Property Owners'

CHAMPIONS OF RESIDENTS' RIGHTS SINCE 1975

BUILDENIN

POA

Association of The Villages

Vol. II No. I JULY 1999

PRESIDENTS THOUGHTS

As I going out the Morse Gate to Route 466, I couldn't help but see the huge sign

BENNY STRICKLAND HONOR YOUR WORD

It seems that the Sumter County Commissioners told the Oxford Fire Company that no decisions on the fire protection issue for Sumter County Villages residents would be made until they received the consultants report due in July or August

However, in a surprise move, the Villages VCCDD somehow or other (?) negotiated with a few of the Sumter Commissioners and a deal was made. The VCCDD was awarded the contract to provide fire protection for the Sumter portion of the Villages. The VCCDD immediately hired the number two man of the Oxford Fire Department to run their new fire district.

What a deal, but that is the "good ole boy" way of doing things. If I am going to remain living in Florida, I better get used to it OR vote the "the good ole boys" out of office.

I prefer the latter, so let's all remember this when it comes time to vote again.

Happy Summer - Joe Gottfried

WHY WAS THE VCCDD AWARDED THE SUMTER COUNTY FIRE/RESCUE PROTECTION SERVICE???? THE OXFORD FIRE DEPT. WASN'T EVEN ALLOWED TO SUBMIT A BID! OXFORD IS ALREADY FULLY MANNED AND EQUIPPED TO SERVICE US FOR ONLY \$30-35/YR. IT'S GOING TO COST US \$97 WITH THE VCCDD!!!!!

自由大家为此大的女的自然的女的女女女女女女女女

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW BULLETIN

This issue marks the first anniversary of the new format and editorial staff of the POA Bulletin We would appreciate readers' critique of this publication. Any comments and/or suggestion will be gladly considered. Send your comments to the POA.

- Editor



WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO HAROLD'S DREAM?

Residents are asking this question. When many moved here, it still reflected the ideals of Harold Schwartz's dream that he entrusted to others, and each year the lot of the resident is further nibbled away. Changes are occurring so rapidly that frustrations build and build and people believe that Harold's dream has just faded away.

Questions are raised regarding the crowded pools, golf courses, and special events. Are these people all residents? Are they guests of residents?

Huge billboards along the major highways encourage everybody to enjoy what the Villages has to offer. Our special events, restaurants and amenities are crowded with outsiders. Do you think that all the people enjoying the events in the Town Square are residents and guests. Do you feel safe in the Town Square late in the evening? (Read the police reports.) Residents have no priority privileges. They must stand in line behind outsiders.

They keep changing the rules. Once guests had to live at least 50 miles away. Now anyone not living in the Villages is considered a guest Potential residents were assured that our community would remain beautiful based on standards for houses. Anything that a resident might do to detract from the conformity was forbidden. Now, in one neighborhood a house has a non-conforming RV garage.

Why do you think these are so? The answer is simply for the money it will bring the Developer.

ANOTHER BUREAUCRACY?

At the last POA meeting, June 16, we had a very interesting speaker, Ass't Oxford Fire Chief, Thomas Pitzer Chief Jack Reynolds had been scheduled to speak but had to attend a very important meeting in Marion County (you will recall that they are also talking about fire protection).

Ass't. Chief Pitzer gave us some very enlightening information about the Oxford Fire Dept. First of all, they are fully capable of giving the Villages the services that are needed for about \$35/yr. The VCCDD claims it will need \$56 a year from us plus \$41/yr taken out of our amenity fee for a total of \$97/year. Compare this figure to what Oxford needs.

Oxford already has all the necessary equipment (1 ladder pump truck--2 engine pumpers--1 tank truck--1 brush/crash vehicle--3/4 QRV, etc) and trained personnel. In fact, they have more equipment than the Villages' plan

Going with Oxford we would be getting experienced, well equipped, and a well trained team capable of efficiently performing all our service needs and at a very reasonable cost. Going with the VCCDD, we will pay more than double (\$97 compared to \$35) for an inexperienced, unproven service vendor who must spend many thousands of dollars in equipment before he can even start up.

Ass't Chief Pitzer stated straight out that he did not understand or know how the politics worked that awarded the VCCDD the contract. But, he and the entire fire department feel that they have been betrayed by Sumter County Commissioners Benny Strickland, Tiny Rutter, and Robin Cox. Oxford had been promised to be allowed to submit a bid and then the contract was awarded without any submitted bids other than the VCCDD.

