

The POA Bulletin

Free Copy



The Property Owners' Association of The Villages

Issue 38.05

Champions of Residents' Rights Since 1975

The POA Website – www.poa4us.org

May, 2012

Update on “Southside” Project Wide Funding Issues

First of all, a big THANK YOU to all of the CDD 5, 6, 7 and 8 residents who turned out on Friday April 20, 2012, for your CDD Board meeting. Your show of support for better accountability and control of spending for the Project Wide Agreement (PWA) fund was overwhelming. You impressed everyone except your elected representatives who voted unanimously to maintain the status quo.

This means that the SLCCDD Board elected by the Developer will continue to determine which projects will be maintained via the PWA. The resolution passed by each of these boards also “memorialized” staff’s ability to include construction costs of new projects in addition to any maintenance project the SLCCDD Board cares to include. While the \$130,000 plus Live Oaks Park construction expense is relatively minor, it demonstrated how the resident-elected supervisors (CDDs 5, 6 and 7) have become comfortable allowing the SLCCDD Board to make the decisions concerning how the majority of your annual maintenance fees will be spent.

While the original PWA (2003) called for all parties to agree on what projects were to be funded by the PWA, the process has been changed over time. Now, only the SLCCDD Board decides what projects to include and the involvement of the numbered CDDs has been relegated to being informed at budget preparation time what their share of the PWA expense will be. They have no ability to change that amount. This is a substantial portion of your maintenance assessment - typically more than 50% - and they must accept it per the PWA.

We are all very pleased with how the park turned out and in general with how the staff

maintains our community. The basic concern is that we may not always have Ms. Tutt as our district manager and the commercial property may not always be under the control of the current Developer. In that case, it may be problematic that the numbered CDDs have abdicated their control of spending of the majority of your annual assessment payments to the Sumter Landing Community Development District, which is governed by Supervisors elected by the commercial property owners.

For those of you who were not in attendance at any of these CDD meetings on the 20th, please be advised that our POA President, Elaine Dreidame, represented us all in her usual incredible fashion. She had the facts, the timeline and the impact on residents’ rights and addressed each Board with your concerns. While the residents were truly grateful for her presentation of their side of the issue, the CDD Boards decided to follow the staff recommendation.

Below is the statement President Dreidame made at the CDD 5, 6, 7 and 8 Board meetings: “First, my apology to the Supervisors who received extra phone calls

May 15, 2012

POA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Third Tuesday of the Month – 7:00 PM

Laurel Manor Recreation Center

Anne Lambrecht

Master Gardener

Easy Florida Friendly Plants

Presentation followed by Question/Answer Session

**Coffee and Donuts for All After the Meeting
All Residents Welcome, Come and Join Us**

and emails from their constituents this month as well as a thank you to the residents who sent them and who are in attendance today.

“The issue that the POA wants to present today is bigger than the issue of whether or not amenity fees or Project Wide Improvements Fund (PWIF) should be used to pay the \$130,000 for the construction of Live Oaks Park, but we will begin with that. On October 15, 2009, District Staff recommended that the SLCCDD accept 4 quit claim deeds (one of them is the property in question) from various Developer corporations. It was stated then that, ‘... the PWIF is re-

(Continued on page 2)

Seniors vs. Crime Highlights from Presentation to POA

In 1989, some of Florida’s most effective crime fighters were unleashed through the creation of the Attorney General’s Seniors vs. Crime Project. This Project, sponsored by Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi’s Office, allows seniors to be actively involved in their own and their younger citizens’ protection. The volunteers, known as **Senior Sleuths**, (1) serve as eyes and ears to inform her office of current issues affecting seniors, (2) educate the public about scams and frauds, (3) provide on site help for seniors making large purchases, (4) assist law enforcement as actors with undercover operations and (5) manage consumer cases referred by her office or requested of the Project by Seniors – like us. These crime fighters are responsible for recovering millions of dollars for seniors who were intentional or unintentional victims of con artists or dishonest businesses.

The Sumter County office is the busiest one in the State. Residents have two things

(Continued on page 4)

Project Wide Update

(Continued from page 1)

sponsible for the maintenance of these areas. However, **it is not anticipated there will be an increase in maintenance dollars to the PWIF as a result of accepting them.**

“A little later in that same meeting, John Rohan, Director of Recreation, gave a short presentation about the possibility of future parks and staff asked for a recommendation for them to move forward to create a volunteer park group to gather information and explore options so the SLCDD could consider the **possibility of a park site** adjacent to Morse Boulevard and John Parker Bridge.

“Upon questioning from a Supervisor, Mr. Rohan also acknowledged that he had money in the budget to pay for it. As an aside, at the recent POA meeting Ms. Tutt stated that ‘Because I am a professional public administrator and responsible for the maintenance of all of the properties in The Villages, I didn’t see that property as a beautiful spot. When I looked at that area what I saw was where golf carts had put ruts in the grass, I saw residents going to the water’s edge... going where they should not be going, and I saw this as a maintenance nightmare. Thus, it is unclear to the POA why the property was accepted in that condition and why it was stated that its maintenance would not be costly to the PWIF.’

“Nothing further occurred regarding this property until the fall of 2011 when we looked at items in an SLCDD consent agenda, which included an approval for payment of the Live Oaks construction costs out of the PWIF and not the recreation budget which raised a red flag for us. We asked Ms. Tutt how that could be because the PWA was for maintenance of improvements constructed by a district, not for funding new construction and she stated that her interpre-

tation of the PWA was that she could.

“At the recent POA Open Forum a resident stated she was confused as to whether the park had already been paid for with the PWIF and stated that she thought if a resident board did not want it that it would not happen. ‘What I am concerned about,’ she said, ‘is whether or not I have any right at all as a resident, or if you really want it, you are just going to do it, no matter what fund it comes out of?’

“Ms. Tutt stated the park has been constructed. It is open. The numbered district Boards have no authority to have it come out of amenity fees. (I might point out they also have no authority to keep it from being paid by Project Wide Funds.). Ms. Tutt finished by stating that we believe it is an appropriate use which I have a **legal opinion** from both attorneys saying it has nothing to do with your amenity contract. It is not an amenity.

“The POA reminds you that this is the **opinion** of two attorneys. We have also consulted with attorneys who happen to have provided the opposite legal opinion. In any event, we will continue to challenge that Live Oaks Park is a recreational facility, and that the Developer contracted with each of us that it, **or** its assign, will provide the recreational facilities into perpetuity. **Thus if the SLCDD claims that it is not the assign in this matter, then we believe the Developer should contribute the costs.**

“Now, let’s talk about the real elephant in the room. When we became aware that the PWF was paying, we then looked back at the 2003 and 2006 PWAs and could not find anything that we believed would authorize the position that PWIFs could be used to construct new improvements. However, when we thoroughly reviewed the November, 2010 document we found that a phrase had been added to one of the covenants in the Amendment that was never mentioned in staff’s

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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. □

The POA Bulletin is published monthly by the Property Owners’ Association of The Villages, Inc. Articles represent the opinion of the POA or the writer, and Letters to the Editor or Forum postings represent the opinions of the writers. Care is taken to ensure that facts reported herein are true and accurate to the best knowledge of the POA and are taken from reliable sources.

