

“Lake-County-itis”

Once I had a neighbor. A very nice “little old Lady” who used to walk her dog daily. She always stopped by if I was out front. She always seemed happy to see me, and likewise, I was happy to see her. She was at least in her 80’s. As I got to know her I learned she and her husband had been residents of HVLA for over 25 years. Although she may not have had the exact same perspective on HVLA and governance therein, we did seem to share a rather similar, cynical view of how the Association was managed.

As we got to know each other, she offered to help with watering my plants while my wife and I were away. Nice neighbor! “Betty” was her name.

Once during one of our many conversations, I happened to mention my observation that the Association appeared to handle much of its business in rather slipshod, helter-skelter ways, with very poor follow-through, and, that many local business owners seemed to handle their business affairs similarly. “Oh”, Betty said. “You mean ‘Lake-County-itis.’”

Huh? What do you mean, “Lake-County-itis?” I replied.

Betty went on to tell me that in her time as an HVLA member/resident, she had learned that the Association and most local business had a way-of-doing-business that was different, or unlike, most other areas. As I listened and questioned her further, I learned what she meant: A lackadaisical, “quid pro quo”, non-standard method of business.

Actually, I began to realize this “little old Lady” was brilliant! She instantly knew precisely what I described to her. But it had taken me many hours, or days, of reading HVLA publications, documents and talking to numerous other members – several that had been in positions of authority in the Association – to figure it all out.

There is a very specific, somewhat unique, way of thinking and doing business in Lake County. HVLA has “polished” (sort of) those methods and presented them in the form of a “Homeowner’s Association.” In essence, it is the “Good Ol’ Boys, Good Ol’ Girls” school of social and organizational thinking. If you conform, you’re “OK.” If you don’t, you’re out. Simple!

So, if you are OK with conformity, in its most basic forms, or you can ignore violations of some of your Constitutional-Rights, come-on in. Home prices are great. The Community has much to offer. Tolerance is optional.