Does this whole issue make any sense to you. Doesn't it prove that even our Sumter County Commissioners are not working in the best interests of the people. And whoever controls the politicians gets the spoils?

If you people don't like the way this whole issue has been handled, call our Villages' Sumter County Commissioner Benny Strickland (748-2060). Call Robin Cox (793-6910) and Tiny Rutter (748-4220) also Ask them all, "who are you working for, the residents or the Developer?"

- Carol Kope

PLEASE FILL OUT THE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR VENDOR SERVICE -

WE CANNOT COMPILE A DIRECTORY WITHOUT THIS INFORMATION

WHAT HAPPENED??

Up North I had been a volunteer fireman. So when I moved down here in '93, I joined the Oxford Fire Dept, as a volunteer. Presently, I am not an active member but I have maintained close ties with the Department.

When the controversial issue of who would operate the newly formed fire district which would include the Villages came up, I became very curious about the fees being discussed I checked the fire department's budgets for the last several years. They are:

> 1994/1995 \$58,080 1995/1996 \$70,806 1996-1997 \$93,300 1997/1998 \$129,300 1998/1999 \$156,143

Next year, their budget will be around \$200,000 or better.

Each year, the budget has increased and will continue to do so for as long as the housing growth within the Oxford District continues

The current Oxford Fire District is completely capable of rendering all our fire and rescue needs. I wonder what is going on here. Why are the Commissioners changing teams? Why are they dumping Oxford?

- Russ Day



Along the street there comes A blare of bugles, a ruffle of drums, A flash of color beneath the sky

Hats off!

The flag is passing by Blue and crimson and white it shines, Over the steel-tipped, ordered lines.

Hats off! The colors before us fly; But more than the flag is passing by Sign of a nation, great and strong To ward her people from foreign wrong Pride and glory and honor, - all Live in the colors to stand or fall.

Hats off The flag is passing by! - unknown

SERVICE PERFORMANCE DIRECTORY

The POA would like to prepare a Directory of service providers that POA members can check before contracting for work to be done on their homes or use of professional services.

This directory service will be operated somewhat like the Better Business Bureau. We will not recommend any particular vendor. We will simply give you whatever information we have on your inquiry

The following information is needed to compile this directory. We would appreciate it if you would answer the following and return it to the POA as soon as possible. Use the Comments line to indicate your satisfaction with the provider or any additional comments you wish to make.

Have you had, or are you currently having, any of the following services performed?

Do you have a service contract - pay YN up front for periodic check-ups and/or all services and repairs provided at no additional fee? Who? Cost? What is covered Comments Driveway, porch, patio painted

Contractor? Cost?

Comments

Lawn/Yard Service Contractor? Cost? Comments

Have you used a handy-man? For what? Who? Cost?

Comments Plumber? Who? Cost?

Comments: Electrician? Who?

Cost? Comments

Inside or Outside painter (indicate which)

For what? Who? Cost? Comments

Heating/Air Condition Work Who?

Cost? Comments

> VILLAGE HEATING & IR CONDITIONING INC. Owned operated by Villages Resident



| Rug Cleaner | 1 | IN |
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| Who? | | |
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| Roof Washed | Y | N |
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Yes No

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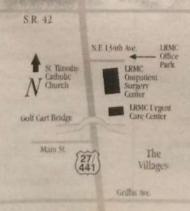
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BELIEVE IT or NOT

by Tom Poss

Our fight for the right to vote. I hope everyone had the opportunity to read in Village Sun, May 27, 1999, page 3, Pete's Place by Pete Wahl. The byline - give thanks for freedom rights gained by sacrifice. Our people in the Armed Forces of the United States sacrificed their lives for our freedom, expressed Mr. Wahl.

I would assume that with the title, Director/Administrator, Mr. Wahl also speaks for the developers. In the column, Mr. Wahl stated, "we enjoy the right to participate in the political process by which we elect our leaders by the right to vote". What Mr. Wahl is not telling the residents of the Villages is that under the VCCDD, the people do not have that right to "VOTE"!

