

The POA Bulletin

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The Property Owners' Association of The Villages

Issue 36.12

Champions of Residents' Rights Since 1975

December, 2010

POA Election Results: Dreidame New President

POA elections were held at the November membership meeting. Elected were:

- President** - Elaine Dreidame - Chatham
- Vice President** - Bill Garner - Rio Grande
- Treasurer** - Jerry Ferlisi - Poinciana
- Secretary** - Carolyn Reichel - Sunset Pointe
- Director** - Frank Carr - Piedmont
- Director** - Ken Copp - Duval
- Director** - Myron Henry - Hadley
- Director** - Ron Husted - Tall Trees
- Director** - Pat Layman - Poinciana

For the first time in almost ten years, the POA will have a new President due to Joe Gorman's retirement. The new Officers/Board of Directors will commence their duties January 1, 2011.

Biographies of the POA Officers elected are as follows:

Elaine Dreidame, President

Elaine is a native of Cincinnati and moved to Polo Ridge in 1999 and now lives in the Village of Chatham. She received a B.S. in Education and a Master of Education from the University of Cincinnati and a Ph.D. at The Ohio State University in Physical Education and Administration of Higher Education. Elaine spent twenty-nine years at the University of Dayton where she served in roles as assistant professor of physical education, head women's basketball and volleyball coach, and senior associate director of athletics. Elaine served on the POA Board in 2005-06 and resigned from that position to head up the POA Outsource Legal Action Team which filed the successful class action lawsuit on behalf of Village residents north of CR 466. Following the completion of the lawsuit, she rejoined the POA Board of Directors in 2008, serving as Vice President.

The scope of her impact on intercollegiate

athletics encompassed the institutional, conference, state and national levels. She served as Division I Vice-President of the NCAA, a member of the NCAA Division I Championships Committee, the NCAA Council, the NCAA Executive Committee, the NCAA Joint Policy Board and numerous other NCAA committees. She was a member of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics Executive Council and served as chair of the NACDA/Sears Director's Cup Committee. Elaine was inducted into the University of Dayton Athletic Hall of Fame and the Ohio Association for Intercollegiate Sports for Women Hall of Fame. In 2003, she received the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators Lifetime Achievement Award.

Bill Garner, Vice-President

A native of southern Illinois, Garner spent most of his career overseas for the federal government as a computer software manager. He served on the POA board from 2003-2006, then moved to the POA Outsource Legal Action Team for the class action suit. Bill was previously the owner/manager of a fi-

nancial planning and stock brokerage firm in Lady Lake. Bill has lived in the Village of Rio Grande for fourteen years.

Jerry Ferlisi, Treasurer

Jerry and his wife Maureen became full time residents in the Village of Poinciana in May 2010 upon Jerry's retirement. He holds a BS in Accounting from Long Island University. He trained in Public Accounting (Pannel, Kerr Forster) and moved into hospital finance where he served as Controller, St

(Continued on page 2)

Church Offer Declined: What's Next?

Residents north of CR 466 will NOT be paying to convert the Church on the Square into a 1,050 seat theater. Based upon the expressed negative reaction of residents and AAC members in attendance at the November 10th AAC meeting, the AAC declined the developer's proposal to accept the Church and convert it into a Performing Arts Theater.

Now the question is...what else could the Developer do to help meet the increased community interest in having a 'true' Performing Arts Center here in The Village?

Mr. Morse acknowledged that he had observed this increasing interest in his October 5, 2010, letter to the AAC/VCCDD. In that letter, he proposed the conversion of the Church on the Square to a Performing Arts Center. His proposal was that he would donate the Church property and the adjoining vacant land to the VCCDD on behalf of the SLCCDD and the residents South of CR466, if the residents North of CR466 would use their amenity funds to pay for the renovation of the Church and construction of the Performing Arts Center.

(Continued on page 2)

December 21, 2010 THE NEXT POA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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

**Joe Gorman summarizing his nine years.
Annual Meeting and Christmas Party.
Investiture of New Officers and Directors.**

**Ollie's Frozen Custard,
Christmas Cookies and Coffee**

**FOR ALL AFTER THE MEETING
ALL RESIDENTS WELCOME - COME AND JOIN US**

Election Results

(Continued from page 1)

John's University, South Shore Division. Jerry held senior positions at Staten Island University Hospital including Controllor, VP, and Sr. VP & CFO. He's held similar positions (CFO & Sr. Director) for the NYU Hospital For Joint Diseases in New York City. Jerry has served on numerous Finance Committees including the Hospital Association of NYS (HANYS) & Greater NY Hospital Association (GNYHA). Earlier in his career, he served as Treasurer for the New Springville Civic Association, (a not-for-profit civic organization).

