

Happy New Year from your friends and neighbors at the Messenger Club



A lot of empty seats seen here at the November delegates assembly

Hats off to Ed Grossman !

Are you being Served is the name of a British sitcom that ran from 1972 to 1984 and also ran on PBS where it gained a good deal of popularity among American viewers.

But the question of whether or not you are being served can also be asked of Century Village. Unlike the television series that was quite popular, the delegates assemblies held monthly in the village show a decided lack of interest among residents.

For the fourth time this year the assemblies failed to reach the number of delegates in attendance to field a quorum. It is worrisome as our bylaws permit the executive committee to decide what to do and how to spend your money if a quorum is not reached at the assemblies.

Ed Grossman questioned David Israel about it at each assembly for the last four months. He suggested that the names of the associations attending be published so that residents can determine whether they are being represented or not. The first answer from the UCO throne

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Sheffield O is still at it !

Read the latest on page 4

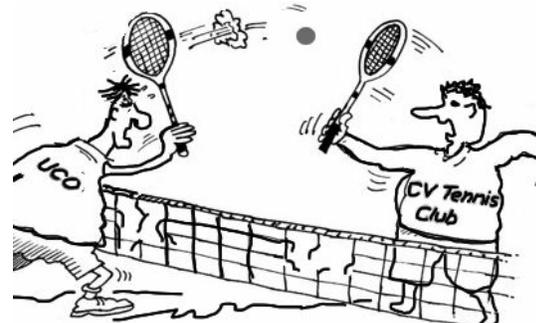
Anyone For Tennis?

The Century Village Tennis Club has been trying to get the tennis courts resurfaced for the last three years.

So far; the courts remain untouched while the administration dithers and stalls on getting the work done.

The club is looking for some three hundred thousand dollars to do the work which entails reworking the base underlying the asphalt surface.

Concerns about liability in case of accidents and/or injury have been heightened with the recent occurrence where an elderly player fell and smacked his head causing some injury.



Needless to say, the three hundred thousand dollar price tag is a bone of contention. Some residents don't

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indicated that there could be legal problems if the names of absent delegates were to be published. Ed Suggested that perhaps the names of those in attendance could be made known, and by simple deduction those not in attendance could be determined. David Israel stated that he would take his suggestion under advisement and consult with the lawyers about it. Questions at subsequent delegates assemblies asking whether any legal opinions had been obtained were met with weak kneed excuses about lawyers being on holidays.

Undeterred, Ed Grossman persisted in bringing up the issue as he felt that he, and the other delegates who were in attendance were getting a raw deal. Showing up at assemblies to debate and vote on issues, then being frustrated by the failure of the assembly to field a quorum felt like a waste of time and effort.

Ed's persistence paid off when this month saw the publication of all the associations who did not attend the assembly in November. Whether that will make any difference is yet to be determined, at least residents can find out whether or not they are being represented and it is a step in the right direction.

The reality is that if a quorum is not met, then the executive committee gets a free hand to do whatever they like. Witnessing the performance of UCO where millions of your dollars are freely handed over to WPRF without question, without approval of residents and without debate leads, to the question of just who is being served.

Hats off to Ed on this one.

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like the idea of spending all that money to satisfy the minority of people who actually use the courts. Others think the work should be done to bring the courts up to a decent condition and give the tennis players, most of whom are snow-birds, the enjoyment they were promised when they bought into the village.

Underlying the whole issue is the question of whether residents should be saddled with the burden of payment or should the owners of the property, namely Cenvil Recreation, pay to get it done.

According to the agreement signed by a previous administration; the residents have the responsibility of upkeep. The same as the roads, the clubhouse and all the rest of the infrastructure that Cenvil owns.

That in and of itself is a situation that needs to be remedied. It doesn't seem fair to put the burden of all the upkeep of their property on the residents of the village. But that's the way it is and that's the way it will stay unless a more equitable agreement is negotiated in the upcoming renewal of the soon to expire Millenium agreement.

The tennis club claims to have five hundred members who are eager to play, though you wouldn't know it by looking at the courts which are empty for the majority of time. Five hundred signatures on a petition won't make any difference to the outcome in this issue. It will not make any more difference than the five thousand signatures received on a petition to keep the golf course open.

Discussions at the committee level centered on whether to re-surface the courts with asphalt or to re-surface them with a specialized surface that requires less maintenance leading to less cost in the long run. Asphalt is the most inexpensive initial choice. But the foundation, according to reports, needs to be redone to avoid future problems. That job in itself is going to cost a lot more than simply applying a layer of asphalt over everything. But the question we have to ask is: If the administration can and did ignore engineering recommendations to rework the underlying strata of the roads before re-paving . Are they contemplating doing the same thing with the tennis courts? Is the administration's attitude; If it's good enough for the roads which we all use then it's probably good enough for the tennis courts, which only a small minority use

There is no clear answer on just what is going to be done at this point. Much like a game of tennis, the opposing parties having been batting this back and forth for three years with no end in sight.

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UCO Voting Machine problems

The electronic voting machine recently put to work at our delegates assemblies seems to be having trouble calculating the votes accurately.

The number of delegates registered for the assembly never matches the number the electronic gizmo is tabulating.

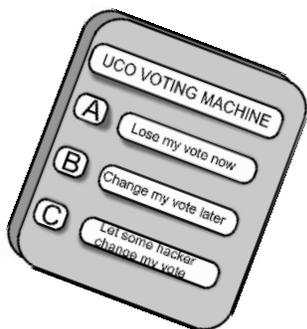
Ken Graff, the president of the Century Village Computer Club, says that as far as he can tell everything is working properly. Ken did a great job in getting the machine up and running, but doesn't know why the numbers don't match. David Israel is of the opinion that some people are not

pressing the buttons on the hand held gizmos during the tests that are being performed before each delegate assembly gets under way.

