

The POA Bulletin

Free Copy

The Property Owners' Association of The Villages



Issue 36.03

Champions of Residents' Rights Since 1975

March, 2010

We Need Another Facility Like the Savannah Center

It is time to consider building a true performing arts center – a facility to complement the Savannah Center, only bigger.

HOWEVER, the AAC was recently advised that the Developer has no plans to construct such a facility as his research shows that the cost of maintenance and operation of a Performing Arts Center would be prohibitive.

The AAC was also advised that the Developer has no intention of constructing any more facilities similar to the Savannah Center. This is troubling since the Developer has seen the need to build additional 'town squares' (approximately one for every 40,000 residents), but he has failed to provide additional 'Savannah-like' centers to accommodate the entertainment needs of the additional 40,000 people in the SLCDD and the 40,000 he intends to sell homes to south of CR 466A, once it is developed.

There are a myriad of problems and issues that this will create, as follows:

1. The Savannah Center is, simply, too small. It was built over ten years ago when the population of The Villages was to be in

the 40,000 range. Now, we are almost 80,000, going to 120,000. The Savannah Center just can't handle the full range of outside entertainment fare and typical use by Villages residents for recreational activities.

2. Historically, the philosophy of the Developer has been to create regional centers rather than one central facility for a specific use, such as a bridge center. The recent confirmation that he does not intend to build any other facilities similar to the Savannah Center is counter to his expressed philosophy and creates a number of problems for the VCCDD residents and their amenity budget. This is because all of the expenses of maintaining and operating (staffing, refurbishing of the stage, replacement of chairs, etc.) the Savannah Center are paid for ONLY by those residents living in the VCCDD territory which purchased the building from the developer. Yet, it is the only facility of this type and is servicing ALL of the residents in The Villages.

At the recent AAC workshop, Ms. Tutt, District Manager, was asked if the VCCDD could approach the SLCDD about a potential sharing of costs and she advised them that at this time that would not be possible because the SLCDD did not have any funds available as they were operating on receipts of amenity fees of less than 7,000 of the 18,000 amenity contracts on homes in the SLCDD territory. (The Developer still receives the amenity fees from the other 11,000 homes as additional property/amenity fee contract transfers have been held up.)

3. The VCCDD residents have been further disenfranchised because they purchased the Savannah Center as a combined civic/

recreation center and currently the building is being used almost exclusively for the developer's entertainment purposes. Prior to the increased population south of CR 466, many of whom now also attend the shows, the building was used about 50% of the time for recreational activities.

Now, almost all of the recreation activities that had been provided in that building have

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Cancer Center: Local Statistics

One of the key points in the two previous Bulletin issues about the proposed Cancer Center is that the Center should be established where the most potential patients are located. And, we believe that to be here in The Villages.

To summarize this issue, The Central Florida Health Alliance (parent of the Villages Hospital and the Leesburg Regional Medical Center) is planning a joint venture Cancer Center with Tampa's Moffitt Cancer Center. The possible location is a new 60,000 sq. ft. building on the LRMC campus in Leesburg. The POA has voiced opposition to this arguing that the Center should be built in or close to The Villages.

So, the questions are: Where are the potential patients? and, Where should the facility be built?

For a start, let's review some statistics from the Florida 2005 Annual Report on Incidence and Mortality of Cancer published by the Bureau of Epidemiology, Florida Department of Health:

First, the number of new cancer cases diagnosed in Florida residents has increased 100% in the past 25 years while the population has increased 70%. This could be due to better diagnosis, better reporting, a higher

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March 16, 2010

**THE NEXT POA
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

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

**A speaker from the County Property Assessor's
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Savannah Center

(Continued from page 1)

had to move out due to a lack of availability of the Scarlet O'Hara room because of the shows and determination not to keep setting up and taking down the chairs, the inconvenience of being bumped whenever a banquet is scheduled and/or the lack of parking for social clubs meeting at the same time as the evening shows. The residents located in that general area now have to travel further to participate in their recreation activities.

The SLCDD territory has 13 multi-room recreational facilities and the VCCDD territory has only seven (now six because of the loss of the Savannah Center for recreation activities).

Some suggestions for possible solutions that could ease these problems are :

1) The ideal solution would be for the Developer to reconsider his decision not to build a Performing Arts Center or at least work with the Volunteers Performing Arts Alliance (VPAA) to help them raise the money to build one.

