



Issue 39.10

October, 2013

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Champions of Residents' Rights Since 1975

The POA Website – www.poa4us.org

Questions & Answers August Forum

1) The golf cart path around the circle at Morse/El Camino Real gate is dangerous. I think we need ONE-WAY signs. A) This concern has been expressed on several occasions. The posts in the middle of the path make golf cart operators unfamiliar with this circle think that it is two-way traffic. We will see that it is addressed by the AAC again.

2) We have a concern about recent home break-ins in Mallory Square along Bishopville Loop and its adjoining streets. The concern is the lack of any notification by authorities that there have been numerous events in a short period of time to allow us to be on the alert for further events. These are not even included in the weekly "Incident Reports" in the Daily Sun. Events that we are aware of include two home invasions including thefts, theft of a car from the driveway while the residents were home, theft of a GPS from a car in the villas and at least one other attempted auto break in. We realize the desire to keep everything "happy" in The Villages, but if there is a threat to the residents, do we not have a right to be advised so we can be good citizens and keep a watch out for our neighbors as well as ourselves? Who is responsible for communicating such information to the residents? In addition, I spoke with a Community Watch driver yesterday to see if he had information regarding the events. He stated "they tell us nothing". Why would Community Watch not be put on notice what to look

for? A) We agree with you completely. We live in a community where the Developer "controls" the media. The POA tries to publicize it when we hear of an incident and have it confirmed by the Sheriff's office. We would suggest that when you become aware of an incident you first contact the County Sheriff's office and confirm that the incident did occur. (Please do this before you send out an email 'broadcast'.) There are some basic things that all of us should know not to do. For example, never leave anything of value, especially a purse or a GPS, visible on the seat or floor of your vehicle, never leave your keys in your car whether it is in your ga-

(Continued on page 2)

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

POA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Third Tuesday of the Month – 7:00 PM

Laurel Manor Recreation Center

**"What's New In
District Government"**

Presented by

Janet Y. Tutt, District Manager
Village Community Development Districts

Audio and Visual in Overflow Room

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FOR ALL AFTER THE MEETING

All Residents Welcome - Come and Join Us!

OCTOBER EVENTS

Tuesday, October 8, 2013

Spanish Springs Town Square

Mary Jo Vitale Performs at 2:30PM

Italian-American Parade - 3:30PM

Italian Festival - 5PM



Tuesday, October 22, 2013

Spanish Springs Town Square

German-American Parade - 3:30PM

Oktoberfest - 5PM



See you at the parades and the festivals
this month in Spanish Springs!!

Questions & Answers

(Continued from page 1)

rage, driveway or on your street and never leave your garage door open unattended. Do not make it easy on the ‘would be criminal’. We must remember that not everyone who lives in The Villages is a 55 year old and up who has worked many years to gain his/her retirement status. We have homeowners who rent their homes to 30 - 35 year olds and residents who have young adult children living with them who do not have the same value system that 99% of Village residents have - BUT STILL, THEY ARE OUR NEIGHBORS. We have a certain responsibility to protect ourselves, but we also believe that law enforcement needs to help us get this information out to the public, even if the media will not, and we are working with Lt. Wolfe to make this information available to the residents.

3) Is it true that Community Watch really does not know what is going on and simply drives around? A) They are a presence and serve a patrol function. They are not really on the hook to necessarily notice anything and rarely ever get out of their truck. They are not law enforcement. If you have someone that you are concerned with in your neighborhood you should call the County Sheriff’s office or 911 and report that there is a SUSPICIOUS person - the key word is SUSPICIOUS - or advise them that you FELT THREATENED and they will most likely send out a deputy to check it out.

4) Wasn’t there a time when golf carts could cross 27/441 and, if not, if you can cross it on a bicycle, wheel chair, walker or any other way, why don’t they let golf carts cross at traffic lights? A) The State Legislature recently

amended the statutes to allow a County to give permission for golf carts to cross a roadway at a specific traffic light. Marion County recently granted permission for a golf cart crossing at the Spruce Creek traffic light.

5) My question involves Janet Tutt. According to articles in the media, she claims that she is the District Manager and does not work for the Developer. What is the “District”? To whom is she responsible? Who hired her and does she represent the residents at all? A) She is in a Catch 22 as would be anybody in her position with the way the Village Center Community Development District (VCCDD) is set up and operates. She is hired and if desired would be fired by the VCCDD Board of Supervisors. We all know that those are the people that are “elected” by the Developer because he is the major property owner in that District. Each of the residential Community Development Districts CDDs 1–10 have a choice. They can hire their own District Manager. However, that would be unsound financially for 10 individual CDDs. Ms. Tutt is actually the District Manager for the three commercial districts, all 10 residential districts as well as the various water utility companies. She has a BIG JOB and she is actually a tremendous administrator. There are times when she is put in a position – an untenable position – where she is representing the residents (AAC and numbered districts), but the fact remains, she is hired by the Developer’s Board – the VCCDD. So, as much as she would attempt to not let that affect her actions, if you are human, there are going to potentially be some instances where it does come into play. That is why the POA position is that it is extremely important that our resident elected CDD and AAC board members do their homework. They need to get into the grunt work and exam-

(Continued on page 7)

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, unslanted 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 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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Paradise Wall Status

The wall was taken down shortly after the August 19th Town of Lady Lake Commission Meeting. There was no further activity until Friday, September 13th when some of the old concrete structures, as well as the 'pieces' of the wall which had been erected and then dismantled, were removed.

In spite of all the angst expressed when the wall was put up without any notice to residents using the opening regularly, golf cart traffic was restricted for over an hour in the middle of the hot, humid afternoon - AGAIN WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. Residents who had done their weekly grocery shopping had to deal with melted ice cream, butter, etc., as well as the heat, while sitting in a long line of golf carts waiting to pass through the gate area.

We learned that Leesburg Regional Medical Center has agreed to pay for replacing the gate, and that one of the Developer's contractors will do the work. It was announced that a Villages ID card reader will be used at the gate and that there will not be a push button option.

