

The POA Bulletin

Free Copy

The Property Owners' Association of The Villages



Issue 35.12

Champions of Residents' Rights Since 1975

December, 2009

POA President's Report On 2009 POA Activities

2009 was an eventful year for the POA and The Villages. The POA was active by way of advocacy, analysis, and/or reporting on many of the significant issues in the Villages during the year. Here's a re-cap of what your POA has been working on for you over this past year:

The IRS/Bond Investigation - We are carefully watching this situation and are prepared to act as necessary to protect the residents in the event of a negative outcome in this IRS investigation. If a negative outcome occurs, we are concerned that there may be some disruption in amenities. But, we feel that the developer will do whatever is necessary to protect residents from a financial impact. The developer was the only one to benefit financially from the proceeds of the bonds that are being questioned by the IRS. Thus, we feel that the developer should shoulder the burden of a remedy for a negative outcome. The Bulletin ran numerous articles during the year explaining the details of the IRS investigation and informing residents without being alarmist.

The Hospital ER - We wrapped up our reporting early in the year on the problems with the emergency room in our hospital. We feel that we can take some credit for the improvements initiated by hospital management. Among the improvements: a new CEO of the hospital, a new director of emergency room operations, hiring of 60 additional nursing staff, additional ER facilities and beds, a new focus on improving the evaluations given by the rating agencies, addition of three VHA members to the hospital board, and a new awareness of the issues brought up by the POA during its investiga-

tion. We wrote an article suggesting that the newly appointed directors from the VHA speak strongly with an independent voice about solving problems and speaking for the residents. However, we haven't heard anything of consequence from the VHA board members since their appointment earlier this year. We also set up a section of our website explaining how to file formal complaints against medical professionals and hospital.

Vinyl Siding - We also wrapped up our reporting of problems with the vinyl siding installations on Villages homes. Because of our efforts, over 1,000 homes had their vinyl siding repaired or replaced by the warranty department. We continue to monitor the situation and will report in future issues as conditions suggest. The POA website carries a list of vinyl siding repair firms.

Disclosure Reform - We had little activity on this reform bill which we are pushing for passage by the Florida Legislature. However, we think the chances for passage are slim. The problems are: (1) we literally are neophytes when it comes to working with the legislature; (2) we can't afford the cost of hiring a lobbyist; (3) developers and construction lobbies are against us. You can see the entire bill displayed on the POA Website.

VHA - We wrote several times about the VHA and its allegiance with the developer. We think we have increased understanding of the differences between the POA and the VHA. Hopefully, residents understand our opposing missions. Basically, the POA is an independent organization that has no ties to the developer that would compromise our ability to speak out for Residents' Rights. The VHA is supported by the developer, and

it is unlikely that it will ever take a Residents' Rights position on a major issue that is contrary to the will or the interests of the developer. Because so many issues in The Villages seem to align the developer against the residents, the POA has embraced the role of a champion of Residents' Rights.

Acronyms - We noticed that many resi-

(Continued on page 2)

Our Comments on VHA Quiz

We read with interest the "VHA Members' Quiz" in the latest issue of the VHA newspaper. Even though the VHA distorted some of the alternative answers, we think the quiz was basically good in that it may have helped VHA members think about what a true homeowners' association is suppose to do, or isn't doing, and what the VHA does.

Rather than re-hash the entire article, let's just comment about one of the VHA assertions about its activities. In question # 4 about taking a stand independent of the developer, it stated that the VHA "supports that side of an issue to the benefit of residents..." and that it is "working aggressively" on these issues.

This sounds nice, but a detailed examina-

(Continued on page 3)

December 15, 2009

**THE NEXT POA
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

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

Swearing in of new Officers/Directors; Announcement of Hall of Fame Inductees. Annual Meeting. Ollie's frozen treats for all. Summary of 2009.

**Coffee and Donuts
FOR ALL AFTER THE MEETING
ALL RESIDENTS WELCOME - COME AND JOIN US**

President’s Report for 2009

(Continued from page 1)

dents were not familiar with some of the acronyms that we use routinely in speech and in the pages of the Bulletin. These include: VCCDD, SLCCDD, AAC, RAC, CDDs, etc. We printed a story in the August, 2009, Bulletin explaining these and will reprint the story periodically in the future. The entire article is available on our website.

