

The POA Bulletin

Free Copy

The Property Owners' Association of The Villages



Issue 35.10

Champions of Residents' Rights Since 1975

October, 2009

Residents Want Changes in the Guest ID Policy

Since 1992 the Villages Guest ID policies have been reviewed by the VCCDD every several years at the request of residents. Almost all of the recommendations have been approved.

We are at one of those points in time again and residents north of CR 466, represented by the AAC, are asking for three modifications.

One of those recommendations, the need for specific and meaningful penalties for any residents who provide false information or otherwise violate the application process for Guest IDs, was approved by both the VCCDD and the SLCDD and is currently in place.

The other two requests, requiring IDs for all visitors aged 1 year old and up, not just 10 years of age and up, and to limit guest usage of recreation facilities (via scanning) annually to a maximum of thirty days, were not approved by the SLCDD. Remember, the AAC has the legal authority to determine amenity policies for the VCCDD service area. However, both the AAC and SLCDD must agree on any modifications of amenity related policies that affect the entire Villages.

Some of the reasons why the POA supports the age change which was denied by the SLCDD are as follows:

There have been instances where residents are baby sitting for or actually running a day care center for children living in the tri-county area, and they bring these children to our family pools daily during the summer. Since they are under 10, the residents can simply say the children are out of the area guests and no staff member can challenge it because those under 10 are currently not re-

quired to have an ID. Additionally, more and more homes are being built outside of but close to The Villages and advertising to attract children of Villages residents. It is believed this problem will get even worse in the future. It is a minimal task for a resident who has been granted the privilege of having guests to apply for and receive a guest pass for children or grandchildren between the ages of one and nine.

The VCCDD territory north of CR 466 is fully built out and all of the homes have been sold. Unfortunately, when that area was being built the developer underestimated the number of swimming pools which would be necessary per capita to accommodate both residents and their guests. Currently, the VCCDD has more residents than the SLCDD territory, but substantially fewer swimming pools, as follows:

Family pools - VCCDD 4; SLCDD 12;

Neighborhood (adult) pools - VCCDD 8; SLCDD 22

Sports pools (residents only) - VCCDD 3; SLCDD 3

This being the case, it is no wonder residents living north of CR466 are requesting that guests be limited to 30 days of use per year as their pools are over crowded during the peak seasons. The POA agrees that something needs to be done to remedy the overcrowding situations in the recreation facilities, especially the swimming pools, north of CR 466.

Currently, guests are identified as being In-Area (reside in Lake, Sumter or Marion County) or Out-of-Area (reside anywhere outside of the Tri-County area).

An in-area guest ID is available only for

children and spouses, grandchildren and spouses and great grandchildren of residents, who reside in the Tri-County area. Further, in-area guests must be accompanied by the sponsoring resident at all times.

An out-of-area guest does not need to be accompanied by the sponsoring resident (a child needs an adult present but it can be another guest).

(Continued on page 2)

Is The POA Negative?

The comment is often made that the POA is negative and complains all the time. Do you really think this is true?

You, the reader, should review recent Bulletin issues and articles. (You can see eight years of past Bulletins by month in the Archives section of the POA website: www.poa4us.org)

Recent issues have focused on the IRS/Bond investigation, the conflict of interests for some CDD officials, the vinyl siding problem, the shoddy workmanship problems, the problems with the hospital emergency room, the \$43 million lawsuit settlement with the developer that goes straight to the residents' amenity accounts, etc. Earlier issues

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October 20, 2009

**THE NEXT POA
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**Third Tuesday of the Month – 7:00 p.m.
Laurel Manor Recreation Center**

**Rich Lambrecht, AAC Chairman, speaking on the
Mission/Actions of the AAC. Also, local police/
sheriffs on stopping violence on our Squares.**

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Residents Want Changes in the Guest ID Policy

(Continued from page 1)

An in-area guest ID is active for one year from the date of issue, whereas the out-of-area guest ID is good for up to 30 days at a time in response to a request, but it can be renewed every 30 days.

At the September 16th AAC workshop, Janet Tutt reviewed the Power Point presentation she plans to use at the AAC joint meeting with the SLCDD board scheduled for October 21st. The AAC will be explaining to the SLCDD board the rationale for the resident focus group recommendations for requiring IDs for all guests over one year of age and for the limiting of guest usage to 30 days per year. An AAC Board member further suggested that both boards consider requiring that all guests be accompanied by the sponsoring resident. Additional suggestions that could be considered by the AAC at their next meeting on October 7th include:

- Monitors with scanners at all family and neighborhood pools north of CR 466 during the peak seasons from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.;
- Charge a nominal administrative fee for the issuance of each guest pass - i.e., \$2.00 per pass good for 30 days; Charges could be paid in cash or added onto monthly amenity bill;
- Identify desired tracking by IT services, i.e., when an individual guest has been scanned 31 days in one year’s time, notify the staff and check that all rules and regulations regarding eligibility are being followed while the individual is still in the area;
- In-area guest IDs should be active for only 30 days at a time, just like the out-of-area passes.

If the recommendation to require the sponsoring resident to accompany out-of-area guests does not get adopted, modify it to require this only after the pass has been used 30 days during one year and continue until the end of the year -- a special pass could be issued similar to the in-area requiring that the sponsoring resident accompany the guest.

Stay tuned, we’ll report again in the November Bulletin on the results of the joint meeting with the SLCDD and the AAC. □

Is the POA Negative?

(Continued from page 1)

focused on the Nancy Lopez pond sinkhole \$165,000 repair cost that the developer wanted residents to pay for, the Sumter County Hospital tax with the planned 20% give-away to the developer, the foot-dragging by LRMC about the hospital expansion, and the renovation of the Paradise Center that the VCCDD supervisors finally agreed to after advocacy by the POA.

