

Property Owners' Association of The Villages

CHAMPIONS OF RESIDENTS' RIGHTS SINCE 1975

BULLETIN



Vol. II No. V

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November 1999

PRESIDENTS THOUGHTS

Well, just returned from another wonderful sun filled vacation with my wife. Sun, sand and swimming in the Gulf of Mexico was a beautiful feeling. Besides enjoying the salt water pool and the beautiful sunsets over the Gulf, wonderful fish dinners - I almost forgot the 99 cent Margaritas. What more could I ask for? (Nice to have that beach get-away home.)

Did I miss much in the Villages? By the count of messages on my answering machine and all the fan mail, I do believe there are still many of you out there asking for advice, seeking solace, and still displaying some degree of unhappiness with the management of the Villages. But, let's not forget we have a wonderful beautiful place here, and I will miss it. Thanks for all the good things we have here.

But, may I ask - will the new charter school put a damper on my retirement funds? So many of the good and wonderful things built by the Villages has already put a drain on my wife's pocketbook. Poor girl (literally). She has less to shop with or get those crowns or operation that she wants. But, that's OK. It's still is a wonderful, beautiful place to RETIRE TO???

- Joe Gottfried

THE AMERICAN'S CREED

"I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign states; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies". - unknown



MEDICINE HELP

The cost of medical prescriptions is absolutely absurd. Many times, I have been at the drug store awaiting a prescription and have seen residents write out checks for \$200 and up. Then, they sigh and say, "That's not even a month's supply" or "That's just for my spouse. I'll get mine next week". Some thing is drastically wrong with this whole business. Even generic drugs have risen dramatically.

The pharmaceutical companies say they need these high prices to cover the costs of developing the drugs. If this is so, why should just Americans bear the cost - why not everywhere the drug is sold. Drugs in every other country in the world are cheaper than they are here in the U.S. Seniors living near the Canadian and Mexican borders make special trips into these countries because the very same drugs sold here in the U.S. are much cheaper there. Why doesn't our "we know what's best for you" government look into the price gouging and profits of these huge pharmaceutical firms?

But, I'm wandering off my subject. I want to inform residents that a few drug companies are trying to help. If you are finding that the purchase of your drugs really puts a strain on your budget, talk to your doctor. Tell him/her how you cannot afford to purchase the drugs. Tell your doctor that you have heard of this program and ask how to get help from it. There are certain income restrictions, etc. But it is worth a try.



NOVEMBER - WHAT A MONTH!

We have Election Day, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving. November is the "kick-off" of the holiday season. Christmas shopping for some people and preparation for Hanukkah for some. It is ironic that Election Day, Veterans Day and Thanksgiving all fall in the same month. Could it be that our forefathers were also a little psychic? We elect officials in the month of November that we feel will run our towns, counties, states, and the whole country wisely and keep us safe with the decisions they make. Then we have Veterans day, a day set aside to pray for and thank all those brave men and women who fought so hard, and those that died to give us the freedoms we have - the right to go out and vote into office the officials that are given the power of running our country and our lives. All of this is followed by Thanksgiving. What have we to be thankful for? I don't think there would be enough room in any paper to make this type of a list. It would just be too long.

We are all very fortunate to live in a free country. Look around and see what we have. Beauty every where we look, good neighbors, and loving friends. Everyone has someone that they know who went a step further to help at a time when maybe you thought there was no place left to turn. Someone who held out their hand to help steady a bad situation. I know that for me there was a couple who I never met before Ken and Phyllis, my mother-in-laws' neighbors. My mother-in-law became very ill and when I arrived to help her out, those beautiful people who I never met before open their home to me, gave me a bed to sleep in, fed me, and gave me the keys to their car to get back and forth to the hospital. I was treated like part of their family. I have thanked them, but thanks could never be enough. I think of these beautiful people all the time and more so at this time of the year, Thanksgiving. Ken and Phyllis live here in the Villages, and we who live here in the Villages are lucky to have neighbors and friends like them.

We should always take the time to reflect on the men and women who gave of themselves for our freedom. Our right to live in a free democracy. Our good neighbors who are always there with the friendly 'good morning' and helping hand when needed. Be thankful this month and keep love and peace in this holiday season.

- Charlotte Poss

NEW P.O.A. SERVICE FOR MEMBERS

As of our November meeting, there will be a Notary Service available to POA members. We offer this service free of charge.

If you need anything Notarized, bring it to the regular monthly meeting - held every third Wednesday of the month. If you are incapacitated, you can call 750-5640, and I will come to your home. Or, come to my home - just call first to make sure I'm home.

This service is free and provided by Charlotte Poss, 750-5640.

JUDGING PEOPLE

If you judge people, you have no time to love them.

Mother Teresa

DECEMBER POA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Plans are underway to make our December meeting a big celebration. On December 15th, we are going to celebrate Christmas, the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Property Owners' Association of the Villages, and the new millennium.

We're going to have special refreshments, entertainment, and the whole bit. So plan to join us Wednesday, December 15th at 7:00 PM in the Paradise Rec Center.

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BELIEVE IT OR NOT?

