

'OUR PLACE' NOW ONLINE

Let me start by saying thank you for the multitude of e-mails I received as a result of my last column regarding the IRS audit. I, and all the staff, appreciate both the positive and "constructive criticism" comments we receive. This type of input helps us to improve and fine-tune an already outstanding community, and it ensures that we are being responsive to your needs regarding District government services.

As a follow-up to the IRS audit status, by the time you read this article, the Village Center Community Development District will have submitted its response (although I write this column in advance of the date it is published). There is no time frame for the IRS review or to respond to us. However, we will keep you informed when there are developments.

While the IRS inquiry has created a lot of concern, there is a positive side to all the discussion and issues related to the IRS inquiry. In spite of the many speaking engagements, articles and outreach that staff have used to increase awareness of District government, this one issue has generated much greater resident interest and involvement with the Districts. Due to your interest and comments, and hopefully more readership of this column, we are now posting the OUR PLACE columns on the districtgov.org Web site. Although they have been available weekly, both on our Web site and the Daily Sun Web site, we will now begin archiving them on our site so that you can refer to them for any information you may need. However, please remember that contacting our Customer Service Center, 753-4508, will provide a very helpful individual to answer any questions you may have.

One of the points discussed in my last column was the presence of many new residents who do not know about the Districts' policies, procedures, deed restrictions and, generally, what is and what is



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not allowed in this wonderful community. During the past few weeks, John Rohan and Monica Andersen have spent time discussing a number of these issues. These "reminders" usually are the result of discussions at Community Development District board meetings, during which your elected supervisors suggest items we need to mention to residents. With 65 elected officials, we often have a potpourri of subject matter to cover. Today is no different.

Please do not place your trash, yard debris and recycling in the street. Golf carts, bikers and walkers are often required to walk into the roadway to move around the refuse. And, while you are at it, please do not put your trash, yard debris and recycling out more than the day before scheduled pickup. This is prohibited in your Declaration of Restrictions.

In addition, you can check the restriction regarding those garbage cans that keep showing up against the front or side of homes. They also are restricted. If you do not have a copy of the restrictions, just contact Monica Andersen at monica.andersen@districtgov.org and she will be more than glad to scan and e-mail a copy to you. If you do not use a computer, you may pick up a copy of them from the District offices. However, there is a cost of 15 cents per page; and call in advance so that we can have them ready for you.

Safety, safety, safety! Speed and courtesy!

After spending month after month writing about this topic, I have been kindly chastised for not doing and saying enough about it during the past several weeks. It seems everyone wants more signs, enforcement and rules to

encourage our residents and visitors to slow down, observe traffic signs and be considerate of others. I wish, as I have stated before, that there were a magic solution. Last week, Marion County placed the speed monitor on Buena Vista to alert drivers to their speed in the 35-mile-per-hour zone. Great idea, and we appreciate it. They also placed a deputy down the street from the monitor. And, yes, they were ticketing drivers who did not pay attention to the monitor.

Please pay attention to your driving habits and urge others to do so also. The life and limb you save may just be your own!

Stewardship of District facilities also is a major topic of discussion. The most recent issue pertains to all the signage, stickers and markings residents are adding to the postal facilities. Please note that no notices or signs are to be taped or adhered in any way to any part of the postal facility except in the bulletin board space provided for this purpose. And stickers and labels are not to be placed on the postal boxes.

Finally, as more of you are attending District meetings, please note that the agendas and support documents are located on the District Web site. This is important if you wish to read the full agenda prior to the meetings that you will be attending. The agenda documents provide you with the issue being addressed, background and staff recommendations. The Web site information will allow you to better follow the discussion among board members and staff.

Hopefully, this information will be of benefit to you. As I have requested, please contact me if you have any issues you would like more fully explained. There is no doubt that if you are wondering about it, there are many others who have the same questions.

So until the next time we meet here, at Our Place, stay safe!

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