

The POA BULLETIN

The Property Owners' Association of The Villages

Issue 34.03

Champion of Residents' Rights Since 1975

March 2008

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The POA Bulletin is published monthly by the Property Owner's Association of the Villages, Inc. Articles in the Bulletin represent the opinion of the POA, except Letters to the Editor, which represent the opinions of the writers. Care is taken to insure that all facts reported herein are true and accurate to the best knowledge of the POA and are taken from reliable sources. The POA assumes no liability for any information published, opinions expressed, or delivery to any person or location. All publication rights are reserved. Publication or reprinting of any material contained herein is by written permission only.

POA Is Focusing on Three Priority Projects

The POA is identifying three important issues in our community that we are taking on or confirming as Special Projects. These are:

- **The Vinyl Siding Issue**
- **The Poor Workmanship Issue**
- **The Poor Service in Our Hospital**

On each of these, the POA will publicize and endeavor to resolve the problems some way or another. Hopefully, we will be able to get some sort of accommodation from the people responsible. We have tried efforts like this in the past and have had some degree of success (see secondary story in right-hand column).

In each case, we ask that Villagers with any stories or comments, be these good, bad, or indifferent, write or email to the POA an explanation of their experience. We will gather these stories and eventually present them to the appropriate people or agencies.

If you have a story or comment, please come forward with the letter or email to us. If you don't say something, then we will be left to assume that there are no issues. So, you have to come forward and tell us what your experience was. Only when we gather the stories from many individuals will we be able to push for a successful resolution. You will have to identify yourself for verification purposes.

The three Special Projects are the following:

The Vinyl Siding Problem - The Vinyl siding Committee of the POA has inspected over 700 homes and found not one of them to be problem-free. The key problems are: stapling or nailing at much greater distances than required by the manufacturer's instructions, failure to use all the important component parts required by the manufacturer, improperly installed sheathing under the vinyl, improper stepping of the vinyl panels, nailing or stapling too tightly, sloppy workmanship, etc.

This is disgraceful on the part of the developer to allow something like this to happen in our community. The developer hails The Villages as a "Quality-Built" housing development, but we find that hard to believe given all of these problems.

When first approached about these problems, the developer labeled the lead person on the Vinyl Siding committee as a "troublemaker." He said that residents didn't have a problem unless someone told them they

had a problem. The comment was made that we were stirring up the residents and scaring them.

The developer's Warranty Department has adopted a posture of delay, deceit, intimidation, denial, and condones sloppy workmanship.

Some of the developer's builders and contractors have been helpful, but others have aggressively denied any responsibility for the problems and appear to be practicing intimidation of residents.

It is absolutely incredible that the developer has behaved this way and allowed these problems to fester. The developer is unbelievably bull-headed in failing to take responsibility for these problems and in failing to make things right. We don't think people of integrity act this way.

So, we need your written explanation of your vinyl siding problems. Please either email these to us at: poa4us@gmail.com or mail your comments to us at:

POA - Vinyl Siding Comments
POB 1657
Lady Lake, FL 32158.

The Sloppy Workmanship Problem

This is related to the Vinyl Siding problems, but we want to gather separate comments about problems people see with their new homes right after they move in.

A list of horror stories was presented as a front-page article in the Bulletin last month. To read this again, see the February Bulletin in the Bulletin Archives section of the POA website (www.poa4us.org) on the internet.

Something is seriously wrong with the construction departments, required inspections, and the quality control follow-up when bath and kitchen cabinets are installed in the wrong places, sometimes up-side-down, and when construction debris is swept into open toilet drains before commodes are installed. There are many other problems.

It is absolutely astonishing that problems like these could happen in this "Quality-Built" community.

So, if you have experienced these problems that go way beyond the typical and usually minor problems noticed on move-in, or if you had a problem with the Warranty Department or any of the contractors, we need to hear from you.

Thus, we need your written explanation of your initial construction problems. Please either email these to us at: poa4us@gmail.com or mail them to us at:

POA - Workmanship Comments
POB 1657
Lady Lake, FL 32158.

The Hospital Problem

The POA printed some comments in the Bulletin a few years ago that led off

with the comment: "Something is wrong with The Villages Hospital."

That was then and this is now. But, the same story could be written about our Hospital (TVRH) even today.

The earlier story focused on the problems in the Emergency Room (ER). We could write the same story today about the same problems in the ER – and, nothing seems to be getting better.

Remember the two stories in last month's Bulletin about the unbelievable charges for a blood test in TVRH (again, available on the POA website in the Bulletin Archives) and the infuriating story about a patient waiting for assistance in the ER for a serious burn.

It is just unacceptable for these problems to continue. And, the delaying excuses for these festering problems are the same today as they were a few years ago and are, frankly, unacceptable.

We need your comments about your dealings with the hospital. These can be good, bad, or indifferent. We need to document the situation in anticipation of taking these stories to the proper officials and agencies. Hopefully, we can get some serious pressure on TVRH to mend it ways.

So, we need your written explanation of your Hospital experiences. Please either email these to us at: poa4us@gmail.com or mail your comments to us at:

POA - Hospital Comments
POB 1657
Lady Lake, FL 32158.

