



Bad fences means bad neighbors

The fencing surrounding the now abandoned golf course is broken down and has been for some months,

In effect there is no fence, leaving Century Village vulnerable to trespassers, prowlers and a good assortment of undesirables who have easy access through the golf course. Not only is there some security concerns, the broken down, missing sections are unsightly and do not reflect well on Century Village.

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The gateway fee from Atlantic Broadband

David Israel is proudly proclaiming his success in keeping any raises in our monthly fees out of our next budget.

Since signing up with Atlantic Broadband over three million dollars has been added to our treasury in the form of a doorway or gateway fee .

It's become evident why David Israel was so concerned with pushing the contract a couple of years before our existing contract with Comcast expires. Without the money from Atlantic, one has to wonder just how much of an increase would we be looking at? You would think that the addition of three million dollars would result in a net decrease in fees.

Neil J. Moore

Goin' Down The Road More money being poured into the roads

The latest report from our community association manager shows that a lot of work is being done to repair the roads.

Large sections of the roadway are seen to be crumbling, apparently from the road bed being undermined by rainwater, reportedly from the hurricane that just missed us. There is ongoing work to repair the walkways and bus stops. Those areas were , or should have been attended to before or during the re paving job, but they were not!

All these areas around bus stops and walkways, that are now seen to be rapidly deteriorating, were supposed to be re paved in the major job that cost CV some five million dollars. The questions about why we should be

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THE UCO CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY LOSES HER MIND.

Page 4

Some like the new lights. Others don't

There is a difference of opinion among residents about the new lights wrapped around the trees at the entrances .Some residents like the lights as demonstrated by the unofficial poll that we conducted, but even those in favor of the lights are critical of the design, which, in many residents opinions, leaves a lot to be desired.

Continued on page 2

Feeding the ducks is getting them killed

That's right ! Well meaning people throwing food to the ducks around the village are creating a situation where the ducks are being trapped and killed.

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State of the Union CV Style

By Esther Sutofsky Page 6

Gateway Fee from page 1

It seems a little too convenient for David Israel that the cable contract, and the three million dollar addition to the treasury was pushed through in the year preceding the next election. Without the extra cash there would have undoubtedly been an increase in fees added to your monthly payment, **adding a gateway fee of over three million dollars to the treasury should have resulted in a net decrease in fees.** That didn't happen. and make no mistake, the three million is eventually going to come out of your pocket. Atlantic Broadband will recover that money over the life of the contract You will be paying for it one way or another.

Myron Solomon

Lights from Page 1

Others criticized the lights malfunctioning and leaving sections of lights blacked out.

We asked for comments from those who responded to our survey. Here are some of the most interesting:

No. I do not like the new lights they look gaudy and cheap.... Oh wait.... they are.

*Yes. I like the new lights. I like the new lights on the trees. However; most lights are burned off and I wonder if the contractor is obligated to repair and change the bulbs free of charge. Also I wanted to know the **COST** of this effort. Thank you*

You're talking about the white elastics bands surrounding the trees? Must admit the lights on the trees at the club house are of better taste. I personally would suggest to have the same at the entrance next year.

Tacky!

No. I do not like the new lights. I like the idea of lights. I did not, however, care for the wrap around effect. The spaces are not even and half the time some of the lights are out. Perhaps a different kind of spacing or design would have looked nicer. I also think \$16,000 dollars for that job was excessive.

Yes. I like the new lights.

Lights were fine, ok, lovely, but it would have been nice to mix in with some softer and warmer colored lights also - all those white sort of made it look like one was entering into a cold icy area; possibly skiing,

ice skating, etc. but it was not bad ---just needed some toning down with some color --wow just read the cost --amazing ----- so very expensive .

No. I do not like the new lights

It would be much prettier if the lights were at the base of the trees and showed that they were trees. Now it looks silly, as if the lights are wrapped around a pole, and why would you circle a pole with lights?

Why is our money being wasted? Who makes these (expensive) decisions? Money could have been used for a more permanent beautification.

No. I do not like the new lights The cost is unnecessarily prohibitive.

No. I do not like the new lights They are too "glitzy" and way too bright. Probably the best we can expect, given who must approve their installation....

Judging from the responses we received, it looks like some people like the lights, but are unhappy with the cost, the way they look and the constant outages of some of the strings.

If you would like to add your opinion to this issue, log on to our website:

www.centuryvillagemessengerclub.com

Navigate to the lights page and send in the form after filling it out.

Roads from page 1

faced with more expense now is a question that is not being answered with any satisfactory explanation.

Engineering reports that noted that the swales and drainage should be fixed before any paving is done were ignored by the administration, now there are areas that are falling apart due to the lack of attention paid to the reports. Which, by the way, cost us many thousands of dollars.