Carolyn Reichel, Secretary

Carolyn is single and lives in the Village of Sunset Pointe. She graduated from Colorado College with a degree in Sociology. After raising a family, she returned to school and became a registered nurse. With the demands of nursing, Carolyn continued her education looking for alternatives. In this process, she became a Registered Record Technician, a Paralegal, a Certified Professional in Health Care Quality, earned a Masters' Degree in Legal Studies, and finally settled in as a Nursing Home Administrator for 17 years before retiring to the Villages five years ago. In retirement Carolyn volunteers as a counselor for SHINE, (Serving the Health Insurance needs of Elders) and is a Senior Sleuth for Senior vs. Crime. In her

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spare time she enjoys golf, bridge and singles activities.

You can find a brief bio of each of the directors on the POA website, poa4us.org. Just click on the box entitled officers and directors after the first of January. □

Church Offer Declined

(Continued from page 1)

The overwhelming consensus appears to be that residents truly appreciate the Developer's generous offer to try and help solve the problem, but the Church proposal does not work for the many reasons outlined in POA Bulletin articles last month. (Go to the POA web site at poa4us.org and click on 'archived Bulletins' to find the November, 2010, issue.)

So, how can the Developer help the residents with this expressed interest?

We suggest that instead of donating the Church building and adjoining land, which he had appraised at \$4,924,000, to the VCCDD/AAC, (on behalf of only the residents South of 466), he could donate the necessary acreage of vacant land needed for the construction of a Performing Arts Center, to the Performing Arts of Lake, Marion and Sumter (PALMS) on behalf of ALL OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGES.

The PALMS, formerly called the Volunteers Performing Arts Alliance, is a not-for-profit organization, which has been providing an ongoing grassroots effort to build a venue for the performing arts that meets the needs of our community as it grows. The PALMS is a totally independent, volunteer organization, and it is comprised mostly of Villages residents. (See the April, 2010, Bulletin to find detailed information on the PALMS proposed Performing Arts Center at poa4us.org.)

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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. □

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Church Offer Declined

(Continued from page 2)

A little history....

The Developer's initial filing of his plans (about nine years ago) on the use of the land South of CR 466 – called the Development Order for the Villages of Sumter Development of Regional Impact (VOS-DRI) - included a 40,000 square foot building and 15 acres of land for a 'Convention/Performing Arts Building'. He had the vision to see the need for this type of facility in his community.

At the February, 2010, AAC meeting, where they were discussing the inadequacy of the Savannah Center for this purpose, Committee members requested District Staff communicate with the Developer to inquire if any plans existed to construct a performing arts center. At the AAC Workshop which followed on February 17, 2010, Ms. Tutt advised the Committee that she had requested Mr. Moyer (who is the Vice-President for Development of The Villages of Lake-Sumter, Inc., as well as, a member of the AAC) to communicate the AAC's inquiry to the Developer.

Mr. Moyer reported to the AAC, that over a period of years, The Villages has researched the possibility of building a performing arts center by reviewing other performing arts centers in the surrounding area. During that review two items were obvious,

the structure itself is costly, but, more importantly, the ongoing operation and maintenance costs of a performing arts center is beyond the scope of The Villages.

Mr. Moyer stated, if a performing arts center were to be addressed in the area, it would need to be addressed by general purpose government as possibly a tri-county project. This is because a performing arts center would require some support from general tax revenues, which is typical. For those reasons, The Villages has no plans to proceed with a performing arts center.

As a follow-up to this stated position, The Villages had a hearing scheduled this past week (after we had gone to press) before the Sumter County Commission. The purpose of the hearing was to suggest amending the VOS-DRI (referred to above) to eliminate the 'convention/performing arts land' usage and replace it with the wording 'clubhouse/villages recreation center.'

The stated rationale for the Developer to not pursue the original order deterred residents of the VCCDD from wanting to accept the financial responsibility of operating and maintaining a renovated/church facility knowing that the SLCDD residents would only be responsible for contributing \$3.00 per year per residence in the event of any shortfalls.

