The POA Bulletin

POA

The Property Owners' Association of The Villages

Issue 36.05

Champions of Residents' Rights Since 1975

May, 2010

Villages Elections Coming in November Please Consider Running for Office

CDD Boards of Supervisors Have 21 Openings For Residents

No, we're not fooling. The elections themselves are not until November, but residents who wish to run for qualified elector positions on the numbered Community Development District (CDD) boards in The Villages must declare themselves with their County Supervisor of Elections (Sumter or Marion) between noon June 14 and noon June 18, 2010. Residents of CDD1 and 2 and Lady Lake/Lake County who want to run for the seats (three which will open in 2010) on the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) in the landowner election must also go through a declaration process at the District Office.

We really would like to see more residents take an interest in their district government and the operation of their amenity facilities and services (VCCDD residents only) and urge each of you to consider running for one of the open positions.

Being a Villager is something special.

Almost all of us have tried doing at least one thing we have never done before – be it playing pickleball, duplicate bridge, painting, line dancing, organizing neighborhood clubs, or whatever, so why not take a try at a government position.

If you are not personally interested in serving, but have a friend who you think would be a good candidate – gather a couple of buddies and approach him/her and encourage them to run. It's always hard to decide to put yourself in an election position – especially if

you have never run for an elected position. That is why friends volunteering to work on campaigns and help them are so important.

In the following paragraphs, we provide information about the qualifications, etc. for just the CDD positions as they apply to ALL Sumter County and Marion County residents.

Included is a separate article (see adjacent article) on the AAC as openings on that Board this year are limited to residents of CDD 1 and 2 and the Town of Lady Lake/Lake County.

Let's start with the basic qualifications you

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3 Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) Board Positions Open

Let's start with a little about what it is and then what basic qualifications you need.

The AAC is a committee of the VCCDD (north of Hwy. 466) and is comprised of six Directors, one each from CDDs 1, 2, 3, 4, The Villages portion of the Town of Lady Lake/Lake County (Town), and the VCCDD.

The AAC business is conducted in the "Sunshine," which means that all meetings and records are open to the public. They meet once a month and often have a Workshop in between meetings.

The terms of office are staggered so that 3 Directors are elected in each of the even numbered years.

The term of office in CDD 1, CDD 2, and the Town end this year and it is those three seats which will be open in the 2010 election.

The only specific qualification to be a Director is that you must be a resident of the CDD or the Town for which you are seeking election

This is an extremely important Committee as these six individuals have operational control over all non-bond required Amenity Funds, an amount in the neighborhood of \$18.5 MILLION DOLLARS during the current fiscal year.

We hope that each candidate can bring something special to the table, be it knowledge of and involvement in the VCCDD recrea-

tional services, financial or accounting background, technology background, management background, etc. Most importantly, however, we believe that as a Director you must be able to see the large picture and yet still represent your constituency.

The powers of the AAC are as follows:

As mentioned above, they have discretion over expenditures of all non-bond required amenity funds, including the lawsuit settlement funds. Other powers include:

• Rate setting of Amenity Facility user

(Continued on page 3)

May 18, 2010 THE NEXT POA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Third Tuesday of the Month 7:00 p.m.

Third <u>Tuesday</u> of the Month – 7:00 p.m. <u>Laurel Manor Recreation Center</u>

Mr. Joe Shoemaker, Principal Attorney at Bogin Munns & Munns, Leesburg, will speak on "When to Hire an Attorney for Homeowner Issues."

Coffee and Donuts
FOR ALL AFTER THE MEETING
ALL RESIDENTS WELCOME - COME AND JOIN US

(Continued from page 1)

need to be a CDD Supervisor.

Each CDD Board is comprised of five Supervisors, each of whom serve four year terms and are elected by State registered voters that reside in their District in the general election conducted by the Office of the Supervisor of Elections in that County. (There are still three Board positions, one each in CDDs 6, 7 and 8 which will be elected by landowners and who will not need to declare their candidacy until the fall)

The specific qualifications to be a Supervisor are that you must be a resident of the State of Florida, a citizen of the United States, AND A RESIDENT OF THAT DISTRICT.

We would hope that all candidates also have a genuine concern for what they believe to be in the best interests of the residents in the District they represent, as they become their voice.

