

# BULLETIN

# Property Owners' Association of The Villages



Vol. II No. III

SEPTEMBER 1999

## PRESIDENTS THOUGHTS

Well, it's down to the last few months of being your president. What can I do but say it was a very interesting three years.

Did I change anything? I think so. I let out a lot of frustration in my meetings and I wrote a few harsh words for our Bulletin. There are a few good people (with the ability to make a difference) working behind the lines in Tallahassee and, would you believe, even in Washington.

But it is down to the wire on what everyone is thinking or saying, "I do not want to get involved. I do not want to know what the Developer is doing. All I want to do is to play a little golf, a little bocci, and have a good meal out every so often, and be with a few friends. So what if they are ripping me off with their real estate deals? Where else can I go and have what I have here?"

Hopefully, by the time someone does anything about it, I will be gone (selling my house, not six feet under).

Winn Shook is putting together a big December meeting. A POA 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary party and a Christmas party. You must be a member to be there - free food, etc. So with that, I'll see you at the last few meetings that "crazy guy" conducts.

- Joe Gottfried

## POOL RULES & ETIQUETTE

Guests as well residents must respect the rules of the particular facility they are using. I have recently received a number of phone calls from residents who are disturbed at the rudeness of mothers and grandmothers to pool monitors because they tell their child or grandchild to stop the horseplay around the pool.

Residents who bring guests should realize that this is a privilege (which can be revoked). Everyone must obey all facility rules.

About six months ago, the VCCDD discussed the issue of having all guests pay to use any of our facilities (guests pay for golf). It would be a shame if a few rude people turn out to be the "bad apple" that spoils our privilege of bringing guests, free, to our pools.

- Joe Gottfried



## SPEAKER FOR SEPT. 15 POA MEETING

Mr. Dan Baker, Sumter County Veterans Service Officer, will be our guest speaker at the Sept. 15 POA Meeting. He will explain the various services his office provides to veterans. Although he is from the Sumter VA Office, the benefits apply to all veterans regardless of where they live.

The V.A. Department offers services and assistance to any veteran, or dependent of a veteran, in all areas of dealing with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Assistance is provided for, but not limited to, claims for compensation, pension, education and training, home loans, life insurance, health care, obtaining medals, military ID cards, obtaining discharges, also upgrade of discharges, and death benefits.

Mr. Baker will also be available for questions from the membership.

Plan to be there, this should be a very interesting and informative meeting.

## LRMC'S 55PLUS PROGRAM

The POA is proud and pleased to work with LRMC on their new 55PLUS program.

55PLUS is not an insurance or Medicare supplement. This is a free program sponsored by LRMC to help Seniors to be knowledgeable and informed patients. The program will provide newsletters and updates on medical news, educational seminars and workshops on new medical procedures and medicines.

Remember, it is our body, and we certainly should make our own decision on treatments, etc. Being knowledgeable in the aspects of our illnesses and its treatment, will give us this ability.

Applications to join 55PLUS are available at all POA meetings. If you would like more information, call the LRMC Coordinator at 352-322-5535.

## STORM WARNINGS?

At the August 18th P.O.A. meeting we had a lively discussion about Emergency Shelters for our residents during this upcoming hurricane season. Residents were vocal in their displeasure that there are no Shelters in the area.

For it is true - there are none. The closest shelter for Villagers are the schools in Fruitland Park and in Weirsdale. The new school in the Villages probably meets requirements, but the Lake County School Board has not yet indicated that it will be used. Nor have Emergency Evacuation Routes been planned. In any case, Villagers alone would swamp the facilities.

Officials do not want to discuss this problem, as the cost of providing Emergency Shelter goes far beyond their capability to provide it. When was the last hurricane to hit Lake County?

Evacuation is probably not a solution. Hurricanes slow down, speed up, veer off predicted paths, and so on. Who is to say that you will not evacuate directly into the storm? And, the Lord only could direct the traffic if every Villager evacuated at the same hour.

There are important things that you can do if you know that a storm approaches. First, secure all lawn furniture and decorations. Although it is uncertain how our houses will fare in a major storm, we know that much of the danger is from flying glass shards at great velocities. Second, shutter, or cover all windows in one area of the house where you will stay. Third, buy supplies in advance, such as canned goods, bottled water, candles, batteries for your radio and night-lights, etc. Fourth, make sure that your prescription medicine supply is adequate. And, last, if you have special needs, register with the Police Dept so that they will know where to respond in an emergency.

Win Shook, VP, P.O.A.

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ACTIVITIES OF THE DEVELOPER AND  
CDD'S



### BELIEVE IT OR NOT?

By Tom Post

The major issue on the agenda for the Town of Lady Lake meeting on August 10 was whether or not to move the Lady Lake Police Department's satellite office.

It was quite delightful to see Mr. Wahl and commissioners attend the recent meeting of the Town of Lady Lake and participate in what he preaches but does not practice. The right to ALL the people to participate in their government. Both sides having the opportunity to express their issues then a vote taken by the allowed (and appointed). Whether or not I personally agree or disagree with that vote, I have an obligation to honor that vote.