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AT&T Cell Phone Reception Update

We received an update from our contact at AT&T wherein he advised us that:

- 1) From all accounts, the AT&T offer was well received by the residents in The Villages. AT&T had nearly 200 people take advantage of its promotion and generally complaints seem to have gone down.
- 2) AT&T is continuing to make good strides on getting its sites constructed and that they will advise the POA when they come on the air over the summer, if not sooner.

The POA will advise Villages residents of this announcement immediately by our email alert if you are an active POA member and have provided us with your email address, as well as follow-up with an announcement in the POA Bulletin. □

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POA Says "THANKS"

We would like to say "thank you" for the tremendous response of members renewing their 2012 POA memberships and also for the many new members who have joined with us as a way of supporting Residents' Rights for all Villagers. So, if you haven't yet joined with us or renewed your membership, now is a good time to fill out the Membership Form on the page below. If you are not a 'joiner', but appreciate the efforts the POA volunteers are making on your behalf, you can always simply mail in a donation to help defray our costs. Our mission is to keep each of you informed of facts about issues which may not have been clearly or fully presented in other media.

We would also like to cordially invite you to attend one of our monthly meetings, which is where we are alerted to possible problems that residents are experiencing, i.e. under-

ground a/c refrigerant line failures, a flood, etc. The POA meeting is held the third Tuesday of each month at 7PM at Laurel Manor. A typical meeting consists of about 30 minutes of organization business (treasurer's report, minutes, etc.), reports from Shine, 50/50, updates on the IRS, the Project Wide Agreement issues, etc.; 30 minutes of an open forum where attendees can **ask any questions they want** us to find answers to, or present problems they are facing; and a guest speaker who will talk for approximately 15 minutes and answer questions for 15 minutes, which concludes the formal part of the meeting. Attendees are then invited to join us in some social time where the POA provides free coffee and donuts to the attendees. (The month's speaker can always be found in the box at the bottom of the front page of the Bulletin.) □

POA 2012 Membership – New / Renewal and Contribution Form

Please complete each section and return to: **The POA, P.O. Box 1657, Lady Lake, FL 32158**

New Renewal Number of People in Household

PLEASE PRINT!

NAME(S)(1) _____
(Same Last Name)

NAME(S)(2) _____
(Different Last Name)

ADDRESS _____

VILLAGE _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

(We respect your privacy: Your E-mail address is for POA Official use ONLY)

1. Membership New/Renewal: Please enroll my membership in the POA for 2012 at the Annual Rate of \$10 per household. A check payable to POA is enclosed. Memberships are for Households and run annually from Jan 1st to Dec 31st. (check the box that applies)

Please mail my Membership Card to me at the address above. I will include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with this form and my check. Please hold my POA Membership Card for me to pick up at one of the monthly POA meetings.

2. Additional Contribution: Please accept my additional contribution to the POA in the following amount:

\$ _____ (Please indicate amount)

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE POA AND YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION

Dues Paid Date _____ (Office Use Only)

Seniors vs. Crime

(Continued from page 1)

in common - we are old - to varying degrees, and we all have a few bucks in our pocket, again in varying degrees. But the combination attracts every kind of con person that you can imagine. There are new scams every week and the POA is going to begin providing a column in the Bulletin wherein they identify specific scams (without naming names) that are currently occurring in The Villages. The Sumter and Marion County offices have recovered over \$3M in cash or services for seniors in the 9+ years that they have been operating in this area.

When they receive a complaint against a vendor they will take what back up documents you have and attempt to resolve the problem by acting as the intermediary between you and the person you are having the problem with. Usually, vendors want to maintain a good reputation so they are willing to do what they can to remedy the situation. There are some cases they cannot resolve such as a statewide scam, a civil matter where someone is being sued, or if you have what is clearly a crime and they think that they can prove it they take it down the hall to the detectives/law enforcement.

THEY DO NOT MAINTAIN A 'BAD LIST'. This is not permitted by the Attorney General. What they do is maintain a database of all the contacts they have with vendors so if you are about to contract with

somebody to do some work for you, call Seniors vs. Crime with the name and telephone number of the company, the name of the owner and their address. (If the business card they provide does not have an address on it that is a definite red flag. Do not be fooled if the card says licensed and insured as it probably refers to the vendor's truck.) If you want to know how many contacts (generally due to a complaint) they have had with a vendor, call them and they can tell you. If you want to know if a license is required for the work you want done they can find out for you. If you are dealing with a general contractor who is going to do a job for you, watch out for a contractor who wants you to pick up the building permit instead of doing it himself as he probably is not licensed.

Seniors vs. Crime Telephone Numbers:

- Sumter County - 689-4600, Ext. 4606
- Marion County - 753-7775
- Lake County - 323-8273

Consumers above the age of 65 made up the biggest increase in scam victims in 2011. We are in an area which is very vulnerable because we tend to trust people more so than younger residents.

Door to door soliciting is not permitted in The Villages and you should call Community Watch if someone knocks on your door and wants to trim your trees or do some other service.

Often new arrivals to our area have become victims of unscrupulous vendors in the

following categories:

Lawn Mowing/Weeding/Tree Trimming Services - Payment for services should not be made until AFTER the lawn has been mowed, the weeding done or the trees trimmed. **NEVER pay up front** for a month's service or enter into a yearly contract where payment is required up front. Landscaping Services - An advance down payment of up to 50% is often asked for when signing a landscape contract. **NEVER EXCEED 10%** and in the case of large contracts, not more than 5% should be paid in advance. A contract calling for progressive payments as the job progresses is acceptable. Water Purification - There is nothing wrong with the public water systems in our area. In the event you find the taste of your water not to your liking, you can buy an inexpensive water filter system for your faucet or refrigerator.

Driveway Pavers - Once again, you will probably be asked for a large down payment, usually 50%. This should not be necessary as a reputable company will have the pavers on hand. Always get more than one bid.

Travel Companies - For a large down payment you will be promised inexpensive travel. The travel is seldom available and the accommodations may leave a lot to be desired. You are often told that upgrades are available at no extra cost. To indulge your wanderlust, see a registered travel agent. It will most likely cost you much less in the long run. □



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April Meeting Forum Q&A

1) I am concerned about the dead fish that are in the pond in Duval along O'Dell Circle that have appeared in the last 7-10 days. What is being done? A) Ms. Tutt stated that usually if the fish are not easily accessible we don't go after them because it is part of the food chain in Florida. If it is along the upper surface where our maintenance folks can get them and it is causing a stench, we will take care of it.

2) I am new to all of this and I have been trying to understand, and I hear different stories every time I ask a question concerning the Park. I understand all of the CDDs have a budget and that everybody can take part. My question is if my District (8) wants to build a park, I would assume that I would pay for it. It appears to me that PW is becoming like a catch all for anything - a catch all that I, on my maintenance fee will have to pay for and even though you say it is not going to happen again, my point is that if you set a precedent, there is nothing to stop it from happening again. A) Ms. Tutt stated that that was inaccurate. The maintenance assessment funds that are collected on your tax bill - there are legal uses for that money. You cannot just go out and build a park. You can enhance or protect your property. You can widen a golf cart path, etc. What I did at this

park was to PRESERVE so that I did not have ongoing maintenance. Once the amenities are owned south, the money that Mr. Rohan has in his budget for parks would be used on amenity property. Your district's property is not amenity property.