The terms of office are staggered so that 2 or 3 Supervisors are elected in each of the even numbered years.

Okay so far. What are the responsibilities of these CDD Boards?

They serve as the governing body of the District and set public policies implemented by District staff. The CDDs business is conducted in the "Sunshine," which means all meetings and records are open to the public.

They have responsibility for off-site roadway improvements, street signage and/or street lighting, water management and water control structures, conservation areas, recreation trail maintenance, landscaping, entry features, and reserves to name a few.

They generally meet once a month and conduct a public hearing each year when they adopt an Operating and Maintenance budget for the District. The funding of this budget is levied on your annual County tax bill as an operating and maintenance assess-

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ment on individual properties as all residents are required to pay for a share of the CDD maintenance through this annual assessment.

The POA Bulletin – Champions of Residents' Rights Since 1975

The annual budgets run from as low as \$915,741 in CDD 1 to as high as \$3,523,083 in CDD 6.

Need more information, or still not sure you want to be involved?

Then go to your May CDD Board meeting, all of which will be held at the Laurel Manor District Office located next to the water tower and get a better idea of what transpires at a typical monthly meeting. Dates and times are as follows:

Friday, May 14, 2010 – CDD 1 - 8 a.m.; CDD 2 - 9:30 a.m.; CDD 3 - 11 a.m.; CDD 4 - 1:30 p.m.

Friday, May 21, 2010 – CDD 5 – 8 a.m.; CDD 6 – 9:30 a.m.; CDD 7 – 11 a.m.; CDD 8 - 1 p.m.

If you can't make your meeting, or if you want to see what has been happening at recent meetings, go to the districtgov.org web page; click on district; click on your district number; on the right side of the page click on agendas and minutes. You can review the CDD meeting minutes all the way back to 2005

These are the CDD seats which will be open in November:

CDD #; Seat #; Current Seat Holder

- 1 2 Charlie Dunlop
- 1 4 Sy Rosenblatt
- 2 1 Ed Nowe
- 2 2 Robert Gilmartin
- 2 3 Art Terrill
- 3 1 Dick Belles
- 3 2 Bill Ray
- 3 4 Tilman Dean
- 4 3 Jim Murphy
- 4 4 Paul Kelly
- 4 5 Don Deakin5 2 Diane Spencer

(Continued on page 3)

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POA Mission Statement

The Property Owners' Association of The Villages is an independent organization devoted to our home ownership experience.

The Vision/Objective of the POA is to make The Villages an even better place in which to live, where Residents' Rights are respected, and local governments are responsive to the needs and interests of residents.

The POA serves Villagers through programs of education, research, analysis, representation, advocacy, and legislative action.

The POA also functions as a "watchdog" organization overseeing the actions of our developer and our local governments.

Specific POA attention is focused on housing, community, neighborhood, and local government issues. Special emphasis is focused on the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC), our Community Development Districts (CDDs), the Florida Chapter 190 law that regulates CDD operations, and our developer.

The POA has no ties or obligations to the developer of The Villages which might compromise the POA position or its advocacy of Residents' Rights.

The POA, founded in 1975, is the original homeowners' organization in The Villages. Membership is open to all Villages residents. □

The Villages Residents' Bill of Rights

RESIDENTS have RIGHTS to:

- 1. Be treated in a respectful, fair, and responsive manner by the developer and our local government officials.
- 2. Have decision-making authority for important issues in our community.
- 3. Elect our top government officials and approve appointments of the top administrative officials in our community.
- 4. Approve major purchases of common property and the related debt obligations assumed by residents.
- 5. Have local governments that are free of any conflict-of-interest issues.
- 6. Be charged honest monthly amenity fees that are used only for the stated purposes.
- 7. Receive full disclosure when purchasing a home here in The Villages.
- 8. Receive an objective market appraisal for major purchases of common property.
 9. Receive objective unbiased un-slanted
- 9. Receive objective, unbiased, un-slanted news reporting from local news sources.
- 10. Be informed beforehand by the developer on any major change in our community. □

CDD Boards

(Continued from page 2)

- 5 5 Joan Runyon
- 6 1 Sally Moss
- 6 4 (Ronald Ruggeri–landowner election)
- 6 5 Peter Moeller
- 7 1 (Niles Getz landowner election)
- 7 3 Joyce Hughes
- 7 5 Fred Gibblons
- 8 3 (Kelly Florea landowner election)
- 8 4 Erik Greulach

Okay, you want to check it out, so what do you need to do?