In the meantime, the financial unfairness could be addressed by charging the Developer-owned Entertainment Department the same hourly rental rate charged to non-residents for use of the Scarlet O'Hara room. This is \$325 per hour vs. \$115 per hour charged to the Developer. This should be maintained at least until such time as the

SLCDD is financially able to pay its share of the maintenance and operating costs. The Developer now collects the amenity fees from about 11,000 homes in the SLCDD territory, and it is his company which has the potential to profit from the use of the facility.

Yes, he could use that as an excuse to raise ticket prices or he could elect to make less profit. We anticipate that the prices will continue to rise regardless, as they have increased significantly over the last five years.

There are only 800+ seats and the number cannot be increased, but the population wanting to sit in those seats has doubled, and will likely triple in the next several years, thus creating more market demand which will allow the Entertainment Department to charge higher prices.

2) If a Performing Arts Center is out of the question, the Developer could commit to building the northernmost regional recreation center south of CR466A similar to the Savannah Center in order to better accommodate the growing population. To make it fair to all, the SLCDD, which would have no such facility, could contribute one-third of the maintenance and operating costs to the other two center districts so that each center district would be responsible for two-thirds of the costs.

3) If neither of these options are available, then the AAC could limit the use of the facility by the Entertainment Department to three

(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. □

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Savannah Center

(Continued from page 2)

and one half days a week, allowing for the other three and one-half days to be used for recreational activities. Additionally, Resident Council Clubs could have priority in scheduling their shows, thus allowing for more recreation usage of the facility by residents.

In summary, the Savannah Center has been a wonderful addition to our community. Now we need to get going on the new generation of facilities to match our phenomenal growth in population. We need that now.

We would also like to ask the VHA and its members for support on this idea. This is an important Residents Rights issue and its advocacy would carry more weight in the community and with the Developer if both the POA and the VHA supported these changes.

Also, let's all support the ongoing efforts of the VPAA which has been campaigning for a stand-alone performing arts center for several years now. It does not have to be gigantic. The group has been seeking support and donations and has been considering various sites around The Villages. If we get behind this, 80,000 plus strong, along with some help from our Developer, we can make it happen.

We welcome any and all letters to the editor on this issue. □

Cancer Statistics

(Continued from page 1)

incidence, or the influx of older age retirees. What ever the reason, cancer medicine is a vitally important issue for our population.

Second, in Florida in 2005, the age-specific cancer incidence rates show that: 26% of all cancers occur in people below age 65; and 74% of all cancers occur in people

age 65 and above.

Please note that above statistic again: 74% of all cancers occur in people age 65 and above.

Third, according to the 2009 Florida County Profiles published by the Department of Elder Affairs of the State of Florida, 25.4% of the population in Lake County is age 65 and above.

Please note that above statistic again: 25.4% of the Lake County population is age 65 or above.

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Cancer Statistics

(Continued from page 3)

Finally, the Wikipedia online encyclopedia has a section on demographics in The Villages. It reports that 57.5% of the population in The Villages is age 65 or above. This follows from the age-55 and over status of our community.

Please note that above statistic again: 57.5% of the population in The Villages is age 65 or above.

To summarize these points:

74% of all cancers occur in people age 65 and above;

Lake County has 25% of its population age 65 or older;

The Villages has 57% of its population age 65 or older.

The Villages has literally more than double the population percentage age 65 and over compared to Lake County. Thus, the incidence of cancer in The Villages is estimated at a much higher rate, if not double, than that in Lake County in general.

Based on this, where is the higher concentration of potential patients for the proposed Cancer Center? Answer: In The Villages.

Based on this, where should the new Cancer Center be located? Answer: In The Villages.

In addition, let’s summarize several addi-

tional factors:

First, the proposed Cancer Center requires constructing a building of 60,000 sq. ft. However, the Alliance has a 67,000 sq. ft. underutilized building on the east side of Hwy. 441/27 across from the Sharon Morse Medical building. This would be ideal for the Cancer Center and would allow the center to eliminate the construction phase and start operations perhaps a year earlier than if a new building needed to be constructed.