By Tom Poss

How many times have you heard the comment, "let Mike do it" or "I don't want to get involved". There isn't a day that goes by that you don't hear a conversation that goes something like this: "I did not like that article in the paper" or "I did not like the way our elected officials voted", or even to go so far as to say, "last Sunday I did not like the comment my minister or priest made".

Well, people, it is up to you to change things. You have to get involved. If you don't like what is being done or who was elected to an office, it won't do any good to complain at your local restaurant, swimming pool, or on the golf course. Remember, only you, the public, can change a situation. Don't just sit there and complain. Get involved. Don't wait until you get stepped on or your personal privileges get abused.

There are many outlets where your dissatisfactions can be aired - write a letter to the editors of the local papers - attend local CDD and Commissioners (local and county) meetings (all decisions and policies are made here). Plus, just stop and think of the many clubs and organizations you belong to. Whether there are ten or a hundred members, you always see the same small group of people doing all the work. To make a group fully successful you have to get involved. Pro and/or con ideas, are always appreciated. Ideas have sparked some of the world's greatest accomplishments. Every organization needs your input. Please help.

I would like to hear your views. Please write or call - tel 750-5640 - fax 750-2320 - e-mail Teposs@Aol.Com

Until next time, this is Believe or Not
- Tom Poss

The new rate increase of the maintenance/amenity fee of \$5 (from \$99/mo to \$104/mo) nets the VCCDD additional income of:
\$5 x 17,000 homes = \$85,000/mo
\$85,000/mo x 12 mos = \$1,020,000/yr



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

Special Interest: Echocardiography,
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Michael A. Glick, M.D.
General Adult Medicine 753-5222
Memberships: American College of Physicians, American Medical Association

Medicare Assignment Accepted



BON APPETITE

- CHILI CORN BREAD BAKE
- 2lb ground beef
 - 1 chopped onion
 - 1 chopped green pepper
 - 1 env. chili season mix
 - 1 8oz can tomato sauce
 - 1 6-oz corn muffin mix
 - 1 cup evaporated milk
 - 1 cup shredded sharp cheese

Brown hamburger, drain, add onion and pepper, cook for several minutes. Stir in chili seasoning mix and tomato sauce. Spoon into 9x13 baking dish. Combine muffin mix and evaporated milk in bowl, mix well, spread evenly over meat mixture and sprinkle cheese over top. Bake at 400F 20-25 min. or until golden brown. Serves 6-8. Enjoy!

- Raili Day



COMPUTER TIPS

SCARED OF Y2K

Don't be. It is true that the great majority of computers in use today will not "roll over" to the year 2000, but instead will repeat the year 1900. So what? While there are certainly some programs where the current date is important, most of us computer users won't even notice the difference.

On most computers with W9X, the new year (2000) is easily set. On New Years day:
XX (double click) My Computer
XX Control Panel
XX Time-Date
Set the new date
X OK

Also, in Control Panel
XX Regional Settings
X Date
In the "Short Date" Box
Select MM-DD-YYYY
X OK

Note: This last step you may do anytime. Now, except for special programs, your computer is Y2K OK.

- Winn Shook, VP-POA

728-8881

OFFICE HOURS
BY APPOINTMENT

FORREST R. JERKINS, D.D.S., P.A.

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HOUSEHOLD TIPS MOLDY ROOFS

One of the many things we didn't know about Florida is the maintenance that a home requires to keep it in tip-top shape. Not only do we have to constantly spray for indoor and outdoor pests, mow our lawns year round, have our houses washed a couple of times a year, but, we also have to wash our house roofs. What northerner ever washed his house roof?? But, we have to remember that Florida has a semi-tropical climate - mold and mildew are live organic growths and just love the conditions here.

I'm sure you have noticed the enormous number of houses that have huge dark stains on the roofs. Even houses just a few years old have these molds, mildew, and fungus growing on them. Eventually, they can cause leaks.

Such was the case with our house about a year ago. But, we believe we have solved the problem.

First, we had our roof gently washed with some sort of a chemical to kill the growing fungus. Then, we had strips of zinc applied to both sides of all the peaks in our roof. The theory is that rain washes zinc from the strips and kills any growing fungus. It appears to be working - we have no new growths on our roof.

The most expensive part of the job is the cost of the zinc. However, we had the whole job done for about \$245. We feel that this is a worthwhile investment that pays for itself in a few years and certainly improves the appearance of our house.

- Carol Kope

VOUCHER CHARTER PUZZLE

Why does the Villages (retirement community) need a Charter/Private School for the children of their employees?

What kind of a message are we sending? Are these employees' children more privileged than the other children in the communities of Lake, Sumter, and Marion Counties?

Why did the Lake School Board build a school in Lady Lake (on donated Village property) when the developer had plans for a Charter School in Sumter County?

Are we looking/seeing privileges and politics over common sense decisions for the residents of these counties?

If the employee is discharged or leaves, do the children have to leave and go to another school??

- S.A. Woollard

Have you tried the two new miniature golf courses? But, gosh, on these "par 3" courses, they left out those hazardous tunnels and the clown's mouth.

WHAT IS THE P.O.A.??