Discount Partners - We expanded the Discount Partner program over the past year. We have 74 partners listed in this issue of the Bulletin. This is a worthwhile benefit for our members and a good reason to have your POA membership card.

District Government Conflict of Interest - We publicized the developer’s practice of allowing various employees, friends, and business associates to hold stock interests in some of his corporations. Some of these people are employees in our district governments and thus have a conflict of interest in representing residents in dealings with the developer. In a related Bulletin story, we identified the potential for compromised decision-making by developer-picked supervisors in our residential CDDs.

Sexual Offender Database - We have available at each monthly meeting the State of Florida Sexual Offender Database for review by residents. We have published in the Bulletin and on our website the websites of the state information services.

Recreation Trails - We fought for safety improvements for our recreation trails and reported on the plan for the revision of the recreation trails north of Hwy. 466. Funding for this work came out of the lawsuit settlement with the developer which the POA secured in March, 2008.

Violence on Town Squares - We reported several times on the problem with violence on our town squares. As a result, law enforcement is working with district staff to increase the presence of uniformed law enforcement personnel on the squares as a way to address violence and discourage loitering.

Guest ID Policy - We addressed this several times in the Bulletin and in meetings and helped to inform residents about the discus-

sions and decisions made by district personnel and the AAC on this topic.

POA Survey - This is our Villages-wide Survey that we conducted for the fifth time and published results in June and July, 2009. We think it is representative of what Villagers think about a variety of subjects. We plan to do the survey every 18 months or so. The many interesting volunteered comments from the survey are available on our website.

The POA Volunteers - We have often called for volunteers to join the POA Board of Directors to help with the work of your organization. We are happy to say that the response was quick and gratifying. We are blessed with one of the best and most comprehensive boards that we have had in a long time. Thanks to all who have come forward to help on the board, on committees, and with the many tasks of your POA.

Membership - POA membership now stand at about 6,500 members. It is encouraging to see this many residents joining the POA. We think that residents identify with the message of the POA regarding Residents’ Rights. And, they are willing to come forward and join the organization that represents them. Thanks to all.

Corporate Reorganization - The revision of the POA Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws was approved late in the year and updated the basic documents from 1975.

The Future - We plan to continue our work focusing on informing residents about what is going on in The Villages. And, we take pride in our role as a watchdog of the developer and local governments. We do all of this under the banner of Residents’ Rights (see the right-hand column on page 2 of all Bulletins). We have no ties to the developer that would compromise our ability to speak out on Residents’ Rights issues. That’s what we do. And, we do it for all of us, our fellow residents of The Villages. □

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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. □

VHA Quiz

(Continued from page 1)

tion of the record shows that the VHA's performance on important issues is distinctly different from its claims of working for the benefit of residents.

Let's take some examples:

- When a sinkhole developed in a pond on the Nancy Lopez golf course owned by the developer, the developer wanted residents to pay the \$165,000 charge to repair the pond. The POA fought this aggressively in the Bulletin as a Residents' Rights issue, and the developer finally relented and paid the bill. The VHA said nothing, but privately voiced support for the developer.

- When the developer's VCCDD supervisors passed the "Activity Policy" that severely restricted the constitutional rights of residents for free speech and freedom of assembly in The Villages, all of this to protect the image of the community to promote house sales for the developer, the VHA initially thought this was a good idea. This was support for the developer, not the residents. The POA fought this in the Bulletin as a Residents' Rights issue – and the developer relented and had the measure revoked by his hand-picked supervisors.

- When shoddy workmanship in the installation of vinyl siding was publicized in The Villages, the VHA said that the developer

"built quality homes." This was support of the developer, not the residents. The POA fought this aggressively in the Bulletin. Ultimately, over 1,000 homes had needed repairs made.

- When the developer announced plans to close the Chula Vista club, the Silver Lake club, and the Orange Blossom Restaurant, the VHA said nothing. It was the POA voicing its disagreement and opposition. Unfortunately, the two clubs were closed. The developer's plans, however, to convert the Orange Blossom restaurant into a library and pool hall were abandoned (at that time).

- When the Paradise Center was shown to be in disrepair, infested with rats, termites and raccoons, and in need of a total renovation, the VHA said nothing – it was the POA which campaigned for the renovation.

- When the original concept of the AAC was first considered via the Straw Ballot, the VHA was against the idea even though this was a positive for residents. The VHA thought the developer should be allowed to continue running a "company town" for us residents.