The POA contacted a representative of the Developer and requested that a sign be put up two days before the scheduled gate installation to alert the residents of the date and advise them that there may be temporary closures. □

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THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE POA

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 annual POA memberships and also for the many new members who have joined with us as a way of supporting Residents' Rights for all Villagers. The POA membership year runs from January 1 through December 31. Below is a membership application for the **2014** calendar year. We will begin processing the 2014 applications on November 1st. (Note that we place a monthly Bulletin on the driveway of all residents, not just current POA members, so if you have not sent in a membership check in the last 12 months, you are not an active member of the

POA. - Do not confuse us with the VHA which offers you a lifetime membership when you arrive in The Villages.)

Our mission is to keep each of you informed of facts about issues which may not have been clearly or fully presented in other media. Current 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 Alerts informing them of any matters that we believe they should be aware of on a timelier basis than what our monthly Bulletin can provide.

See you at the October 15th meeting! □

THE POA HAS YOUR BACK – DO YOU HAVE OURS?

POA 2014 Membership – New / Renewal and Contribution Form

Please complete each section and return to: **The POA, P.O. Box 386, Oxford, FL 34484**

New Renewal Number of People in Household

PLEASE PRINT!

NAME(S)(1) _____
(SAME LAST NAME)

NAME(S)(2) _____
(DIFFERENT LAST NAME)

ADDRESS _____

VILLAGE _____ VILLAGES ID# _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

(We respect your privacy. Your email address is for POA Official use ONLY)

1. MEMBERSHIP NEW/RENEWAL: Please enroll my POA membership for 2014 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)

I will include a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** with this form and my check. Please mail my Membership Card to me At the address above.

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) **3. TOTAL DUE:** _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

Dues Paid Date _____ (Office Use Only)

Ways We Can Help Prevent Crime

Joe Pine, from Metro Crime Prevention of Florida, a non-profit community service organization developed by former law enforcement officers, spoke at the August POA meeting and provided the audience with up-to-date information on all aspects of the current crime problems. Some of the highlights are as follows:

1) What is the Vial/File of Life program? Actually, it has been around for 28 years, but it is not well known. It is free and you can pick up the Vial of Life at the Lake and Sumter County Sheriff's Offices, or the File of Life at the Marion County Sheriff's office. The Vial of Life is a pill bottle and the File of Life is a magnetic envelope which goes on the front of your refrigerator. Both contain the same information. In Sumter County you can get a sticker that goes on your front door or window which identifies that you are in the Vial/File of Life program. The information you fill out about you and anybody else in your household goes inside the vial or envelope. Then, when EMS arrives and you are unconscious or cannot talk, the vial/file will do the talking for you. It tells who you are, who to contact, the doctors of your choice, medications you are taking, things you are allergic to, etc.

2) What if I am away from my home and something happens to me? Years ago they came up with the HELP program – the Health Emergency Life Program. They have a little sheet of paper designed to go under your driver's license. If you have a medical incident the very best thing EMS can do for you if they know nothing about you and you are unconscious is to put you on the stretcher and take you to the hospital because they cannot administer anything because you may be allergic to it. The time lapse of getting you to the hospital can mean the difference between life and death, but if law enforcement is on the scene they will be looking for your wallet and run your driver's license. Reading the driver's license, they will see the HELP document which provides who you are, who to call, doctors with their phone numbers, allergies you might have, etc.

3) Caller ID on your telephone. Do you realize that from anywhere in the world criminals can call you and insert the name they want you to see and the number they want to appear on that caller ID. The call goes like this – 'Hey (your first name) How are you? This is ----- at the Medicare office.' When victim hesitates caller says 'do you have caller ID? – Look at it – can you read it?' 'No, there is nothing wrong with your Medicare card, I'm calling because the law is changing so you need another card to go along with it.' – It begins to sound so real

and you start to give the criminal info in order to get your additional card – having the "Comfort?????" of having seen the caller identified as Medicare. REMEMBER, regardless of what is shown on the caller ID, no legitimate company will ever call you and ask for personal information unless YOU initiated a call to them.

4) There are many scams out there such as a call advising you that you have won a trip, etc. Remember that if it's too good to be true – **IT IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!!!!**

5) Facebook! Why do people put info such as, 'we're going on a cruise', etc. which tells the world their home will be vacant? Here's what we know now. Our U.S. Government is using Facebook to check up on individuals. Did you know that the IRS has been doing that for years? What should concern us now is that employers, by the hundreds of thousands are using Facebook to do background checks on applicants for a job. If you are going to use Facebook, use it wisely.

6) GPS – When you put an address in for the HOME icon, never put in your real address. If the GPS is stolen by someone in one of the large criminal networks, especially when you are on vacation, they will have someone in their network close enough to your address to contact so that they can burglarize your home while you are away. So, never list your address in the home slot – a good one to use in The Villages is

(Continued on page 5)

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Help Prevent Crime

(Continued from page 4)

one of the Sheriff's offices, as we can all get home from there and they will have a legitimate address that can be picked up by the GPS.

7) If you keep your outside lights on at night, you may think it is safer, but it is a fact today that 67% of all break-ins happen between 8 am and 4 pm – in broad daylight. Forget the lights that are on all the time, and invest in motion lights, especially for the back of your home, then you have an advantage. You know your lot, but the criminal does not, so keep it as dark as you can. The light going on will usually scare them away because they are not sure what else is going to happen – i.e., an alarm sounding.

