

The POA Bulletin

Free Copy



The Property Owners' Association of The Villages

Issue 37.12

Champions of Residents' Rights Since 1975

The POA Website – www.poa4us.org

December, 2011

POA Election Results

All 2011 Officers & Directors Re-Elected

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: Sal Torname – St. James*
Director: Jerry Vicenti – Hemingway

*The newly elected Director, Sal Torname will commence his duties January 1, 2012.

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, serving as Vice President 2008 – 2010 and President in 2011.

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, Bill 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.

December 20, 2011

POA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Third Tuesday of the Month – 7:00 PM

Laurel Manor Recreation Center

**CPR: Get Pushy and Save a Life?
Capt. Gail J. Lazenby, M.S., EMT-P**

EMS Training & Quality Assurance Officer
The Villages Public Safety Department

Presentation followed by Question/Answer Session

**Investiture of New Officers and Directors
POA Hall of Fame Inductions**

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

FOR ALL AFTER THE MEETING
ALL RESIDENTS WELCOME – COME AND JOIN US

Following the completion of the lawsuit, he rejoined the POA Board of Directors, and served as Vice President in 2011. Bill was previously the owner/manager of a financial planning and stock brokerage firm in Lady Lake. Bill has lived in the Village of Rio Grande for fifteen 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

(Continued on page 2)

POA

2011 In Review

What Have You Done For Me Lately?

As stated in the POA's mission statement, we exist and function as a watch dog body for the residents of The Villages. Established in 1975, it is the original home owner's association that has no ties and/or affiliations to the developer, local government or business interests. Through our efforts we strive to make The Villages an even better place in which to live, where residents' rights are respected and local government and the developer are responsive to the needs and interests of all those who live in Florida's friendliest hometown.

During 2011, the POA through its Officers, Directors and members has championed many significant issues and presented facts on others in an effort to keep all Villagers informed of these events.

The following is a summary of major 2011 POA activities and accomplishments:

Health Care

The POA was an early advocate for bringing the Moffitt Cancer Center to The Villages. We researched area demographics, organized a letter writing program, and lobbied Moffitt officials as well as local hospital

(Continued on page 2)

Election Results

(Continued from page 1)

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 John's University, South Shore Division. Jerry held senior positions at Staten Island University Hospital including Controller, 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 six years ago. In retirement Carolyn volunteers as a counselor for SHINE, (Serving the Health Insurance needs of Elders) and is a Senior Sleuth for Seniors vs. Crime. In her 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. □

POA In Review

(Continued from page 1)

management. While others were content when Moffitt agreed to locate in Leesburg, the POA continued the push which resulted in an agreement which brought the soon to open cancer center to The Villages as well. The POA also presented the facts to residents regarding existing cancer treatment facilities that were already here in The Villages.

IRS/Tax Exempt Bonds

The jury is still out and we are awaiting the final conclusion to the IRS versus The Villages' tax exempt bonds enigma. It has been four years in the making and started in 2008 with the IRS's 2003 bond audit of a \$64.3 million bond issue to finance the acquisition of golf courses, parks and facilities for The Villages. Since then the IRS has expanded its audit of bonds issued by the Village Center Community Development District (VCCDD), to include six more bond issues, as well as two issues by the Sumter Landing Community Development District (SLCDD).

The IRS asserts that all of these bonds (\$448 million) issued through tax-exempt bonds since 1993, should be taxable. The IRS contends that the VCCDD, which operates our retirement community and issued the bonds, does not qualify as a political subdivision and should not be able to issue tax-exempt bonds. The POA continues to keep residents informed of all of the activities in this investigation.

Performing Arts Center

During 2011, the POA continued its encouragement of the Performing Arts of Lake, Marion and Sumter (PALMS) organization in its efforts to satisfy our community's need for a best-in-class performing arts center that would provide quality entertainment to Village residents. A 1500-2000 seat performing

(Continued on page 10)

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. □

The POA Bulletin is published monthly by the Property Owners' Association of The Villages, Inc. Articles represent the opinion of the POA or the writer, and Letters to the Editor or Forum postings represent the opinions of the writers. Care is taken to ensure that facts reported herein are true and accurate to the best knowledge of the POA and are taken from reliable sources.

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In Memory of Sadie Woollard

A long-time POA member, Board Director and Chaplain, Sadie Alice Woollard died Sunday October 16, 2011 at the age of 93.

Ms. Woollard was born in Brooklyn N.Y., and moved to The Villages from Winter Park in 1991. She immediately became a POA member and served as a Board Director and Chaplain.

To keep up with current events in our local area Sadie always attended the VCCDD, the Lady Lake Town Hall meetings and the Lake County Commissioners meetings. Naturally she was well known by all of the Commissioners and the VCCDD Directors. For The Villages' residents she often spoke up at these meetings.

Her accomplishments with the POA were many, and just to mention a couple, she led the efforts to get Christmas Decorations at the Shay Gate and played a leading role in the fight to get the Paradise Center rebuilt. Sadie was one of the first to be inducted into the POA Hall of Fame for her outstanding work in our community.

Sadie loved to organize the POA Christmas parties and did an outstanding job. The members brought a covered dish and had a wonderful time.

Due to health problems Sadie had to give up organizing the Christmas party in 2004. She was a member of Clown Alley Number 179 as "Fluffy The Clown" and loved to make kids and senior citizens laugh.

Survivors include her son Robert of North Carolina; five grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and one great, great, grandchild.

Sadie faded like a beautiful rose over the last seven years. First she had to use a cane to get around, the cane was replaced with a walker, the walker was replaced with a wheel chair, and finally during the last couple of months, Sadie was in a nursing home. Through all of this she never lost her ability to conduct a very sound conversation.

May Sadie now
rest in peace. □

NOW ACCEPTING 2012 POA MEMBERSHIPS

On behalf of the Officers and Directors of your POA, we would like to say "thank you" for the tremendous response of members renewing their 2011 POA memberships and also for the many, many new members who have joined with us in 2011 as a way of supporting Residents' Rights for all Villagers. Our desire is to keep each of you informed of facts about issues which may not have been clearly or fully presented in other media.

Our membership year runs from Jan 1 through Dec 31. We are now accepting 2012 POA memberships. Please use the form below or go to poa4us.org and fill out and print the form. POA members will have access to our Discount Partners listed on pages 21-23 and POA members who have provided us with an e-mail address will receive our monthly POA Email Newsletter reminding them of the speaker and date of the upcoming monthly POA membership meeting, as well as informing them of any matters that we

believe they should be aware of on a timelier basis than what our monthly Bulletin can provide.

We would also like to cordially invite you to attend one of our monthly meetings, which is where we are alerted to possible problems that residents are experiencing, i.e. vinyl siding failures, roofing issues, air conditioning failures, etc. The POA meeting is held the third Tuesday of each month at 7PM at Laurel Manor. A typical meeting consists of about 30 minutes of organization business (treasurer's report, minutes, etc.), reports from Shine, cash raffle, updates on the IRS, progress of The PALMS, etc.; 30 minutes of an open forum where attendees can **ask any questions they want** us to find answers to, or present problems they are facing; and a guest speaker who will talk for approximately 15 minutes and answer questions for 15 minutes, which concludes the formal part of the meeting. Attendees are then invited to join us in some social time where the POA provides free coffee and donuts. □

POA 2012 Membership – New / Renewal and Contribution Form

Please complete each section and return to: **The POA, P.O. Box 1657, Lady Lake, FL 32158**

New Renewal Number of People in Household

PLEASE PRINT!