3a) We have just been presented with a master plan to expand and beautify the Paradise Park area. One of the concerns that we had at that meeting was how is this going to be affecting our amenity fees. How will it be funded? A) Mr. Lambrecht - Your amenity fees are effectively fixed. Whatever you are paying, it is going to go up or down once a year by the CPI whether we do no projects, one project or one hundred. It is up to the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) to figure out whether or not they can afford to do the entire project or parts of it.

3b) Where is the money coming from? A) Right now, because of what I consider to be some good planning on the part of the District staff, along with the AAC, we have approximately \$2M in operating funds, \$9.5M dollars in reserves, plus \$9M of lawsuit settlement monies still there. The idea is not to see how quickly you can spend it, but we are all not going to live forever so let's use this money wisely to do things that we can all enjoy.

4) Of course, you know that Lake Paradise does not have any water in it and this happens year after year. Years ago, because it is a conclave section of The Villages, there was a vote of residents as to whether or not

they wanted the Developer to line Paradise Lake and it was voted down. Is there anything in the master plan that will help make sure that it will be a pristine looking lake like one expects to see in The Villages? A) The Lake proper is not part of that master plan and there are a whole host of issues for the various lakes and ponds here. Lake Paradise, while it does go dry at certain times, it is actually flooded at other times. □

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Golf Cart Crashes with Injuries

Recent reports (**ONLY THOSE THAT INVOLVED EJECTION, FALLING OUT OF THE GOLF CART, AND/OR INJURIES are provided**) that we have received from Village residents, Public Safety, and area law enforcement. (Note: we cannot guarantee that the information we receive is completely accurate about all the details.)

Feb. 29th - A female driving a golf cart at full speed when exiting the pool/mailbox drive near Stillwater and Lockheart, apparently didn't see the golf cart approaching from her left. She T-boned it and knocked it

over on its left side. (She was cited for violation of right of way.) The driver of the vehicle that was T-boned and his passenger had to be assisted in getting out of the vehicle by rescue personnel. The passenger was transported to The Villages Hospital.

March 24th - Summerhill - Davenport Road at Idlewood - Golf cart driver not paying attention to where he was going and crashed into another vehicle. **Driver fell from the cart** onto the pavement and his cart ended up in someone's yard. Minor injuries. Driver transported to The Villages Hospital for evaluation/treatment. (This happened during a 40 home garage sale in Summerhill - Reporter advised that carts were driving all over Summerhill, following balloons and signs, crossing the road without looking etc.).

March 28th - Incident occurred on the cart path approaching Cane Garden with the closest cross street being Bailey Trail. The driver advised that his brother was sitting next to him, holding his granddaughter on his lap.

The driver said a gust of wind came through knocking his brother's hat off. The brother reached up for the hat and loosened his grip on the child who had been very animated while riding in the cart. Driver said she jumped from her brother's lap, off from the cart. She was taken to the hospital by EMS with what appeared to be minor abrasions to her forehead

April 2nd - Incident at El Camino Real near Morse. Cart driver ran into the back of a car. She stated that she wasn't paying attention. She **fell out of her cart** and skinned her knees and had a small laceration on her elbow. She refused transport.

April 5th - Two vehicle crash at approximately 4:45PM involving a golf cart and an automobile near the intersection of Morse Boulevard and San Marino Drive. The cart was knocked on its side and the driver of the golf cart **either fell out or was ejected**. He was moved to the ambulance and taken to The Villages Hospital with the siren on with what the Daily Sun described as minor injuries. A passerby observed that the front bumper was off of the car which appeared to have been going south on Morse Boulevard, and a second one advised that it appeared that a Scion XB and a ParCar collided when one was attempting a left turn toward Tierra del Sol. (We have no further details on the circumstances of the crash.)

April 16th - Incident on the golf cart path directly behind the Lange Eye Institute on

(Continued on page 7)



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Golf Cart Crashes

(Continued from page 6)

CR 101. Driver of golf cart Vehicle 1 was treated by EMS for laceration on right leg. He advised while northbound on the cart path he hit the curb and lost control of the cart. He said he was unable to negotiate the corner and ran into golf cart Vehicle 2. Driver of V2 was not injured.

Golf cart crash incident report from residents who were involved in a crash:

Feb. 14th - At about 10AM, I was driving my golf cart on east St. Charles Place toward Sandhill. A landscaper's pick-up with a 20ft trailer was traveling W on St. Charles Place, intending to make a left turn onto Ashville Ave (across from Sterling Heights Rec. Center). As the pick-up approached the intersection, an east bound van stopped in the roadway of St. Charles to let the pick-up make the left turn. My golf cart was eastbound in the designated cart lane approaching the intersection and was intended to continue on St. Charles, when the pick-up turned left in front of me. (Because the van was blocking his view of the golf cart lane, the landscaper didn't see me, nor did I see him until he was about 5 feet in front of me.) I applied the

brakes and skidded sideways into the back of the pick-up and **was partially ejected** and the right side of my body hit the pick-up. I was taken by ambulance to The Villages Hospital. Because of the force with which my body hit the pick-up, I had a comminuted and displaced fracture of the scapula (shoulder blade), in addition to deep lacerations on my right leg. The driver of the pick-up was issued a citation for violation of the right of way.

Liliana Hamilton

2) March 9th - I was traveling alone from Lake Sumter Landing to my home in Buttonwood at about 12:20 PM. I was on the modal path southbound on the east side of Buena Vista heading towards Lake Miona Recreation Center. Just after my turn from going west to going south, I was distracted for a few seconds by several tractors going northbound on Buena Vista Boulevard. The right front wheel of my golf cart hit a significantly "built-up" curb (apparently installed to protect an oak tree) which encroaches onto the modal path. The golf cart raised up several inches on the right hand side, and **I was thrown from the cart onto the pavement.** My glasses went flying down the pavement, the cart came to rest in bushes on the left side of the path, and I re-

ceived significant injuries. Several people in golf carts stopped and assisted me. I went to the Urgent Care at Lake Sumter Landing where the staff cleaned me up and bandaged both knees, both elbows, and the palms of both hands. They X-rayed the left ankle, left knee and left shoulder. They detected no broken bones. My wife came to the Center and took me home. A week later I felt pain on the left side of my chest. I went to Patient First Care where they X-rayed my left side and discovered that two of my ribs were

(Continued on page 8)



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Golf Cart Crashes

(Continued from page 7)

broken. Several days later I made some phone calls to see who should be made aware of what had happened and if something could be done to alert drivers to this potentially dangerous area. I was directed to Ms. Deborah Franklin, Director, Human Resources and Risk Management, at Village Community Development Districts, and she immediately met with me and we went to the accident site. She then contacted appropriate staff at District Property Management, and they have installed several reflectors on these raised curbs. I, for one at least, am very impressed with their efforts and the quick response. Maynard Brein. □

Cheers

CHEERS TO:

1. Golf Cart Operators Who:

...pull to one side or the other when using a parking space in one of the parking lots so that two golf carts can use one parking space;

...signal their intention to make a left turn and carefully merge with vehicular traffic just PRIOR to the intersection where they plan to turn left and DO NOT IMPROPERLY ATTEMPT TO MAKE A LEFT HAND TURN FROM THE GOLF CART LANE;

...obey signage or roadway markings indicating golf cart traffic should merge with vehicular traffic in certain situations;

... make sure golf towels are not hanging down and covering their turn signal lights;

...obey the traffic signs - i.e. a stop sign means stop and yield (unless it is a four-way stop), not just slow down and roll through; (Be especially aware that vehicular traffic approaching an exit gate has the right of way and will not stop - for a golf cart to cross in front of them - they simply slow enough for the gate to open.

