

Property Owners' Association of The Villages

CHAMPIONS OF RESIDENTS' RIGHTS SINCE 1975

BULLETIN



Vol. II No. VI

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December 1999



FINAL THOUGHTS OF THE PRESIDENT

The curtain is coming down; my time to depart from this scene is near. I would like to take my bow with pride. Head held high, walking tall and to be remembered as ONE, who tried, to make a dent in this PARADISE, one who tried, to present the true facts (and did) one who presented those facts to the residents in a fair and just way.

I never wanted to tarnish the image of Mr. Harold Schwartz, our Founding Father of the Villages, of Lady Lake, for those of you who have been residents here for as much as twenty five years, you all know the beginning, and now with sadness the end. I call it the end of the beginning. I don't know where or when but, someday it will be the end, for all of us. A debt to be paid back by the residents, all of only two hundred million dollars, looks like the end to me. You be the judge.

Those of us who lived here a lesser time, have seen so much, go on. Some good and some bad. All according to how you look at it.

But, with this final thought, I am glad to be going out of this scene, I wish the next President the best of luck and good health. It won't be easy, but do not despair, keep gathering those facts and figures, all that you can, and keep presenting them to the residents. Everyone will not appreciate your intent, but you will be heard and that will make a difference.

To the officers that served with me, Win, Carol, Joyce, the Executive Board, Sadie, Russ, Charlie, Don, Paul, Dick, Frank and Ralph, Jean, Alta and Russ your patience and untiring efforts are so very much appreciated. We are a small group, that managed to make a big noise.

Again thank you so much, with great admiration from,

-- Joe Gottfried--

Remember Pearl Harbor December 07
Lights of Lake Festival December 04
Happy Anniversary P.O.A. December 15
Happy Holiday December 25

The month of December is full of important dates.

FIRST: We have to REMEMBER DECEMBER 07, 1941, when the JAPANESE BOMBED PEARL HARBOR, starting World War II. A day in infamy never to be forgotten. The sacrifices made in those terrible years, have made it possible for us to be able to celebrate these other events. Thank you and God bless you all.

SECOND: On a happy note, we have Friday, December 03, at the Town Hall to meet the new town manager, Jim Coleman and the new Ward 3 Commissioner. Saturday, December 04, at 6 pm, we will celebrate THE LIGHTS OF LADY LAKE, When we light up our Town Lady Lake. Please come and enjoy the festivities.

THIRD: We have the 25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORANGE BLOSSOM GARDENS, PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION. Now known as the Property Owners Association of the Villages. We have kept our promises, despite controversy, to protect and represent ALL the residents of the Villages. Pay your dues and come and enjoy the celebration.

FOURTH: The most important of all is "THE REASON FOR THE SEASON", The birth of our Lord and Savior, celebrated on December 25th, Christmas Day. So what ever Holiday you may celebrate during this Holy Season, May God Bless you all and Give you Peace and Love and Hope, as we enter into the New Century.

Yours in Christian Love,

--S.A. Woolard--

CORRECTION

Last month's publication carried an article on alternate mail delivery for handicapped residents. The telephone number listed in the article is no longer in use. We are attempting to locate a contact for this service and will publish it as soon as it is available.

NEW TELEPHONE SCAM

There is a new scam going around. You get a call from someone saying they are from the telephone company and checking the line. They ask you to dial 90# and hang up. **DO NOT DO IT - JUST HANG UP.** If you do this, your number will be used for a huge number of long distance calls and your bill will be tremendous.

A couple of good rules to follow to avoid being scammed in any way is:

- 1) The telephone companies and banks never, never telephone you to verify anything.
- 2) Never give a credit card number to anyone who calls you and asks for it, for any reason.
- 3) For soliciting money calls - do not say yes immediately- ask them to send you some literature or say that you do not give to telephone solicitations.
- 4) Calls soliciting purchases - again ask for literature. Remember, the rest rule of all - IF IT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE - IT ISN'T.

GIVE YOURSELF A CHRISTMAS PRESENT

Do you enjoy reading our little paper? As much as we enjoy sending it to you? Every Villager gets it, you know, member of the P.O.A. or not. It is *your* paper.