Second, an article in the Feb 21st Orlando Sentinel quoted Ted Williams, CEO of the Alliance, as saying that the Leesburg location would better serve south Lake County residents. But, if you look at a map, you can see that south Lake County residents would be better served going to Orlando which would be closer than Leesburg. And, Mr. Williams forgot about north Lake County residents who would be better served by going to the central location of The Villages. Not to mention the 120,000 residents of The Villages within five years who would also be better served from The Villages location.

North Lake County residents are not second-class citizens; neither are Villagers.

We asked readers to start a letter writing campaign to the top officials of the Alliance and the Moffitt Cancer Center advocating that the new center be located in The Villages. If you haven’t done so yet, please take the time to write both at the addresses below. If we don’t speak up for our community on

this issue, who will?

The officials are:

William S. Dalton
CEO/Center Director
H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center
12902 Magnolia Drive
Tampa, FL 33612

and:

David L. Sustarsic, M.D.
Chairman of the Board
Central Florida Health Alliance
600 East Dixie Avenue
Leesburg, FL 34748

Also, we would like to restate our call for the VHA to support the POA position on this. The Cancer Center is vitally important for our community, and a united voice between the POA and the VHA might have a better chance of success. Let’s see support for this proposal in the VHA newspaper. And, VHA members should bring this up at the monthly VHA meetings. □

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The Villages Regional Hospital

For the last two years, the POA newsletter has attempted to keep Villages residents informed of the truth concerning hospital and health care facilities for Villagers.

It was in this spirit that we attended the lecture on the “Growth and Advancement Made by The Villages Regional Hospital” presentation given by Mr. Lee Huntley, CEO of Central Florida Health Alliance on January 13 at the Lake Miona center.

We need to point out that a number of well-informed, articulate Villagers attended this meeting, and we were impressed by their knowledge of The Villages health care issues. It is clear that the subject of full-service health care facilities within The Villages is a matter of serious concern to all Villagers – not just ones who read the POA Bulletin.

Several Villagers asked Mr. Huntley about locating the proposed new cancer center in The Villages. Mr. Huntley replied that The Villages Regional Hospital was located a sizeable distance from Leesburg Regional Medical center and cancer specialty physicians could not be expected to commute the extra distance to The Villages.

Hey – wait a minute!

We were just told recently by hospital officials in The Villages Daily Sun that Lees-

burg Regional Medical Center was “in our back yard” and “just minutes away.” Now, Mr. Huntley tells us that the distance is “sizeable.” Something is fishy here.

Furthermore, if Mr. Huntley expects sick and elderly Villages residents to transport themselves to the Leesburg hospital, or endure a shuttle ride, why can't we expect healthy young doctors to transport themselves to The Villages hospital?

Perhaps we should have been informed of the problems of health care accessibility before we bought homes in this “far-away”

place compared to LRMC in Leesburg.

On a different issue – we learned that Central Florida Health Alliance will be remodeling and upgrading the present Leesburg Hospital (LRMC). We suspect that LRMC needs remodeling – it was built in 1963 and probably lacks up-to-date facilities. Retired engineers, however, tell us that remodeling/retrofitting a hospital can cost millions. If money is spent on the aging Leesburg Hospital, we doubt enough building money will be available to expand hospital

(Continued on page 6)

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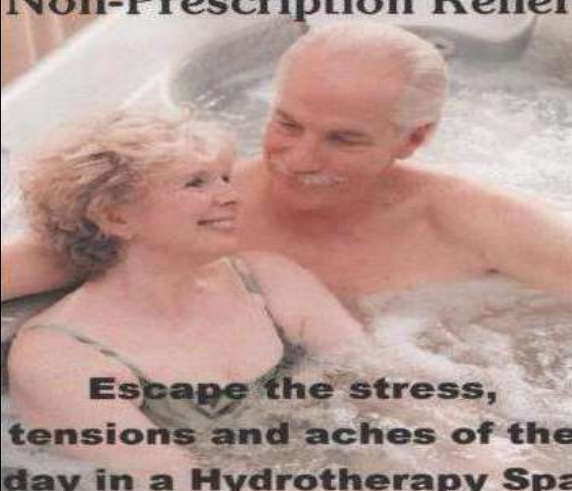


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Villages Hospital

(Continued from page 5)

facilities in The Villages to any significant extent.

Now we can see clearly that the Health Alliance thinks of the Villages Hospital as being a cash cow to pay for its expensive expansion plans for LRMC in Leesburg.