2) **The Amenity Authority Committee (AAC)** for repairing executive golf course paths that have been damaged by tree roots; (It would be great if the older Developer championship golf course paths could be maintained that well.)

3) **RESPONSIBLE Dog Owners Who** ...pick up their dog waste and dispose of it in an appropriate place (NOT THE TRASH CANS AT THE POSTAL STATIONS AND NOT THE STORM WATER DRAINS);

...dog owners who keep pets on a short leash when nearing other residents so as not to trip anyone, especially in the postal areas.

4) **bicyclists** who obey all of the traffic signs - i.e., a stop sign means stop and yield (unless it is a four-way stop), not just slow down and roll through

5) **the drivers who are not handicapped**, but are transporting the person who qualifies for the handicap tag, who drop the passenger off at the door, park in a regular parking space, and then pick their passenger up at the door so that handicap spaces are available for automobile drivers who actually qualify for the handicap parking space. □

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AAC Meeting Summary April 11, 2012

CDD No. 1 Board Request:

- The AAC approved a request from the CDD1 Board to fund a multi-modal path for northbound golf carts traveling to the De La Vista postal facility from the Carrera Drive area, on the west side of Morse Boulevard. This trail should address the safety concerns expressed by residents of the area and will be funded utilizing settlement funds.

Old Business Topics Included:

- Staff updated the Committee on the gate camera pilot project. The Del Mar Gate cameras are now operational. Additional locations for cameras will be considered during the budget preparation process.
- The AAC approved creation of nine additional handicapped parking spaces on the north side of the Savannah Regional Recreation Center, bringing the total to 18 handicapped parking spots at the facility. This location is the only viable area given the ADA requirements regarding acceptable pavement slope.
- Staff reported that a Resident Input Meeting, to be hosted by Kimley-Horn and Associates, will be held on April 17th at 2 p.m. at the Paradise Regional Recreation Center to receive input regarding the

Paradise Park Master Plan.

- The AAC approved moving forward on a plan to create two pickleball courts near the Paradise Recreation Center - site of an unused basketball court.

Consent Agenda:

- The AAC approved a consent agenda which included the awarding of a bid to install and paint 3 and 4 board fencing and approved an amendment to the Inter-local Agreement pertaining to the Architectural Review Committee - regarding the number of meetings that can be missed with or without cause in a calendar year. The number was increased from 6 to 10.

Reports and Input:

- Archie Lowry, the attorney for the VCCDD, reported that it was his recommendation that the AAC not attempt to reduce Amenity Fees for those residents who are paying in excess of \$145, the prevailing rate.

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

NEXT AAC MEETING - WEDNESDAY May 9th, 1:30 P.M. AT THE SAVANNAH CENTER □

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Project Wide Update

(Continued from page 2)

written report to the Boards or in the Minutes, and upon listening to the audio tapes, it was never even mentioned at the meeting.

“The covenant in question reads as follows: For the purposes of this Agreement, PWIs shall include those improvements described in Exhibit A. As additional PWIs are developed within the Project, SLCCD by resolution, shall add such improvements to the Exhibit A Project Wide Improvement

listing as attached to this agreement - this is where it had previously stopped - the addition was the phrase **AND/OR ENTER INTO CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR THE EXPANSION OR CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL PWIs.**

“Why was this modification of the Agreement never brought to the attention of the Supervisors? (We don’t know who typed up the amended document or who was responsible for the insert - that is not our issue today.) We are concerned with the process in that this was an amendment which required a unanimous vote of the Districts to be approved and because of this omission it appeared that it was passed without the knowledge of supervisors.

“This is even more disconcerting because

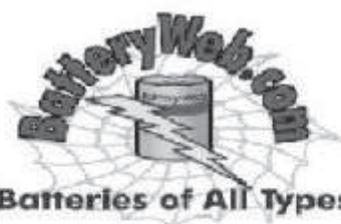
the original 2003 PWA had been changed from requiring unanimous approval of all of the Districts to place a property on the PW list to giving the sole responsibility to the SLCCD Board in a 2006 amendment under similar ‘dark’ - as opposed to sunshine circumstances.

“So, the residential Boards have gone from every district votes to no residential districts vote and from maintenance of improvements to maintenance and/or construction of improvements on PW properties. The question now is how can supervisors of residential Districts perform their statutory duties which make them responsible for the funds and what will be assessed against their residents, when they have no control over approximately 50% of their budgets.

“As per Ms. Tutt’s 4/15/10 Memo, she states that F. S. 163.01, CCDs may provide, by Interlocal Agreement, for certain services provided by one District on behalf of another District. After reviewing several Florida Attorney General Opinions and court cases, we believe that the key word is ‘services’ as opposed to responsibilities or statutory duties.

“In any event we used the opportunity of the amenity fund vs. the PWF to draw attention to both our residents and Boards that maybe it is time to stop and look and see where we are going. This is not meant to disparage any of our current staff or SLCCD Board members, this is simply preparing for

(Continued on page 11)



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Project Wide Update

(Continued from page 10)

the future. We know that build-out will be soon and who knows who will control the SLRDD commercial properties and Janet will not work forever.

“Yet, we have had all resident board controls taken by the SLRDD. Our belief is that if we follow F.S. 163.01 and it is a benefit to all parties there should be no problem with getting a unanimous vote for maintenance and/or construction. If it is not, it won't and it should not be included as obviously it is not seen as a benefit to one or more of the Districts. We believe the SLRDD Board and District Staff provide excellent administrative services, but we do not think they should have the power to perform the official discretionary duties of residential board supervisors.

“In conclusion, we believe that the residential boards should table the resolution before you and use this opportunity to approach the SLRDD and approach each other in an effort to see if you can come up with some amendments to the PWA that would continue the purpose of the PWA, but protect the su-

pervisory roles and positions of the residential boards and their constituents. An excellent starting point might be the original 2003 PWA.”

Following President Dreidame's remarks, several residents voiced their opinions in support of the POA's position. Various staff and board members commented and then each board voted to approve the resolution which provides for the use of PWF for improvements to Live Oaks Park and provides the manner in which such PWF shall be approved for future Project Wide Infrastructure improvements.

While this is the end of the Live Oaks Park saga, perhaps it is just the beginning for some of you. We met many residents at the CDD meetings on the 20th. Most were quite surprised that their elected board had so little control over a major portion of their assessment funds. We hope these residents and others will begin taking a more active interest in their CDD meetings. It is never too late to try to correct perceived inequities. This also

might be a good time for the numbered CDD Boards to attempt to regain control of the spending of their maintenance assessment funds. Perhaps these CDD Boards could request staff look into what would be needed to put the numbered CDD Boards back into the approval loop for all projects to be constructed or maintained by your maintenance fees.