If The Villages of Lake-Sumter, Inc., thinks it would be too costly for them, the AAC amenity funds are certainly not going

to be enough to support it without requiring residents north of CR466 to either: 1) incur a reduction of services and deterioration of facilities due to lack of adequate Renewal and Replacement reserves (which were just recently accommodated with the lawsuit settlement money), or 2) vote favorably to eliminate the CPI increase on their amenity fee cap so that funds could be generated to pay for any such operating losses. (Neither of these options was appealing to the AAC and the residents of the VCCDD who attended the AAC meeting.)

A Solution - Create a 'WIN-WIN' for the Developer and the Residents:

The PALMS is the perfect solution to the construction costs and annual operating and maintenance expenses. The PALMS proposal places the financial burden on the community, as individuals, to support an enhanced performing arts venue if they want it. They plan on funds being raised via grants, tax de-

(Continued on page 4)

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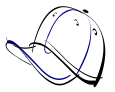
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Church Offer Declined

(Continued from page 3)

ductible donations (they are a 501c3 organization), ticket sales and concession fees – not by taxes or amenity fees.

The Developer is obviously in a perfect position to provide the land, and thus access by golf cart for Villages residents. His willingness to donate the Church property (valued at close to \$5M) to the AAC demonstrated his interest in meeting the needs and interests of the residents in The Villages.

Unfortunately, the Church proposal, as generous as it was from our Developer, did not meet the criteria that residents have said they want for their desired Performing Arts Center, (i.e., larger seating capacity, better class of entertainment, etc).

An alternative might be for the Developer to donate vacant land valued at \$5M or thereabouts to the PALMS, which is comparable to the value of the Church and property in his initial offer to the VCCDD.

This would be the perfect solution. The Developer meets the needs of his residents, with the help of his residents (PALMS) which would construct and operate the facility, plus he gets a \$5M tax write-off (not available on the Church property as it is owned by his charitable corporation), and he has a great sales tool for prospective buyers.

We believe in his vision for our Commu-

nity and hope he will take one more step and provide the avenue for the construction of a Performing Arts Center, which is golf cart accessible, and which will not place any possible financial burden on any of the residents who live in his beautiful community.

When interviewed by the POA, Bob Rutkowski, president of PALMS, told us, "We are eager to work with the developer and all interested parties to establish a first-class performing arts center that will present both national and local entertainers. Recent events have shown there is tremendous public support and energy for establishing such a showcase. By uniting in a common effort, we can strengthen the community and create a facility that we can all enjoy and be proud of." □

AAC Meeting November 10, 2010

Old Business:

* Multi-Modal Paths - Richard Busche of Kimley-Horn reported in his monthly update that the Recreation Trail reconstruction project is on schedule with "substantial completion" now expected December 5th (includes 12 "rain days" adjustment to original completion dates). With the completion of the relining of storm water pond 14-2, construction of the Morse Circle bypass trail is under-

way and should be completed by Jan. 4th.

* Staff reported that two lights will be installed along the recreation trail near the Paradise Recreation Center to improve lighting conditions.

* The AAC discussed the proposal from the developer to donate the Church on the Square to the VCCDD/AAC if the AAC will fund a renovation to create a performance theater. Following input from each committee member, the Committee voted 5 to 1 against accepting the donation. This decision was strongly supported by the large audience in attendance (see related articles).

New Business:

* The Committee approved carry forward

(Continued on page 5)



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AAC Excerpts

(Continued from page 5)

To be honest, if we use the lawsuit settlement money we are giving away the money we finally got put in place to provide reserves for existing amenities.

Gary Moyer responds that he does not want anyone to think that the intent of the offer of the Church was to in any way take advantage of our residents living North of CR466. The facilities that we are contributing have a value and that value is equal to, or in excess to, what we are asking the VCCDD/AAC to spend on the renovation of the building.

Marti Rothbard (CDD2) - He concurred with Joy's position and stated that if there is to be a cash outlay it should be the same amount for all residents based upon the number of rooftops. Additionally, deficits and/or profits should be shared equally among all residents. He pointed out that the proposal limited the deficit funding, (if it occurs), to \$3 per rooftop and the residents North of CR466 would be responsible for the remainder.

John Wilcox (CDD 3) stated that in addition to the financial concerns expressed there is also a very active group called the PALMS. A community our size cannot support two performing arts venues. We should wait and see what the PALMS does. If they are going to go ahead this is a dead issue.

Gary Moyer stated that The Villages tries to address an issue for Villages residents, not for the tri-county area as the PALMS represents, so it is not our desire to participate in looking at a grander scheme for residents outside of The Villages. We, as a Company, would have no desire -- obviously we would talk to anyone, but we think what was proposed by us is the right size for The Villages.

