

# Property Owners'

# Association of The Villages

CHAMPIONS OF RESIDENTS' RIGHTS SINCE 1975

## BULLETIN



Vol. II No. VII

JANUARY 1999

### PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

Have you made your New Year's Resolutions yet. Although I must admit, every year it gets harder to come up with them. When you reach our age, there aren't too many things left to give up. I do not smoke or drink, and I'm not going to give up the other one. I follow my diet and exercise. So what can I give up? I know! I resolve to be "gentler and kinder" this year. Now, that isn't too difficult because basically that's the kind of man I am. I love life - I have a wonderful and loving wife, children, and grandchildren.

However, this resolution may be much harder to accomplish than it appears on the surface. Especially when one has definite opponents (maybe even classified as enemies) who constantly accuse you of being malcontents simply because you disagree with them and publicly state your criticism.

Did you know that the POA is considered a "leper" colony. We are completely ignored - we do not exist. Do you realize that "The Villages" is a dictatorship community located within the wonderful democratic United States of America? Yes, we are. We can't criticize or complain about anything. We are brain-washed into believe everything is fine and wonderful. And, that we should bow down and praise the Developer for the wonderful life he is giving us!

So, my resolution will actually be very hard to fulfill, but, I am going to try. All I need is a little cooperation from the other side and the full support of the dissatisfied residents of the community.

Happy New Year to everyone.

— Joe Gottfried

### SUNSHINE LAW

Reading "Pete's Place", the biggest benefit of the Community Development District (CDD) is that all information is public information. Then, why can I not find out who is running the VCCDD? I don't mean the answers I get, "the commercial land owners". I want the names of the commercial land owners.



### PAST HOLIDAY MEMORIES

— Christmas, the most beautiful time of the year - the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child - born 1600 years ago.

— The snow and bitter cold weather. Oh, what a wonderful feeling - trying to catch a snow flake on your tongue.

— Sleigh rides - caroling - choosing just the right Christmas tree - every one decorating the tree.

— Rushing around doing last minute shopping.

— The sound of Christmas music filled the air.

— The warmth of the fire place.

— Church services to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child.

— Children's joy and delightful anticipation of what Santa would bring.

— Christmas dinner - took days to prepare - and 15 minutes to eat. Then, Christmas was all over.

We still had the ringing in of the New Year to look forward to.

— Deciding what celebration to attend.

— Getting that special outfit to wear.

Out went that old fella "Father Time" and in came the baby in a diaper and top hat, the "New Year".

Those are the memories of previous holidays. Today, it is not much different, except we do not have the presence of little children and their laughter. We don't have fireplaces either. But, we still enjoy most of the festivities of the season.

This year, we hope the 1999 "baby" will bring with him peace, happiness, good health, prosperity, and goodwill toward all! As the people of "Who Villé" would say, "Have a Happy Who Year"!

— Sadie Wollard

### NEW CDD#1 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

At the first CDD#1 Board of Supervisors Meeting in which the new members participated, I was completely overwhelmed when I heard Frank Topping, immediately after the Chairman had been elected, before any board member could say a word, nominate himself for Vice Chairman of the Board. Granted, there was a very long pause before Sy Rosenblatt seconded the motion, but I think this was a very blatant and egoistical act on his part. It doesn't sound legal to be able to nominate oneself.

I was very pleased to hear the new Board members make a very definite stipulation - that the new members were not involved in preparing the original issue - before approving a couple of old issues. I think this was especially important concerning the audit of the budget because the actual budget has some serious errors and is top heavy in administrative expenses. I certainly hope the new Board does a better job preparing next year's budget.

Concerning the re-appointment of the Administrator and the Attorney, I hope that the new Board felt that they should get their feet wet before making drastic changes. Just a reminder, both these seats are on a yearly contractual basis.

At the meeting, Attorney, Randall Thornton stated that he felt there is no conflict of interest on his part even though he represents CDD#1, the Developer, and Sumter County. He also stated that should an issue arise which would overlap, he would back out of the discussion, and send another attorney in.

