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Property Management Company, Inc.

HOA & CONDOMINIUM MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST SINCE 1987

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# The Velvet Hanner

By C. Wayne Dawson

P.S. Property Management helps HOAs protect property values by speaking softly and carrying a fair contract.



Rick Zilem, Phyllis Starr, Terry Zilem, Ricky Zilem

e have two jobs," says Phyllis Starr of P.S. Property Management. "We manage risk for our Homeowner Association (HOA) clients. Our second job is to teach people to live in peace with one another." Doing our job helps the HOA do theirs, namely, protecting property values

How does such a lady-like grandmother keep irate neighbors from declaring war on one another and her property management company? "People have a hard time being ugly with me because I'm fair, never raise my voice, and stick to my guns. That's why my daddy called me 'The Velvet Hammer.'"

Managing risk can be a tall order, especially when Phyllis and her family-run business take on a new client. "When a HOA calls us, it's because their former management company messed up," she says. One client had \$80,000 in delinquent dues on the books, due in part because the former managers collected dues quarterly. Meantime, security and maintenance crews were paid monthly. The bills mounted so high that the former company had to levy a special assessment on the homeowners, who were understandably upset."

P.S. Property Management stepped in and immediately scheduled collections monthly. "It was a lot of work," Phyllis says, "and some of the homeowners protested. But within six months we brought the debt down to \$20,000 and offered owners a discount if they paid their dues yearly. The problem was solved."

The root of much friction between an HOA and their management company on one side,



and the homeowners on the other, is that a lot of real estate agents don't inform buyers of community requirements. Phyllis knows which residents never reviewed their covenants when she gets phone calls asking "What do you mean I can't breed dogs on my property?" or, "What do you mean I can't park a boat trailer in my driveway?" She advises purchasers to read their HOA restrictions before they buy.

Another cause of stress between homeowners and managers is that many such companies take on too many customers with too little staff. Small to medium clients receive scant attention, while larger ones are serviced better. P.S. Property Management, on the other hand, takes pride in taking care of each community equally. Phyllis personally trains each employee, including three generations of family members who work at P.S., including her son Rick Zilem and his son Ricky, both possessing degrees in real estate and finance.

To learn more about running a community fairly and efficiently, contact P.S. Property Management at (512) 251-6122.



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