

# The POA BULLETIN

The Property Owners' Association of The Villages

Issue 32.04

Champion of Residents' Rights Since 1975

April, 2006

## CLICK ON THE ARTICLE NAME BELOW

<a href="#"><u>What is the Ultimate Objective of the POA?</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Questions for CDD Orientation</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Letter to the Editor: Retha Stansberry Roberts &amp; Chandler in Sumter County</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Country Clubs</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>VHA Corner</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Pete's Corner</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Use Villages Facilities</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Executive Golf Bottlenecks</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Bill Garner is New POA VP</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Christmas Parade</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>CDD4 Stiffed for \$200,000 by Developer</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Disclosure Reform Bill in Legislature</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Cheers and Jeers</u></a>		<a href="#"><u>POA Annual Survey Comments, Continued</u></a>

The POA Bulletin is published monthly by the Property Owner's Association of the Villages, Inc. Articles in the Bulletin represent the opinion of the POA, except Letters to the Editor, which represent the opinions of the writers. Care is taken to insure that all facts reported herein are true and accurate to the best knowledge of the POA and are taken from reliable sources. The POA assumes no liability for any information published, opinions expressed, or delivery to any person or location. All publication rights are reserved. Publication or reprinting of any material contained herein is by written permission only.

[Return To Main POA Page](#)

## What is the Ultimate Objective of the POA?

What does the POA really want?

You have read the many stories in the Bulletin over the years about various issues in The Villages on which the POA has commented.

Hopefully, these stories have been seen within the context of the POA's avowed mission to be a watchdog of the developer and the various local government units within our community.

But, the questions still remain: What does the POA ultimately want? Why does it speak out on so many issues affecting Villagers? Why doesn't the POA Bulletin print more positive and softer stories?

The POA Bulletin prints the hard stories because the ultimate objective of the POA is to bring representative and democratic government to The Villages.

We have often said that if we could change just one thing here in The Villages, it would be to require that the supervisors of the central districts (the VCCDD and the SLCDD) stand for a popular election by all residents in the administrative areas of those central districts.

This would solve many problems, not the least of which would be the detached and increasingly contentious administration of the developer's supervisors and Mr. Pete Wahl.

The current situation is that the developer effectively appoints those supervisors. He has gerrymandered the boundaries of those central districts so that no residents live within the districts. Thus, the developer is able to continue appointing the supervisors, perhaps forever. And, it is legal based on Chapter 190, the Florida law passed in 1980 that authorized and continues to regulate CDDs (Community Development Districts). Chapter 190 has a conflict of interest exemption for developers and their employees.

However, it is morally wrong for the developer to disenfranchise Villagers in their own community. Americans have a right to vote - but, we are denied that right here in The Villages.

The developer's hand-selected supervisors collect our monthly fees and they spend our monthly fees. All of this without approval of residents. This is equivalent to the Taxation without Representation issue that plagued the early colonists under British rule in eighteenth century America and led to the American Revolution.

In almost all the states, cities, and counties of the U.S., citizens have the right to elect their governmental officials. If the citizens don't think their elected officials are responsive to the electorate, voters can throw them out in the next election. Not so in The Villages.

In most of the states, cities, and counties of the U.S., residents can often vote in referendums about big spending plans for projects like sports stadiums, municipal buildings, roads, etc. Not so in The Villages.

As a matter of fact, the hand-appointed supervisors of the developer have spent roughly \$1 billion in the VCCDD administration area north of highway 466 on the purchase of common property from the developer. All of this without resident approval.

And, residents are obligated to repay the bonds issued for these purchases, whether they like it or not.

And, the supervisors purchase these properties from the very developer who appointed them in the first place. Does this sound like a conflict of interest to you?

This surely doesn't sound like the ideal of American democratic and representative government where Residents' Rights are respected and government is responsive to the needs and interests of its citizens.

What we have here is a situation where the developers says: Just pay your monthly fees; let me make the decisions; and don't rock the boat with questionable comments about Taxation Without Representation or being Disenfranchised. Just be happy!

The POA wants to change the process in the central districts so that residents elect the supervisors who make all the big money decisions in our community. After all, it is our community now - not the developer's.

Residents should be able to control their own destiny. We need Home Rule.

What you can do is to make sure that you, your neighbors and friends are members of the POA and support our activities. The bigger we get, the stronger we get, the better able we are to champion your Residents' Rights.