Janet Tutt (District Manager) read a letter written on behalf of the Morse family. The concluding paragraph was as follows: 'We also want to be clear that based on our consultant's study we believe retrofitting the Church on the square is the only feasible option for a performing arts center in The Villages and we will not be pursuing or supporting any other plans for such a facility in our area. as our research indicated that such plans are neither appropriately sized or financially sustainable.'

Carl Bell (CDD 1) - Requested that a speaker on behalf of the PALMS be asked for an up-date on their progress.

Bob Rutkowski (PALMS President) - Advised that there was no disagreement in the findings of the two consultants - that based on 100,000 people, the size which would be accommodated by the Church, was adequate. The difference is that the PALMS will draw from not only The Villages, but a three county area where there are in excess of 500,000 people, looking to go to 700,000 in the next five to ten years, so the PALMS ap-

propriate sizing is greater than that which would be required for Village residents only (build out at 100,000). He stated that size was a key distinction between the two proposals. In order to bring in the kind of entertainment that the PALMS would like to bring in, the proposal would require including rehearsal halls, practice facilities, etc.. The PALMS plan is looking for a facility to not only house a theater, but to also meet the above stated requirements.

When asked for a status report, Mr. Rutkowski advised that, at this point, the PALMS has not made any offers to acquire any property as they were waiting to see what happened to the church proposal before proceeding. They have narrowed their interest in possible sites from 40 to a handful. When questioned, he advised that he would not address where the PALMS finances would come from.

We have all along hoped that we could

(Continued on page 7)

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AAC Excerpts

(Continued from page 6)

work collaboratively with the Developer to come up with a solution that is better for him and the residents than the church proposal, but apparently, as a result of the letter read to us today, this is not going to happen, at least not anytime soon, and that is extremely disappointing to us.

Rich Lambrecht - Personally, I don't believe we have the funds to do this construction. I don't think the VCCDD/AAC should be in the entertainment business, and I don't think we should be subsidizing a performing arts center. Clearly, this has to be a community effort, not a government effort, not an amenity system effort, and should be supported by individuals, where those who are interested will support it with donations, tickets, endowments, etc. To me, its become very clear that the Church is not a good solution. What we would end up with is something that is not a performing arts center - it's Savannah with more comfortable seating. So, I don't think we can expect the PALMS to continue their efforts if we are going to keep them in limbo, and I don't think we should prolong this.

Gary Moyer - A decision not to accept the Church is perfectly fine with The Villages. Our intent was to try to help to move something forward, but it is this Board's decision to make and there are no hard feelings if you

decide that that is not the appropriate solution.

Eventually the decision to refuse acceptance of the church property was voted on and passed by a 5-1 vote (Gary Moyer was the dissenting vote). □

Support Equipment For New Cancer Center? WHY?

In case you missed it, there was a full page ad in the November 11, 2010, edition of The Daily Sun from the Robert Boissoneault Oncology Institute (RBOI) which raised this question.

With permission from the RBOI, we are printing the editorial comment of that advertisement for your review and evaluation.

"An original request for 2 million dollars was made of the residents of The Villages to purchase primarily radiation equipment for a new Villages cancer center. That request has now been increased to 6.3 million dollars.

"The Robert Boissoneault Oncology Institute cancer treatment facility has been serving The Villages for 13 years. We have always prided ourselves on providing the best care with the best equipment. In fact, the very same radiation equipment requested by the Moffitt Cancer Center is already here – within a stone's throw of the Sharon Morse

building. All of our equipment is state of the art.

"The new cancer center is soliciting donations to purchase a single linear accelerator. Our Villages office has two. One of these machines has RapidArc technology, which delivers treatments with great precision at speeds 2 to 8 times faster than other dynamic treatments. We are the only facility in this region that offers such sophistication.

"Residents may think that a team of physicians from Moffitt will provide their care on site. But, according to the Ocala Star Banner in an article dated August 25, 2010, representatives were quoted as saying, 'Each center will employ three Moffitt staff members, including a physicist and a physician

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(Continued from page 7)

who will plan treatment.' That would mean one MD is coming, not a team of physicians.

"RBOI has 3 MDs practicing radiation oncology in The Villages. All RBOI oncologists serving The Villages are affiliates of the Moffitt. RBOI has a total of not one, but access to 16 full time physics staff members. Both the Moffitt and RBOI hold the same national accreditation through the American College of Radiology. If the only physician coming to The Villages on a full time basis is duplicating what three physicians already provide, why are you donating 6.3 million dollars?