Finally, when considering CDD candidates this November, understand their position regarding control of PW funds which is a major portion of your annual maintenance assessment. If they don't support your view, perhaps you should look for another candidate, or maybe you should consider running. Thank you again for your overwhelming support on this issue. □

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Irrigation Schedules Changed in March

Residents in Sumter County and the Marion County portion of The Villages should amend their irrigation system to comply with the Modified Phase III water shortage which reduces irrigation to one day per week. A Modified Phase III Water Shortage issued by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) took effect on March 10, 2012 for residents in Sumter County and also for residents in the Marion County portion of The Villages. Please check your irrigation timer to ensure that the system is set to only irrigate once per week in accordance with the below table. Watering must be done before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m. on your scheduled day to comply with the water restrictions. The following is a summary of the SWFWMD restrictions:

- Lawn and landscape irrigation may only occur before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m. on the

Addresses with House Numbers	May ONLY Irrigate on
Ending in 0 or 1 Ending in 2 or 3 Ending in 4 or 5 Ending in 6 or 7 Ending in 8 or 9	Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

designated once-per-week watering schedule.

- Hand watering or micro irrigation of non-lawn landscape can be done any day, but only before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m.
- Certain exemptions are available, such as allowances for new plant material.
- Car washing is limited to once per week on the designated watering days as shown in the table in this article.
- Fountains and other aesthetic-only water features may only operate 4 hours per day.
- Pressure washing is only allowed for necessary purposes, such as prior to painting

or sealing. Aesthetic concerns do not constitute a “necessary” purpose.

Residents are encouraged to water only if their lawn and landscape needs it and turn off their irrigation system if it has rained or if rain is predicted in the next 24 hours. Some of the signs that a lawn needs water include: blades folded in half lengthwise, footprints remaining on the lawn for several minutes after walking on it, and the top few inches of soil being dry. As you change the time in your irrigation timer, it is a good idea to replace the 9-volt battery to ensure that you don't lose your settings in the event of a power outage.

For complete details or to ask questions about these restrictions, visit the Southwest Florida Water Management District’s website (www.WaterMatters.org) or call 1-800-848-0499. □

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Homeowners Do Your Homework!

I am writing to you in the hope of helping us in a matter of great disappointment with a company called "Stone Creation". Enclosed find copies of the date line with Stone Creation, including a registered letter to them which was refused and returned. We also took this matter and filed it with the Sheriff's office as a complaint against the company.

In writing to you, we hope you will give your readers a heads up on the above company, or if anyone else is a victim or knows of anyone, to please report it to the Sheriff's office and write to the Editor of the POA, so this will not continue. Sometimes we come across business people that should be stopped so others will not have to deal with all the upsetting hours and days that we were subjected to. Irmgard & Stephen Confortini

Editor's Note: Thank you for the information and copies of documents which back up your complaint that the Company failed to perform agreed upon follow-up repairs on their work. We contacted Seniors vs. Crime and they advised us as follows: "The "official" name of the company is Stone Creations of Ocala, Inc. Within both offices of Seniors vs. Crime in The Villages, we

have recorded twelve (12) complaints against Stone Creations of Ocala, Inc. We also routinely check other sources, such as the Better Business Bureau, to get as complete a picture as possible of a company. In the case of Stone Creations, the BBB rates them as an "F", notes that their BBB accreditation has been REVOKED, and shows nine (9) recorded complaints against that company in the past 36 months."

We would strongly suggest that residents call Seniors vs. Crime (see page 4 for phone numbers) and ask if the company they want to hire has any complaints filed against them — BEFORE THEY MAKE ANY AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES OR PAY ANY MONEY! □

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GFCI Update

I just read the Letters to the Editor in the April newsletter. The response says "If dampness gets into any of your GFI receptacles, it will likely trip all of them..." That isn't how they work. The GFCI receptacles in the home are not interconnected--one GFCI tripping does not trip the other GFCIs. Each GFCI protects only the circuit to which it is connected, and only the outlets downstream of the GFCI. The response should have said, "If moisture gets into any of the receptacles downstream of the GFCI outlet in the protected circuit, the GFCI will trip and shut power to the GFCI outlet and all the receptacles on that circuit downstream of the GFCI." Enjoy reading the newsletter! Steven Stein

Editor's Note: Thank you for the clarification. We were misinformed. □

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Seat Belts for Golf Carts

I applaud the POA Bulletin for taking a strong interest regarding the dangerous side of golf carts. It is an issue too casually ignored by Village residents, who are uniformly attracted to our Disney-like way of life because of this idyllic form of personal transportation. But like all things good, there

is often a dark side, and our golf carts can be too easily overlooked as a means of our physical demise. Ten fatalities within The Village area in five years is not an acceptable record in this day and age.

For too long there has been an opinion from local "experts" that seat belts in golf carts are not useful or necessary for protection of injury or life. This is totally wrong! As The Villages expands each year, more and more people are exposed to incidents of danger with a vehicle that can instantly turn pleasure and fun into tragedy. Many, many lives have been saved since seat belts proved their worthiness fifty years ago. Fortunately, or unfortunately, it took government to intervene into what is best for its citizenry. Common sense should trump government mandates.

I urge readers to go to their computers and read this description of seat belts in golf carts

(www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/pdf/esv/esv19/05-0431-W.pdf). When exhaustive studies and tests prove that seat belts are overwhelmingly valuable in golf cart accidents going even eleven miles per hour, I wonder why anyone would risk their lives, or their grand kids, without them.

It's more sensible to pay a few bucks to install and use restraining devices without government intrusion now, than bemoan the day when government thinks for us to make us do what we sensibly should have been doing without their advice. Otherwise, the statistics of fatalities and injuries from golf cart accidents will become more alarming and finally mandate State or Federal seat belt regulations in the future. It happened with automobiles, fifty years ago. The data and evaluation included in this web site is a compelling reason to avoid ejection from any moving vehicle.

Jim Speckbrock

Editor's Note: Great letter - the POA agrees completely. □

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Live Oaks Park

I have been a Village Birder club member since the club's very beginning, but I still think Live Oaks Park is overdone and basically the area is ruined. I guess I am more of a naturalist than some members are. It was possible to move around under the trees because they kept it mowed. Then they decided, (who is they?), to put in a park and charge us. Why would CDDs 5 through 9 want it paid for by our assessments? Well, when did residents get to vote on the idea? Don't they have a voice on additions to our community for which they will be taxed?

What really added to my aggravation was that they don't allow dogs. I used to drive my cart into the area with my dog and watch birds and relax. Now it looks very structured and citified. I predict that no one will use the park and it will all be a waste of money. I wonder whether the members of the Birder-club will actually use it. So far, every time I have driven by there, and I did so twice yesterday, I have not seen anyone using the park. Too bad it was so overly developed and costly. We'll see what happens over time. Personally, if I wanted to have a picnic, I would go to the base of the bridge where one can actually see birds and the lake. The fact is that there aren't many birds in that Live Oaks Park area for some un-

known reason. I did the Christmas Bird Count there for the last 3 years and I didn't count many. To attract birds, feeders would really help. Jean Allen

Editor's Note: Thank you for your comments. The decision on the location was initiated by two residents, one of them being the President of the Birders Club, and the other a resident who lives overlooking a wetland and thought residents would appreciate the view. □

VCCDD Lawsuit Settlement Fund

Congratulations on the great article in the last edition of the POA newsletter and the wonderful work you and others did to obtain the settlement from the Developer. We learned more from this than two years of trying to get answers from the District Manage-

ment and attending District meetings and even an audience with Janet Tutt.