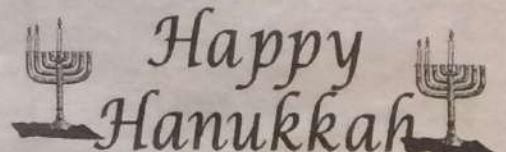
We would like the paper to be better - more pages - more news - more articles.

The expense of printing and delivery is born by Ads and P.O.A. Member dues. Dues are only \$6.00 per year.

Join the P.O.A. today. Call any officer from the paper. Or come to our meetings. It is well worth it.

- Win Shook, VP

HAVE YOU HAD YOUR FLU SHOT YET? IT'S GETTING LATE AND THE FLU IS EXPECTED TO BE QUITE SEVERE THIS WINTER. REMEMBER, MEDICARE PAYS THIS IN FULL.



SERVICES FOR P.O.A. MEMBERS

Fax service incoming and outgoing, .50 cents a sheet. Fax number is 352-750-2320. You will have to drop off and pick up.

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. Photo copies available free of charge (limited). This service is free and provided by Charlotte Poss 750-5640.

JOYCE'S THOUGHTS

I'm sad and I am happy at the same time. Sorry to say good-bye to my friends of the P.O.A. membership and the job that I had to take over, after the first treasurer got ill and wasn't able to carry on. Yes, I was criticized for being treasurer, but I wanted to help out in the time of need, and being able to help the President and stand by his side, didn't hurt me one bit.

Happy to be able to have "him" back and to take it a little more easy on ourselves. We will still travel, have fun and join you at the meetings, to sit back and observe and try again to get the membership built up. WE will be there.

I am proud to use my husband's name and will never shy away from it. I am Mrs. Gottfried to some and Joyce to others, but the title that I enjoyed the most, was

-THE FIRST LADY--

NEW P.O.A. OFFICERS - YR 2000
At the November General Meeting of the P.O.A, the following officers were elected for the year 2000.

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Tom Poss, President | 750-5469 |
| Win Shook, Vice Pres. | 753-2928 |
| Carol Kope, Secretary | 750-0394 |
| Charlotte Poss, Treasurer | 750-1141 |
- Executive Board Members:
- | | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Joe Gottfried | 750-1141 |
| Joyce Gottfried | 750-1141 |
| Frank Renner | 750-0306 |
| Sadie Woollard | 753-0615 |
| Ralph Yohn | 750-1413 |



COMPUTER TIPS

COMPUTER MAINTENANCE

Most of us use our computers from week-to-week without thought to our efficiency. Depending on usage, you should "clean up" your computer at least monthly. Do the following:

- * Click (x) START
- * Move mouse to Programs, Accessories, System Tools
- * SCANDISK, select C:
- * (X) START

This checks your hard drive for errors.

- * (X) START
- * Move Mouse to Programs, Accessories, System Tools
- * DISK DEFRAGMENTER, C:
- * (X) START

You may CANCEL at any time

- * Right-click START
- * (X) Explorer

Two screens appear, ALL FOLDERS on the left, CONTENTS on right

- * Left screen - scroll to WINDOWS
- * select WINDOWS, scroll to and (X) HISTORY
- * Right screen - (X) 1st item, hold shift key, (X) last item. All items will high-light. (X) File, Delete
- * Repeat for Temporary Internet

- Win Shook, VP-POA

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

By TOM POSS

Do you realize that you the average citizen have the power and the authority to act in the best interest of the community? There have been numerous complaints lately in the newspaper of vandalism taking place in our gated community. The developer instituted the neighborhood watch, they do conduct a service, but they have no legal authority to do anything. We do have a police department only a few blocks away. You as a citizen, don't waste your time calling neighborhood watch or Mr. Pete Wahl, just pick up the phone and call the people who have the authority to do something, the police.

