

The POA Bulletin

Free Copy

The Property Owners' Association of The Villages



Issue 36.07

Champions of Residents' Rights Since 1975

July, 2010

Be Safe During Upcoming Recreation Trails Detours

Ms. Janet Tutt, District Manager of The Villages Center Districts, announced a most significant event coming up -- the **retrofitting of the paths north of CR 466**. Even if you live south of CR 466 it will impact you.

The bids are out. There were three qualified contractors and they submitted their bids on the 21st of June.

The Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) recommended the adoption of the low bids of C. W. Roberts Inc. (\$3,517,737 for the Buena Vista/Saddlebrook project and \$2,473,161 for the El Camino/Summerchase/Morse project) when they met on June 23rd. The VCCDD adopted the AAC recommendation when they met on June 24, 2010, and the VCCDD will enter into the contracts with the winning bidder.

The plan was to have the bids come in for three different sections: Buena Vista Boulevard, El Camino Real, and East of 441. Data necessary to commence the bidding on the 441/Paradise Park project was not quite ready for consideration so it will be handled separately.

The reason to divide it into three different sections is because the District has an aggressive time frame. The construction is expected to be substantially completed by Thanksgiving -- meaning the golf cart paths themselves will be open for traffic. Additional landscaping and final tweaking is expected to be completed by the first of the year.

Once the contracts are signed, the contractor will mobilize by the end of the first week or beginning of the second week of July. **THIS IS IMPORTANT FOR RESIDENTS BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH OF 466** because once the construction begins there will be a **SUBSTANTIAL** impact on residents

driving their golf carts.

There is a very involved detour plan schedule. In fact, approximately 6% of the total construction cost was identified as necessary to provide alternate transportation routes. The detours will only occur in certain areas at a time -- so they are being called "rolling detours." The reason for that is that the contractor is aware of the challenges of golf carts and the transportation network here in The Villages.

So, the contractor will start a section and complete that section before it start another one. The rolling detours for each section are expected to run two to three weeks to six to eight weeks per section. Please do not assume if you see things happening on El Camino that nothing will start on Buena Vista until El Camino is finished. We expect everything to be running concurrently because of the aggressive time schedule placed on the contractor.

The detour routes ARE NOT controlled by the Center District, the AAC, or the Numbered Districts because those detours are onto County roads. Thus, it would not be helpful to make suggestions to the staff regarding

July 20, 2010

**THE NEXT POA
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

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

**Ms. Debbie O, from Realty Executives Real Estate
Co., will speak on the State of the Real Estate
Market and Home Sales in The Villages**

**Coffee and Donuts
FOR ALL AFTER THE MEETING
ALL RESIDENTS WELCOME – COME AND JOIN US**

your ideas on the routing. The County had to approve and has modified those detour routes to meet their requirements. This means that a portion of the detour will be on Buena Vista Boulevard in certain sections. The southbound lane of Buena Vista in certain areas will be reduced to one lane. There are some sections where the detour will not be on Buena Vista and will be detoured back into the Villages themselves where there are connector roads. The same is true for El Camino.

(Continued on page 2)

Letter to the Editor:

Use of the Savannah Center

I have been trying to get information regarding the usage of and fee structure for the Savannah Center. Can you answer some questions for me?

1. If the citizens "own" the building, i.e. bought it from the developer, why does a Villages entity, The Entertainment Division, set the fee structure and garner the profits?

2. Why are there no Villagers serving in a decision-making capacity or, at the least, giving input to the Entertainment Division?

3. I can understand fees for outside groups being fixed and firm, why the insistence of those same fees for resident groups?

To further explain, I have seen and been a part of a few performing groups who utilized the Savannah stage. In all the shows the expenses charged by The Villages raised the budget to outlandish heights. When the final accounting was done, The Villages took 68% and left the producing entity a mere 32%. This was even done when the express purpose of the show was for charity to provide housing for the families of wounded veterans and was done with other charity functions as well.

(Continued on page 2)

Trail Detour Safety

(Continued from page 1)

The MOST IMPORTANT CONCERN is the **SAFETY** of the golf cart users, vehicular traffic, walkers, runners, and the bicyclists. This will not be a good place for walkers or runners so please try to stay away from detour routes that are active.

In order to help you know what is happening the District has set up two systems:

The first one is the district website, www.districtgov.org. Go to that site, put your email address in and the District will notify you when each of the rolling detours are being put in place. That way, you can check your email for info that will help you plan your day and travel. There will also be other notifications regarding the closure of various recreation facilities for routine maintenance.

The second system is to simply go onto the website once the construction begins where there will be a colored map and those sections with detours will be highlighted in colors. While the District is doing this to keep everyone informed the major reason is to make sure that for YOUR SAFETY, you know where those detours are located.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1. **Slow down and be courteous on all detour routes.** This will be new to walkers, vehicular drivers, etc., so expect the unexpected.

2. If you are going shopping or out to eat and will be needing to pass through a detour route, go in your car, rather than your golf cart, if you can.

3. If you are playing golf with a buddy and both of you have carts, decide ahead whose cart you will use and if possible, have the other one drive his/her car to the golf course.

4. The more carts we can get off the detour routes, the less impact and disturbance it will cause for other Village residents and the SAFER we will all be. □

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Savannah Center

(Continued from page 1)

Finally, all of us who perform or work backstage do so because we love the process and the final product that comes from our dedication and work. I'm certain other groups in The Villages do not pay the exorbitant amount we do to practice their art and realize their dream. Sports are, aside from the amenity, free; clubs are provided with rooms. Perhaps a reduced, as much as 50%, concept might be instituted. But something should be done. Thanks for looking into this.

