



MESSENGER

Shine a light on the news

Problems with our roads

Money is being spent on repairing the roads after just a few years of being re-paved. Just how much it's costing us is a question that so far has remained unanswered. When questioned about the need for repairs, David Israel commented that tree roots growing under the road are the cause of the problems. But. There are other areas where tree roots are not the problem, the paving is cracking and crumbling, drainage is poor leading to flooding in some areas and walkways are being reworked as they present a hazard to walkers.

Jack Adams wants answers!

Jack Adams CV resident and candidate for President in the UCO election is dismayed that he can't get the answers he wants.

Jack is claiming that since 2014 Comcast has been paid \$268,000.00 a year in unauthorized payments. His proof is published on his website and is available for all to see.

Jack has asked for answers about how this payment is being made and says that so far he has been stonewalled in his efforts to get the information from UCO.

He asked how the payment was added to the Comcast contract five years after the contract was initiated. He would also like to know where the money is coming from to pay for it. "I don't know whether the money is being paid from our reserves or being billed to the associations". "Either way it is unauthorized, and is a big secret around the administration" "Despite repeated requests in writing, requests made at the delegates assembly, and at the candidates forum, I still have no clear answers" he says. "It's a lot of money, by the time the Comcast contract expires in 2019 it looks like it will amount to close to a million and a half dollars

Jack complained: "I see no justification for the added fees which they are calling a broadcast fee, and I don't believe Comcast has the right to suddenly impose it" "Nor do I think that UCO should be paying it without authorization from the delegates"

"I would like to add that the numbers presented by Ed Black in promoting the Atlantic Broadband proposal are not true, if you analyze the difference between the Comcast proposal and the Atlantic proposal you can easily see that we would have saved millions by going with Comcast".

New voting system in doubt!

The new electronic voting system recently inaugurated by UCO is showing signs of problems. A discrepancy of about 10 votes was noted at the May delegates assembly. Keeping that in mind: How are villagers to trust the machines that are now being used?

If the results generated by the new equipment is suspect in any way shape or form, then we should conduct voting with a verifiable procedure until we are certain that the machines are correctly tabulating votes. Obviously there are some glitches yet to be ironed out. What effect those "glitches" had on the election of officers, where the hand held clickers were used for one of the first votes ever taken with the newly installed system is not known.

That's not good enough. We can do better .

A CASE FOR TERM LIMITS.

THINK OF CV AS A MICRO GOVERNMENT AND COMPARE THE CHINESE LEADERS INTENTIONS TO OUR OWN SITUATION.

The Communist Party in China announced it's intention to **abolish presidential term limits**, which means Xi Jinping, the country's president, could remain in power indefinitely. The move represents a dramatic departure from rules that have been in place for decades. And it nudges the country towards the kind of centralization of power that has not been seen since the days of Mao Zedong.

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Nude bathers giving some residents a rash !

Bathers have been spotted "au naturel" dipping in the pools around the village in what is believed to be a religious ritual.

Some residents find the nudity to be offensive, while those engaged in nude bathing demand that they be permitted to practice their religious rights.

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Murky Water In Our Lake

A good comparison can be made if one looks at a re-paving job performed at a local mall. The job was performed at approximately the same time as the job was done in the village. It shows no cracking or crumbling despite heavy traffic that includes heavy trucks frequently driving over it and a fairly busy traffic condition. The mall in question is located at the north east corner of Haverhill Road and Military Trail. It begs the question of why Century Village is constantly patching and repairing the roads in the village when a job done at about the same time is showing little if any damage.

The re-paving job was promoted by the administration as the best alternative to pursue and was rushed into, despite warnings from a very well informed resident architect and the objections from the Messenger Club who questioned the administration's actions in light of the engineering recommendations that were pretty much ignored. Recommendations that were contained in a report that we paid a princely sum to conduct.

Further to that, Ed Black informed the Delegates Assembly that the job should be done as soon as possible because of his prediction that oil prices were rising and delay would cause an increase in material costs. A prediction that fell flat when oil prices dropped to record lows shortly thereafter.