NAME(S)(1) _____
(Same Last Name)

NAME(S)(2) _____
(Different Last Name)

ADDRESS _____

VILLAGE _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____
(We respect your privacy: Your E-mail address is for POA Official use ONLY)

1. Membership New/Renewal: Please enroll my membership in the POA for 2012 at the Annual Rate of \$10 per household. A check payable to POA is enclosed. Memberships are for Households and run annually from Jan 1st to Dec 31st. (check the box that applies)

Please mail my Membership Card to me at the address above. I will include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with this form and my check. Please hold my POA Membership Card for me to pick up at one of the monthly POA meetings.

2. Additional Contribution: Please accept my additional contribution to the POA in the following amount:

\$ _____ (Please indicate amount)

Total Amount Due: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE POA AND YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION

Dues Paid Date _____ (Office Use Only)

NEW POA WEBSITE

The POA website, poa4us.org, is undergoing a major makeover. The new design allows for easier navigation and has a feature to search only the website, with an option to search the entire World Wide Web. It also includes a new Membership Form to fill out online with ability to print the completed form.

The website first went online March 2004 when it published its first "online bulletin". Currently it has over 80 archived bulletins dating from September 2002 to present. Archives dated prior to March 2004 were donated by Cyber Citizens For Justice, which, at that time, had been on that website.

We are constantly working to provide additional enhancements in order to keep you abreast of the many changes that take place in The Villages. We would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank our volunteer Webmaster, John Donahue, who has provided a tremendous service to the POA membership for almost seven years. □

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In Florida, possession of OPEN CONTAINERS of alcoholic beverages in vehicles (INCLUDING GOLF CARTS) is prohibited. F.S. 316.1936 reads as follows:

“(1) As used in this section, the term:

(a) ‘Open container’ means any container of alcoholic beverage which is immediately capable of being consumed from, or the seal of which has been broken.

(b) ‘Road’ means a way open to travel by the public, including, but not limited to, a street, highway or alley. The term includes associated sidewalks, the roadbed, the right-of-way, and all culverts...”

(According to Lt. Nehemiah Wolfe of the Sumter County Sheriff's Office, this does NOT include the recreation trails which run parallel to many of our Boulevards, but it does include the golf cart lane when it is on a roadway shared with automobiles).

“(2) (a) It is unlawful and punishable as provided in this section for any person to possess an open container of an alcoholic beverage or consume an alcoholic beverage while operating a vehicle in the state or while a passenger in or on a vehicle being operated

in the state.

(b) It is unlawful and punishable as provided in this section for any person to possess an open container of an alcoholic beverage or consume an alcoholic beverage while seated in or on a motor vehicle that is parked or stopped within a road as defined in this section...”

(While discretion is used by area law enforcement officials in the road areas around our town squares, be aware that they can give you a ticket for this offense.)

“(3) An open container shall be considered to be in possession of the operator of a vehicle if the container is not in the possession of a passenger and is not located in a locked glove compartment, locked trunk, or other locked non-passenger area of the vehicle.

(4) An open container shall be considered to be in the possession of a passenger of a vehicle if the container is in the physical control of the passenger...”

(If the container is in a cart cup holder it is considered to be in the possession of the operator.)

“(6) Any operator of a vehicle who violates this section is guilty of a noncriminal moving traffic violation... A passenger of a vehicle who violates this section is guilty of a nonmoving traffic violation...”

THE CURRENT PENALTY IS A FINE OF \$116 PER OCCURRENCE. □

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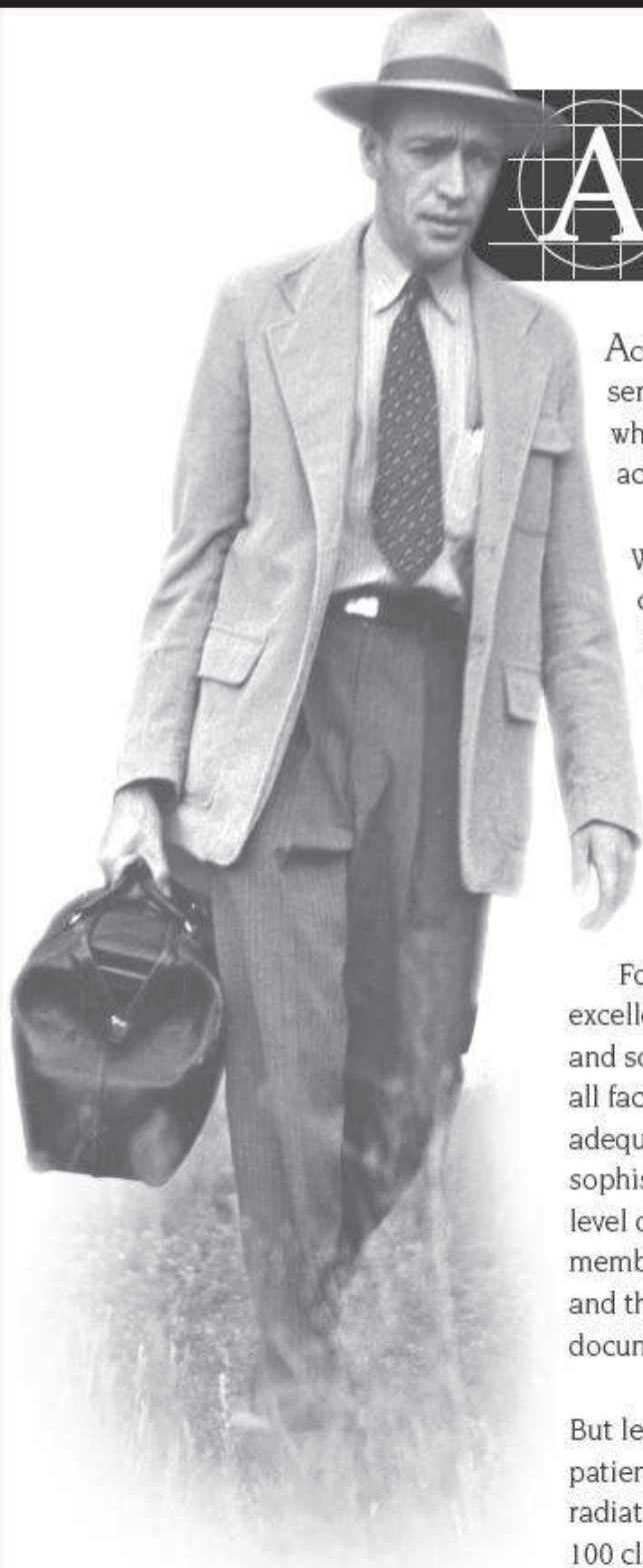
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But let's take radiation care to a level that each patient truly deserves. In our facility, seven radiation oncology physicians provide over 100 clinical years of combined experience: accreditation only requires one physician, with no defined number of years of experience. At

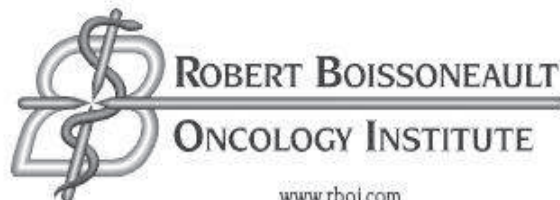
RBOI, eight physicists (three of whom are PhDs) and eight dosimetrists stand together to plan your treatment with the physician staff. Members are physically present to ensure that quality of care is seamless. Other facilities may have only one physicist or one dosimetrist on staff. Contact between these specialized experts and you may never occur or be allowed. In fact, the physicist or dosimetrist may not be in the building when you are treated. At RBOI, these professionals are in the building and "at your side," intently monitoring every component of treatment. We don't just expect a high level of interaction ... we demand it as part of our commitment to superior standards of care.

