

# Property Owners' Association of The Villages

CHAMPIONS OF RESIDENTS' RIGHTS SINCE 1975

## BULLETIN



Vol. II No. V

November 2000

# VOTE

NOV. 7 TH

### PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

This has been a very interesting past month. Our local newspaper ran a full page in color on how important it is for you and me to exercise our right to vote. The paper is in direct conflict with the paper's owner because you and I are not allowed to vote in the VCCDD.

The Sentinel newspaper has done a series of articles on CDDs and the way they are taking advantage of the unsuspecting buyers of the area. Someone came up to me and said that the articles were incorrect. My comment to that person was to stop and think for a minute. A newspaper as large as the Sentinel and their parent company have a very large legal staff. Reporters would have to clear an article of this magnitude with the legal department before it would go to print.

In the article, an attorney was mentioned who received in excess of two hundred thousand dollars for services rendered. The attorney mentioned claims that this is not a conflict of interest. He says he has a letter from the Florida Bar Association stating so.

In the past week a delegation from the POA and the Silver Haired Legislature met in Tallahassee to discuss State Statue #190. A full report will be given at the POA November 15<sup>th</sup> general membership meeting.

Remember, when you vote on Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, vote for the person who will help to amend Statue #190.

It is your right to **VOTE**. Take a friend and neighbor with you. If you know someone who needs a ride, take them with you. **VOTE.**

- Tom Poss

### CDD CLASSES

Pete Wahl invites all residents to attend his CDD School to learn how CDD districts work; how they are formed, what they do and what they can not do! The Orlando Sentinel recently ran a series of articles on CCDs which explained all of this in great detail. After months of extensive research throughout the entire state, their investigative reporters, published this impartial report.

So, what can Pete Wahl add to the subject?

-ck-

### FLORIDA SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE

I recently spent a week in Tallahassee attending a meeting of the FSHL. Very interesting.

We met in the Capitol, in the Senate and the House Chambers, according to the Rules of the Legislature, and considered a number of Bills important to Seniors. I want to assure you that the FSHL is highly thought of by the Legislature, and by the Governor.

I was accompanied by Russell Day, and by Ted Morris, FSHL Dist. 3 Chairman. Russ and I were primarily concerned with the recall of Chapter 190. Our Bill was passed, and will be presented to the Florida Legislature for action.

If you read the expose' of Chapter 190 in the Orlando Sentinel during the week of Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>, you will realize just how timely was the FSHL session.

More about FSHL in the next issue.  
Win Shook, VP

### SENTINEL DEVELOPER-GOVERNMENT SERIES

The series which started Oct. 15 and concluded on Oct. 18 was an in-depth investigation into the world of community development district financing. These developer controlled governments currently rule 116 developments across Florida. The Villages community development districts are among the largest and most active in the state.

As a public service, the Sentinel has copies the series available at the editorial office of the new Sentinel building at 1898 E. Burleigh Blvd, Tavares, across from the new Florida Waterman Hospital facility.

It is suggested that you call first to make sure they have some. They have been going like hot cakes.

- Rose Harvey

*To Every One  
in the Villages*

**HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING**



### HERE WE GO AGAIN

The "revolving door" has begun to spin once again at the Lady lake Town Hall! Mitzi Martin, a most qualified and valued Administrative Assistant to the Town Manager resigned her position this past Spring and now I am disturbed to be informed that Andy Iturbe, Human Resources/Risk Manager Director has submitted his resignation.

Why is there so much turmoil around Town Hall? What is prompting talented professional staff to seek employment elsewhere?

The former Town Manager hired Mr. Iturbe. With only one day on the job Mr. Iturbe took over the position as Interim Town Manager. If you speak to community leaders, residents, merchants, and employees you will find that they agree that Mr. Iturbe did an outstanding job.

To the best of my knowledge, Mr. Iturbe attended all-important meetings, involved himself in the Town's budget, and just recently even after submitting his resignation volunteered for over twelve hours at the October 14<sup>th</sup> Heritage Festival. A real trooper in my book.