Questions: Who would that attorney represent? Would that attorney be a member of his present firm? How can a fresh attorney represent a client he knows nothing about - the involved issue - the history of the client and opponent - etc? This whole issue seems completely absurd. I still feel that there is a definite conflict of interest!

I would like to inform the new Board that I have written to several State departments inquiring whether or not it was legal for CDD#1 to give the Developer \$200,000 to help build a golf cart tunnel from one of his commercial ventures to another commercial venture completely outside of our district.

— Joe Gottfried



### A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU

To those who called, gave hugs and kisses, and expressed their feeling to me personally. It was better than having the Sun put my story in print. About now our subscription has run out and believe me, it will not be renewed.

Yes, my story finally made the news, although it was not a local story (one of the sorry excuses they gave me, have you read their stories lately?) Why does the Sun, ask for stories and then so conveniently lose them, bump them into another department, or just plain lose them?

To those who telephone, you have my sympathy. Losing a loved one's photo is not easy to take. To be told you are 37<sup>th</sup> in line for printing, what a fairytale. For being prejudice because of my name is disgraceful and really low. If we all felt such prejudice, where in the world would we be?

My story did not fall on deaf ears, many have heard it and read it. And for that I am grateful and satisfied. I only wish for the forthcoming years when a news story should break about someone in the Developer's family, it too should fall BETWEEN the cracks.

- Joyce Gottfried

### GRAY WATER ON THE EXECUTIVE GOLF COURSES

Many people have called the POA to express their anger at the watering of the golf courses. We've been told to expect it, but, NO, I don't want to get two or three showers with gray water while I am playing golf.

Recently during a Men's Day scramble, the men were caught on holes 4,5,6, and 7. One gentlemen was overheard to vehemently explode, "I was just about to get a BIRD and I got the GOOSE right in my face. Boy, was I mad. After all, I was playing for a few bucks!"

Why does the gray water have to be turned on at 2 or 3 in the afternoon? Why can't they do this at dusk? We then would not have the showers, soggy fairways and the SWOSHY putting.

Note: Many people call the POA to verbally express their feelings but are reluctant to submit an article to the Bulletin. If this is the case, send your thoughts, ideas, praises and/or gripes to me and I'll write it for the Bulletin (won't even use your name if you don't want me to).

-Joyce Gottfried

### BIRTHDAYS - HUMBUG!!

I recently had a birthday - ugh! I hate birthdays. Unfortunately, my birthday is December 24 and nobody forgets it. I get Christmas cards and even presents that also say "Happy Birthday". My birthday presents (when I get separate ones) are always wrapped in Christmas paper.

Well, anyway, this year I subtracted my date of birth from 1998 and came up with XX. No way, that would make me a "little old lady" and I am not. I'll tell you why:

-- wrinkles - I don't have any - I have character lines,

-- gray hair - absolutely not - my friend L'Oreal will not allow it;

— I have all my teeth - even though I take a few out to brush;

— I weigh about 10 pounds more today than the day we married - so I haven't gotten fat and spread out - even though the 10 pounds settled around my middle;

— speaking of marriage, my husband is sexy not a dirty old man;

— I only wear glasses when I really want to read;

— senior moments - none - it's just that my mind is so full of nothing;

— my health was excellent before we moved down here where people have all kinds of contagious diseases like heart, kidney, lung, hips, knees, etc. and I picked up a couple - but that's not my fault;

— agility - no problem - going down is a cinch and coming up would be no problem either if I exercised more;

— energy - all kinds of it as long as I get my regular 10 hours of sleep;

— house work - one always could write their name on my furniture and still can;

— cooking - I now prepare gourmet meals - markets carry a beautiful selection;

So, you see, taking into account all of the above, I can't be a "little old lady". Little old ladies sit in a rocking chair and doze. Rocking chairs make me sea-sick. Besides, I'm too busy doing nothing all day.