The lawsuit settlement seems to have put the responsibilities where they belong, in the hands of residents North of CR 466. However, three years have passed and the resident elected Amenities Authority Committee seems to want to sit on this mountain of cash instead of using it to tackle problems from the past caused by the lack of renewal and replacement funds?

Pauline & William Houghton

Editor's Note: Thank you for your comments. We are awaiting completion of the Capital Improvement Program data that district staff has been collecting for the last several years. Currently, the AAC is interested in potentially upgrading some of the older facilities, such as Southside, Chula and TDS. The AAC is now starting to receive the necessary data and we think we will see some action during this next budget year. □

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SAVINGS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Water Use Surcharge

My recent water bill indicated that Phase 3 water restrictions were in effect, which I was aware of, but I was not aware that this included a 10% water surcharge. When I called the Utility for further clarification on the surcharge, I was told to call the Water Management District. The Water Management Dis-

trict said to call the Utility so I am getting the runaround here. Who (a specific person) authorized the 10% surcharge and under what authority? I don't see how a surcharge will resolve the water shortage but it will add more money to the coffers. Who really benefits from this? Dennis Carroll

Editor's Note: We contacted Diane Tucker, VCDD Operations Manager and received the following explanation: The Phase III Water Shortage Order recently implemented by Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) encourages water conservation as a result of low water levels and lack of rain. There are three utilities that serve the residents of The Villages. Village Center Service Area (VCSA), Little Sumter Service Area (LSSA), and North Sumter Utility/The Villages Water Conservation Authority (NSU/VWCA). Each utility is operated by a board; Village Center Community Development District (VCCDD) for VCSA and LSSA and North Sumter County Utility Dependent District (NSCUDD) for NSU/VWCA.

The two Boards adopted separate Rules establishing water and sewer user rates, fees and charges and operating policies and procedures. Schedule A: Water and Wastewater Rates and Charges have an Environmental Protection Rate Surcharge (Water use only). This surcharge establishes a percent

increase by the utility for water use.

Adoption of water conservation rate structures was required by the water use permit conditions of SWFWMD and these rate structures were incorporated into the District's Water Conservation Program, which was developed as a requirement of the SWFWMD permit. Initially for VCCDD, staff recommended and the Board approved the environmental protection percentage increases to the water use rates in 2008. The increase is implemented only when a water shortage has been declared by SWFWMD and is intended to encourage water conservation. On average the 10% surcharge could be between 20 cents and 47 cents per thousand gallons used. However if property owners comply with the shortage order and irrigate once weekly, then their water bill will not increase. The less water used results in a lower water bill and the surcharge encourages water conservation, as was required by SWFWMD.

The 10% environmental protection rate surcharge is applied to the water use rate, **not to the base fee**, and it will be applied to all the utilities. Just like when the 5% surcharge was put in place two years ago, when the water shortage order is rescinded, the 10% surcharge will be removed. Right now the order is through June of this year, but the water management district may extend the order. □

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LETTERS

Congratulations

I want to congratulate you and your staff for a very well designed, pertinent and informative newspaper.

Thank you for bringing a wealth of information to the POA membership...Keep up the good work! Don Simson

Editor's Note: Thank you. We are trying to provide information based on facts. □

Seat Belts in Golf Carts

This is my 5th year in The Villages. I am very surprised that all carts don't have seatbelts for all riders. I won't leave my garage without seatbelts in place. With all of the ejections, this would go a long way of improving the safety of the golf cart community. I have installed retractable seatbelts on many of my friends carts and they all say they feel much safer. Sam Patrick

Editor's Note: Needless to say, this is the POA thought process as well. □

Mother's Day - May 13th Only One Mother

Author Unknown

Hundreds of stars in the pretty sky,
Hundreds of shells on the shore together,
Hundreds of birds that go singing by,
Hundreds of lambs in the sunny weather.
Hundreds of dewdrops to greet the dawn,
Hundreds of bees in the purple clover,
Hundreds of butterflies on the lawn,
But only one mother the world wide over. □

And Grandma's Too...

Author Unknown

While we honor all our mothers
with words of love and praise.
While we tell about their goodness
and their kind and loving ways.
We should also think of Grandma,
she's a mother too, you see....
For she mothered my dear mother
as my mother mothered me. □

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From L to R: Ketan Doshi, MD, Craig H. Reynolds, MD, Rama Balaraman, MD, Roderick L. Paras, MD, Thomas H. Cartwright, MD and Maury B. Berger, MD

Ask The Chief: Crime Reporting

Remember, citizens who experience a crime, regardless whether they are the victim or a witness, need to report it to their local law enforcement ASAP! If crimes go unreported they will simply continue to be an issue in our community. I realize that modern police television shows that solve complex cases and put bad guys in jail in an hour, may have warped our minds and made people believe we have some unbelievable abilities. However, the truth is: If you do not call us and make us aware of your concerns, then we will not respond, nor will we know what your problem is and then we won't be able to help you! I take great pride and honor in being a law enforcement professional. Additionally, I along with my fellow law enforcement officers take great pleasure and satisfaction in knowing that we have the ability and the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others.

Crime needs to be reported at the moment of discovery! So the next time your neighbor strolls over and starts complaining about problems or concerns, and saying that the

police never do anything. Please ask that neighbor one simple question, did you call the police? A typical answer will be "why bother, they won't do anything anyway".

I have often stated that it takes a million drops of water to fill a bucket, but until you put in that first drop, it will never get filled. Being a law enforcement officer is a tough job and we cannot do anything if we are unaware of existing problems. It is your community and your decision. Dare to get involved, so if you see something....Say something.

Always remember that together we can make a positive difference! Until next time - Let's be safe out there!

Chief Ed Nathanson

Lady Lake Police Department □

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Fitness Challenge

Attention all Villages 'Couch Potatoes' Let's Back Up!

By Judi Da Costa, Personal Trainer

How often do we look at our back??
Probably once in a blue moon, right?

Well, the back is often the first place we feel pain, so here is a simple exercise that you can do every day that can help stretch and strengthen some of those back muscles for you.

1. Standing with your feet hip distance apart, take your arms directly overhead as if you are trying to reach for the ceiling and have your palms facing towards each other.
2. Now, keeping your shoulders relaxed, continue to try and reach a little higher. Hold for a count of 10 and then bring your arms down. You can slowly build your count to 20 or 30.

You will feel this in the middle of your back, but remember to keep those abdominals pulled in.

Now, if standing is an issue, you can also do this exercise seated, just be sure to sit up straight!

If you have any questions, email them to me at Exercise2gether@aol.com □



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Judi Da Costa
Personal Trainer
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Our Gardening Column:

Caliente Colors**Cool Plants for Hot Weather**

by Anne Lambrecht, Master Gardener
annegarden@embarqmail.com

Pretty soon it's going to be too hot to garden comfortably except in the morning or early evening. The heat and humidity can be overwhelming. Just think of what your plants are going through! Lucky for us, there are some really nice, hearty, colorful and drought tolerant plants that we can plant now to last us all through the hot summer. These easy to grow plants won't quit once they are properly planted and established. They are distinctive but common and can all be purchased at any nursery.