Although hospital officials offer us excuses – it seems clear to us that they have no intention of providing The Villages with a full service hospital befitting a community of 80,000 (and 120,000 in a few years). It now looks like Leesburg, a community of 22,000, will have an enviable full-service hospital and Villagers will be expected to commute to it – no matter what their health condition.

Is this fair? We don’t think so.

We would like to restate our call for the three VHA officials, who are on the Alliance board of directors, to give us a status report of their efforts to convince the Alliance board to build more comprehensive medical/hospital facilities in The Villages, starting with the proposed cancer center.

We would like to think that the three VHA board members are effective voices for Villagers, rather than just token window dressing.

We need to see some evidence of positive and proactive efforts on the part of these VHA directors. So far, sadly, we haven’t seen it. □

AAC Meeting February 10, 2010

Old Business Topics:

- The Committee received a report from Engineer Jonathan Thigpen of Kimley-Horn regarding the Recreation Trail reconstruction project status. The project is moving along, on-time and on budget. There is still the expectation of a construction start by June.

- By a vote of 4 to 2, the AAC approved sending a revised letter to the CDD4 board requesting the District 4 Board enter into an easement and maintenance agreement with the VCCDD which would obligate CDD4 residents to maintain two ponds located on

executive golf course property purchased by the VCCDD from the developer in 2003. Rich Lambrecht, the CDD4 representative and one of the dissenting votes, explained that CDD4 residents paid for construction of the two golf course ponds (and 19 others) while the other similar district with golf course ponds did not pay for any construction. He also mentioned that according to district management, none of the numbered districts pay for maintenance of VCCDD owned executive course ponds.

- The AAC requested staff to discuss with Districts 1 – 4 possible changes to the AAC election process. One scenario proposed would require each numbered district to provide a supervisor to also serve on the AAC

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AAC Meeting

(Continued from page 6)

rather than a separate election for AAC member - this option was subsequently discarded after the numbered districts could not agree on how it would be accomplished and one district wanted to retain the landowner election specified in the interlocal agreement establishing the AAC. So, the AAC will continue to be elected by landowners. The AAC is still considering whether to allow absentee balloting and staff has been directed to provide a cost analysis at the next AAC meeting.

- The Committee approved a staff recommendation to create a Smoke Free Zone policy for recreation centers. This policy prohibits smoking within a minimum of 25 feet

from any entrance to recreation center buildings. The policy was also approved by the SLCCDD board and goes into effect March 1.

- After a site review by AAC members, the committee requested staff include funds in the 2010-2011 Budget to provide for additional lighting at the Paradise Recreation Center parking lot, including the overflow parking lot adjacent to the postal station.

- Staff was directed to request appropriate parties of the Interlocal Agreement and the Settlement Agreement provide consent for the AAC to receive compensation similar to

numbered district boards – this proposal will likely be discarded as one or more parties to the Interlocal Agreement will apparently not agree to the changes.

- The VCCDD Legal Counsel was asked to identify a process for amending the Interlocal Agreement that did not require approval by the individually named plaintiffs and defendants, in addition to the signers of the Interlocal Agreement.

- A staff recommendation to reduce staffing at the Alhambra and Glenview gates was

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AAC Meeting

(Continued from page 7)

retracted. Staffing stays at the current level.

New Business Topics:

- The AAC approved the meeting calendar for establishment of the 2010-2011 Budget. The first workshop will be March 17th.

- The AAC approved a series of motions to move the Deed Compliance process along and also the selection process for the Architectural Review Committee.

Audience Comments:

- Representatives from the Village Greens environmental club asked to have staff look into providing recycling bins at rec centers, postal stations and town square. Staff expressed concern over the additional expense since existing janitorial contracts do not include disposal of recycled materials at these locations. Further consideration will be given

in the budget workshops.

- A member of the Pickleball Advisory Committee requested that the AAC include funds in the 2010-2011 budget to provide lighting at the Saddlebrook pickleball courts. This will be considered during subsequent budget workshops.

Misc:

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

Next AAC Meeting – Wednesday March 10th, 1:30 p.m. at the Savannah Center. □

Lightning Matters

By Len Hathaway

Sometimes you can't win for losing. That is the situation one Village resident found himself in after he decided to have a lightning protection system (i.e.rods) installed by a contractor he believed to be a qualified installer. He conscientiously did his homework and selected a contractor who had previously performed acceptable work at his home after

(Continued on page 9)

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Lightning Matters

(Continued from page 8)

checking with the Better Business Bureau.