Summary

The POA has taken up the banner in the past for a variety of causes. Some we won; some we lost (see the story on page 1). But, we tried to make a change for the better. All three of these problems need to be addressed. This is our community and the POA is going to try to make a difference. And, we need your help. Please write or email to us with your comments and stories. We can't make that difference by ourselves – we need your help. Please, do it today...

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Past POA Priority Projects

Here's a list of some of the causes the POA has championed in the past in the name of Residents'

- Rebuilding the Paradise Center,
- Getting the developer to pay the \$165,000 bill to repair a pond sinkhole on his Nancy Lopez golf course rather than sticking CDD4 residents with the bill,
- Defeating the Sumter County Hospital tax proposal with the related 20% of the tax to be given to the developer of The Villages,
- Pressuring the Leesburg Regional Medical Center, the owner of the Villages Hospital, to start the hospital expansion,
- Getting the Central Districts to rescind their Activities Policy which required any gathering of two or more residents wanting to demonstrate for any cause to provide a \$1 million liability policy and advance notice of the demonstration,
- Advocating passage of the Straw Vote to give residents voting control in the VCCDD,
- Publicizing the concerns of Lake County residents regarding the heavy-handed way the developer tried to force residents to accept the Bob Evans Restaurant on the east side of Hwy 441/27.
- Trying to save the Chula Vista and Silver Lake Clubs from closing by the developer,
- Promoting the passage of the Chapter 190 Disclosure Reform bill in the Florida Legislature,
- Demanding developer responsibility and a fix for the Vinyl Siding problems,
- Publicizing deficiencies and arrogance in the Home Warranty department, contractors, and sub-contractors in performing repairs for residents,
- Identifying significant billing discrepancies in the VCCDD favoring the developer,
- Identifying the differences between the POA and the VHA,
- Suing the developer when he reneged on promised amenities on the east side,
- Supporting the efforts of five class action representatives in the current lawsuit and the \$50 million proposed settlement with the developer,
- Publicizing the four annual Surveys of the POA as alternates to the Villages Survey and its whitewashing of issues.

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What Are Those Blue Reflectors?

Have you ever wondered what are those five-inch square blue reflectors that are glued to our streets in various locations?

Those blue reflectors are put there by The Villages Fire Department to help firemen quickly locate fire hydrants at nighttime.

Notice that the reflectors are located close to fire hydrants and reflect blue light

when a flashlight is aimed at them, even at night time from blocks away.

The problem is that the reflectors sometimes are missing. Some have speculated that snowplows scrape off the reflectors. Sometimes reflectors just come loose with age and dislodge. Sometimes the ducks eat them.

So, a missing blue reflector needs to be replaced as a safety priority. And, it is up to residents to notify the Villages Fire Department because it's impossible for the department to notice all of the missing reflectors in the entire community.

Call The Villages Fire Department at 205-8280 to report the loss. Someone will come out and install a replacement. Afterwards, be sure to watch out for the snowplows. And, make sure that you don't need another replacement anytime soon or have a fire in the meantime.

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Cheers and Jeers

Jeers - To the Nick Xenos, the Deed Compliance officer of The Villages, for prohibiting Will Pruitt, candidate for Hugh Gibson's seat in the Florida Legislature, from visiting homes in The Villages in his campaign for office. This looks to us like Mr. Xenos is trying to muzzle political free speech. Mr. Xenos says the deed restrictions and covenants in The Villages prohibit it. However, we think those apply to commercial solicitations, not political campaigning or efforts of a politician to canvass residents in his or her own district. If politicians are OK on the Squares with the approval of the developer, then they should be welcome elsewhere in The Villages.

Cheers - To Janet Tutt, District Administrator, for reversing the position of The Villages and Mr. Xenos on the above-mentioned ban on political speech, but doing so after the paragraph above was written. It is good to see some common sense in the Central Districts in deciding these issues.

Cheers - To the VHA for championing the idea of having another post office here in The Villages. We need it, and the VHA has stepped up to help make it happen. All residents should support the VHA's initiative.

Cheers - To the RAC (Resident Advisory Council) for doing great work on behalf of all Villagers. These dedicated individuals are living proof that residents have the skills, experiences, and dedication to effectively make major decisions in The Villages. We hope that many of them will run for the soon-to-be-formed AAC (Amenity Authority Committee) to be elected by residents this November.

Jeers - To the golf division personnel who select the pin locations on the Roosevelt and Truman golf courses. They have a demonic sense of humor. Well, OK, if you like tough courses, maybe this is a Cheer.

Jeers - To the Chicago Cubs for starting their second century without winning a World Series. The last win was in 1908. The Red Sox finally did it! – Cubs are next.

Jeers - To the developer for pulling the wool over our eyes on the issue of garbage recycling. Now we appear to be stuck with a bad and unpopular deal. And somebody is going to make a ton of money off our recycling efforts. OK, everybody, don't forget to buy your special garbage bags.

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The Next POA Meeting Is on Tuesday, March 18

The next POA membership meeting will be on Tuesday, March 18, in the big room (Lincoln) at the Laurel Manor Recreation Center at 7:00 p.m.

We have changed meeting days (from the third Wednesday to the third Tuesday) in order to have our meetings in the bigger room. This should eliminate the “standing room only” situations we have had in the past.

Carol Anderson, attorney for the plaintiffs in the recent lawsuit with the developer, will comment on details of the lawsuit.