George DelMonte

Editor's Note: The POA asked Rich Lambrecht, member of the AAC, to respond to Mr. DelMonte. Mr. Lambrecht's response follows:

The Village Center Community Development District (VCCDD) is the owner of the Savannah Center. The VCCDD, as directed by the resident-elected Amenity Authority Committee (AAC), sets the fee structure as well as the policies for usage of the facility.

While Resident Council groups may use the facility at no charge for regular meetings of their resident members, usage that involves non-resident attendees requires the using group to pay a rental fee according to the rate schedule authorized by the AAC and published by the VCCDD.

For example, The Villages Entertainment department reserves the Scarlett O'Hara Theater for a performance of shows that are open to the public. The VCCDD/AAC receives rental income for the hours the facility is reserved by the Entertainment Department, just as it would from any other organization that wanted to use the room for an event open to the public. The renting organization (in this case the Entertainment Department) sells tickets and hopes to achieve a profit af-

(Continued on page 3)

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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. □

Savannah Center

(Continued from page 2)

ter paying their expenses, which include the VCCDD rental fee.

The AAC is composed of six members, five are resident-elected Villagers (one each from Districts 1-4 and one from Lady Lake/Lake County) and one is appointed by the developer-elected VCCDD.

Generally, resident groups can use VCCDD/AAC facilities at no charge as long as the meeting/performance is for residents only. If non-residents are to be included, then the facility must be rented at the published rate.

I understand your concern with the expense of using The Villages Entertainment Department for a long list of services (ticket sales, sound and lighting, advertising, etc.), but it is part of a private corporation and the district government can not tell it how much to charge for these services.

It is these charges, not the hourly rental of the facility, that dramatically reduces the funds raised for charitable causes, and it is disappointing that there is little in the way of alternatives available.

The only way to have more of the revenue flow to the charity would be if the club running the performance could get residents with the proper experience to volunteer to operate the sound and lighting equipment and to sell the tickets.

It might be helpful if you could get representatives from various Village performing clubs together and bring this issue to the AAC for review and consideration. Any suggestions your group might have regarding alternatives for ticket sales, lighting and sound technicians, etc. would be greatly appreciated.

Rich Lambrecht

Editor's Note: These are some follow-up questions and answers in the exchange between Mr. DelMonte and Mr. Lambrecht:

Question: If the citizens "own" the building, i.e. bought it from the developer, why does a Villages entity, The Entertainment Division, set the fee structure and garner the profits?

Answer: The Entertainment Division of the developer's corporation does not set the fee structure. A governmental entity, the Village Center Community Development District (VCCDD) is the owner of the Savannah Center. The VCCDD, as directed by the resident-elected Amenity Authority Committee (AAC), sets the room rental fee structure as well as the policies for usage of the facility.

Once an entity rents a facility from the District and pays the rental fee, it can set its ticket prices at whatever level it chooses. It may or may not end up with a profitable event.

The developer's Entertainment Division does set the charges for any services an or-

ganization desires to purchase from it, such as sound and lighting control, but the organization does not have to purchase these services from the Entertainment Division. The VCCDD/AAC would have no way of knowing if the developer is making a profit on these services.

Question: Why are there no Villagers serving in a decision-making capacity or, at the least, giving input to the Entertainment Division?

Answer: Villagers are in a decision-making capacity. The AAC is composed of six members, five are resident-elected Villagers (one each from Districts 1-4 and one from Lady Lake/Lake County) and one is appointed by the developer-elected VCCDD. These are the people making the decisions on rental rates, not the developer's Entertainment Division.

With regard to the services provided by the Entertainment Division, it is a private corporation and like all corporations, takes direction from its owners.

Question: How did the Entertainment Division become a "private corporation" in charge of the use of a building we own?

Answer: The Entertainment Division is a unit of the developer's corporation, which is a private corporation known as The Villages of Lake-Sumter, Inc.

The VCCDD, with direction from the AAC, is in charge of the use of the building.

Rich Lambrecht □

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AAC Meeting June 16, 2010

Old Business:

Multi-Modal Paths - The committee received an updated report from Jonathan Thigpen of Kimley-Horn regarding the Recreation Trail reconstruction project. The project remains on schedule. The bid package is out and due back Monday June 21st. Tabulated results should be available to AAC members at 10 a.m. Tuesday June 22nd. Construction is anticipated to begin early in July following the awarding of contracts, which is expected to occur at a special AAC meeting to be held on June 23, 2010 at 9 a.m. and a VCCDD meeting being held on June 24th. Trail paving and grading should be substantially completed by Thanksgiving 2010 with landscaping and irrigation completed by year end 2010. District staff requested residents keep up with web site info regarding “rolling” trail detours during the construction period

By a 4 to 1 vote, the AAC approved recommending the VCCDD adopt a resolution providing for no CPI adjustment to Amenity Fees which would result in an Amenity Fee being in excess of \$155. The non-adjustment is for a maximum of one year and continuation will be based upon the fiscal impact in future years. The coming fiscal year impact is estimated to total less than \$20.00 on an

amenity stream of over \$34 million.

The AAC, while considering a request to upgrade sign posts at the intersection of Avenida Central and Del Mar, directed staff to do an analysis of current Lady Lake/Lake County Villages sign posts, in order to perhaps establish a standard and quantify the expense of upgrading. This information along with any further consideration for the requested intersection will be discussed at a workshop to be scheduled.

