

The POA Bulletin

Free Copy

The Property Owners' Association of The Villages



Issue 35.06

Champions of Residents' Rights Since 1975

June, 2009

POA Resident Survey: Generally, Good Marks

The POA has repeated the Survey of residents' attitudes that it conducted four times previously in the time period 2003-2008.

The objective of these Surveys was to quantify and assess Village residents' opinions about a variety of questions and issues of importance in our community.

These Surveys grew out of our disappointment with the annual Survey conducted by the District Administration and the developer. The POA views those Surveys as worthwhile, but much too general, incomplete, and lacking in enough details that can be measured on an annual basis. The District Administration survey, furthermore, ducks the hard issues that should be part of any evaluation. And, the resulting stories, printed in the Daily Sun, seem like a general whitewash of sometimes frivolous issues.

In this year's POA Survey, a total of 1,325 Villagers in the three-month period from February thru April, 2009, rated fifty (50) different questions or issues on a numerical scale between 1 and 10. A score of 10 represented the highest, best, most satisfying, or most positive rating; and a score of 1 represented the lowest, worst, least satisfying, or most negative rating.

Villagers were asked to only rate subjects with which they were familiar and to put "NR" (No Response) or a dash (-) whenever they were unsure or had no familiarity with the subject. The scores for all 50 questions were tabulated and averaged individually for only the responses for that question.

New questions were added this year for the total of 50; 18 questions from the previous Survey were replaced by new questions. The "-" shown in the summary tables below indicates that the question was not included in the Survey for that year.

Generally, scores over 9.0 could be considered "Excellent," although no questions in any of the four Surveys rated at 9.0 or above. Scores can be judged in the following terms:

9.0 - 10.0	Excellent
7.5 - 8.9	Very Good
6.0 - 7.4	Good
4.0 - 5.9	Poor
Below 3.9	Disastrous

The 1,325 returned Surveys this year compared to a total of 991 returned last year (a 34% increase). In each year, the Surveys were distributed in the POA Bulletin to Villagers through home delivery to resident's driveways. The Bulletin is distributed to

most occupied homes in The Villages.

This Survey was not designed to yield results that are statistically accurate. The Surveys were distributed to Villagers without consideration as to whether they were POA members, VHA members, or non-members of either organization. Villagers then decided whether to respond.

However, the Survey sampling was large

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Non-Resident Use of Facilities

Residents have voiced concern over a Letter to The Editor in the previous issue of the POA Bulletin about the use of Villages facilities by non-residents. This is because the Letter mis-stated an action of the AAC and left a seriously wrong impression in the minds of many readers.

The Letter to the Editor, entitled "Non-Villagers Using Recreation Facilities," gave the impression that the AAC voted to allow non-residents to use all recreation facilities in The Villages, including swimming pools, executive golf courses, tennis and pickleball courts, etc.

The fact is that the AAC only voted to **temporarily** allow non-residents with specifically-defined **medical problems** to only **attend scheduled meetings** of their respective non-funded, AMA-recognized, **medical support groups** for their respective medical issues and **only** in our **meeting rooms**.

The number of non-residents allowed in any given monthly meeting would be limited to 10. The recreation department estimates that there are probably 15 groups that would qualify and probably would involve 2 - 5 non-residents attending each meeting. These non-residents would simply attend the medical support group meeting and will **not be permitted to use** any of **our recreational**

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Non-Resident Use of Facilities

(Continued from page 1)

facilities (pools, golf courses, classes, courts, etc.).

Some of these medical groups would be the Diabetes Support Group, the Alzheimer Support Group, the Air-Head Support Group for COPD, etc. Most of these meetings are held in large rooms where there are often empty seats that can easily accommodate these non-residents.

Because of the size of The Villages community, the support groups here are able to attract great speakers and provide outstanding programs. The few individuals with that medical condition in Belleview, Fruitland Park or Wildwood would never be able to organize such events (each of these towns is smaller than any one CDD in The Villages).

They can in no way participate in any other meetings nor can they utilize any of the recreational facilities here in The Villages (and they will not be issued guest cards). The AAC further stated that the exception was temporary and would be monitored through year-end 2009 at which time the policy would be reviewed. If the policy is not working, then it will be modified or rescinded.

It was expressed by those supporting the program at the AAC meeting that this was the humanitarian thing to do with no “downside” to residents.

And, this is not a slippery slope leading to the day when our facilities are opened to non-residents on a come-all basis. We residents, through the AAC, control this issue and the AAC is not going to do something as

outrageous as some people seem to fear this might lead to.

We need to be vigilant with the decision expressed here and not let others in on this exception. However, these medical support groups are a non-problem. These are people with significant health issues – not social butterflies looking for a party or the use of our pools or golf courses.

The POA apologizes to residents for giving this impression by publishing that Letter to the Editor without a better explanation. We think we need to publish alternative points of view; but, we also need to include explanation and/or qualifications when necessary.

But, there is a bigger issue involved here. And that is resident understanding of the actions of the AAC. Most of these AAC meetings have had no more than 25-50 residents out of a population of 75,000 in The Villages. (The meetings about the indoor pool did have over 100.) Residents need to get first-hand information about the many issues considered by the AAC. Residents should attend these meetings, ask questions, understand the issues, and base their opinions on an accurate assessment of the facts. Coming to conclusions based on innuendo and an incomplete understanding of the facts is non-productive and dangerous.

Furthermore, remember that the AAC was formed to address issues north of Hwy.466. However, on issues with a Villages-wide impact, any decision of the AAC must be approved by not only the VCCDD, but also the SLCDD which represents residents south of Hwy. 466. So, if you live south of Hwy. 466, you can voice your opinion at both the AAC meeting and the SLCDD meeting. Dates for these meetings are shown on the POA website (www.poa4us.org) and on the districtgov.org site of the Center Districts. □

POA Mission Statement

The Property Owners’ Association of The Villages is an independent organization devoted to our home ownership experience.

The Vision/Objective of the POA is to make The Villages an even better place in which to live, where Residents’ Rights are respected, and local governments are responsive to the needs and interests of residents.

The POA serves Villagers through programs of education, research, analysis, representation, advocacy, and legislative action.

The POA also functions as a “watchdog” organization overseeing the actions of our developer and our local governments.

