

**The original documents are located in Box 44, folder “Real Estate Investment Information” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 13

Carolyn,

The President has the original  
of this letter along with all  
the other information mentioned in  
the letter. I thought it best to  
send you these ornaments or else  
I am afraid they would get lost.  
The President is taking the  
info up to Camp David this weekend.

Dorothy D. 



VANDER MEIDEN, KOTELES & ASSOC., INC.

A R C H I T E C T S

1203 BEECHTREE STREET • GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN 49417 • 842-7350

June 11, 1975

Mrs. Betty Ford  
The President's First Lady  
and also the Nations.  
The White House  
Washington D.C. 20000

Dear Betty:

I am enclosing literature that I have been collecting since I saw you and the President in the early part of May.

The first attempt I made at getting you something was at Admiralty Point which is now being built. There are only two realtors who know that you are interested who have received this information from me. John R. Wood, who is handling Admiralty Point, and Wes Downing, who is in charge of the Wilderness Country Club.

John R. Wood said because of the law that the best they could do at Admiralty Point was to take off 10%, but then you still are leasing the land. Because leasing land at the condominiums is not popular they are now offering the land for sale, but this is for \$20,000 on up. So that must be added to the other costs.

In the information enclosed is also a portion of a newspaper that I received this morning from Naples. I know your interest in a condominium, but I encircled an advertisement on a home which is in a very nice neighborhood in Park Shore. You will notice that the swimming pool is enclosed by screening, it has four bedrooms and it is only about 5/8 of a mile from the beach. This would give you more privacy than the President having to swim in a pool with many curiosity seekers. I don't mean to be trying to advise you on this, but if you see the ample lots that these homes are on (and the land is yours when you purchase the home) you will be impressed.

- Continued -

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I did tell Janet that Wes Downing did say that there would be no trouble late this November for you to use a home on the beach with two guest houses. The home is owned by one of Wes' friends and he will move out for a couple of weeks. If you would like this, please let me know and I will make the arrangements. This way you would get an opportunity to look Naples over and see some of the condominiums plus maybe some homes.

I talked with Dick about you getting this offer from Wes Downing and I decided that if you take the offer I will rent something for the same 2 weeks for Julia and me and Ellen and Dick so if the President could get down for some of the time, we could show him some of the golf courses. Maybe Les Ahrens could fill out our foursome.

Of all the condominiums I am sending you literature on I personally believe that the one at Surfsedge with 3 bedrooms is the best buy. It is on the 2nd floor and can be purchased for \$99,500 and the apartment is next to the beach.

I have avoided sending you any apartments that were on the first floor because I am told that there is damage from hurricanes and although these don't occur very often I am advised against first floors at the beach. I have also been advised to avoid co-ops because you have to take over the failings of any other members.

The map shows you Naples and from the area from Admiralty Point to Gulfside and Surfsedge you would be within 7 miles of about 15 golf courses. The best is the Wilderness, other good ones are Hole-In-The-Wall, Royal Poinciana and Imperial which is just North of the map.

It is difficult making recommendations on many of the condominiums, but I have enclosed those I thought were the best. I wrote and called on probably 20 realtors and threw some of their information out because I knew it was not at all what you had expressed a desire for.

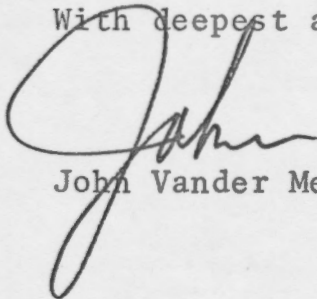
( I had Julia's sister make the little Christmas tree ornaments and am sending them to you not even knowing if you get a chance to decorate trees any more.

I would like to again thank you and the President for the hospitality shown to me, and Julia thanks you for the photographs. Incidentally, the shots David took on my camera turned out great.

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As always Julia and I think that you and the President are the finest representatives that we could have in that office and that you not only add dignity and honesty to the office, but also do a great job.

With deepest affection and respect,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John', with a large, looping flourish extending from the bottom of the 'n'.

John Vander Meiden, Jr.

JVM/ar

Enc.