— Carol Kope

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AND  
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### FIRST PLACE WINNERS

### SECOND PLACE WINNERS



*Charles Brady  
Clarence Stricker  
Gene Reistroffer  
Leonard Rudy (not pictured)*

*Robert & Elsie Wessels  
Paul & Rosalie Smith*

### Awards banquet



*Joe Gottfried with  
his new Jeep*



*Pitched his ball into  
the commode - didn't  
get his name*



### VILLAGES HOSPITAL

Well, I guess they won again. The Villages obtained State approval to build a brand new \$35 million hospital from the ground up. The state report did not specifically state why the Villages was approved. However, many of us know how far and wide the tentacles of big power and influence go.

Two contenders, LRMC and Waterman both have excellent credentials, experience running a hospital, and funds to provide the hospital space they requested. The Villages, on the other hand, has only \$20,000 but plans to raise the necessary funds by selling bonds thru the Sumter County Industrial Development Authority.

The Villages have contracted Quorum Health Resources to manage the new hospital. I find their selection a bit strange in view of the fact that Quorum is presently engaged in litigation with the Federal government on charges of Medicare fraud. You'd think that the Villages would not want any part of a management firm even remotely connected to such charges. Strange bedfellows indeed.

Once the hospital is in operation, I sure hope they don't plan to sell it to the VCCDD!

- Carol Kope

### QUESTION ?

Do you belong to the only organization in the Villages that:

- Allows you to speak from the floor as often as you wish - on any subject.
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- Does not always agree with the CDDs and/or the Developer.
- Watches out for your interests - not the Developers.
- Will fight to protect your rights.

You do, if you belong to the Property Owners' Association of the Villages (POA). If you don't, join the POA today. Just fill in the application on pg. 8 and mail it in. You will then belong to a home owners association that truly represents the residents.

### NOTICE

**TO ALL PERSONS LIVING IN THE "VILLAGES" WHO ARE EITHER HANDICAPPED OR REQUIRE ASSISTANCE GETTING THEIR U.S. POSTAL SERVICE MAIL.**

WORD HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE ,CUSTOMER SERVICE SUPPORT FOR THE NORTH FLORIDA DISTRICT, THAT ANY PERSON FEELING HE OR SHE HAS A VALID NEED FOR ALTERNATIVE MAIL SERVICE MAY CONTACT POSTMASTER VICTOR HURTADO AT 753-2555 FOR SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS. THIS INFORMATION WAS MAILED TO CLAUDE E. GORDON AT 753-5059 ON MAY 22, 1997 AND SIGNED BY ALAIN IGLESIAS, MANAGER OF THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE, CUSTOMER SERVICE FOR THIS DISTRICT. HE MAY BE REACHED AT (904) 858-8522 IF FURTHER ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED.



The POA Officers and Board of Directors wish all our members and residents of the Villages a Very Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year.



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### WATCHING THE GARDENS GROW

When we moved to OBG in October of 1980, we were on the south border of the property. Next to Rose Apple Street was a badly rutted field left over from watermelon growing. My salesman assured me that the vacant property would be the best piece of property to be developed. Also, it was the first. Our club house was only half the size it is now. Our cow pasture golf course was a joy for this duffer. Hit the ball and run; hit the ball and run. Lots of exercise but few good scores. Golf today is too busy and too slow even for me now that I am 18 years older.

Much was done by volunteers then, as now, in order to keep entertaining going, but everyone pretty much knew each other.

As we watched Gary Morse and Sharon come into the picture, things began to change rapidly. Although I have many differences with the Management, I still tell everyone who asks, that there is no place with more to offer than we have.

Back to growth. We watched a new well go in which replaced the iron rich water (which turned anything white red) with clear water. It was a wonderful thing to watch the assembly of the water tower. Then came the first concrete plant which was just east of the pump house on the hill by the water tower. As we continued to grow the concrete plant was replaced by homes and golf courses.

Ten years later and 1990 was here. I don't remember when the first construction began across 27/441. Things happened too fast to keep up with.

The battle over golf cart fees in 1990 has been one of the major battles fought with management. The compromise was a give and take situation. Some residents gained no golf cart fees but gave up the transfer of the original amenities that came with the sale of a home prior to that. The battle over the sale of amenities and the resulting settlement is much different from the language in my property records, but, we are stuck with what we now have.