- The VHA doesn't like residents making decisions about amenities in the AAC and shows its hostility to the AAC in almost every issue of its newspaper. We think the VHA would like to have the appointed supervisors of the developer exercise more control in The Villages. The POA thinks the concept is good of residents elected by residents mak-

ing decisions for fellow residents about how our amenity fees are spent. The VHA doesn't agree with this resident approach.

- The VHA supported the Sumter County Hospital tax proposal which would have added a tax of about \$300-\$400 per home in Sumter county to support The Villages hospital. A full 20% of the total tax revenue was to be paid to our developer!! The POA opposed the proposal saying that taxing residents to give 20% of tax revenues off the top to one of the richest families in the state was crazy. The VHA favored the tax. Voters turned it down by a 70% to 30% vote margin.

We have other examples of VHA support for the developer as opposed to residents, but let's not belabor the point. Let's just restate the comment that the POA has made often:

It is highly unlikely that the VHA will ever support a major Residents' Rights position that is contrary to the will or interests of the developer.

(Continued on page 4)

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VHA Quiz

(Continued from page 3)

The VHA may say that they support residents. But, in most instances it supports the developer. The VHA talks a good line – but it doesn’t support residents on major issues when it should.

If the VHA is going to Talk the Talk, it should Walk the Walk.

Who loses in that situation? It’s you, the residents, who lose out when the VHA supports the developer rather than the residents.

In the final analysis, you really can’t trust the VHA to perform in the best interests of residents on major issues.

So, don’t focus on what the VHA says. Instead, focus on what the VHA does. And, you probably won’t like what you find.

PS: On the question of how the president and officers of the VHA are “appointed” by the entrenched directors – why doesn’t the VHA let its officers and directors be elected by the membership (as the POA does)? What is the VHA afraid of? Wouldn’t it have a claim to more legitimacy as a homeowners’ organization if all of its homeowner-members were allowed to elect its officers and directors? But, the VHA and its coordinators with the developer won’t allow it. They don’t want to lose control and allow the VHA to support Residents’ Rights as the POA does. □

30 Days of Usage: One More Time

In the November POA Bulletin, a Letter to the Editor from a property owner confused the 30 day deed restriction for children under the age of 19 with guest card usage of 30 days. The writer also complained about the state law requiring golf cart operators to be over 14 years of age. The Editor’s Note said that a “30 days of usage” restriction on guests was recommended by a resident focus group and approved by the AAC, but the SLCCDD board had not yet considered it.

While the joint meeting on the Guest ID policy, between the AAC and the SLCCDD board, was held prior to the publication of the November Bulletin, the meeting was after the printing deadline, which had been moved up for the November issue.

The facts are as follows: A resident focus group thought it inappropriate for the guest policy to allow use of our amenities 365 days a year. The AAC agreed that the written policy should be changed to allow a maximum of 30 days of usage a year by a guest and passed the change in May. Subsequently, the SLCCDD made it clear at their June meeting that they would not approve any limit, but would study the effect of the other changes to the policy and review the situation in a year.

A joint meeting between the two boards was requested and held on October 21st. Just

prior to that meeting, the staff attorney determined that the 30 day restriction could be considered a reduction in service and was subject to a legal challenge from any amenity-paying resident. This revelation came after more than eight months of discussion about this issue. While it may be inappropriate for guests to have unlimited use of our amenities, the reality was that it rarely if ever happened. Given the announced legal exposure, the lack of data to support actual usage in excess of 30 days and the SLCCDD stated unwillingness to consider a limit at this time, the AAC went to the joint meeting seeking only to expand ID card usage to one to ten year olds, plus two other agenda discussion items (consideration of renewal of in-area cards every 30 days like out-of-area cards and consideration of administrative charges for issuance of the cards).

Make no mistake, the residents living in the VCCDD territory and their representatives want the policy changed to assure guests do not use amenity facilities more than 30 days per year, and the SLCCDD board “elected” by the commercial property owners (the developer) does not support the resident position. □



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AAC Meeting November 10, 2009

Old Business:

The AAC reviewed the income and expense associated with operation of the RV storage lots. Since the users pay substantially more in rent than the District spends on all aspects of the facility (including the recent expenditure for cameras), the committee decided not to increase rental rates from their current level.