In my opinion, there are serious personnel problems at Town Hall. I hope a domino effect is not beginning to appear. The elected officials of this Town would be wise to inquire the reasons for personnel leaving. It is not in the Town's favor to invest in personnel only to have them seek employment elsewhere.

Whomever Mr. Iturbe goes to work for in the future is most fortunate to have a dedicated, energetic, and caring professional in their organization. I wish him well!

- Tom Poss -

### POSTAL SERVICE

Did you know that the woman who puts your mail in your box can also sell you stamps?

Put an envelope in your box with your request and check. She will then leave the stamps and in an orange and black envelope for future purchases.

Winn Dixie and Public also sell stamps - 33 cents.

If you need to mail a package, Sweets Hardware has UPS and there is also Pack and Ship close to Sweets.

- Sadie Wollard

### IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A FORTUNE

Congratulations to the Orlando Sentinel for their recent series. It was extremely explicit in describing Community Develop Districts (CDD). How they were originally created and continue to grow. How they are completely legal under the laws they themselves created. How they control all their districts. How they amass huge profits and fortunes. This is all LEGAL.

I was a little disappointed that the series did not get into the nitty-gritty issues. The ones about taxation and huge financial transactions without resident representation, selling facilities twice to developer controlled CDDs, blackballing their critics, etc. etc. etc. But, maybe there is more to come!

Our organization, the Property Owners' Association of the Villages (POA) have been attempting for years to make the residents aware of the many, many wrongs occurring in the Villages. And we will continue to fight for the rights of all residents!

Evidently, the only way to stop these CDDs is to change the laws the developers created. Hopefully, these articles will attract the interest of our state legislatures into thinking, maybe they should look into these CDDs a lot more closely. Newly elected state officials should assume their offices completely aware of the misuse of Chapt. #190 and be prepared to investigate the entire issue.

- Carol Kope

### CANDIDATES DEBATE

I missed this meeting (attending the FSHL meeting in Tallahassee) but understand that not all of the invited Candidates showed up.

The meeting was originally intended to be a debate between Democrat James Martin and Republican Hugh Gibson, contenders for the Florida House of Representatives seat vacated by Everett Kelly.

Plenty of advanced notice was given to the candidates. The Press was invited and would attend.

Mr. Martin accepted immediately. Mr. Gibson delayed an answer until it was too late to change the format. He then declined.

I, personally, have two problems with this, Mr. Gibson.

First, if your schedule did not permit your attending, why not let the POA know? Or at least send a representative in your place?

Second, how will we ever get your attention if you are elected?

I don't even know your opponent, Mr. Martin, but he could never be less responsive than you were.

- Win Shook

### BRIEF HISTORY OF THE VILLAGES POA

The POA was established when the Villages was a small retirement community on the east side called, "Orange Blossoms Gardens". The Villages grew and the POA grew with it.

All went well until the developer decided to ignore his original contract with the home owners and withdrew specific free amenities that were stipulated in their contracts, ie, free cable, free garbage disposal, free golf (no golf cart trail fee).

The POA tried negotiating with the developer to restore these amenities to absolutely no avail. The only recourse left to the POA was to file litigation against the developer. This worked - practically on the court steps, the developer conceded and reinstated the withdrawn amenities.

Shortly after this incident, the developer was very instrumental in establishing the current Villages Home Owners Association, making sure it included his "yes men" and was a homeowners association that would not rebel against him.

About three years ago, the POA was forced to file litigation against the VCCDD and developer who were again attempting to break their contract with a group of residents. They decided to change the dates for increasing maintenance fees contrary to the contract with the residents. Again, with the threat of legal action they reinstated the original dates. The VHA refused to assist us - or even negotiate with the VCCDD on behalf of the residents in this issue.