8) It is true that there is a very low crime rate in The Villages. If you assume that there is one crime a year in The Villages, just think that if that crime happened to YOU, the statistic would be meaningless. You need to know that most crimes are preventable. Concerning your homes – security systems seem to be a way of life. Are they worth the investment? Should it be a priority in our budgets? Did you know that 70% of the residents in homes with a security system are living with a false sense of security? Criminals can beat most low cost systems with a small tool which will break glass easily, eradicating the effectiveness of contacts on the doors and windows. □

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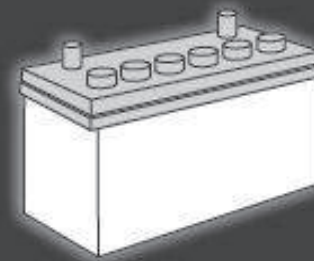
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AAC Meeting Summary September 11, 2013

Old Business Topics Included:

- The Committee was advised that construction has begun and a safety fence has been installed around Paradise Park Area A (on the east side of HWY 27/441 – includes the dog park, the archery range and access to the golf cart bridge). The project includes construction of 6 Petanque courts, construction of new restrooms and improved cart circulation and pedestrian paths. Completion is estimated to be around mid-January 2014.
- Kimley-Horn reported that the Woodshop parking area project has been completed. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is being planned.
- The AAC approved Individual Project Order No. 12, tasks 1 through 6 (Design Survey, Geotechnical Testing, Construction Plans and Permitting, Bidding Assistance, Construction Phase Administration and Closeout Administrative Services) for Paradise Park Area B (on the east side of HWY 27/441, north of the archery range and south of Wales Plaza). Current plans call for en-

hanced landscaping and irrigation, a walking path, a golf pitching area and car and golf cart parking. Space has also been allocated for a possible playground area and adult exercise stations in the future.

- Staff reviewed a possible conceptual plan for a recreation center facility at the former El Santiago Club restaurant, which included some of the items received from the public input session. Committee members will be provided an opportunity to individually tour the gutted structure. Residents continued their pressure to have the AAC figure out a way to have some level of food service available at the former restaurant.
- The AAC directed staff to proceed with the Scope of Work in support of the resident requested Option 2 layout for the Tierra Del Sol recreation center addition. The Committee also agreed to allow staff to continue discussions with the Developer regarding the possible conversion of the main room of the Tierra Del Sol Restaurant into a recreation center (see related article on page 8).
- Staff advised that based on further discussions with The Villages Technology Solutions Group, the estimated cost for fiber optic connectivity to entry gates north of CR466 has been reduced from an estimated \$633,416 down to approximately \$400,000. An additional \$122,000 cost saving will be realized by eliminating the need to purchase servers at every gate to support the cameras. Also, there will be an annual operational cost reduction of \$34,000 due to the elimination of phone lines. The AAC directed staff to proceed.

New Business:

- The AAC approved the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Budgets for the Recreational Amenities Division Fund (\$41,513,238) and the Mulberry Fitness Fund (\$146,028).
- Staff advised that a committee will be formed to work with leagues, health professionals and the District’s Risk Manager to review the policy pertaining to participation in summer activities and high temperatures.

Consent Agenda:

- Approved change orders #1 and #2 for the Woodshop Parking Area Improvement Project.

- Recommended approval of a Number of Annual Renewal Agreements
- Recommended approval of the Agreement with OMI for Operation and Management of irrigation pump stations.
- Recommendation of continuation of “piggyback” agreement with Volusia County Bid #07-B-111FW for Auction Services with George Gideon Auctioneers, Inc.
- Recommended approval to utilize the Agreement with Miami-Dade County and PESCO for natural gas services.
- Recommended award of RFP #14P-014 for security gate services to Royce Parking Control Systems, Inc.
- Recommended approval of Amendment Eight to the Management Agreement with Golf Management Solutions, Inc.
- Recommended approval of Renewal Two and Amendment Five to the Agreement with ValleyCrest Landscape Maintenance, Inc. for landscape and irrigation maintenance of VCCDD areas of District 2.
- Recommended approval of Renewal Three and Amendment Three to the Agreement with ValleyCrest Landscape Maintenance, Inc. for landscape and irrigation maintenance for executive golf courses, recreation centers and softball fields via the Chatham Maintenance Facility.

Reports and Input:

- One Committee member requested a clarification of information provided at the August meeting regarding an Assisted Living and Independent Living facility located near CR466A. The AAC was advised at the August meeting that only 25 units of the facility would have access to The Villages amenity system. Recent advertisements by the facility as well as resident phone calls to the facility have indicated that all their units (200-225) will have access to the amenity facilities. District Manager Tutt assured meeting attendees that the facility would only be allowed access for 25 units and that any marketing information to the contrary is in error.
- The Committee discussed an offer from the Developer to allow control of the multi-use trail located under the power lines running

(Continued on page 7)

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AAC Meeting

(Continued from page 6)

between the Briar Wood/Walnut Grove and Nancy Lopez golf courses, to transfer to the AAC. Committee members requested a map to better understand the location.

PLEASE GO TO THE www.districtgov.org WEBSITE FOR THE OFFICIAL MINUTES, AGENDAS AND MEETING SCHEDULE.

NEXT AAC MEETING – WEDNESDAY October 9th, 9:00 A.M. AT THE SAVANNAH CENTER. □

Questions & Answers

August Forum

(Continued from page 2)

ine the issues on their own when decisions are being made, because there are situations where the Developer's interest and that of the residents may be in conflict. An example might be, the recent purchase of the El Santiago restaurant for \$350,000 of our amenity fees. (We wonder how many of the AAC members actually took the time to read the appraisals and their assumptions and the report of the Building Inspector.) We were very disappointed that the resident elected members of the AAC (except for Rich Lam-

brecht) did not vote to table the issue and have the property reappraised once it became known that the building did not have any guaranteed parking which surely would have decreased its market value. We also were concerned that even though the Building Inspector had said that the building should be evaluated for environmental issues and checked due to the gutting of the entire interior of the building was also ignored. Resident elected members of the CDDs and the AAC need to realize the "Catch 22" position that the District Manager is in when the issues involve the Developer, and Resident Board members need to be extremely diligent when evaluating issues such as this. □

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Déjà vu, Again

AAC Asked to Consider Purchasing Tierra Del Sol Restaurant Building

As the AAC prepared to move forward on the long debated expansion plan to the Tierra Del Sol Recreation Facility, the Developer came forward with a last minute proposal to have the AAC purchase the Tierra Del Sol restaurant building instead. While the details are somewhat sketchy and not definite from the Developer at this point, the proposal would apparently have the current restaurant shrink down to fit into the bar and patio area. The Developer would then split the main restaurant room into multiple meeting rooms similar to what the planned expansion to the recreation facility would have accomplished. The AAC, using our amenity fees, would purchase the entire restaurant and pro shop structures from the Developer and then lease out the pro shop to Golf Management Solutions (GMS) and the kitchen, bar and patio to the current restaurant lessee. The Developer’s sale price for the restaurant/pro shop facilities and the interior remodeling would be set to equal what the AAC plans to spend on a new facility. As of the September 11, 2013, AAC meeting, the Developer was still not cer-

tain of his offer.