"RBOI's goal has always been to provide the highest quality of care to every patient. We embrace excellent competition and have worked closely with the Moffitt since its inception. This has included our active referral of patients when appropriate for Moffitt evaluation and, in turn, their referral to us.

"But when residents are asked to support equipment for a new cancer center, that donation should be made with a clear understanding of what is needed and what is already available. From discussions with our patients and others in The Villages community, that knowledge is incomplete.

"The Robert Boissoneault Oncology Institute invites every resident of The Villages to enjoy food and drink at an Open House on Saturday, December 4, 2010, at our facility at 1540 Clemente Ct. from 10 am until 2 pm. See firsthand what is already available right here in The Villages. A sleeve of premium golf balls to the first 500 people to attend!"

For the POA naysayers, our decision to publish this information is not being negative. Our mission is to educate our residents and to the extent that we can, present ALL SIDES of any issue which has potential impact upon them.

In that way, residents can then make their own decision about an issue once they are aware of ALL OF THE FACTS RELATING TO A SPECIFIC ISSUE. To that end, we have invited Pete Wahl, chairman of The Villages Health System Foundation, who is spearheading the fundraising efforts for the new cancer center equipment, to speak at the January POA general membership meeting on January 18, 2011.

Residents will be able to get a more in depth understanding of the new center's approach to our community's needs and also get their questions answered. □

IRS UPDATE

"While you were away"

This has to be government at its worst – we are now on the third IRS Agent. The first one lasted about 18 months and then got 'promoted' and was removed from the case; the second one lasted a little over a year and also got 'promoted' and removed; it was announced, at the November, 2010, AAC meeting by Janet Tutt, that the District has now been advised of the name of the third new agent to be assigned to the investigation and that the Agent will begin 'getting up to speed' in the very near future. Seems like the IRS is wasting a lot of taxpayer money just getting new agents 'up to speed'. □

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Lightning Matters

By Bob Freeman

The purpose of this monthly column is to inform residents about the various facets of lightning and how it can impact your personal safety, your home, and your appliances and electronics. It is important to be aware of the science of lightning, as you are living in Florida, which is the Lightning Capital of the USA.

In previous columns we discussed lightning protection systems (rods) do not attract lightning (April), corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) gas pipes (May), how to select a lightning protection system (LPS) installer (July), and personal lightning safety (October and November). These and other subjects can be accessed at the Poa4us.org web site.

In this issue we will discuss electrical “primary” surge protection in more detail that was introduced in the August 2010 arti-

cle. Next month’s article will cover “secondary” surge protection, which is “point of use” protection for sensitive electronic equipment that has a 120 volt power cord.

What is an electrical surge? It can be a very short duration of very high voltage or a very short duration of high voltage accompanied by a short duration of high current. It only takes a millisecond for a destructive lightning induced electrical surge to pass through the electrical lines and into your home to damage your appliances and sensitive electrical equipment.

Primary surge protection is applied at the electrical service entrance equipment of your home. Primary surge protection will protect the 240 volt appliances, including the furnace/air conditioner/heat pump, electric clothes dryer, electric stove, and any other 120 volt equipment that is permanently wired such as the dishwasher and garbage disposal. IT IS NOT WHOLE HOUSE PROTECTION!!!

A “surge protection device” is referred to as a SPD. There are two classifications for primary protection, Type 1 SPD and Type 2 SPD.

The Type 1 SPD is mounted directly on the utility meter base on the outside of your home by your electric utility. Your electric utility, SECO or Progress Energy, has these available. You can pay a monthly lease to Progress Energy. You can pay a monthly lease or purchase from SECO. You can call the Customer Service Dept. at either company to find more information or visit their web site.

The Type 2 SPD is mounted adjacent to your main electrical service/breaker panel located in your garage. This can be pur-

(Continued on page 10)

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Lightning Matters

(Continued from page 9)

chased and installed by a licensed electrical contractor. It is up to the contractor to furnish the correct SPD, to install it as close to the electrical panel as possible to minimize the electrical lead length, and connect it to the panel with a dedicated 2-pole circuit breaker.

Unfortunately, there is no building permit or county electrical inspection required to assure that the above criteria is met. We have observed installations where these criteria have not been met.

The Primary Surge Protection, Type 1 or Type 2 protects from electrical surges coming in on the electrical service. The telephone and cable/dish TV providers are responsible for having surge protection and proper grounding on each of their service entrance boxes on the outside of your home.