The Committee approved an expenditure to continue Wi-Fi service in the four regional recreation centers plus the addition of Chatham and Saddlebrook. Staff will investigate adding Chula Vista if the cost is proportional. This expenditure will allow continued internet capability from these recreation centers for the increasing number of residents utilizing it as well as for the clubs needing access during their meetings in the centers.

New Business:

The Amended Recreation Amenities Division Budget for the recently completed Fiscal Year 2008/2009 was approved. This is basically a “bookkeeping” activity to lessen the individual line item variances prior to the annual outside audit of the District.

Staff was directed to provide a listing of items to be reviewed during a proposed feasibility study pertaining to a possible reconfiguration of the Scarlett O’Hara Theater.

The Committee directed staff to negotiate with La Hacienda Catering to continue the

existing catering services agreement which affects non-resident catered events and any usage of the Savannah kitchen.

Informational Items:

During the month of October, 46 units at Freedom Pointe were occupied and began paying amenity fees to the District.

Future In-Area Guest ID cards will be on a different colored card stock to alert recreation assistants that the bearer must be accompanied by the sponsoring resident.

Staff Reports:

(Continued on page 6)

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AAC Meeting

(Continued from page 5)

Following a discussion, the Committee decided that it was not necessary to further survey residents regarding guest ID card usage. The AAC will monitor the effect of the recent changes to the application form, creation of penalties for fraudulently obtaining guest cards and expansion of card holding to children one year and above. The AAC will meet with the Sumter Landing CDD board in 6 to 12 months to discuss any further actions that might be needed.

Staff attorney was directed to determine the process to amend the Settlement and Interlocal Agreements that created the AAC to facilitate two issues raised by residents: compensation for AAC members similar to CDD supervisors and broader AAC representative election options such as absentee ballots, proxies or Internet voting.

Meeting Information:

Please go to the www.districtgov.org website for the official minutes, agendas and meeting schedule.

The next AAC meeting will be held Wednesday December 9th, 1:30 p.m., at the Savannah Center. □

Letter to the Editor:

The IRS/Bond Issue

The article [about] the IRS & Bond issue mentioned the Villages' [multi] million dollar debt. Where did this come from and how is it going to be resolved? Will homeowners be required to pay for it in their amenities or other kind of assessment? If we had known we would not have come here but stayed in our other retirement park.

Another issue is when will the building stop! When they run out of land? We arrived here before Sumter was started. There were 35,000 [residents] and it was to our liking, not realizing that the expansion was going to be as large as it is.

The second Town Square is great and I am not objecting to it, but I am to the increase of population. I have heard up to 100,000 and to me it spoils what we came here for. I know many others are used to city population so it's to each his own.

This week a friend said he was told they are selling up to 200 homes a week! Hopefully, the increase in size will not be detrimental in time to come. Sometimes, a good thing can be ruined by over kill, etc....

The Villages is unique and doubt there is a place in the U.S. that could equal it. I am sure there are some plush ones that would be above it, but I doubt that they will over populate as they seem to want to do here all for the sake of more \$\$\$.

(Continued on page 7)

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IRS/Bond Issue

(Continued from page 6)

and would appreciate a comment on the IRS/Bond issue.

Vera Olver

Editor's note - The bonds questioned by the IRS total over \$300 million and were issued mainly by the VCCDD, north of Hwy. 466, to buy common property from the developer. Properties purchased include: recreation centers, executive golf courses, tennis courts, swimming pools, postal stations, entrance facilities, storm water runoff fields, pumping stations, flower and landscaped areas, etc. Amenity fee contracts were also included in the transactions.

The bonds were issued as tax-exempt, but the IRS now contends that the bond interest payments are taxable.

Residents, however, should not agonize over this issue. It may be settled with no financial impact on Villagers; or, there may be a financial impact. If there is a financial impact on Villagers, the POA expects the developer to do the right thing and protect residents. This is because the developer was the only one to benefit financially from the pro-

ceeds of the bond issues.

But, let's not get ahead of the story – let's wait and see what happens, and if a negative outcome occurs, then let's see what the developer does. The POA will do whatever it can to help protect residents.

Buildout is expected within another five years or so. The Villages population at that time is expected to be over 100,000.

Some residents may think that is too big. Everyone will have to decide for themselves and whether they want to live in this community at that time. □

Villagers -- Please tell an advertiser in the Bulletin that you saw their ad here. That will help us considerably at ad renewal time.