If you need radiation as part of your cancer treatment, ask to see the physics staff ... before you ever agree to treatment. If they are not readily available in number, perhaps the level of care you're entitled to receive isn't available either. Removing this element from the mix doesn't affect accreditation, but it certainly diminishes the degree of excellence in your treatment.

Our care is a symphony of medical expertise. The orchestra should be totally visible. In our practice, a 360 degree open theatre surrounds us ... and you become the center of our performance.



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Overnight Parking Regulations

Per the 2/15/11 Community Watch – Community Standards Quick Reference:

NO OVERNIGHT PARKING AT Neighborhood Pools or Postal Facilities by anyone. Permits are NEVER issued for any of these lots. Any vehicles parked within these areas after 10 PM will have a “For Your Information Tag” placed on the windshield by a CW Patrol Driver, who will then call in to CW Dispatch. Dispatch will create an activity and log date/time, the state, license number, model and color of the vehicle and contact Law Enforcement for them to record/investigate non-permitted vehicles af-

ter 11:30 PM.


Residents May Park at Village Recreation Centers and Regional Recreation Centers **IF THEY HAVE A PERMIT.** Permits may be secured at the Recreation Center. The CW Patrol Driver will verify with the Supervisor at the Recreation Center if there is a permit for a vehicle or group of vehicles. If there is no permit on a vehicle after 10PM the same procedure will be followed as indicated above for Neighborhood Pools and Postal Facilities.

Residents and their guests do have the **right to park on public streets or villa streets** (cars, trucks and RVs if not lived in or hooked up). CW Patrol Drivers will verify that all streets are accessible at all times, i.e., emergency vehicles can move reasonably along the roadway and will call Law Enforce-

ment to clear vehicles obstructing streets. According to Community Standards anybody can park in Villa extra parking spaces, on the streets or in any visitor parking lot. If a resident has any questions or concerns, direct them to Community Standards at 751-3912.

Boats, RVs/Conversion Vans in Driveways: Case 1. Vehicle noted above in driveway not hooked up and no person living in it, Patrol Driver will start a 72 hour clock on clip board. **After 72 hours, Possible Deed Violation will be logged** on and “For Your Information Tag” will be placed on the windshield after 72 hours. **Case 2.** Vehicle noted above in driveway hooked up and/or a person(s) is living in the vehicle. **Immediately log on Possible Deed Violation Sheet.** Contact Dispatch to immediately advise Community Standards and place a “For Your Information Tag” on the windshield.

Inoperable Vehicles (i.e., flat tires, no plate, up on jacks being repaired, etc.) on a lot or street will be **immediately recorded as a Possible Deed Violation.** □



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Thomas Holden



Jonathan D. Knott



Paul W. Darby

Community Watch (CW) Patrols Getting a Bad Rap?

It would appear from the variety of letters to the editor we have received relative to the value – or lack thereof – of the CW patrols, there is a significant misunderstanding as to their role and purpose in the overall Community Watch program which is designed to “PROVIDE A SAFE COMMUNITY FOR VILLAGE RESIDENTS BY KEEPING A ‘WATCHFUL EYE’ AROUND THE CLOCK.”

Some of the confusion comes from the term ‘watchful eye’ as in years past, the CW patrols were assigned the responsibility of identifying and reporting deed restriction violations. We met with District Manager, Janet Tutt, about this concern and she acknowledged that there had in fact, been adjustments in job responsibilities made due to the fact that changes were made in the Florida Statutes to allow the individual residential CDDs to assume the responsibility for Deed Compliance enforcement, a responsibility that previously belonged to the Developer.

She explained that the biggest problem is that Community Watch services are paid for by amenity fees and deed compliance enforcement is NOW paid for via our CDD annual maintenance fee (with the exception of

the Lady Lake/Lake County area which is not a CDD), so it was no longer legal to permit CW to continue performing those responsibilities of Deed Compliance which were not closely related to safety.

Further, she suggested that if CW were to report all of the violations they see it would likely necessitate that additional employees be hired in Community Standards/Deed Compliance to enforce the covenants, which would then increase the residential CDD annual maintenance assessment.

The CW department was originally housed under the Recreation Department and in the spring of 2009 CW was moved under the management of the District Public Safety Department, with emphasis on providing a ‘safe community’ and complying with what were to be the revised Florida Statutes.

This resulted in a number of duties which were deemed to be unrelated to safety to be removed from their duty list. A memo dated August 11, 2010, from Scott Wilder to Janet

Tutt, District Manager and Diane Tucker, Administrative Operations Manager, advised them that “Community Watch’s roles in Community Standards (CS) issues (deed compliance) have been revised.” These new roles have been generalized below:

CW patrol drivers do not initiate personal contact with residents regarding these issues.

CW shall provide daily written reports to Community Standards of possible deed violations as follows:

VCDD COMMUNITY WATCH

Community Standards Quick Reference,
Dated February 15, 2011

“What Patrols Still Report:

- Lawn waste and/or garbage placed out early: A reminder is hung on the front

(Continued on page 12)

... another point of view



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AAC Meeting Summary November 9, 2011

Old Business Topics Included:

- The Chula Vista/Mira Mesa Multi-Modal Path reconstruction project has reached final completion. This closes out the last of the multimodal path reconstruction projects. The AAC presented Kimley-Horn & Associates with a certificate of appreciation for their outstanding management of the projects.
- Community Watch provided a brief status of the continuing testing of cameras before permanent installation at the Chatham gate for the pilot project.
- The previously tabled request to purchase audio equipment (\$3,536) for AAC meetings was approved with additional input being provided by staff and the AV club. Beginning with the January meeting, The Villages Audio Visual Club will take over

operation of the audio system for AAC meetings, saving the amenity system the expense of hiring an outside contractor and equipment for each meeting.

- A budget amendment was approved to transfer \$118,650 from Working Capital-General R&R Reserves to Capital Infrastructure for the installation of an electrical irrigation system at the Mira Mesa golf course.

Informational Items:

- Staff reported that the Florida minimum wage has increased from \$7.31 to \$7.67 effective January 1, 2012. The calculated impact to the District’s FY 2011-12 budget is over \$42,000, with most of the impact being in the Community Watch budget.

Staff Reports and Input:

- Staff reported that changes have been made to the Adopt-A-Bench program that will now permit benches to be placed in specific, approved locations on the executive golf courses according to stated guidelines.
- Announcement was made that The Villages Recreation Department has received accreditation from the National Recreation and Park Association. While there are about 3,000 members of the as-

sociation, only 104 have received accreditation.

- Staff reported that Mr. Moyer at the October VCCDD meeting made a motion that was approved, to authorize the VCCDD attorney to provide the AAC with an opinion on all legal documents provided for approval. This will be done on an as requested basis.