Penta (Pentas lanceolata) - these are old Victorian pot plants, are huge butterfly attractors, and used as a bedding or container plant. The six inch wide clusters of small, starchy florets are deep red, white, pink or lavender. Each little flower has five petals; that's why it's called "penta". Pentas do extremely well in hot weather. The taller, red pentas attract butterflies more than the other colors.

Salvia or Sage family - long, tall spires of blue, red, purple, and white trumpets, salvias are another major butterfly attractor. Salvias can range from less than a foot to up to five feet tall, the tall ones being best suited for the back of the garden bed. The native salvia, Scarlet Sage (Salvia coccinea) blooms red almost all year long. Others bloom in the fall or spring when the evening temps are lower. They will reseed after flowering. Prune after flowering to maintain their shape and size. With time, the stems can become woody but do not prune into this woody growth. Some great examples of salvia are Mexican Sage, Black and Blue Salvia, Brazilian Sage, Common Sage, and Indigo Spires. Several culi-

nary salvias grow in Florida: Sage (Salvia officinalis), Greek Sage (S. fruticosa) and Pineapple Sage (S. elegans). Pineapple Sage smells like Juicy Fruit gum!

Periwinkle (Catharanthus roseus) - one of the most drought tolerant plants with such happy little flowers that reseed themselves all over the place - in the cracks of your sidewalk, in the middle of the garden bed, anywhere where it's hot and dry. They grow in low mounds and their flowers have flat, five-petaled disks of pure white, pink, red, sometimes with a darker "eye" on top of their glossy green foliage. They like it hot! Interesting kinds are Heatwave, Pacifica, Stardust Series.

"Daisy" Family - any flower that looks like a daisy will do well in our summer gardens. Flowers including Rudbeckia (Black-Eyed Susan), Butter or Star Daisy (Melampodium paludosum), native Spanish Needle (Bidens alba), Gerber or African Daisy (Gerbera jamesonii), Coneflower (Echinacea purpurea), Sunflower (Helianthus species), Indian blanket (Gaillardia pulchella) are all great summer performers. Once established, many of these daisy-like plants are perennial in our gardens. Many will re-seed. Some, like the Black-Eyed Susans and Cone flower disappear over the winter and reappear in the spring.

Moss Rose (Portulaca grandiflora) - also called purslane and is related to the wild, edible purslane. Each of the delicate, crapey little flowers of the Moss Rose bloom once during the day. They are low-growing, perfect for rock gardens, edging and for spilling out of containers in hot, dry locations. The single or double flower comes in red, orange, yellow, magenta, white and combinations of

colors. The succulent foliage is airy and wispy. Another popular variety, (Portulaca umbraticola) has flat leaves and flat single flowers.

Basil (Ocimum basilicum) - one of the easiest and useful culinary herbs you can grow, basil is also a great butterfly attractor with flower spikes of small white or pale lavender mint-like flowers. The plant is rounded and shrubby with highly fragrant foliage of dark green, dark purple or green with purplish veins. Pinch the tops of the plants to prolong the season for when the flowers appear, the leaves seem to be smaller. Sweet basil is the most popular for cooking but there are other flavors, including licorice "Siam Queen" and lemon basil (O. citriodorum). "Spicy Globe" is basketball shaped. There are many purple or burgundy kinds. The best for butterflies is "African Blue". This one, however, is "sterile" and will not reseed, so you must take a cutting in the fall for next year before the frost kills it.

Caliente days mean caliente nights which means don't water at night! Reset your sprinklers to begin their cycle at 4AM, and ending by 8AM. The reason is this: when

(Continued on page 20)

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Gardening

(Continued from page 19)

nights are hot and humid and water stays on your foliage for prolonged periods of time, conditions are perfect for fungus then disease to settle in.

The Husband's been particularly irksome and crabby recently--especially when he gets the water bill. And we water only one day a week! It's been so hot and dry and our daily rains haven't started. But did you know that you can "hand water" plants (not grass) on any day as long as it is before 8AM or after 6PM as much as needed? So I spend my time watering my flower beds while the Husband's grass is drying up.

Check out Tough Plants for Florida Gardens by Felder Rushing. □

Lightning Matters

By Len Hathaway
Study Group on Lightning

At one time lightning was considered a supernatural phenomenon - an expression of God's will - before Ben Franklin introduced the world to the science of lightning. In spite of the science there continues to be many persistent myths that when practiced could lead to you being seriously injured. For example, there is potentially a dangerous myth that you are safe from lightning in a vehicle because it has rubber tires. The fact is the rubber tires have nothing to do with your safety. It is the all metal body that acts like a Faraday Cage directing lightning energy safely around you

to ground. The all metal body will dissipate the lightning charge and the occupants will be safe IF they are not in direct contact with any metal. In all likelihood the high voltage of a lightning strike would blow out the tires and may even set them on fire. In a car the air bags would probably be deployed. It would be a rather frightening event!

Why is this important? Because if you are in a golf cart or convertible you could be seriously injured due to lightning. Therefore, you should seek shelter in a substantial building and wait at least 30 minutes after the thunderstorm has passed before resuming the use of golf carts or convertibles.

For information on other lightning related issues such as lightning protection systems (commonly called lightning rods) and surge protection see the Lightning Matters columns in the archived issues of the *POA Bulletin* that can be found on the POA4US.Org website. If your club or organization would benefit from a free non-commercial Power Point presentation, *Lightning Tips for Villagers*, that addresses personal safety, residential considerations, and lightning surges to electronic equipment contact me at LHATHA@AOL.COM or my colleague Bob Freeman at STALIT1@AOL.COM. □

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(Continued on page 22)

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(Continued from page 21)

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Gold Plating Plus+ - 24 karat gold plating for almost anything now chromed. Free estimates (most cars \$75-\$175). 20% POA member discount. 352-751-4322.

Golf Cart and Club Security System - Email us at yunk38@embarqmail.com, 391-9488. \$3.00 POA discount (approx 10%) for Golf Cart and Club Security device.

Golf Clubs & Bag Lock - Gator Jaws,

\$30 each or 10% POA member discount off on 2 or more, 352-750-0488.

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

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

Home Power Washing - Villages resident, 10% POA member discount, Bob at 350-4746.

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

Jackson Hewitt Tax Service - \$25 off tax preparation for POA members. Must present POA card. 888-282-1040.

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

Kiley & Sons Plumbing - 219 S Old Dixie Hwy, Lady Lake, 352-753-5301. 15% POA discounted labor on a Service Call. Coupon Required Prior to Services Rendered. Not Valid With Any Other Offer. Valid on a minimum 1 hr of service.

Kitty Camp & Resorts - JUST for CATS...a Lovable Lakeside Cat Resort & Retirement Home. 15% Discount to POA Members. Call 352-205-4284

Kilwin's Chocolate and Ice Cream - 1108 Main Street, Spanish Sprgs, 352-430-

3600. Buy two slices of fudge, get one slice free." One offer per family membership.

L. Rae Jewelry Appraisal Services - Certified Gemologist, Villages resident, Appt only, 10% POA discount, 430-2991.

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

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

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 offer per POA family.

