

# Property Owners' Association of The Villages

CHAMPIONS OF RESIDENTS' RIGHTS SINCE 1975

## BULLETIN



Vol. II No. IX

MARCH 1999

### Presidents Thoughts

It's March and the Snow Birds are starting to pack-up for their trip back North. You noticed many changes when you arrived last fall and you'll find a lot more when you return next fall. At least 1,000 more people and who knows what else.

To keep up with what is going on in your absence, have a friend keep the POA Bulletins for you. Before you leave try to make a POA meeting. We're starting an activity that should be extremely interesting. Each month we are getting new members who are relatively new and who are beginning to question many things. As we have said before, it takes about 16 months of residence before this happens. These new members are coming up with excellent suggestions and are extremely concerned about many things.

Have a safe trip back North - we will miss you - and we look forward to your return in the Fall.

— Joe Gottfried

### COURT HEARING FOR NEW BOND ISSUE

Naturally, the court granted the VCCDD permission to issue a new bond issue for \$40M. Legally and according to State Chapt. #190, they have every right to issue as many bonds as they desire. However, at this court hearing, for the first time, it is on record that the VCCDD pays inflated prices to the Developer for his property. The judge said that the court can not say anything about how the VCCDD spends the money. They have to meet just two requirements: 1) have the authority under Florida Statute #190, and 2) the bonds are to be used for an authorized purpose.

Our only recourse is to get Chapt. 190 amended to include "to purchase any property, regardless of seller, such property must have at least three independent appraisals and only the averaged appraisal amount may be paid for the purchase". The POA is going to make a concerted effort to get the law changed. You'll be hearing more about this in the future.

After the last bond issue, the VCCDD paid the Developer \$33M for property worth about \$7-1/2M. We feel that we, the residents for pay for these purchases, should get our money's worth. What do you think?

### NEW \$40 BOND ISSUE

We all knew that it was foregone conclusion that they would obtain permission to issue the bond. But a number of interested residents attended the Court hearing on the VCCDD's request to issue a new \$40 M bond anyway. Now, according to Chapt. 190, this is a perfectly legal action. The VCCDD performed all the required legal requirements and naturally were granted court approval.

Rose Harvey and I obtained permission from the judge to speak. Mr. Thornton, the VCCDD attorney, upon hearing this vigorously opposed our speaking. He said that any one who lived outside the VCCDD Commercial District could not speak at the hearing. *(This is what we have been trying to get you residents to understand. We will never have a voice in what the VCCDD does. The VCCDD is controlled by the Developer and his business associates. That is why it is so important for residents to attend the VCCDD meetings. Maybe they will listen to the voices of hundreds of residents.)* However, when the judge asked if there was anyone in the audience that was affected by this bond issue, I jumped up and said my piece. I told the judge that we were not trying to stop the VCCDD from issuing the bond, but that we would like them to spend the money responsibly. I told the judge that after the last bond issue, they paid \$30M to the Developer for property valued at \$7-1/2M. We just want independent, accurate, appraisals. Judge Johnson said that the law would not allow him to restrict how the bond money was spent.

So, now, we are indebted for over \$200M in bond issues. Don't let Pete Wahl hoodwink you into believing that we are not responsible for this debt. That it is the debt of the VCCDD. BUT WHERE DOES THE VCCDD GET ITS MONEY? FROM OUR AMENITY FEES. AND SHOULD SOMETHING HAPPEN THAT THEY DO NOT PAY - WE, ALL THE RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGES - EAST AND WEST - ARE LIABLE.

— Joe Gottfried

### NEGATIVE POA

To our readers who say we are a negative group, I looked up "negative" in the dictionary. One of Webster's definitions of "negative" *(n) proposition which denies or contradicts another.* So, if we do not agree with the management we are 'negative' - right? Negative covers many areas.

In 1990 when the Developer broke his contract with residents by taking away certain amenities that had been guaranteed them in their original purchase of their homes; was the POA 'negative' in pursuing that cause? We forced the Developer to adhere to their contract!! The residents retained their amenities.

Who helped the residents with their gray pipe problems. We still get calls for help on this problem.

Who helped the residents when the VCCDD attempted to again break their contract in Units 1-8 on the East side by updating the dates of their amenity fee increase. The negative POA, of course.