The Committee agreed to hold a “visioning” meeting with the telecommunications consultant to establish telecommunications goals and objectives as a first step, prior to entering into a professional services agreement.

The AAC approved a recommendation to the VCCDD to approve a Grant of Easement for the construction and maintenance of a wall and landscaping that would block the view of the La Hacienda Catering loading dock and dumpster from the homes in Vista Lago Villas. All costs will be paid by Vista Lago Villas Condominium Association.

Staff Reports:

District Manager Janet Tutt announced that Eldon Sheldon, the AAC representative for Lady Lake/Lake County, has resigned. The Town of Lady Lake Commission will decide on a replacement. The position is up for election this November.

The July meeting of the AAC will be held on July 14th at the Savannah Center rather

than on July 7th as originally scheduled.

Other Matters:

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

The next AAC meeting will be held Wednesday July 14th, 1:30 p.m. at the Savannah Center. □

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Letter to the Editor:

Del Mar Intersection

Mark Morse gave a great speech to some fourteen hundred VHA members at the Savannah Center on May 12. It was widely publicized in the Daily Sun and on the VNN network. While the speech was very interesting, I must take issue with a portion of it.

I live in Chula Vista Villas and last Jan thru Mar it was very difficult to enter or exit our area. I previously worked on a Committee concerned about the Del Mar intersection and that Committee requested Lady Lake to do a traffic study. Mark was critical of the decision by the Town of Lady Lake for installing four-way stop signs at the intersection of Avenida Central and Del Mar. Del Mar comes out of the Spanish Springs Square near the TooJays restaurant and then intersects with Avenida Central at the unmanned Del Mar gate. Mark stated that "...Now, I'm not going to pass judgment on whether or not that was a good move or a bad move, whether it's going to increase folks safety or not, although I will make a little side commentary that the intersection worked just fine for ten years and there is no more traffic there now than there was ten years ago..."

Perhaps Mark is unaware that the Lady Lake traffic report of that intersection indicated that from the year 2005 when **one** crash occurred, that crashes have steadily increased each year and there were **nine**

crashes reported in 2008. The Town of Lady Lake traffic study was done almost a year ago, and at that time the results of the study recommended a traffic signal light be installed because of safety concerns. Lady Lake's final decision was to install stop signs now since the cost of a traffic light would be higher. This increase in crashes/traffic at that intersection came along with the increase in the population and development of the Summer Landing area south of CR 466, traffic from CDD 3 and 4 using Avenida to reach the Target shopping center, and more recently, the movement of the Wellness Center from a major thoroughfare (El Camino Real) to the center of Spanish Springs Town Square, all of which have occurred during the past 10 years and are potential causes of increased traffic on internal Villages roads.

Since the additional stop signs have been installed many neighbors and friends living outside of my Villa area have expressed that they are very pleased with the change and the walkers and golf cart users feel safer now that the traffic is forced to slow down and stop on Avenida as well as Del Mar.

Myra Reff

Editor's Note: It would appear from the Town's study that traffic at that intersection has in fact increased and that the additional stop signs were necessary for safety purposes. In his presentation, Mr. Morse also expressed his concern regarding the use of channel posts for the new signage rather than

decorative posts and warned the residents that the use of the channel posts might not be significant now, but if the Town of Lady Lake portion of The Villages continues this way, the Villages portion of the Town of Lady Lake might start to look like Lady Lake. However, he failed to address where the funds would come from to prevent this from happening.

The Lady Lake/Lake County residents residing in The Villages are not in a CDD and have no way to assess themselves for the money needed to replace the 'green channels' with decorative posts.

The proposed use of amenity fees from residents of CDD 1, 2, 3 and 4 to beautify the streets surrounding the Developer's commercial properties and the portion of The Villages in the Town of Lady Lake and Lake County has recently been discussed in the AAC meetings. We do not believe this to be an appropriate expenditure of amenity funds because it is infrastructure related

(Continued on page 6)

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Del Mar Intersection

(Continued from page 5)

(maintenance of roads and rights-of-way) and has nothing to do with our amenity services and facilities, security, etc. This roadway was not a part of ANY RAD transfer.

It would, however, be appropriate for the VCCDD annual assessments on the commercial properties **within the VCCDD boundaries** to provide the funds for this project since it is infrastructure related.

We agree with Mr. Morse that the current channel posts ‘do not look very good’ and we suggest that Village residents living in the Town of Lady Lake/Lake County take this issue to the **VCCDD Board** and ask them for the necessary financial assistance to put up the decorative posts at the Del Mar/Avenida Central intersection. □

POA Changes

The POA has had two changes in its management group within the past month.

Shirley Turgeon, a POA Director, has resigned to pursue other Villages activities. Shirley made a contribution to the POA through her direction of membership operations. Thanks to Shirley and good luck to her in her future pursuits.

John Donahe, our webmaster for the past seven or eight years, has decided to finally retire and work on that golf game. John de-

veloped the website and managed its staggering growth over these many years. We will truly miss John and his great contribution.

So, we have these two openings for Villager volunteers to help us out.

For the webmaster position, any interested individuals should be familiar with the structure and management of websites in general. John will be available during the transition to train and assist as necessary.

For a position as a POA Director, all that is required is that you be interested in becoming more active in the POA and be willing to attend the monthly Board meetings and perhaps take on special projects as necessary. The work is truly rewarding and you may find that the time requirement is less than you might think.