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

NEXT AAC MEETING – Wednesday, December 7th, 1:30 P.M. at the Savannah Center □



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Christmas Story The Dime

Author Unknown

Bobby was getting cold sitting out in his back yard in the snow. Bobby didn't wear boots; he didn't like them and anyway he didn't own any. The thin sneakers he wore had a few holes in them and they did a poor job of keeping out the cold. Bobby had been in his backyard for about an hour already. And, try as he might, he could not come up with an idea for his mother's Christmas gift. He shook his head as he thought, "This is useless, even if I do come up with an idea, I don't have any money to spend."

Ever since his father had passed away three years ago, the family of five had struggled. It wasn't because his mother didn't care, or try, there just never seemed to be enough. She worked nights at the hospital, but the small wage that she was earning could only be stretched so far.

What the family lacked in money and material things, they more than made up for in love and family unity. Bobby had two older and one younger sister, who ran the house hold in their mother's absence. All three of his sisters had already made beautiful gifts for their mother. Somehow it just wasn't fair. Here it was Christmas Eve already, and he had nothing.

Wiping a tear from his eye, Bobby kicked the snow and started to walk down to the street where the shops and stores were. It wasn't easy being six without a father, especially when he needed a man to talk to.

Bobby walked from shop to shop, looking into each decorated window. Everything seemed so beautiful and so out of reach. It was starting to get dark and Bobby reluctantly turned to walk home when suddenly his eyes caught the glimmer of the setting sun's rays reflecting off of something along the curb. He reached down and discovered a shiny dime. Never before has anyone felt so wealthy as Bobby felt at that moment.

As he held his new-found treasure, a warmth spread throughout his entire body and he walked into the first store he saw. His excitement quickly turned cold when the salesperson told him that he couldn't buy anything with only a dime.

He saw a flower shop and went inside to wait in line. When the shop owner asked if he could help him, Bobby presented the dime and asked if he could buy one flower for his mother's Christmas gift. The shop owner looked at Bobby and his ten cent offering. Then he put his hand on Bobby's shoulder and said to him, "You just wait here and I'll see what I can do for you." As Bobby waited he looked at the beautiful flowers and even though he was a boy, he could see why mothers and girls liked flowers.

The sound of the door closing as the last customer left, jolted Bobby back to reality. All alone in the shop, Bobby began to feel alone and afraid. Suddenly the shop owner came out and moved to the counter. There, before Bobby's eyes, lay twelve long stem, red roses, with leaves of green and tiny white flowers all tied together with a big silver bow. Bobby's heart sank as the owner picked them up and placed them gently into a long white box. "That will be ten cents young man."

Could this be true? No one else would give him a thing for his dime!

Sensing the boy's reluctance, the shop owner added, "I just happened to have some roses on sale for ten cents a dozen. Would you like them?"

This time Bobby did not hesitate, and when the man placed the long box into his hands, he knew it was true. Walking out the door that the owner was holding for Bobby, he heard the shop keeper say, "Merry Christmas son."

As he returned inside, the shop keeper's wife walked out. "Who were you talking to back there and where are the roses you were fixing?"

Staring out the window, and blinking the tears from his own eyes, he replied, "A strange thing happened to me this morning. While I was setting up things to open the shop, I thought I heard a voice telling me to set aside a dozen of my best roses for a special gift. I was not sure at the time whether I had lost my mind or what, but I set them aside anyway. Then just a few minutes ago, a little boy came into the shop and wanted to buy a flower for his mother with one small dime.

(Continued on page 10)

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The Dime

(Continued from page 9)

"When I looked at him, I saw myself, many years ago. I too, was a poor boy with nothing to buy my mother a Christmas gift. A bearded man, whom I never knew, stopped me on the street and told me that he wanted to give me ten dollars.

"When I saw that little boy tonight, I knew who that voice was, and I put together a dozen of my very best roses."

The shop owner and his wife hugged each other tightly, and as they stepped out into the bitter cold air, they somehow didn't feel cold at all.

May this story instill the spirit of Christmas in you enough to pass this act along.

Have a Joyous and Peace-filled season. □

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POA in Review

(Continued from page 2)

arts center will attract patrons from all three counties into a facility that would present national entertainment at reasonable prices. The expectation is that construction of the facility would be financed by donations and operating costs would be covered by ticket sales, facility rentals, concessions and grants.

Underground AC Copper Tubing

A number of residents had experienced a loss of Freon in the copper line set tubing connecting the inside and outside units of their AC system. The cause of the Freon loss is actually unknown but contractors who have looked into the problem have said it could be attributable to a number of factors, such as inferior grade copper piping, bending the copper pipe to go underground causing a kink that weakens the pipe's integrity, a bad weld if the pipe had a joint to extend the distance, etc.

Thus far it has been costly to many home-

owners who have had to replace these lines, finding unconventional new routes for them on the outside of their homes or in the attic. As the incidences mounted the Village Homeowners Association (VHA) took the lead on the issue, working with The Villages Home Warranty Department and the three major HVAC installers in The Villages (Sun Kool, Munn's and Sunshine). The VHA reached a good faith agreement to deal with these refrigerant line set failures. This agreement stated that after December 9, 2010, any Villages customer whose installation was done by the above mentioned installers will be provided a replacement of their underground copper line set if a failure occurs for up to 5 years from their original closing date of the home with The Villages.

While applauding the efforts of the VHA, the POA responded in June to the request of numerous residents (VHA members included) to broaden the unwritten five year window warranty mentioned above. As a result of substantial efforts by the POA team led by Lori and Ray Micucci and Dave Gott, the stated warranty now covers a ten year period starting with the original closing date on the new home.

Community Watch

The Amenity Authority Committee workshops and budget reviews of Community Watch have been regularly reported in The Bulletin and in several articles by the POA

(Continued on page 11)

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POA In Review

(Continued from page 10)

staff. CW is a substantial portion (\$3M) of the annual amenity budget and the POA believes that kind of spending requires scrutiny from residents as to the value and utility they receive for their funds.

The role and performance of Community Watch is the frequent topic of many residents. The same point is raised as to the need and effectiveness of the service as currently implemented. The position of the POA is to monitor the issue of suggested video cameras strategically placed to monitor egress and ingress traffic at certain gates and provide the data to POA readers.

North Sumter County Utility

The POA reported the details on the sale by The Villages developer of the sewer and water company serving the residents south of CR 466 to the North Sumter County Utility Dependent District (NSCUDD) formed by Sumter County for this purpose. Back in late 2008, the developer was arranging to sell these utilities to the Sumter Landing Community Development District in a manner similar to the way the sewer and water companies serving areas north of CR 466 had been previously sold to the Village Center Community Development District. This process was halted in February of 2009 due to “current economic conditions.” A signifi-

cant difference was noted that beginning in 2012, the NSCUDD board will start to have members elected by residents rather than the developer “elected” board that oversees the sewer/water utilities north of CR 466.

Project-Wide Agreement

The POA, via a three part series of articles in The Bulletin, examined the “project-wide agreement” (PWA) between the Sumter Landing commercial property owners (SLCDD) and the residential CDDs south of CR 466 (CDD 5-9 with CDD 10 expected to join sometime in the future) which is to provide that the expense of maintaining certain, listed project-wide improvements, is shared equitably among all Districts within the area subject to the agreement. Since the PWA expenses are now approximately \$7M annually and growing, the POA felt that residents needed to be made aware of the details of this agreement. Of particular concern was the allocation method used to charge expenses back to the participating districts and also the

fact that the SLCDD board alone controls what projects will be included in the PWA, even though these commercial property owners pay less than 2% of the total bill. The POA continues to work with interested residents, CDD board members and district staff to address some of the perceived inequities of the PWA.