So, if the POA reports on these issues, which one might refer to as “problems,” is that complaining in a negative sense? If the POA sees that someone has done something wrong, and says so in the Bulletin, are we crybabies?

If you think so, you have missed the point.

The point is that the POA is addressing serious and often under-reported problems in this community about which you need to be informed. And, you probably wouldn’t hear about most of these problems if not for the POA -- certainly not from the developer’s paper, the Villages Daily Sun.

And, the POA plays a huge role in advocating what solutions are in the best interests of the residents.

Your displeasure, if any, should be directed at the Daily Sun for lack of comprehensive reporting, or our various CDDs or governments or the developer for not disclosing important facts that residents need to know. Or the VHA for not taking the side of residents.

You should not be displeased with the POA for its reporting. **Please don’t kill the messenger.**

If you review Bulletin stories over the years, you will see that the POA’s motivation is to identify issues which, if resolved, will make The Villages an even better place in which to live.

Don’t you think that residents in The Villages have a right to know the important news in our community? The POA thinks so.

Don’t you think that the Daily Sun has a responsibility as our community newspaper

(Continued on page 3)

POA Mission Statement

The Property Owners’ Association of The Villages is an independent organization devoted to our home ownership experience.

The Vision/Objective of the POA is to make The Villages an even better place in which to live, where Residents’ Rights are respected, and local governments are responsive to the needs and interests of residents.

The POA serves Villagers through programs of education, research, analysis, representation, advocacy, and legislative action.

The POA also functions as a “watchdog” organization overseeing the actions of our developer and our local governments.

Specific POA attention is focused on housing, community, neighborhood, and local government issues. Special emphasis is focused on the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC), our Community Development Districts (CDDs), the Florida Chapter 190 law that regulates CDD operations, and our developer.

The POA has no ties or obligations to the developer of The Villages which might compromise the POA position or its advocacy of Residents’ Rights.

The POA, founded in 1975, is the original homeowners’ organization in The Villages. Membership is open to all Villages residents. □

The Villages Residents’ Bill of Rights

RESIDENTS have RIGHTS to:

1. Be treated in a respectful, fair, and responsive manner by the developer and our local government officials.
2. Have decision-making authority for important issues in our community.
3. Elect our top government officials and approve appointments of the top administrative officials in our community.
4. Approve major purchases of common property and the related debt obligations assumed by residents.
5. Have local governments that are free of any conflict-of-interest issues.
6. Be charged honest monthly amenity fees that are used only for the stated purposes.
7. Receive full disclosure when purchasing a home here in The Villages.
8. Receive an objective market appraisal for major purchases of common property.
9. Receive objective, unbiased, un-slanted news reporting from local news sources.
10. Be informed beforehand by the developer on any major change in our community. □

POA Negative?

(Continued from page 2)

to report the important local news without bias or censorship? The POA thinks so.

If the traditional information sources in The Villages aren't doing their job to properly inform you, aren't you happy that at least the POA tries to do so?

Please answer "yes" to the above three questions.

A "no" response suggests your preference for a totalitarian state where a dictator rules, where somebody else makes decisions for you, where the wool is pulled over your eyes by the existing powers, where your intelligence is insulted every day by officials who say you don't need to know, or shouldn't know what's going on.

A "no" response would also suggest that you are happy doing the ostrich thing with your head in the sand.

Pity all of us if The Villages ever comes to that!

The POA is often the one information source that stands between you and blissful ignorance.

So, the next time you hear someone saying that the POA is a bunch of negative cry-babies, please think long and hard about what the alternatives are. And, think about who is really trying to look out for you. □

VHA Criticizes Actions of the AAC

The VHA newspaper, in its September issue, carried a story about the AAC and the Lifelong Learning College which we feel needs some clarification.

The VHA suggested that the AAC should not review agreements made in the past by the VCCDD board. In explanation, the VHA said it does not want the AAC to review the agreement between the VCCDD and the Lifelong Learning College (LLC), a private

business of The Villages developer. Several residents asked AAC members to look into the arrangement after some issues surfaced.

In 2003, then VCCDD District Manager Pete Wahl signed an agreement with the LLC for our recreation department to provide rooms, setup and scheduling software at a price well below what any other private entity or resident would pay for the room rental alone. The fact that Mr. Wahl never brought the agreement to the VCCDD board for the required approval, coupled with the recent disclosure that Mr. Wahl was on the board of the Villages Charter School, Inc., (which owns the Lifelong Learning College) when he entered into the agreement with the college (a conflict-of-interest, we feel), makes it

(Continued on page 4)



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VHA and the AAC

(Continued from page 3)

crucial that the AAC review and put in place a legitimate agreement. The AAC felt it necessary to remove any hint of a conflict-of-interest.

The AAC was created to put decisions affecting amenity policies and spending into the hands of residents, elected by residents, rather than the VCCDD in which supervisors are basically elected by the developer. The LLC agreement, like other existing amenity policies, was put in place when residents had absolutely no voice because of the way in which the VCCDD board members are “elected” by the commercial property owners, i.e., the developer.

The elections of residents to the AAC was held last November. To date, the AAC has worked very hard responding to resident complaints and concerns.

For example, up until six months ago, residents’ amenity money was used for Community Watch to provide watchman service to the commercial properties in the town squares owned by the developer and an escort service for sales office guests arriving after

hours on the “lifestyle” sales program. Residents wanted to know why they were paying for this service to the developer’s commercial operations.

The result of a review by the AAC was that the service would only be provided if the commercial benefactors and the developer were willing to pay for it. They declined to pay, so the service and its related expenses paid for by residents has been discontinued. While this arrangement had been going on for many years, the residents were able to at least recover the costs paid by your amenity fees for the previous year.