Specific POA attention is focused on housing, community, neighborhood, and local government issues. Special emphasis is focused on the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC), our Community Development Districts (CDDs), the Florida Chapter 190 law that regulates CDD operations, and our developer.

The POA has no ties or obligations to the developer of The Villages which might compromise the POA position or its advocacy of Residents’ Rights.

The POA, founded in 1975, is the original homeowners’ organization in The Villages. Membership is open to all Villages residents. □

The Villages Residents’ Bill of Rights

RESIDENTS have RIGHTS to:

1. Be treated in a respectful, fair, and responsive manner by the developer and our local government officials.
2. Have decision-making authority for important issues in our community.
3. Elect our top government officials and approve appointments of the top administrative officials in our community.
4. Approve major purchases of common property and the related debt obligations assumed by residents.
5. Have local governments that are free of any conflict-of-interest issues.
6. Be charged honest monthly amenity fees that are used only for the stated purposes.
7. Receive full disclosure when purchasing a home here in The Villages.
8. Receive an objective market appraisal for major purchases of common property.
9. Receive objective, unbiased, un-slanted news reporting from local news sources.
10. Be informed beforehand by the developer on any major change in our community. □

June 16, 2009

**THE NEXT POA
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**Third Tuesday of the Month – 7:00 p.m.
Laurel Manor Recreation Center**

**The Metro Crime Unit will speak on Home and
Personal Safety; also, an Open Forum Discussion
in which Residents can Ask Any Question.**

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POA Survey Results

(Continued from page 1)

and broad enough to be representative and informative about the views of all Villagers.

The ratings are listed below for this Survey (6/09) and the previous Survey (12/07). The POA summary and comments are shown immediately after each grouping.

	Ratings	
	6/09	12/07
General Questions		
Common Landscaping	8.9	8.6
Villages Cleanliness	8.8	8.5
Rec Center Cleanliness	8.5	-
Entertainment on Squares	8.0	7.9
Entertainment Savannah Ctr	7.7	-
Untrimmed Fronds	4.1	-
The Learning Center	7.5	7.7

Residents rated common landscaping, Villages cleanliness, and entertainment on the Squares in the high end of the "Very Good" range. These ratings were slightly improved compared to the results of the previous Survey. Entertainment in the Savannah Center rated lower in the "Very Good" category.

Villagers gave the common landscaping question the highest rating (8.9, tied with Emergency Medical Services) of any of the questions. Villages officials should take pride in these favorable ratings.

Villagers gave a low "Poor" rating to the practice of not trimming dead fronds on palm trees. It may save money or perhaps offer freeze protection to not trim the fronds, but Villagers consider them unsightly.

The LifeLong Learning College also received marks in the "Very Good" category. Villagers seem to look favorably on this unique feature of our community.

	Ratings	
	6/09	12/07
Security and Traffic		
Overall Villages Safety	6.5	6.5
Security from Entry Gates	4.2	-
Traffic in The Villages	4.7	5.2
Traffic Round-About Circles	4.4	4.4
Community Watch	5.6	6.0

Overall safety in The Villages showed again in the "Good" category. Safety is always an issue, especially after the recent

home burglaries which seem to happen occasionally in The Villages. Villagers, however, gave a very low "Poor" rating to the level of security afforded by the entry gates.

Concerns about traffic in The Villages also earned a "Poor" rating and showed a further deterioration from the previous Survey. Villagers are unhappy with the traffic situation, and the recent rapid growth of our community is no excuse for this undesirable situation. With our population now at 75,000, traffic improvements are needed soon – otherwise, we face traffic gridlock when the population approaches 110,000 in 4-6 years.

The round-about circle situation is serious and dangerous and rated "Poor," just above the cutoff for the lowest "Disastrous" category. This is a serious and dangerous issue that needs to be addressed. Villagers are telling us again that the procedure for driving through the round-about is confusing and dangerous.

Community Watch had been rated in the "Good" category previously; however, it slipped into the "Poor" category in this year's Survey. This continuing low mark may be a reaction to the administration's decision to start charging for the home-watch service, a very unpopular move with residents. Also, residents seem to be confused as to the function of the service. Hopefully, the reorganization under Fire Chief Mike Tucker will improve both the image and performance.

	Ratings	
	6/09	12/07
Medical Care		
The Villages Hospital	6.6	7.0
Hospital's Emergency Room	5.1	-
Urgent Care Facilities in V	7.5	-
Emergency Medical Serv.	8.9	8.8

The Villages Hospital has had its share of bad publicity over the continuing problems in the Emergency Room, and residents gave the hospital a slightly lower rating, but still in the "Good" category.

The Emergency Room, however, scored in about the middle of the "Poor" category. This seems to confirm the POA assessment of the Emergency Room and its problems, in spite of the glossy public relations program by the hospital to the contrary. This is disappointing and the hospital needs to address

these continuing issues and solve the problems immediately.

Villagers seem to be satisfied with local Urgent Care Centers here and gave them a "Very Good" rating.

Emergency Medical Care tied the highest rating (8.9) achieved by any question in this Survey, close to "Excellent." The EMS staff should be proud of this high rating.

	Ratings	
	6/09	12/07
The Home Buying Experience		
Developer - Morse	5.6	5.2
Original Disclosure	5.5	5.1
Covenants/Restrictions	6.7	6.2
Initial Home Quality	6.5	-
Home Warranty Performance	6.7	6.2

The developer of The Villages, Messrs. Gary and Mark Morse, scored in the "Poor" category, although a slight improvement was shown. It is disappointing to see the developer held in such low regard. The developer needs to recognize that he has a public relations problem, in spite of the wonderful community that he has created here in The Villages. Perhaps this is due to the ever increasing and higher prices for everything in The Villages. The developer needs public relations help to overcome his poor image.

People rated the original disclosure information given to them at the closing of their homes as "Poor," even though a slight improvement was seen. The developer and District Administration should consider this and do a better job of providing information to prospective residents before closing.

The Covenants and Restrictions scored at the middle of the "Good" category, up slightly from the previous Survey.

Initial Home Quality only scored in the "Good" category. Wouldn't you expect that

(Continued on page 4)

L. Rae

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POA Survey Results

(Continued from page 3)

this assessment would be higher? It should be. Hopefully, the developer takes this rating to heart. It is not helpful when the developer announced last year in the VHA meeting that houses are being built for roughly \$7,000 less than a few years ago. Unfortunately, this appears to translate into lower quality, and home buyers are noticing that. Also, consider the vinyl siding problems which reflected on fundamental practices in the developer’s building program.