Public Service Information

The POA has kept our residents informed of safety, educational, and civic matters that have potential implications to our community. We strive to make Villagers aware of issues large and small by researching, analyzing and presenting them in the most clearly stated way to allow this information to be dis-

(Continued on page 12)

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POA In Review

(Continued from page 11)

seminated. We accomplish this through write ups in the Bulletin and at monthly general meetings where subject matter experts make presentations. A list of 2011 speakers and their topics are listed below:

- Q and A sessions by Janet Tutt, The Villages District Manager
- Bob Collins, Retired from 640 AM Radio, “Presentation on Forecasting Florida Weather”
- Mary Trotter Esq., “Wills & Trusts for New Florida Residents
- Anne Lambrecht, Master Gardener, “Spring Landscaping After a Hard Winter”

- Dave Arnold, Professional Geologist, Florida Water Management District, “Florida Sinkholes” & Angela Taylor, Insurance Agency, “Sinkhole Insurance”
- Sumter Electric Cooperative Inc. Representative, “Who We Are and where We Get our Power”
- Dr. Maury Berger, on “Chemotherapy 2011 and Beyond”
- Dr. Norman Anderson, “Radiation 2011 and Beyond”
- Diane Tucker, VCDD Administrative Operations Manager, “Deed Compliance Procedures in The Villages - How they Work!”
- Joe Pine, Retired Law Enforcement Officer, “Identity Theft, Fraud, Scams, Purse Snatching and Carjackings” □

CW Patrols

(Continued from page 7)

door of a resident’s home by the CW Patrol Driver. The Patrol Driver calls into the Dispatch Center to log. CW does not initiate contact with residents.

- Tall grass/weeds: Grass 8 inches or Weeds 8 inches or more, notes are placed on Patrol Driver’s Deed Sheet. CW does not initiate contact with residents.
- Garage Sales: If the resident is not in compliance they do not approach. Patrol Driver notifies CW Dispatch. Dispatch will call Community Standards immediately, Mon. – Sat. 8:00 – 4:30.

RULES:

1. Balloons: Are permissible marking the turns to and location of yard sales north and south;
2. Items: All items must be in the garage or carport, not in the driveway or on

(Continued on page 13)

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CW Patrols

(Continued from page 12)

- the lawn;
- Signs: Are not permitted, even at the house where the sale is being conducted. Call Community Standards Mon-Sat. 8-4:30;
 - Sundays: CW patrol driver will remove sign and return to resident and advise balloons are allowed, not signs at corners. On Sundays advise resident if the signs reappear, the signs will be picked up and delivered to Community Standards located at 1894 Laurel Manor Drive.
- Vehicle Parking (Reported and reminders are placed on the windshield by CW patrol driver);
 - Inoperable vehicle on a lot or the street; People residing in RVs in a driveway or on the street; Boats and/or RVs in driveways more than 72 hours.

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What Patrols Previously Reported – Currently NOT Reported:

- Car parked on Villa Streets;
- Lawn ornaments/yard art (certain areas);
- Overgrown shrubbery;
- House needing spray washing/painting;
- Exterior home improvements/ additions;
- Trucks over 3/4 ton parked in driveway;
- Parked service vehicles - they are prohibited except for the period of time they are servicing the home or lot;
- Signage: Security, Lawn treatment, For Sale/Rent, Residential Campaigns, etc;
- Dead grass."

So, for those of us who were accustomed to CW monitoring lawn ornaments, yard signs, dead grass, etc., we concluded that the CW patrol drivers were not doing their job

when we saw them drive past an 'illegal' sign, etc. because there has not been adequate information provided to residents about this change in responsibilities for CW.

Whether residents agree or disagree with having the reporting responsibility for these violations placed on the residents (an alternative would be to increase the staff in the Deed Compliance office which would result in an increase in the annual CDD maintenance fees) is a separate issue which we will discuss in a future POA Bulletin – the problem here is that CW patrol drivers are being unfairly criticized as not doing THEIR JOB because there has not been adequate publicity about these changes.

Below are statements made by Battalion Chief, Scott Wilder, at the 2010-11 and 2011

(Continued on page 14)

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CW Patrols

(Continued from page 13)

-12 budget meetings which reinforce this change in emphasis. He stated that the purposes of the CW patrols are:

1) Public Safety - Prevent/recognize crimes and potential loss – to ‘See’ what’s going on. They familiarize themselves with the community and people where they patrol and learn what is normal in that particular area. They are then better able to identify and react to abnormal situations.

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2) Crime Deterrent - They are easily recognizable, seen often and seen everywhere – neighborhoods, squares, major roads, District properties, emergency incidents and RV lots.

3) Customer Service - The current duties of the CW patrol drivers are as follows:

A. missing person searches; B. Adult Watch follow-ups; C. assist stranded motorists; D. nightly exterior door checks of all recreation centers and all District properties; E. personal contact for citizen complaints – solicitors, suspicious persons, trespassing, fishing at inappropriate locations; F. move ins/outs; G. perform house checks 3 times per week for those residents who have paid for the service; H. call in garage doors open at night; I. check and deal with unauthorized persons at pools and recreation centers; J. assist at ground depressions; K. assist at significant public safety events – tornadoes, hurricanes, freezing weather; L. assist other public safety agencies – fire, EMS, Law Enforcement – with traffic control, patrols, stand bys at incidents; M. provide Town/Market Square security; N. find lost pets; O. assist trapped or distressed animals; P. coordinate nuisance alligator removal, and remove dead animals from the streets; Q. report specific Community Standards violations; R. close neighborhood pools and dog parks; S. report lights out – signs and streetlights; T. usher residents/guests; U. report landscaping blocking view of traffic at intersections; V. report hydrant markers missing; W. report broken district

sprinkler heads; X. report watering on wrong days/time/during rain; Y. report, repair and/or secure damaged entrance and exit gates; Z. AED responses; and AA. assist in criminal searches.

While there is a significant difference between “public safety/crime deterrent” and “customer service” functions, the POA was curious as to why CW’s customer service did not include more of the previously handled Deed Compliance activities.

The District spends significant amenity funds keeping CW patrols on the roadways 24/7, so we wanted to know why staff was “tying their hands” and directing them not to notice certain things?

As you can see from the information provided in this article, it is the change in the Florida Statutes that has tied their hands, not the District staff.

The purpose of this article is to make residents aware that CW patrols are no longer permitted to do many of the Deed Compliance activities we have seen them do in the past.

As a follow-up, the POA suggests the AAC and the SLCDD conduct a public workshop to determine what functions residents want CW patrols to be performing, evaluate whether their funding, number of patrols, etc. need any adjustments, and publicize this list of activities so that resident expectations of patrol drivers are in synch with what the drivers have been directed to do. □

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*** Letters to the Editor ***

AAC Legal Counsel

(Regarding the AAC Meeting Summary)

There were several topics listed and I am curious about one of them.

Regarding independent legal counsel, it appears that Mr. Moyer offered just what the AAC does not want. The article states that the AAC requested discussion on hiring independent legal counsel rather than utilizing the VCCDD attorney. Mr. Moyer volunteered to make a motion at the next VCCDD meeting to authorize the VCCDD attorney to provide opinions.

I'm confused. Did Mr. Moyer offer exactly what the AAC does not want, or is the article written incorrectly?

