

Property Owners' Association of The Villages

CHAMPIONS OF RESIDENTS' RIGHTS SINCE 1975

BULLETIN



Vol. II No. XII

Approximately 9,000 Homes Within the Villages

June 2000

PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

From the time I turned twenty one years of age, I considered one of the most privileged things in life that I earned was the **right to vote**. I make sure that I get out to vote in each and every election. I have been reviewing the minutes of April 28, 2000 of the VCCDD. Within that budget is a line item called Accounting and Auditing, to the tune of \$41,000.00, the total budget for VCCDD, \$15,670,177.00 I have been involved in budgets twice this size, and our auditing fees were not this expensive. At a previous meeting, when I mentioned this to Mr. Wahl, and asked if he put this out for bids, his exact words were: "I don't have to."

Another line item is; Debt Service Principal \$1,871,677.00, further Debt Service Interest, \$4,832,406.00 for a total of \$6,704,073.00, this represents the Bond money that is being paid out by you and me the residents of the Villages. Now remember the people who make up this budget and approved this budget that we in the Villages live under, are (1): Appointed by the Developer. (2): Do not even live in the Villages.

Within the last month, for the first time in history, the Russian people went to the polls and voted for their elected officials, but still in the United States of American, we who live in the Villages, do not have that right to vote for the people who represent us on the CDD.

Because I feel so strong on the issue of Voting, I will do all in my power to achieve the goal of **the Right to Vote** here in the Villages on issues that affect us.

- Tom Poss -

WE WILL MISS YOU BOTH

For many years Joe Gottfried has served the POA, as a very active member, as Vice Pres. under Dorothy Hokr, and as President for two terms. Joe is a "goer", and a "doer", and has devoted many long hours to the POA.

We kid his wife, Joyce, about keeping him in line, but she also gave of her time and energy to our organization as Treasurer and Director.

They have sold their home, and will leave the Villages. The POA, and we Villagers, are better for having known them. Good luck, Joe and Joyce.

We will miss you.

The POA Officers and Directors

HAPPY FATHERS DAY



HE WAS THERE

Who has always been one of the most essential parts of your world, someone who took you by the hand when you were little and helped to show the way?

Who stood by to help you grow, providing love, strength, and support so you could become the person you are today?

Who is the best that there is, the person that you wish you can inherit just some of his wisdom and some of his strength?

What words would you say if you ever got the chance? Maybe just **I LOVE YOU DAD**.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

By Tom Poss

White man talks with forked tongue. I learned this phrase from living on an Indian Reservation for more than 30 years. This phrase seems to be very prevalent in the area I live in now.

Election time is coming up very quickly. In the past several months when I ask who is going to run for the positions for CCD #1, I was always informed that Mr. Topping will not seek election. Guess what, folks! When the time came to file for the vacancies for seat number three, the man who talks with forked tongue, Frank Topping, filed his papers.

Russell Day has always said that he would run for office and he is.

We need this kind of honesty in the people who will represent us. The people who live in this area have to make up their minds. Remember at election time do you want an individual who will represent you the people who are paying the bill, or do you want a hand-picked candidate that was picked by the Developer? Don't forget the choice is yours, and the money being spent is yours.

I am always looking for different views. Please contact me. 750-5469, Fax 750-2320, e-mail Teposs@Aol.com. Until next time, this is Believe It Or Not By: -Tom Poss-

Remember Flag Day June 14



D-DAY

JUNE 6, 1944

D-DAY - the beginning of the end of World War II in Europe. It wouldn't be very long after that, that the War in the Pacific would soon be over as well.

Let us never forget the agonies of war! Keep our country strong to protect her from invaders. Let us never be found sleeping again.

God bless all the men and women who gave their lives, limbs, health - their all - to keep us free. **We thank you and will never forget your sacrifices. God bless you and God Bless America.**

- S.A. Woollard

WHAT HAPPENED TO MR. SCHWARTZ? WHERE HAS HE BEEN?