Anyone interested in either position should contact Joe Gorman at 259-0999 for more information. □

Performing Arts Survey

Residents can show their support for the Performing Arts Center via an online Survey July 1-18.

If you would like to see top-name enter-

tainers such as Kelly Clarkson, Michael Buble or Chris Botti at a convenient performing arts center near The Villages, you can make your voice heard with a few simple clicks of the mouse.

From July 1-18, you can take an online survey to show your support and state your preferences for a site in the tri-county area.

For a link to the survey, go to the new website for this purpose: <http://donovanmanagement.com/wptest/palms>. (Note a new address from a previous one.)

The survey is sponsored by Volunteers Performing Arts Alliance (VPAA), also known as The PALMS (The Performing Arts of Lake, Marion and Sumter counties).

The not-for-profit citizens’ group is now examining possible sites in the tri-county area to house a beautiful, state-of-the-art, 1,200 seat theater. As the largest such facility between Orlando, Tampa, and Gainesville, it would bring first-rate talent to within a few miles of thousands of residents who must now drive to those remote venues.

The center would also provide a bright new showcase for local amateurs and professionals, as well as presenting educational opportunities for children.

(Continued on page 7)



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Performing Arts Survey

(Continued from page 6)

Both the construction and operation of the center would spur economic development and would be a drawing card for businesses and residents seeking to locate in this area of Central Florida.

The facility would be financed entirely through donations, grants and ticket sales. No taxing or amenity fees would be involved.

In July, VPAA will inaugurate their board of directors, and the existing 12-member steering committee that has led the organization to this point will continue as the “working arm” to assist the Board. VPAA has conducted professional research to design the facility and demonstrate its viability.

Securing such a center was the number one item requested by Villages’ residents in annual surveys in 2009 and 2010. Numerous local theatrical groups and entertainers endorse VPAA/The PALMS goals.

Persons interested in volunteering or donating to VPAA should go to www.vpaa.org.

The POA supports the center.

We hope YOU will take the time to voice your interest and ideas in support of this effort through completion of this on-line survey ... at <http://donovanmanagement.com/wptest/palms> □

Defective Roof Shingles

Attention Resale Home Purchasers/Sellers, Real Estate Agents, and Villages Sales Representatives

At the June POA General Meeting, residents brought up concerns about the problems a number of villa homeowners south of CR 466 were having with defective shingles.

Original home purchasers have a full warranty and have had little problem working with the manufacturer on these premature deterioration problems. However, people who purchase the home from the original owner have run into a warranty problem.

If you are buying a ‘used’ home from the original purchaser, the warranty for defective shingles will not be continued unless you officially transfer it with Owens Corning, the manufacturer. You can find the information you need by using Google with the search words Owens Corning Defective Shingles and then click on the item that takes you to the Owens Corning warranty website. The length of the warranty depends upon the type of shingle.

The basic warranty is that “You can transfer this warranty **ONE TIME**, anytime during the life of the warranty... For this war-

ranty to be transferred, THE NEW HOMEOWNER MUST COMPLETE AND RETURN THE WARRANTY TRANSFER CARD (which can be found on their website), along with a **transfer fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), within 60 days** after the date of the real estate transfer to obtain the benefits of this warranty.

After the transfer of this warranty to the purchaser of your home, it may not be transferred again. That is, THE PURCHASER OF YOUR HOME MAY NOT TRANSFER THIS WARRANTY TO ANY SUBSEQUENT PURCHASERS. □

“When you come to a fork in the road, take it.” Yogi Berra

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Letter to Sarah

A week before the first Civil War battle of Bull Run, Sullivan Ballou, a Major in the 2nd Rhode Island Volunteers, wrote home to his wife in Smithfield.

July 14, 1861 Camp Clark, Washington DC
Dear Sarah:

The indications are very strong that we shall move in a few days - perhaps tomorrow. And lest I should not be able to write you again I feel impelled to write a few lines that may fall under your eye when I am no more.

I have no misgivings about, or lack of confidence in the cause in which I am engaged, and my courage does not halt or falter. I know how American Civilization now leans upon the triumph of the government and how great a debt we owe to those who went before us through the blood and suffering of the Revolution. And I am willing -- perfectly willing -- to lay down all my joys in this life, to help maintain this government, and to pay that debt.

Sarah, my love for you is deathless, it seems to bind me with mighty cables that nothing but omnipotence can break; and yet my love of Country comes over me like a strong wind and bears me irresistibly with all those chains to the battlefield.

The memory of all the blissful moments I have enjoyed with you come crowding over me, and I feel most deeply grateful to God and you, that I have enjoyed them for so long. And how hard it is for me to give them up and burn to ashes the hopes and future years, when, God willing, we might still have lived and loved together, and see our boys grown up to honorable manhood around us.

If I do not return, my dear Sarah, never forget how much I loved you, nor that when my last breath escapes me on the battle field, it will whisper your name...

Forgive my many faults, and the many pains I have caused you. How thoughtless, how foolish I have sometimes been!...

But, O Sarah, if the dead can come back to this earth and flit unseen around those they love, I shall always be with you, in the brightest day and in the darkest night ... always, always.

And when the soft breeze fans your cheek, it shall be my breath, or the cool air your throbbing temple, it shall be my spirit passing by.

Sarah do not mourn me dead; think I am gone and wait for me, for we shall meet again....

Sullivan Ballou was killed a week later at the first Battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861.

