



The Property Owners' Association

For all residents of the Villages

Since 1975

"Neighbors united for their common good"

Bulletin - September 1996

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Remember how a certain kind of pebble skipped across a stream, pond or lake and caused ever-widening ripples? So it is when you - one person - volunteer to help a relative or a friend or a neighbor or a cause. You create a "ripple" in someone's life or in your community.

If you feel one person's participation makes no difference in the overall outcome of things, you couldn't be more wrong.

You should consider projects and/or persons who failed for the lack of only one person's contribution. But you should also acknowledge how the collective efforts of more than one person have brought about desired changes, improvements or funding in behalf of others.

The P.O.A. is composed of a "group of one persons" who volunteer to make a difference in our community. Some serve on committees which carry out the specific goals established in our charter and bylaws. Some work on special events such as our annual golf tournament for the benefit of the "special needs children" of Sunrise ARC. Some serve as officers and board members and work toward meeting the changing needs of our community.

Many are involved in the process of solving problems for residents whether for one, 100 or 1,000. Others gather and research information on matters of importance to our residents which enables us to report the results in an unbiased manner.

When a vote was scheduled to select a site for a new town hall, we provided a program for those who were interested in hearing all sides of the issue. Based on the information received, the Board of Directors voted to publically support the location on 27/441 as the most plausible one under consideration.

In August, as a community service, the P.O.A. sponsored a forum for all non-partisan primary candidates of Lake and Sumter counties to which over 60 candidates responded.

We are not relating these things to elicit credit for them. We mention them to point out the P.O.A. is a vital, contributing organization of persons who are undeserving of the unflattering names which have used to cast aspersions on their achievements in behalf of their community and its residents.

We also hope they prove what one person can accomplish by joining others who selflessly give of their time to improve the circumstances of others.

PLEASE NOTICE

The omission of "O.B.G." from the heading of this and all future issues of our Bulletin is explained as follows.

Our chartered name is the Orange Blossom Gardens Property Owners' Association, Inc. which is most often referred to as the P.O.A. We were formed in 1975 when the name of our development was Orange Blossom Gardens.

Since the development is now known as The Villages, use of the "O.B.G." has been confusing to new residents who are unaware of the name change. A few may even think our organization is only for the residents of the Village of Orange Blossom Gardens.

Listing only the last part of our chartered name should eliminate any misunderstanding as to the extent of our representation which, by amendment of our charter and bylaws, includes all residents of The Villages.

The P.O.A. has the distinction of being the first and only organization to actively protect the rights and best interest of residents. We have been doing so for 21 years. Membership in our organization will enable us to continue efforts in behalf of our residents and community for many years to come.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH



Somewhere deep down we know that in the final analysis we do decide things and that even our decisions to let someone else decide are really our decisions.

Harvey Cox - 1967

Can you look in your mirror and see someone who helped another recently? If so, you are that "only one person" who made a difference and we salute you!

We also would like to invite you to attend our meetings with a view to joining our membership in our ongoing effort to make a difference.

Dorothy Hokr

BE INFORMED ABOUT "SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN" - COME TO THE OCTOBER 16TH P.O.A. MEETING

How many of us are fully aware of the extent of services offered by the Sunrise ARC (Association for Retarded Citizens of Lake County, Inc.)?

One of those important services involves children with special needs. It is called "early intervention" and begins with children from birth to three years of age.

Rikki Kotz, Assistant Program Director of Children's Services, will speak to the P.O.A. about this service at our meeting at 7:00 P.M., on Wednesday, October 16th in the Paradise Center.

She is a specialist in early intervention and will impress you with her knowledge of its far-reaching benefits.

As one example, early intervention could enable these children to enter kindergarten and regular classes and eliminate their need for special education classes at a savings to taxpayers.

Another advantage of the program is the teaching of basic functions (e.g.: eating) which relieves parents for the many other duties involved in caring for them.