While the AAC voted to proceed with the Scope of Service for the resident approved new construction (Option 2), a majority of the Committee directed staff to also proceed with further discussions with the Developer. While both options would provide somewhat similar capabilities for resident activities, the Developer option would also provide a revenue stream (lease payments from the restaurant and GMS). On the other hand, the revenue stream is not guaranteed. Who knows how much longer a reduced restaurant facility can survive at this remote location (remember the Silver Lake Club, Chula Vista Restaurant and the El Santiago Club) and at any time GMS could decide to close the pro shop and simply collect greens’ fees at the starter shack. Then the AAC would be left with the cost of maintaining a **15 year old facility rather than new construction**, where the roof, HVAC, wiring, plumbing, etc., would all be brand new and the scent would be “new construction.” Additionally, if the restaurant building is purchased, the amenity funds would then be required to maintain the entire parking lot rather than just the one-third they are now responsible to maintain..

The residents of the area have expressed that they believe they would be best served with the Option 2 plan in a new building that they have

spent almost a year reviewing and tuning. We would hope that the AAC, if the Developer does offer to sell them the Tierra Del Sol restaurant will execute “due diligence” in reviewing the proposal. We do not believe this was the case with the recent El Santiago Restaurant (ESR) purchase. While the AAC paid to have a building inspection done of ESR, they ignored the inspector’s findings. In the report the inspector, commenting on the “guttled” condition of the building, stated “... no reported disclosures or significant historic events that would lead to the condition found here. There is possibly more information but yet undisclosed for this inspection.”

If you had been purchasing this building would you have asked for this information from the seller? The inspection report also pointed out “... a real concern with drainage on the West side of the building ...”. As a potential buyer would you have looked into the magnitude of this problem and the cost of remediation? With regard to the interior, the inspector mentioned concern over “... extensive rework and repair to the original.” The inspector speculated on the cause “... to repair for water damage? Mold? Decay? Insect damage, functional obsolescence? We can only guess.”

As a potential buyer would you have asked for an explanation from the seller? In the inspection report Conclusion, the inspector wrote “... the design professionals will have to address environmental/health concerns. The presence of water stains, black mold growth, slight wood decay (non-structural) insect and vermin history, etc. all lead to recommending further investigation for environmental issues. Again, as a buyer would you have followed up on this recommendation?”

The AAC never discussed these conclusions and did not have an environmental inspection done. In addition to ignoring the inspection report they had done, the AAC accepted appraisals that had an incorrect assumption regarding available parking for valuation of the ESR property. A correction of this error **would likely have reduced the appraisals substantially**. Finally, if you were purchasing this building would you have gotten the building reappraised once you were advised that the appraisers did not know that the parking lot access was guar-

(Continued on page 9)



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Déjà vu, Again

(Continued from page 8)
anted?

So, if the AAC does get involved with the purchase of another building from the Developer, we hope this time they take the same steps any of us would take if we were spending our own money and not rush to purchase a facility no one else has expressed any interest in. □

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Chief Tucker's Presentation on Fire Safety Q&A

1) Is there any evidence that a community with underground electrical utilities is more or less prone to lightning strikes than those with overhead utilities. A) I am not aware of any studies, but I can tell you that we have had at least one underground gas line which has been struck by lightning. The biggest concern for fire departments with above ground electrical utilities is not so much lightning strikes as it is lines going down with trees falling on them.

2) I am concerned about all the advertising I see about dryer vent cleaning to prevent fires. Would you recommend that we have that done? I am from the northeast and I have never seen an advertisement for cleaning out a dryer vent. A) There are a number of companies around here that provide this service. I recommend strongly that you do this on a regular basis, preferably annually, because that lint is so fine and so much heat goes through there that there is always the potential to start a fire.

3) If my house would get struck by lightning, should I turn off the gas main? Should I

turn off the electrical box? A) We would prefer that you get out of the house first, but IF you can safely turn the gas main off, it could be beneficial. One of the things residents can put on their gas line is an excess flow valve which will react to an increase of the pressure showing excess flow. This will cause the valve to automatically shut off the gas. Make sure that if you elect to use this valve that you have it installed by a properly licensed and bonded installer who is trained to do the installation.

4) I have a gas golf cart and I keep two gas containers in my garage. Are there any specific things that I should know. A) There are gas cans that have safety mechanisms on them in case they are tipped over and that also keep them from over-heating and becoming a danger. The main thing is to keep gasoline away from ignition. Additionally, keep it away from things like pilot lights and anything that might spark. In regard to storing gasoline in your garage, limit the amount that you store. It is recommended that you not keep more than one "usage" worth of extra gas.