Source: The Civil War TV series by Ken Burns. □

Happy Independence Day July 4th

Phone Books Are Coming

District staff advised us in the June POA Membership meeting that new Village telephone books were coming. We were asked to spread the word that we PLEASE discard ALL of our old telephone books in our driveway recycling bags...

PLEASE DO **NOT** STACK THEM AT THE POSTAL STATIONS!

There is no reason to waste your amenity fees on hiring people to pick up the books at the postal stations when we can achieve the same end result through curbside recycling. □

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Lightning Matters

by Len Hathaway

The Study Group on Lightning

This month's column is directed to those Villagers who have installed a lightning protection system (LPS) commonly called lightning rods. As we discussed in our November 2009 column, the installation of a LPS is not regulated by the state or any county. Therefore, it is a buyer beware marketplace. In our March column of this year, we reported how a Villager was scammed as the installer failed to adhere to the national standard on lightning, National Fire Protection Association 780, *Standard for the Installation of Lightning Protection Systems*, 2008 edition.

To help you determine if you have a LPS that meets the national standard, here is a list of issues that MAY give you an indication that your LPS is not in compliance with the national standard:

- If you have a pool screen/lanai/birdcage enclosure, does it have lightning rods?
- Did your installer ground the LPS to the electric, telephone, gas, and cable/satellite systems?
- If you have a roof mounted satellite dish, has it been properly grounded and protected with a lightning rod?
- Did your installer point out that the national standard calls for surge protection on your electric meter or electric panel and dis-

cuss with you the need for secondary protection for your vulnerable sensitive electronic equipment like computers and TVs?

- If you have added on to your home, have you contracted with a LPS installer to extend the system to protect the new addition?
- Is the cable coming down from the roof routed inside of your downspouts?
- If you have aluminum cable, is it in direct contact with the soil before it is connected to the driven ground rods?
- Did you contract with an installer from a door-to-door solicitation?
- Does the cable coming off the roof make a sharp bend greater than 90 degrees around your gutters?

If you answered "No" to any question 1 to 5, or "Yes" to questions 6 to 9, or if you do not know the answer, you may wish to call an Underwriters Laboratories and/or a Lightning Protection Institute "listed" installer to check out your system to assure that it meets the national standard. How do you find an UL or

LPI "listed" installer? Check out these web sites:

Underwriters Laboratories: www.ul.com/lightning select "Additional Resources" then "Find Listed Installer" followed by "Refine your Search" and then "Florida"

Lightning Protection Institute: (www.lightning.org) select "Members" then "Installers" followed by "Florida." Only select firms that are listed as "dealer/contractors"

As a matter of convenience, of the 20 or

(Continued on page 10)

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Lightning Matters

(Continued from page 9)

so "listed" firms found on the above web sites for Florida, three are known to be working in The Villages.

They are shown below in alphabetical order as we are not recommending any one firm:

A-1 Lightning Protection Services, 1-866-465-0620

Advanced Lightning Protection, 352-875-4884

Triangle Lightning Protection, 352-483-7020

Lightning Tips for Villagers

The Study Group on Lightning, a small group of volunteers, with no affiliation to any firm or organization related to the lightning protection industry, offers a 30-minute Power Point presentation, *Lightning Tips for Villagers*, which addresses direct lightning, indirect lightning, validation of LPS, susceptibility of corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) gas

lines to lightning, common myths and misunderstandings. It is intended to help homeowners make an informed decision about their own residential lightning risk.

If your group or organization would benefit from a presentation, contact Len Hathaway at lhatha@aol.com (430-1164) or Bob Freeman at STALIT1@aol.com (751-0505). □

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AAC Absentee Voting

The AAC elections are landowner elections -- you do not have to be registered to vote in Florida.

However, you can only vote for a candidate if they are running for the seat in the area in which you live: (Lake County/CDD1/CDD2). Residents in CDD3 and 4 will not be voting in the AAC elections this year as those seats will not be open until 2012. Absentee ballots will be available.

The seats for the Town of Lady Lake/Lake County, CDD1 and CDD2 are open this year so if you live in one of those areas and wish to vote for your candidate by absentee ballot, simply go to districtgov.org for the absentee ballot application. Or, contact the Customer Service office at 753-4508 for one by mail. Complete the application, send it in, and the District will send you the absentee ballot in October. It will be simple. You can vote, mail it in, or drop it off at the District office. □

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Recycling: Village Greens

Curbside recycling has been in effect for three years in The Villages. We are grateful to those participating on a regular basis.

As chair of The Village Greens Environmental Club, I hear that there are still people who doubt that the trash is being picked up and separated from the recyclables. Well, it is *separated ... and recycled*.

I took two trips to the recycling center in Orlando to actually see the process at work. "Single stream recycling" is amazing to watch, and far more efficient than curbside

recycling. So yes, we do have *some recycling* here in The Villages. There is no doubt that this has been a great start. However, there is much more to be done.

We still need recycling at the postal stations, town squares, recreation centers, in office buildings, retail stores and restaurants.

The Village Greens asked the VCCDD, the SLCDD, the AAC and other Villages governmental entities to provide recycling along with the regular garbage collection. So far, our efforts have been unsuccessful.

We last met with The Villages staff to discuss our proposal to implement recycling at the postal stations. Our suggestion was to add a receptacle marked "RECYCLE ONLY"

or, to remove the existing receptacle. As I am sure you know, many people dump junk mail at the postal station. This is a tremendous amount of paper which goes directly to our landfills instead of being recycled.