What he did not realize was that the contractor recently added the installation of lightning protection systems as a new line of service. This is not uncommon, particularly in this economy, when contractors are trying to supplement their services to offset a downturn in sales from other lines of work.

The homeowner, being concerned with a direct lightning strike to his home, contracted with the firm and had a system installed in October. He believed that the contractor would install it properly to the national standard on lightning. But this isn't what he got.

In November he attended the POA Meeting where he heard a presentation (see January POA Bulletin, page 11) by a local lightning protection system installer with 29 years of experience who is "listed" by both Underwriters Laboratories and the Lightning Protection Institute. The homeowner had the sinking feeling that he "had been had."

He called in the installer who made the above mentioned presentation who pointed

out about a dozen instances where his system was not in compliance with the national standard on lightning. In fact, the system was so poorly designed and installed it had to be dismantled and a new system installed in its place. To make matters worse, he found that he had been overcharged by \$500 for the first system.

The original installer failed to have the utility locator service mark the buried lines. The installer was lucky that he was not injured (or worse) when he drove one of the ground rods precariously close to the buried incoming electrical feed. This also illustrates why it is good practice to have contractors provide certificates of general liability and

workers compensation insurance before starting any work on your property.

The homeowner reported his experience to Seniors vs. Crime in an attempt to get his money back from the first installation. Unfortunately, this proved to be fruitless as no laws were broken because neither the state nor county require that the national standard be followed for residential properties. The state building code only mandates lightning protection for hospitals, nursing homes, and educational facilities.

This homeowner is lucky because he found the problem and had it corrected. Unfortunately, there are many others out there

(Continued on page 10)

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Lightning Matters

(Continued from page 9)

who may have a substandard lightning protection system and a false sense of security. This is a "buyer beware" marketplace as there are no building permits nor contractor licensing requirements for this line of work.

A homeowner who has made the decision to install a lightning protection system should look to Underwriters Laboratories or the Lightning Protection Institute and select a firm that has met the criteria for one or both of these organizations. This is the best way to assure that you will receive a lightning protection system installed to the national standard. The consensus of the scientific literature, field testing, and 258 years of experience is that lightning protection systems are highly effective when they are properly designed, installed, and maintained to NFPA 780, Standard for the Installation of Lightning Protection Systems, 2008 edition. □

Letter to the Editor:

Under/Over Age 55

Increasingly, I have read that people under 55 years of age are being arrested by local law enforcement, and giving their addresses as, The Villages. The latest example was someone stealing water from a neighbors house because the utility company shut off his water. I doubt these are all children of residents. I also doubt that they themselves are owners. Is anyone enforcing the age requirements when owners rent out their property? If not, then we must rely on owners who are neighbors of tenants, to report underage residents. Let’s not allow our beautiful communities to deteriorate at the hands of undesirables.

Joe Kaelin

In January a man was charged with burglary for attaching a hose to a neighbor’s water faucet. This man, the owner of his house,

was age 44. How did this person become a resident of The Villages at age 44, well under the 55 age requirement?

Paul Endersbee

Editor’s Note: Because of federal regulations to prevent age discrimination in communities where federal loans (FHA, VA) are often provided for mortgages, up to 20% of the housing units must be kept available for people under 55, even though it can be billed as an "over 55" age community. Thus, age discrimination is avoided at the high end. However, there are no age discrimination prohibition at the low end. Thus, age 55 communities can require that no person under the age of 19 live in that community. □

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Formerly known as The-Villages-Online.com, an online information website for Villagers, Villages1.com, is now revised and expanded and three years old.

The site has access to over 9,000 online pages and more pages and links are being added daily. Information on a variety of companies, clubs, organizations, businesses, doctors, churches, entertainment, etc., of importance to Villagers are included. Over forty categories make this an ideal place to find information on almost anything.

The new Spotlight section contains additions to the site such as The Wine Cellar, Travel and Clipper magazine. There is also a

functioning Veteran's Corner to honor our Veterans. Local businesses sponsor these various sections.

