build new recreation! Now, the V.C.C.D.D. comes along and buys this at \$65 million and you, with your \$99 monthly amenities fees, have to pay it off for the next 24 years!

So -- with this set-up, why don't we have more 9-hole golf courses and we could play golf without a hassle? It's not costing the developer money AND we could get on to play in December, January and February. WHY? WHY? WHY?

Hot off the top of my head.... The developer is starting the next 9-hole course, why not put three street lights on each hole? That's 27 lights at \$100/light — peanuts on an \$11 million budget — and, with permission to drive golf carts after sundown, we could play night golf 'til 10 P.M. Boy, what a great idea!



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HA HA! HA HA! HA!

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SPEAKER SCHEDULED FOR THE P.O.A. FEBRUARY 18 MEETING

Sumter County Sheriff William O. "Bill" Farmer, Jr. will speak about the FLORIDA SHERIFFS YOUTH RANCHES, a Florida charity for Florida's children.

Village residents may become honorary members of the Florida Sheriff's Association through either the Sumter or Lake County Sheriffs offices.

Sheriff Farmer will enumerate the many activities made possible with the funds derived from honorary membership dues.

Also tentatively scheduled is the introduction of the new operator(s) of La Bodega who submitted the lowest bid when the contract with Shell expired.



SINCE YOU'RE SO SMART.....

determine two words corresponding to each pair of clues that are spelled the same except for a letter being added to the beginning of the second word.

1) correct, luminous 2) elderly, frigid-3) a grain, cost 4) smelly, a body of water 5) a body part, a fruit 6) stocking, selected 7) hasty, garbage 8) deficiency, a color 9) a garden tool, footwear 10) give off, pay

(Please turn to page 7 for the answers)

A MOTTO FOR ALL TIME

The past is our heritage, the present is our responsibility, the future our challenge.

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WOULD YOU LIKE A SPEAKER FOR YOUR CLUB....

.... WHO CAN GIVE YOUR MEMBERS
THE TRUE FACTS ABOUT
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS (C.D.D.s)?

FACTS THAT PETE WAHL DOES NOT TEACH IN HIS C.D.D. "SCHOOLS". FOR EXAMPLE:

- 1) WHO REALLY BENEFITS THE MOST FROM C.D.D.s,
 - 2) RESIDENTS' INDEBTEDNESS,
- PURCHASE OF PARCELS WITH INFLATED SELLING PRICES,
- 4) TAXATION WITHOUT REPRE-SENTATION, ETC.

SPEAKER HAS DOCUMENTED PROOF OF ALL OF THE ABOVE.

ALLOW YOUR MEMBERS TO HEAR BOTH SIDES OF THE ISSUE. THEN THEY CAN DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES.

IF INTERESTED, CALL:

JOE GOTTFRIED 750-5469

Any housewife, no matter how large her family, can always get some time alone by doing the dishes.

PEANS VS. DESTINY

ONCE UPON A TIME I PLANNED TO BE AN ARTIST OF CELEBRITY.

A SONG I THOUGHT TO WRITE ONE DAY, AND ALL THE WORLD WOULD HOMAGE PAY.

I LONGED TO WRITE A NOTED BOOK, BUT WHAT I DID - WAS LEARN TO COOK.

FOR LIFE WITH SIMPLE TASKS IS FILLED, AND I HAVE DONE, NOT WHAT I WILLED,

YET WHEN I SEE MY BOYS HUNGRY EYES I'M GLAD I MAKE GOOD APPLE PIES!

FROM "APPLES OF GOLD"

Compiled by Jo Petty



Michael Glick, M.D. LRMC Office Park 8842 N.E. 134th Ave. Lady Lake, FL 32159

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SOME FAMOUS PEOPLE'S FEELINGS
ABOUT CATS

"To err is human, to purr feline."

- Robert Byrne

"Way down deep, we're all motivated by the same urges. Cats have the courage to live by them."

- Jim Davis

"There are two means of refuge from the miseries of life: music and cats."

- Albert Schweitzer



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FEBRUARY DATES OF NOTE

2 - Groundhog Day

12 - Lincoln's Birthday

13 - Valentine's Day

16 - Presidents' Day

18 - P.O.A. General Meeting

22 - Washington's Birthday

25 - Ash Wednesday

FEBRUARY EVENTS OF NOTE

First fingerprint conviction - 1911 Boys Scouts Day founded - 1910 U.S. Weather Bureau established - 1870 Arizona became 48th state - 1912 Morgan Library presented to NYC - 1894 National PTA organization founded - 1897 First 3D movie shows - 1953 First televised presidential press conference - 1955 John Glenn orbited Earth - 1962 Washington Monument dedicated - 2885 U.S. purchased Florida from Spain - 1819 Siege of the Alamo began - 1836 U.S. Income Tax Law adopted - 1913 Napoleon escaped from Elba - 1815 First American railroad chartered - 1827

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS OF NOTE

Violinist J. Heifetz - Norman Rockwell - Napoleon - Charles Dickens - Thomas Edison - Susan B. Anthony - Admiral Chester W. Nimitz - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

A man could retire nicely in his old age if he could dispose of his experience for what it cost him.

JUST A SUGGESTION!

The P.O.A. Suggestion Box may not be fancy but it is serviceable!

And it is <u>available</u> at every meeting awaiting your suggestions on any subject you care to share with us.

Between meetings, the P.O.A. drop box is available for this same purpose, and it is located below our Bulletin Board just inside the outer entrance to Paradise Center.