Please join us for this important meeting. Coffee and donuts afterward make for a nice social time. And, the discussion and opportunity to meet fellow Villagers add up to a thought-provoking and interesting evening.

Non-members of the POA are welcome.

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From the POA Website Forum: Orange Blossom Restaurant

Feb 10: We go to this restaurant most Saturdays. Where else can you get good food at a good price AND talk to the man that runs everything? Where else can you see the bar person (Stacy Muilenburg) take care of a handicapped man sitting by himself, speaking with him and taking his food

order? Where else do you see the proprietor speaking with the patrons, making sure all is to their liking? We don't live in the Orange Blossom area, but with all the Country Clubs in The Villages, we still love the best one, The Orange Blossom, that has the most beautiful pool, great Tiki bar, waterfall, & executive golf course? If this area changes in any way, The Villages will lose the original concept created by the man himself, Mr. Schwartz. I just hope his family remembers the love he had for the original Country Club. A recreation center? What a horrific concept!

Feb 10: In reply to this comment about OBG Restaurant, no one is complaining about the food, the friendliness or the people who work there. The original comment was the need to refurbish and upgrade a twenty year old restaurant with some paint, new carpet and most of all some new chairs. Look at the interior of the other Country Clubs, fresh looking with better tables and chairs. Let's not get carried away by making a mountain out of mole hill when the place only needs a face lift. Please, stick to the main issue.

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Letter to the Editor: Fix Our Roads

One of the main reasons we moved to The Villages in 2004 was the security gates for each Village. It is my understanding that the County forced us to open our Villages to the public because Sumter county was maintaining the streets in our Villages. Now, I have read two articles in the paper reporting that the county has decided that they will not maintain the streets in The Villages but only for the collector roads outside the individual Villages.

First, is this true, and, Second, if it is, will the County Commissioners now allow us to reactivate our security gates to cut down crime within our respective Villages? It seems like every day I read in the paper that another home or two has been burglarized.

Jim Smothers

Editor's Note: We don't think this whole issue about who takes care of the roads has been fully or finally discussed yet. With your concern about this, we would suggest that you attend one of the Sumter County Commissioner's meetings and ask questions. You can check the Commission's meeting schedule at the internet website: <http://sumtercountyfl.gov/bocc/meetings.asp>. As we hear more about these issues we will print information in the Bulletin.

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Letter to the Editor: Politics of the Daily Sun

We are visiting The Villages for two months and are enjoying the wonderful lifestyle. We especially like reading the Daily Sun each morning. Not only do you have the local, national and international news and sports, you keep us updated on Villages activities with pictures of residents who participate and appreciate what this amazing community has to offer. I think the diversity of the people from many states (and countries) living here is one of The Villages' best selling points. Your newspaper is everything a hometown paper should be.

But I have a question. Is there a balance in the editorial pages?

The first time I opened to the editorial page, I saw Ann Coulter. Wow, she is a pretty divisive personality. Anyone whose hero is Joe McCarthy, thinks the 9/11 widows are "harpies" looking to profit from their husbands' deaths, and wants God to smite all liberals, is a pretty hateful, intolerant person, and not what I expected to see in America's "most friendly" hometown newspaper.

OK, no matter, free speech and all that; there will be a balance in another column, I figured. The next page featured Mona Charen. Not exactly a bipartisan voice of reason. Looking further for a moderate voice, I saw Oliver North's face looking back at me. Whoa! The man who almost single-handedly brought down the Reagan Administration with the Iran-Contra scandal and who Nancy Reagan called a liar. Not the rational voice of moderation I was expecting. The following week I found even the local writers to be right of center. With people from all parts of the country living here, I'm surprised the Daily Sun takes such a far right view of the world without at least letting the other side voice theirs.

I am disappointed all points of view don't seem to be presented in the newspaper. If you are only going to represent the conservative point of view, that is your right. But please consider some conservatives who are more respected and reasonable like George Will, Charles Krauthammer or even Bob Novak. The intolerance put forth by Coulter and North does a disservice to the wonderful people we have met here and the kind of friendly, caring people I would hope The Villages wants to attract.

Dale Neseman

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From the POA Website Forum:

Keep One Sumter

Feb 11: I don't know where Mr. Campbell lives or how long he has lived in The Villages. However, I violently oppose going back to individual district elections of our County Commissioners. I moved to the Sumter County portion of The Villages nearly 11 years ago. This county was a poor county until the development of The Villages. I observed how the local officials had changed the voting process from open county voting to individual district voting in 1992 so they wouldn't have to relinquish control of the county to the majority of the people in the near future. They ignored the law and would not redistrict the county after the 2000 census. They finally approved a 2001 redistricting map that was drawn up on a home computer by one of the Commissioners. This action gave The Villages portion of the county one district with 20% voting impact although we were providing nearly 40% of the tax revenues for the county. Now the taxes on homes and business are much greater percent and we still only have two districts. When the 2010 census is taken new districts will have to be drawn up. Maybe we will have equality then. After this action, nearly all Commission votes were on a 3-2 vote in favor of the southern half of the county. They wanted our tax money but not the ability to control how it was spent. Our District Commissioners pushed a TAX RATE REDUCTION through over the objections of the southern Commissioners. Even then, their revenues were up 25% over the previous year. One Sumter was the only way we could have a say how our taxes were being spent. ONE EXAMPLE: Stop more millions after ten's of millions spent on a trash digester that didn't work. People are concerned that the developer is now in control. If this is true, then we, the voters, are to blame. Anyone can run for office. I for one do not want to go backwards.