Actually, you don't even have to come to our monthly meetings. It is enough for you to study and understand the issues, speak up for us when you can, and support our activities.

We will have more information in the near future about a Fund Raising effort in which we plan to build a Legal Action Fund. We need the capability to pursue legal action whenever needed for these issues. So, please stay tuned and help us with this effort if you can. As a final point, just remember: This is your community now, and you should have the vote.

[Top](#)

---

## Questions for CDD Orientation

The POA Board of Directors encourages all residents to attend the CDD Orientation Meetings to learn what CDDs are, how they work, and how they are established.

We suggest that you listen first and ask questions second. Some questions you might ask in one of these meetings are listed below.

1. Why have the developer and the sales staff failed to disclose pertinent financial risks to prospective buyers? Examples include the hold harmless agreements on wet retention ponds on private golf courses; paying roadside maintenance on county road 42 when most of the land abutting it is owned by

the developer and not CDD4; failure to advise Marion county residents that they must pay to maintain all of the roads in CDD4 except Buena Vista Boulevard.

2. Why did the developer put very few dry retention ponds in the numbered CDDs north of route 466? Dry ponds, not requiring expensive liners, would have been better than wet ponds which require expensive liners. Was it ethical for the developer to put in wet ponds for use by the numbered CDDs on his privately owned golf course and then make the CDD residents pay to maintain them? The developer needed the wet ponds for irrigation, and aesthetics for his golf course, and it increased the surrounding home site values. (The biggest expense in repairing sinkhole damages is repairing and or replacing the liner needed for a wet pond.)

3. Did the developer use the CDD bond money to grade and build infrastructure for his golf courses, and country club and maintenance facilities which are NOT located within the boundaries of the CDDs? (When the developer petitioned to establish the numbered CDDs he created them around his golf courses -- he intentionally did not include the golf course properties in the CDDs -- most likely so his property would not be assessed part of the infrastructure bond debt.) If he paid separately for said grading and building, where can you find the separate accounting to verify this? If he did not, was this legal since these properties were not in the CDD???

4. Statute 190 allows for developer appointed supervisors to be exempt from the conflict of interest requirement for public officials, but it does not relieve them of their ethical and fiduciary responsibilities. The developer appointed supervisors appear to often violate these ethical and fiduciary responsibilities because they do not act on what is in the best interest of the current or future residents. When will residents get to vote on supervisors for the VCCDD or SLCDD?

5. The covenants we all signed with the developer cover the recreational facilities. How do you define recreation facilities? Why are the recreation trails - as so described in the developer literature - not maintained with amenity fee money as promised in the covenants?

6. How do you define a "gated community" when over 1500 workers been given gate passes? Why does the developer continue to advertise falsely?

7. Who pays for the nightly "free entertainment" in the squares? Who will pay for it when the developer completes build out?

8. Why does the developer still have control over the Villages entertainment, including the shows at the Savannah Center and all of the receipts from them? Why does the VCCDD, which "owns" the Savannah Center, not charge appropriate rates for use of the "theater" and receive a percentage of ticket sales as is usually done in the theater industry? You figure it out - the developer, who is the primary user, pays less than \$125 per hour to rent the Savannah Center theater!

The developer needs to PLAY FAIR. We want to be proud of the developer and staff for what they have provided rather than feel compelled to complain about all the ways the developer avoids the intent of Statute 190 and takes advantage of us financially.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO MAKE AMENDS. THINGS LIKE THE HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENTS ON THE GOLF COURSE RETENTION PONDS

[Top](#)

---

**Letter to the Editor: Retha Stansberry**  
**Roberts & Chandler in Sumter County**

While it is every newspaper publisher's prerogative to set the political tone of his newspaper, it is not within a publisher's right to mislead the public. I believe Villagers are being misled by The Villages media in its coverage of the political campaigns of Jim Roberts and Joey Chandler for Sumter County Commissioner.

The Villages media is calling for Villagers to line up against Commissioners Roberts and Chandler. The media, owned by the developer, is trying once again to lead us in a campaign, now against two men who have worked so hard on this county's behalf.

