

tion since it's only 4-inch galvanized pipe — and escaped with several more carts. Thank God we were closed for 17 days otherwise we would not have had enough carts to open.

Things quieted down after that because there was nothing left to steal or tear up. In February, I was mercifully transferred to a facility 28 miles closer to my home and the vandals from hell became a distant memory. I still talk to my assistant there and he told me recently the pillars of society had come back for an encore performance. As of this writing, there are still carts missing in action in beautiful North Miami Beach. Throughout this entire ordeal, the police were magnificent, they didn't do squat.

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JOE PANTALEO chips in next with a couple of gems. When he was at Key Biscayne, someone was coming through an area that was not secured but not visible or accessible to the general public, and riding on the course. Not tearing up the turf but leaving tire tracks on fairways and slopes of tees and greens which were visible for days afterward. He and his supervisor decided to set a trap for the culprit. A couple of 8-foot 2x4s with 16-penny nails driven through them were placed at ground level where the vehicle was gaining access.

The next morning, they had caught the perpetrator red handed. When they arrived at the sight of the 2x4 trap, they had captured a police car with 4 flat tires. No sign of the officer or ever an explanation about why he was riding the course between midnight and 4 a.m. One idea comes to mind, but this is a family magazine.

Joe's other story was not that exciting, but it could have been. While at Fort Lauderdale C.C., and while he was out of town, a small, single-engine plane made an emergency landing on one of the fairways. Apart from some torn-up turf and the hassle of disassembling the aircraft for removal, there wasn't much else to tell, but the potential for disaster was huge.

One Adam twelve, see the man...

**THERE ARE NONE
SO BLIND AS
THOSE WHO WILL
NOT LISTEN**



**GREEN
SIDE
UP**

**By
JOEL JACKSON**

Does that quote in the title of this column sound wrong? I'm talking about two different things – sight and hearing, right? Maybe I'm really talking about learning and comprehending. And I guess the difference really lies in the eyes, ears and brains of the beholder.

All this is leading up to an update on the recent flurry of activity surrounding the Sarasota County and City of Naples quests to consider new regulations dealing with the composition and formulas of fertilizers, timing of application, location of application and anything else that will limit the use of fertilizers.

By having industry and IFAS representation at these commission meetings, we have slowed down the rush to judgment to a series of working meetings to hammer out the details of potential local rules and ordinances. While this only serves to frustrate the activists who see all the problems but don't want to hear the facts, it makes the politicians have to listen to both sides before they act.

The activists' view of the world is narrow and very simple — "Man bad, nature good." The politicians are in a tougher spot. They represent all of us. Only a few are on the fertilizer Ban Wagon, and when industry reps and IFAS scientists show up with a folder full of facts and a willingness to

promote and adopt best management practices, it's hard for them to turn a blind eye or a deaf ear to the logic and common sense of our position.

The City of Naples passed a resolution calling for the certification of landscape workers so they understand the importance of being environmentally friendly when they apply fertilizers. So landscape companies will pay \$175 per year for a permit and send their people to training class at \$50 a head.

Who's training the homeowners?

The resolution will expose more landscape workers to stewardship concepts, which is a good thing, but how will fertilizer application actually be monitored? To the city's credit they said they would lead by example. That might be something if they do it right. Actual rules governing fertilizer use in Sarasota or Naples are still being debated so we aren't done yet. You can show your support by attending some of these meetings.

Naturally the activists think it's too little too late and will continue to grumble, which is their right of course. While accusations and fiction often make the story more exciting for stirring up the masses, the general public is mostly ho-hum on the matter. Common sense and good science thankfully have brought some reason to the discussions even if those facts don't make into the headlines.

The moral of the story is simple: When these ordinances are proposed we (YOU!) need to attend these meetings. If the only people showing up are the activists and naysayers with their narrow-minded agendas, then that's all the politicians will hear. They won't see the progress and positive impact the green industries have on the environment.

Say "Thank you" to Dr. Laurie Trenholm of UF/IFAS, Erica Santella of TruGreen Chemlawn, Betsy McCoy of the Florida Sod Growers Cooperative, Mary Hartney of the Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association, Tim Hiers from the Everglades GCSA, George Cook from the Suncoast GCSA and a few others for attending these meetings on your behalf.