The other day I was involved in a conversation in which a lady informed me that she was on her way home and a news truck was blocking the road and she could not get through. This lady had to drive several miles around the area to get to her home. Another story, in which the construction workers had their equipment trucks parked across the driveway and the person who lived there could not get out of their driveway. Remember the two above mentioned vehicles do not have the authority to do what they did, therefore, use the power you have. Call the police and have the vehicle ticketed or do yourself a bigger favor and call a tow truck and have the vehicle towed away.

If you complain about a consistent problem call the proper authorities that can help you. Don't give someone who doesn't care the opportunity to make your life miserable and give you excuses on why stupid things happen.

One of the latest rumors floating around is that some of the fire hydrants within the Villages do not have water to them. I sincerely hope your house is not near one these empty fire hydrants in a time of need. I would like your views, please call 750-5640, e-mail, Tcposs@aol.com. Until next time this is, Believe it or not by:

--Tom Poss--

HEAVY, HEAVY RUMOR

It looks like the Sumter County Commissioners finally woke up. If our sources are correct, there will be an ambulance at the Sumter County Annex.

Its about time the County Commissioners wake up to the needs of the community.

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QUESTIONS???

With the new tax bills coming out, I'm sure you Sumter County residents have noticed that your fire assessment has substantially increased.

Several months ago, the Sumter County Commissioners authorized a new fire district to primarily cover the Villages Sumter County residents. This new fire district consists of Villages Sumter County residents and the outside communities of Cherry Lake, Oakland Hills, Glenn Meadow Oaks, Live Oaks, Little Sumter, and Hickery Hammock. The Villages VCCDD was contracted to manage this new fire district.

Villages residents in Sumter County will now pay \$56/yr instead of the old \$30/yr. In addition to our contribution, the VCCDD will add an additional \$41/yr (taken from the amenity/maintenance fund - which they collect and control). This makes a total of \$97/yr per household for Sumter residents in the Villages. The residents of the outside communities will pay an increase of \$10/yr - making their total contribution \$40/yr.

I have the following questions:

1. With the fee assessment for the Villages being much higher than that of the outside communities, doesn't it appear that the Villages Sumter residents will be subsidizing the entire fire district?
2. With a portion of the Sumter County Villages fee assessment being paid by the VCCDD Amenity/Maintenance Fund, will not the entire Villages population be subsidizing the Sumter County Villages fire department?
3. What extra benefits do the Sumter County Villages residents get for more than a double tax fee? The outside communities get the same fire and rescue service we get. However, they do not have the roving rescue vehicle. Is this worth the maintenance of such a service? The fire station on Rt. 466 appears to be pretty well centered for the entire district.
4. Is this new fire district accountable to anyone? Can they increase the fire assessment at their discretion?

I find the above questions rather interesting. What do you readers think?

- Carol Kope

DECEMBER POA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our December meeting is scheduled for December 15th at 7:00 PM in the Paradise Rec Center.

There will not be any formal business meeting. We are going to celebrate Christmas and the 25th anniversary of the Property Owners' Association of the Villages.

We are going to have special refreshments. Our Bulletin advertisers have been invited - we are just going to have a good time.

COME AND JOIN US - DEC. 17TH

WHAT'S UP WITH CDD?

The following is a reprint of an article from the Orlando Sentinel's Homes Section - Questions & Answers under "Community Living".

Q: I moved to my new home recently. To my surprise, I was billed for a CDD. I do not remember any mention of a CDD fee, but on reviewing my closing papers, the CDD was mentioned. What is the CDD, and who determines the fees?

A: A community development district is a special form of association. Herbert Fiss, an attorney provided the following description:

It is not a homeowners association as defined under Florida Statute 617. Many times developers market them in error as homeowners associations.

Because it is not defined under FS 617, homeowners do not have the rights and privileges under the HOA laws with reference to the CDD. It is established as a government entity and acts similar to a county or city and even levy fees. But the CDD cannot enforce a community's private a community's private restrictions and therefore must have a separate homeowners association to enforce deed restriction.

SECOND THOUGHTS OF THE PRESIDENT

To all of the behind the scenes friends of the P.O.A. Who were always there to help out. The very able, pleasant, pretty ladies of the kitchen staff, who managed to make that delicious coffee and haul in those delicious donuts, to Ruth, Harriet, Valjean, and Mary, never, a sly look or nasty remark, you did your job, month after month. Can you keep up the good work? I hope so.