It is disappointing that the VHA leadership does not want to have the AAC review “agreements” like this.

Remember it was the VHA, several years ago, that used its newspaper against the “straw ballot” initiative which asked if residents wanted representative government with decision-making authority on amenity issues (essentially, the AAC concept). The VHA wanted to leave all decisions in the hands of the commercial interests and the developer.

We hope residents see through these questionable positions advocated by the VHA leadership.

In last November’s AAC elections, candi-

dates supported by the VHA were defeated across the board because of their views. Could the constant attacks on the AAC by the VHA be early signs that the VHA leadership hopes to discredit the incumbents up for election next year? We suspect the VHA leadership will work hard to return control of our amenities to the commercial interests and the developer via VHA sponsored candidates.

The VHA leadership was put in place much the same way the VCCDD and SLCCDD boards were established. The VHA leadership is not elected by its general membership in an open election. It is, instead, “appointed” behind closed doors by a specially selected group of directors sympathetic to the developer.

The VHA Villages Voice newspaper, furthermore, is laid out, printed and distributed by the Daily Sun, the developer’s newspaper. On issues pitting resident interests against commercial interests, you don’t have to guess

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VHA and the AAC

(Continued from page 4)

which side the VHA will come down on.

Remember that the VHA was founded at the urging and with the support of the developer. It is unlikely that the VHA will ever take a stand on a Residents' Rights issue that is contrary to the will and interest of the developer.

One has to wonder why the many residents who are members of the VHA stand for this. VHA members, please don't let the VHA leadership turn you against the AAC and your representative government. Don't sit still and give the control and decision-making authority over your amenities back to the commercial interests and the developer. Insist that the VHA speak out for and support Residents' Rights, as does the POA.

UPDATE: The AAC held a workshop meeting on September 16, 2009. One of the two agenda items was the LLC relationship. As an outcome of the review, the AAC directed staff to draft an agreement with the LLC that would:

1. Keep the current room rental fee of \$3.10 per Village resident per class for classes held at recreation facilities,
2. Increase the room rental fee to \$8.10 per non-resident per class for classes held at recreation facilities (the LLC already collects the additional \$5.00 from non-residents),

3. Charge the LLC its proportionate share of the cost of the scheduling software the district and the LLC use, and

4. Require an annual request from the LLC for any additional room requirements so staff can analyze availability before approving, rather than automatically giving up, more rooms every year.

The net result of all of this: the AAC did exactly what residents would want done resulting in a win-win for all.

Now if only the residents who are VHA members could get the VHA leadership to listen to them. □

AAC Meeting September 9, 2009

Old Business Topics:

AAC recommended that the VCCDD approve the Recreation Amenity Division and Mulberry Fitness Fund Budgets.

Staff created a Guest ID Policy PowerPoint presentation for committee review and discussion at its September 16th workshop. The presentation will be placed on the district website for resident review. It is expected that the presentation will be used for the October 21st workshop meeting with the SLCDD board.

Staff will begin work on providing a framework to be used by district advisory

groups, beginning with the Executive Golf Advisory Committee, to facilitate resident input regarding facilities.

The Committee approved the staff recommendation to use the Belle Aire entry gate as the site for a "loop" on an experimental basis. Signage will advise residents that there is a 3 second delay before the gate opens automatically.

Approval was given to name the dog park, to be located near the Springdale pool, the Mulberry Dog Park and requested staff to proceed with construction after the start of Fiscal year 2009/2010 (October 1st).

New Business Topics:

The 2009/2010 AAC meeting schedule was approved. Meetings will continue to be held on the Wednesday before the second Friday, with the exception of the November 2009 meeting which will be held on Tuesday November 10th in observance of Veterans' Day on Wednesday the 11th.

The AAC approved spending \$1,000 to dye the Spanish Springs fountain pink for a two week period during the month of October for Breast Cancer Awareness month.

Staff Reports:

Deed Compliance Update – documents are being finalized and Staff expects to provide them to the committee at the September 16th workshop.

The AAC Workshop to review the district's policy and agreements with the Life-

(Continued on page 6)



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AAC Meeting

(Continued from page 5)

long Learning College is scheduled for September 16th and will be held in the Ashley Wilkes room of the Savannah Center at 1:30pm.

Chair samples of possible replacements for the chairs used at the Scarlet O'Hara Theater in the Savannah Center were displayed and residents had an opportunity to try them and comment.

Dates for district workshops regarding the multi-modal path replacement plans have been scheduled for mid October. Please check the website for your district.

Please go to the www.districtgov.org website for the Official Minutes, Agendas and Meeting Schedule.

Next AAC Meeting:

October 7th, 1:30 P.M. at the Savannah Center. □

Vinyl Siding Update

The Vinyl Siding Committee is pleased to find that the vinyl siding on new homes is being installed substantially better than it has been in the past – our estimate is about 80 percent better.

Although less information has been published about it in the Bulletin lately, we have continued to follow this issue, and more recent observations of newer homes, requested by homeowners, show a significant improvement in following manufacturer guidelines.

We must give credit to the Property Owners Association, which has continued to in-

form homeowners of the siding installation problems in spite of negative rhetoric from some who would rather ignore any problems. The volunteers of the POA's Vinyl Siding Committee have worked hard on behalf of all Villages residents, giving generously of their time and expertise for several years.

And of course, kudos to all the homeowners who persevered and insisted that The Villages do the right thing and repair incorrect installations on their homes, regardless of how many times they had to deal with Home Warranty and various contractors over the same problems that were not being fixed properly. We know it wasn't easy.

Of all the homes observed by Siding Committee volunteers, only one of well over 1,500 homes was found to have an acceptable original vinyl siding installation, with installation methods used according to the manufacturer's instruction manual.