Uncle Harold used to be seen around Orange Blossom Gardens every day, walking and talking to the residents.

Then he moved to the Villas in the Villages and we saw him every couple of days.

Then all of a sudden he disappeared, except for the billboard on the highway, which has since come down.

Now all we hear is Gary Morse and how he bought the Villages in 1983 and since built the Villages as per article Sunday, August 8, in the newspaper article about the new 18 hole golf course.

What did happen to Mr. Schwartz and where do they have him hidden?

Harold Schwartz was the reason many of us moved to Orange Blossom Gardens.

- Charles M. Harvey -

MAINTENANCE FEES ! AMENITY FEES ! WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

The difference is about forty five million dollars. If your purchase and sale agreement refers to your monthly assessment as a "maintenance fee", and most do, the developer is indebted to us to the tune of approximately that amount. Whereas, if your contract states these charges to be "amenity fees", the developer might not owe you a cent.

My American Heritage Dictionary defines "maintenance" as: "the work of keeping something in proper condition", and, "amenity" as: "anything that increases physical or material comfort". So, as you see, the latter is a broad definition that could cover a multitude of sins. While the former, maintenance, is quite specific, and cannot be interpreted as meaning anything other than the upkeep of property.

During the seven years that I have been paying my assessment, the surplus has been growing year after year. A surplus means that we property owners have paid in more money for upkeep or maintenance than was spent. These excess funds could have been returned, or future payments reduced at any time during the seven years, but neither was ever contemplated. The surplus continued to build, from about two million dollars in year one, to approximately nine million dollars in year seven. These amounts approximate thirty eight million dollars, and as these surpluses were used for purposes other than those stipulated in the contract, and interest charges should be imposed. Even if only the legal rate were added, that would bring the property owners' surplus funds up to forty five million dollars.

This monthly maintenance assessment, in name alone, designates the purpose for the payments. How then, can these funds be used for anything else? Undoubtedly, that is the reason the developer, and his cadre of followers would prefer that we use the term "amenity fee" rather than "maintenance fee". "Oh what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive".

In conclusion, let's assume we could find a fair and impartial court, with you as the judge. The case before the court being: "Who is the rightful owner of this forty five million dollars of surplus maintenance fees"? Will it be the property owners whose monthly payments are set by the developer, thus creating this surplus; or, would it be the developer who has inappropriately used this surplus for purpose other than maintenance? Being an impartial judge you reach for Black's Legal Dictionary, and find under "maintenance assessment" these words: "one for purpose of keeping an improvement in working order". Your Honor, I await your decision with bated breath.

-Frank Renner-

LIVING UP TO OUR PLEDGE

The P.O.A., has once again stepped forward, to help a resident in distress.

I encountered, and later received a call from said resident, to see if I had been able to help, solve the problem. Yes! I can say, I have the possible solution, to said request.

I contacted Ms. Monica Anderson, of Deed Restrictions, who was most gracious and helpful, in suggesting the procedure to solving the problem. The resident is going to take care of her responsibility, and we shall see what happens.

Once again, may I say, if problems are presented calmly and respectfully, you will be treated in kind. -SAW-

WATER

Every one of us should be watching how not to waste our water. Each and every one of us has the responsibility of protecting our water supply for our selves as well as our future generations.

You can see the water being wasted as you drive around on a hot day. It is in the high 80's and low 90's, the sun is high in the sky and you see someone sprinkling their lawn. **WHAT A WASTE OF WATER**, not to mention the damage being done to the lawn, by the sun burning it out. Then again you also see it raining out and sprinklers are also running, what a waste.

Each and every one of us has the responsibility to watch this and mention the waste to the neighbor when they see these things happening. -CP-

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

I would like to thank **Mary Jo Clark**, for her kind words of praise and endorsement, when she stated that following:

The best thing that ever happened to the villages was when Russell Day got elected. Again thank you Ms. Clark. - R. Day--

PEOPLE

Yes, everywhere in the world there are rude, ugly and inconsiderate people. That's just human nature. But, for the most part (I say most part because, after all this isn't Heaven), I find the people in Florida to be gracious, polite, and helpful.