Your ideas and constructive criticisms are not only welcome but are necessary if we are to continue as a viable organization.

So ... run them by us and be assured we will give them every consideration.

THE NOSTALGIA CORNER

In the Victorian era, a child very well might have chosen a pretty, lacy handkerchief for a Mother's Day gift.

Just imagine the lovely, delicate handkerchiefs which evolved from small woven grass mats used by primitive people to wipe their brows!

During the Classical Age, handkerchiefs made of cotton, silk and linen were worn exclusively by churchmen and the wealthy. Use of them had fairly well "trickled down" to the general population by the 16th century, and they became even more beautifully decorated.

Transition from the original oblong shape to the square is attributed to Marie Antionette whose complaint to Louis XVI about the boring shape resulted in a decree that only square ones would be acceptable in his kingdom.

Handkerchiefs were essential elements of dress in the American colonies. Even the Quakers considered a plain handkerchief essential to good grooming.

By the 20th century, men's handkerchiefs became simple and standardized. Women's handkerchiefs, though ornabegan to be tucked away in mental, purses more often than not.

As we near the end of this century, it appears women's hankies may be headed the way of diapers, razors and other disposable items found on grocery shelves one week and the county landfill the next.

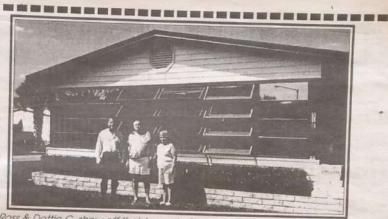
I imagine some of our ladies have a hankie or two tucked away as a momento of a beloved family member. I know I have.

ON THE BRIGHT SIDE

I have never met a bunch of people who are as friendly as the residents of The Villages.

We're all in the same boat. We came here to retire, and we hope to spend the rest of our years together.

I love what we have here, and I am going to give it my all to keep it. So, keep that hand out of my pocket if you don't want me to break it!



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Weekday: 8:30 A.M. Holy Day: 8:30 and 11:00 A.M.

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SINCE YOU'RE SO SMART ANSWERS

1) right, bright 2) old, cold 3) rice, price 4) reek, creek 5) ear, pear 6) hose. chose 7) rash, trash 8) lack, black 9) hoe, shoe, 10) emit, remit

DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS Orange Blossom Gardens Chapter No. 150 Lady Lake, Florida 32159

For: All Veterans

When: 7 PM - every second Tuesday

Where: Clark Gable Room Contact:

Tom Ritter 753-2678 Marvin Jackson 753-7874



MOST PEOPLE ADMIRE A GOOD LOSER AS LONG AS IT'S SOMEONE ELSE.

- SOURCE UNKNOWN

NOTHING ASTONISHES MEN SO MUCH AS COMMON SENSE AND PLAIN DEALING.

- RALPH WALDO EMERSON

REFLECTIONS BY MS. TAKES

I've made my share of mistakes. (If you read the Bulletin, you have seen some.) I made no mistake, however, when I became a member of the **Property**Owners' Association 11 years ago!

"Back home" experience with a similar organization was all I needed to know to unite once again with neighbors who had charged themselves with improving, preserving and safeguarding the future for all our residents and our community.

<u>Some</u> residents have looked askance at P.O.A. membership because they had "been there done that" and wanted to avoid retirement involvement. <u>Some</u> have rejected participation out of concern for retaliation while <u>some</u> have allowed personality conflicts to influence their outlook on the overall picture.

Our reputation has been sullied by <u>some</u> because we have had to "buck the system" in our attempts to protect the rights of our residents. Is this not the American way?

Misunderstood though we may be, we're still the best game in town! We are not the only one anymore or the largest, but we are the one with 22 years' experience in flexing our muscles in the interest of sustaining our way of life in our beautiful retirement haven.

So don't make the mistake of underestimating the P.O.A. and its purpose. Come see us at our monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at the Paradise Center at 7:00 P.M. Judge us for yourselves - - not by the way some may have represented us to you.

TO JOIN THE P.O.A.

ALL THAT IS REQUIRED IS COMPLETION OF THE MEMBERSHIP FORM AND PAYMENT OF DUES.

DUES MAY BE REMITTED BY ANY OF THE FOLLOWING MEANS:

- AT MEETINGS FROM 6:30 TO 7:00 P.M. PRIOR TO MEETING - AND MEMBERSHIP CARD ISSUED
- IN OUR DROP BOX IN PARADISE RECREATION CENTER
- BY MAILING YOUR CHECK WITH FORM TO:

P.O.A. P.O. BOX 1657 LADY LAKE FL 32158-1657

IF RECEIVED BY MAIL OR DROP BOX ACCOMPANIED BY A SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE, YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD WILL BE MAILED TO YOU. OTHEWISE, YOU MAY PICK UP YOUR CARD AT ANY REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO THE P.O.A.

		THE RESERVE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN			
P.O.	A B	DED	CLI	DE	ODBA

Completion of this form constitutes acknowlegement of the P.O.A. as your representative.

	(PLEASE PRINT)	
NAME(S)		
ADDRESS		
VILLAGE/VILLA		
COUNTY	UNIT NO PHONE	
NEWRENEV	ALREINSTATEMENTDATE	
ANNUAL DUES	: \$6.00 - PRO-RATED FIRST YEAR 50c	MONTH

FOR P.O.A. USE ONLY

CHECK

AMOUNT PAID