The Siding Committee members helped homeowners identify the specific problems in order for them to deal with their contractors and the Home Warranty department to have the problems corrected.

We know there are still many, many homes that were never repaired, whether by homeowners' choice, or because of time factors, or other issues. Many of these affected homes had not even been sold during the months we reported on these problems in the POA Bulletin. However, without the efforts of the POA, many of the defective installa-

tions would not have been repaired at all.

The POA has proven that it does, indeed, stand for Residents' Rights, and takes action to support these Rights. It is important that, in turn, residents support the POA by becoming members or renewing memberships, and encouraging friends and neighbors to do the same, by attending meetings and reading The Bulletin to stay informed, and by participating in the organization whenever one's skills or knowledge could be helpful. To be a true community, we need to support one another.

The POA Vinyl Siding Committee □



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Letter to the Editor:

IRS/Bond Concerns

Thank you for your informative article on the IRS/Bond Inquiry. The ultimate resolution of this issue could have such significant impacts that all residents should remain aware and concerned. I also appreciate your position, at this time, of remaining neutral and merely reporting.

Some months ago I had the opportunity to read the actual report submitted by the investigator. As a resident, I clearly do not want the IRS to prevail. However, if I accept much of the information in his report as factual, I cannot remain neutral. I am angry!

Though much of the information was disturbing, one assertion struck me particularly. The investigator asserts that the purchase price of the assets, which was funded by the bonds in question, represented a ten-fold profit, that's 1000%, over less than a 12 month period, when compared with the actual cost of building those assets. The price, agreed to by the Developer and his appointed VCCDD, was based on projected future revenues rather than ROI. Which of us does not wish they could find an investment opportunity like that!

Though not the only concern of the investigator, this aspect of the deal was one of the reasons he called the bonds into question. And, were the monies in question significantly less, our financial exposure would not now be so large.

Diana Soucy

Editor's Note: Yes, we are disturbed by this situation also. But, let's not jump to conclusions about a disastrous outcome just yet. The case is currently going through higher-up reviews by the IRS. And, the case may be dropped upon further reflection by the IRS.

We feel the IRS agent doing the initial

review may have misjudged some of the facts in his assessment of the situation. These are part of the higher-up review.

We also share your concern about the developer's actions here since he was the only one to benefit financially from the proceeds of the special bonds. Yet, it might be the residents who have to bear the burden of an adverse financial settlement. The POA is watching these developments closely and is prepared to take whatever legal actions are necessary to try to protect residents. We do feel that the developer will ultimately choose to do what is right to protect residents from any adverse repercussions. □

Letter to the Editor:

The Developer's Bonds

After the Developer is finished building and the Bonds are issued for payment, when do the home owners take control of our pools, recreation centers etc. I know while the building is going on, the Developer has enough of his hand-picked Supervisors to control any and all issues in his favor. Once the development is ours, we should be able to elect all the board members to run our community. Is this what happens?

Jerry Nelesen

Editor's Note: The developer sells common property and the related amenity fee contracts to either the VCCDD (north of Hwy. 466) or the SLCCDD (south of Hwy. 466). Thus, these center districts own the

property. Since there are no residents in these center districts, and never will be, the developer will continue to elect the supervisors as long as he is the majority landholder in the district. In this sense, "we" never own the common property -- the center districts do. In the VCCDD administrative area, the AAC has decision-making powers over all amenity issues north of Hwy 466. Supervisors of the AAC are residents elected by residents. There is no AAC equivalent south of Hwy. 466. When the build-out is completed there, the developer may agree to another AAC for those residents. There will never be residents in either center district because the developer gerrymandered those districts that way so as to retain control through his election of supervisors. □



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POA Elections and The Hall of Fame

Elections and the Hall of Fame nominations are coming up.

Nominations for the election of POA officers and directors are now open. Anyone wanting more information on serving on the POA Board should talk to any officer or director for more information. The term of office is one year. You might find the opportunity to serve to be rewarding and not as much time as you might imagine. Elections will be held at the November membership meeting and the investiture at the POA Annual Meeting in December.

Candidates thus far include:

President - Joe Gorman
 Vice President - Elaine Dreidame
 Treasurer - Dean Nicholson
 Secretary - Open
 Director - Ken Copp
 Director - Myron Henry
 Director - Ron Husted

Please note that a Secretary candidate has not yet been identified. If you would like information on this position, please contact Joe at 259-0999 or Dean at 350-2397.

Nominations for the POA Hall of Fame are also open. We have nomination forms available at meetings or from Joe at 259-0999. The Hall of Fame honor is for past or present POA members who have made a significant contribution to the POA over the years. This is not a popularity contest. It is a recognition of a few of the many members who have made a positive impact on the POA. You can see the list of previous Hall of Fame members on page 15 of every Bulletin.

The POA Board will decide on which nominees are formally inducted into the Hall of Fame at the December meeting. □

Larry Blake Home Improvements

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Letter to the Editor:

Lightning Rods

Below is a letter which Len Hathaway, a Villages resident and one of the founders of the local "Study Group on Lightning," has sent to the Daily Sun several times and has not yet been published by the Sun. We wonder why the Daily Sun would not publish a letter like this which provides information that might be valuable to residents:

When a lightning protection system (LPS) performs as designed there is little or no damage to the home or its furnishings when subject to direct lightning strike.

The Study Group on Lightning has interviewed three Village residents who had the foresight to install LPS and subsequently reported that their home was struck by lightning.

A homeowner in Sunset Ridge moved into their new home in May 2005, and had a LPS installed in July. One week later the home experienced a direct lightning strike. There was evidence of a strike to one lightning rod. The homeowner also had surge protection so there was no significant damage to any appliance or electronic equipment except for the doorbell.