Up North people are indifferent and unconcerned about their fellow man. Maybe it is because they are so busy scurrying around trying to outdo the Jones. How many times do we read about crimes being committed in crowded areas, outside of apartments, etc. and people simply shut their windows, turn away, not even call for help? Do strangers smile and say 'hello'? No, but they push and bump into you.

Here, at least in this part of Florida, strangers smile and say 'hello'. Most shop keepers really try to help. Young people especially are extremely polite and courteous. How often up North did you ever hear a young person, salesman, worker of any sort, or, in fact, anyone say 'Yes, ma'am' or 'No, ma'am'? I have had complete strangers help me to find my 'lost' car in a parking lot. I see many, small, considerate acts here that I have never seen up North. If this is 'Southern hospitality', I love it! -Carol Kope-

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WHY DO WE NEED DOCTORS?

Why do we need doctors? The pharmaceutical companies tell us what drugs we need for all our self diagnosed ailments through their extremely expensive TV commercials and magazine ads.

I recently had my round of yearly physical checkups. I asked each doctor if many of their patients requested drugs they had seen advertised. Not to my surprise, they replied, yes. And, that they had to spend valuable time explaining why that drug was definitely not for them or could be even harmful.

This extreme advertising cost billions of dollars that **should** be used to lower the out-of-control drug prices. Why, must we, the American consumer pay excessively high prices for drugs that sell for much lower prices in other countries? Are we the only consumers who must pay for this advertising and "so-called" research/development? This is apparently so and grossly unjustified.

A few years back when drugs were reasonably priced, pharmaceutical companies simply provided doctors with clinical information and let them prescribe the drug as they deemed necessary. The drug stood on its own merit, not on advertising hype.

We are encouraged to be informed and questioning regarding the health and care of our bodies. We are encouraged to demand complete and detailed information on all recommended treatments. Why then do some people believe the pharmaceutical ads and commercials? Do we accept as gospel truth all the other silly commercials and ads we are exposed to? Human nature is indeed very strange.

-Carol Kope

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PARADISE

What we all were promised, coming to the Villages. A community of beautiful lawns, lush golf courses and activities for everyone.

You could choose whatever you wanted and participate in them all. A recreation program balanced for everyone, the young and the old. Teams of all ages made up on an equal basis, wherever you lived in the Villages. The premier event was the battle of the sexes, where men played against the ladies. The teams were of all ages and a balance was maintained. We didn't have teams from one area against an area composed of older residents.

The golf courses were lush. Water was plentiful. The developer didn't have to request additional water. The lakes and marshes of the Villages were full. The water level maintained a reasonable amount. The wildlife was plentiful. The monkey squirrels sat on the bank of four & five of Silverlake and watched the golfer's success or plunk.

The lawns were green and water was plentiful. The people were happy and visited with each another.

Today water is short the grass is browning, water restrictions have been mentioned or enforced because the aquifer is dropping. Every home consumes 600 to 1200 gallons of water a day, some more, some less. This water has only one place to replenish, the rain. Every time we build a house or pave a road, there are fewer locations for water to go into the aquifers. The lakes and marshland water seep down to the aquifer.

Water is the staff of life. Seventy percent of the human body is water. The human cannot survive without water. It is time we as residents start considering where our water is going to come from. It depends on all of our use. More building means less water. What has happened to Paradise? -Charlie Harvey-

MEMORIAL

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Leo and Eva Hawkins on the loss of their son David, who passed away last month. David's Mother, Eva Hawkins is a past president of the P.O.A.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Marie Bookins on the loss of her husband Butch.