The performance of the Home Warranty department also scored in the “Good” category and showed a slight improvement from the previous Survey results. We originally thought the department would score lower after the concern of some residents over the vinyl siding issue. But, this mark still leaves room for improvement, and this department should also score much higher.

<u>Amenities</u>	<u>Ratings</u>	
	<u>6/09</u>	<u>12/07</u>
Monthly Amenity Fee	5.7	5.7
Charging Us to Use Facilities	4.1	-
Fairness of Guest Pass System	6.8	-
Guest Passes for Singles	4.1	-
The AAC	5.7	-
Residents Control Decisions	6.9	4.1
Courtesy of Rec Dept Staff	-	8.0

Residents scored the Monthly Amenity Fee in the “Poor” category. We might have expected as much. However, we think the developer and the District Administration could do a better job of explaining where all of this money goes. Residents might feel better about the monthly fee if they had a better understanding of what it is spent on.

Residents have a low opinion of the practice of charging residents to use facilities and rated this practice solidly in the “Poor” category. Residents pay monthly for Amenities, and they shouldn’t be charged additionally to use our facilities. This is especially annoying when classes are scheduled at the charter school facilities under the direction of the LifeLong Learning College (owned by the developer) and a facility fee is charged. If facilities are available in The Villages, these should be used at no additional charge.

The Guest Pass system was rated as “Good,” but the idea of passes for singles guests in adjacent counties received a rating low in the “Poor” category.

The AAC received a rating high in the “Poor” category even though the notion of residents controlling decision-making in our community rated in the “Good” category. We think that the AAC needs more time for residents to become familiar with its functions and contribution to our community.

<u>Property Owners’ Associations</u>	<u>Ratings</u>	
	<u>6/09</u>	<u>12/07</u>
The POA in General	7.7	7.7
The POA Newsletter	7.8	7.7
The VHA in General	5.7	5.5
The VHA Newsletter	5.5	5.5

The POA scored in the “Very Good” range with scores of 7.7 and 7.8. These ratings are comparable to the previous Survey. Perhaps these high ratings reflect the POA’s efforts to speak up for Residents’ Rights, such as the sinkhole repair on the Nancy Lopez golf course, the vinyl siding workmanship situation, the aborted Activities Policy that tried to restrict our Constitutional Rights

of Freedom of Speech, efforts to improve the hospital emergency services, opposition to the Sumter County Hospital Tax, etc.

The VHA continued to rate in the “Poor” category with scores of 5.7 and 5.5.

It appears that many Villagers recognize that the VHA has a strong relationship with the developer which may compromise the VHA’s impartiality and its ability to speak out for Residents’ Rights. The VHA didn’t score lower because Villagers apparently acknowledge that the organization has many worthwhile activities and services that are beneficial to our community. Now, if it just supported the POA concept of Residents’ Rights....

Summary - So far, this article has covered about half of the Survey results. We are scheduling the remainder of the results write-up and explanation for the next issue of the POA Bulletin.

Topics to be covered in the next issue include:

- The Golf Program
- Local Government
- Villages Media
- Resident Services
- Miscellaneous Topics
- The Overall Summary

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The AAC Meeting May 6, 2009

Old Business:

- Proposed Changes to the Guest ID Card Policies – the board approved the revised Guest ID Policy which includes: all in-area and out of area guest cards will be good for a maximum of 30 days of usage per year, everyone one year old or older will need a guest card, and penalties were established for misuse of facilities or falsification of guest information. The VCCDD has approved these changes. The SLCDD has approved the penalty portion and is still reviewing the other aspects of the policy change.

- Consideration of Single Resident Guest IDs – Following a discussion, the board did not support staff moving forward with a single person guest ID policy.

- Resident Committee Exploring Dog Park Alternatives – following a review of two proposals, the board requested staff to proceed with the study for a Springdale dog park. The AAC further decided that the proposal to construct a dog training facility was not an appropriate use of amenity funds.

- Recommended Changes to the AAC agenda - The following change was approved: during audience comments when residents are addressing the AAC, comments will be limited to 3 minutes per speaker and a resident may only speak once on an issue. Depending upon the number of comments the Chairman has the prerogative to limit each speaker to 2 minutes. Additionally, depending upon the topic, the AAC could institute the use of speaker slips to be submitted to the District Clerk.

New Business:

Community Watch Update – Chief Tucker provided an update of the current status of Community Watch and highlighted the changes made to the organization since he has assumed management responsibility.

- The AAC board also held a budget workshop on May 13th and will have its next budget review on May 27th

Please go to the www.districtgov.org website for the official minutes, agendas and meeting schedule.

Next AAC meeting

The next AAC meeting will be Wed., June 10th, 1:30 p.m. at the Savannah Center. □

Letter to the Editor:

What Does the AAC Do?

Just what is it the AAC is accomplishing in the Villages? They have allowed the 3 "resident only" golf courses to be used by outsiders. They have allowed golf outsiders to play as much as Villagers. They are allowing non-Villagers to use our recreation facilities. They have allowed 10 non-residents to attend club meetings and rec endeavors with at least 310 non-residents using our facilities. The ACC seems to want outsiders to have the same privileges as Villagers without [paying] the amenity fees. What will the ACC allow next? Open facilities to anyone who wants to use them? It's time for the ACC to take a rest.

Mike Stevko

Editor's Note: Actually, you should attend the AAC meetings so as to get all of your facts straight. Some executive golf courses were originally designated as "resident only" to assure residents had priority over guests. With the changes made last year to the "Tee Time" system, residents now have priority scheduling over guests on

all courses -- any reservation containing one or more guests will not be honored until all resident requests have been filled. Thus, guests only receive tee times that residents don't want regardless of the course. By removing the "resident only" designation from those three courses, the unused tee times can now be used by guests (who pay greens fees and trail fees) rather than left unused. This is a financial benefit to our amenity fund without any impact on resident usage.

With regard to the non-residents attending club meetings, please see the article starting on page 1, explaining that the exception only allows entry to medical support group meetings and no other meetings or facilities. There is no impact on resident usage or facilities availability.