In another case the homeowner was so thankful that their home was not destroyed by a lightning strike and ensuing fire they asked their installer if he had a sign to put in the yard that said that the home had been saved by a LPS. In a third case, the homeowner reported that only a ground fault interrupter (GFI) tripped during the lightning strike.

A LPS has no moving parts and silently does its job of safely conducting a potentially

(Continued on page 9)



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Lightning Rods

(Continued from page 8)

devastating lightning strike to ground. When it does its job it receives no coverage in the media. It is a victim of its own success. It is a major fire prevention tool. The fire department is not called to put our firefighters in harm's way and there is no wear and tear on their apparatus and equipment.

The public may not realize it but LPS are at work all around us to assure our safety, continuity of electrical service, telecommunications, air traffic control, and many others.

Benjamin Franklin, one of the foremost scientists of his era, whose famous kite experiment in June, 1752, led to the installation of LPS in the American Colonies and in Europe, installed a LPS on his home in Philadelphia. Upon his return from his final trip to Europe in 1785 he found evidence that his home had been struck by lightning during his absence. Franklin is quoted as saying, "the invention has been of some use to the inventor."

Residents need to carefully consider this.
Len Hathaway □

Lightning Program

By Len Hathaway

The National Weather Service in Melbourne attributed this unusual lightning year to changes in sea breezes that caused more thunderstorms in central Florida. Nationally, more people have been killed by lightning so far this year (31) than all of last year (28).

In The Villages there have been two homes destroyed by lightning strikes and numerous indirect lightning strikes damaging electronic equipment including computers.

I have also had a report of door-to-door lightning installer solicitations.

If your group or organization would benefit from a 30-minute Power Point presentation, "Lightning Tips for Villagers," contact Len Hathaway (lhatha@aol.com) or Bob Freeman (STALIT1@aol.com). Subjects covered include direct and indirect lightning, validating effectiveness of lightning protection systems, locating a qualified installer, risk tolerance, primary and secondary surge protection, CSST gas pipe, and common lightning myths. □

Lightning Caulking

Homeowners who have had home lightening rods installed, please take note: five homes that we are aware of have recently been found to have an installation problem with the mounting of the lightening rods.

One homeowner noticed crumbling roof shingles and discovered that an acid-based silicone caulk was used instead of a non-acid product. Using the wrong type of caulk caused deterioration of the roof shingles' granule coating in the areas where the caulk was applied around the cable clamp mounts.

This break down of the shingles' structure can cause roof leaks. The installer denied using the wrong material, but the caulk manufacturer confirmed that an acid-based caulk could cause deterioration of the roof shingles.

The POA suggests that homeowners who have had lightening rods installed check the condition of their roof shingles wherever a cable clamp was installed, and look for any signs of decomposition of the shingles' coating, such as the shingle coating breaking up or granules crumbling away.

The POA Vinyl Siding Committee □

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Letter to the Editor:

Entry Gate Delays

As a Villages resident why should I have to wait to get through one of the Villages gates when non-residents, contractors, etc., pull up to the visitors gate and are waved through? This irritation is worse in the winter months when the snow birds return.

The gate keepers wave car after car through the visitors side while residents have to sit in a line waiting for the person in front of them to find their card and then flash it at the sensor on the pad. Some times you have to wave it more than once to activate it. This also encourages residents to go through the visitors side as I have done in frustration.

I suggest that The Villages install a system similar to other gated communities where the gate rises as residents approach the gate. I suggest that they investigate the cost of such a system for each gate. I certainly can't speak for all residents but if the cost was reasonable I would be willing to pay a one-time fee to change over.

I understand that the roads are public roads and hence the gates are a joke in the first place. But residents who pay amenities should have some priority. That is not the case today.

Wayne Caton

Editor's Note: We recently drove up to a resident gate at the same time that a big

grass-cutting tractor from the maintenance department drove up to the visitor's gate. No cars were behind either of us. The gate attendant waved the tractor through; but, our car was delayed as the process of flashing the gate card took a few moments. When we got through the gate, the tractor was ahead of us and moving at about 10 mph. Because of the double yellow line, we were stuck behind the slow-moving tractor for over a mile. Irritating? You bet !! The attendant should have held up the tractor for an extra few moments to allow our resident's car to proceed first. Why can't this common-sense procedure be put in place? □

We Need Your Help

If you are a snowbird or seasonal resident, or your neighbors are, we need your help. Please let us know the months you will be gone, so that we can stop delivery of our Bulletin during that time. We do not want to inconvenience your neighbors who will have to pick them up for you. Our distributors try not to throw to unoccupied houses, but they cannot always tell just by looking, who is away. We rely on you to let us know. Just email our distribution manager at delivery@poa4us.org. Give us your name, village name, address, and the months you will be away, and we will add you to our "No Throw" list for that time period. Thanks for your help. □

Letter to the Editor:

30 Day Guest Passes

I oppose extending a guest pass more than 30 days. If grandparents want to baby sit their grandchildren so their kids don't have to hire a baby sitter over the school vacation, then let the grandparents go live with their children over the summer vacation. The Villages started out as a retirement village now it seems as though we are getting to be a resort area. I don't like that just one person has to be 55 yrs. old in a household. That opens the door for teenagers to live here and enjoy the amenities that we pay for. Also I see underage grandchildren driving golf carts. I hope the people have insurance in case of an accident. I personally would hire a lawyer if they hit me. Keep up the good work, someone has to watch the developers.

Bobby D. Sloan

Editor's Note: People under age 19 cannot live here more than 30 days a year. □

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Letter to the Editor:

30 Days is Enough For Guest Passes

Unlimited access to our amenities by visitors should make no sense from a developer's viewpoint. Where is the incentive to purchase in the Villages when you can use everything for free? What am I missing? Thirty days is more than enough. My wife and I were enchanted after the five night program. You folks do great work and we thank you.