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POA Elections

POA elections were held at the November membership meeting. Elected were:

President - Joe Gorman
 Vice President - Elaine Driedame
 Treasurer - Dean Nicholson
 Secretary - Carolyn Reichel
 Director - Ken Copp
 Director - Bill Garner
 Director - Myron Henry
 Director - Ron Husted
 Director - Shirley Turgeon

Frank Carr, who had served as Treasurer and a Director for over three years, retired from the Board. Frank served with distinction and was a valuable contributor during his time on the Board. Thanks to Frank for his unselfish service.

Bill Garner, who served as Treasurer last year, will continue as a Director. Dean Nicholson, who served as Secretary last year, will continue as Treasurer.

Shirley Turgeon and Carolyn Reichel are new to the Board.

In commenting on his re-election as President for an unprecedented ninth term, Gorman said that it was an honor to represent fellow Villagers in the campaign for Residents' Rights. He added that the individuals who support him on the POA Board as officers and directors are essential. He thanked each of them for their service and support.

Gorman said the coming year would be a challenge as we cope with the IRS/Bond resolution. The POA stands ready to fight for residents and trusts that the developer will do the right thing for residents if the outcome of the IRS investigation is negative. □



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The POA has established a relationship with the iGive.com group that makes donations to organizations like the POA whenever you shop on-line.

All you have to do is register for your account, name the POA as the recipient of your donated funds, and purchase items on-line from merchants who in turn will donate a percentage of the price of the items you buy to your favorite organization. The iGive.com organization does all the work.

The POA will then receive a check for the donated proceeds periodically. Thus far this year, we have received over \$130.00 from purchases made by residents specifying the POA as the recipient.

This will cost you nothing – the participating sellers make the donation in your

name to the POA. This is a great way to donate to the POA. You just have to register and then buy items on-line from the special retailers and stores.

Just go on-line to the website at: www.iGive.com/POATV and fill out your account information. It is easy.

Order items on-line - an e-mail notice will be sent to you stating that the POA has been credited for a donation check in your name.

Some of the on-line stores participating in this program include: Sears, JC Penny, Avon, Bass Pro Shops, BestBuy.com, Chico's, Ann Taylor, Macy's, American Eagle Outfitters, Netflix, Office Depot, Old Navy, The Golf Warehouse, Zales.com, and over 680 total retailers who participate in this program on-line.

Thanks in advance for your consideration in setting this up for the benefit of your POA. The funds donated to the POA by the iGive.com organization will be a big help to the POA in paying our operating expenses. □

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Lightning Matters

By Len Hathaway

In the September issue of the POA Bulletin a letter was published from the POA Vinyl Siding Committee regarding a roofing problem with an acid-based caulking that a lightning protection system (LPS) installer used on five homes. Based on our investigation we are hoping that this is an isolated case of a one-time material selection error.

Our investigation also revealed two other issues of note. First, the LPS installer in this case does not appear on either the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Lightning Protection Institute's (LPI) web site as a "listed" installer. Selecting an installer from one of these two web sites is the only current way that Villagers have any assurance that the completed LPS installation will conform to the national standard, National Fire Protection Association 780, Standard for the Installation of Lightning Protection Systems, 2008.

Here are links to web sites for reference:

Lightning Protection Institute <http://www.lightning.org/>

page=members&subnav=installers# then select "Florida"

Underwriters Laboratories www.ul.com/lightning/ select "Additional Resources", then "Find Listed Installer", followed by "Refine Your Search" and select "Florida"

Second, these homeowners were solicited door-to-door. For those that were present for Janet Tutt's September POA monthly meeting presentation will recall that she addressed this practice by pointing out we are a deed restricted community and there is to be no solicitation. Whenever a Villager observes a door-to-door solicitation in progress they are urged to immediately report it to Community Standards at 751-6719. During non-business hours call Community Watch at 753-0550.

The Study Group on Lightning, a small group of Villages volunteers with no affiliation to any firm or organization related to the lightning industry, offers a 30-minute Power Point presentation, Lightning Tips for Villagers, that addresses direct lightning, indirect lightning, validation of LPS, CSST gas pipe, and common lightning myths. If your group or organization is interested, contact lhatha@aol.com or STALIT1@aol.com. □

From the POA Website Forum:

Solicitors in The Villages

Nov 5 - How are these solicitors getting through our gates? Today I had a meat seller at my door. He stated, he was selling Omaha steaks. Why are the gate people letting them in? I live off of St. Andrews, so you would think the Boone gate would have to stop these people. But, apparently not. But then if they come through any other gate, they just have to push a button. Real Secure....