The AAC is working hard for residents and when all the facts are known, it is clear they are doing what is best for all Villagers. □

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Edmund Burke**



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Letter to the Editor:

Boorish Behavior Continued

As follow-up [to the Boorish Behavior Letter to the Editor in the previous issue of the Bulletin] and in full support of my neighbor Paul Endersbee, I am the lady he mentioned in the May issue. Approaching my three years as a resident, it was not my first encounter with rude boorish people. I say "people" because I can't believe a true Villager would be like this.

It was Thursday, April 16th, in Lake Sumter Landing during the entertainment break. As I unfolded my own canvas chair, not blocking any walkway, a woman yanked my chair as I went to sit down. My son, visiting with his family and three young children, stopped the chair from moving out from under me as I sat down.

The woman yelled, "you can't put your chair there blocking the way." I told her she almost pulled the chair from under me as I went to sit down...she denied it.

Five minutes later, [when] the two couples decided to move, the first male companion twice shouted profanity you would not believe, in front of my young grandchildren. I turned and said "shame on you, using that kind of language, shame on you."

As I turned to face my son in disbelief the second male companion shouted the same profanity but hit me in the back of my head and knocked my golf cap off onto the ground. We just could not believe it. I got up and approached him and reminded him he just hit me in the back of my head and

knocked my hat off and who did he think he was. He said I was "pushing my weight around." Keep in mind I never said a word to this guy or even made eye contact...he came out of the blue.

My son approached him and this guy tried to take him on and asked if he had a problem with him. My son, being a police officer from out of state (MA) knew how to handle him and in a calm voice, simply said, "YES, I have a problem with you and your buddy using that kind of foul language in front of my young children, and didn't appreciate it."

My son's comment to me was "what kind of a place is this anyway?" I ask myself the same question.

The foul mouth male is clearly a "shame on you" but the guy who actually hit me on the head and knocked my hat off should have been arrested for assault. If I could have found a police officer anywhere in the square that night, this guy would have a record by now. Just who did he think he was, putting his hands on/assaulting another person?

People say, "he must have had too much to drink," no, that's not an excuse. Whether he drinks too much is not going to be my problem.

People sitting near us could not believe their eyes and several came to me and asked what had happened and why he did that. I simply said it all started because I put my chair where the lady didn't want it.

How do we protect ourselves against jerks

like this? How do we restrain someone while waiting for officials to arrive? How do you get them to ID themselves?

On April 27th I wrote to Janet Tutt, John Rohan and Diane Tucker to ask how they plan on resolving these types of issues. I have not heard back from them so I assume they are busy working out a solution.

Residents...I ask you, what should be done?

Deanna Reidy □

Letter to the Editor:

More On Boorish Behavior

I agree with Paul Endersbee's appraisal of conduct on the square at Lake Sumter Landing by a few people. In my opinion, if the well mannered people don't do something to reverse the trend, this behavior could cause others to follow their bad example. Can the POA add this subject to "Issues to be reviewed"?

A simple suggestion would be to add a couple of signs outlining in friendly and positive language what constitute "good manners" and the expectations of host merchants.

Jim Meixner

P.S. This issue reminded me of the importance of the work you [the POA] and the other leaders are doing on our behalf. I renewed my membership today! Thanks. □



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BEFORE

AFTER

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Letter to the Editor:

Even More On Boorish Behavior

I would like to commend you for printing the letter to the editor entitled "Boorish Behavior" in your May, 2009, issue.

The article that was written by Mr. Paul Endersbee tells it as it is. Many times during different events in Spanish Springs Town Square, I have left Too Jays restaurant after lunch and noticed various articles of clothing laid across chairs to mark a spot for an entertainment event that won't begin until hours later in the day.

I wonder what those people who think they are so special would think if they would return for their "Special Reserved Seating" to find their clothing had been tossed in the nearby trash container.

If they want a front row seat, then arrive early and sit and wait. There is NO RESERVED seating for anyone. Let's keep The Villages as "Florida's friendliest home town."

Thanks Paul for speaking out to all those "Special People."

Ed Ford □

From the POA Website Forum:

Recycling

May 1 – Why are we recycling in Sumter county? One truck collected BOTH the garbage bags and the recycling bags this am on Weston Manor Dr. in Bonnybrook.

Editor's Note: We investigated this and were told by officials that the recycling program in your neighborhood is proceeding as intended. We can only think that the trash pickup to which you refer was on the non-recycling pick-up day and any recycling trash left at curbside would have been picked up with the regular trash in the same truck. □

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The POA Discount Partner Program

We have been listing our Discount Partners on the back page of the Bulletin. But, we are adding more and more Discount Partners, and we are running out of room.

So, within the next few months, we will only show this full listing of Discount Partners on our website (www.poa4us.org). We have a special button to click on the main page that will take you to the full listing.

As space permits, we will list the new Discount Partners each month here in the Bulletin to alert you to the new ones. After the first month of this new listing, the full listing will be on the website.

Please take advantage of this feature of the POA. Local merchants want your business and are willing to offer a special discount to POA members. That's nice.

Remember to mention to the merchant that you saw their listing here in the POA Bulletin. And, please thank the merchant for participating in this POA Discount Partner Program.

Remember, also, that you need to show your current year POA Membership Card to the merchant to get the discount. If you haven't yet renewed for 2009, or if you haven't yet joined your POA, now is a good time to do that. See the Membership Form on page 15, upper right-hand corner. □

From the POA Website Forum:

Reassignment of Mr. John Rohan

May 6 – As of May 1st the Asst. District Manager, John Rohan, no longer holds that office. There hasn't been an official announcement, or did I miss it? Mr. Rohan is back to his old title of Recreation Director. Please give us some details on this subject.

Editor's Note: Mr. Rohan was reassigned as of May 1 to his previous position as Director of Recreation. This was to avoid any perception of a possible conflict of interest due to his potential participation in the profit proceeds from the future sale of certain Villages water utilities. Mr. Rohan had been Assistant District Manager previously and reported directly to Ms. Janet Tutt, District Manager.

An announcement prepared by Ms. Tutt was circulated among the staff and supervisors of the CDDs and the AAC. Ms. Tutt complimented Mr. Rohan on his job performance and his continuing effort for the activities programs of The Villages.

The Daily Sun did not publish the story.