For the information of the hundreds of new residents, the P.O.A. is, THE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION OF THE VILLAGES. It is the original association established in 1975 when the Villages was a small retirement community on the East side called Orange Blossoms Gardens.

However, when the developer unsuccessfully tried to ignore his contract which stipulated free amenities (cable, garbage disposal, free golf - no trail fees) with the residents, the P.O.A. legally challenged him. The developer conceded and reinstated the withdrawn privileges.

However, shortly after this incident, the developer helped to establish much friendlier new association. One in which to this day never challenges any issue the management makes.

A couple of years ago, the P.O.A. had to, again successfully, challenge the developer when he attempted to update the date of the amenity fee increase.

Each time, in the above cases, the P.O.A. attempted to negotiate with the developer with absolutely no success. They would not discuss the issues with us.

Of course, because of these actions, the developer and VCCDD do not look too favorably upon the P.O.A., and as a result, we are denied publicity of any sort - newspaper, VNN, or access to the names of new residents.

So, this is why many people have not heard about THE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION OF THE VILLAGES.

WHO IS GOING TO COMPLAIN.....

about a water rate increase that amounts to approximately \$1.40 on 16,000-17,000 gallons of water a month, and a 65 cent increase on a sewer fee? A total of about \$2.05 a month. But, do you realize how much more income this makes? \$2.05 x 17,000 homes = \$34,850 per month and \$418,200 a year.

Announcement of this increase came with a complicated letter which really didn't say anything. But, it included a chart showing how good our water is from tests done in 1996.

The meetings of all Community Development Districts are, by law, open to the public. Residents are encouraged to attend the meetings of the district in which they live and the Village Community Center Development District. Decisions are made in these meetings which affect residents.



FOUR PRINCIPLES OF THE ROTARY CLUB

The following was taken from a segment of Pete's Place 10/14/99:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendships?
4. Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?

Wouldn't it be a wonderful world if everyone used that test on everything they thought, said, or did? Pretty good guidelines for life, don't you think?

Yes, they are good guidelines for living. Too bad some folks don't put them to use in their every day life when making decisions.

Thank you, Pete, for sharing the four Rotary principles with us. - S.W. Woollard

NEXT POA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WEDNESDAY - NOVEMBER 17 -
7:00 PM - Paradise Rec Center

Ed Havill, Lake Country Property Appraiser
Will be our guest speaker and available for
questions from the floor

PLUS

Election of new officers for year 2000
Only paid members will be allowed to vote!
(Have you paid your 1999 dues?)
Come and vote for your new officers!

SCHEDULED CDD MEETINGS

All CDD Meetings are held in the room adjacent to Pete Wahl's office on the 2nd 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
 Annual Dues - \$6 per Household
 Mail to POA, PO 1657, Lady Lake, FL 32158

NAME(S) _____
 STREET _____
 VILLAGE or VILLA _____

COUNTY _____ PHONE _____
 NEW _____ DATE _____

JUST CUTE

(Copy this note and tape a marble to it and pass it on.)

Sometimes it seems we lose our way and life becomes so blue. You think you've "lost your marbles" and others suspect it's true. But in spite of all the odds, my friend, life can be wonderful too. Just remember, that no matter what, I'm always here for you. So when you think you've lost them all, pull out my gift to you. It may be small and only one....but you haven't lost them all!!!!

Submitted by Rose Harvey

DID YOU KNOW?

Persons living in the "Villages" who are either handicapped or require assistance getting their U.S. Postal Service Mail can have their mail delivered by an alternate service. Any person who feels that he or she has a valid need for such mail service should call U.S. Postal Service, Customer Service for this district, telephone number 352-858-6522 for additional information.

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CLASSIFIED SECTION

We are going to start a classified column in our monthly Bulletin. This will be a good opportunity to help support your P.O.A. The ads will run once a month - the cost will be a buck a line. This month we have better than a sample for you, we have our first ad. Use the following ad to gauge the length of your ad. Send ad and fee to POA, box 1657, Lady Lake, FL 32158-1657 or drop it off in the POA Box at Paradise Center.

FOR SALE BY OWNER

920 Ramos Dr., Villages - 3/2 on premium lot. Has land for swimming pool -block home with many extras. Priced to sell, only \$159,000. Call for appointment - 750-1141.

NEW COLUMNS

It would be nice to see other new columns start in the paper. How about a "Computer Column" - short hints for those of us that really want to know? What about a "Sunshine Column"? Sending birthday and anniversary greetings or get well wishes.

Or, if you have other ideas, write and tell us. We try to keep our "Bulletin" as interesting as possible. But, you have to remember, any new columns initiated will require input from you, our members.

DISCLAIMER

Signed articles are the **OPINION** of the writer. Unsigned articles are the **OPINION** of the POA. Our "Mail Box" column will not print "unsigned" letters.

POA Editorial Staff

P.O.A. MEETINGS

Board of Directors - 7:00 PM

1st Tuesday of the Month

Charlie Chaplin Rm - Paradise Center

(all POA members welcomed)

General Meeting - 7:00 PM

3rd Wednesday of the Month

Paradise Recreation Center

Refreshments Served

(ALL RESIDENTS WELCOMED)

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