Mr. Wahl made an interesting comment when the motion was made to move the police department station in the Villages to another location. Part of the motion that was made included the language that if the Town of Lady Lake exceeds \$100,000 in expenses for additional police protection in the Villages, he as Executive Director of the Villages personally agreed to pay for any additional expenditures incurred. I am sure this will be watched very closely by our elected officials.

I lived on an Indian Reservation for more than thirty years. One of the major quotations by the American Indian is, "white man speaks with forked tongue". Only time will tell on your legacy Mr. Wahl.

I am always happy to hear your views on any issue. I'll be up, you're down, 1988-2000.

Until next time, Believe or Not,  
Tom Post

### ANOTHER NOTICE IN THE MAIL

Notice of the new fire assessment was recently mailed to the Sumter County residents. Your assessment is going from \$30/yr to \$56/yr. However, the notice does not mention the \$41/yr that will be taken out of your maintenance/amenity fee.

Now, if my math is correct, that is 66% inflation. Sumter County residents recently received an assessment for "special maintenance" and bond issue (if you have not already paid this). Don't be surprised at the trim tab you will receive very shortly. Don't get confused. You will receive your full tax bill in November.

I'm just wondering how many people will show up at the Sumter County Commissioners meeting on Sept. 8 (5:00PM)? This is a meeting for public input and our last chance to voice our opinions. Let's fill up the room and make them listen.

- Russ Day

### POLICE SATELLITE OFFICE

We have received numerous calls regarding maintaining the present Lady Lake Police Department satellite office in the Villages.

The Villages had been providing the police department with this satellite office. Now they want the police department to pay rent on this facility and purchase the office furniture. The Lady Lake Commissioners voted to do so.

Many residents feel that this a complete waste of their tax money. Especially since the completion of the new Lady Lake Town Hall contains the main police station, and it is only one mile down the highway.

Well, folks, all we can say is that we agree with you, but, it is a done deal. The Lady Lake Commissioners voted to do so. All you can do now is to remember this issue when election time comes around.

### VCCDD AND POLITICAL POWER

Don't you just love the way the VCCDD spends our money? Well, they are contributing our money to a political party. The big bash for George W. Bush is scheduled for Sept. 11. Now, remember George W. is not even going to be here. He is the Florida Governor, Joe Bush, you know the fest-ivan. According to VCCDD's File Wahl, "This isn't a political event. This is a patriotic day. If V.F. (and some) through town, the community development division would pull out the same steps". **W.F. GEORGE W. ISN'T COMING THROUGH TOWN!!!**

What do you residents think of the idea that your money is being contributed to a political party without your consent? I'm a Republican, and I think this is very, very wrong. I'll do my own personal contributing, when and where and how I wish!

Democrats should be outraged and do something about this. If the Villages Developer wants to make points with George W. and Jeb, let him use his own money!

The POA is continuously trying to get some changes made on the absolute point of the VCCDD. Our petition addresses this particular problem. We are also now communicating with several state departments regarding the activities of the VCCDD.

In the meantime, residents attend the VCCDD meetings. This is where the ridiculous decisions are made on how our maintenance fees are spent. Demand to be heard. Express your discontent with the way they recklessly spend our maintenance fees contributing to political parties, paying highly inflated prices for property purchased from the Developer, improving the appearance of the community to lure new home purchases, etc.

These things have to stop. We residents are the only ones who can do it. Join the POA (the only property owners association willing to do anything about these injustices), sign our petition, and attend the VCCDD meetings.

- Carol Kape

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## THE SAME OLD LINE!!

I attended the recent Town of Lady Lake Commissioners meeting on the police satellite station in the Villages. There are many pros and cons regarding this issue, but I don't think Sy Rosenblatt's, (VHA Vice Pres), "If you don't like it here, move!" solution is the answer. He's using the same old line, "if you don't like it here, move". I wonder if that is the answer the VHA gives to its members if they criticize anything about the Villages. According to the VHA, everything in the Villages is wonderful, the Developer is wonderful, the CDDs are wonderful. We must not complain - we must not try to improve anything. We must just blissfully and ignorantly agree with them.

In 1994 I was told by a public official, "If you don't like it here, move!" Well, I didn't move and don't intend to move. I want to hang around until the "big bang" happens.

- Russell G. Day

## A FEE BY ANY OTHER NAME IS STILL A FEE

After my last article, I received a phone call from an irate Village resident complaining that I used the wrong terminology in my statement about my interpretation of *amenity fee vs maintenance fee*. She went on to say that our paper is negative; she does not like the attitude of the POA; the only interesting item in the paper was the article about Harold Schwartz; I was wrong when I referred to the amenity fee as a maintenance fee and is used for upkeep. (note: *freedom to express opinions, our constitutional right - although some people here disagree and try to suppress this right*)

To begin with, there are dozens and dozens of different sales contracts here in the Villages. Most of the contracts refer to our \$99/mo fee as a "maintenance fee" and for the sole purpose of maintaining the recreational facilities and common grounds. The contracts do not specify that this fee can be used to purchase properties or to be used at the sole discretion of the Developer controlled VCCDD.