Chandler and Roberts were against the One Sumter initiative two years ago, and I disagreed with them on this initiative. But The Daily Sun and VNN seem to be trying to turn their belief in single district representation into some sort of conspiracy against the laws of nature, and that their belief that representation by districts as used by the Federal government and the State of Florida in their respective legislatures is somehow repressing our Constitutional rights. (There was no hesitation in The Villages VCCDDs' attempt at suppressing our First Amendment rights to free speech and free assembly, or in the VCCDDs' infringement of our protection from taxation without representation.)

Could it be that the media is not telling us that the real reasons for the developer's opposition to Roberts and Chandler have more to do with:

1. Their opposition to the developer's request for a variance from county code to reduce the distance between homes from 20 to 10 feet? (Editor's note: This situation poses a fire hazard where closely-packed homes exist. But, more homes can be built per acre.)
2. Their opposition to his request for a variance from county code for the reduction of the radius of cul-de-sacs? (Editor's note: This poses a safety risk where emergency vehicles might not be able to turn around in reduced-radius cul-de-sacs. But, more homes can be built per acre.)
3. Their opposition to granting his request to build 32,000 homes (south of highway 466)? Roberts and Chandler did not oppose this development, but rather wanted to ensure that the support infrastructure would be there and that there would be sufficient commercial enterprises to help offset dependency on property taxes alone to fund services. So the commissioners crafted a consensus to allow construction of 11,000 homes with a decision on the next 11,000 pending on the level of impact on roads, water, environment and the construction of commercial properties. Upon completion of the first 22,000

homes the option on the last 10,000 will depend again on the same level of impact. I call this intelligent planning for the future.

4. Their opposition to the developer's submitted plan to build just one centrally-located fire station to serve all 32,000 homes? I submit that the owners in the Marion County portion of The Villages wish that the Marion County BOCC has been so wise.

5. Their opposition to a project backed by the developer to change county ordinances to allow density changes from 8 units an acre to 16 units per acre?

I ask your thoughtfulness before your vote this fall. It would be well to attend a BOCC meeting, and see all the numerous items that come before them, all the oversight they must assume, and then ask yourself if you would want to take on such a monumental task. Let's not hurry to line up behind the developer or anyone else to eliminate these two men as Sumter County commissioners. Instead, we should be in line to thank them for their efforts on our behalf.

(Editor's note: The reader should also remember two additional points on which Commissioners Roberts and Chandler opposed plans of the developer which were detrimental to the residents of The Villages, as follows:

(Commissioner Roberts insisted that the developer build a library in Sumter County south of highway 466, as he had promised to do in the original plans for the development. The developer wanted to renege on the promise and have Sumter County pay for and build the library. The Daily Sun demonized Roberts when he insisted that the developer honor his original promise. The Daily Sun was almost vicious in its condemnation of Roberts. But, the developer built the library.

(Roberts and Chandler also opposed the plans, favored by the developer, to build over 1,000 high-density, low-income apartments on the west side of highway 101 just north of highway 466. Villagers close to the planned apartments opposed this plan and Roberts and Chandler agreed with them. The two commissioners were characterized by the Daily Sun as standing in the way of development and were denigrated for their stand.

(Roberts and Chandler haven't always made decisions popular with Villagers. But, they seem to make honest and responsible decisions with everybody's best interests in mind. They certainly don't deserve the name-calling and mud-slinging that the Daily Sun seems to especially delight in throwing at them.)

[Top](#)

---

## Country Clubs

The ads on TV for The Villages laud all of the advantages of living here. Among the many advantages are full memberships in eight country clubs.

Yes, just like back home where the country clubs were expensive and restricted to members. They had nice golf courses, clubhouses, restaurants, tennis courts, swimming pools, etc. Nice, but expensive to join and monthly fees were high. And, you had to be a member in order to use the facilities.

But, here in The Villages, you are a member by virtue of your residency.

Well, maybe not a full member.

Here you are a member of the country clubs - but, you can't use the pools or tennis courts unless you pay an additional membership fee.

Maybe the ads on TV about being a member of all those country clubs aren't really true - unless you pay extra.

Perhaps we have been misled by the developer shading the truth in those ads! Gosh, we are shocked, just shocked!

[Top](#)

---

## VHA Corner

VHA Corner We have expressed our disappointment with the VHA many times in the recent past.

The VHA just doesn't stand up for Residents' Rights as a homeowners' association should.

For example, on the cost of the repair of the sinkhole on the Nancy Lopez golf course, the POA spoke out saying that the developer should pay about \$120,000 of that repair. The developer only paid about \$20,000, or \$100,000 short. The VHA never said anything about that issue.