We trust that Ms. Tutt will be alert to any potential conflict involving the three District employees who stand to financially benefit from the developer's sale of the water utility to the District. The POA considers this an actual conflict of interest, even though it is permitted by Florida law, Chapter 190. □



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Ronald Reagan A Father

Patti Davis, daughter of former president Ronald Reagan, wrote the following about her father before his death in the July 16, 2003, issue of Newsweek. This has been condensed for space requirements here.

Sometimes I think we need to look no farther than the pattern of footprints stretched out behind us to understand the lives we've lived.

We can follow the first tentative steps of our infancy through the long, defiant strides of adolescence and young adulthood -- the running away years, the years of putting distance between ourselves and our families, of burning up time -- to the more solid footprints, set down as we grow older.

These are the tracks we leave on the earth. If we look closely we can also see our parents' footprints, often close to us, as they guide and lead us, at other times far behind, as they wait for us to turn and remember them.

We slow down, finally, to look longer and

more carefully at our parents. My father, who strode confidently onto the stage of history ... was always polite – achingly so – and even in the depths of his illness, still (was).... I didn't stop to linger on the sweetness of that quality, or to learn from it.

There are people who would say that my father's footprints are larger and deeper than those of other parents because his political legacy gives them weight, creating indelible marks in the halls of history.... I see his footprints pressed into the wet sand of the beach as he walked toward the sea to catch steep waves and ride them back to shore. His stride was as smooth and certain as it was when he walked into the White House, and onto the stage of history. I see a small girl on that beach as well, pressing her feet into the shapes that her father's feet have left to see how much bigger his footprints are.

I have gotten lost in those footprints during my life; I have fought hard and bloody battles to pull myself away. These are the tracks I have left on the earth.

But now I look for my father's tracks on every beach, every trail. Because they mark the way home. □

Editor's Note: Happy Father's Day !!

Roof Vent Warranty

Just a clarification for the story in the previous Bulletin about Roof Ridge Vents.

The local dealer and Alcoa want to make the point that there is no Silent Recall of these products. These products are being replaced under the warranty, at no charge to the homeowner, if found to be defective.

The defective Ridge Vents are grey plastic, not metal or black plastic. If a homeowner is unsure, the local agent, SPS Roofing at 347-8530, will inspect the roof. If the Ridge Vents are found to be defective, then they will be replaced at no charge for the replacement or the inspection.

If SPS Roofing is called to make an inspection, and the Ridge Vents are not found to be defective, then a \$35 charge will apply. In this event, SPS Roofing will also inspect the entire roof for any other potential repair issues.

Residents should follow up on this because it is an important matter. Unfortunately, SPS Roofing has been overwhelmed with calls and response time may not be as quick as you might like. So, be patient – but, get it done. □

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LIGHTNING STRIKES More Likely in Summer Than Other Months

The summer thunderstorms in Florida, the LIGHTNING CAPITAL of the U.S., bring the threat of lightning strikes.

The odds are low that your home will be hit. But it can happen and it has happened here in The Villages with five homes being totally consumed by the resulting fire in the last five lightning seasons. If you prefer to protect your property, using the time proven methods available you can do the following.

1. Have a qualified and certified contractor install a Lightning Protection System

(LPS) on your home. This consists of a number of lightning rods (points) installed on the upper ridges of your roof and metal birdcage. These points are all connected together by a network of large electrical conductors with three or more down leads to long ground rods driven about ten feet or more into the ground. The square footage of the home and the type of roof structure determines the placement and number of points, the amount of large conductor needed, and the number of down leads and ground rods. These variables result in a specific cost for each home.

2. Have this same contractor inspect and install a ground bonding system that bonds together the grounds for the LPS, the electric

service, telephone, cable and/or satellite TV, and natural gas piping system in the home.

3. Install electrical surge protection on the main electrical service of the home, as well as plug in surge protectors on everything that has a 120 volt power cord.

If you follow all three of these steps, you have done all you can do to protect your home and home furnishings against lightning damage and electrical voltage surges that might come in on the electric service. You will have greatly reduced the odds of having lightning damage. The LPS on the roof also provides very good protection for the natural gas piping that you may have in your attic area.

There have been several homes totally destroyed in the U.S. where a direct lightning hit has ruptured the Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST) gas line in the attic area.

You will note that The Villages have installed LPS's on many of their buildings. When you attend any of the Disney parks, you will also see LPS's on all of their buildings.

In July, 2008, in The Villages, lightning hit and destroyed a home where the adjacent home had a LPS installed.

In July, 2005, lightning hit a home in The Villages, that just had a LPS installed a few days earlier. The lightning strike damaged one lightning rod (point) on the roof but did not do any other damage.

In August, 2008, during the afternoon thunderstorms of the same day, two homes in different sections of The Villages suffered damage where proper bonding and grounding would have prevented the damage.

For homeowners considering the installation of a LPS:

The LPS should be designed, installed and maintained in accordance with the national

(Continued on page 11)

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Lightning Strikes

(Continued from page 10)

standard, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) – 780, Standard for the Installation of Lightning Protection Systems, 2008 Edition.

It should be recognized that LPS is a specialty field. Firms designing, installing and maintaining LPS shall have employees qualified by the Lightning Protection Institute's Testing & Certification Program. The firm "listed" by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) will be a Lightning System Installer.

For homeowners who have a LPS installed:

LPS require very little maintenance, but they should not be ignored. The results of one study showed the failure rate of less than

one percent where the typical cause was attributed to a maintenance issue.

You should consider contacting your installer and request that they perform an annual visual inspection as called for in the national standard, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) – 780, Standard for the Installation of Lightning Protection Systems.

In addition to the visual inspection the installer will determine if there have been any alterations or additions to the structure that would require any LPS changes or additions. They will also check for any landscape activities that may have damaged the down conductors to the ground rods.

If you have roofing repaired or replaced, contact your LPS installer to do what is needed. Do not let the roofer modify or re-install the LPS.

The authors are volunteers and members of the Study Group on Lightning. Bob Freeman (Stalit1@aol.com) is a retired electrical engineer and Len Hathaway (lhatha@aol.com) is a retired fire protection consultant. They are not affiliated with any firm or organization that designs installs or markets any product or service for the lightning industry. □

Bulletin Transfers to the POA Website

You may have noticed that we have many new ads in the Bulletin. We need as much advertising as we can get to help pay the \$60,000 annual cost of printing and distributing the Bulletin. So, more ads are a big help to us.