Ed Black also maintained that doing the job in stages would result in a million dollar added "mobilization" fee. Doing the job in stages over the course of a few years would have allowed the job to proceed as recommended by the engineers. Their recommendations included re-working the swales and re-grading to avoid flooding and improving the road bed to give the roads a more substantial base. If done properly the roadbed work would have avoided any problems with roots breaking through. The million dollar "mobilization" fee was another questionable assertion that proved to be patently false.

The situation leaves Century Village in the position of paying for ongoing repairs that should never have been needed. It puts the village in the position of looking at spending untold amounts of money to repair the job. Repairs that should have been warranted by the contractor. There are no guarantees contained in the one page, five million dollar contract that UCO and "Team Dave" pushed on the village.

UCO will spend a lot of your cash to cover up the shortcomings. That's the only thing guaranteed in this fiasco.

Term Limits from page 1

Any astute observer could easily see that Mao almost destroyed the country with his oppressive and brutal tactics.

Xi signaled that he would continue to crack down on any signs of dissent. Under his rule, Chinese authorities have restricted the ability of citizens to criticize the government online. Xi even suggested there was more to come — pledging enhanced Internet censorship to "clearly oppose and resist the whole range of erroneous viewpoints." Sound familiar? So called erroneous viewpoints that do not conform to the viewpoints espoused by the leaders of Century Village are regularly censored in the village media.

Our neighboring town; Palm Beach Gardens, just reaffirmed term limits on their town council. It's a rule that makes it difficult for hanky panky of any kind. The need to regularly refresh an administration, flushing out leaders who may develop an oppressive ownership of the governing body is clearly the route to take.

During the run-up to our last election David Israel stated that he is merely bowing to the will of the people when he engineered the abolition of term limits in the village. A vote at the delegates assembly after two or three failed attempts hardly qualifies as the will of the people. A vote that falls short of representing the wishes of the majority by voting in an assembly where 2/3 of the delegates regularly fail to attend hardly qualifies either. The election of officers held this spring saw almost 1/3 of the delegates absent.

A petition filed last year by Olga Wolkenstein to reinstate term limits somehow got lost. Now Olga is planning to resubmit it after she gets enough signatures.

That in itself should be a wake up call for CV residents.

General Help with your paperwork
Paying bills. Reading mail. Banking. Corresponding

\$10.00 per hour

Estelle Century Village resident

775-342-9389

References available on request

Murky water in CV Lake still a problem

Recent testing showed increased levels of fertilizers in the CV lake.

The Operations Committee agreed to conduct more tests and are looking forward to the addition of two more aerators in the hope that this will alleviate the problem.

The issue of weed choked canals was recognized and a plan is in the works to clean them out in the hope that better circulation will lead to an improvement in water quality.

Attempts to grow plants around the edges of the lake failed when water levels dropped to a point where the plants dried out and died. It has been recognized that native species of plants don't do well in highly fertilized areas. This leads to native species dying off and invasive species taking over.

These are band aid approaches for short term remedies that will cost a lot of money in the long run.

There will never be a resolution to the problem of high levels of chemical fertilizers in the water until the root cause is addressed. Namely the fertilizer laden reclaimed water that is being added to the lake on a regular basis.

The real solution lies in upgrading the water reclamation plants to a point where chemicals are removed before the water is added to the lake. The reclamation plants are owned and managed by Palm Beach County, who have shown little, if any, interest in spending money to upgrade them.

An engineering report recommended that our own irrigation system be modified to capture runoff from the village and treat it before returning it to the lake. So far there has been no mention of moving on that recommendation.

NUDE BATHERS FROM PAGE 1

The operations committee finds itself in a quandary on how to handle nude bathers, (pun intended.) Calls to the Sheriff resulted in no action as they see the nudity as merely a misdemeanor unworthy of their attention.

Suggestions at the Operations Committee on how to deter the activity ranged from playing loud objectionable music to installing cameras, to placing female agents in the water as the bathers will not indulge in their ritual if a female is present in the pool.

No reasonable or effective strategy was determined by the committee so it looks like the skinny dipping will continue for now.

The other concern about the pools that was raised at the committee is that the water is too cold. 81 degrees and heading up to 84 degrees says Eva Rachevsky. But even though that seems to be quite warm, there are still bathers complaining. They want the water to be as warm as 92 degrees.

Installing gas heaters doesn't seem to be an option as they are deemed to be too expensive, and a suggestion that insulating blankets be employed was brushed aside.