According to Webster's New World Dictionary, the definition of "amenity" is: 1) pleasant, delightful, 2) pleasantness, attractiveness 3) attractive or desirable features as of place, climate, etc. 4) courteous acts, civilities. The definition of "maintenance" is 1) maintaining or being maintained, upkeep, support, defense, etc. 2) means of support or sustenance, livelihood as her job provided a mere maintenance, 3) in common law - support or assistance that a person is legally bound to give another or others. Now, you tell me which of these best describes the \$99 that is paid each month by each household!

- Tom Poss

## DID YOU KNOW??

According to the Lake Sentinel's August 15, "Political Pulse" column, that a new tax break for seniors is a big secret. Last year another exemption for low-income seniors was voted into the state Constitution. It allows poor seniors to claim another \$25,000 off their property value if they earn less than \$20,000 a year.

Counties and cities have to authorize the extra tax break - not one official in Lake County has so much as even whispered a peep about the added homestead provision.

According to Ed Havill, "It's up to the cities and the counties to decide, and they're all trying to keep it quiet."

Deadline to file for this extra exemption is December 1. If nothing is decided by then, seniors will have to wait another year to get the exemption.

Concerned residents should call their County Tax Appraiser for more information. Sumter County residents can call Ronnie Hawkins, 1-800-493-0210, Lake residents can call Ed Havill, 343-9748.

## SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

September is here, next comes October, and our glorious fall and winter seasons begin. But, don't forget that September and October are very dangerous months. The peak months for hurricanes and trailing tornados.

Fortunately, we are relatively safe here in Central Florida. It is not too probable that we would get a direct hit because we are so far inland. But, we could very possibly get tremendous winds and aftermath tornados.

So, folks, please pay attention to all storm warnings and make the necessary recommended preparations. Remember - it is better to be safe than sorry.

## THE VCCDD'S FLEECING OF THE RESIDENTS

- Paying \$22M for property from the Developer assessed at approximately \$7.5M.
- Spending \$59,000 in the Square to replace a huge tree that was transplanted about 3-4 years ago and didn't take. They are going to try transplanting another huge tree. Why not plant a cluster of beautiful, quick growing, Florida trees. This would certainly be significantly cheaper.
- Using the residents' maintenance fee to help sponsor a big political bash for the Republicans.

## WANTED

**Salesperson** - to sell ads for the POA Bulletin on a commission basis. Work as many hours as you want.

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## MAIZE MAZE

While on vacation and visiting with our son, Glenn, and his family who live in N. Carolina, they suggested that we visit a Maize Maze. I said what is that? Glenn promised we would be in for a treat. And we were.

Maize Maze is becoming a very popular attraction at entertainment parks. Naturally, you pay admission and your party is considered a team. You receive a map that has to filled out as you find your way through three acres, more or less, of 5' - 6' tall grown corn. You carry a flag pole so the "Tower" people can track you. Colored ribbons or tape let you know your position, but the colors change rapidly so you must be alert, and clues are provided along the way. If you get too hot, you can take a light misty shower. If you really get lost, you can call through a plastic pipe to the "Tower" for additional clues.

It takes about 1 hour and 12 minutes to get through the Maize Maze. It was certainly a fun experience.

I recently saw an episode on "Today in the Morning" on this new game. They interviewed a man from Maine who has designed and built 300 Mazes around the country. The Maze we visited was designed by a man from Jupiter, FL.

If you run across a Maize Maze somewhere, try it, you'll enjoy it.

- Joe Gottfried

## SCHEDULED CDD MEETINGS

- All CDD Meetings are held in the room adjacent to Pete Wahl's office on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Citizens First Bank Building
- VCCDD** - Villages Community Center  
Development District - last Friday of the month at 9:00 AM
- CDD#1** - Meets on the last Friday of the month at 11:00 AM
- CDD#2** - Meets on the first Friday of the month at 9:30 AM
- CDD#3** - Meets on the first Friday of the month at 9:00 AM



**P.O.A. MEMBERSHIP FORM**  
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 Signed articles are the **OPINION** of the writer.  
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POA Editorial Staff

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**P.O.A. MEETINGS**  
 Board of Directors - 7:00 PM  
 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the Month  
 Charlie Chaplin Rm - Paradise Center  
 (all POA members welcomed)  
 General Meeting - 7:00 PM  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Month  
 Paradise Recreation Center  
 Refreshments Served  
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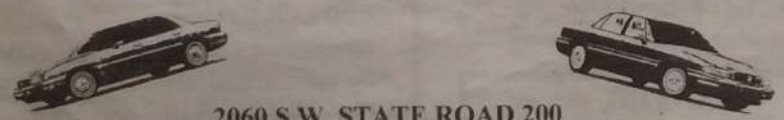
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