

Get Involved!

By John Sisker

As with any homeowners association, some people are more involved in community matters than others. Some are on the Board; some are on committees, while others may be involved by either using the association's amenities and/or attending a community event.

Yet, some have no such interest; involved in very little internal activities, and/or already have their hands full with other things on their plate. A few just naturally want to be left alone; maybe they simply rent and feel their input would make little difference anyway. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Unfortunately, there seems to surface in these homeowners associations, including manufactured/mobile home parks alike, a few who just don't want to do anything, but are convinced that those now in charge are somehow doing everything wrong anyway. They themselves make no effort to 'get involved' in anything, volunteer for no committees, attend no meetings, or if they do, it's just to complain.

They offer no constructive criticism, have little to no valuable input, and don't even seem to have any creative ideas. Basically, they have developed the fine art of talking behind people's backs and have come up with the agenda of that of a so-called, old-fashioned high school, bully.

Yet, let's face it; it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out what is making them so upset; that should be a no-brainer in an association such as Newport Terrace. To make this simple, they feel a lot more needs to be done with our association dues, and a lot faster and with more realistic priorities, and of course with no special assessments, and maybe even cutting the association dues to begin with. In other words, they simply want more for less.

Is this even realistic? Not if they simply hide in the bushes taking pot shot at those trying to do the right things, but they themselves refuse to even be involved on any committees or such, to at least discuss the issues and get their point across. The bottom line in this case is, at least to me, they have absolutely no credibility whatsoever. In fact, in my previous involvement on related Boards and Committees, even complaints were welcome, but had to be accompanied with at least one possible and logical solution. This would at least open the dialogue somewhat, beyond that of those just purposely looking for fault.

When we first move here to Newport Terrace, some were more than willing to point out everything that they thought was wrong with the way things were currently run, but could not, nor would not tell me why. I suppose the premise was, I just don't really need to know. Well sorry! Yes I do, especially if they expect me to choose so-called sides.

Even today, I'm not exactly sure why they have developed this stand-off attitude with some, in fact, I'm not even sure they know why themselves anymore. Yet, I can and have worked with just about everyone in the past, actually asking those with opposing points of views to be on task

forces that I have set-up, just to get these opposing points of views. After all, all views and input should be welcome and properly evaluated.

Yet, do I really think that the few causing the most problems, will see the light, and actually come around to a more logical way of thinking? Of course not; I'm not that naive. After all, they don't have any idea that they are the problem; they think everyone else is. But on a more positive note, they are also in the minority, are saying and doing nothing new from just about any other homeowners association, and at least keep those doing the right thing on their toes.

Even in the short time I have lived here, it appears that even I have come across a few who now perceive me as the so-called enemy. However, that was to be expected; it's guilt by association type of thing. They simply chose sides for me, and then proceeded to pigeon-hole me into that category. Is it true? It doesn't matter, they think it's true. The bottom line is, you can't use logic on an illogical person. They will just never get it. The best thing to do is ignore their ranting's, and move on with what really needs to be done.