

Architectural Review Committee looking for new members



**DIANE
TUCKER**
COLUMNIST

Although we still have approximately five weeks of winter, our Florida weather certainly has not been as cold as what our northern family and friends are experiencing.

As a native Floridian, I am aware that our coldest weather often is in late winter and early spring. My husband and I are having some improvements made on the pool and lanai area of our home so we are ready for the arrival of spring and will be able to spend more time outdoors.

Spring, just like all seasons, brings about changes in daily routines. We like to get outside and participate in outdoor activities as the warmer weather arrives. Daylight saving time arrives about one week prior to spring, which provides for a nice start or ending to a busy day to take a leisurely walk and enjoy the outdoors.

As I do in most of my articles, I must remind you that if you include "Fido" in that leisurely walk, be certain to pick up any waste deposited by your dog. We continually receive complaints that residents allow their dogs to do their daily business on their neighbor's property and in common areas such as postal stations without picking up their pet's waste. Please be respectful of your neighbor's property and courteous to residents visiting all common

Extra! Extra!

Village Community Development District No. 8 will host a town hall meeting at 6 p.m. Feb. 26 in the Ponte Vedra Room at SeaBreeze Recreation Center. The meeting will provide an overview of the governance of your District which includes the operation and financial picture. Residents will have an opportunity to meet and ask questions of their elected officials and District staff members that provide services. For information, contact Jennifer McQueary, district clerk, at 751-3939 or jennifer.mcqueary@districtgov.org.

areas.

For the past two weeks, the District has hosted public information sessions for residents of District 9 for the purpose of providing information on deed compliance process changes. Chapter 190.012, Florida Statutes, authorizes community development districts to adopt rules necessary to enforce certain external deed restrictions.

The change already has taken place in the Lady Lake/Lake County portions of The Villages and Community Development Districts 1-8 (CDDs). If the board of supervisors for District 9 adopts the process at its monthly board meeting Feb. 19, the new process will begin March 1.

I am sure you may be asking: What does this mean? Is the District changing the deed restrictions? The answer is no! There have been no changes in your Declaration of Restrictions.

The District 9 board will adopt by rule certain external, existing deed restrictions. A matrix has been prepared which outlines the deed restrictions by unit and lot that may be enforced by the District.

Also included in the rule is a fine schedule for violations. The fines are correlated to the

costs associated with compliance such as inspections, site visits, notices and related meetings.

The District 9 board also will adopt, by resolution, external deed restriction standards. These standards identify, clarify and interpret certain deed restrictions that relate to the exterior appearance or use of the property.

Upon approval by District 9, residents can review the matrix, fine schedule and standards on the District website (districtgov.org) by going to the Community Standards Department's link. The matrix and fine schedules are listed for District 9 and for CDDs 1-8 and Lady Lake and Lake County of The Villages.

As part of this new process, the District 9 board will adopt a resolution creating an Architectural Review Committee. The ARC is responsible for approval of any and all external alterations, changes or modifications to the property and home.

The ARC consists of nine primary representatives and nine alternate members. Upon adoption of the resolution, the District 9 Board of Supervisors

will interview applicants March 19 to serve as primary and alternate ARC representatives for District 9.

ARC representatives must be full-time residents of The Villages, reside in the district they represent, and it is recommended they have experience or education in one of the following areas: building management, residential/commercial construction, architecture, engineering, drafting, landscaping, county code enforcement, or deed compliance.

The responsibility of an ARC representative requires a

commitment to attend a meeting at 8:30 a.m. each Wednesday lasting approximately three hours. The purpose of the meeting is to review home and property alteration applications for approval or denial.

Residents of District 9 who are interested in volunteering to serve as an ARC primary or alternate representative are urged to submit their application to the Community Standards Department no later than March 13. The application form may be downloaded from the District website, or call the Community Standards Department at 751-3912.

Additionally, we are searching for an alternate representative to serve on the ARC for District 1 and District 3. The

alternate representatives serve if the primary representative cannot be in attendance.

The selected alternate will attend the meetings each week for the first month and then at least one meeting each month thereafter to remain familiar with the process of reviewing the applications.

Residents of District 1 and District 3 who are interested in serving as an alternate representative on the ARC can contact me at diane.tucker@districtgov.org or the Community Standards Department at 751-3912.

In The Villages, we are fortunate to have a water system that delivers high-quality drinking water for our community to enjoy. Our water system is monitored continually to ensure

that our water is safe and ready to consume.

To help maintain a safe water supply, customers who utilize a fertigation system or a home dialysis machine should install additional protection by installing a proper backflow prevention assembly and making sure it is tested at least once annually.

The backflow prevention assembly is a special device that typically is installed adjacent to your water meter and helps protect the water supply. The proper device is a reduced pressure assembly and can be installed by your plumber. If you already have an assembly installed, make sure the plumber you use to test the assembly is properly certified.

For additional information

about backflow assemblies, visit districtgov.org or contact the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. For installation information, contact a licensed plumbing contractor with proper certification in backflow assembly installations.

Don't forget Valentine's Day is Saturday.

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart."

– Helen Keller.

Until next time, here at Our Place.

Diane Tucker is the administrative operations manager for the district. She can be reached at diane.tucker@districtgov.org.