Nature's Liquids - Natural liquid swimming pool & hot tub. SeaAloe and super fruits GT liquids for your whole body. naturesliquids@comcast.net. Diane 750-2246.

Odd's & Errands by Paula - Affordable Personal Assistant. 430-0764. 10% discount.

Ollie's Frozen Custard - Across the street from Lowes Building Supply. Use the Ollie's Coupon in the Bulletin or get POA 10% off.

Panda Express - 869 N Hwy. 27/441, Home Depot Plaza, 751-2507. 10% POA discount, not valid with coupons or specials.

Plaza Jewelers - 16770 S. Hwy. 441, Baylee Plaza, Summerfield, 352-307-3846. 20 to 40% POA saving off retail price; all watch batteries \$3.

(Continued on page 23)

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Discount Partners

(Continued from page 22)

Preferred Financial Solutions, LLC - POA Members receive complimentary retirement inc plan. 20+ yrs exp. 753-1967.

Snowbird Home Watch - We watch your home while you're away. \$40/month; 10% POA discount. 259-1143 or visit bikinbob36@aol.com.

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

Sparr Building and Farm Supply - At the corner of Hwy 44 & Signature Drive, Wildwood. 352-330-1718. 10% POA member discount on fertilizer, water softener salt & pool supplies. Sale items excluded.

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

The UK Shoppe - Food from "Across the Pond" Market of Marion, Aisle D North. 10% POA member discount, 352-391-5788. Free Villages Delivery for POA members.

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

Tornado Shelters of Florida, LLC - Two day installation in garage floor or carport. POA member discount of 5% through May 31. Call Pat Tripp at 352-702-6386.

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

Tri-County Tile & Home Improvements - Lake County Resident & Home Improvement for 25 years. Call 978-3556. 15% Discount (on labor) to POA Members only.

Ultimate Handyman Services - Drywall, trim/crowns, paint/remodel. Insured. 10% POA discount. John Sainiak, 516-2976.

Vic's Embers - 7940 US Hwy. 441, Leesburg, 728-8989. Complimentary after-dinner cocktail or dessert for each in the party for POA members. Not valid w/other special offers or if in our complementary bus.

Villages Apparel - Southern Trace Shopping Center, 352-750-1600. 10% POA member discount off custom screen printing, minimum order 25 shirts.

Villages Car Wash and Lube - Bichara Blvd, La Plaza Grande Center, 352-753-

1306. \$1 POA member discount off the regular price of silver or gold wash.

Villagers Home Watch - Call us at 352-750-2522. 10% POA discount off regular monthly rate of \$44 for first three months of service for POA members.

Weed Getter Landscaping & Lawn Maintenance - Trim Hedges, Mulch, Planting, Etc. 10% discount for new POA Members, 352-361-2854.

Wholesale Computer Components - Terrace Shoppes Spruce Creek, Summerfield, across from Wal-Mart, 352-245-1500. \$15 POA discount on any computer repair. □

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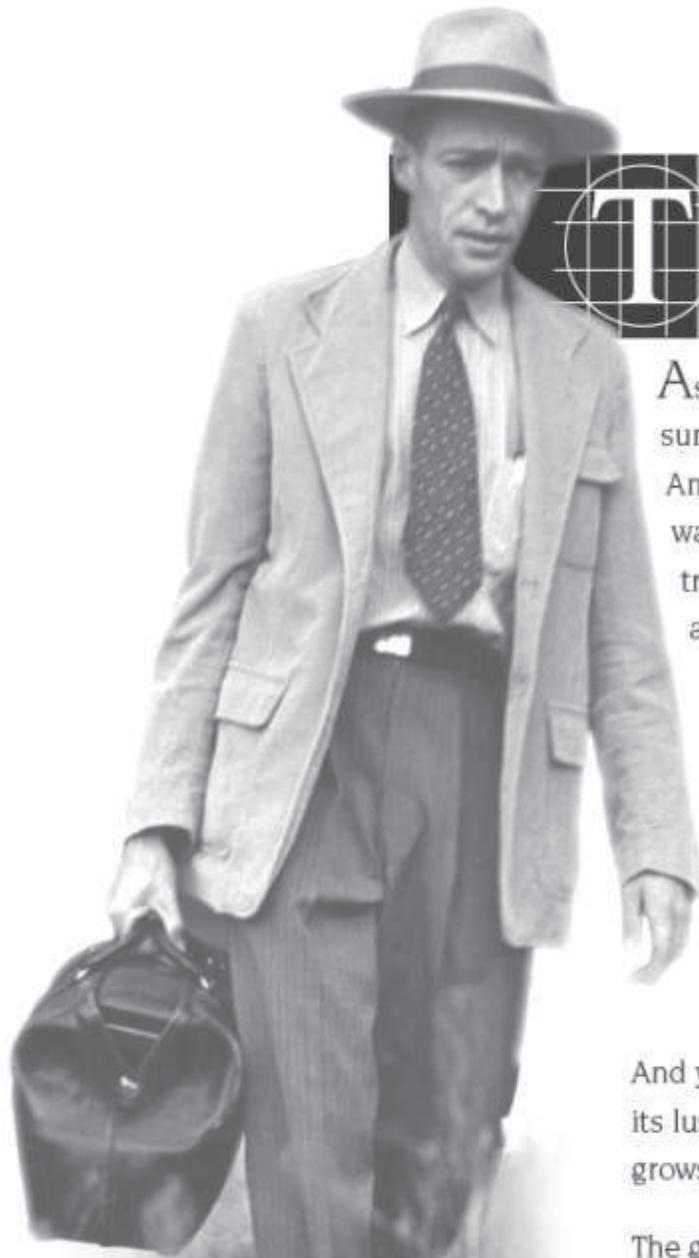
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The Money Clip

As a youngster, my best friend traveled with his family on a summer vacation to the Southwest. While visiting a Native American reservation, he purchased a silver money clip which was subsequently given to me. It is a gift that has carried tremendous sentimental value, for it serves to this day as a remembrance of one's personal worth in another's life.

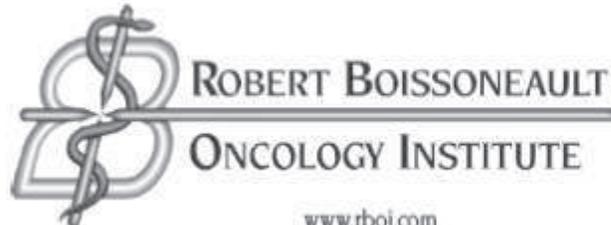
There was initially no currency to be held in its folded arms. Its value was found in the engraved art on the surface. At first, the clip only held reminder notes. As the years passed, a series of historical faces came and went through the clip's grasp. These temporary visitors of monetary value registered through my metal style like admission to an amusement park.

And yet, each time the money clip is used, fingers cause its luster to intensify. The native art, reminder file, teller grows brighter with each day ... as does the memory.

The gift received was so much more. In fact, maybe it had nothing to do with money. Maybe the memory of Robert Boissoneault is what is held within its folded arms. And for our patients, there is no safer place to be.



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