

March 29,2011

To: Golden Vista Board

From: Allen Hettinger & Ken Baumgartner, Conservation Committee
Gerald Bray, Facilities Committee

Subject: Air Quality Concerns

This is to inform you that we have been meeting and talking about the air quality in the ballroom. A little over a year ago, the former Manager, Del McKinney, contracted for installation of "economizers" for free air cooling in the ballroom. We recently discovered that what we got was not what was intended. Upon examination of the roof AC units, we noted that dampers were installed and set at about 25%. This was supposed to pull in cooler outside air into the ballroom during events where large crowds were assembled. However, there is no provision for exhaust or exchange of air, which is only possible with the installation of economizers; or a second alternative may be exhaust fans.

As you know, some people have become faint during warm Sunday morning church services. Others have complained about it being too warm during evening performances, with large crowds and stage lighting. Also, we are all aware of the high incidence of respiratory illness here at Golden Vista. Occupants of the ballroom are all breathing the same air. This is a health and safety concern! The present air handling system (i.e. air conditioners) simply re-circulate the same air. There are air exchange code requirements for commercial use and high occupancy buildings. We think it is important that Golden Vista is in compliance with such codes.

It is extremely unfortunate that somehow the recommendation for economizers was misunderstood, and we ended up with dampers that do no good. Without exhaust fans or a complete economizer system, there can be no air exchange.

With direction from the Board, our Committees want to work jointly toward a solution of this problem. We recommend that you authorize the Manager, Larry Martin, to contract for HVAC consulting services to give us exactly what we need, and an estimate of cost. Then, perhaps next fall, we can work closely with Larry on this.

Cc: Larry Martin