Editor's Note - Anybody can get through our gates because the individual counties or other regulations require that the public cannot be impeded in moving on roadways maintained with public funds. However, by deed restrictions and covenants in The Villages, commercial solicitors are not allowed to go house to house in The Villages. If you see a commercial solicitor, please immediately call Community Watch at the phone number listed in your Villages phone book. CW will come and escort the solicitor out of The Villages. □

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Letter to the Editor:

30 Day Guest Passes and Kids

In response to a letter in the November issue of the bulletin regarding the homeowner being opposed to 30 day guest passes because he has underage children - does he realize this is a "retirement" community. There are many other communities that welcome children as residents, but The Villages was designed for "seniors". When you start bending the rules, you lose the premise to which so many of us were attracted. I don't think the foreclosure rate on homes in The Villages would warrant any concern to bend the rules.

C. Curtis □

Letter to the Editor:

More on Guest Passes

The Bulletin included a letter from Michael Elinsky who complained that his children under the age of 19 cannot stay in his home more than 4 weeks a year.

Mr. Elinsky should know that this is an "adult over 55 community" with restrictions on guests (children under 19) who may not live or stay and use recreational amenity facilities for more than 30 days.

It is not a question of empty or foreclosed homes as Mr Elinsky alleges but it is the design of the community as a retirement facil-

ity. If Mr. Elinsky needs to have his children with him then he would be better suited to a "family community" where his children can associate themselves with other children.

As for Mr. Elinsky's comments about children driving golf carts he is off the mark again. Who provides the children with driving lessons, makes sure that they are safe and follow all of the driving rules? We have seen too many instances where children (under the legal golf cart driving age of 14 and even those at 14 and above) have been observed not following the rules of the road like stopping at stop signs, not using turn or hand signals, etc. Mr. Elinsky said he did not see any stories where children driving have hurt or (killed) people.... Perhaps it is the fact that other drivers have taken measures to prevent a tragedy from occurring.

Pete & Liz Rosendahl □

Letter to the Editor:

Still More Guest Passes

[Mr. Elinsky], I assume you want unlimited "visits" of any duration to your home. [I] wonder why you purchased a home in The Villages - the restrictions didn't appear the day after your ownership began. If you did not come here fully aware of the lifestyle, the restrictions, the fees and the golf cart rules, you did yourself an injustice by purchasing before you researched the daily life that 99.9% of we villagers want.

Residents aren't always fully competent golf cart drivers and injuries occur. Perhaps we haven't read about a youth being injured because they are monitored by their hosts.

I have always advocated having everyone attend a 15 minute session on the rules of the cart paths before they are given keys to their cart.

Personally, I like the rules and I want the rules and restrictions to continue.

This is a very special place and I want to keep it that way.

Thea K. Stivers □

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Letter to the Editor:

Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus

Dear Editor: I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, If you see it in The New York Sun, it's so. Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.

Your little friends are wrong. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy.

Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We would have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to have men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa

Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and un-seeable in the world.

There is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia,

in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Excerpted from
the New York Sun, 1897 □



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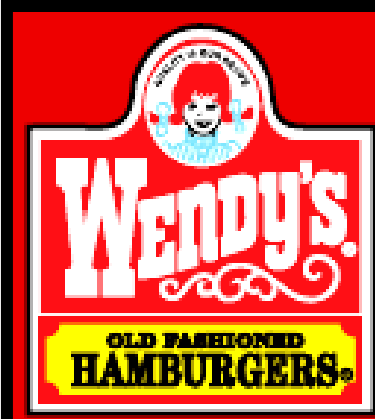
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Membership Renewals

Your membership in the POA is due for renewal for 2010 starting now. Dues are still \$10.00 per household per year. The membership year runs from January 1 thru December 31. It is really important for you to be a member of the POA. Every year we meet residents who were thinking about joining the POA, but, somehow just forgot. That makes it more difficult for the POA to carry on its Mission. Please, renew or join now !! □

We Need Your Help

If you are a snowbird or seasonal resident, please let us know the months you are gone, and we will stop delivery of the Bulletin during that time. Just email our distribution manager at delivery@poa4us.org with your name, village, address, and the months you will be away, and we will add you to our “No Throw” list for that time. If we inadvertently deliver to an unoccupied house, thanks in advance if you can pick up the Bulletin and either keep or discard it. □

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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The POA Forum

The Forum is on the POA Website for your use. You can comment on anything going on in The Villages, respond to comments of others, and make your thoughts known.