We continue to believe that if the VHA had stood with us and supported the position of the POA, the developer might well have acknowledged our united stand and paid what was right. But, the VHA didn't support our position, and the developer stiffed CDD4 for \$100,000.

As another example of the VHA not supporting Residents' Rights, we cite them for their comments on the recently aborted Activity Policy of Mr. Pete Wahl and the central districts.

Remember, this Activity Policy was passed and then rescinded when resident pressure pointed out that the policy was an infringement of our Constitutional freedoms of speech and assembly. We think most residents acknowledged and agreed with this position.

The VHA president, Mr. Doug Tharp, however, was reported as saying in a Leesburg Daily Commercial article on January 6, 2006, that the policy was a

"good policy."

In this same article, Joe Gorman, POA president, was quoted as saying that the policy was "restrictive and oppressive." Mr. Tharp disagreed with Gorman's comment.

When the policy was quickly rescinded, Mr. Tharp wrote in the March issue of the VHA newspaper that the rescission was "a wise decision."

These are the problems with Mr. Tharp and the VHA: They blindly support the developer and the central districts - then speak out of the other side of their mouth and say something expedient when that suits their purposes.

If Mr. Tharp had a principled view of life in The Villages, he wouldn't have flipped-flopped on this issue of whether the Activity Policy was good or bad. Perhaps he still doesn't know. But, we Villagers know.

Mr. Tharp should think before speaking.

[Top](#)

---

## Pete's Corner

Pete Wahl, district administrator of The Villages, wrote in his March 23 column that: "One of the most important things you can do as you take up residence in The Villages is register to vote."

He continues: "...any voter will be allowed to select the candidate of your choice...."

Mr. Wahl is correct that we should take this responsibility seriously and exercise this right to vote.

However, Mr. Wahl doesn't tell you that in The Villages you can't vote for the supervisors of the two central government districts (the VCCDD and the SLCCDD) that make all of the big money decisions here. These supervisors collect your monthly fee, spend your money, and do so without any recourse to voters. These supervisors are basically appointed by the developer - you have no say in their election.

So, Mr. Wahl is right that you should take seriously your responsibility to vote for your residential CDD supervisors and your county or town commissioners. But, don't kid yourself - you don't get to vote for the most important decision-makers in this community - the central district supervisors. And, don't worry about any of their big spending plans - you don't get to vote in a referendum for big spending as you used to back home.

Mr. Wahl conveniently forgets to tell you about this. And, he hopes you don't know enough to ask. In doing this, Mr. Wahl does a great disservice to

Villagers.

This situation exists because the developer has cleverly gerrymandered the boundaries of the central districts so that no residents live there. Because of this, the developer can continue to elect his chosen supervisors. These supervisors, friendly to the developer, are often his employees, business associates, and friends. And, you don't get to vote.

[Top](#)

---

## Use Villages Facilities

Some of our local restaurants and other businesses may have to cut service due to sluggish sales.

Villagers, don't let this happen! Support these local businesses whenever you can.

If we lose businesses, then we all lose. It is great to live in The Villages where many of these businesses are a golf cart ride away.

So, shop local - support your hometown merchants. If you plan a night out, go to a movie, or shop, do it where you live and help keep your local shopping areas viable.

[Top](#)

---

## Executive Golf Bottlenecks

There is a serious problem with the executive golf program in The Villages - there is just not enough capacity during the high season from Thanksgiving to Easter.

The problem manifests itself with denied reservation requests for significant numbers of Villagers who sometimes have just a few points. Some Villagers are only able to get reservations for one play a week, sometimes not even that.

What's the problem?

There are several answers:

First, the developer has just not kept up with the influx of new residents by building enough executive golf courses. With 400-500 new residents moving into The Villages every month, the old formula of two new executive courses a year is no longer valid. It looks to us like two to three new executive courses a year should now be the minimum requirement.

Second, the only new executive courses over the past year, the Bogart/Bacall combination, has converted to 9 hole play too late. Until just recently, it was playing as only an 18 hole course, thus aggravating the shortage. The golf division should never have played this course as a single 18 hole course given the shortage of available 9 hole tee-times.