My main theme in life now is to offer my help wherever I can. I became the Service Officer for the American Legion, Post 347, as of January 98 and The Chapel of All Faiths takes up most of the rest of my free time.

We may live to see the year 2000 and see if all the dire predictions come true.

Keep the faith.

- Glen Swindler



El Diablo Executive Golf Course  
Cart Path

### EL DIABLO FIASCO

The El Diablo Lake is the retention pond for Little Sumter Utilities's waste water. (By the way, Little Sumter is a private company owned by associates of the Developer.) About a year ago, the water disappeared. Evidently into a sink hole. "They" poured a lot of cement into it, but it is again disappearing. So, now they are going to put in a rubber liner to keep the water in the lake. The big question is? Where did and where is that treated water going? If it has gone into our aqua filter - we are in trouble!

Another question - why didn't the VCCDD notify Swift Mud as they were required to do. No, they prefer to coverup their mistakes before any official department becomes aware of them. Even then, they always appear to get away with all types of violations and complete disregard for directives without any penalty. Money and influence can certainly do wonders!

In the process of working on the lake, "They" made a mess out of the El Diablo Executive Golf course. "They" broke up the cart path between hole 6 and 7 and haven't leveled it off. Carts must drive over mounds of dirt and ruts. (However, the VHA Executive Golf Course Committee reports that the course is in good shape.)

Note. The rubber liner is going to cost a fortune. Guess who will pay for it? The VCCDD - which of course, is us. Don't you think Little Sumter Utilities should pay - it's their retention area.

- Joe Gottfried

### VILLAGES MANAGEMENT PORTRAYED CORRECTLY

I have never read any article in any newspaper which portrayed the residents of the Villages in unflattering terms or that our community is a detriment to the area and an undesirable place to live. In fact, I have read many articles telling of the benefits the counties receive from the community and the generosity of the residents.

However, we have the Developer's minions who can not tolerate any negativity against their infallible leader.

I commend the "Sentinel" for being the only newspaper in the area that will print anything negative about the Management and Developer of The Villages. Evidently, "they" can't intimidate the Sentinel. The Sentinel's articles have been about the Developer and the CDDs - not the residents. They have been very thoroughly researched and are extremely accurate. They simply state many truths and the truth hurts.

In Sandy Motts column, she accuses the Sentinel of irresponsible and sewer journalism. Does she read the "Sun"? Their reporting of the Sumter County Commissioners meeting of Nov. 11 was an out and out lie. The headlines read, "Village Fire Plan Passes First Test" and "Commission Votes 3-2 to Allow Villages to Provide Services". A Sun reporter was sitting right there at the meeting. Now this can't even be called "spin" reporting but deliberate untruthful reporting.

Yes, integrity is an old-fashioned value and there doesn't seem to be very much of it in our Villages management.

- Carol Kope

1999 POA DUES  
HAVE YOU PAID YOURS YET?  
NEXT POA MEETING  
WED - JAN 20





### DISCRIMINATION ???

After reading Joyce Gottfried's article in the December issue of the "Bulletin", I began to watch the "Grandchildren's Column" in the Daily Sun. Joyce is absolutely right about being discriminated against because she is the wife of the POA President.

When Joyce first began to chase down the reason that her grandson's picture and article had not appeared in the paper, one of the reasons given her was that the article was not local news. Local news?? Every article and picture of a grandchild should therefore be considered not 'local' news because all of them live all over the USA.

A couple of weeks ago, there was a good half a page on a residents' children and grandchildren accompanied by a photo of the entire family! Today's issue has the photo of a lovely granddaughter who is simply the mother of two children.

The Gottfried's are extremely proud of their grandson, and they should be. He is only 17 years old and on his way to becoming a second Tiger Woods and in addition has earned a full scholarship to Seton Hall in New Jersey.

With due respect to the grandparents (I would also be very proud of such a beautiful granddaughter) to me, the Gottfried's grandson's story sounds much more news worthy.