This is your Hometown now -- speak up! Website at www.poa4us.org

The Sexual Offender Database Binder

The POA now has the updated Sexual Offender Database 3-ring binder available for review at our monthly meetings.

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

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 interactive 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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(Continued from page 16)

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

Sonic Drive-In - Wal-Mart Shopping Center, 352-347-2860. Tuesday Nights: 5 single patty burgers for \$5 after 5 PM. Add-on at extra charge. Wednesday Nights: 1/2 price single patty burgers; 99¢ single topping sundaes. Valid at the Summerfield location only.

Southern Image Photography - 97 Del Mar Drive, Spanish Springs, 352-430-2056. 10% off the Special of the Month.

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

Sunshine Hair & Nail Spa - The Terrace Shoppes of Spruce Creek, Summerfield, across from Wal-Mart, 352-307-0099. 10% off retail products or nail services.

Tip Top Tree Experts - All tree work, landscaping, paving, pressure wash, auto body & paint. 10% discount. Call 352-516-8820.

Tri-County Landscaping - 25% off first 2 months of lawn care, 10% all other services, 352-693-3202.

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Vic's Embers - 7940 US Hwy. 441, Leesburg, 352-728-8989. Complimentary after-dinner cocktail or dessert for each person in the party. Not valid with other special offers.

Villages Car Wash and Lube - Bichara Blvd., La Plaza Grande Center, 352-753-1306. \$1.00 off the reg. price of silver or gold wash.

Villages 24/7 Kart Aide - Triple A Rescue Service for golf carts. 10% discount on yearly membership. Call 352-409-5853 for details.

Villagers Home Watch - call us at 352-753-6545. 10% discount off reg. price of \$40 for first three months of service for POA members.

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Our Monthly Gardening Column:

Beautiful Bougainvilleas

by Anne Lambrecht
Master Gardener

The holidays are upon us, and I could go on and on about traditional holiday plants. Instead, let's talk about a great plant for our Florida gardens: low-maintenance, loaded with brilliant, glorious flowers, drought tolerant and easy to grow right now--the Bougainvillea.

Bougainvillea was named for a French sea captain, Admiral Louis Antoine De Bougainville, who in 1760 saw these gorgeous plants growing in Rio de Janeiro. They became the highlight of the voyage and are a highlight of our Florida gardens today.

The Boug, as it is affectionately called, is a member of the Four O'clock family, Nyctaginaceae. They are woody vines with thorns. The cascading stems end in colorful bracts ("fake flowers") of red, orange, pink, salmon, and even purple. Whatever colors you can dream up, they have 'em. Speaking of dreams, I dreamt the other night that we were planning a very long and wonderful vacation. The Husband told me he couldn't go because he had a meeting with district staff. As you can imagine, he was in very deep, hot water for a good part of the next day.

Bougainvillea will thrive in almost any soil, as long as it is well drained and fertile. Soils that work for your other plants will be fine for your Boug.

Bougainvilleas grow best in very high, bright light and do well in full sun. If it does not get five to six hours of full sun a day, it will not flower.

These vines typically lose some leaves for a short time during the winter but when light conditions are low, leaf loss may occur at any time.

Bougainvilleas are heavy feeders and respond beautifully with half strength water soluble fertilizers such as Peter's 20-20-20, Miracle Grow and the like. With high light and regular feeding the plants will bloom at least 11 months of the year.

They flower best under stress. Keep the plant

slightly on the dry side and if in a pot, allow it to become root bound. There is a couple in my neighborhood on Fieldcrest Street who have an absolutely fabulous Boug in a pot. We watch it all year: suffering with it in the winter cold, rejoicing as it returns in the spring, and celebrating its glorious show of magenta.

The "blooms" as we know them are not true flowers but are large, papery bracts that encircle small, white tubular flowers, kind of like poinsettias.

Bougainvilleas are almost totally insect free. The occasional leaf roller or aphid can be treated with the appropriate pesticide.

Growing in Containers:

Bougainvilleas do best in large (5 -10 gallon) clay containers if grown outdoors (clay containers tend to stay drier, thus stressing the plants) or in large hanging baskets. The 10" basket is the commercial standard but plants will do much better in 12" hanging baskets.