Third, many championship course players are irritated with the autocratic and unpopular greens fee increases pushed through by the golf division going back to last year. Many of these players cut costs by playing at least once a week on the executive courses, thus putting more strain on available tee times.

Fourth, the increasing numbers of younger and earlier retirees seem to be playing golf in greater numbers and higher percentages than used to be the case years ago.

Fifth, the push by The Villages Sales Division is attracting more and more "guests" to our community to "sample the lifestyle." Many of these people want to play golf and do so on a priority basis for free. These golfers effectively displace residents paying monthly amenity fees to maintain the executive courses in the first place.

So, what should be done?

The best way to address this problem would be to restrict guests and lifestyle samplers to one round of golf per week during this high season. We are sure that The Villages Sales Department will not like this - but, Villagers don't like being denied reservations on our courses when we are the ones paying to maintain the courses in the first place.

Furthermore, the developer should accelerate the development of executive courses and plan on at least three new courses a year. Let's get ahead of the demand curve instead of playing catch-up each year with all of the reservation-denial problems that we are experiencing now.

[Top](#)

---

## **Bill Garner is New POA VP**

We are pleased to announce the promotion of Bill Garner to the position of Vice President and Treasurer of the POA. Bill has been Treasurer for over two

years and will also continue in that role.

In his new position, Bill will be responsible for a variety of important projects relating to local government issues, developer-related issues, resident activities, public relations and membership, finance and treasury functions, etc. Bill is looking for volunteers to help on various committees. Bill will also be the main back-up to Joe Gorman as president.

One of the projects that Bill has been working on is the drive to sign up new members. The POA has just passed the 3,500 member mark and we are looking forward to even more sign-ups under Bill's direction.

Please offer Bill your congratulations and support when you next see him. And, ask him about how you might participate in POA activities on the various committees.

[Top](#)

---

## Christmas Parade

At the March 3 VCCDD meeting approximately 200 people showed up in support of the annual Christmas Parade. This is a large number of Village residents attending a VCCDD meeting.

The VCCDD announced the formation of a special Christmas Parade committee consisting of Village residents, the VCCDD, Village Entertainment Department and security. The committee's task will be to work with local sponsors of a parade to insure that requirements for float size, number of participants, staging areas, special requirements, etc., are followed.

It is time for clubs to unite with the POA to resolve common problems affecting The Village residents. You as a Village resident can help by joining the POA, so that the POA and other clubs can continue to resolve these problems that are a Residents' Right. We believe it is a Residents' Right for residents to speak out on these issues in their community.

The POA had informed the VCCDD prior to the meeting that there would be an overflow crowd. No effort was made to reschedule the meeting into a larger room. More than half of the people had to stand outside where they could not hear what was being said. In the future, we recommend the VCCDD schedule their meetings in a larger room. Every effort is being made to get more residents to attend these meetings.

For the meeting, Mr. Wahl requested that the Sumter County Sheriff send a patrol car with officers to the VCCDD meeting in a cynical effort to intimidate residents in case of any trouble. This again shows that Mr. Wahl has lost touch with residents and has become increasingly combative in dealing with what he probably perceives as threats to his autocratic methods.

The Lions Club ran the annual Christmas Parade here in the Villages for many years. They did an excellent job and the people loved the parade. The profits went to charity and everyone was happy. The Lions Club does a great job in many communities and has a very good reputation throughout the USA. They know how to run a Christmas Parade. So, let's have them be a part of our community and run our Christmas Parades in the future.

[Top](#)

---

## **CDD4 Stiffed for \$200,000 by Developer**

\$200,000 and counting.

That is the amount that the developer has stiffed CDD4 on for expenses that the developer should have paid. CDD4 residents have to make up the difference by assessments.

First, it was the cost of the sinkhole repair on a Nancy Lopez pond. The developer should have paid about \$120,000 - but only paid about \$20,000. CDD4 gets stiffed on \$100,000.

Then, it was the roadside maintenance on highway 42 where a contract entered into by the developer, with himself on both sides of the contract, that obligated CDD4 to pay more than \$100,000 over three years for maintenance that should have been paid for by the developer. Now that this error has surfaced, the developer declines to pay for the erroneous CDD4 payments in these past years. CDD4 gets stiffed for another \$100,000.

What's next?

And, if you live in another CDD, hold on to your pocketbook. You might be next.