If you are interested in running for one of these positions, you need to make the following contact for an information packet which will describe what you must do to get qualified to run (Loyalty oath, get a petition signed by 25 people by noon, May 17, or pay \$25.00, and sign a financial statement)

CDDs 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8 are all located in Sumter County. You need to contact Jeannie Chesling at the Sumter County Supervisor of Elections office (352-793-0230).

If you live in CDD 4 you need to contact the Marion County Supervisor of Elections office (352-620-3290).

Good luck! We hope to see the names of at least two candidates for each position. (In the 2008 general election a number of the seats went uncontested. Surely, in a community with over 75,000 people, we can have at least 2 candidates for EACH seat.)

AAC Board

(Continued from page 1)

fees

- Operational control over the amenity facilities and services (the District staff will be required by the VCCDD Board to abide by instructions of the AAC related thereto
- Approval or disapproval over future debt secured by amenity fees or amenity fa-
- Approval or disapproval over the sale, assignment or trade of VCCDD amenity facilities
- Approval or disapproval of future areas to be brought within the VCCDD territory
- Authorization to establish a maximum amenity fee so that CPI increases and resales will not result in an amenity fee for a particular homesite having to pay in excess of such maximum amount, and
- Appointment of advisory, administrative or operation subcommittees to assist them.

In the last two years, in addition to setting the annual budget, monthly oversight of financial reports, things such as this, which we would expect, some of the other things the AAC has been responsible for are as follows:

• Decision to expend approximately \$6 million dollars of the lawsuit settlement funds to refurbish major arterial recreation trails throughout the VCCDD territory;

- Guest ID policy improvements;
- Review of renewable contracts for consistency and cost savings:
- Renovation of La Hacienda Recreation Center;
 - A dog park in Marion County;
 - Resident friendly catering rules;
- Review of the Savannah Center usage for recreational purposes and the use of the theater.

So, you can see why we believe that we need the absolute best candidates we can find for these positions as they make all of the decisions on how our amenity fees in the VCCDD territory are expended.

If you think you might be interested, we suggest the following:

Go to the May 12th AAC meeting which will be held at the Savannah Center at 1:30 P.M. and get a better idea of what transpires at a typical monthly meeting.

We would also highly recommend that you go to the District website (districtgov.org), click on amenity authority committee, and scroll down and review the agendas with their attachments as well as the minutes of the meetings.

Serving as an AAC Director is a tremendous responsibility and will require many hours of your time, an idea of which you will be able to acquire by reviewing previous agendas and minutes.

Lastly, you might want to talk with one or

(Continued on page 4)

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AAC Board

(Continued from page 3)

both of the two Directors who occupy seats which are not open this year – John Wilcox from CDD3 and/or Rich Lambrecht from CDD4.

The seats that will be open this year are as follows:

CDD/Town Current Seat Holder

CDD1 Carl Bell

CDD2 Marty Rothbard

Town Eldon Sheldon

Information on deadlines and required procedures for getting your name on the ballot were not available at press time – but be watching as they will likely be the end of May or early June. Therefore, if you are interested in running for one of these positions, we highly recommend that you signup for the e-notification system on the VCDD web site (districtgov.org). You will find it on the left side of the home page near the bottom: click on enotifications; complete the signup information; and then scroll down and click on AAC, District elections, and any other topics for which you would like up-to-date information.

Ms. Janet Tutt, District Manager, has advised us that as soon as the election information is available you would then be emailed all updates about the election, getting a ballot, dates, absentee process, etc. Also, you can watch for information in The Daily Sun.

Performing Arts Center

Big turnout at April POA Meeting

Extra chairs were brought out for the April 20th. POA meeting, when Jean Corley-Wix, vice president of the Volunteers for the Performing Arts (VPAA), talked to an overflow crowd about what's being done to get a performing arts center (PAC), and the help from everyone that will be needed to "bring the dream to reality."