However, the tradeoff is that we don't have as much space for all the stories and listings that we routinely carry. So, we are transferring some material to our website (www.poa4us.org).

The first items transferred and already operational are the following:

- Vinyl Siding Repair Companies
- Seniors vs. Crime Contact Information
- Urgent Care Facilities
- Bulletin Pick-Up Locations
- Medical Complaints
- CDD and AAC Meeting Dates & Times

Each of these has a separate button on the home page to click that will take you to that material. We hope that this change will not be a problem for you. And, with the added space we can supplement the material for that topic as needed.

Hopefully, the problem is now solved – you can read these features on the website. Hope you find this easier to use and also a nice way of getting familiar with the POA website and information displayed there. □



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Letter to the Editor:

Night Lights at the East Side Dog Park

We have been concerned about the darkness of [the dog park area east of the golf cart bridge over Hwy. 441/27], especially in the winter months, when you come home from an event at the Square after dark. If you make a right turn after coming off the bridge there is no lighting and if you make a left there is only a small light on the archery building.

It is an area that has the potential of being a crime area. Why not deal with this before there is a problem? Has anyone else expressed this as a concern? Is it possible for the POA to bring up this issue with The Villages and see if they think it is an issue and what they could do to correct it.

Thank you for the information paper that you send each month. We will be away for the summer. Is there a website where we can read the paper on-line?

Walt & Marianne Laug

Editor's Note: We know that the Center District Staff is aware of this problem and is looking into solutions.

The Bulletin is available each month on our website (www.poa4us.org). If you are away for the summer, or anytime, you can always read the full Bulletin on the website. □

From the POA Website Forum:

Cart Path Use For Buffalo Ridge Residents?

May 5 -- It is unfair that Buffalo Ridge Residents with golf carts can access our golf car trails. These are maintained by our amenity fees for the use of our residents. Does Buffalo Ridge pay amenity fees to help maintain our golf cart paths?

May 5 – Good question! This was voiced to the Villages by the POA several months ago in the Bulletin and we are still awaiting a reply. No one who does not pay an amenity fee should have access to our paths.

May 9 – I am pretty sure they do not pay amenity fees. Our fees are for the rec centers, pools, etc. which they cannot use.

Editor's Note – Buffalo Ridge residents do not pay Villages amenity fees. The AAC should send a letter to Buffalo Ridge management advising their residents not to use our recreation paths. To do so is trespassing and we should seek Sumter County law enforcement help to enforce our property rights. Buffalo Ridge residents could be licensed to use our paths for a total fee of, say \$10,000, per year. Incidentally, several officials of the VHA voiced concern over this issue and asserted that our recreation trails should not be used by non-residents. Perhaps the VHA would like to join with the POA in standing up for our Residents' Rights on this issue. □

From the POA Website Forum:

Bug Spraying

May 18 – I found the recent article in the POA Bulletin very interesting on the bug sprays. What can we do to stop The Villages from using this bug spray if it is so dangerous to our health? We all have our homes open when the weather is nice and are out and about on golf courses etc... Any suggestions?

Editor's Note: The bug spray program is conducted by the counties, not The Villages. Various environmental protection agencies have rated the insecticides used as safe for humans when properly applied. The sprays seem effective in holding down the population of mosquitoes and other bugs (including love bugs). You can call the county health department for the dates of sprayings in your area and take precautions that are right for you.

The spraying is usually done late at night, often after midnight. It is typically a pickup truck, making a buzzing sound, and spewing a fog of the insecticide floating out of the rear bed of the truck. Bugs don't like it. □

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Golf Tee Times

At a previous POA meeting, there was some discussion about the tee time availability due to the lawsuit settlement. The question was whether there are limits on the number of tee times for executive courses north of Hwy. 466 and do any limits apply to all executive courses in The Villages?

There is a limit on the number of free tee times for executive courses given the developer north of Hwy. 466 which he then gives to prospective home buyers to "Sample The Lifestyle."

The July, 2008, issue of the Bulletin (see in the Archives Bulletin Section of the POA website) explains the issue like this:

An agreement that the number of executive golf tee-times reserved for sales purposes for prospective residents shall not exceed a monthly maximum of 325 of the approximately 25,000 tee-times available on the VCCDD-operated executive courses north of Hwy. 466.

The lawsuit settlement only applies to the VCCDD area north of Hwy. 466. There is no comparable limit on tee times south of 466. It is in this area that the "Sample the Lifestyle" programs entertain the most prospective home buyers because this is where the homes are now being built. We expect a much higher number of free tee times to be given to the developer and prospective home buyers there. Consequently, the availability of tee times for use by residents will be impacted the greatest south of Hwy 466. □

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Just go on-line to the website at: www.iGive.com/POATV and fill out your account information. It is easy.

Order your item on line and an e-mail notice will arrive stating that the POA has been credited for a donation check in your name.

Some of the stores participating in this program include: Sears, JC Penny, Avon, Bass Pro Shops, BestBuy.com, Chico's, Ann Taylor, Macy's, American Eagle Outfitters, Netflix, Office Depot, Old Navy, The Golf Warehouse, Zales.com, and over 680 total retailers who participate in this program. □

Letter to the Editor:

Who's On the Hospital Board?

I just finished reading an article in your May, 2009, issue of the POA Bulletin regarding three Villagers added to the hospital board. My question is: Who are they and why weren't they identified in the news article?

Richard Miller

Editor's Note: The new board members should have been identified and are:

Don Hahnfeldt, a former military officer and corporate executive, is president of the VHA.

Evan Richards has a corporate background and experience in hospital fund-raising and is vice-president of the VHA.

Diane Spencer has a legal background and government experience. □

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Our Monthly Gardening Column:

Critters & Creatures in The Villages

by Anne Lambrecht
Master Gardener

We share our garden space with many incredible creatures. All manner of critters are out there: some strange, some scary but the majority, for the most part, are good or benign.

I’ve got a lot of spiders around my place. The spider I particularly like is the Spiny-backed Orbweaver (*Gasteracantha cancriformis*), a Florida native. They look like little flat crabs with white shells with black spots and six pointed red spines around the outside edge. That’s why their common name is “crab spider”.

Spinybacked Orbweavers build the typical “wagon wheel” web design (one of four kinds of webs that spiders weave). There is a basic design of a central hub, radial lines like wheel spokes extending out from the hub and a sticky spiral of adhesive silk. A web can be built in about a half hour.