5) There was a recent golf cart fire in front of Chula Recreation Center. Was it electric or gas which caused it to melt down? A) I believe it was an electric golf cart and again that was one of those where we looked for the area of

origin of the fire but because of the extent of the damage we were not able to ascertain whether it was something that the manufacturer did. However, I can tell you that most of the time that we look at electrical golf cart fires, most of the time it usually has to do with a 'man' who has a screwdriver, a pocket knife and duct tape and nothing to do with the manufacturer. It is often due to something a golf cart owner has done such as adding a set of lights, a radio or some other accessory. □

District Meeting Schedule Changes

The three Boards which control the expenditure of your amenity fees, commencing October, 2013, will have new meeting days, times and or locations. They are as follows:

Residents North of CR466:

AAC – Amenity Authority Committee – 9:00 a.m. on the Wednesday before the 2nd Friday of the Month

VCCDD – Village Center Community Development District – 2:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before the 2nd Friday of the Month

Residents South of CR466:

SLCDD – Sumter Landing Community Development District – 10:00 a.m. – on the Thursday before the 3rd Friday of the Month □

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Golf Cart Crashes

Recent reports (**ONLY THOSE THAT INVOLVED EJECTION, FALLING OUT OF THE GOLF CART, AND/OR INJURIES are provided**) that we have received from Village residents, Public Safety, and area law enforcement. (Note: we cannot guarantee that the information we receive is completely accurate about all the details.)

USE OF SEAT BELTS WILL KEEP YOU IN YOUR CART!

Sunday, August 18th – 2:10 pm – A golf cart was stopped in the southbound lane on Morse Boulevard near the Hacienda Country Club with the driver signaling her intention to turn left on DeSilva Street, when the golf cart was struck in the rear by a 2006 Toyota Avalon. **BOTH PEOPLE IN THE GOLF CART WERE EJECTED ON IMPACT (NEITHER WERE WEARING A SEAT BELT)**. According to the District Public Safety Department Officials paramedics issued **trauma alerts for both victims** who were taken to Ocala Regional Trauma Center. According to FHP troopers, the failure of the Toyota to stop was ruled the cause of the crash and that speed was not a factor. The driver of the Toyota was cited for careless driving. A wit-

ness on the scene stated that blood and debris could be seen on the street and that both victims appeared to have shoulder injuries and severe head trauma.

As can be seen from the picture below there was relatively little damage to the golf cart and that even a "slow" collision between auto and cart can have major consequences. The POA urges residents to please consider the use of seat belts to prevent ejection when driving on the roadways.



Monday, August 19th – 7:35 am – A golf cart operator traveling east on San Marino Drive did not observe vehicle in front of her attempting to turn left and took an evasive action and over steered. She crossed the westbound lane of San Marino and the front wheels struck the north curb, causing the cart to overturn onto its right side. The **driver fell out** and sustained injuries and was **trauma alerted** to Ocala Regional Trauma Center.

Friday, August 30th – 4:50 pm – Golf cart driver was on the recreation trail southeast of the intersection of Buena Vista Blvd. and Stillwater Trail at a point on the trail where the curbing on the west side curves eastward into the pathway to circumvent a tree. The driver stated he heard a roaring sound emanating from another golf cart that was passing him, which caused him to turn and look back. As he returned his gaze to the front, his right front wheel hit that section of the curbing causing him to be **EJECTED** from the cart and the cart to tip over onto its left side. He received multiple abrasions and possible fractures and was **trauma alerted** to the Ocala Regional Trauma Center. □



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Attention CDD6 Residents

The Village Community Development District No. 6 will host a State of the District Meeting on Monday, October 7, 2013, at 6:00pm in the Lake Miona Regional Recreation Center, Enterprise Room. The State of the District will include an opportunity to learn interesting facts, and to understand the governance of your District, its operations and financial picture in addition to an opportunity to meet your elected officials and District staff who provide your services. Residents will also have an opportunity to ask questions of the District Supervisors. CDD6 includes the following Villages: Ameilia; Bridgeport at Miona Shores; Bridgeport at Lake Sumter,; Bridgeport at Lake Shore Cottages; Caroline; Largo; Mallory Square; Tall Trees; and Virginia Trace.

For more information, contact Jennifer McQueary, District Clerk at 352-751-6700. □

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Governance Improvement Workshop Rescheduled

The Governance Improvement Workshop, originally scheduled for August 30, 2013, has been rescheduled to Monday, October 21, 2013, at 1:30pm, at the SeaBreeze Recreation Center. If you have any questions, please contact the District Clerk at 751-6700. □

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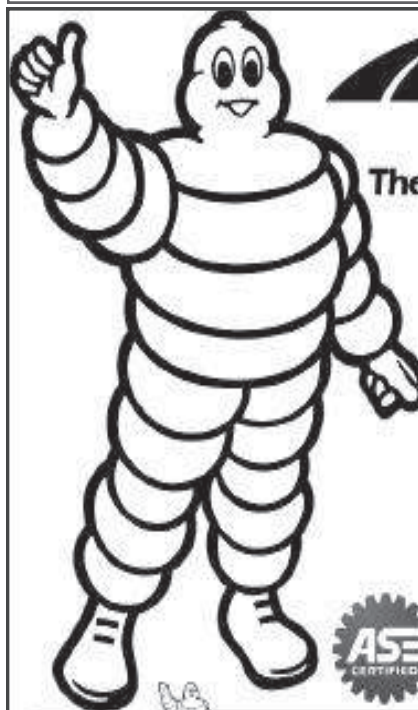
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IRS Update

On August 23, 2013, Village Center Community Development District (VCCDD) Attorney Perry Israel wrote a letter to the IRS Associate Chief Counsel (Financial Institutions & Products) requesting relief under IRS Code (7805b) from the previously received Technical Advice Memorandum (TAM) which concluded that the VCCDD was not a political subdivision within the meaning of the Treasury Regulations for the following reasons:

“1) The TAM’s conclusion that an entity must be “controlled” by a State or local government is contrary to prior case law and rulings and presents a novel theory that should not be applied retroactively...

2) The ruling that the Center District is not a political subdivision because the property is owned or controlled by a single developer is startling and inconsistent with prior precedent and practice...

3) The proposition set forth in the TAM that provides the basis for its conclusion that a political subdivision must be accountable through a ‘democratic process’ that can only be effected through a ‘general electorate’ is both a wholly new concept not previously identified or applied in any existing precedent and directly con-

trary to existing Supreme Court decisions...