However, as far as management, the VHA, the CIC and the VCCDD, we do not exist and they will not talk with us, much less negotiate. Therefore, we must engage an attorney and file a legal suite - so we can only take on real major issues.

Remember, the negative, legal threatening POA is the only group that helps residents.

### TIERRA DEL-SOL POOL

The Tierra-Del Sol sport complex was purchased by the VCCDD from the Developer about a year ago along with some other land for \$33M. At the time of the purchase, I stood in front of the VCCDD Board and told them that the pool heater was not working. The Board laughed at me and said that it was under warranty. Now, a year later they say that the pool heater is no good - not working good at all. Let's buy a new gas heater - the people will pay - they need a heated pool. What about the Developer paying for the new heater? How about an apology to me from the Board? (That will never happen. Joe Gottfried is always wrong - at least that's what Sandy and Frank say. Everyone but the Developer is always wrong. Sandy also says the water temp should be 81-83 degrees - what a joke.)

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**MARCH GOLF**

It's that time of year. The other day, the computer said "no way" to my tee time request. So, I called the system to ask "why"?

Here is their reply: 1) it's February - lots of players 2) I got 6 points (played 6 times in the last 10 days 3) everyone playing on Mira-Mesa and Del-Vista executive courses have only 2 points (played 2 times in the last 10 days). Now, if you believe that, I've got a bridge in Brooklyn that I will sell you - cheap.

What did I do wrong? Under tee-time request #5 I should press 2 not 1. I picked a golf course where everyone had only 2 points each!! Or, because my name is Gottfried??

**COPS AND ROBBERS**

Last month seven homes were broken into and robbed. A few months before several homes were robbed. I understand that at one of these homes, the residents were actually in the house when it was robbed.

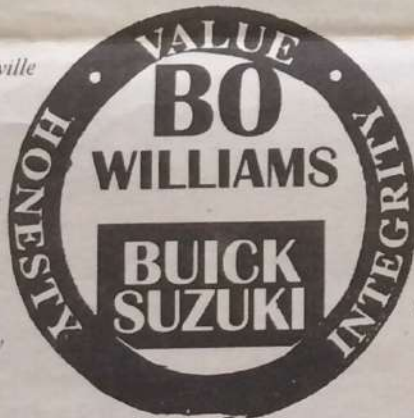
You must remember that our Villages has the reputation of being inhabited by wealthy, prosperous, senior citizens. They advertise a "gated community" which means absolutely nothing. All our streets are open to the public because they are county property. Management encourages outsiders by advertising their local business facilities.

Why can't the VCCDD work with local police departments and buy sophisticated security equipment that would enhance the residents lives rather than buying entities from the Developer at over-inflated prices?

--Joe Gottfried

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teers for they are some of the best and brightest in the medical profession. It is their dedication to excellence in caring, and your support of our programs and services, which have earned your hospital this distinction. We thank you all as, together, we've once again helped make LRMC one of the best in healthcare.

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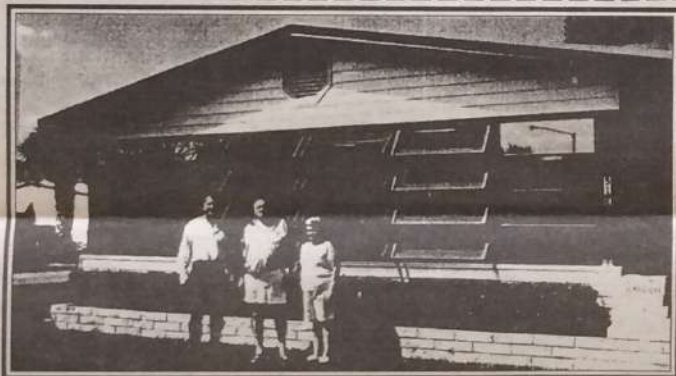
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**NEXT POA MEETING**  
Wednesday, March 17, 7:00 pm,  
Paradise Rec Center is the next POA meeting. All residents are welcomed to attend. Come and find out what is going on in the Villages. If you are a member and at the meeting on Feb. 17, you could be the winner of a nice door prize - one door prize consisting of \$50 cash from Invincible Roofing, \$50 cash from Consumer Energy Savers - two POA tee shirts - and a bottle of wine.

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