Driving through CV, one has to be particularly careful around the sunken drains in the middle of many of the roads. Wide, deep depressions in the roads and driveways are a hazard that should have been remedied before paving started.

The end result is that we are coughing up a lot of your money to cover up and repair the shoddy re paving job. We don't hear anything about the actual costs to date or the projected costs for the future. Myron Solomon.

Jack Adams says he wants to hire a President to run CO

Jack Adams spoke at the delegates assembly about his intentions to run for President of CO. His platform, as he laid it out, involves his plan to assume the role of President for a few months and then resign after hiring a professional manager to be President.

It doesn't sound like a plan that will be accepted by the rest of the delegates but it points to the frustration of many residents at the way the village is being managed. Running for UCO President on a platform that intends to abolish the position doesn't make a lot of sense.

The glaring incompetence shown by the many fiascos that the village administration has propagated is leading a lot of residents to consider whether or not to hire a professional to manage our affairs.

Hiring a President is not the answer to the inefficiencies and shortcomings we are seeing lately. To accomplish this plan it would take a massive restructuring of our bylaws and our constitution. The President of UCO is compelled by the bylaws to be valid member of UCO which means the President has to live here and own a unit. If the President resigns the first runner up in the last election becomes president

If Jack's idea were to take hold, we would have to consider just how a President would be selected. The selection process in order to be fair and equitable would have to be open to all members of CO. We would also have to consider how to supervise his activities.

This is not the first time that professional management has been considered. A plan by Frank Cornish to install the Levy family (the owners of the village) as management fell short when Mr levy indicated he was not interested.

The administration's hiring of a consultant at the cost of almost half a million dollars to negotiate a simple cable contract is an example of the incompetence of the administration. Obviously the current crop of incumbents found it the task well beyond their capabilities to tackle. The ongoing repairs to the five million dollar road paving job is another. Money is being poured into repairs that should have been covered in some kind of guarantee by the paving contractors, but it wasn't. The one page contract formulated and accepted by CO, and promoted by "Team Dave" did not have a clause guaranteeing anything. Now we are stuck with

spending a lot of money to fix it all up, and we are looking at a fifteen million dollar expenditure to do it again, and hopefully do it right.

It's a sad commentary if Century Village would even consider the notion of hiring a President. The village has self managed for many years and there has never been much thought to changing things until now. But desperation in looking for an alternative is taking hold and leads to residents like Jack Adams coming up with desperate plans like this.

It could be said that the dissatisfaction felt by many residents stems from the abolition of term limits, and the stranglehold the administration has on the village media, giving the incumbents an unfair advantage in holding on to their seats. Rumbings about unfair handling of volunteers and unrestrained handing out of too much money for questionable expenditures are frequently heard around the pools. on the buses and in the clubhouse. It is clear that many residents are fed up with the way things are going and are desperately looking for alternatives.

The bottom line on all this is that Century Village has come to this point due to the inertia and the indifference of the population. Reining in the administration and demanding that the officers do their duty in representing the village would be a much more effective way to accomplish reasonable governance.

Is Jack Adams on the right track when he proposes that a professional be hired? Is it possible that his plan will be ratified by a vote at the assembly? We will have to wait until the election shows what the village is thinking. In any event it is painfully obvious that it's time for a change of administration.

Shame on us ! After fifty years of self management residents are so fed up with the present administration that they are grasping in desperation at straws.

Carole Szepesi

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Fence from page 1

We can't expect Mr Waldman, the owner of the golf course to offer any assistance with fixing the fence. David Israel made that quite clear when he commented that Mr Waldman is not cooperating with us and we should not cooperate with him. The fence Mr Waldman grudgingly installed at the rear of Golfs Edge is no deterrent, it's low enough to make it easy to cross and to pass loot from the village over the top.

The broken down section of fence alongside the guard gate at Century Blvd. needs repaired. It would be a simple matter to install a temporary section. Though the fence is actually on Mr Waldman's property it would be a simple fix for CV to either install a temporary fence or to make some changes to the walkway and install something more permanent.

David Israel claims that widening the sidewalk is too expensive (approximately \$60,000.00) and has shown no inclination to do anything about it.

I suggested that the sidewalk could be widened by removing the grass strip and putting either crushed stone or pavers in it's place, giving us more room and the space we would need to put up a fence of our own at a fraction of the cost. So far there has been no response either way about that idea. Though I can't fathom the notion that CV cannot afford it. I mean there was no hesitation in coming up with the money to fix the air conditioners at the clubhouse (\$800K), or to spend another wad of cash on "pretty" lights at the entrances (\$16K), I heard that \$64K was just spent on shrubbery around the clubhouse and there's plans to spend around another \$400 K on the tennis courts.