Truman Heicher

Editor's Note: At the October 12th meeting, the AAC was discussing a legal agreement between the developer (VLS) and the VCCDD involving amenity system property for which the AAC has jurisdiction. Archie Lowry is the attorney for the VCCDD and attends most AAC meetings and his time is charged to the amenity system fund. Mr. Lowry has stated on several occasions that he is not the AAC's attorney.

An AAC member suggested that at a future AAC meeting the committee should discuss hiring an independent attorney to review legal documents and agreements on behalf of

the AAC for the benefit of amenity fee paying residents.

The AAC member questioned if Mr. Lowry had a conflict of interest since he is appointed by the VCCDD board which is elected by the commercial property owners in the VCCDD, particularly in regard to reviewing agreements between the VCCDD/AAC and the principal commercial property owner. The AAC member suggested that the AAC would be better served paying for a separate, independent attorney rather than paying for Mr. Lowry.

District Manager Janet Tutt told AAC members that if the AAC hired their own attorney, Mr. Lowry would still have to review all AAC approved legal documents for the benefit of the VCCDD and therefore his time would also be charged to the amenity system fund.

Net, the AAC could have its own independent attorney, but would have to pay dou-

ble for all legal work performed. Mr. Moyer, who is a VP with VLS, suggested that he was willing to make a motion at the next VCCDD meeting (he is their representative on the AAC) to authorize Mr. Lowry to provide legal opinions on all documents submitted for approval to the AAC. While two members of the AAC were still interested in a future discussion of an independent attorney for the AAC, Mr. Moyer and the other three resident elected AAC members were

(Continued on page 16)

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*** Letters to the Editor ***

AAC Legal Counsel

(Continued from page 15)

unwilling to consider the subject if it meant paying double for legal opinions and they agreed to have Mr. Moyer proceed with his motion to be made at the October 20th VCCDD meeting.

As a result of the lack of committee consensus, there will be no further consideration of independent legal counsel for the AAC. □



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Tiny Flags in My Yard

Twice in this past year tiny flags on wire 'poles' have been placed on my property. I assume these serve a purpose and I would think that whoever placed these should also in reasonable time, after these flags have served their purpose, come back to remove them? After 2 months, I removed the first group of flags. After 3 weeks, I removed the second group. What can we assume to be the moratorium on these? R.Souliere

Editor's Note: These flags are placed by a 'locate company'. The locate company places them for use by the utility/contractor company planning to do work **in the area**. It is legally required that anyone doing work "underground" have the 'locates' accomplished before the first shovel of dirt moves. The flags are allowed for a 30 day period and the locate ticket can be renewed after 27 days for another 30 day period. **If**

the flags are still present after 30 days you can call 811 and inquire if the flags can be removed. Florida State Statute 556 does not identify who is responsible for removing the locate flags. Any person who knowingly or willfully removes or destroys flag or stake markings can be charged with a misdemeanor of the second degree punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. □

Water Rates

I always read your Bulletin cover to cover and I think you are doing a great job. In last month's Bulletin in the Q & A number 6 you did not completely answer the question about our water company. Specifically, are they subject to public utility regulations, the PUC or whatever controls are placed on utilities, and are they required to hold public hearings on any issue? Bernard Baranowski

Editor's Note: When the developer (or any private company) owned the water/sewer companies they were subject to Public Service Commission regulation and therefore needed PSC approval to raise rates. When a government owns the water/sewer company, the current situation in The Villages, they are not subject to PSC review of rate changes. So our water/sewer companies are not under PSC regulation of rates. However, LSSA and VCSA discuss/approve their rate changes at VCCDD meetings, all of which are open to the public. □

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*** Letters to the Editor ***

Utility Bill

I can understand paying a sewer base every month, but don't we already pay for the water? So why the extra \$20 per month for the water under the sewer cost?

Mary Dettelis

Editor's Note: All utility companies bill utilities in this manner. The base fee is a compilation of fixed costs associated with the utility which all customers are responsible for paying regardless of how much water is actually used. You pay a separate **base fee for both water and sewer.**

In addition to the base amount, you will have an additional charge for both the water and sewer services based upon consumption. Note that the per gallon water cost is tiered so you may have more than one 'extra charge' below the base charge for water, whereas the sewer usage cost is not tiered so if you are over the base you will only have one charge under your sewer base service charge. □

Lions Club Collection Sites

I have noticed that the Lions Club has placed red receptacles at the postal stations north of CR 466 for the collection of alumi-

num cans. While I don't mind dropping the cans off at these sites, my question is why these receptacles are not placed at postal stations south of CR 466? It seems to me that others would be willing to donate if it were more convenient.

Jack Gaza

Editor's Note: We checked with Janet Tutt, District Manager and Sam Wartinbee, District Property Manager, and neither were aware of any request/denial for the use of the postal facilities south of CR466 by the Lions Club. □

Thank You HVAC Warranty and Monies Restitution

I would like to thank the POA and VHA, as well as the Developer for not only getting the warranty extended, but also getting restitution for monies paid to have the repairs done.

We have received our check and appreciate the efforts by all parties.

Sincerely,

Zane Stalter

Editor's Note: We have received a number of letters similar to this one and would like to thank you for your recognition of our efforts on behalf of the residents. □

Fitness Challenge

Attention all Villages

'Couch Potatoes'

Holiday Fitness Challenge!!

Tis The Season of Good Food

By Judi Da Costa, Personal Trainer

It's here again...the season to eat drink and weigh heavy!!!

So what can you do to help keep the pounds off during the festivities?

Well how's about this!

Every day at a time that suits your schedule you get up off your butt and go for a walk, but I don't mean to the golf cart! I mean walk past the golf cart and go for a walk around the block.

If you are not used to walking start with just a few minutes each day at an easy pace and then every week see if you can walk a little further and perhaps a little faster.

Keep track of your progress and I bet you by the time the ball drops in Times Square at New Year you won't weigh so heavy!!

If you have something to say remember you can always write me at Exercise2gether@aol.com. □

Happy Holidays!

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Ask The Chief

Excerpts from “...Ask The Chief -Florida State Statutes #403.413 -The Florida Litter Law”

Aside from the aesthetic penalties of littering, there are monetary consequences **403.413 Florida Litter Law:**

(4) DUMPING LITTER PROHIBITED.-- Unless otherwise authorized by law or permit, it is unlawful for any person to dump litter in any manner or amount: (a) In or on any public highway, road, street, alley, or thoroughfare, including any portion of the right-of-way thereof, or any other public lands, except in containers or areas lawfully provided therefore. When any litter is thrown or discarded from a motor vehicle, the operator or owner of the motor vehicle, or both, shall be deemed in violation of this section; (b) in or on any freshwater lake, river, canal, or stream or tidal or coastal water of the state, in-

cluding canals. When any litter is thrown or discarded from a boat, the operator or owner of the boat, or both, shall be deemed in violation of this section; or (c) In or on any private property, unless prior consent of the owner has been given and unless such litter will not cause a public nuisance or be in violation of any other state or local law, rule, or regulation.

(6) PENALTIES; ENFORCEMENT.-- (a) Any person who dumps litter in violation of subsection (4) in an amount not exceeding 15 pounds in weight or 27 cubic feet in volume and not for commercial purposes is guilty of a non-criminal infraction, punishable by a civil penalty of \$50. In addition, the court may require the violator to pick up litter or perform other labor commensurate with the offense committed.