The site is free to Villagers and to all merchants serving The Villages who want to be listed. Villagers are requested to patronize the sponsoring merchants whenever possible.

The designer of the site, Mr. Keith Adee, noted that "with over 450,000 page inquiries this past year, Villages1.com has become one of the busiest information sites in the area." Why not check out Villages1.com and see for yourself! □

Letter to the Editor:

Golf Rainchecks

It would appear that the mission "to be the friendliest Golf & Country Club Community in the world" is in jeopardy! On Saturday, February 6th, I had the misfortune to be in a line behind some ladies seeking a raincheck because the wind was too much for them. ProShop personnel refused them. I have heard this same story from others at various clubs and think, as others do, that this behav-

(Continued on page 12)

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David Oreck, Founder

Golf Rainchecks

(Continued from page 11)

ior from the golf administration is not only not right, but quite mean! Especially so, since the golf administration publishes the following: "We realize there are different personal tolerances for cold, wind, rain, etc. When there are clear signs of severe inclement weather, although the golf course remains open for play, only reservation points will be assigned for golfers who wish to cancel." I suggest the golf administration and ProShop personnel review these unfair practices. If unchanged, I encourage a discontinuation of the false publicity.

Jim Bitter

Editor's Note: On the championship golf courses, the official policy is that an 18-hole raincheck can be claimed if your play is abandoned for rainy weather before teeing off on the fifth hole. A 9-hole raincheck can be claimed on the back nine if your play is abandoned before teeing off on the thirteenth hole. If you play through rainy weather beyond these hole limits, no raincheck is given. If conditions are threatening to be too windy or too cold, you should recognize that before teeing off because no rainchecks will be given once you pay and tee off. □

POA News

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 or one of your neighbors can pick up the Bulletin and either keep or discard it.

In other POA news, Dean Nicholson has resigned as Treasurer due to other personal commitments. Bill Garner and Frank Carr, both previous Treasurers of the POA, will handle the Treasurer's function on an interim basis. We are looking for another Treasurer and encourage any members who may be interested to contact Joe at 259-0999. □



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Food Pantry Expo

Your Neighbor-to-Neighbor Resident Committee will hold its 2nd Expo on March 22 at Paradise Recreation Center, 10AM to noon.

The goal of this expo is to provide information to Villagers about the local food pantries - why food pantries are needed; who works in them, who can be volunteers, how food pantries help those in need; who qualifies, where the pantries are located, how a Villager can contribute, and how each donation feeds someone who is hungry.

In the spirit of the Food Pantry Expo, six food pantries will be present with the information and Villagers are asked to bring non-

perishable food for the bins that will be provided by each pantry. Organizations whose purpose revolves around food will also be present. You are urged to attend to learn, contribute and participate. Haiti has created a vast number of sympathetic donations; however, it has left the local food pantries in a desperate state in need of food to fill their shelves. Please come, please donate, and please learn all about our food pantries.

So far we have 7 exhibitors and at least four who still may respond.

Thank you in advance for all the help of the POA and thank you for permitting us to provide this information via your newspaper.

Carolyn Willette
352-408-4309

Discount Partners Continued from Page 16

(Continued from page 16)

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.

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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:

Springtime - at Last!

By Anne Lambrecht
Master Gardener

Not even the experts here in north central Florida have any idea what the record freezes did to our lawns and gardens. Brown lawns are a normal part of winter dormancy. With springtime the lawns start to green up and naturally require more water and fertilizer than in winter. But how can you tell if your grass is truly dead or if it's only dormant? One way is to cut small plugs of the grass (with roots and shoots attached) and plant them in a pot. Put it in a warm spot with natural sunlight and see if the grass regrows.

If your grass does not recover come springtime, remove the decayed vegetation from the affected areas and replace with either sod pieces or plugs. Do this before weeds have a chance to germinate and take hold of the ground. It is possible that not all of your lawn will be affected, perhaps just areas most exposed to the cold temperatures.

It is also a good cultural practice to remove thatch with a flexible rake. By removing the brown dead stuff, it makes the rest of the lawn look nice and makes room for the shoots to grow. And it's great exercise.

For more lawn care tips, go to www.yourfloridalawn.ifas.ufl.edu.