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From the POA Website Forum: Village Whiners

Feb 10: My wife and I are snowbirds, here for only Jan and Feb. We read the POA Bulletin for the first time. Seems to us that there is way too much whining and complaining. The residents need to understand that the developer will not be here to hold their hands and pay the bills forever. It's only a few years down the road that the residents will have to make their "own decisions" on everything and "will have to pay for it." Who do the current complainers think will be paying for the present infrastructure when the developer walks away? If you think the county will assume responsibility, you need to wake up! They will take care of it, only when you pay for it. So whether it's called "fee" or "taxes," your monthly fee will go up, up, up! So wake up Folks! Now is the time to start planning for the time when you, the residents, will need to manage your village, all aspects of it. Our guess is that you are headed to hiring a city manager and all the infrastructure that accompanies it. And you can look forward to the need

to repair roads, rebuild or replace golf courses, maintain all the buildings that will now be yours, resurface pickle ball courts, bocce courts, etc. Look around you! There are hundreds and hundreds of maintenance or repair possibilities in your future. So we say to the complainers, either grow up or else, act your age. You're adults and need to step up now and face your future responsibly and positively.

Editor's note: When the developer finally leaves, we will still have the two Central Districts, the SLCDD and the VCCDD, in place and running things through committees of elected representatives. The mission of these districts is to provide the amenities for the benefit of residents. The District Administrator's position, currently held by Ms. Janet Tutt, will continue as the manager of all operations for all of The Villages and will report to the Central Districts. We already have a variety of staff employed as managers of all operations. These powers were granted to The Villages and its components as Community Development Districts by Chapter 190 Florida Statutes. Bottom line: everything will continue to run fine after the developer departs.

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Florida Hometown Democracy

The Florida Hometown Democracy petition failed to get enough signatures to get on the ballot in November. It ended 65,182 signatures short of the required 611,009 needed.

Had the initiative been placed on the ballot and passed, it would have required local voter approval of any land-use plan changes. Opponents claimed that this would have substantially reduced plan changes and produced slower development.

Proponents plan to try again in 2010 when it is likely that many more signatures will be required to get on the ballot.

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Vinyl Siding: Some Progress?

After almost 17 months of publishing information about the vinyl siding

problems we have seen, we have begun to note a partial change in attitude from the Warranty Department and the Villages contractors.

Lately we've been hearing about Robert Locke, an inspector for Home Warranty. Several homeowners have recently told our committee members that he has come to check their siding and he told them everything was OK. Our siding committee members checked the same houses and found between 15 and 20 defects on each home that need attention. Is Mr. Locke truly not seeing these problems? If so he should not be an inspector. Or is he trying to deceive the homeowners?

We are finding that Home Warranty is sending out some representatives who are more receptive to the fact that repairs are often needed because of poor workmanship on original installations. Sometimes, now, the flaws are being confirmed by Home Warranty reps and siding crews are being sent to do the repairs, with less regard for the age of the home and without having the homeowners deal directly with the subcontractors.

We don't know for sure why this change in attitude is taking place, but it could be because we have published that **the installations were never done right in the first place—in violation of Florida Building Code that states vinyl siding installation is to be done in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.**

We won't thank the Developer, Home Warranty, or the contractors for doing something they should have done a long time ago: overseeing their work and fixing their own "mistakes." We're pretty sure they wouldn't be doing any repairs now if they could still avoid it. And the quality of repairs is another thing—there have been plenty of recalls for inadequate and incomplete repairs.

For those of you who have had some repairs done, but were refused with regard to the missing undersill/finish trim, remember, this part is required on several levels: 1) the Florida State Building Code requires installation according to the manufacturer's installation instructions; 2) county building inspectors have also referenced manufacturer's instructions when questioned about this; 3) installation instructions from manufacturers require it; and 4) the key trade organizations specify it. The use of this part is individually specified. It is not an optional part and it is not a decorative part. It is a functional part.

Therefore, we consider the failure and the refusal to use it not only a violation of state and local building codes, as well as the manufacturer's instructions, but also a violation of basic common sense.

And while The Villages has acknowledged the need for this part by including it on newly built homes, existing residents are still being shortchanged and their homes are being left in violation of code.

The response of Villages contractors or subs that "We don't use it..." or "We weren't using it when your house was built..." is not a satisfactory answer. We paid for a properly built house, not one built by contractors who decided, for whatever reason, that they didn't have to follow the rules.

The POA will continue to press for resolution of this matter on behalf of all owners of vinyl-sided homes.

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Vinyl Siding: Rehash is Boring?

We have read with disappointment comments from disgruntled residents who don't want to read about the siding issue any more because it is a "rehash" of old news.

Yes, it is indeed redundant, but we are not publishing this information to hear ourselves talk. We are publishing it because this remains a serious and widespread problem even though it may be on the road to resolution.