Whoa!! Mr Wahl - is the Villages some sort of "independent sovereignty" - a dictatorship - not part of the good old USA? (Maybe so - remember a couple of years ago when they tried to stop the residents of the Villages villas from flying the American flag in the front of their homes?) Those brave men and women (many are current Villages residents) that Mr. Wahl speaks of fought for all Americans even Villages residents. However, the Developer owns the Villages. It is his own, little private empire, and he certainly will not allow the freedom of voting

At one of the VCCDD meetings I attended a couple of months ago, I questioned Mr. Wahl regarding the proposed budget why is he paying so much money to the auditors and why the large expense of \$800,000 plus to maintain the golf courses? I also asked Mr Wahl why are not these expenditures put out for bids? His only answer to me was "I don't have to!"

(Writer's note - at the present time the members that sit on the VCCDD Board of Supervisors do not even live within the Villages.)

TAKING CREDIT

My grandfather once told me that there are two kinds of people: those who do the work and those who take the credit. He told me to try to be in the first group; there was less competition there.

- Indira Gandhi

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I fully realize that if I were to ask Pete Wahl and/or the Developer, to let the residents vote for the VCCDD Board of Supervisors, I would get the same answer, "I don't have to!" (I keep forgetting that this is Florida! They do things differently down here.)

I'm sure we would get the same answer for the request to at least allow residents to vote on the issues of borrowing monies, how that money is spent and on what, you will again tell me, "I don't have to"

You are all hiding under the umbrella of Chapt #190. If Mr. Wahl is so sincere about the freedoms we enjoy in America, why are these freedoms so restricted in the Villages?

It's only in the Villages that people who live within a particular district do not have the right to vote on issues which have direct and severe impacts on their lives

These are some of the issues that we would like corrected by amendments to Chapt. #190. Our circulating petition addresses these issues. If you agree with us, please sign the petition on page 5. This petition will be sent to our elected officials in Tallahassee, requesting the enforcement of our Constitutional Rights, allowing the residents, you and I, the right to vote on VCCDD issues.

I encourage everyone who has doubts on my statements to go to the next VCCDD meeting (last Friday of the month at 9 00 AM, meeting room next to Pete Wahl's office) and the ask the questions I asked

I would like to hear your views. Please write or call, 750-5640, fax 750-2320

Until next time, this is Believe or Not by Tom Poss

DID YOU KNOW???

Katie Belle's Music Hall & Fine Dining and McCall's Tavern were recently fined \$1,150 and \$400 respectively for many violations of State Health regulations. How interesting. It appears that they haven't too much clout with this state department (yet). But give them time!

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HOW SWEET IT IS!!!

A lesson how Sumter County Districts #1, #2, and #3 were created.

First - Sumter County Commissioners voted to allow the Villages to start a CDD (amidst the protests of Village residents who stated that such CDDs were not in the best interest of the residents).

Second - Sold \$28 million bonds for each of the Districts (the Districts to pay back in 20 years).

Third - Put themselves on the CDD Boards to buy from the Developer (at inflated prices) the land necessary to build the roads, water, sewer pipes in the street, and all that stuff to make them improved building lots which include retention ponds (they call "lakes") They put six inches of clay in a hole and call it a man made lake. They put in street lights, under ground sprinklers, and grass to make it a beautiful new section of the Villages. They sell the lots for \$20,000 to \$65,000.

Fourth - Take themselves and Pete Wahl off the CDD Board of Supervisors - make Pete Wahl Administrative Manager, put in the residents (they have already accomplished all their financial accomplishments so why not the residents in?).

Fifth - Go about selling homes on all those beautifully improved lots.

If anything goes wrong in your District, go to the Board, and sue yourself to correct it. HOW SWEET IT IS!!

- Joe Gottfried



BON APPETITE

LITHUANIAN KUGALS (Hot Potato Dish) 1 1/2 lbs diced bacon 1 large diced onion

Place in frying pan with 2 tbs water, cook until bacon is done (not crisp). Drain off 1/2 of the bacon fat. Use bacon fat to grease an oblong pan no smaller than 8x10

Peel and quarter 5 lbs of white potatoes. Using a food processor, grate potatoes and diced fried onions - place in a large bowl and add: 6 eggs

3/4 can evaporated milk

1 tsp salt

2 tbs baking powder

6 tbs flour

Pour in prepared pan and bake in preheated 425° oven for 15 min - turn heat down to 350° and bake 1 hr and 15 min. (longer if not golden brown on top and sides). Cut into squares and serve hot with melted butter and sour cream. Crumbled bacon on top optional.

Momma used to make a meal out of just this dish, and it was goood!

Enjoy! Charlotte Poss

ANOTHER STEP ALONG?