At the meeting, The Villages staff had two arguments against recycling:

- There are multiple contractors involved that pick up the trash but do not recycle: the contractors also maintain the postal stations.

- Residents use the current receptacles to deposit dog waste. The representatives of The Villages did offer to purchase recycle bins for the postal stations IF The Village Greens Environmental Club would acquire a truck, empty the recycle bins at the postal

(Continued on page 12)

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Recycling

(Continued from page 11)

stations on a regular basis and take it to a recycling station.

We did not accept their offer.

From our viewpoint, recycling is an increasingly important and necessary function which should be handled by the governmental entities that The Village residents pay for as part of trash collection.

From our viewpoint, driving a truck, lugging the bags and taking them to some unspecified station is not something “Florida’s Friendliest Home Town” should even suggest to its 60, 70, or 80 year old residents.

In the end, AAC accepted The Villages staff’s recommendation not to provide any recycling at the postal stations. Apparently, once a procedure is in place, it is difficult to change directions.

I think it is time to think outside the prevailing box.

After the AAC rejected our request, I wrote a Letter to the Editor of *The Daily Sun* in which I suggested that residents take their mail home for recycling and that The Villages expand the recycling program throughout The Villages. That letter was never published.

The average American discards seven and a half pounds of waste every day. Most of the waste is recyclable. If you looked at the number of bags of recycle material put out here in The Villages alongside the trash, you would notice that the recycle bags far outnumber the trash bags.

Recycling creates jobs, reduces the need for valuable energy, requires the use of fewer natural resources, protects our forests, waters, wetlands, and prevents the release of

toxic substances into the atmosphere.

Most communities throughout the country and throughout the world are recycling not only at home, but in all public areas. It is time for The Villages to join this vital effort by expanding its recycling program to include the downtown squares, recreation centers, postal stations, restaurants and retail establishments.

Is this too much to ask?

Sue Michalson
Chair of The Village Greens
Environmental Club □

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Letter to the Editor:

Golf Course Hole Eats Greenskeeper

So it is 6:30 a.m. this morning and I am awakened by some commotion outside – back of the house. There were strange sounds like talking and "walkie-talkie" sounds. So I looked out front first and see a dozen emergency vehicles and wondered what the heck!?

I then put on some shorts and then looked

out back and saw a bunch of people out on the green -- you know, the one right behind the house. At first glance, I saw one guy down on his knees grabbing something and my first thought was he was grabbing an alligator and surprising it.

As I went out to the lanai and then outside, I saw rescue people on the green and several ladders laying on the green and one guy crawling on the ladder.

Then I saw the hole...A sink hole had developed in the middle of the green. I was still wondering why the heck rescue, fire

and EMT were on the site.

The manager of the Hacienda Country Club rolled up in a golf cart and said that one of his greens keepers was cutting the green around 6:30 a.m. and the hole suddenly opened up and he fell in!!!!!!

Fortunately, the machine kept going for a few feet and didn't fall in on top of him or he could have been a goner!!

Now this was no small hole. The rescue guys brought a 12' ladder in and slid it down the hole. Really, there was only two rungs left before it hit bottom. So the hole was/is 10 feet down.

After some precautionary stuff, they extracted the guy and to everyone's relief he appeared uninjured, but certainly shaken to

(Continued on page 14)



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Greenskeeper

(Continued from page 13)

say the least. WOW, the green is now blocked off and a temp green set up down the fairway and the par 5 is now a temp par 4!

Post script: Many of the neighbors were concerned for our wellbeing and we were thankful. But you can imagine what OLD PEOPLE LOOK LIKE at that hour of the morning. I'm buck naked except for running shorts and all the women -- well, use your imagination. People, you know what you'd look like if you came running out of your house at that hour to see what was going on... I never thought of getting my camera at that time. But what laughs I had and will have with that memory.

Ron Dolan

Editor’s Note: This illustrates the problems that the Daily Sun has with not reporting newsworthy events in The Villages. Yes, this is unfavorable news that might impact the developer’s sales of new homes. But,

this is important news in our community and residents have a right to know about this situation. The Daily Sun is our main source of news about what’s happening here. And, it has an obligation to this community to publish important news, no matter how negative it might be to the developer’s sales effort.

On a humorous note, this is a “senior-size” golf cup if we ever saw one. We think that Hacienda Hills should put a flag in the hole and make it an official “senior cup.” But, we also heard that the developer is thinking about filling the hole with water and charging the adjacent homes for the upgrade to lakefront property!!! □

Sexual Offenders Villages Addresses

With the summer months, many Villages will have friends and family visiting and perhaps staying with them at their home. We feel it is important for residents to know that there are almost twenty individuals living in The Villages who are listed on the official State of Florida website for Sexual Offenders. Residents should familiarize themselves with the names and addresses so that they are aware of their neighborhood situation and can take any necessary precautions when friends and family visit.

This is taken from the official website: (www.offender.fdle.state.fl.us/offender/searchNeighborhood).