Do you think that The Villages would have made any changes at all in their siding installation techniques on new construction or come back to repair so many homes had we not proven their methods lacking? Do you suggest we just give up and drop the whole thing? If discussing it is a "rehash," what do you consider the need for repeated repair visits to fix what was supposed to be fixed already?

Why not demand quality from the developer, instead of demanding silence from those who shed light on a problem.

Folks, this is how change happens. We believe that the improvements that are being made on the newest vinyl installations, from worker training to use of the proper manufacturer parts, are due to our continuing efforts and repeated publication about this issue in the POA Bulletin over the last year and a half. We are trying to raise awareness of the problems, inform residents, and tell the developer that this is not something to ignore.

We think that without our persistence, the siding issue would have just been swept under the rug and the hundreds of homes that have had repairs would have been left with siding installations sadly lacking in quality and workmanship, while new construction would still exhibit the same kinds of problems that we have found in every neighborhood we have visited, from Chatham to Lynnhaven, Tall Trees, Liberty Park, Duval, Mallory Square, Virginia Trace, Caroline, and more.

The POA and the Vinyl Siding Committee are not negative about The Villages. We all feel fortunate to live here. We are simply pressing hard for needed improvements and quality repairs. Resolution will never happen if problems remain hidden by silence.

For those of you who find this matter boring or redundant—just skip to another article. The vinyl siding articles are there for those of us who want to read them and the developer people who should read them.

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Vinyl Siding: By the Book

The siding installations we have seen here in The Villages, on every home we have observed, regardless of neighborhood, have exhibited neither the “skill and care” or the “professional installation techniques” that are required by Alcoa’s Vinyl Siding Installation Manual. We have seen neither the “quality installations” or the “proper installations” described in the manual.

We remain shocked and extremely disappointed that the Villages Home Warranty Department and the contractors and subs still don’t seem to get it. We’ll spell it out again: When you go back to do a repair, do it RIGHT! Don’t take more shortcuts. Don’t make excuses.

It seems that you think this is a game to see how little you can do on each home so our committee members have to check over and over and homeowners have to call in complaints again and again.

If a homeowner has a list of 20 items, then fix all 20, not just 3. Don’t try to convince homeowners that repairs are complete using polite, but empty words—just do the complete repairs! You may think you’re fooling the homeowners, but you are not fooling the Vinyl Siding Committee.

As for the undersill/finish trim, don’t give the excuse that The Villages wasn’t using this manufacturer’s part when the home was built. We have heard that one far too many times and the fact remains: Florida Building Code says to follow the manufacturer’s installation instructions. This Code requirement has been in place for years. And the manufacturer’s manual, with its “easy-to-follow instructions,” says to use finish trim. So why are the Villages builders still making excuses and refusing to put it in on some homes?

Disregard of this instruction, among many others, appears to be a violation of the Florida Legal Code that has been going on for quite some time. Contractors may have some legal liability here for any fraud they commit on home buyers.

The Vinyl Siding Committee

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Letter to the Editor: Vinyl Siding: How to Get it Fixed

I want to share my vinyl siding saga with Villagers. I will try to keep it brief, although my successful venture took nearly a year of persistence and perseverance to accomplish.

I moved to The Villages just over a year ago, and within three months, pieces started falling off my home. I called the Warranty Department, they were polite and sent someone out to work on my house. This process was repeated with SIX different contractors, and entailed my having over 45 contacts with the warranty department, the builder, and contractors.

Lesson #1. Document all your contacts in this process.

Lesson #2. Don't accept shoddy workmanship just because you are discouraged.

Lesson #3. Be polite, but persistent.

Lesson #4. Be sure you request New Look Exteriors, Inc., the only company of the six sent to my home that did the job right. Steve Justice, the owner, and his crew, are polite and knowledgeable. They care about doing the job correctly, not just about slapping some siding up and calling it done. They also do remodeling, so I recommend this fine company for more than siding.

Lesson #5. Thank Ray Micucci for doing all of us a great service with the Siding Committee, and the hundreds of hours spent in inspecting and instructing homeowners about their siding. My long trial with this problem is finally over, but be aware that many are still struggling to have their homes done properly. It can be a very long and trying process, but persistence and perseverance can succeed!

Gail Kennedy

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Letter to the Editor: Vinyl Siding: Inspections

We have been residents of The Villages since April, 2006. Our siding on our

home was recently repaired due to the efforts of your committee, the Bulletin bringing the problem to our attention, and the cooperation of the Villages Warranty Dept. Just prior to our one year anniversary of residency, we thought we were being cautious and hired a property appraiser to check our home from top to bottom. The property appraiser report made no mention of any siding problems and listed a few minor things which were promptly repaired.

After the appointment was made with the Warranty Dept. to repair the siding, I called the property appraiser to inquire why this problem was not part of our report. I asked what his criteria was for examining the siding. Needless to say, I didn't get an acceptable response. The disclaimer we signed when we hired this appraiser negates any recourse on our part. My purpose in writing to you is that by stating my inexperience, false security and expense, other property owners will not be duped the way we were.

Jo Witte
Caroline Village

Editor's Note: Either get just a vinyl siding inspection from an inspector certified and specifically trained to inspect vinyl siding; or get a whole house inspection from a certified inspector and make sure they are experienced with vinyl siding and can also inspect your vinyl siding for problems.