This is a good thing because it nearly killed me to sweep all my spider webs from my deck to prepare for a big party. Luckily the husband is kind and pointed to the one I had “forgotten” and asked if I was keeping it to show and tell.

A spider at the center of its web can immediately detect where in the web its prey is trapped. Then the spider may “pluck” at the web to determine how big the prey is, then it runs down the radial lines to bite and/or wrap the insect for lunch. Spiders know where to step so they don’t get stuck in their own webs. And they’ve got a kind of oil on their little feet, just in case.

The webs many times have these thicker white zig-zaggy tufts of silk, mostly around the outside. These are called stabilamentum. Orbweavers and other spiders make these on their webs. Scientists think the reason these spiders make stabilamentum is that they may deter birds from flying into their webs and having to start all over.

Little Spiny Orbweavers eat whiteflies, regular flies, moths and beetles. They have many orbweaving cousins. This family is one of the larger spider families in the insect world with several dozen species alone in

Florida. They like to hang out by your house and also enjoy living in orange groves.

Because I am outside a lot I have noticed that among the lizards roaming the landscape, the dark brown ones are particularly territorial and aggressive. They are Cuban anoles and I call mine “Little Rickies,” first for a famous Cuban and second for familial reasons.

I’ve got two Little Rickies, one in the front outside our window and one in the back in the corner of our patio. The males mark their territory by extending a little flap of red-orange under-chin skin that looks like a little slice of watermelon. They do a little rap dance while extending this throat fan called a dewlap. They “dance the dew” when they feel threatened and when they feel amorous.

If I find a grub while gardening, I put it on the patio floor and in a little Cuban accented voice call Little Ricky. He carefully scoots out, closer and closer each time to lunch. He gulps down the whole grub at once. While he eats a spectacular thing happens: he changes color from dark brown, almost black, to very light tan.

One time while gardening in Cuban territory, I disturbed a cricket who, in one fell swoop, sans legs, became Little Ricky’s lunch. I like to think my Little Rickies regard me as a kind of Mother Nature, but I doubt it.

Garden Slugs -- Have you noticed the

slugs down here are really disgusting? There are only three slugs that are native to Florida and the eleven that have been brought in to the state do a number on our foliage and crops. They are mostly active at night and hide from the sun in the soil during the day. In Spanish they are called “babosas” from the verb “babear” (to drool) because of the large amounts of mucus they secrete.

You can often see the slimy evidence of where they’ve been during the night on your walkways and driveways.

Every now and then I’ll find some creature or something beautiful or rare and want to share it with the husband. I bring it inside to him and he doesn’t even look at it, he just looks down with a disgusted look on his face and whines and complains about the debris and mud falling from my legs and feet.

The husband doesn’t appreciate nature, creatures, critters or beauty. I am always to blame for dirt or mud or spiders or anoles or slugs he finds in the house. □



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Secretary	Dean Nicholson	350-2396

Directors

Frank Carr	751-4667
Ken Copp	751-0086
Myron Henry	205-8849

Sgt. At Arms

Chuck Lorenz	750-2098
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POA Volunteers

Environment	Sue Michalson	259-1426
Hall of Fame	Frank Renner	750-0306
Advertising	Joe Gorman	259-0999
Shine	Harold Barnes	753-8810
Discount Partners	Nancy Spreng	391-5700
Bulletin Editor	Joe Gorman	259-0999
Webmaster	John Donahue	750-3093
Membership	Open	--
50/50	Mike Kope	750-0394

POA e-mails

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poa@poa4us.org

Web Site

www.poa4us.org

Bulletin Delivery

delivery@poa4us.org

Membership

poamembership@thevillages.net

**Members of the
POA Hall of Fame**

2004	Russ Day Eva Hawkins William Rich, Jr. Glen Swindler Jean Tuttle
2005	Sadie Woollard
2006	Charlie Harvey Carol Kope Frank Renner
2007	Rose Harvey Dorothy Hokr
2008	Ray and Lori Micucci Win Shook

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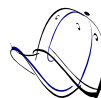


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The Recreation Centers and the Customer Service Center have the **Roundabout Brochure** available. This shows how to drive through those often confusing Roundabouts in The Villages. You can pick up your copy now.

**2009 MEMBERSHIP FORM
PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION
P. O. Box 1657, Lady Lake, FL 32158**

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

VILLAGE _____

COUNTY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

NEW _____ RENEWAL _____ DATE _____

ANNUAL DUES: \$10.00 _____

EXTRA DONATION: \$ _____

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The POA Discount Partner Program

The POA Discount Partner Program is a continuing benefit for POA members. Just show your current year POA Membership card when ordering the product or service listed here. And, please say "thanks" to our Discount Partners for participating in this program. (* = new this issue)

All Things Fine - 1171 Main St., Spanish Springs, 352-257-7384. 10% off all regularly priced merchandise. Excludes sale items. Not valid with any other offer.

Away From Home Pet Sitting Service in The Villages, 352-454-2623. 25% off first day service of pet sitting while you are away.

Bonne Chimie Custom Skin Care - 990 Alvarez Ave., Spanish Springs. 352-391-9600. 20% discount. Not valid with other promotions.

Bravo Pizza - 1080 Lake Sumter Landing, 352-430-2394. 10% off dine in & take out (whole meal). Not valid with other discounts.

Caribongo - 1041 Canal St., Lake Sumter Landing, 352-750-6147. Free color changing Tote Bag (retail value \$9.99) with the purchase of \$30.00 or more at the time of purchase. Offer not valid with any other offer or promotion. Sale items excluded. Limit one Tote per family.

Charley Bars By Jack - Secure your sliding glass door from break-ins. Install CHARLEY BAR W/Key. 10% Discount to POA. 259-7637.

Chick-fil-A - 730 Hwy 441, N. Rolling Acres Plaza, 352-430-0223. Value Size any meal and get a free chicken sandwich.

Cingular (Spectrum Global Network) - 972 Del Mar Drive, Spanish Springs, 352-205-7513. 10% off all phones with activation.

The Club Golf Cart Security System for Villagers, email at yunk38@comcast.net, 352-391-5077. \$3.00 discount (apx. 10%) for the Club Golf Cart Security device for POA.