Paul Endersbee

Editor's Note: The residents we talked with are overwhelmingly in favor of a 30-day annual maximum, rather than the current 365-day maximum, for guests' use of our facilities. The 30-day maximum came out of the Resident Focus Group's review of this situation – this is what residents want. This whole question is being further reviewed by the AAC and the center districts and the policy may eventually be modified. Residents should attend the AAC and SLRDD meetings and voice their concerns. □

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April Fools Revisited:

New Fishing Club Formed in Villages

The Villages recreation department announced the formation of the Bridge Fishing Club. Membership is open to all residents who like to fish and won't start crying when putting a worm on a hook or cringe at the prospect of taking a fish off the hook.

The Bridge Fishers Club plans to travel to

at least one bridge a month in the state of Florida over either fresh or salt water. Residents will fish from the bridge for whatever local denizens of the deep are available. Prizes (Mrs. Paul's Fish Sticks) will be given for the biggest fish as well as the ugliest fish.

Unfortunately, several charter members of the club decided to try out their bridge fishing skills on the golf cart bridge spanning highway 27/441. One of the anglers got his line snagged on a semi traveling under the bridge and was jerked away, never to be seen again. □



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The Sexual Offender Database Binder

The POA now has the updated Sexual Offender Database 3-ring binder available for review at our monthly meetings. If you have not been able to review this recently, it may be worthwhile for you to do so now.

The updated binder shows sections for The Villages (20 individuals), Lady Lake (21), Oxford (5), and Summerfield (40).

Twenty people are listed for addresses in

The Villages. This compared to twelve individuals listed several years ago when the POA first compiled this binder. Some of these twenty may no longer be active in our area, but you never know.

This material was taken from a website (<http://offender.fdle.state.fl.us/>) on the internet.

Another website shows a map of any area in the U.S. and pictures of these sexual offenders by location. This website is at: <http://www.familywatchdog.us/> and is a good inter-

(Continued on page 13)

POA Says “Thanks” For Membership Renewals and Donations

We would like to say “thank you” to all the POA members who either just joined or who renewed their membership.

In processing new or renewal membership forms, we haven’t been able to personalize the “thank you” because of the large number of memberships received. Nevertheless, we want to extend a sincere “thank you” to everybody who cares enough about this community to join the POA. Thanks for joining and, when you can, thanks for any additional donation you can make to the POA.

Your donations are important to us – now especially as we scramble to cover the \$60,000 annual cost of the Bulletin and also as we prepare for what could be a costly effort regarding the IRS/Bond investigation. □

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Sexual Offenders

(Continued from page 12)

active view of sexual offenders in our community.

If you have friends or family visiting you who may not be familiar with our area, it is important for you to review this material so that you can take any appropriate actions to advise and protect your family members.

So, come to the next POA meeting and take a moment to review the binder. □



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Discount Partners Continued from Page 16

(Continued from page 16)

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Stewart Lawn & Landscape Maintenance 352-347-3792. 20% discount to POA members.

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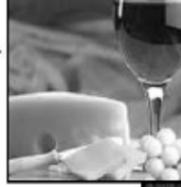
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Our Monthly Gardening Column:

To Everything There is a Season -- The Singing Mud Dauber

by Anne Lambrecht
Master Gardener

It's the time of year our gardens are exploding. Our blossoms are bodacious. It's also the time of year the husband starts his incessant whining: "It looks like a jungle out there. I can't see out of the window. I don't like all this wild stuff." Some people just can't see the trees for the forest.

Have you noticed all the differences out there this year from last year? My butterflies did not lay eggs although I did the exact same thing as last year: passion vine on the trellis, no pesticides, and nectar plants supplied.

Our lawn is devastated this year by chinch bugs. I used to look at a brown patch as an opportunity for a new garden bed, but we've got a really huge patch!

We had a cardinal family build a nest in our knock-out rose right outside the guest room window, to the delight of our little grandchildren and we've got a bunch of cute adolescent cardinals coming 'round to eat the safflower seeds in our tray feeder. Last year we had one dead cardinal. We've had way more rain this year, bringing with it oppressive humidity, slugs, snails, mosquitoes and weeds. Last year the clouds rolled in and rolled right past us.

The population of frogs and snakes this year is decidedly less. Last year there were frog concerts out back and snakes curled up in the flower pots. This year there is silence and one resident black racer snake. Patty the squirrel has become more brazen and the raccoons have grown fatter. The anoles know my voice and tilt their head when I speak to them. You think I'm pulling your leg?

Some years it's good for some plants and critters and some years it's not. Our Florida gardens are so unpredictable and wild and gorgeous. It doesn't mean that the sky is falling or that a certain species is becoming extinct. That's just the way it is—a time for every purpose under heaven. Still, it's a wonderful season for the garden. Things are blooming as if to say, "it's our last chance to make a showing—let's do it up good!"

Whether you're a gardener or not, you

know there are thousands of insects in your yard. There are more than one million species of insects on this earth, the largest group of creatures on the planet. Thirteen thousand species of insects are from Florida. But did you know that less than one percent of these are considered "bad insects"? Insects are a huge part of the big kaleidoscope of life. They are pollinators, destroyers of crop eating insects, aid in scientific studies and some give us food like wonderful honey. Some insects are a tool in crime investigations. We need them. I like them. Two of my personal favorites are wasp cousins: the black and yellow mud dauber wasp and the potter wasp. Both are hunter type wasps, natives of Florida and both harmless unless, of course, you try to hold them.

These wasps are more closely related to bees than to a wasp and remembered more for their distinctive mud cell nests on the walls and eaves of your house than for their slender waistline and beautiful back and yellow coloring.

