

Palmetto Beach Club

Old scams popping up anew

Timeshare owners continue to be bombarded with scams trying to bilk the owners out of their hard earned money.

In South Carolina, 16 people were indicted trying to scam more than 200 timeshare owners using a company they called Vacation Ownership Group.

The group claimed owners could pay off their mortgages at substantially lower costs. When money was sent to VO, the money was used for personal gain and not to pay off the timeshares.

Other scams resurfacing: Owners get calls asking if unit is still for sale. The owner is told that the “buyer” will send more than the cost of the unit and the seller should send the excess to a “broker.”

The problem is, the first check is no good and the seller has just lost the “excess” money.

Another is the “we have a buyer scam.”

Owners are told that a buyer has been found and that adjoining fees should be put into an escrow account. Unfortunately, the escrow account is fake and the seller loses that money and still retains the unit.

Five people in Florida were recently accused of scamming \$2.6 million from owners across North America. The owners were called and convinced to sell their unit. They were sent fake contracts and were instructed to mail the closing fees to a fake title and mortgage company—sometimes using the name Royal Title Services. Again, the fees were lost without selling the timeshare.

By using these companies that transfer ownership to buyers who have no intention of paying, it costs all our owners in the long run.

HRA reporting agency

HRA Realty is now a reporting agency for Experian and Equifax credit agencies. If we find we need additional information for reporting purposes, we will contact you.

New rental equipment policy

Regency Towers will no longer be providing equipment such as rollaway beds, cribs, high chairs, etc. for our guests.

It will be up to the guests to make arrangements for these items. We are contacting area rental companies to find the best prices and services for you.

Rental program soaring in 2012

The rental program is again on track this season for record numbers. This year, we have already recorded our greatest gross rentals since HRA began keeping the records in 2006. By fall, we had doubled last year’s total. **A word of caution:** The local governments keep close tabs on rental income. If you choose to rent your unit yourself, make sure you obtain a city business license and collect all appropriate hospitality and accommodations taxes.

Unit 1203 has a brand new kitchen from top to bottom including new counter tops and appliances.

We’ve moved

HRA Realty has a new office location. We have moved to 3100 Dick Pond Road (Highway 544 toward Conway just past the Bypass 17 overpass). Stop by and check out our new office. Our office hours are now Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The office phone number is: 843-294-2060.

2012 Tax Info

The property tax this year is \$77.65 per each week owned.