The VHA and developer accuse us of being "sue crazy". We have only used litigation as a last means of action. We have a membership of over 1,000 yet we are not acknowledged as a representative for residents. The Villages will not talk with us, much less negotiate. To the Villages and VHA - we do not exist!

Regardless of these extreme difficulties, the POA has and will continue to fight for the residents. Maybe the Sentinel series will enlighten some people and they will now understand what the POA attempts to do.

### 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-

### POSTAL SERVICES

The Daily Sun announced on October 21 that thru the intervention of Rep. Cliff Stearns, the postal station on LaPlaza Blvd would remain open until the Post Office could find space for a larger facility.

A concerned resident inquired into this matter when the closing of the postal station was first announced. The following are excerpts from the replies she received:

From Connie Mack, dtd 8/30/00, US Senator: *"I have forwarded your letter to the appropriate official at the United States Postal Service and asked that you receive a direct response about your inquiry. You should be hearing from them in the very near future."*

From Cliff Stearns, dtd 8/25/00, US House of Representatives: *"I am personally meeting with the Florida regional director of the Postal Service and Villages Homeowners Association [Why was not the POA invited? See answer on proceeding article 'Brief History of the Villages POA] - to ensure that the residents of the Villages continue to have access to a postal facility in an efficient and convenient manner."*

From Vic Hurtado, dtd 8/2000 Lady Lake Postmaster: *"We have received notification that the Villages Contract Postal Unit located at 23 LaGrande Blvd, Lady Lake, FL will discontinue their current contract and will close effective October 10, 2000."*

From Harold Swinton, dtd 8/8/00 US Postal Service, Dist. Mg. Customer Service & Sales, North Florida Dist. *"The contractor, H. Gary Morse advised that he wished to cancel the current contract, effective October 10, 2000"*.

From Lauren Solnik, dtd 9/18/00 Gov't Relations Representative, Washington, DC.: *"The current contractor of the Villages contract post office has expressed a desire to terminate the contract. Any further action in this situation is contingent upon the contractor's final decision."*

Just thought you would like to hear the other side of the story!  
- Raili Day

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**CHIP  
CONCERNED HOMEOWNERS IN  
PARTNERSHIP, INC.**

Who is CHIP? CHIP is an organization formed by a great number of retirees who bought property in the good ole state of Florida. They quickly discovered that Florida developers take advantage of the elderly and make misleading claims and promises. CHIP's mission is to have local and state laws enacted that will require full accountability by developers in deed restricted Florida communities.

Chip is in the process of working with AARP as a possible advocate or lobbyist. All CHIP asks for is that residents be treated with courtesy and honesty.

We encourage you to join CHIP. They meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at the Queen of Peace Catholic Church Hall at 1:00pm. For more information, call Russ Day at 750-3108. The POA of the Villages has CHIP membership application forms for anyone interested in joining. The POA meets at 7:00pm every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at the Paradise Rec Center.

Apathy is the biggest obstacle that all groups face when trying to challenge people that are attempting to curtail our rights. However, it is well known that "together we can make a difference". - Russ Day

**MISINFORMATION**

We are disappointed that some of you folks may have missed the POA meeting on October 18 because of inaccurate information printed in the Weekly Sun schedule of events. The schedule stated that our meeting was canceled. **WRONG**. Our political speakers made an exciting meeting.

Incidentally, the Judy Garland Room is in the Paradise Rec Center. -sw-

**BELIEVE IT OR NOT**

You have tried the rest, now stop and try the best. Several months ago I had an article in this column on 'are you tired of fast food, portion control and high prices?' I was writing about the Cottage Inn on 441/27 South. Remember, I told you that they had the best hot roast beef sandwich that you would want to try.

Well, not only is the food good, but you should see how clean and sanitary the place is. I have full knowledge of what state health inspectors look for when they check a food handling establishment. I have toured many kitchens in Illinois and Wisconsin. Recently I had privilege of touring the Cottage Inn Restaurant. The dining area and the cooking area are extremely clean, neat and orderly. It would be difficult, if not impossible, for a health inspector to find any kind of a problem in these areas. Unbelievably, the dumpster out back was the in same condition.