4) The determination in the TAM is surprising and novel in its inconsistency with a long standing financing practice that has been expressly recognized by the U.S. Congress...

5) The TAM applies a novel approach with no apparent precedent as reflected in the significant number of similar bond issue structures that are common throughout the nation...

6) Other bases may exist that warrant Code section 7805(b) relief... (A redacted footnote in the TAM)

7) The fact that the Center District’s bonds were previously audited and no question was raised concerning its status as a political subdivision provides further equitable persuasion that the TAM should not be applied retroactively...

8) A significant change in analysis and conclusion of law as set forth in the TAM warrants promulgation of Treasury regulations and application of Code section 7805(b)...”

Mr. Israel concludes that, “The Center District continues to believe that the TAM is incorrectly decided (as well as that the TAM misstates what are taken by the TAM to be important facts leading to its conclusion). As a result the TAM should be withdrawn. However, at the very least, the Center District urges that this situation is very appropriate for relief under Code section 7805(b) and that the rationale

and conclusions of the TAM should not be applied retroactively to bonds previously issued by the District.” (POA added emphasis).

The complete document as well as all other documents related to the IRS matter can be found on the District website – districtgov.org – left hand column click on IRS Updates. □

The New Villages Health System

A partnership between the Villages and USF (University of South Florida).

The Goal: to make The Villages America’s healthiest hometown.

(Submitted by Jim Stickel- jstick1322@gmail.com)

If you haven’t heard something about this system, you’re probably not a Village resident. But if you are informed, you, like many, have a number of questions you’d like to get answers to. Although we’ve been inundated (maybe bombarded) with data published by the Villages newspaper or the Villages Homeowners Group or presented in any number of forums, there are still lingering questions and this begs the question - Is the goal a promise, a hope or just hype?

(Continued on page 15)

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New Health System

(Continued from page 14)

During the month of October, 2013, the Civil Discourse Club will be hosting open sessions (each Monday of October at either Colony or Savannah, it'll be listed in the Recreation News each Thursday) to discuss and analyze the implications of the paradigm shift proposed by the Villages Health System. The sessions will be in pairs. The 1st session, held on the first Monday (10/7), will be repeated a week later and the 2nd session held the on the third Monday (10/21) and will be repeated a week later.

Why more discourse about a topic that has been hammered and promoted to a level unprecedented in the Villages? The answer, to have an open, bottom-up independent discussion, the goal of which is to examine the issues of concern and hopefully feed the data back to the partnership. The goal, America's healthiest hometown, although laudable, sounds a lot like another goal – Florida's friendliest hometown.

As a resident I didn't know that we were in a contest to be the friendliest people in Florida so whether we won or not didn't matter. However, being the healthiest in America is a superb goal, albeit difficult to measure, and I want to know how that will be achieved and how do I become a part of it.

If, like most, you think Health Care in the U.S. is complex, contradictory, and often exasperating to both patient and provider, then if nothing else, as a good citizen, you, like the Villages Health, will want to be a change agent to get health care on the right track.

To sum up, the Civil Discourse discussion will address, in part 1, what the new paradigm for primary care is about and part 2 will examine how one gets signed-up to be part of the program. After all we'd all like to be part of the healthiest hometown in America.

For more information you can send an email to civildiscourse1@gmail.com. □

LETTERS

Letter to the Editor:

Wondering Why - Q&R

(Elaine Dreidame's responses "R" in italics)

I wonder why the POA's (your) position (regarding the erection of the wall) was to get a lawyer involved. **R)** *Due to the fact that the*

POA officers have no relationship with any of the Developer's significant employees by their choice, not ours, our only means of communication is via the attorney who represented us in the class action lawsuit. Our intent was to make sure that the Developer realized the tremendous number of residents that were negatively impacted by this action and to urge him to find another solution to whatever problem it was that he was trying to solve.

It seems to me that the POA's position is always presented as an adversarial response to everything the Developer does. **R)** *In this instance, our position was dismay at the lack of notice the Developer provided to the users of this golf path, but we, from the beginning, stated that there could be a legitimate reason for his action and that was why we were trying to communicate with his representatives, which we were able to do.*

I find it surprising that you would try to take credit for the excellent solution recommenda-

(Continued on page 16)

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Letter to the Editor (continued):

Wondering Why...

(Continued from page 15)

tion presented to the Developer by the VHA. **R)** The POA was there to urge the Developer to come up with an acceptable solution, but we never attempted to take credit for the proposed solution.

Your solution was to organize a "rally", work up all the residents, and get a lawyer, rather than meet with the Developer to discuss a solution alternative. **R)** As stated above, the Developer's personnel will not speak with us directly, but **THE POA HAD ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH THE RALLY OR 'WORKING UP THE RESIDENTS'**. I was in Ohio when all of this evolved and did not know anything about it until Sunday - I was asked to show the support of the POA for the wall to be removed by my presence at the residents' rally which I did. I asked to speak to calm the crowd with our position that we needed to hear from the Developer why it was necessary, but, if it was not a legitimate reason we would stand behind the residents in their desire to have golf cart access to the medical facilities even if it required legal action on the part of the POA.

I suspect you might have been behind getting the TV News organizations to put community in

such a negative light. **R)** I assure you I had nothing to do with the organization of the rally or the contact of the media, I simply attended to let the residents know that the POA heard their angst, and suggested to the crowd that we determine what the reason was before they jumped to conclusions. (You can ask anyone that was there.) We wanted to help solve the problem - we believed the residents were entitled to have access to their medical facilities.

When are you going to change your negative attitude and constant attack of practically everything the Developer does to make our community the best in the country? I can certainly see why you have so much trouble communicating with the Developer when all you do is publish (ad nauseam) nothing but negative press every month in your POA newsletter. **R)** The Developer is a great businessman and there are times when his best interests are not those of the residents. It is in these situations that we are "negative". (The fact that the Developer settled the lawsuit for some \$40+M, plus agreed to the creation of the AAC should at least enlighten everyone to the fact that he does make mistakes - like any of us.)