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Letter to the Editor: Vinyl Siding: Not Done Right

When we bought our new houses in The Villages, we expected the construction to be of the highest quality. We put our trust in The Villages, as their reputation depends to a large degree on the construction of the houses they sell.

Most of us bought our new houses in 2006, we thought our houses were in perfect condition. Our houses are of frame construction with vinyl siding, and not being experts in vinyl siding, it appeared that there was no problem with the vinyl siding.

However, there was an article in the POA Bulletin about free observations of houses with vinyl siding, so we thought it would be a good idea to have someone from the Vinyl Siding Committee look at our houses and inspect the vinyl siding.

Boy were we surprised. The committee member discovered numerous areas where the vinyl siding was improperly installed. He pointed out to us everything from improper installation, to pieces of siding that were loose and ready to fall

off, as well as not having finish trim on our houses, The Villages will not put finish trim on older houses (our houses are less than 2 years old) but will only install finish trim on the newly constructed houses.

Even though we paid for finish trim The Villages is telling us we are not entitled to have it installed on our houses. We certainly did not get what we paid for as far as the installation of our vinyl siding is concerned.

We are angry, upset and frustrated that we were taken advantage of by The Villages as well as by the contractors who installed the vinyl siding.

We were told The Villages is fully aware of the problems with these contractors installing the vinyl siding, however, despite numerous complaints these contractors continue to do their poor installation of vinyl siding on many new homes in The Villages. This type of sub-par, unprofessional installation of vinyl siding is totally unacceptable.

We believe every house in The Villages that has vinyl siding has the potential to have major problems with their siding. As Village residents, we need to get together to do something about the poor installation of vinyl siding on our houses.

Until your house is inspected by someone qualified in the installation of vinyl siding, you will never know what problems you may have.

We live in the village of Caroline, and we believe those of us with vinyl siding are being treated unfairly by The Villages. This problem will not go away and we as residents of The Villages will continue to pursue this problem until every house is repaired properly.

We paid for a full and complete installation of vinyl siding when we bought our houses. All we are asking is that The Villages repairs our houses properly and give us what we paid for.

Raymond Nistler

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From the POA Website Forum: Water Resources in The Villages

Feb 12: Piping Versus Desalinization And Enforcement of Water Restrictions:

At the last meeting of The Village Greens, a conservation group based in central Florida, I learned that there is a proposal to tap into three of our precious fresh water rivers to supplement low aquifer conditions in central Florida. It is my understanding that the St. Johns River Water Management

District (SJRWMD) intends to provide multiple pipeline sites along the St. Johns, the Ocklawaha, and the Withlacoochee rivers for the diversion of these river waters to central Florida.

Participants in this project are The Southwest Florida Water Management District and The Villages of Lake-Sumter, a private developer and Community Development District.

There is quite a history as to the cause of central Florida's need to supplement its fresh water aquifer, mainly over-development.

In March of 2002, T. Daniel Farnsworth and two friends filed a formal objection to the permits for pumping water out of the ground to supply new construction in The Villages. They argued that The Villages' plans would waste one million gallons of water a day, drying up farmers' wells and opening sinkholes galore.

They pointed out that while state officials say there is plenty of water for The Villages in Sumter, next door in Lake County state officials have declared a serious water shortage.

To rid the area of this troublesome Farnsworth group, The Villages of Lake-Sumter and a new pro-developer group, The Citizens for Economic and Environmental Balance, or CEEB, presided over by Terry Yoder, president of T&D Concrete, sued Farnsworth and his group stating that "Mr. Farnsworth is a self-centered, selfish man," and that "Farnsworth wants Sumter County to himself," and has caused economic damage to the central Florida area.

They won and Farnsworth and his group were forced to end their so-called frivolous suits.

Well it seems now that Mr. Farnsworth and his group, Sumter Citizens Against Irresponsible Development, were right and the CEEB, The Villages of Lake-Sumter, and the Southwest Florida Water Management District were wrong.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board has now issued Water Shortage Order No. SWF 07-02 and extended this order until June 30, 2008. This order is LAW and this law is supposed to be enforced by local law enforcement. Where I live this is the code enforcement department of the Sumter County Sheriff.

I have reported to my local governing agency The Villages Community Development District number two (CDD#2) that many residents are disobeying this law and they should be reported to our sheriff. At this time I am unsure whether this information is being relayed to our sheriff by our local CDD or that this law is just not being pursued or enforced by our sheriff.

If either party is ignoring this law I feel that the temporary fix of piping water from already low rivers and not enforcing our conservation laws make no sense.

If more water is indeed needed then it is time to look to the future and desalinization instead of piping already low levels of river water.

Depleting river water is only a short-term fix and what happens then when this natural resource dries up? Initial cost of developing desalinization plants and pipelines are costly but they use a never-ending resource, which cannot be said of our fresh water rivers and streams.

I hope you will help prevent the grabbing of water from these rivers, promote the idea of water desalinization and make local policing agencies aware that they are required to enforce the laws of The Southwest Water Management District.