Please note that surge protection does not protect your home from the infrequent but

potentially high severity direct lightning strike. This protection is afforded by a properly designed and installed lightning protection system (rods, etc.)

The Study Group on Lightning is a small group of volunteers that has no affiliation to any firm or organization related to the lightning protection industry and offers a free 30-minute Power Point presentation, Lightning Tips For Villagers. This presentation addresses direct lightning, indirect lightning, and validation of lightning protection systems (rods), corrugated stainless steel tubing

(CSST) gas piping, surge protection, common myths and misunderstandings. It is intended to help homeowners make informed decisions on their own lightning risk.

If your group or organization would like a presentation, contact Len Hathaway, lhatha@aol.com (430-1164), or Bob Freeman, Stalit1@aol.com (751-0505) □

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*** LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ***

Remember The Troops

I have a situation which I cannot understand. Most of the people living here certainly remember World War II, if not Korea and Vietnam. It is hard for me and others who I have talked with to understand why all of us (residents) don't put a Flag in the front of our yards on certain special days. Such as Flag Day, July 4th, December 7th, etc. There are days during the year when you see Flags advertised for \$1.00 at Ace, Walmart, etc. It seems very little to pay to honor not only our dead, but the young people who currently are fighting and getting killed to keep us safe. I cannot imagine what might go through a person's head when they see Flags in mass in some areas and absolutely none in others. We are fast approaching Dec. 7th. Remember, President Roosevelt said, "This day will go down in infamy." I would like to challenge everyone, EVERYONE, who lives in The Villages, to get a flag and put it out on

the curb on December 7th. Let's show our troops that we really do care.

There are many homes that have a flag up on their house or on a pole; I say good for them.

Jack Weber

Editor's note: Great idea. □

Congratulations To The AAC

I would like to congratulate, and thank you, for the excellent and in depth information given in the November 2010, Bulletin, Issue 36.11, entitled "On the Square: Is it a Church or a Theater?" I had not given this subject much thought before reading your editorial on what renovations would cost residents of the north side of The Villages, both to purchase and to run as a theater.

Since reading the Bulletin, I have been making inquiries, and really looking into this matter, and I have come to the conclusion that we really dodged a bullet on this issue. Personally, I think the residents of the north side of The Villages owes a debt of gratitude to the AAC members who worked through this and decided against it.

Mrs. P. S. Davies

(Continued on page 12)

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***** Letters to the Editor *****

AAC Congrats

(Continued from page 11)

Editor’s Note: The AAC did exactly what it was designed to do when it was created as a part of the lawsuit settlement. They studied the issue and looked at the facts from the point of view of a resident, not an employee of the Developer. Mr. Moyer’s (the VCCDD representative on the AAC) vote in favor of accepting the Church, in spite of all of the concerns that were expressed by resident members of the AAC, is an indication of what would have happened with the issue had there been no AAC and had the decision belonged to the VCCDD. □

A Church Is A Church

I cannot understand why anyone would want to transform the Church on the Square into a performing arts center. The Church belongs on the Square.

Why would anyone want to destroy what is already a good and a beautiful place to relax and worship? Not to mention, where is the consideration of where all the parking places would come from? As it is now, it’s almost impossible to find parking.

Has anyone considered that the folks who live east of 441 are not as likely to be able to

afford the high priced tickets? The folks out to the south of 466 are the so called ‘elite’, so my suggestion is to allow them to pay their fair share too. So many of us, who were the original pioneers of the Villages, have now been retired for 20 or more years. We enjoy the Free, \$2 concerts or even \$5 concerts, at the Church.

Please do not take our Church away.

On October 15th, I sent a letter to the Village Sun very much like this letter. It has

(Continued on page 13)

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***** Letters to the Editor *****

Church Is A Church

(Continued from page 12)

never been published. The Developers (Daily Sun) never publish whatever they do not agree with, so please keep up your good work.

Shirley Vaughn

Editor's Note: We are often disappointed that the Daily Sun is not always responsive to legitimate residents concerns. □

Last Word on The Church

I want to congratulate you on honest reporting. I will join this organization tonight. We are getting a bad deal here and I want to voice my opinion. I strongly feel that the donation of the Church on the Square is the De-

veloper's way of getting rid of a white elephant. The residents North of 466 will be saddled with more expense than we need if we accept this donation. The cost of renovations against the value of the property and the parking issue is of great concern to me. Also, I do not want my amenities to go up because the limitation of the CPI will be removed and I certainly do not want to be saddled with expenses for a center that is beneficial to everyone but on my dollar.