Why don't you report about the benevolent work our Developer does for the residents. How about telling all your readers about the \$125,000 he paid to resurface the parking lot at

The Villages Wood Shop... **R)** This is a misrepresentation of the facts of the way things actually work in The Villages. The recent enlargement and resurfacing of that parking lot was paid for by the amenity fees of the residents living north of CR466... and how he paid for the building, equipment, and utilities to make this great facility for us Villagers to enjoy. **R)** For the record, each resident pays an 'infrastructure bond' on their home which pays for these kinds of improvements - and the amenity fees pay for the recreation facilities and services. While we appreciate this beautiful community that the Developer has created, it is the current residents who are paying the bills. Further, it has always been the POA's charter to stand behind and uphold the Residents' Rights. Our organization helps to insure that we will continue to provide this benefit to all the residents of The Villages.

By the way I will not be renewing my POA membership this year. I also expect you would never publish this email in its entirety in your "Letter to The Editor" column. Right???

R) This is the email in its entirety.

Paul Farineau - Village resident for 9 years ☐



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Letter to the Editor:

Thank You

I have to add our 'Thank you to the many I am sure you have already received !! You provide eyes and ears for those of us who do not live full time in our Village homes PLUS you effectively act as advocates for all Villagers, whether they realize it or not! **BRAVO** for your actions!! And remind us in November we need to update my membership! Laura & Ray Bowen

Editor's Note: Thank you for your expressed appreciation of our efforts. □

Letter to the Editor:

Savannah Center After Church Renovation

Since the church on the square will be a performance center, what happens to the entertainment at the Savannah Center which we residents north of CR466 were forced to purchase from the Developer years ago? We need the revenue from the performances to keep the Savannah Center going which enables us to pay for the purchase of the building. Judi and Lou Damis

Editor's Note: Thank you for your input concerning the Savannah Center. We actually think the conversion of the Church on the

Square into a performing arts venue will be a good thing for residents. While the Savannah Center was originally intended to be a regional recreation and community center for the residents of that area, it was never practical for use by resident clubs because most evenings the parking lot was filled with Scarlet O'Hara theater patrons. With much of the entertainment moving to Church on the Square and Katie Belle's, it should now be possible for resident organizations to be able to schedule recurring meetings at the Savannah Center without fear of getting pre-empted by commercial events. With regard to revenue, the amenity system income from these commercial shows is relatively small. While the ticket prices have risen over the years to \$20-\$30 per ticket, the amenity system share has remained small at \$115 per hour for the room rental. The amenity system does not get a percentage of the ticket sales. It was never the intention of the amenity system for the recreation centers to be revenue generators in order to maintain them. The amenity fees residents pay are sufficient to maintain the facilities and to refurbish them when necessary. Savannah, like Mulberry, La Hacienda, Laurel Manor and all the other Regional Recreation Centers will be able to remain at the high standard our residents expect, without the revenue generated by the commercial shows that have been scheduled there in the past. □

Letter to the Editor:

Retractable Seat Belts

I spent several months locating a company to install retractable seat belts. The Colony Plaza Village Golf Cart outlook said they only install non-retractable seat belts, which are in the way when playing golf. After several months, I located AAA Golf Carts, 9853 SE 151st Place, Summerfield, FL. 352-288-1192. Larry, the owner, came to the house and within an hour, I had retractable seat belts. He installed a bar that anchors to the cart behind the seat and the belts are attached to the bar. The reel is on the outside and the receiving side of the seat belt lays flat out of the way when not in use. I have the standard single seat two-passenger gas Yamaha golf cart. The cost of the installation was \$125.00 plus tax.

Dave Anderson

Editor's Note: Thank you for sharing this information with us. □

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Letter to the Editor:

Carpet Stains

I am writing in reference to a letter in the last POA Bulletin from the Robinson's about carpet stains. We had the same problem with our light carpets in a home built in 2002. We finally tried another company, and for over a year now, the carpets have stayed clean. The place we swear by now is Chem-Dry. Our friends are using them now too. Hope this helps. Bob Schlenk

Editor's Note: Thank you for sharing this information. We checked with Seniors vs. Crime and they have had no complaints filed on this Company. □

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Email Address List Scams

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All of a sudden, many of your friends, neighbors, and relatives are contacting you to let you know that they are very sorry that you lost your passport in Spain, lost all your money, and can't get back home but, unfortunately, they just can't send you \$1500 right now. What is going on? You are safe at home – not in Spain. **Your email address list has been hijacked.** The scammers then send everyone on your address list the same message – in short "Help! \$end Money!" How did this happen?

A common but unfortunately effective technique for luring email users into opening a virus-launching attachment is to send messages that would appear to be relevant or important to many recipients. One way of doing this is to make the virus-carrying messages appear to come from some company that many people routinely deal with. Common examples are internet auction or retail sites, national banks or financial institutions, or public or private package and mail delivery services.

One of the earliest scams of this nature on a large scale happened in July of 2008. Scammers mass mailed messages purporting to come from United Parcel Service (UPS) or Federal Express (FedEx). The bogus messages informed recipients about packages that had been sent to the recipient but couldn't be delivered due to some type of address problem. The email in-

vited the recipient to open and print out an attachment to the email, which was supposed to be the invoice for the package in question, and then to bring that invoice to the nearest UPS office to claim their package.

The attachment was a file usually titled something like "ups_invoice.zip". The attachment would display a Microsoft Word icon making the reader think it was nothing more than a Word document, thereby luring recipients into clicking on it. The file actually harbored a malicious executable file so, when the innocent reader clicked on the file icon, it ran and installed a virus on their computer.

A mass mailing via email of this type was bound to hit quite a few people who had shipped something via UPS in the recent past. These people might easily be lured into opening the virus-launching attachment and infecting their computer. Once the virus is installed on your computer, it copies your entire email address book and sends it to the scammers. They are then able to impersonate you and mail the malicious message to everyone in your address book.