By Winn Shook, VP POA

In the May issue I wrote that the Lake County Tax Collector was considering taxing the property owned by the Village Community Center Development District (VCCDD). The Lake Sentinel of May 30, 1999 reports that Sumter County may follow suit.

It was just a matter of time. Since CDD's were considered not taxable, the County was giving up a large tax base. You pay taxes on your property, the CDD's did not pay taxes. Now they may have to pay!

Now comes another problem. Tax assessments are based on the value of the asset. A tax rate is applied, resulting in a tax bill. Value is determined by appraisal, OR, by sale price in certain conditions.

Some of the property was sold by the Developer to the VCCDD for over \$30 Million but was appraised for \$7.5 Million Hmm - what will it be assessed at? What will be the tax bill? I think I can predict litigation.

And, if the VCCDD pay the taxes, will your maintenance fee increase? Probably! Will your tax bill be reduced on your own home because of the extra taxes paid by the Developer? Maybe! Will they balance out? I don't know

But, I suggest to you that Statute 190 which was used to create tax-free CDD's should be re-written to help resolve these problems. The POA is circulating a petition asking our elected officials to modify Statute 190. PLEASE read and consider signing this petition (below).

Take charge of your destiny

THE DEVELOPER'S GOAL

It appears to be the Developer's goal to overbuild as much infrastructure as possible and then sell to the residents at inflated prices based on the Developer's "single" appraisal.

We, the Property Owners' Association of the Villages, are asking you to help us stop the Developer from achieving his goal. To do this, we must get Florida's Chapter #190 (the statute that defines the creation and utilization of Community Development Districts) amended to prevent developers such as we have in the Villages from committing retirees to an uncertain financial future.

The VCCDD (Village Community Development District - created and controlled by the Developer and his business associates) collects all maintenance fees and disburses them at their own discretion. This is legal according to Chapt. 190 - but it is not morally right. This is what we are trying to change. We believe that the residents should be involved in such financial transactions.

Our VCCDD has indebted all the residents of the Villages - Lake and Sumter Counties - to the tune of over \$200 million (bond issues). This is, of course, paid off through our amenity fee.

This VCCDD purchases property from the Developer, upon the Developer's single appraisal, at highly inflated prices. Consider some of the following practices of the VCCDD.

1) One purchase (among many similar purchases) of property from the Developer for the price of over \$30 million. County officials appraise this property for around \$7.5 million.

2) Residents must pay for after-thoughts of the Developer. Examples: \$400,000 for a tunnel under a road to allow residents to get to his commercial areas - golf cart paths to this same

3) Residents must pay for mistakes made by the Developer. Example: Loss of water in a retention pond engineered and built by the Developer (sold as lake front sites at premium prices).

Pete Wahl conducts a CDD School which is supposed to educate residents on the benefits of this quasi-type government. Remember he's paid by the Developer to tell you all kinds of good things. Does he ever answer any questions that may reflect negatively on the Developer or to help solve any resident's problem if there may be a cost to the Developer?

Do you think we should live in ignorant bliss as the Villages Home Owners Assoc. suggests? If not - then please sign and return the following petition to us.

- Carol Kope

Our "POA Bulletin" Disclaimer is extremely

Signed articles are the **OPINION** of the writer. Unsigned articles are the **OPINION** of the POA. Our "Mail Box" column will not print "unsigned" letters.

POA Editorial Staff

Drop in POA Box at Paradise Rec Center

PETITION TO AMEND CHAPTER #190

SUBJECT: Amendments needed to Florida Statute 190

This petition is to change the law to represent the will of all of the people and not just the Developer.

Whereas: We the undersigned residents and registered voters are requesting our elected officials to make necessary amendments to Florida State Statute #190, for the following reasons:

- None of the people serving on the Village Community Center Development District Board, (referred to as VCCDD from herein), are required to live in the district therefore, do not have a direct interest in the area.
- The VCCDD Board, had and has the authority to request and issue bonds at their discretion. The home owners, who live in this servicing district had no voice in this decisions whatsoever. The VCCDD is now approximately \$150 million in debt.(including interest this figure would be over \$200 million).
- The Developer directs his VCCDD Board to purchase specific properties without appraisals or comparative prices.
- 4. At the present time there are 10,000 homes and 17,000, residents being serviced by this VCCDD. All the above paid for by the \$99.00 monthly maintenance fee each unit pays to the VCCDD, yet the residents have no voice on how the money is spent by the VCCDD Board.