Colonial Medical Supplies - 724 S US Hwy 441, Plaza One north of Oakwood Grill, 352-391-5169. 10% item discount to the POA.

Comfort Suites - 1202 Avenida Central, 352-259-6578. 25% discount, May 1, 2009, through October 31, 2009. All reservations are based on availability. Must call hotel directly in advance for individual reservations.

* **Copy Depot** - Color copies, fax service, social cards, 10% discount, call 352-561-4100.

Coral's Casual Patio and Fireplace Shoppe, U.S.Hwy 441/27, across from Wal-Mart, 352-307-8522. Free bottle of "Dew Not" with the purchase of \$300.00 or more. One per customer.

Cozco Handcrafts - 1121 Main St., Spanish Springs, 352-430-0386. 10% off - excludes sale items.

Custom Apparel & Gifts - 920 Bichara Blvd, La Plaza Grande, 352-750-1600. 10% off any item in stock in store; 25% off custom framing.

Edible Arrangements - 11962 CR 101 - Palm Ridge Plaza, 352-391-1334. \$4.00 off purchases over \$25.00.

Enterprise Rent-A-Car - 1076 Lake Sumter Landing. 352-751-2417. Special rates for POA members. A pick-up service and one-way rentals to Orlando and Sanford airports are available.

Flags & Flag Poles - 845 CR 25 across from Lady Lake Post Office. 352-751-1876. \$4.00 off flag pole order of \$119 or more for POA members showing their current year membership card. Discount on "check and cash orders" only.

Funeral Planners Inc. - For the POA, 10% off regularly priced funeral planning package or 15% off deceased identity theft protection service. Visit <http://www.FuneralPlannersInc.com>

Funtime Piano or Keyboard Lessons - Call Nancy. Beginners to Advanced; All Types of Music. POA Special \$12 per 1/2 hour weekly lesson (\$3 off regular \$15 price). 352-750-6475.

Gourmet Go Go - A delivery service for dinner menus from local restaurants. \$1.00 discount off regular delivery fees. 352-205-0829.

Great Day on the Water Boat Tours - Discounts of \$5.00, \$7.00 or \$10.00 per person on various boat tours. Call 866-269-6584 for details.

Haagen Dazs - 1001 Lake Shore Drive, Lake Sumter Landing, 352-751-0261. 10% discount.

Island Images - 1112 Main Street, Spanish Springs, 352-259-7623. 10% Discount on Mondays. Excludes sales items.

Johnny Rockets - 976 Old Mill Run, Lake Sumter Landing, 352-259-0051. 10% discount.

Kilwin's Chocolate and Ice Cream - 1108 Main Street, Spanish Springs, 352-430-3600. Buy one, get 50% off on any ice cream menu item. One offer per family membership.

* **LaFlamme, Steven & Gary** - Flooring, Carpentry, Painting, Light Plumbing, Free Estimates, 10% discount, call 352-391-0424.

* **L. Rae Jewelry Appraisal Services** - Certified Gemologist, Villages resident, By Appointment only, 10% discount, call 352-430-2991.

* **Massage Therapy** - In your home or my office. 10% discount from normal \$50 per hour. Call Susan at 352-638-7649

MOE'S Southwest Grill - US Hwy. 441 North, Rolling Acres Plaza, 352-430-3610. Buy 1 Get 1 Free every Saturday with the purchase of two medium drinks! Not valid with any other offer. One benefit offer per family membership.

Odd's & Errands by Paula. Your affordable Personal Assistant. 352-430-0764. 10% discount.

Ollie's Frozen Custard - Next to Blockbuster in the Spanish Plains Shopping Center. Use the Ollie's Coupon in the Bulletin or get a 10% discount by showing your POA membership card.

Panda Express - 869 North Hwy. 27/441, Home Depot Plaza, 352-751-2507. 10% off, not valid with coupons or specials.

Plaza Jewelers - 16770 S. Hwy. 441, Baylee Plaza, Summerfield, 352-307-3846. 20 to 40% saving off the already low retail price, & all watch batteries \$3.00.

Quality Hearing Center - 16850 S. Hwy. 441, Suite 306, Baylee Plaza, Summerfield. Call 352-307-7377 for an appointment. 10% discount.

ScentSational Candles and Gifts - 994 Alvarez Avenue, Spanish Springs, 352-753-1604. 20% off any one non-sale item.

SmartSafe Tornado Shelters - One day installation in garage floor or carport. Call Pat Tripp at 352-702-6386. See actual installation. 5-10% off selected models for POA members.

Sonic Drive-In - 11211 SE 178 Pl., Wal-Mart Shopping Center, 352-347-2860. Tuesday Nights: 5 single patty burgers for \$5 after 5 PM. Add-on at extra charge. Wednesday Nights: 1/2 price single patty burgers; 99¢ single topping sundaes. Valid at the Summerfield location only.

Southern Image Photography - 97 Del Mar Drive, Spanish Springs, 352-430-2056. 10% off the Special of the Month.

Stewart Lawn & Landscape Maintenance 352-347-3792. 20% discount to POA members.

Sunshine Hair & Nail Spa - The Terrace Shoppes of Spruce Creek, Summerfield, across from Wal-Mart, 352-307-0099. 10% off on retail products or nail services.

* **Tip Top Tree Experts** - All tree work, landscaping, paving, pressure wash, auto body & paint. 10% discount. Call 352-516-8820.

Vic's Embers - 7940 US Hwy. 441, Leesburg, 352-728-8989. Complimentary after-dinner cocktail or dessert for each person in the party. Not valid with other special offers.

Villages Car Wash and Lube - Bichara Blvd., La Plaza Grande Center, 352-753-1306. \$1.00 off the reg. price of silver or gold wash.

Villages 24/7 Kart Aide - Triple A Rescue Service for golf carts. 10% discount on yearly membership. Call 352-409-5853 for details.

Villagers Home Watch - call us at 352-753-6545. 10% discount off reg. price of \$40 for first three months of service for POA members.

Village Spa and Salon - 13940 Hwy 441, Suite 802, Oakland Hills Plaza, 352-205-7081. \$15 off Spa Pedicure.

Wholesale Computer Components - The Terrace Shoppes of Spruce Creek, Summerfield, across from Wal-Mart, 352-245-1500. \$15.00 off on any computer repair. □

Advertisers !!!
Contact Nancy Spreng at 391-5700
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