The program is offered to children of Lake and Sumter counties and includes children with Down's Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, brain damage, and those at risk from prematurity or substance abuse or overall delay in development. In addition to home visits, the children spend two days a week at the center which is located at 9642 U.S. Highway 441 in Leesburg.

Plan to meet with us and learn how we can all be of support to this worthwhile program.

OFFICERS and DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Dorothy Hokr	President	750-5469
Glenn Swindler	Vice-president..	753-4635
Carol Kope	Secretary.....	750-0394
Carol Menci	Treasurer.....	750-3937

Board of Directors

Irene Belles.....	753-0235
Robert Connor.....	753-1684
Norma Henretta.....	N/P
Jack McMasters.....	750-4993
Dorothy Morehouse.....	753-0475
Tom Ritter.....	753-2678
Earle Snider.....	753-2189
Frank Swenton.....	750-0428
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ONE PERSON COUNTS IF EVERY ONE VOTES

Did you vote in the primary on September 3rd and in the run-off on October 1st? The results of those elections, as you know, determined which candidates will appear on the November ballots.

If you voted, I hope the candidates you supported won. If they didn't, at least you know you did your civic duty by voting.

The results of the primary election indicated that many voters stayed home. Some never vote in primary elections; some feel their one vote will make no difference. I wish I could tell you how many elections have been won or lost by only one vote.

I, personally, won my first election to the Minnesota House of Representatives by 17 votes in a recount. That "majority" earned me the nickname of "Landslide Hokr". I won my second election by 101 votes. That one vote counted because, without it, a recount would have been needed!

A friend of mine and her opponent were tied in a city election in Minnesota. She won by the toss of a coin. And there are thousands of stories like that.

What a shame so many Americans take their privilege of voting for granted. Needless to say, presidential year elections are important, but so are the so-called "off year elections". We should vote each and every time we are presented with a choice.

I am proud of the fact residents of The Villages are courted by candidates for office. They know we are citizens who take our voting privilege seriously.

Let's make it 100 per cent in November!

Dorothy Hokr
P.O.A. President

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Bylaws/Procedures	Jean Tuttle.....	753-3610
Member records	Gloria Hasel.....	753-3162
Nominating	Mary Loske.....	753-5242
Refreshments	Rose Geeze.....	753-7131
Vial of Life	Terry Berube.....	753-5314

Members interested in assisting on any of the above committees can contact the chairperson listed here.

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PROFILE OF P.O.A. MEMBERS
(a continuing series)

Glenn and Helen Swindler came to the Village of Orange Blossom Gardens from Taylor, MI in October 1980. They reside at 810 Rose Apple.



Photo by Jane Mills

Glenn was employed by Ford Motor Company in Detroit for 25 years as a test driver and lab technician. Before their marriage, Helen worked as a live-in housekeeper. She worked for one family for 16 years, from the birth of their son until his enrollment in military school.

Soon after settling in, they became P.O.A. members due to past involvement with similar organizations and the realization of the importance of having representation.

Glenn has served in many capacities since joining. He has officiated in the elective offices of president, vice-president and member of the board of directors. He also volunteered to represent Unit Three as a member of the Liaison Committee.

He served in the U. S. Army Quartermasters during WWII and was awarded the Purple Heart when stationed near the Battle of the Bulge.

He and Helen enjoy bowling and card playing. Following his mother's lifelong example, Glenn's other "hobby" is helping people.

The Swindlers are members of the Chapel of All Faiths where Glen is head usher and custodial supervisor. He also is involved in their community service program.

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753-5222

MEDICARE ASSIGNMENT ACCEPT

SILENT DANGER IN SWIMMING POOLS

A few weeks ago 20/20 presented a segment on "The Silent Danger in the Pool". It pertained, in part, to a dangerous situation which results from the condition of grates through which water flows out of pools with great force. Grates may break down due to age, become dislodged or may not have been properly secured.

Two heartbreaking incidents were cited which occurred in a wading pool and involved a two-year-old boy and an 11-year-old girl. In each case, they were sucked against the grate. The suction pulled the boy's intestines out through his anus. The girl lost a portion of her intestines the same way. Both are on machines today.