Ed Kosinski

Editor's Note: As you are now aware, there was quick agreement by the resident members of the AAC to say "No Thanks" to this offer, so the community is now moving on to look for a better solution. □

Performing Arts Center Eliminated From Developers' Plans

I really don't know quite who to write or to call your attention to the fact that in today's newspaper on the first page of the Clas-

(Continued on page 14)

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***** Letters to the Editor *****

PAC Eliminated

(Continued from page 13)

sified Section there is a "Notice of Public Hearing to Amend the Villages of Sumter Development of Regional Impact." Within this notice, you will see that they are trying to do away with the designation of property for approved use for *Convention/Performing Arts Land Use* and restating it to *Clubhouse/Village Recreation Center*.

Apparently, "The Villages" management feels that changing the Church on the Square to a Performing Arts Center is a "done deal" and that the designation for a Performing Arts Center is no longer needed in Sumter County.

Is it possible that you can rally the troops to prevent this from going thru?

Thanks for all you do.

Char Soos

Editor’s Note: The Developer made it clear as far back as February of this year that he would not be building a Performing Arts Center (see earlier article), therefore, his decision to remove that usage from his Development of Regional Impact (DRI) plan had nothing to do with whether or not the VCCDD accepted the Church for that purpose.

The removal, however, will be a done deal as the decision is made by the Sumter County

Commission, over which, the Developer has a great deal of influence. □

New Gate Arms

Has the POA taken any position on the new gates that are being installed throughout The Villages? Thank you.

Diana Mirkin

(Continued on page 15)

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*** Letters to the Editor ***

New Gate Arms

(Continued from page 14)

Editor's Note: The gates themselves are not being changed, but the gate arms are being lengthened to comply with the 2009 MUTCO (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices) regulations which take effect on 1/1/2011, regarding the use of gates as traffic control devices (full stop before proceeding).

The Districts, north and south, are making sure that all gate arms are the right length, (all single entrance and exit gates - no more than a 24 inch opening; all double gates can have no more than a 40 inch opening) - have the proper color striping (gates must have a red and white striped reflective pattern on them) and may not have any unauthorized messages on them ("Welcome Home" can no longer be used on the gate arms.)

All vehicles, including automobiles, mo-

torcycles, golf carts and bicycles will be controlled by the gate arms.


The districts have agreed that any gate that is currently unable to detect bicycles will be equipped with electric eye sensors. For the safety of the residents, the POA supports compliance with this new regulation which will enable local law enforcement to enforce stopping at our gates (like stopping at STOP signs). □

CDD 7 Candidate Says Thank You

Two and a half years ago, my wife and I moved to Hemingway. I was so thankful I could retire at a young age, the first thing I wanted to do was get myself in good physical condition. I achieved my goal and today I am 60 pounds less, by cycling 25 miles a day, 7

days a week. Last year, I clocked 6500 miles. I wanted to give something back to the community, wanted to make a positive difference so I decided to run for a CDD seat. My hope to make a positive difference did not come true, I lost the election but what did happen, the community made a positive difference to me. I made 1016 friends, that's the number of votes I received. Of the 1016 votes/friends, there are approximately 40 of them who have become good friends. We get together once a week and have so much fun. They have been supportive throughout this election process. I also want to thank my Wednesday night BUNCO group at Truman, they made me a guest speaker for the last 2 months. Last but not least, I want to thank Janet Tutt, the Village District Manager, for having Mike Tucker, a columnist for the Recreation News, write an article on a mistake which points out that my name was spelled incor-

(Continued on page 16)

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***** Letters to the Editor *****

CDD 7 Thank You

(Continued from page 15)

rectly. It was a very professional thing to do.

Also, thanks to the Property Owners Association, if it was not for their May issue urging residents to run for office I most likely would have not ran. The Villages, what a beautiful place. My wife and I are blessed to live here.

So, if you see a cyclist south of 466 with a Staten Island jersey, yell out, say hello or beep your horn.

Once again, thank you for this great experience.

Jerry Vicenti □

**Yes, Virginia
There is a Santa**

Dear Editor: I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, “If you see it in The New York Sun, it's so.” Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon

Editor's Note: Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. Your little friends are wrong. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy.

Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry,

no romance to make tolerable this existence. We would have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to have men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove?

Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and un-seeable in the world.

(Continued on page 17)

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*** Letters to the Editor ***

Yes, There is a Santa

(Continued from page 16)

There is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love or romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Excerpted from the New York Sun, 1897 □

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Discount Partners Continued from Page 20

(Continued from page 20)

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.