The mud dauber's nests are built with great speed and skill, the female making hundreds of trips to the nearest source of mud and plastering each dab in a crescent shaped pattern. The nest is constructed with several chambers and usually plastered over with a final layer of mud. If her source of mud gives out and she is forced to collect a different type, the cells will have bands of different colors. Each chamber is packed with para-

lyzed spiders then sealed. When the mud dauber is working on her nest, she "sings," with a high pitched buzzing. I've heard one at work gathering mud from the opening of a large flower pot—awesome! Many kinds of spiders are used to provision their nests but their favorites are crab spiders, orb weavers and jumping spiders. Only one egg is laid per cell. The pot builders use caterpillars to feed their baby wasps inside a cute little round mud jug.

Of course, people like the husband don't like them on the house so he removes them when he sees them. If you don't remove all the mud, other wasps can "smell" (pheromones) in that area and decide that it's safe to build another nest there. He got wise to this fact and now scrubs the area well with bleach. I've got some pot builder nests hidden outside right in plain sight where he'll never find them.

"Florida's Fabulous Insects" by Mark Dreyup, World Publications.

October upcoming events:

October 10 -11 Kanapaha Botanical Gardens 14th annual Fall Plant Sale & Orchid Show. 9-5 both days Gainesville.

October 10th Marion County Master Gardeners Fall Gathering. Hours 8-2 or until sold out Call 352-671-8400 for more information.

October 24-25 Butterfly Fest Florida Museum of Natural History. Tagged butterfly releases, butterfly plant sale, pollinator parade call 352-846-2000 for information. □

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Creative Logos for your Club, Village,
Business or Special Events
Golf Shirts Tee Shirts Hats Towels



Call Audrey Ann
352-259-0131



The Recreation Centers and the Customer Service Center have the **Roundabout Brochure** available. This shows how to drive through those often confusing Roundabouts in The Villages. You can pick up your copy now.

**2009 MEMBERSHIP FORM
PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION
P. O. Box 1657, Lady Lake, FL 32158**

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

VILLAGE _____

COUNTY _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

NEW _____ RENEWAL _____ DATE _____

ANNUAL DUES: \$10.00 _____

EXTRA DONATION: \$ _____

Please return this form with your membership dues. Memberships are for households and run annually from Jan 1st to Dec 31st. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for return of your membership card by mail. If an envelope is not included, your card will be held at our monthly meetings for you to pick-up. Thanks for your continuing financial support.

peepers

EYE CARE AND VISION CENTER

301 Colony Plaza, The Villages • 259-1621

Comprehensive Eye Exams
Treatment & Management of Eye Disease
Full Service Optical w/ On-Site 1 Hour Lab

**\$50 EYEGLASS
OFF FRAMES** Coupon
Required
with purchase of complete pair of glasses.



Ollie's Frozen Custard

"If you like Ice Cream-you'll love Ollie's"

**\$1.79 Cones/Cups
Limit 2 With Coupon
Offer Expires 10/31/09**

Next to BLOCKBUSTER in The Spanish Plaines Center
Open Noon-10 pm Daily Phone 259-3568

The POA Discount Partner Program

The POA Discount Partner Program is a continuing benefit for POA members. Just show your current year POA Membership card when ordering the product or service listed here. And, please say "thanks" to our Discount Partners for participating in this program. (* = new this issue)

* **AAA Golf Carts Inc.** - Your "Mobile" Golf Cart Guy, we do repairs, 10% POA discount, Larry 352-572-3090 or 288-1192.

All Things Fine - 1171 Main St., Spanish Springs, 352-257-7384. 10% off all regularly priced merchandise. Excludes sale items. Not valid with any other offer.

All Trades Partners - 352-628-4391 - Additional 10% discount after bid on any jobs our contractors perform for you.

Ameriprise Financial, 3507 Wedgewood Lane, The Villages - 50% off on plans and 25% off on all fees 352-350-2397.

Andrew's Air Conditioning, \$25 off reg. \$75 service call, Free estimates for 2nd opinions; 352-552-4174.

Away From Home Pet Sitting Service in The Villages, 352-454-2623. 25% off first day service of pet sitting while you are away.

* **Beauty Consultant, Mary Kay** - Cosmetics & Skin Care. Free Delivery. Any Size Order & 10% discount to POA members. 570-947-9017.

Bravo Pizza - 1080 Lake Sumter Landing, 352-430-2394. 10% off dine in & take out (whole meal). Not valid with other discounts.

Caribongo - 1041 Canal St., Lake Sumter Landing, 352-750-6147. Free color changing Tote Bag (retail value \$9.99) with the purchase of \$30.00 or more at the time of purchase. Offer not valid with any other offer or promotion. Sale items excluded. Limit one Tote per family.

Charley Bars By Jack - Secure your sliding glass door from break-ins. Install CHARLEY BAR W/Key. 10% Discount to POA. 259-7637.

Chick-fil-A - 730 Hwy 441, N. Rolling Acres Plaza, 352-430-0223. Value Size any meal and get a free chicken sandwich.

Cingular (Spectrum Global Network) - 972 Del Mar Drive, Spanish Springs, 352-205-7513. 10% off all phones with activation.

The Club Golf Cart Security System, email at yunk38@comcast.net, 352-391-5077. \$3.00 POA discount (apx. 10%) for Club Golf Cart Security device.

Colonial Medical Supplies - 724 S US Hwy 441,

Plaza One north of Oakwood Grill, 352-391-5169. 10% item discount to the POA.

Comfort Suites - 1202 Avenida Central, 352-259-6578. 25% discount, May 1, 2009, through October 31, 2009. All reservations are based on availability. Must call hotel directly in advance for individual reservations.

Copy Depot - Color copies, fax service, social cards, 10% discount, call 352-561-4100.