Similar incidents occur in adult pools and drowning is the most common result. At a graduation party in New Jersey, a 17-year-old female was the victim. Eight men could not pull her free.

The other danger involves not knowing the location of the pump and switch. These types of tragedies could be prevented by shutting off the powerful flow of water.

A member of the P.O.A. Board of Directors who attends the meetings of the V.C.C.D.D. brought this matter to the attention of the Board of Supervisors.

It was suggested all swimming instructors, pool monitors and residents be made aware of these potential dangers and procedures put in place for such emergencies.

The supervisors agreed to look into the matter, and we will keep you informed. Safety measures in pools are as important as they are in any other activity.

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REGARDING - WATER, SEWER AND AMENITIES FEES

At its August 30th budget hearing meeting The Villages Center Community Development District (V.C.C.D.D.) Stated there would be no increase in either the amenities fees or water and sewer rates in their budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1st.

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TOYS FOR TOTS

The P.O.A. will join the Lady Lake Police in its annual Toys For Tots program for children in our area.

Please bring unwrapped toys to our November 20th meeting. Lt. Nathanson will join us after our annual election.

For more information, please call Dot Hokr at 750-5469.

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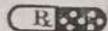
DON'T FORGET . . .

. . . the third annual P.O.A. golf tournament scheduled for Saturday, **November 16th**. Sign up for this important event begins on **October 1st** at the O. B. Hills Golf and Country Club pro shop.

Remember. The tournament proceeds go to the Sunrise ARC for their **early intervention program** for "special needs Children" of Lake and Sumter Counties.

The more golfers who participate, the more money will be raised for this worthy cause. If you are unable to join us on this date, donations are always welcome.

Let's do our best in behalf of these deserving little kiddies.



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TO JOIN THE P.O.A.

Please complete the membership form and bring it with your payment of dues to our meeting. Or you may mail form and check to OBG POA, P.O. Box 1657, Lady Lake, FL 32158-1657. You may also use our drop box in the hallway at Paradise Center.

Please make checks payable to: OBG POA. Annual dues are \$6.00 per household. New residents may join during the first year of residence at pro-rated 50¢ per month.

PLEASE NOTE: Membership cards are issued to members who join at meetings. To join by mail or drop box, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

REMINDER: Membership cards are not needed for admittance at our meetings except at those at which a vote is to be taken. Notice of these meetings is printed in the Bulletin one month in advance.

PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Unit No. _____ Lot No. _____ Villa/Village _____

County _____ Property closing date _____

- New
 Renewal
 Reinstated

I (we) hereby consent to membership in the O.B.G. Property Owners' Association

Signature(s) _____

If you maintain another residence and want to be kept current on issues while you are away, please list second residence below.

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P. O. A. MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR
OCTOBER

Board of Directors
October 1, 7:00 P.M., 1st Tuesday
Charlie Chaplin Rm.

Open Meeting
October 16, 7:00 P.M., 3rd Wednesday
Paradise Center

PLEASE NOTE

At the October meeting, the Nominating Committee will submit a slate of members as candidates who will stand for election at the **November meeting**.

The meeting will then be opened to nominations from the floor. Any member who wishes to nominate someone for office may do so at that time.

The positions subject to election are the four officers (president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer) and members of the Board of Directors whose terms have expired.

REMEMBER: The November meeting will be open to members only due to the election. A ballot will be provided in the November Bulletin which can be brought to the meeting or used to vote by proxy.

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VOTING IN P.O.A.

NOVEMBER ELECTION

Please be reminded only P.O.A. members may vote at our annual meeting on November 20th when we elect officers and board members for 1997. Membership cards are required for admittance at annual meetings.

Residents who have delayed in joining and members who delayed in renewing have one last chance to pay their dues at the **October 16th meeting** - - if they want to vote.

Membership cards for 1997 will be available for those who want to pay next year's dues at the same time.

Our bylaws do not permit acceptance of memberships at the November annual meeting.