

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Board and fellow citizens. We are coming up on our 50th Anniversary. In those 50 years we have developed quite a paradise that we all love and want to see remain healthy.

We, the people, are at a crossroads. Our financial stability is in question. The future of this community will be totally dependent on a vigorous two way communication that **MUST** be based solely on **facts**. The decisions on finances must be understood by the average property owner so it will need to be concise while being robust and the message needs to be exactly the same to the entire Village.

I have proposed a NEIGHBORHOOD ALLIANCE consisting of 21 districts each with a representative speaking for **and with** their neighbors to further our communication based on FACTS. Your current communications on the Village website, in the VOICE newspaper and at the various meetings will only be enhanced with the ALLIANCE. Let's be real, The Village does have an alternative communication system. Bridge club on Monday, Bunco on Tuesday, Carpenters club on Wednesday, Golf on Thursday, Sunday Church. Whether we like it or not, the information, good, bad or indifferent is disseminated at the neighborhood level. That's where most of the citizens get the information to form their thinking on how they are going to vote on the critical decisions facing this Village.

This week, I have read many articles on Next Door and three stood out. IF I were to believe the data, I would come away with the idea that the Village is quite literally "Under Siege", that our budget was approved "FLASH BANG BOOM" with no input from anyone and that there is a "FINANCIAL ATTACK" brewing and even with a vote it will be taxation without representation.

All of these people are credible, respectable neighbors. Some work on committees and subcommittees. Based on these articles, I truly don't know what to think but I won't lie, moving away has briefly crossed my mind.

Like me, many people living here today have raised their families, helped our parents in their last days, worked their jobs, donated time and money to worthy causes and like me, we're tired. We want to focus on ourselves in the autumn of our lives. We want to focus on our health, our clubs and maybe still volunteer just as you, the Board of Directors, are selflessly doing.

I am asking for your written commitment to support the Neighborhood ALLIANCE and our goals. The main ALLIANCE goal is to facilitate promotion of Community and Neighborhood. In its infancy, the ALLIANCE will work to foster this by having the actual facts go to each district for dissemination by the Neighborhood ALLIANCE representative. Each neighborhood will hold monthly meetings to ensure accurate data is gathered and that their neighbors have a place to go to voice concerns and bring forward great ideas.

The truth is that without this ALLIANCE, without factual financial information, we are individually and as a community at financial risk. Truth must be relevant, it can't be decision by gossip or innuendo. Other than salaries and personnel issues, all decisions made by the board have to start with open dialog so conspiracy theories are few and far between. We need to hear the debate publicly. We all understand it can get ugly, but democracy is pretty ugly although in my opinion, totally awe inspiring.

In Closing, Thank you for the three minutes, it is not long enough and **please** everyone, sign up by the door to help make the ALLIANCE a reality and take a flyer on your way out. My contact information is on the sheet.