The listed individuals are:
McNutt, Elisha M., 2463 Laurel Bay Ln
Greenberg, Jamie A., 2485 Laurel Bay Ln

(Continued on page 15)

Customer Service Center

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Sexual Offenders

(Continued from page 14)

Anselm, Todd M., 3464 Roanoke St
 Crain, Zelmer R., 8353 Se 177th Bartram Lp.
 Linehan, Richard D., 1697 Campos Dr
 Regna, Joseph L., 17043 Se 93rd Yondel Cir
 Bennett, Eugene F., 9603 Se 171st Argyll St
 Lucas, Dale, 8990 Ne 105th Pl
 Incorvaia, Thomas J., 2034 Ridge Spring Dr
 Russell, Charles P., 941 Nash Loop
 McClure, Mark D., 1907 Del Norte Dr
 Tindall, Michael W., 1903 Ibarra Pl
 Dehmlow, Dean M., 2025 Castano Pl
 Lemanski, Lawrence T., 326 Juarez Way
 Kidney, William L., 217 Juarez Way
 Stansburge, Charles H., 1003 Nell Way
 Munns, Hugh C., 1638 W Schwartz Blvd

Please note that this official list is updated often for additions and deletions. The POA has the more complete listing in a three-ring binder at its monthly meetings where it can be reviewed by residents. □

Which Bonds Are Those?

I had a paper that I printed out from the [POA] website about the various types of bonds and what they meant. I can no longer find it and I have a couple of people that want to read it. Can you please advise where it is or send in .pdf format.

Marie Nappi

Editor's Note: See the Jan 2010 issue on the POA website (www.poa4us.org). Click on Archived Bulletins, then select January, 2010, and the Bulletin issue will come up. □

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Acronyms

I agree that in your articles there is too much use of Acronyms. I understand that space is an issue but understanding what one is reading is also important. There are the newcomers and the old ones who don't always understand as well as they used too any more.

So maybe a list of what is used put in each issue would be helpful without having to go to the computer each time.

Also maybe you all could get a discussion of the Roundabouts and traffic issues going.

My suggestion is with the size of our Roundabouts that there should be one lane into, one lane through and one lane out. This I feel will make it much safer. If these Roundabouts were larger then lane changing might be OK but as they are now, no, they are a safety hazard.

And, as the lanes are now set, there is no standard from one to the next. Check them out.

(Continued on page 16)

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Acronyms

(Continued from page 15)

I appreciate the guarded gates but I now know that they are not effective as guards. No cards need to be used. The lane nearest the Guard Shack should be for those who want Directions. The other lane should be for the entry of vehicles.

There is no need for gates closing and opening. Those gates without guards should be one lane in and one lane out. The use of GOOD TV surveillance cameras should be

used so that the license plate and occupants of the vehicle are seen and taped. Currently, poor quality TV cameras and misplaced cameras are the norm.

No one can be kept out so why the gates and guards other than for information and directions? Many gates do not have adequate TV cameras and guards manning them for resident’s safety.

A review needs to be made. The false sense of security that the guards give is not fair to us at all.

I know the real reason is to give prospec-


tive purchasers of a home a sense of security and well being and hopefully they will make a purchase. I hope I am wrong but I don't think so. Using humans as information givers is a great idea and it gives some of our residents a little income.

Clark Tadych, Sr.

Editor’s Note: Please review the Acronym article posted on our website (www.poa4us.org). It is much too long to print in each issue of the Bulletin. We would ask that concerned residents review this article often and refer to it as needed.

Roundabout decisions are an issue for the State of Florida to decide along with all other traffic rules.

The POA feels that guarded gates serve an information function, are a deterrent to some extent for crime prevention, slow traffic down at gate entrances to allow golf carts to cross the street safely, and slow down traffic for the cameras to work properly. We feel that these functions are worthwhile. □




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Foreign Travel

Betty Cunningham from Shine, an organization which deals with health care issues for seniors, advised POA members at the June meeting that Medicare does not cover you if you are out of the United States.

If you have a supplemental plan, that may cover you. Most of the supplemental plans will cover you for the first 60 days that you are out of the United States. You will pay the first \$250 deductible and after that your supplement would pay 80% of the bill and you would be responsible for the remaining 20%.

Please check health insurance coverage before traveling out of the country. If you do not have coverage, Shine highly recommends that you purchase health/medical insurance for your trip. This is especially necessary if you are going on a cruise as a helicopter air-lift can cost as much as \$25,000 to get you back home. □

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Letter to the editor:

Recycle Fees

I was wondering why the POA hasn't taken any stance on the recycle fee added to everyone's trash bill and why hasn't the trash fee increased at all, over the last ten years that we've been here? I know my contract agrees to pay the developer for trash collection but changing that term to solid waste and adding \$1.62 doesn't seem something he would be able to do unilaterally.

Jim Moran

Editor's Note: We have spoken out in the Bulletin and at our meetings on the recycle fee which we feel is inappropriate given that somebody is making money on our trash and, therefore, we should have the service for no charge and share in the profits.

The trash fee has increased periodically over the past few years. Information we have shows increases in Nov 05, Jan 07, and Apr 08.

The developer has latitude to increase fees since we all gave him the exclusive concession to handle our solid waste (trash) when we bought our homes.

We wish we had a better system and more respectful treatment from the developer. But, the system is what it is. And, hopefully, the small amounts involved won't be an excessive burden on us or a cause for continuing concern. □

Discount Partners Continued from Page 20

(Continued from page 20)

SmartSafe Tornado Shelters - One day installation in garage floor or carport. Call Pat Tripp at 352-702-6386. 5-10% POA discount on selected models.

Snowbird Home Watch - Watch your home while you're away. \$40.00 per month; 10% discount to POA. 352-259-1143 or check out our website at www.bikinbob36@aol.com

Sonic Drive-In - 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% POA discount on the Special of the Month.

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

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

The UK Shoppe - Food from "Across the Pond" at the Market of Marion, Aisle D North. 10% POA discount, 352-391-5788. Free Delivery to Villages.