Our Queen Palms really took a hit. Just look down any street here in the Villages and all you can see at roof level is frizzled brown. If there's any green at all in the central leader, then they will recover. You will know for sure by April. If they are dead and you do end up having them removed, for gosh sakes,

don't put another Queen there. Queen palms (Cocos plumose) are good in zones 10A-11! If you must have a palm try Sabal or Cabbage (the Florida State tree), even the Saw palmetto (Serenoa repens), a great little palm, Pindo or jelly palm, European fan palm, Chinese windmill palm, or the Washington palm.

It's OK now to clean up and to prune roses, crapemyrtles, all the dead stuff if you haven't already done so. Refresh, restart, recover. Any tropicals that didn't make it is an opportunity for a trip to the nursery or to a garden festival. What wonderful therapy after a long, bitter-cold winter. Happy Spring!

Upcoming garden festivals in March:

March 6-7 Amelia Island Garden Show. Includes Fernandina Farmers Market. Free Admission. Central Park, Fernandina Beach 904-491-4872 www.ameliagarden.com

March 13 Spring Obsession: A Celebration of Garden, Art & Music. Munn Park, Historic Downtown Lakeland 863-670-1314 www.springobsession.org

March 13 Orchid Auction 10:30 am – 1:00 pm Tampa Orchid Club. USF Botanical Garden, 4202 E Fowler Ave, Tampa 813-910-3274 www.cas.usf.edu/garden

March 13-14 Master Gardener Spring Festival. Admission \$1. Marion County Extension, 2232 NE Jacksonville Rd, Ocala 352-671-8400

March 20-21 Spring Garden Festival. Admission \$7. Kanapaha Botanical Garden, 4700 SW 58th Dr. Gainesville 352-372-4981

www.kanapaha.org

March 20-21 Leu Gardens' Annual Plant Sale. Free admission. 1920 N Forest Ave, Orlando 407-246-2620 www.leugardens.org

March 20-21 Spring Plant Fair. Half price admission. Shelby Gardens, 811 S Palm Ave, Sarasota 941-366-5731 www.selby.org

March 22 Moonlight Walk. 7 -11 pm. Kanapaha Botanical Gardens, 4700 SW 58th Dr, Gainesville 352-372-4981 www.kanapaha.org

March 27-28 Greenfest. Plant Park, University of Tampa, 401 W Kennedy Blvd 813-837-0131 www.tampagreenfest.com

March 27 Florida Wildflower and Garden Festival in Downtown Deland. Free admission from the following website: www.floridawildflowerfestival.com

The Husband rarely comes outside into my domain but occasionally he must help me with a project. We are putting in a little water feature using a 50 gallon formed pool with underwater shelves for water plants. In his mind, placement of the pool was critical but he was not about to take the responsibility of its placement because if things didn't work out, it would be my fault. And every time I placed it where I'd like it, the Husband would have a huge and very whiny hissy fit as only he can do -- claiming that I am totally void of logic and reason. An extremely loud discussion ensued (sorry neighbors), but finally I have it where I want it. And he dug the hole.....alone. □



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 dollar and help preserve our
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We can reduce your electric bill up to **25%!**
 We will prove it to you using your own **ELECTRICITY!**

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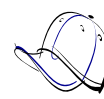
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The Recreation Centers and the Customer Ser-
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 available. This shows how to drive through
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**2010 MEMBERSHIP FORM
 PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION
 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. Member-
 ships 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.

**"Hire a solution... not
 another problem."**

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 We Guarantee Our Work
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Ollie's Frozen Custard
 "If you like Ice Cream-you'll love Ollie's"

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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.

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.

Basile Drywall Repair - All phases of drywall repair. Licensed and insured. Call for free estimates. 10% POA discount. 352-274-2396.

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 or 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 yunk38@embarqmail.com, 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 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 for 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. Website (www.arrachmeart.com).

Golf Instruction - Call John Welsh, 352-459-8789, guaranteed satisfaction, Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced, 20% discount for POA members.

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 sale items.

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

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 Plains 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 retail price; all watch batteries \$3.00.

Premier Tower, Inc. - Electric contractor, quality safe installation. Free estimates. 10% POA discount. Michael. 352-978-7015.

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. 5-10% off selected models.

Snowbird Home Watch - Watch your home while you're away. \$40.00 per month; 10% discount to POA. 352-259-1143 or www.bikinbob36@aol.com

(Continued on page 13)