The CAM has been running around fixing up the bus stops and the cracked paving, which puts another good sized dent in our treasury, so why the fence has not been attend to, at least temporarily, is a pretty good question. .

It is up to us to do something to ensure our security by having decent fencing. We have seen instances where units were robbed by thieves coming over the fence when the occupants were absent. Making it easy for thieves to come and go as they please is not in our best interests.

Getting rid of the ugly broken down fence at the entrance and also getting rid of the dilapidated gates leading into the golf course at Golf's Edge should be made a priority, but experience has shown that nothing will happen unless residents create an outcry and demand that something be done.

Ed Grossman

THE UCO CORRESPONDENCE SECRETARY LOSES HER MIND.

At the last Delegate Assembly, Bobbi Levin, the Correspondence Secretary stated that this year's CO installation luncheon would be held on a Cruise ship docked at the Palm Beach Harbor on a Saturday. I was taken aback when I heard this since in the past, the installation luncheon was always held on a Sunday out of respect for the Judaic Sabbath. When this issue was discussed there was some protest by the residents of the Judaic Faith, Yet, Bobbi Levin, who herself is Judaic used the rationale that since the luncheon was always held on a day when it would not conflict with the Judaic holy days out of respect for the the Judaic faith, usually on a Sunday. In light of this it was decided that it was time to consider the Catholics whose Sabbath is Sunday. As a born Roman Catholic, I can in all honesty tell you that making the comparison between Shabbat and the Catholic Sabbath is akin to comparing Christmas with Halloween. Believe me folks, there is no comparison. Sabbath in the Jewish religion lasts from sundown Friday to sundown on Saturday. It is a day when religious Jews do not ride in cars, use telephones, cook and a host of some 30 restrictions.

Conversely, Catholics usually attend mass on Sunday morning and the remainder of the day they are free to do almost anything they want except for going to work.

It is a holy disgrace that the correspondence Secretary you voted for to represent the village has the audacity to disrespect Shabbat. Her action reminded me of the Judaic prisoners known as the Capos who the Nazis used to keep order in the camps. Is Bobbi Levin's motive to discourage members of the Judaic Faith from running for CO office? If so, she is a disgrace to CO. I maintain that all the officers of CO should take responsibility for allowing the CO installation luncheon to be held on a Saturday.

Olga Wolkenstein

It's not the first time the administration scheduled a meeting on a Jewish holy day. Let's hope it's the last .. Editor

Eva Rachesky informed us at the last delegates assembly that she regretfully had to call a trapper to remove the ducks from the island behind the clubhouse. This comes after a resident called the health Department and complained because the picnic area is befouled with duck droppings. Sadly; the Muscovy ducks were trapped and destroyed as they are considered to be a pest and an invasive species and are not protected under the wildlife act. According to Eva; it costs \$50.00 per duck to have them removed.

It's a shame that the ducks were destroyed, but the Health Department is monitoring the situation as there is a health hazard associated with duck droppings that befoul the picnic tables and grassy areas where people go to enjoy a cook-out or picnic. They warned that unless something is done to remedy the situation, they could compel WPRF to close the area to picnickers.

Despite warning signs cautioning people not to feed wildlife there are people who ignore them and are quite happy to feed them with table scraps and bread. Those types of foods are detrimental to the birds health and are really not good for them.

It is a misdemeanor under the Florida wildlife act to feed, entice or harass native species of wildlife. Throwing food to animals could result in fines that start at \$100.00 for a first offence and can go as high as \$1000.00 and six months in jail for repeat offenders.

Feeding ducks may seem like an enjoyable and harmless activity, but when they congregate in large numbers they become a nuisance they are in danger of being destroyed .

If you really want to do something for the ducks; LEAVE THEM ALONE ! They are capable of looking out for themselves without human intervention.

Neil J. Moore

Kudos for Chatham G for getting a new flag

Thanks a lot Chaham G. The new flag looks much better.

Paradise Lost

We live in paradise on earth. Here in Century Village WEST PALM BEACH we have everything a retired person could want. 11 heated pools, tennis courts, clubs, shows and much more. We also have bus service and security. We can go for a nightly walk without fear. **But we may lose this paradise very soon.** Why you ask. I'll tell you. It's all about the proposed development on the golf course. If you moved here recently you have no idea how we are attempting to stop this development. Firstly and most important is the fact that we will no longer have security. Yes, that's right. The developer wants a living fence(shrubs and bushes). How will that keep out the undesirables that live near by? Our surrounding neighborhood is not great. No more strolling at night for us. Secondly, the golf course has high levels of arsenic. Turning over the soil the toxins will become airborne. Then there is the added traffic. It will become impossible to drive your car. In a heavy rain event we might be overwhelmed with flooding due to the fact that the development has poor drainage which can affect our first floor units. We will have a meeting in February to answer all your questions.