Richard Kimball

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Letter to the Editor: Political Speech

Did you see the Letter to the Editor in today's Daily Sun, written by Rich Cole? I guess Will Pruitt must be posing a threat to their hand picked candidate if they had to write a letter to bash him. I wish someone would write another letter explaining Will is only exercising his First Amendment rights and the No Soliciting policy, anywhere, not just The Villages does not apply to political candidates. I guess Cole knows that or else he would have tried to do something about it. If The Villages tried to stop a candidate from going door to door and the candidate took them to court the candidate would win. I'm sure The Villages knows that so they had Cole write the letter. The "Do Not Call" list does not pertain to political calls and charities either but I guess they don't know that either. Anyone who would make a decision on what candidate to vote for based on whether the candidate "bothered" them by ringing their doorbell shouldn't be allowed to vote. That's no way for us to pick a candidate.

Bob Rein

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From the POA Website Forum: Is the POA Bulletin Just a "Rag"?

Feb 9: Anybody have any comments on the POA monthly rag?

Feb 10: I really resent you calling the Bulletin a RAG. Don't tell me it is only a figure of speech. That's nonsense. When one person starts calling names to

classify something, it carries on and hurts the cause, so "STOP IT."

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Letter to the Editor: Stop Sign or Light at Morse & Rio Grand?

I have tried on two occasions to have a Letter To The Editor printed in The Daily Sun, but they feel my letter is not important.

Here is a copy: of that letter:

BRING BACK THE STOP SIGNS!

What in the world were they thinking? What could have ever possessed someone to change the stop signs on Morse Blvd. at Rio Grand to stop lights? The traffic buildup is now atrocious, especially during lunch and dinner hours. Traffic going North on Morse at Rio Grand has to wait for a very few, if any, South bound vehicles turning left onto Rio Grand. All that needed to be done to alleviate this terrible situation was to place the traffic signals on Morse Blvd. back about three or four feet, add a pass through lane and add a left turn lane for autos to use. We did not have anywhere near this problem with just the stop signs.

Because of the Rio Grand stop lights, you cannot safely make a left turn out of San Marino Drive onto Morse Blvd. Now, there is talk about putting a stop light on Morse Blvd. at San Marino Drive. They have got to be kidding.

If this problem cannot be fixed, **BRING BACK THE STOP SIGNS!**

Phil Salus

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From the POA Website Forum: Parr Drive Traffic Trap?

Feb 9: My wife also got a ticket on Parr drive for passing a golf cart that was

going very slow. There was no traffic at the time, though she did have to cross the double line a little bit in order to pass safely. Incidentally, she hadn't got a ticket for anything in more than 40 years. A warning should have been sufficient. Yes, it was a trap! Later, on several occasions, I have had to pass a gardener's trailer parked in front of residences which required crossing a double line. Are we suppose to stop and back up traffic until the gardener finishes? It seems like a little common sense should be used by the sheriffs before handing out tickets rather than warnings.

Feb 9: I still think there should be a sign ... Do Not Pass Golf Carts ... on Parr Drive.

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From the POA Survey of Residents: Comments from The POA Survey

In the recently completed POA Survey of Residents, reported on in last month's issue, we asked for open-ended comments on whatever residents wanted to comment on. We were almost inundated with comments. And, we found most of these to be worthwhile for reporting to our readership. So, here is the first batch. We will continue with a selection of comments in future issues as space permits.

I love living in the Villages. I came here in 1990 and bought a house for my mom; I knew then that this was where I wanted to retire. Mr. Schwarz, whom I met, had a vision, the vision still holds true. Yes there are problems, but working together we can continue to make our Villages the best there is in the world.

The RAC is doing a great job. Thanks for representing property owners.

Keep up your good reporting. If it were not for the POA I would not have known how to handle my siding problem.

It is wrong to charge a resident for a trail fee, if he rides on a golf cart. The trail fee has already been paid for.

I do not use neighborhood Watch since they started charging for it.

We need a Performing Arts Center that is much larger then the Savannah Center.

All you do is complain about the Villages, the majority of us love our life here.

We live in the best place in Florida and want things to stay as good as they are!! Don't fool with perfection.

Take care of the scum on Mira Mesa ponds. Pamona Lane is a shortcut to Spanish Springs and the golf carts go too fast for this area. Please put a radar detector on our street before one of us gets hurt.

The property golf fees are too high for Snow Birds.

We need a state of the art Performance Center, with most of the cost coming from the Developer. Why not use some of the cost from the sale of the Savannah Center?

The Champion Golf courses are out of reach for lower income seniors.

The Village phone book is a "joke." Who cares where people lived before? We need a business section like most phone book!!!

People do not understand how to use two lanes in the circles. The Daily Sun is so right wing in their objectivity.

Looking forward to recycling program, but cannot understand the use of non-recyclable plastic bags. What's wrong with reusable bins like 95% of cities with recycling programs use?

How about some articles on planting Natives and Florida friendly gardens, instead of the water guzzling pesticide using grass!!! VHA newspaper has regular articles by a Master Gardener.

I have many questions on the recycling proposal. Residence should not have to pay the cost for recycling, because recycling brings in its own money.

I dislike Paul and Barbara Vesco's monopoly on entertainment in the Villages, from charging for concerts in the Church on the Square to charging a cover entertainment fee at Katie Belles, to charging for space at the Town Squares, then canceling New Year's Eve.

The music program (concert band, swing band, philharmonic), is wonderful, but has become more expensive, as are the theater productions. These are put on by volunteers who are not paid for their time and energy. A performing arts centers fees will probably be exorbitant.