--CLASSIFIED--

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PR

I did not realize there was a new Public Relations person on board. But, then he has been around the Villages as long as I have. He should have received an "Oscar" for his outstanding performance at the last CDD meeting. We all know that PR announcement proclaiming the developer and his paradise here. Who was he trying to impress? You all read the newspaper, (I believe), but do you read the truth? Just go to a CDD meeting and just listen. The type of government we have here is really something to desire.

-Joyce Gottfried-

SERVICES FOR POA MEMBERS

Charlotte Poss, POA Treasurer, offers the members of the POA the following services:

NOTARY SERVICE - FREE -bring to POA meeting or call Charlotte, bring to her home.

FAX SERVICE - Incoming/Outgoing

50 cents a page - must be dropped off and picked up

COPIES - limited number are FREE

CLASSIFIED ADS in POA Bulletin - FREE

If members are house bound, arrangements can be made for Charlotte to visit your home.

For additional information or service, call Charlotte Poss - 750-5640. -ck-

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HOW CAN WE BETTER SERVE YOU

The POA is trying to solve some minor problems.

Would you be willing to help? How? Suggestions - bringing a neighbor or resident friend to the meetings - signing up a business ad - pay your dues - contribute your comments to the Bulletin-

Let's hear from you Thank you -SAW-

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

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Due to the overhead of the Bulletin (P.O.A. Paper) any contributions above the amount of membership will be appreciated.

The P.O.A. Bulletin
Published by the Property Owners Assoc. of the Villages of Lake/ Sumter Counties

Articles are the opinion of the writer and must be signed. Articles may be edited for length, grammar and clarity. Mail Box letters must be signed by the writer, thus, giving the Bulletin permission to print the letter with signature. These letters will be edited only for inflammatory language.

Advertising: Call 750-5469 or mail to PO Box 1657, Lady Lake, FL, 32159

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JUNE 21 - POA GENERAL

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wed. June 21, 7:00 PM. Paradise Rec. Center. Our guest speaker will be Dan Sells Candidate for Sumter County Sheriff, Mr. Sells will be speaking on the upcoming election and of the different laws of the county and how they apply to you. There will be a question and answer session.

**COME AND JOIN US— June 21
ALL RESIDENTS WELCOMED**

SCHEDULED CDD MEETINGS
All CDD & VCCDD Meetings are held at the Savannah Center.

VCCDD - Villages Community Center Development District - last Friday of the month.

CDD#1 - Meets on the last Friday of the month.
CDD#2 - Meets on the first Friday of the month.
CDD#3 - Meets on the first Friday of the month.
CDD#4 -
Call Pete Wahl's office for Time & Day

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)

COMPUTER BASICS
Each month we try to give you some basic computer information for more enjoyment of your PC. While today's computers have much more memory than even a few years ago, it makes good sense to use your memory wisely.

Computer memory comes in two forms. First, the HARD DRIVE is a measurement of the total capacity of your PC. It may be likened to the size of a moving van - the larger the van, the larger the load can be. My first PC had 212 megabytes (million of bits). This one has 4.3 gigabytes (billions of bits). It takes 6 bits to define a number or letter. This memory is permanent - may be changed, but not lost.

Next, is the RAM (random access memory). This memory is used as a transfer area for PC operations, and as an operation is finished, this memory is reset to prepare for the next operation. My first PC had 4 megabytes. This one has 64 MB. For most of us users, 32 MB is more than adequate.

Today's tip. Windows 95/98 reserves 10% of your Hard Drive to use as a holding area for files you have deleted but are held in your Recycle Bin. A 2.0 gigabyte hard drive reserves 200 megabytes for deleted files. To recover some space: Right Click (RC) the Re-cycle Bin icon. Select: Properties. Move the sliding scale from 10% to 3%. Click: APPLY. Click: OK.

Enjoy your computer.
Win Shook, VP

GIVE PRAISE WHERE IT'S DUE
Isn't it wonderful how "Some" can praise their children and grandchildren in their throw-away paper, but, other's get fined or are given a gag order to choke on. This really is a wonderful place to live, if you live by "Their" rules. - Joyce G.-

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