KAB’s 2009 National Visible Litter Survey and Litter Cost Study identified individual behavior as the primary contributor to litter in all locations. Individuals are littering on roads and highways and in retail, recreational, and residential locations:

Roadway Litter - Tobacco products, mostly cigarette butts, are the most littered item on U.S. roadways (38%). This is followed by paper (22%) and plastic (19%). Most of the litter on

roads and highways is caused by people. Research shows that littering along roadways is generated by the following individual actions: Motorists (52%); Pedestrians (22.8%); Improperly covered truck or cargo loads, including collection vehicles (16.4%); Improperly secured containers, dumpsters, trash cans or residential waste or recycling bins (1.5%)

Non-Roadway Litter – Off the roads and highways, litter originates from many sources, but litter primarily collects at “transition points”. Transition points are entrances to businesses, transportation, and other places where items must be discarded before entering. Confection (candy, chocolate, gum, etc.) ranks at the top (53.7%) of what is littered at transition points; this is followed by cigarette butts at 29.8%. Statistics obtained from KAB website: kab.org and search for Focus_litter_prevention.

In accordance with the Florida Litter Law, the Town of Lady Lake will be posting the following signage: Extinguishing and tossing cigarettes into trash cans or landscaping creates a fire hazard. Also, improper disposal on the streets, etc., is considered a littering violation. Do not dis-

(Continued on page 19)

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Ask The Chief

(Continued from page 18)

pose of butts in the streets, on the sidewalks, in the landscaping, or in the trash cans. You may be subject to receiving a citation from the Lady Lake Police Department. **As Per: Florida State Statute # 403.413 – Commonly known as “The Florida Litter Law”.**

Chief Nathanson has warned that, “...While voluntary compliance to this law is preferred, for those that make poor choices, the Lady Lake Police Department will be enforcing this law! We want to continually strive for our friendly community to reflect its beauty and cleanliness. Working together, we will be able to keep the Town of Lady Lake and America clean!”

Always remember that together we can make a positive difference!

Until next time - let's be safe out there!

Chief Ed Nathanson, Lady Lake Police Dept. □

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Our Gardening Column:

Holiday Plants

Now and Later

by Anne Lambrecht, Master Gardener
annegarden@embarqmail.com

Poinsettias - We all love poinsettias at holiday time: they are so pretty and relatively cheap and come in so many sizes and colors. They make the house look great. And doesn't it just boggle your mind to see them outdoors en masse in Florida's more southern places?

The poinsettia is a member of the Euphorbia family which basically means it has milky sap (which is irritating to some people). The red (or white or pink) part is not actually a flower; it is a colorful bract, or false flower, very much like the bougainvillea. The colorful part looks just like the other leaves. The flower is actually the little yellow dots in the middle (white dots in the bougainvillea). The plant is poisonous to some degree which just means don't let your animals or kids eat it.

Poinsettia "flowering" is photosensitive which means that flowers begin to form when the nights are long enough. Without long nights, this plant will continue to produce leaves and will grow but

will never flower (turn red). Even a lamp post light will interrupt this process. The ones we buy are grown in nurseries where the environment and light is controlled.

The poinsettia is from Mexico and this, therefore, is a clue that they do not like the cold. When the holidays are over, put the poinsettia on the porch or in the lanai (protected from cool air-they don't like under 55 degrees) and water once a week. Do not over water! Do not fertilize while it's in bloom. You will probably have leaves start to fall off but don't worry. Starting in January apply a household fertilizer once a month. In March cut back each of the old flowering stems to 4 to 6 inches in height right above the leaf node. This will promote new growth. March 10th is our last frost date and you can transplant them to a bigger pot or plant them outside in any exposure except due north where they won't get too much sun.

The University of Florida has "Poinsettia trials" each year in Gainesville. They grow and "try" different kinds for color, longevity and replantability, etc. They give you a clipboard with instructions and let you loose in their greenhouse. It's a wonderland of color, scent and warmth and it helps you get in the holiday spirit. You choose which in a certain group is your favorite. The Gators use this data to make a better poinsettia. After the trials, you get to shop! This year the Poinsettia Trials is December 8th and 9th. The greenhouses are located near Fifield Hall (horticultural center), up the street from the Natural History Museum, Performing Arts Center and the Butterfly House. For more information: <http://www.gatorpoinsettia.com/>

The Christmas Cactus is a nice plant for the holidays with their red, white, or pink blooms – some double, some single. They are bred to bloom at this time of year and some are bred to bloom in the spring (Easter Cactus). They grow large slowly and many have been in families for generations. They are succulents and members of the Zygocactus family, most of which are native to Central and South America.

Although they are called cactus, they are actually epiphytes (air plants) and are found where you would find orchids in the wild. You should water your cactus sparingly, especially when blooming. At other times, water the cactus thoroughly and let it dry out. Try to keep your cactus where it receives indoor indirect bright light during the day and total

(Continued on page 20)

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Gardening

(Continued from page 19)

darkness at night. They like the temperatures to be cool, also. And they like humidity to be about 50-60%. You could place a glass, vase or tray of water near the plant and as the water evaporates, it will provide the humidity the cactus needs. Start to fertilize in February and then regularly during the growing season with all purpose liquid houseplant fertilizer. It is very frustrating to get your cactus with lots of buds and have them fall off before they bloom. This is usually caused by over-watering, lack of humidity or insufficient light.

After the holiday season, the Christmas cactus should be given about a 30 day rest. Again place it in a cool room and provide limited water. Don't worry if it loses a few leaves or joints and appears weak during this rest period. This is not the time to pinch, prune or shape a Christmas cactus. The best time is when the new growth begins in March or early April.

Likewise, the best time for repotting a cactus is in February, March or April. However, keep in mind the plant will flower best if it's kept in a container where it's pot-bound. If your Christmas cac-

tus is given proper care and is placed in the right location, it's not unusual for it to flower several times throughout the year.

Holly Ilex species-If you have a holly in your yard, you are lucky – you have a great source of free greenery to decorate with. Holly sprigs last a very long time without water (about 2 weeks) and they will keep even longer in water. If you receive a balled holly tree for the holidays, it should not be kept for too long in a warm house or it may become bald. It can be planted outside any time.

Mini Norfolk Pine-Soft and tropical and extremely inexpensive, the potted Norfolk Pine usually comes decorated, an instant Christmas tree. After the holidays keep it watered regularly. Do not let it sit in water. After the holidays transplant to a bigger pot and keep it in a cool but humid place. It can be planted outside after frost is gone (March 10th) but put it in a protected location (it is extremely frost tender when it's young).

Rosemary-During the holidays, rosemary is usually found in conical shapes. They need to be kept moist but not overly wet or the roots will rot. Rosemary does not like heat from houses. Misting them now and then will prevent the needles from falling off.

After the holidays keep on your porch or lanai or in protected cooler area. Plant outside in late

February or March after the frost. Depending on the cultivar, rosemary will grow into a large shrub, is an attractor of many pollinators and should be able to survive our winters.

American Mistletoe-Ever see those round green clumps up in the trees in winter? They are mostly in the live oaks and many times in the dead live oaks. That's mistletoe.

Mistletoe is a "hemi" parasite (partial parasite) which means it does not take all it's nourishment from the host (they love oaks) because it makes photosynthesis. It grows from New Jersey to Florida. Mistletoe is the state flower of Oklahoma.

Mistletoe has pointy, green, leathery leaves with waxy berries that are either red or white. The berries are eaten by birds and when the birds leave their droppings on a tree branch, within six weeks the mistletoe plant begins growing. It takes root right in the branch of the oak.