Place in full sun or in a place where they will receive at least ½ day of full sun. In winter let the container grown plants rest by reducing water and withholding fertilizer.

If your Boug is not blooming, it is probably not receiving enough sun or fertilizer. These plants thrive in the tropics in areas of low rainfall and intense sun and heat.

Bougainvilleas are evergreen where rainfall occurs all year or deciduous if there is a dry season. They will grow in your hottest, driest spot but will tolerate our wet summer if it is in well drained soil. Here the frost will knock the stuffing out of it, right down to the ground, but they usually all come back. Just trim off the injured part later in the spring.

Varieties for our area:

Bougainvillea glabra – rose-red flower bracts, less thorny, hardy. Great for containers and has smooth leaves and smaller and fewer thorns.

Bougainvillea spectabilis – purple-red flower bracts, thorny stems, thick large leaves, huge sprawling plant perfect for arbors and draped along fences where it can serve as a security barrier by its thorns and dense twiggy growth.

Other cultivars for our area include "Barbara Karst", bright red bracts, vigorous growth; "Afterglow", yellow-orange, heavy bloom, sparse foliage; "Hawaii" ("Raspberry Ice"), red bloom, leaves have golden yellow margins, and is one of the hardiest.

Dwarf cultivars include: "Crimson Jewel", combines crimson, pink and orange; "Oo-la-la", very purple.

Did I mention color?

Because the Boug has sharp spines, it should be planted away from foot traffic, unless a burglar bush is desired.

Bougainvillea is inexpensive, commonly available and easy to care for. But don't forget our mantra: "Right Plant, Right Place".

During the past few months, the Husband's put on a little, um, weight. His idea of a diet is to just stop eating. He abhors vegetables anyway, so why bother to choke them down. I have decided to put him on FIMS, Food Intake Monitoring System, creatively concealing all manner of vegetation. He'll never know it unless you tell him and soon he'll be back to his svelte self again.

Sources: Bougainvillea Growers International
University of Florida publication:
<http://hort.ufl.edu/shrubs/BOUSPPA.PDF> □

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The Property Owners' Association
 P. O. Box 1657
 Lady Lake, FL 32158-1657

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Ken Copp	751-0086
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POA e-mails

poa4us@gmail.com
poa@poa4us.org

Web Site

www.poa4us.org

Bulletin Delivery

delivery@poa4us.org

Membership

poamembership@thevillages.net

**Members of the
 POA Hall of Fame**

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2005	Sadie Woollard
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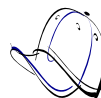
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The Recreation Centers and the Customer Service Center have the **Roundabout Brochure** available. This shows how to drive through those often confusing Roundabouts in The Villages. You can pick up your copy now.

**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.

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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.

* **A & H Cleaning Services** - Affordable, reliable. Also, property caretakers. 15 yrs family business. Free estimates. 10% POA discount. 352-250-3173.

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

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

Alpha & Omega Insurance Group - Auto, home, health, life, mobile homes. Any POA policy written receives a \$25 gift card. Anna, 352-245-0267.

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 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.

* **Big City Grill #1**- 994 Delmar, Spanish Springs downtown. 10% POA discount. 352-259-7500

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. 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 junk38@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, Nov 1, 2009, through April 30, 2010, excluding Leesburg Bike Days, Apr 22, 23, 24. All reservations based on availability. Must call 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 - 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/ purchase. \$100 credit for any referral (Purchaser must state referral 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 CR101, Palm Ridge Plaza, 352-391-1334. \$4.00 off sale 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. Discount on "check and cash orders" only.

Friar Tax Preparation Service - Barney Madden - 10% POA Discount. 1544 Hillcrest Dr. Villages resident. 352-751-4435.

Funeral Planners Inc. - 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.

* **Global Village Women** - Custom ACEO prints of women with sweet words on the print. Free newsletter to POA members. www.arrachme.com

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

Grandma's Crafts & Treasures - Personalized gifts & custom embroidery, specializing in baby gifts. 10% POA discount, myshopping14@comcast.net, Rosemary, 352-350-7124.

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 352-350-4746.

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.

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 - Rolling Acres Plaza, 352-430-3610. Buy 1 get 1 free every Saturday with 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.

Odd's & 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

(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