Tri-County Landscaping - 25% POA discount off first 2 months of lawn care, 10% all other services, 352-693-3202.

Ultimate Handyman Svcs. - Drywall, trim/crowns, paint/remodel. Insured. 10% POA discount. John Sainiak, 352-516-2976.

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.

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Villagers Home Watch - call us at 352-753-6545. 10% POA 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.

Weed Getter Landscaping & Lawn Maintenance - Trim Hedges, Mulch, Planting, Etc. 10% discount for new POA Members 352-361-2854.

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

If you need to contact any Sumter County official, rather than paying for the long-distance call to the Bushnell offices, just use the toll-free number at
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(1-866-8SUMTER)

Our Monthly Gardening Column:

If You Grow It, They Will Come: Inviting Butterflies to Your Garden

by Anne Lambrecht
Master Gardener

If you want butterflies to come to your garden, there are some simple rules to follow. First, you must plant what the butterfly likes to lay its eggs on. Second, you have to be willing to see that plant be devoured, sometimes right before your eyes! Third, you need to keep your insecticides to a minimum. Certain species of butterflies like certain plants called "host" plants. They actually smell them and go to inspect. If they think the host plant is plentiful enough for their caterpillars to eat, then they will go ahead and lay eggs.

If you grow milkweed, then you will have Monarchs. If you grow dill or fennel, then you will have Swallowtails. If you grow passion flower, then you will have Gulf Fritillaries and the Florida state butterfly, Zebra Longwing. The list goes on and on. For more information on what species of butterfly likes to lay eggs on what plant, check out <http://www.thebutterflysite.com/gardening.shtml> and click on Butterfly Host Plants. But you must be patient. It may take a while before a

butterfly flits across your yard and decides to lay eggs.

I made the mistake of planting a sugar hackberry to attract Tawny Emperors. That was two years ago and still no emperors or dukes or earls (except for the Husband who is a real prince) and the hackberry is over 30 feet high and way too close to the house.

Now to keep the butterflies hanging around the yard you must plant "nectar" plants. But this is the easy part because butterflies are not nearly as picky about what they eat as the Husband is. Butterflies like all kinds of pretty flowers and there are plenty of them out there. Flowers that are colorful, fragrant, native, tubular ... any flowers are loved by butterflies. The tubular flowers will also attract humming birds. Some nectar flowers that I've had success with are salvias, native poinsettias, rudbeckias (black eyed Susans), liatris, coreopsis (the state wildflower), blanket flower (gaillardia). They all reseed so you only have to plant them once. My yard is full of the native poinsettias (Poinsettia cyathophora. Painted Leaf; Fire-on-the-Mountain) which is considered a weed. If you would like one, email me and I will give you as many as you wish.

As time goes by, more and more butterflies will come to your garden. Word has it that year after year butterflies' descendants remember the good spots to lay eggs and drink nectar.

An added bonus of using insecticide

sparsely will bring all kinds of other creatures to the garden: bugs, birds, worms, frogs, anoles. Most are good; some are bad. Some of the bad are eaten by the good. Some of the good are eaten by the bad. It's a wild, wonderful world out in our gardens!

How does one go about finding plants to attract butterflies? Read, read, and read. Go to plant festivals, nurseries, local plant sales at our extension services, give away tables at garden club meetings, join plant societies. Florida Gardening Magazine www.floridagardening.com has all kinds of articles about gardening in Florida as well as a calendar of events listing plant festivals and sales all around the state. From this I plan many of my trips to the central Florida area. Before he became the Husband, the Husband used to come with me to many of these festivals. He doesn't like to admit it, but he's been to the Kumquat Festival, the Caladium Festival, the Master Gardeners Conference in Coral Springs, and countless nurseries and plant sales. These days he suggests that perhaps my Mom or one of my friends can come along (so he can get off the hook) and actually sighs a sigh of relief when someone is able to accompany me. That's OK, because at least I won't be asked where I'm planning to plant whatever I end up buying.

You may contact Anne Lambrecht at anegarden@empqmail.com. □

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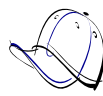
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Mobility Express of Fruitland Park - US Hwy. 441/27, Fruitland Park Plaza. 352-365-2055. Walkers, wheelchairs, lift chairs, etc. 12% discount to POA.

MOE'S Southwest Grill - Rolling Acres Plaza, 352-430-3610. Buy 1 get 1 free every Saturday with purchase of two medium drinks! Not valid with any other offer. One benefit offer per family membership.

Nature's Liquids - SeaAloe and Super Fruits 100% naturally absorbable vitamin supplement. Free Sample and 25% POA discount on first order. Call Diane 750-2246. naturesliquids@comcast.net

Ocala Lincoln Mercury - 407 So. Magnolia Street, Ocala FL 34470 352-732-2866 -- 3% over dealer cost for POA on all new cars.

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

Ollie's Frozen Custard - Next to Blockbuster in the Spanish Plaines Shopping Center. Use the Ollie's Coupon in the Bulletin or get POA's 10% off.

On-Site Drapery Cleaning - Any drape or window treatment cleaned in place in your home. 10% discount for POA members. Call 352-246-8891.

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

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

Premier Tower, Inc. - Electric contractor, quality safe installation. Free estimates. 10% POA discount. Michael. 352-978-7015.

Radech Home Improvement - Remodeling & repair, 10% POA discount, 563-271-1296.

Relax In Comfort - Beds and mattresses. Lake Sumter Landing. 10% POA discount, 352-674-9300.

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

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