NAME and ADDRESS

COUNTY



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| | |

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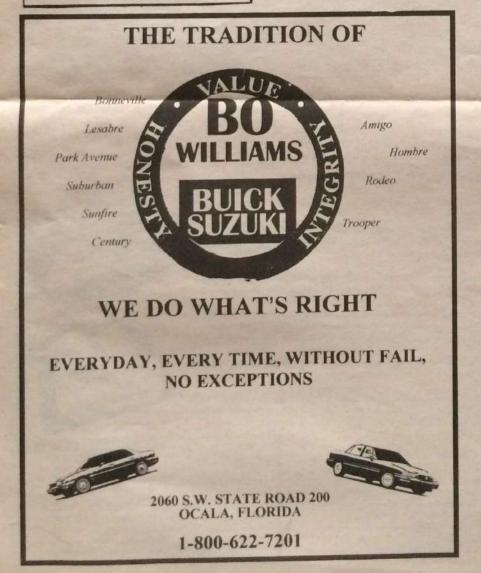
"The Villages houses cost more because of the recreational amenities, and county assessments reflect that. So, that is ample taxation for the entire community."

"The VCCDD bought the recreational facilities and other miscellaneous properties from the developer, Gary Morse for about \$25 million three years ago."

"Taxing the properties - Havill's office assessed at \$5.5 million - would have generated nearly \$450,000 annually for Lake schools and county government. However, that would be unfair."

- E.D. Havill

If, at first, you don't succeed, sky diving is not for you.





ACCOLADES

People are wonderful. In the midst of all the crime and violence that we are constantly exposed to and its media play-

up, our world still abounds with many, many wonderful, kind, considerate, and God loving people. My faith never weakens about the good in people.

A simple example of this is: Recently, after loading my car with groceries from Publix's, I returned home to discover that I had left my purse in the grocery cart. I panicked and immediately returned to the store. My purse was not in any of the unreturned carts and had not been turned in to the Service Desk. I was extremely upset. My purse contained all my charge cards, license, check book, and some cash (very little cash -I had just been to food market). Even as upset as I was, I had a deep feeling inside that I would get my purse back. I just knew I would. Sure enough. Just as I was unloading the food, an unfamiliar station wagon drove into the driveway and a lovely younger woman got out waving my purse!!

I will never loose faith in people!!

- Carol Kope

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MAIL BOX

Dear Ms Kope - I read with dismay your article on page 4 (May 1999 edition) regarding "Houses for Sale??!!"

First of all, there are over 10,000 homes in The Villages and the percentage of homes for sale come to 4%. I believe any Real Estate office will inform you that this not an extravagant percentage. Four percent is in fact, on the low side of the norm.

Second, I live on Carrera Drive. Have you bothered to interview the people who have their homes up for sale to determine the reason? It seems not. One couple is going back to Ohio for personal reasons having nothing to do with The Villages, another couple is buying a villa as they travel extensively in their motor home and want a property that is maintained by the developer or association, another couple want to build a larger home, another person has bought acreage and is moving to Oxford. I cannot speak for the other three but I believe one the remaining homes is a rental. By the way, that total is 7 homes and not 10. Yes, we did have three people on this street who put up signs in protest of the home built with a motor home garage. but those homes were not really for sale. I would guess that since the home in question is finished, most people do not find it objectionable. It is tastefully done and will be landscaped in the same good taste

Christopher L. Cavanaugh - 1639 Carrera Drive Dear Mr. Cavanaugh - I do not believe that it is anybody's business as to why their home has a "For Sale" sign. I certainly do not intend to ask such personal questions. We must have visited your street when there were 10 "For Sale" signs up, evidently including the 3 protestors. So 7 legitimate and 3 protestors make 10 - right? All I said about Carrera Drive was "10 houses for sale on Carrea Driv

Carol Kope

LOOK TO THE "SUN"

I do believe that they have a huge circulation, but, do they get paid for the circulation?

My neighbor left for New Hampshire in April Two weeks before she left, she called the paper and canceled her subscription. I do not buy the paper. I do not have to. My poor little wife makes a trip over to our neighbor to pick up the paper every day. This is very helpful - 1" it helps to keep the neighborhood tidy. 2nd it gives my wife her daily exercise. 3rd, an extra plus is that I get to read it. I wonder how many other people have this luxury? It does keep the circulation high!