When you look at the branch of the mistletoe, it looks just like a branch of the oak. In order to get it out of the tree's system, you need to cut 18" down from where the mistletoe branch attaches.

Mistletoe was sacred to the Druids and kissing beneath it echoes its ancient fertility symbolism. The Druids believed that because the plant was growing from dead branches, and stayed alive throughout the winter, it must have mystical and life giving (sexual) powers. They had no idea about the parasite thing going on.

Science is good and we need to have it to explain many things in our world but it's still fun to consider the mystical world.

So when someone holds a branch of mistletoe over your head (and the fake stuff doesn't count), go ahead and smooch away. I, for one, am going to put it all around the house.

Hopefully the Husband will get the hint.

Editor's Note: Please let your readers know if it worked in next month's issue! □

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

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All Things Fine - 1171 Main St., Spanish Springs, 259-7384. 10% off all regularly priced merchandise for POA members. Excludes sale items. Not valid with other offer.

Alpha & Omega Insurance Group - Auto, home, health, life, mobile homes. Any POA policy written receives \$25 gift card. Anna, 352-245-0267.

Andrew's Air Conditioning - \$25 off reg. \$75 service call, Free 2nd opinions; Call us today and let's talk! 352-552-4174.

Basile Drywall Repair - All phases of drywall repair. Licensed & insured. Call for free estimates. 10% POA member discount, 274-2396.

Beauty Consultant, Mary Kay - Cosmetics & Skin Care. Free Delivery. Any Size Order & 10% discount to POA members. 570-947-9017.

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

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

Chick-fil-A - 730 Hwy 441, N. Rolling Acres Plaza, 352-430-0223. Buy any breakfast meal and receive a free chicken biscuit.

Comfort Suites - 1202 Avenida Central, 352-259-6578. 25% POA discount through Dec 31, 2012. All reservations based on availability. Must call directly in advance for individual reservations.

Coral's Casual Patio & Fireplace - Across from Sam's Club. Free bottle of "Dew Not" with \$300 purchase or more. One per customer. 352-430-0115.

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

Custom Screens - All Repairs - 10% POA discount. Kenny 352-680-1836.

Decorating Den in The Villages - Creating beautiful rooms since 1969. 10% POA member discount - must mention this ad, 787-4603.

East Coast Flooring - 9180 S. Hwy 441, 352-307-9995, free gift w/ purchase. \$100 credit for any referral (Purchaser must state referral by a POA member).

Easy-Go Painting & Maintenance - Interior and Exterior, Power Washing, 10% POA discount starting at \$50, 753-6877.

Edible Arrangements - 11962 CR101, Palm Ridge Plaza, 352-391-1334. \$4.00 off over \$25.00.

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

Flags & Flag Poles - 211 S. Hwy. 27/441 next to Tire Round-up. 352-751-1876. \$5.00 off installation of new flag pole for POA members. Discount on cash or check orders only.

Friar Tax Preparation Service - Barney Madden - 10% POA Member Discount. 1544 Hillcrest Dr. Villages resident. 352-751-4435.

Funeral Planners Inc. - POA 10% discount off regularly priced funeral planning package or 15% off deceased identity theft protection service. Visit www.FuneralPlannersInc.com for more information.

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

(Continued on page 22)

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Discount Partners

(Continued from page 21)

Global Village Women - Custom ACEO prints of women with sweet words on the print. Free newsletter to POA members. Website (www.arrachmeart.com).

Gold Plating Plus+ - 24 karat gold plating for almost anything now chromed. Free estimates (most cars \$75-\$175). 20% POA member discount. 352-751-4322.

Golf Cart and Club Security System - Email us at yunk38@embarqmail.com, 391-9488. \$3.00 POA discount (approx 10%) for Golf Cart and Club Security device.

Golf Clubs & Bag Lock - Gator Jaws, \$30 each or 10% POA member discount off on 2 or more, 352-750-0488.

Grandma's Crafts & Treasures - Personalized gifts & custom embroidery, specializing in baby gifts. myshopping14@comcast.net, Rosemary, 352-350-7124. 10% POA discount.

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

Home Power Washing - Villages resident, 10% POA discount, Bob at 350-4746.

I. Stern & Co. - 10% off High Quality Golf Clothing, #200 Highway 484, Ocala. 352-307-4878.

Jackson Hewitt Tax Service - \$25 off tax preparation for POA members. Must present POA card. 888-282-1040.

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

Kiley & Sons Plumbing - 219 S Old Dixie Hwy, Lady Lake, 352-753-5301. 15% POA discounted labor on a Service Call. Valid on a minimum 1 hr of service.

Kitty Camp & Resorts - JUST for CATS...a Lovable Lakeside Cat Resort & Retirement Home. 15% Discount to POA Members. Call 352-205-4284

Kilwin's Chocolate and Ice Cream - 1108 Main Street, Spanish Springs, 352-430-3600. Buy two slices of fudge, get one slice free." One offer per family membership.

L. Rae Jewelry Appraisal Services - Certified Gemologist, Villages resident, Appt only, 10% POA member discount, 430-2991.

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

Minami Granite Designs Inc. - 1806 N.E. 2nd Avenue, Ocala FL. Free stainless steel sink with kitchen counter do-over. 352-671-9800.

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 offer per POA family.

Nature's Liquids - Natural liquid swimming pool & hot tub. SeaAloe and super fruits GT liquids for your whole body. naturesliquids@comcast.net—Call Diane 750-2246.

Odd's & Errands by Paula - 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 10% off.

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.

Preferred Financial Solutions, LLC - POA Members receive complimentary retirement income plan. 20+ years experience. 352-753-1967.

(Continued on page 23)

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Discount Partners

(Continued from page 22)

Snowbird Home Watch - We watch your home while you're away. \$40.00 per month; 10% discount to POA. 352-259-1143 or visit bikinbob36@aol.com.

Sonic Drive-In - Wal-Mart Shopping Center, 347-2860. Tuesday Nights: 5 single patty burgers for \$5 after 5 PM. Add-on at extra charge. Wednesday Nights: One Half price single patty burgers; 99¢ single topping sundaes. Valid only at Summerfield.

Sparr Building and Farm Supply - At the corner of Hwy 44 & Signature Drive, Wildwood. 352-330-1718. 10% POA member discount on fertilizer, water softener salt & pool supplies. Sale items excluded.

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

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

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

* **Tornado Shelters of Florida, LLC** - Two day installation in garage floor or carport. POA member discount of 5% through Dec 31. Call Pat Tripp at 352-702-6386.

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

Tri-County Tile & Home Improvements - Lake County Resident & Home Improvement for 25 years. Call 978-3556. 15% Discount (on labor) to POA Members.

Ultimate Handyman Services - 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 for POA members. Not valid with other special offers or if in Vic's complementary bus.

Villages Apparel - Southern Trace Shopping Center, 352-750-1600. 10% POA member discount off custom screen printing, minimum order 25 shirts.

Villages Car Wash and Lube - Bichara Blvd, La Plaza Grande Center, 352-753-

1306. \$1 POA member discount off the regular price of silver or gold wash.

Villagers Home Watch - Call us at 352-750-2522. 10% POA discount off regular monthly rate of \$44 for first three months of service for POA members.

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

Wholesale Computer Components - Terrace Shoppes Spruce Creek, Summerfield, across from Wal-Mart, 352-245-1500. \$15 POA member discount on any computer repair. □

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