Whatever the reason for the discrepancy, it's troubling that the machine is not reflecting the true numbers. The November assembly saw a difference of 27 delegates between the number registered by

the test and the number physically counted by the people handling registration. Not that it really mattered at this assembly because there was no quorum so voting for this assembly was nixed. But it matters in the long run and it matters in the history of voting at the assemblies. This is the same system employed at the last election of UCO officers. Due to the discrepancy in the numbers, it casts the outcome of the election in doubt.

One other troubling aspect of this new way of voting is that the votes are actually cast in secret. There is no way to tell which way a delegate is voting on any motion. Traditionally, voting was performed by delegates holding up cards that were passed out to delegates before the assembly started. When a vote was called. Delegates held their cards aloft, indicating yea or nay. It was easy for anyone to look around the auditorium and see which way any delegate was voting on any motion. It was just as easy to see whether the vote was accepted or rejected by the delegates. With the new system, there is no way for the audience to tell which way any delegate is voting. in effect each and every ballot is a secret



Tennis from Page 2

To say that the Tennis Club is frustrated by the lack of action would be an understatement. The club has been trying to get something done for three years or more.

So far the committee has not provided any clear answers on when or if the much needed repairs are to be done.

There is no plan to get the money together, and there is no indication that the committee has any idea whether to re-pave with asphalt or provide a specialized topping.

Meanwhile the Tennis Club members are totally frustrated with the lack of action from UCO on the issue.

The courts need attention in order to keep them up to a standard residents have come to expect .

Its a case of money talks and B/S walks.

BYLAW AMENDMENTS

The administration recently released their proposals to amend the UCO bylaws.

The Messenger Club is busy analyzing the proposals and are not impressed to say the least.

It looks like the administration is more interested in watering down the authority of the delegates while increasing their authority, and making it difficult for residents to propose changes or recall executives who are not living up to their responsibilities.

The Messenger Club will be publishing their take on the proposals and is calling for a town hall meeting to discuss the changes in the documents released on December 17 of this year.

It is important for all residents to take note of the proceedings and to offer their input on the proposed changes to the bylaws.

Stay tuned and keep your eyes open for more news as it is made available.

Sheffield O

Despite lawsuits and stiff opposition from WPRF, Sheffield O, managed by Donald Kelly, who owns 15 of the 25 units in the building, and has an interest in 2 others. is still conducting business as usual in awarding short term leases.

We heard a pronouncement from The UCO throne that Mr Kelly in an attempt to settle the lawsuits filed by WPRF alleging misconduct, agreed to sell out his interests in the building and move on.

So far that has yet to happen, and it doesn't look like it's going to happen. Short term tenants are still able to acquire short term leases despite attempt to stifle the business.

A source living in the building tells us that Mr Kelly re-wrote the bylaws, something he is entitled to do as he owns a controlling interest in the Board of Directors. No doubt the re-write favored Kelly's business of short term rentals to transient residents.

We were also informed that until recently Mr Kelly was accepting section eight clients including veterans who were having difficulty keeping a home. WPRF refuses to approve those leases, leaving Mr Kelly and his clients in the position of being unable to get an identification card which serves as a gate pass. Mr Kelly skirted that issue by instructing his tenants to produce a copy of their lease at the gate. So far it's working, the security guards allow entry when confronted with the lease even though it could be said that it is illegitimate. The organizations sending section eight clients and homeless veterans stopped sending them when they discovered that they could not get a lease approved.

Why anyone would be allowed to enter the village by simply showing a copy of a lease, which anyone could manufacture quite easily, is another question.

The lawsuit filed by the tenants who were disturbed by Kelly's proclamation that he was about to evict them is ongoing at this time.

Meanwhile it's business as usual at Sheffield O.

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ON THE BUSES

Allan Preston, an outspoken resident of Century Village, tried to bring up his issues with the bus service at the December delegates assembly. He was cut short by David Israel, who was not too interested in discussing the matter at the assembly and suggested that Mr Preston could bring his concerns to the transportation committee meeting. Mr Preston answered that he has attended some of the meetings but finds it difficult to do so. He complained that it takes him almost half a day to get to the meetings then return home on the bus due to the scheduling and the location of the meetings which are conducted in the UCO office building. He thought it would make more sense to hold the meetings in the clubhouse. At least he could find his way over to the clubhouse a lot more easily than riding around the buses and waiting for transfers from one bus to the other. Something he needs to do if he is to find his way to the UCO office.

In a conversation with Mr Preston he claimed to have some reasonable suggestions that would make life a lot easier

for himself and others who use the bus service. Though he has attended committee meetings and offered his suggestions, none of them have been picked up by the committee. He has also offered to take a seat on the committee, but so far has not received a reply to his offer.

Been waiting long?



He complained that the committee is not answering his suggestions because according to him "not one of the transportation committee rides the buses"

"I challenged them to try taking the bus to the meetings with me, but no one was interested" he said.

Switching schedules is another thorn in Mr Preston's side. It might seem like a good idea to publish the schedule changes in the paper, but Mr Preston is legally blind.

Any changes leave him in the frustrating position of waiting for a bus that never comes.

Trying to voice his issues at the assembly and being curtly shut down by David Israel, Who really has no right to shut anyone down is just as frustrating.