To Raili, and Glenn who never said NO, how can I thank you? To Dick, those "interesting" cartoons and signs and to Frenchie and Lee your efforts paid off, big time, all that money raised for ARC, and thanks to Mike our 50/50 salesperson. Who can argue with those accomplishments?

Again I am proud to say, little folks make bbbbigggg dents.

Thanks to you all.

--Joe Gottfried--



The POA Officers and Executive Board Members wish all of our members and residents:

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



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.



SANTA,
How About a
body THAT DOESNT
Hurt!



HOUSEHOLD TIPS

MISCELLANEOUS

- To kill weeds and grass that grows between the cracks on your cement walk or driveway - don't buy expensive weed killers. Pour cheap, good old household bleach on them. But be careful not to pour the bleach on flowers, etc. - it will kill them also.

- If you want a good inexpensive mouth wash, dilute hydrogen peroxide by adding an equal amount of water. It's a good germ killer and really does not taste too bad.

- When moving pictures around on your walls, remove the possible hole you just made by filling it in with spackling putty (providing your walls are white or off-white). With the rough texture of our walls, the former hole will not show at all.

- If you have a piece of furniture that has a few nicks and scratches, cover the piece (or area) with a matching stain. When the stain is dry, polish the whole thing. Your scratches and nicks will definitely not show as much as before.

IF ANY OF OUR READERS HAVE TIPS OF ANY KIND THAT WILL MAKE OUR HOUSEWORK AND MAINTENANCE EASIER - PLEASE SUBMIT THEM TO THE "BULLETIN". WE WOULD LOVE TO PRINT THEM.

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 _____

GREY PIPE PROBLEM

There is still time to correct grey pipe problems.

If you purchased a mobile home or other structure in the United States after August 21, 1995, and if that structure contained plumbing composed of polybutylene pipe with plastic or metal insert fittings (PB plumbing) when you purchased it, this problem can still be fixed. The PB plumbing must have been installed between January 1, 1978 and July 31, 1995.

For more information, call 1-800-392-7591 or visit: www.pbpipe.com



LOOKING FOR

We are adding a new service for our POA members, "LOOKING FOR". This new column will carry requests by residents who are looking for something specific (such as a particular product, spice, food, garment) and cannot find it. Readers who know where or how to get these items can call you with the information. I think these ads will generate good responses. This new POA service will be free of charge to members. Non-members can submit an ad by paying the "Classified" price of \$1 a line.

A few years ago, a very cute article was widely circulated within the Villages. It was called, "A Child's View of the Villages". I think our many new residents would enjoy it. Does anyone have a copy. I would like to print it in the "Bulletin". You can call me at 750-0394 or mail it to the POA Bulletin.

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	75 0-0394

MONOPOLY

Lately, this word of old, was brought out into the open. Remember Microsoft? Boy, what a neat word, (from Webster's) EXCLUSIVE CONTROL OF A COMMODITY OR SERVICE IN A PARTICULAR MARKET, OR MANIPULATION OF PRICES, AN EXCLUSIVE PRIVILEGE, CONTROL OF SOMETHING. I read enough. What does this word remind you of?

So, I've lost the game, Boardwalk has been lost to me, (think I'll go back to Jersey) maybe I'll take on the MOB. I MIGHT WIN....

Could the Villages be a MONOPOLY? Is there wrong doing going on here? So many questions so little time. With that thought I'll leave it there...

--Joe Gottfried--

DID YOU KNOW?

That senior citizens who are covered under Medicare and a supplemental insurance do not have to worry about additional expense for ambulance service. Medicare and the supplemental insurance covers all expenses incurred in the use of an ambulance.

However, for our younger residents who are not covered under Medicare, they should review their health coverage policies. Many cover ambulance expenses, or a portion of it, and many do not. The pros and cons of their health coverage should be reviewed before purchasing any additional insurance for ambulance coverage.

CLASSIFIED SECTION

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.

WANTED

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

Call 750-5469 - 750-1141

 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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