* **Coral's Casual Patio & Fireplace** - In Best Buy Plaza across from Sam's Club. Free bottle of "Dew Not" with \$300 purchase or more. One per customer. 352-430-0115.

Cozco Handcrafts - 1121 Main St., Spanish Springs, 352-430-0386. 10% off non-sale items.

Crews Family Lawn Care & General Maintenance, 10% discount; 352-502-7346 or 873-1628.

Custom Apparel & Gifts - 920 Bichara Blvd, La Plaza Grande, 352-750-1600. 10% off any item in stock in store; 25% off custom framing.

* **Custom Screens** - All Repairs-10% Discount, POA Members, Kenny 352-680-1836.

East Coast Flooring - 9180 S. Hwy 441, 352-307-9995, FREE GIFT w/ any purchase. \$100 credit for any referral (Purchaser must state they were referred by a POA member).

* **Easy-Go Painting & Maintenance** - Interior and Exterior; and Power Washing, 10% discount starting at \$50, 352-753-6877.

Edible Arrangements - 11962 CR 101 - Palm Ridge Plaza, 352-391-1334. \$4.00 off purchases over \$25.00.

Enterprise Rent-A-Car - 1076 Lake Sumter Landing. 352-751-2417. Special rates for POA members. A pick-up service and one-way rentals to Orlando and Sanford airports are available.

Flags & Flag Poles - 845 CR 25 across from Lady Lake Post Office. 352-751-1876. \$4.00 off flag pole order of \$119 or more for POA members showing their current year membership card. Discount on "check and cash orders" only.

Funeral Planners Inc. - For the POA, 10% off regularly priced funeral planning package or 15% off deceased identity theft protection service. Visit <http://www.FuneralPlannersInc.com>

Funtime Piano or Keyboard Lessons - Call Nancy. Beginners to Advanced; All Types of Music. POA Special \$12 per 1/2 hour weekly lesson (\$3 off regular \$15 price). 352-750-6475.

Golf Clubs & Bag Lock, Gator Jaws, \$30 each or 10% off for 2 or more, 352-750-0488.

Great Day on the Water Boat Tours - Discounts of \$5.00, \$7.00 or \$10.00 per person on various boat tours. Call 866-269-6584 for details.

Haagen Dazs - 1001 Lake Shore Drive, Lake Sumter Landing, 352-751-0261. 10% POA discount.

Henry's Golf Carts, Rent, Buy or Sell, 20% discount; 352-750-0904 or 352-454-8515.

Home Power Washing, Villages resident, 10% off, call Bob at 352-391-1944.

Island Images - 1112 Main Street, Spanish Springs, 352-259-7623. 10% Discount on Mondays. Excludes sales items.

I. Stern & Co., High Quality Golf Clothing, #200 Highway 484 Ocala FL 352-307-4878 - 10% off on all purchases.

* **J & S Fitness** - Full gym/group classes on demand, Senior Discount & 10% POA Discount, 301 Rainey Trail, 352-748-4154.

Johnny Rockets - 976 Old Mill Run, Lake Sumter Landing, 352-259-0051. 10% discount.

Kilwin's Chocolate and Ice Cream - 1108 Main Street, Spanish Springs, 352-430-3600. Buy one, get 50% off on any ice cream menu item. One offer per family membership.

LaFlamme, Steven & Gary - Flooring, Carpentry, Painting, Light Plumbing, Free Estimates, 10% discount, call 352-391-0424.

L. Rae Jewelry Appraisal Services - Certified Gemologist, Villages resident, By Appointment only, 10% discount, call 352-430-2991.

Massage Therapy - In your home or my office. 10% discount from normal \$50 per hour. Call Susan at 352-638-7649

Minami Granite Designs Inc., 1806 N.E. 2nd Avenue, Ocala FL. Free stainless steel sink with kitchen counter do-over. 352-671-9800.

* **Mobility Express of Fruitland Park** - US Hwy. 441/27, Fruitland Park Plaza. 352-365-2055. Walkers, wheelchairs, lift chairs, etc. 12% discount to POA.

MOE'S Southwest Grill - US Hwy. 441 North, Rolling Acres Plaza, 352-430-3610. Buy 1 Get 1 Free every Saturday with the purchase of two medium drinks! Not valid with any other offer. One benefit offer per family membership.

Ocala Lincoln Mercury, 407 So. Magnolia Street, Ocala FL 34470 352-732-2866 -- 3% over dealer cost on all new cars.

Odds & Errands by Paula. Your affordable Personal Assistant. 352-430-0764. 10% discount.

Ollie's Frozen Custard - Next to Blockbuster in the Spanish Plaines Shopping Center. Use the Ollie's Coupon in the Bulletin or get 10% off.

Panda Express - 869 North Hwy. 27/441, Home Depot Plaza, 352-751-2507. 10% off, not valid with coupons or specials.

Plaza Jewelers - 16770 S. Hwy. 441, Baylee Plaza, Summerfield, 352-307-3846. 20 to 40% saving off the already low retail price, & all watch batteries \$3.00.

Quality Hearing Center - 16850 S. Hwy. 441, Suite 306, Baylee Plaza, Summerfield. Call 352-307-7377 for an appointment. 10% discount.

Radech Home Improvement, remodeling & repair, 10% off, 563-271-1296.

ScentSational Candles and Gifts - 994 Alvarez Avenue, Spanish Springs, 352-753-1604. 20% off any one non-sale item.

SmartSafe Tornado Shelters - One day installation in garage floor or carport. Call Pat Tripp at 352-702-6386. See actual installation. 5-10% off selected

(Continued on page 13)

POA Members !!!
When taking advantage of the POA Discount Partner program, please mention that you saw their listing here in the POA Bulletin.

Advertisers !!!
Contact Nancy Spreng
at 391-5700
for a FREE listing as a
POA Discount Partner