[Top](#)

---

## **Disclosure Reform Bill in Legislature**

The POA Bulletin reported in February about the Disclosure Reform bill that we submitted to Senator Baker and Representative Gibson for consideration in this year's session of the Florida Legislature. Details of that bill can be seen on

our website in the Bulletin Archives section, February, 2006.

Unfortunately, we don't hold up much hope for action on the bill this year.

Senator Baker said that he was working on over 80 bills that he felt had a higher priority than our Disclosure bill. Representative Gibson said that House rules limit a representative to submission of only six bills a session, and that he had already submitted his limit with some important health care bills.

So, faint hope for the bill this year. But, we are gearing up for the try next session.

We should point out that we talked with Mr. Robert Thompson who is challenging Representative Gibson for his seat in the legislature in the upcoming November election. Mr. Thompson likes the Disclosure Reform bill often talks about it with local groups. He says that if elected he will definitely consider sponsoring it in the Legislature next session.

We have also had contact with other CDDs across the state and plan to work with these CDD officials in an effort to develop broader grass-roots support.

[Top](#)

---

## Cheers and Jeers

**Jeers** - To the resident who recently tried to sneak his visiting daughter onto the De La Vista golf course (guests not allowed), posing her as his wife without her Villages ID card. Thankfully, the ambassadors realized the deception and escorted the couple off the course. Cheers to the ambassadors. Jeers to anyone trying to dodge the rules.

**Cheers** - To residents who have their lawns fertilized and then remove the extra granules of the fertilizer remaining on the street. Left on the street, these granules eventually wash into our ponds and accelerate the growth of algae that clogs the ponds. So, make sure that you brush or blow the excess street granules back onto your lawn.

**Jeers** - To Tony Simpson, head of executive golf, for his comments that the greens at the Hill Top golf course were "inspired" by those in Pinehurst, NC. Mr. Simpson must have been playing a putt-putt course in Pinehurst or smoking the Hill Top score cards.

**Cheers** - To exercise walkers on streets who, when seeing a dangerous situation approaching them, will step up on the grass, off the roadway, to allow more room for cars or carts to pass.

**Jeers** - To Pete Wahl for explaining why the central districts don't put out press releases to explain important news like the purchase of common properties from the developer. Carefully prepared press releases would insure good

information is provided for news stories in local newspapers. Mr. Wahl, however, nixed the idea saying that those stories are "not important enough."

**Cheers** - We have noticed many residents walking around common areas with bags in hand to pick up litter. It is great to see residents helping out whenever they can. Keep up the good work, folks!

**Jeers** - To the phone book companies for sending us all those phone books. Why not put the directory on a CD disk for those of us with computers? Might save some trees.

**Jeers** - To the various county and state highway departments responsible for traffic control around The Villages. Something has to be done about the heavy traffic flows regardless of the snowbird issue. It is obvious that highway 441/27 needs further widening. And, highway 466 is showing the strain.

**Cheers** - To everybody who came to the March VCCDD meeting to support the idea of having a Christmas parade this year. See, resident action can make a difference.

[Top](#)

---

## POA Annual Survey Comments, Continued

- Thank you for the information you provide us with.
- Don't like the cut back on Taxi service. And the shuttle service still has a long gap at Orlando from 6:30-9:15 p.m.
- Is this survey going to do any good for us? What is going to happen to this survey? Will any improvements come about from this?
- Why not recycle?
- Why can't the POA come up with any constructive ideas?
- The VCCDD should pay to WIDEN golf cart paths on B.V., El Camino - that's what we pay amenities for! The paths are too narrow and dangerous. Make more pools "Adults Only" (No Kids). Idea of Mail Delivery to Homes rather than to a Postal Station: Leave mail at post stations - no ugly mail boxes at homes, please.
- Life here is good - However, consider: 1. bringing back Bichara's Bakery 2. Bringing back buffalo in back of Albertsons 3. Bringing back FREE Neighborhood Watch 4. Village officials should comment and respond to all publications - otherwise integrity is weakened if only from one source. The Villages District Manager, Mr. Pete Wahl: District Manager was crossed out

and Emperor was inserted.