To ticket golf carts is just another abuse by the city government whose hand is out to get revenge from any means they can. Most of these people do not live in the Villages, but think that the Village residents should pay for everything. I am proud to be a Villager!!!

Many if not all of the administrators are employed by or are "Puppets" of the Developer. This works against the Villagers, the Developer has the lawyers and the money to quiet protestors.

Greed and power today are so important for businessmen to gain more financial wealth than they will ever need. Mr. Schwartz must be turning over in his grave.

It is interesting to note that 8 out of 50 questions refer to golf courses (almost 10%), which gives a sense of the priorities in the Villages. Many of us are not golfers and would like other issues, such as medical, mental health services,

help for elderly, transportation, etc, explored.

As for Recycling – Thumbs Down!!!!

No enforcement of animals in the entertainment areas, non-smoking areas of the Town Centers.

Charging cart fees on executive courses for visitors riding in resident golf carts. There should be no charge on these courses or the Championship courses. I pay trail fees.

Priority membership for a single person is too high compared to a couples charge.

There is not much learning going on in the Lifelong Learning Center, the curriculum is pretty boring.

When the Developer took over the water and trash, you knew there were \$\$ involved!! Why are you surprised when the rates go up again and again? Who does the pay usage go to, Himself?? !!!

Traffic in the Villages is bad on Morse Blvd.; common landscaping is bad in old areas, good in newer ones. The Watch should be discontinued. Twelve years ago when we bought we liked the size of the community and events were reasonable, (movies, dances, etc). Now the family corporation's greed of nickel and dime-ing the residents and want 100,000 people here because of their greed. We certainly would not recommend the Villages to anyone.

The Villages Daily Sun needs a competitive newspaper. Why are editorials written by a felon (Ollie North), or reported almost daily from the right winged San Diego Union, Times, or written by Ann Coulter? Why are independents or democratic candidates not invited to the Villages? We only get to have visits by Republicans.

Over development is eroding the original feeling of a close knit community. Recent attempts to charge for previously "Free" activities, such as New Years Eve in Town Squares is one negative result of this over-development.

The monthly amenity fee is unclear; we were not advised of this, even though we asked about it. I do understand it is needed, so we paid for it. We are upset that this goes up every year. Since we were not advised, it is upsetting that they did not think it important to tell us about this raise.

I feel the POA to be a negative organization. While several causes and critiques are well founded the constant negativity detracts from the organization as a whole.

On recycling, why not continue the twice a week for trash pick-up with a pick-up yard waste every other week and the recyclables on the alternate week. No additional cost and no trash sitting around.

The neighborhood Watch Service Director and Assistant Director lie a lot and have too much nepotism.

The Morse's are running a family business; no business is perfect, look at the stock exchange.

The POA serves us well, very well and I thank you.

Great place to live.

The Developer and his cronies are dictatorial in their attitudes and policies.

POA keep up the good fight.

Traffic has become increasingly worse, rudeness, speeding, running yellow/red lights. We need better police presence to alleviate some of this.

The POA is doing a very good job telling us about the other side of the picture. Thank you for checking up on what we can't and publicizing the good and the bad.

The police should ticket golf carts more often when they are going 25-35 mph.

The developer seems to continually find ways of squeezing money out of the residents. The latest is the Village Art League was charged \$900.00 per day for a room to hold an art class in, and the students were charged \$250.00 each for the 5 day class.

POA is doing a great job, Keep up the good work.

Good job keep it going. Question, why doesn't Publix in Colony Plaza receive POA Bulletin?

Radar for golf carts, OK? Where is radar for Morse and Buena Vista? I travel on these roads every day and its getting worse. Does someone have to get killed before we enforce speed limits?? If enough tickets are given, the speeding will stop.

The Bond is too high. They overdue the landscaping, too costly. They are not completely honest; we do not have enough say. The college classes cost are too high. I moved here 7 years ago and the increases make me wonder. The shuttle 7 years ago was \$15.00 both ways, now it is \$35.00, Give me a break.

I think its time the governing of the Lady Lake sections should be given over to the residents. The Developer and the VCCDD no longer care what happens here. They just want the amenities.

I think Mr. Wahl is a good Administrator. But I also think he is a toad for the Developer. If you had a question on the survey that asked for "Objectivity of Mr. Wahl, as Developer and resident positions appear in conflict," I would give Pete a 3.

When we moved here we were deceived about The Villages being a gated community. We were not told Morse Blvd. is a public highway. We were not told about Bond cost, and that there was plenty of water and no restrictions on usage. We were told the resident counts. After we saw the Silver Lake Restaurant closed against the wishes of the residents, ditto for Chula Vista. The Villages is too greedy, growth without considering the environment, traffic congestion, siding, etc. During the developing stage the common areas were kept nicer than they are now, (Spanish Springs for example), Katie Belle's was a place to be proud of, now its character is changed and it is a chopped up mess. Christmas decoration has been cheapened. All a poor tribute to the memory and ethics of Mr. Schwartz. Sharon Morse had put so much appeal into Katie Bell's, all that has been changed for Chico dollars. Looks like we will pay more and get less trash pick up, when the temperature soars, that should

be interesting.

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