Both UPS and FedEx were quick to post a warning about this scam on their web sites and in emails to their customers. This scam has evolved and been refined since 2008. In 2009, another package delivery service, DHL, was the

purported originator of the bogus package notification email. In September of 2010, people began receiving versions of this scam from, purportedly, the United States Postal Service (USPS). In March of 2011, it was Canada Post, the Canadian postal service. And it continues to this day, using various well-known companies as the purported originator of the malicious, but innocent looking, email.

There is one absolute, 100% effective protection against this scam – **DON'T OPEN THE ATTACHMENT.** If you are not 100% sure that you know who sent you the email and it's attachment, **DELETE IT!** If your computer gets infected, consult a local computer repair service for assistance in removing it.

Remember, no one will watch out for your interests better than **YOU.** Many scammers are very cunning, so being smart is NOT enough to protect yourself. When you think you need that 'extra edge', or when in doubt as to what you can do to protect your interests, contact your nearest Seniors vs. Crime office in The Villages for advice or assistance. There is never a charge for their services. They can be reached at 352-753-7775 at the Marion County Sheriffs Office or 352-689-4600, Extension 4606 at the Sumter County Sheriffs Office, both office in The Villages. Volunteers are ready, willing and able to assist you. □

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Our Gardening Column:

More Gardening Time

by Anne Lambrecht, Master Gardener
annegarden@embarqmail.com

There's still quite a bit of gardening to do out there. Our season does not rest until the six weeks from mid-December to the end of January.

Now is the ideal time to plant or transplant a tree or shrub. The tree or shrub will have the opportunity to establish a fine root system which will enable them to sustain the stress of winter, a fast spring growth and the summer heat. If you have a tree or shrub that is not doing well, this is the time to move your plant to another spot in the yard.

Some good choices for trees in our area include oaks (but not water or laurel—they do not do as well as the other oaks), native maples, pine, magnolia, hollies, bald cypress, and per-

simmon. Some good choices for shrubs in our area include Indian hawthorn, loropedalum, podocarpus, and ligustrum. How about some native shrubs: crinum lily, beauty berry, fire bush, coral bean, oak-leaf hydrangea, Florida anise, and wax myrtle.

October is a good month to weed and clean up the garden: get rid of spent annuals that might be harboring mealy bugs, prune away any dead, leggy or dense branches on shrubs. Plant cool weather annuals such as snapdragons, petunias, strawberries, cabbage and kale. Mix and match in the garden. Wait til November to plant pansies.

Make sure your "waterways" are clear. Grass and weeds can quickly grow up inside those irrigation rings, sometimes blocking the sprinkler head from popping up. Because we had turned off our irrigation system during the summer, many of our sprinkler heads were covered by grass. Test your cycle to check operation and adjustment of your system.

Mulch: now is the time to refresh your mulch. For those of you without rocks, use organic mulches such as pine needles, pine bark nuggets or melaleuca (chips from the invasive melaleuca tree from south Florida). Good news: Lowe's and Home Depot have bales of pine straw.

Water citrus trees weekly during extended dry spells. If citrus trees dry out, they can soak up an excess amount of water too quickly and

when rain does come, it will cause the fruit to split. You should have fertilized your citrus in September. Do not fertilize young citrus after October 1st. This is because you don't want the tree to flush out new growth and possibly get zapped by the frost come winter. Older, more established citrus may be fertilized more frequently to replace nutrients lost with the growing fruit.

Day lilies, iris, rain lilies, amaryllis and some other bulbs need to be dug up and "raised" after 3 or so years in the ground in order for them to keep on blooming. Dig them out, cut the excess roots and tops off and replant almost to ground level. The jury's still out on whether to dig out caladium bulbs or not. The University of Florida recommends digging them out in our area because we can get severe freezes which will kill the bulbs and also because of the "invisible" enemy worm, nematode, will kill the bulbs. I dug some out last year and they shrunk in the bag. And because we had such a nice, mild winter last year, all the caladiums I left in the ground returned beautifully. So it's your call but I think I shall leave all of mine in the ground this year and see what happens.

Houseplants: if your houseplants spent the summer outside, begin to prepare them for moving back indoors. Scout for lizards, bugs, etc. that you want to remain outside. Begin to reduce watering. When repotting, clean the pots

(Continued on page 21)

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More Gardening Time

(Continued from page 20)

with bleach solution (1 cup bleach to 1 gallon water). This will kill any fungus or bacteria that could infect your other houseplants.

It's been so hot that the Husband has not had a lot to say about what I've been doing out in the yard all summer. Won't he be surprised when he discovers that I've added a four foot flower bed to the already many beds in the yard. I know what he'll say. He'll start whining about the poor lawn mower guys who have to mow all around, back and forth and in circles. At least they don't have to hand mow--they still get to ride.



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- **McIntosh Fall 1890's Day Festival:** October 19th www.townofmcintosh.org
- **Micanopy Fall Harvest Festival:** October 26th & 27th - micanopyfallfestival.org □

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By **Judi Da Costa, Personal Trainer**
exercise2gether@aol.com

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“WE CAN” WEEKEND

A free, one-day community event.

There is life after cancer. And we're living it to the fullest. Join us for the next "We Can" Weekend, a special program for those facing cancer, cancer survivors and their families. Take part in seminars that will help on your journey, including improving nutrition and physical activity, family communication, healthy coping and adjusting to a new normal. There will be onsite yoga, massage, resources, and more. Bring your friends. Bring your family. Bring your "We Can" attitude.

A Thank You to our Gold Level Sponsors:

RBOI Lake Medical Imaging Munroe Medical Center

NOV 2nd

8am - 2:30pm

Harbor Hills Country Club
6538 Lake Griffin Road, Lady Lake FL

Please call (352)-259-2200
by October 23 to register.



“A DAY OF FUN AND EDUCATION”

“A RENEWAL OF POSITIVE ENERGY”

“WARM, SUPPORTIVE AND UPLIFTING”