- We Resent paying \$700 per year School Tax. Never had a child in Florida School and at 80-years-old, we never will. This is a lot of money out of our pensions and we receive no benefits.
- Is there no legal way to deal with some of these inadequacies? The developer's control of governmental issues, regarding the issue you discussed in this edition - "Taxing without Representation" seems to me we started this country over that issue.
- Above valuations could be increased if the developer and or Morse Foundation had less control. We need more Handicapped Parking spaces around the Squares. It appears the developer does not care to acknowledge the number of handicapped residents living in our senior citizen development.
- We are fearful of Gary Morse's greed compared to Mr. Schwartz's dream for an affordable retirement community for the average working men/women.
- Why is the "official" postal zone given as Lady Lake, FL? The population here in The Villages exceeds all of Lady Lake. The Villages should have, and deserve their own postal zone!
- The entire workings of The Villages needs new faces with new ideas, not approved by the developer. This is no longer a resident community, but a piggy bank for the Morse family.
- Hotel behind Rialto took away parking downtown. Plenty of land on 466 for hotels.
- Put camera on gates to ID plate #. All visitors to go to visitors' gate, not push buttons (Marion County) as this ties up traffic at gates.
- Why wasn't there a deal made for a really good price for cable? We have great purchasing power! Short time we are here it seems like pigs at a feeding trough. And we're the trough!
- The Property Owners' Association (POA), in General: Too negative. The POA Newsletter, The Bulletin: Too negative.
- I am not a member of the POA right now, but plan to be and will no longer belong to VHA.
- No input from residents on major decisions. Impeach Wahl on his stupidity regarding Christmas decision.
- All is lovely here at The Villages. Proud to say I live here!
- Village residents should have more say in businesses coming into The Villages: stores and restaurants. Better choice to join VHA or POA. Thank you. Keep up good reporting.
- I love it here in The Villages and recognize that it does cost some money to help pay for the exceptional lifestyle we enjoy. I do not object to the developers making money - that's business. While The Sun may be a bit too rosy sometimes-I find the alternate publications always negative.
- John Rohan's accountability for recreation facility operations: No redress is

possible when there are continuing problems. Therefore, the requests of Villagers continue to be ignored. John never accepts responsibility, and residents are victimized.

- I would not have bought a home here, if I knew that we kept getting more taxes and assessments and amenities keep going up for us with fixed incomes!

- As a snowbird for the last 10 years, we do not always get the info or reasoning on many of the changes we see when we return in the fall. Like why do we have a charter school and high school? Who paid for those facilities and who supports their existence?

- There should be rules of the road for golf carts. Sticker for each registered and a fee of \$10. This could pay for golf cart paths.

- Water - rates exceedingly high and usage undistinguishable. Amenity fee - increasing while services and holiday decorations/parades decreasing. Free programs being eliminated. Bond - seems to be a means to tax the property owners for development rather than the builder (developer). In most states, when you buy a home your local taxes include road,/sewer, etc. services. All the community shares in costs, not just a particular locale.

- Someone needs to explain how the local government will take over after Villages builds out.

- I've lived here 3 years and the changes have been TRAUMATIC!! How can the home prices and bond go up so much!?!? Ridiculous. The cost of lumber, etc. hasn't gone up that much. Money hungry!!

- The hotel being built at the Square is a greedy venture without concern for residents need for parking (already in a bad state). The idea of the added car traffic and lack of respect for residents using this area is pathetic.

- We very much need a golf cart accessible post office in Sumter County. At the very least, a mail box in the shopping center, with two pick ups, with the mail routed the same way as Oxford P.O. (much quicker).

- No place is perfect, but The Villages is a great place to live... The POA Newsletter: Often sarcastic. The VHA Newspaper, The Villages Voice: Biased. Idea of turning Chula Vista into a Recreation Center: Don't need it.

- It is safer to have mail at the postal station. I wish Comcast TV was better, it's poor!

- Every organized living community has some problems but The Villages is well run and continues to add many new amenities for the residents.

- Paying extra for priority pools only to have children (only semi-supervised) knock you down - run and scream - upset people. Pool monitors seem afraid to act.

· · · To be continued · · ·

**For a full copy of the POA Bulletin via mail, please send  
a check for \$12.00 for a one year subscription to:**

**The POA  
PO BOX 1657  
Lady Lake, FL 32158-1657**

Contact Information : POB 1657, Lady Lake, FL 32158  
Phone: (352) 259-0999

**[CLICK HERE TO SEND E-MAIL TO POA BULLETIN](#)**

**[Return To Archive Page](#)**

**[Return To Main POA Page](#)**