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Our Monthly Gardening Column:

Gardening Hollies

by Anne Lambrecht
Master Gardener

One of the best landscape plants you could choose would be holly (Ilex species). If planted well they are virtually maintenance free. Most hollies are evergreen and come in many sizes and shapes. At least 11 hollies are native to Florida.

Hollies are dioecious plants which means male and female flowers are located on separate plants. Female plants produce berries and since most people want hollies with berries, most nurseries sell females. Most dwarf cultivars do not produce berries since they are propagated from male plants. A male plant must be in the vicinity to pollinate female hollies. Actually pollen is transported primarily by bees from distances up to 1.5 to 2 miles! One kind of a male holly is able to pollinate a female from another species.

Hollies all have small, white, inconspicuous flowers in the spring that attract bees. The flowers turn into berries in the fall and winter and make excellent food for wildlife. Holly bark is mostly a light gray color.

Hollies generally prefer partial shade but most will tolerate full sun. Well drained and slightly acidic soils (pH 3.5 – 6.5) are essential. We've got this pH in the Villages so we're all set there. Hollies are best when planted between November and March. Irrigation is necessary for holly growth during extended dry spells but be sure to not waterlog the soil because the roots need good aeration--once a week should be fine. Fertilize in March and September with a complete fertilizer. Hollies require minimal pruning except to train

the plants for special purposes or to remove diseased or dead branches.

Diseases and insects are not a major problem on hollies receiving optimum cultural care. Poor performance is usually associated with inadequate growing conditions like poor soil aeration, drought, improper planting or little fertilization.

The most common insect pests found on hollies include scale, leaf miners and spittlebugs which suck the plant juices from the leaves and stems. You can spray infestations (bottoms of the leaves) with a soapy oil solution that you can either make yourself or buy (Safer brand).

Diseases known to attack hollies include twig dieback, stem gall and root rot.

Here are some of the best hollies for our area:

Dahoon Holly (Ilex cassine)

Taller than wide, densely foliated with leathery shiny medium green leaves. Native to southeast and can be found at edges of swamps, ponds and wet hammocks. Berries are reddish, orange and are a favorite of the elegant Cedar Waxwing.

Yaupon Holly (Ilex vomitoria)

The most widely used native holly in Florida; there are 3 popular cultivars of Ilex vomitoria: a large specimen shrub (weeping yaupon), a hedge form or a single round or oval bush. Tiny leaves are dark green, leathery, oval to oblong, with scalloped margins with squishy bright orange-red fruit.

Weeping yaupon is the largest of the three and looks like a stiff weeping willow, 10'-25'. "Nana" is the dwarf compact female form and tolerates a variety of soils in full sun to part shade and is virtually pest free. Shellings Dwarf is a dwarf male with an even more compact form than "Nana". Interesting note: Native Americans of the southeast brewed the leaves of this

holly into a strong tea known as the "black drink" and may have played a part in ritual purifications. As the name, Ilex vomitoria implies, if you eat it, you throw up.

American Holly (Ilex iopaca)

Normally grown as a tree because of its size, the American holly comes in many varieties, the most common being the "East Palatka" (Ilex x attenuata) type, found throughout the state. The first wild specimens were discovered in 1927 near Palatka, Florida. Full sun for best fruit but tolerant of light shade. Lifespan is more than 50 years.

Chinese Holly (Ilex cornuta)

Large, compact shrub with glossy dark green leaves that have a sharp pointed spine at the top of each leaf. Bright red berries. Burford is a common variety. Dwarf is the "Rotunda" with spiny foliage which makes this cultivar a great barrier plant.

Japanese Holly (Ilex crenata)

Not a US native but a "Florida friendly" in that it tolerates drought, can be grown in full sun in almost any soil type and is easy to maintain at a small size. So go ahead and Deck those Halls with Boughs of Holly.

I considered inviting the Husband to my next garden club meeting so he could pick up some knowledge. Maybe then he won't be so dangerous in the garden.

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg021> Hollies in Florida, Publication #ENH42 by Dewayne L. Ingram and William E. Barrick

My favorite holly sources:

Taylor Gardens Nursery, Citra FL

Guda and Dave Taylor, 352-629-0980

Shady Oaks Gather All, Sumterville FL

Alan Wise, 352-793-4253

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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.

SmartSafe Tornado Shelters - One day installation in garage floor or carport. Call Pat Tripp at 352-702-6386. POA discount of \$100 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 visit us at bikinbob36@aol.com.

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