It would be an easy answer to provide the ritualistic bathers with a privacy screen or perhaps opening the indoor pool at the appointed time to allow the ritual to continue in private.

Until some affirmative action is taken the nude bathing will continue in the open as the bathers demand their religious rights.

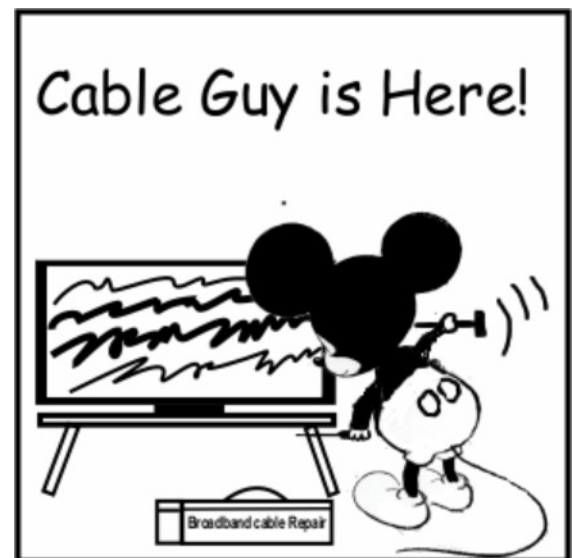
That's the naked truth!

Neil J. Moore

Eva Rachesky reports a favorable judgement from the courts in the Donald Kelly/ Sheffield O dispute

Apparently Kelly's properties are being bought out by the Levy's .

Now that's poetic justice !



Is This A Democracy?

The short answer to that question is no.

Century Village is not operated as a democracy. It is in truth a business, the residents are the customers.

Elections are held every couple of years not to install a government. UCO is not a government in any sense of the word. UCO officers are charged with keeping an eye on the money, vetting contracts and keeping contractors responsible for landscaping, garbage removal security and maintenance in line, and to act as a liason between the owners and the residents.

A universal vote in CV elections that would give one vote per unit owner is an idea that has been kicked around the committees for a couple of years.

Though David Israel says he supports a universal vote, there has not been any moves made towards making it happen. A simple amendment to the bylaws could have been accomplished long before the last election but it never happened. Residents were left in the same old, same old, where some of the delegates showed up to vote in the last election, but many did not.

The reality is that a lot of associations do not bother to turn out leaving their association members without any representation or a voice in village affairs.

One vote for every unit owner would serve the village a lot better than leaving it up to the delegates. Association members don't know and can't tell which way their delegate voted or if they voted at all.

The election of officers by the chosen few who bother to attend the assemblies isn't really a true exercise in democracy.

Another concern is about just who gets to vote when two or more people own a unit. A married couple may not agree on just who should get the seat

In a true democracy everyone gets a vote. That means that a married couple could and some probably do vote on opposite sides in an election, it is the only fair way.

Then there is the issue of renters, some renters live year round in Century Village. Should they have a vote in the election of officers? To maintain that renters are not invested in the well-being of the community is a fallacy.

There's no doubt that renters are seen by many as a separate class of people living in the village. Some believe

that since they haven't invested in a unit they should have no say.

The history of the United States tells us that the very first elections were dominated by male land-owners, women were disenfranchised as were the many poor people who could not buy land. Uneducated people were also prevented from voting by the implementation of unfair laws that favored the upper classes. Those concepts were gradually overturned by the suffragette and civil rights movements that eventually led to the democratic principal that everyone should be permitted to vote for their leaders regardless of social, educational or financial status.

Perhaps a universal vote in Century Village should be just that. Universal in every respect. It's a notion that has little chance of successfully being implemented. Much like the landlords of old, the owners in the village would be loath to give any leverage to the renters living here.

Then there's the question of snowbirds who descend on the village for a few months every year then disappear when things warm up in their northern abodes. Since they don't really live here should they get a vote too? Most electoral districts do have a residency requirement.

How is this issue to play out? Do CV'ers give one vote per unit or do we allow multiple votes for multiple unit owners? It would seem to follow that if CV is to determine voting rights based on ownership only, it would be the only fair way to go. But the fear that multiple unit owners would gain an unfair advantage precludes that from ever happening.

Universal voting in Century Village is an idea who's time has come .

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