Sandy Cohen. Member of PPRC for 11 years

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THE TRUE STATE OF THE UNION CV STYLE

Esther Sutofsky

So if you read David Israel's fairy tale State of the Union for CV, you might imagine a future filled with butterflies, birds and the thwack of various balls being smacked in games. Perhaps the games will be played as there are so many new courts, but as for the rest – watch out.

Let us take the elephant in the room – the roads. Walk along most of them, especially within the associations and not the perimeter roads. See the piles and areas of sand and pebbles. Be careful walking or riding your bike on them because they can lead to a bad fall. Why are they this way, disintegrating? Well, the job was one of the worst paving jobs I have ever seen, falling apart almost from the first moment, sloppy, ill timed and costly, where we certainly did not get our money's worth. And why not? Because the people who supervised this contract signed a ONE PAGE contract, no demand for an on site project manager, no contract performance bond – so thank you, David Israel, Ed Black and Bob Marshall and of course thank you for just about bankrupting us!!! And incidentally, when are the yellow lines dividing the streets going to be painted This is a dangerous situation.

Want another area of the State of the Union CV style? OK. The wonderful Atlantic Broadband contract. So where are they? I have seen no trucks, no flags, no crews, no anything! David says there will be little defacing of our grounds and yet the rep from AB says there will be damage to irrigation lines, possible damage to Comcast boxes, road damage and more. Who will pay for that? Is it in the contract? Do you know? And how will it work with the new state of no net neutrality. Will AB charge more for access, for speed, for entry to the net, for channels, ramping up the prices? Who knows? David has not addressed that issue- at least to our knowledge so what will happen? Who knows? Not a good state of CV is it? And how about that concrete shed on Fairway? It is just that and has no plumbing, no electric, no walls, no floor, no ceiling, no nothing. Supposedly CENREC is paying for it but are they? Where are the bills? Where is the signed check from Mark Levy? Will he pay for the total or has he set a money limit and if so, then what? And who is this building for – The Rag or AB? Hmmmmm

Now that brings us to the RAG once known to us as the Reporter. Once it had news. Once it was more neutral, bi partisan. Once it had an independent editor not a VP who serves as the co-editor and the one who runs the paper. Once it was not a version of Pennysaver what with the preponderance of ads. Is it supposed to be a paper or an ad gathering tool? It brings us biased news of the Village and little of that and fills pages that it has with articles of no interest and fails to fulfill its stated mission of presenting to the Villagers all the news of interest and importance to them as Villagers. Personally, I could care less about the travels of either Lanny or Nick Ma.

Finally, we have so many expenditures coming up over the next few years and the reserves – paltry and undefined. How will we pay? How will we keep up the physical appearance of the Village? How will we negotiate with Mark Levy in 2022 when the agreement is over. We have not even consulted lawyers yet or is CO once again prepared to sell us down the road? How do we insure that we have enough reserve funds and that are used for those purposes and not messed around with. Ed Black as Treasurer? Getting jitters to my very core?

But at least we have the lights at the entry ways, right? Nope. They are garish, expensive, wasteful and need constant attention. Where are the delicate and pretty lights. Why do we have a look of too bright tubes wrapped around trees. Yet another example of poor and incomplete planning and un necessary deeds.

Butterflies and singing birds? Glory be! And yet not! Our State of the Union CV style is not a good one. We need fresh faces in CO. WE need out of the box thinking. We need people ready and willing and able to ramp up to high speed on what we need and quickly too. Our State of the Union CV style needs lots of injections of reality and less of make believe. Think long and carefully when choosing your delegates and when voting for officers and Executive Board members. Enough with the nastiness. Enough with the laziness and errors. Enough!!

GIGO

GIGO is an acronym that stands for; **Garbage In Garbage Out**. Usually the term applies to computer programs, but in Century Village it could apply to the dumpster situation revealed in Donald Foster's monthly report.

The pictures that came with the report show dumpsters that are dirty and leaking with construction debris and old furniture piled around them. The report goes on to decry the residents who, having no other way to dispose of the junk are leaving it laying around the dumpsters for days.

Rather than criticizing the residents, it would be a better plan to look for an alternative. Perhaps a large dumpster placed where residents and contractors could easily dispose of the stuff would be a better way.

Cleaning the trash bins and dumpsters is not the expensive proposition that David Israel proclaimed at the delegates assembly. There is a company that would do this at a very reasonable rate of \$5.75 per trash bin (the plastic types) and \$36.00 for the large metal dumpsters this is a discounted price of approximately 30% contingent on multiple associations accepting a contract.

Gary Olman