

Let's Put A Stop To Censorship And Intimidation

By Lloyd Rochambeau, President

There is no shortage of subjects which irritate me, tick me off or just downright make me angry. That's not to say that many more things make me happy, laugh, grin or just feel warm and good inside.

But, today my gripe is with Park Managers and their bosses who think they can control us peons. It concerns those who attempt to stifle anything that smells like homeowner advocacy. Especially when it comes to the distribution of resident opinions within "their" park. Some have said that they will only allow "happy" memos, notices, newsletters, or magazines. Which of course, is censorship, pure and simple. Well, put me in Patrick Henry's camp when I say "give me liberty or give me death" (not to give them any ideas of course).

Distribution of materials determined by the manager not to be "happy" or in the advocacy vein are thwarted by such censorship when the manager forbids anything going into the tubes or on the mailbox clips. I know that the , Mobilhome Magazine has had many problems with this censorship.

The inside of the mailbox itself is off limits to everyone but the U.S. Postal Service and the homeowner or occupant.

But, let's take a closer look at the tubes or clips. I contend that they are not governed or controlled by the Post Office in any way. To challenge a Carrier Supervisor in the city of Vista who had stopped distribution of a magazine, I went to the main post office in Vista and also to the main office in San Marcos to question if any prohibition to park residents existed to prevent their use of these attachments. I could not get an answer and was promised that they would get back to me. It has been well over a year and I have not received an answer.

These tubes (also used for newspaper delivery) and clips on the posts or mail boxes are **on the space** which the homeowner is renting from the park, so how can the park management dictate their usage? They do it by intimidation and threats of retaliation which tend to easily discourage homeowner, which makes the censorship even worse.

Many parks in my area of San Diego County also have newsletters which are allowed to be distributed to homeowners via the tubes and/or clips. The funny thing about these newsletters which contain announcements, calendar of events and birthdays, along with jokes and "doggy tales" and other "happy" news, are often controlled by the park manager. The park does not pay for these newsletters; the publisher's advertisers pay all of the costs. Yet many of the parks

(probably well over half) exercise complete control over their content. I am proud (and happy) to report that in my park, our HOA Secretary provides 100 percent of the content in our newsletter. She often includes reminders from our park manager (who by the way does not act like those managers I have referenced herein.) such as obeying the speed limit in the park. These controlling managers will no doubt claim that they are providing a service for their residents. I believe residents in parks who currently have no control over their newsletter, could gain control by contacting the publisher and informing them that they will provide a newsletter editor from within their ranks who will provide all future content. Failure to turn control over to the homeowners would result in a boycott or some such rejection of the newsletter as currently being published.

By now you can see how strongly I feel about this issue. I intend to protest to the City of San Marcos and to the HCD (Housing and Community Development) of the State of California to request they put a stop to this practice of censorship and to free homeowners from fascists types of control.