Jean said: It's not possible to have a facility of the size and quality we hope for if it is supported only by residents of the Villages, so we are embracing Lake, Marion and Sumter counties in the effort. Central to this decision was that government grants are essential to funding, and to get them, one focus must be on children and young adults: "Given that we here in The Villages are all supposed to be 55 or over... and given that we believe in the wider community and in the education of children in the arts..."

The history of the VPAA is extensive, beginning with establishment of a business plan and adoption of articles of incorporation about five years ago, plus being approved (thanks much to work by Villager Bill Bo-

lash) as a 501c3 organization. This of course makes gifts to the VPAA tax exempt for those who file for exemptions.

A feasibility study was conducted in 2007 for us by Donovan Management Consulting, a Florida firm known for its studies for 501c3 organizations and especially those that are theatrically focused. Fifty-five business and community leaders hereabouts were interviewed intensively and 10,000 residents in the three counties were invited at random to take an on-line survey. More than 13 percent responded (2-3 percent is considered good), suggesting that a PAC is important to people.

Architects, both international and regional, as well as acoustical engineers (because good

(Continued on page 5)





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Performing Arts

(Continued from page 4)

sound and lighting are essential) took part in envisioning the proposed theater. Fundraising consultants met with us, and we went forward with a pro forma cash flow study (the point being, if you build a PAC you have to pay for operating it).

In short, we have had top-notch advice along the way, supported by an internal financial campaign among 800 supporters and two variety shows at Savannah Center, the performers and staff – Villagers all – giving their time. I also want to thank the POA. What a fantastic organization and vision.

There are signals of significant community support for a performing arts center. We asked residents to take part in The Villages' online survey. Although we were unable to learn results of the 2008 survey, we know that in 2009 about 10 percent of write-in comments supported the PAC. We soon hope to know the 2010 outcome.

People ask us how the PAC will be paid for. Not by amenities fees. Not by the Community Development Districts. Not by the Villages Developer.

After we have a Board of Directors (soon), 12 acres of land to build on (later this year, we hope), and endowment funds (to assure that the facility once built can operate even if ticket prices in any given season don't cover expense), we will undertake a major corporate funding campaign, seeking about \$12 million.

We expect some very large gifts and many smaller ones, from residents in The Villages and throughout the three counties. (Everything in the theater building will have on it the name of a donor – even the seats, wash basins, you name it. Hopefully the building itself will bear the name of some vitally important donor.)

Ticket prices? Costs of tickets are driven by entertainers' fees and operational costs, so if you have a big show or star in a 1200-seat auditorium a few times a year, figure about \$80 a ticket. For lesser names and for local amateur entertainment, expect ticket prices from \$35 down to \$20. If you consider the positives of a real theater (staging, lighting, acoustics, comfortable seats, etc.), these are not high prices. Compare these prices to the value you get for your money in Savannah Center, a good place to see a show but not sustainable for either present or future population and expectations.

Will the Villages Developer undertake, underwrite, or support this venue? He can't really. This has to be a non-profit (501c3) operation. It is reasonable for us to expect that family members interested in the arts will support the PAC when it becomes evident that it is going to happen. (We really believe it will happen, and we also believe we have many, many allies in this, so please make your own support known. As with any

CARPET FRIEZE FRENZY

TEXTURED, MIRRORED, MATTE LAMINATE

envisioned outcome, your thoughts and words will have much to do with it.)

We are working to obtain land and are close to hearing the outcome of our quest for one location around the end of June. We expect the center to be adjacent to The Villages on a minimum of 12 acres. (Our on-line survey told us 70 percent of Villagers would travel 10 miles to a theater. Of course, these days that is about the distance across the Villages, so it is no longer seen as an insurmountable distance!)

What shows will people see? Both professional and local entertainment. Typically, professionally presented plays would not be telescoped. As to local entertainment, fourteen Villages performing groups have been

(Continued on page 6)





Saturday 9am-3pm



Performing Arts

(Continued from page 5)

part of the arts alliance that has provided us with financial support. Decisions as to the programs will be made by the Board of Directors and the Executive Director. Space will be made available as it is now at Savannah Center and at recreation centers.

As we put greater focus on the three counties, we are going out and seeking popular and government support. We are furthest ahead with this in Sumter County, which sees the PAC as enhancing the quality of life outside the Villages. We believe people in the other counties will see it so as well.