I would also dare to say that this is the only restaurant that you will ever find in such excellent condition.

As I have stated before, do yourself a favor and stop in and say hello to the friendly personnel and enjoy a good meal. Don't forget that their coffee is still only eighty-nine cents a cup.

As always, I would like to hear your views. Tel 750-5460, fax 750-2320, and e-mail [Tcposs@aol.com](mailto:Tcposs@aol.com)

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

**KUDOS**

To all my friends and neighbors who remembered me during my total right knee surgery: Your cards, calls, visits, and goodies were most appreciated.

I can never express how much they meant to me. Thanks again and God bless.

- Sadie



The Lady Lake Police Department,  
The Sumner County Sheriff's Office,  
The Lake County Sheriff's Office,  
The Villages Fire/Rescue,  
Lake County Fire Department,  
and the Villages Neighborhood Watch  
proudly present the...

**19th Annual  
Holiday  
Children's Party**

**Saturday, December 23rd**

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**The Villages Elementary  
School of Lady Lake**

All Area Children invited, ages infants to 12 years.

Come see Santa and Mrs. Claus!  
Food! Clowns! Presents! Fun!  
Call Lady Lake Police Dept. 751-1560 for information

**FOR SALE**

Speed Queen heavy duty washer, stainless steel tub, new timer, motor & pump  
\$50.00 call 750-5205

**FLU SHOTS**

We were wondering why the Villages could not supply a large room free so that residents could get their flu shots. For all that you get out of the residents couldn't you do this???

On Friday there were more than one thousand people at Publix to get their flu shots. On Saturday the flu shots started at 10:00 a.m. and they were still giving them at 5:00 p.m.

The residents were lined up from Publix back to the bowling alley, waiting in line to get their flu shots this past Saturday, October 21.

This is a wonderful thing that Publix did for the people of the Villages. Publix will be giving out the flu shots again on Nov. 2, from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and again on Nov. 8, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

"Thanks Publix," and also a big thank you for our treats of juice and cookies.

- R. Harvey -

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

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

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COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ANNUAL DUES: \$6.00

Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

P.O.A. PHONE: 750-5469  
PO BOX 1657 LADY LAKE, FL. 32159

**Officers**

Tom Poss	President	750-5469
Win Shook	Vice President	752-2928
Carol Kope	Secretary	750-0394
Charlotte Poss	Treasurer	750-5640

**Directors**

Charles Harvey	753-7294
Frank Renner	750-0306
Sadie Woollard	753-0615
Ralph Yohn	750-1413

Advertising Dept. 750-5640

**POA OFFICERS FOR YEAR 2001**  
The POA Nominating Committee has submitted the following slate for year 2001 Officers and Board Members.

**Officers**

President	Tom Poss
Vice President	Win Shook
Secretary	Carol Kope
Treasurer	Charlotte Poss

**Board of Directors**

Charles Harvey	Frank Renner
Ted Morris	Sadie Woollard
Ralph Yohn	

Additional nominations of members for any of the above positions may be submitted to Tom Poss, 750-5469, no later than Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. In the event that no other nominations are received, the Secretary will vote the above slate into office at our November meeting, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

**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  
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  
(ALL RESIDENTS WELCOMED)

**NOVEMBER 15 - POA  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING**

Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> in the Paradise Rec Center at 7:00 pm.

This is our meeting to elect the year 2001 officers and board of directors. Please plan to attend.

Our guest speaker will be Ted Morris, Chairman of District 3 of the Florida Silver Haired Legislature.

COME AND JOIN US  
ALL RESIDENTS WELCOME  
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• FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

**DAN SELLS PLAN FOR 2001**

★ **Increase** Patrol Deputies, from 5 on 12 hour shifts covering 574 square miles to a goal of 10 on 10 hour shifts and dividing the county's 574 sq. miles into 8 equal patrol zones for a decrease in response times

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