728-8881

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OUR COMMUNITY POOLS

The Maintenance Dept does its best to maintain and keep our pools in good shape But, recently, the Rio Grande family pool had to be closed for several hours to maintenance people to clean the pool. Adult human feces were found floating and heaven only knows how much urination is also contaminating the water.

How some people can be so lazy and inconsiderate is incomprehensible. It certainly makes one think before using the pools.

There is some sort of chemical that can be added to the pool water that will immediately change the color of the water surrounding an injection of human waste. But, Mr. Wahl does not want to use it, because it would humiliate the offending person. Humiliate them - good - they should be humiliated

ANECDOTE

In 1972, my father-in-law passed on at the ripe old age of 92. He and my mother-inlaw had been married for 65 years so naturally, it was a great loss to her and a very traumatic shock

We were all at the funeral parlor and people were arriving to pay their respects. My mother-in-law was standing about four feet away with her back to the coffin. Being quite distraught and confused, she turned to me and said "Oh, Al, look at all the flowers and the people arriving. Wouldn't - wouldn't what's his name be pleased if he could see all this "

This dear old lady left us at the grand age of 100 But, to this day, we often smile and remember her words at her husband's wake A man whom she had known for nearly threefourths of a century and couldn't remember his name. - Alta Gray, Resident

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SAGA OF "LIZZIE"

I would like to thank the numerous people who came to my aid when I asked for help with our lizard problem. I also apologize to the woman who left a message - I accidentally erased it.

Believe me, I now know a great deal about lizards. Did you know that there are two types - Cuban brown and green lizard The green lizard is in danger of extinction and can practically be trained as a pet (My husband was violently opposed to this idea)

I received suggestions on how to capture them. You must stun them first by one of several methods: throw a towel over them, use a flyswatter, or spray them with bug repellant. Then you pick them up and throw them out. One man even suggested how I could eliminate their entrance - sprinkle moth balls around the porch door.

So, now I sit on my screen porch with all the furniture and plants (artificial) in the center of the room and am well prepared for battle. I have my fly swatter, can of bug spray, towel, and moth balls - waiting for Lizzie to make her appearance.

But, maybe the lady who said they could be trained is right. The minute I open my sliding door, Lizzie scoots away. She must know my intentions. So, I am now applying a different strategy. When I see her, I go out very, very quietly and just sit - making no aggressive move toward her. I will do this for several days, until she feels non-threatened then - BANG - I'm going to get her. Remember, ALL'S FAIR IN LOVE AND WAR - Carol Kope

FLASH - Just before going to press, I got Lizzie. She is well and happy (I presume) The bug spray did it! I set her free in the grass and she immediately ran off to join her family. My back door has been lizard-proofed with moth balls. The battle area has been secured

| Annual Dues - 5 | IBERSHIP FORM 56 per Household 57, Lady Lake, FL 32158 |
|------------------|--|
| NAME(S) | |
| STREET | |
| VILLAGE or VILLA | |
| COUNTY | PHONE DATE |

NEXT POA MEETING

Wednesday, JULY 21, 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.

| POA | TEL: 750-5469 | |
|------------------|---------------------|--|
| PO 1657 LAD | Y LAKE, FL, 3215 | |
| Officers and Boa | rd of Directors | |
| Joe Gottfried | President 750-5469 | |
| "Win" Shook | Vice-Pres. 753-2928 | |
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P.O.A. MEETINGS

Board of Directors - 7:00 PM

1st Tuesday of the Month

Charlie Chaplin Rm - Paradise Center
(all POA members welcomed)

General Meeting - 7:00 PM

3rd Wednesday of the Month

Paradise Recreation Center

Refreshments Served

(ALL RESIDENTS WELCOMED)

SCHEDULED CDD MEETINGS

VCCDD - Villages Community Center Development District

Meets on the <u>last Friday</u> of the month at 9:00 AM in Pete Wahl's office on the 2nd floor of the bank building on Main Street

CDD#1 - Meets on the last Friday of the month at 10:00 AM - El Santiago Rec Bldg.

CDD#2 - Meets on the first Friday of the month at 9:30 AM - El Santiago Rec Bldg.

CDD#3 - Meets on the first Friday of the month at 9 00 AM - El Santiago Rec Bldg

FACTS OR FICTION

There has been so much controversy about people's driving habits: speeding, tailgating, driving with one hand on the wheel, no signals, etc. But, do you know that in the state of Florida, if you are blind you can renew your license for another four years?

Now, to correct some of these driving problems, it might be a good idea to have an eye check before licenses are renewed.

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