- Raili Day

### TIERRA DEL SOL POOL

It's getting cool at night now and the pool at Tierra Del Sol is not working right again. The pool heater needs resetting and nobody is coming around to set it. Maintenance should make periodic checks on all the pools. Or, if you don't like cold water, pay \$660 to go to the Country Club Pool - I'm sure that pool is fine. Just because the Villages advertise heated pools doesn't mean that's true.

### OLD OUT - NEW IN

Thanks to the old '98 POA Board Members for a year that will be remembered as we made changes to the POA that put us in step with the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We are an organization for everyone in the Villages and one that will listen to the people - meetings where you can talk freely - state your problems - request help from the organization - be kept up-to-date on what is happening.

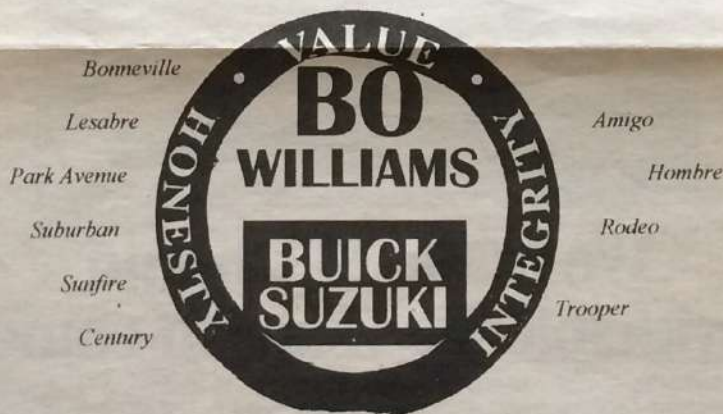
To the new '99 Board Members - this is a year that the POA will grow. There are many residents who have been here for a year or so now and are beginning to understand what is going on. We have a very small beginning - the CDD#1 Board of Supervisors consists of Villages residents only. Hopefully this will make a difference.

So, let's all work together - we can make a difference.

- Joe Gottfried



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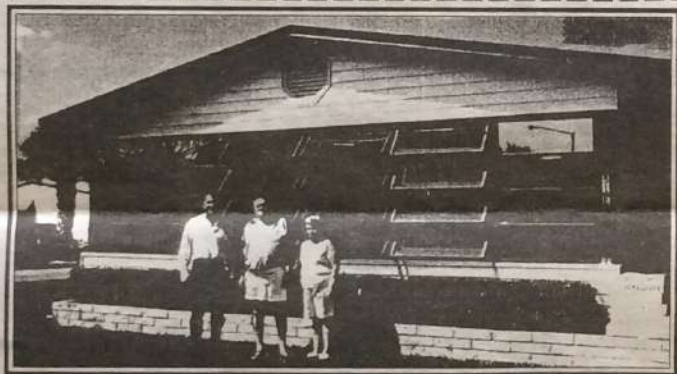
**Meetings of the V.C.C.D.D. and both V.C.C.D.s are, by law, open to the public. A schedule of their meetings is available by calling 753-4508.**

**Residents are encouraged to attend these meetings where decisions are made which affect each district.**

**JOIN THE POA**  
 FOR \$6 A YEAR PER HOUSEHOLD YOU CAN KEEP ABREAST OF ALL THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DEVELOPER AND CDD'S

**P.O.A. MEETINGS**  
 Board of Directors- 7:00 PM - 1st Tuesday  
 Charlie Chapman Rm - Rec Center  
 (all POA members welcomed)  
 General Meeting- 7:00 PM - 3rd Wednesday  
 Paradise Recreation Center  
 Refreshments Served  
 (ALL RESIDENTS WELCOMED)

**NEXT POA MEETING**  
 Wednesday, January 20, 7:00 pm, Paradise Rec Center is the next POA meeting. All residents are welcomed to attend. Come and find out what is going on in the Villages.



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 so why should we complain?  
 We always want the sunshine,  
 but He knows there must be rain.  
 We love the sound of laughter  
 and the merriment of cheer,  
 But our hearts would lose their tenderness  
 if we never shed a tear...  
 So whenever we are troubled  
 and life has lost its song,  
 It is just God working in us  
 to make our spirits strong.  
 - Helen Steiner Rice

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