What is needed now? Jean had this to say: Our Steering Committee needs to identify a Board and the Board must acquire the land. We need to assure an endowment. We need visibility and support in the three counties.

What can you as a resident do? In an upcoming issue of Bulletin we will promote a survey of all Villagers (short of Snow Birds). Please be sure to take the survey!

Meanwhile, we appreciate your positive message! Many at the meeting filled out forms that said they care about this. Thanks!

We will staff a table at the back for the next three POA meetings. Come see us before and after the meetings.

Join us. Together, we really can build a PAC that enhances the future here.



VHA Supports POA On Performing Arts

We have learned that the VHA has asked the VPAA president to submit a "550 to 700 word" article about the Performing Arts Center for publication in the VHA newspaper.

We are happy that the VHA has decided to support the POA in its initiative to make the PAC happen. With this broad-based community support of the PAC idea, we are hopeful that we can be successful. Thanks to the VHA for its support.

Letter to the editor:

Electrical Fires

A recent article in The Daily Sun on April 16 wrote about two house fires that started in the garage due to "electrical malfunctions." ...I would like to know what that electrical malfunction was (ex: electrical plug for golf cart, electrical box, etc) so that I can call my original electrical contractor to check if a similar problem exists in my house. I think it is important for others living in The Villages to know so that a fire

could be averted. The two house fires from lightning last summer were never mentioned again...rumors abounded as to melting gas lines, gas lines not shut down by snowbirds leaving their house for 6 months, etc. and only this summer did the fire department mention in the paper that the gas lines were ruled out. My neighbors and I feel it is a community service to follow up with something in the Daily Sun as to what caused yesterday's fires so that other residents can be aware of a possible problem in their Village home and repair it before another fire occurs.

Charlotte Rupakus

Editor's Note: Please see the Fire Chief's comments on the next page.

The POA thinks that The Villages Fire Department should publish a comprehensive assessment of any fire in The Villages as soon as that information is available. If there are safety issues involved, residents need to be informed about the situation asap.

We can only do what we think we can do.
We can only be what we think we can be.
We can only have what we think we can have.
What we do, what we are, what we have
All depends on what we think.



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Fire Chief Explains Fires

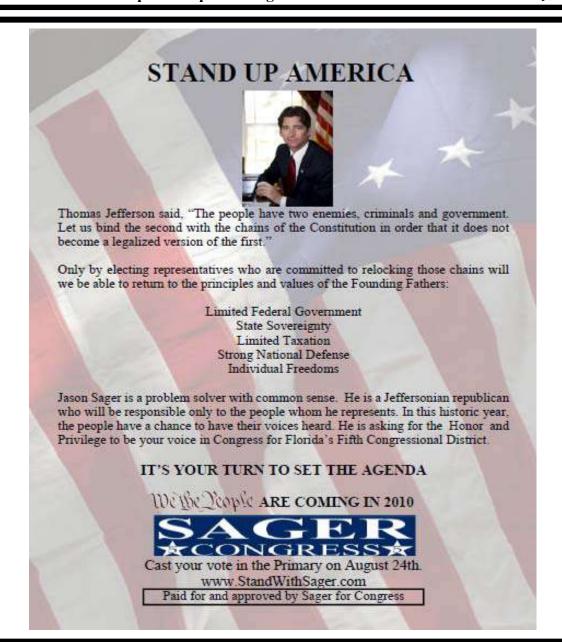
At the April POA meeting, questions were asked about recent house fires in The Villages. Mike Tucker, Villages Fire Chief, responded with the following:

The first fire started in the area of the remote control battery charging station. We could not determine an exact cause and it is now in the hands of the insurance company. Any information will be submitted to the state fire marshal with our regular reporting. The insurance company or the property owner is not required to inform us as to their ultimate findings. So the chance of getting an exact cause is remote.

The second fire originated in the area of the golf cart. This does not mean that it was the golf cart or cart charging system. We have ruled out criminal activity. We will submit any equipment and model information to the state fire marshal. This case is also in the hands of the insurance company. I have asked the homeowner to share the insurance company's findings with us when they let her know. [We] spoke with the insurance representative [recently] and they are bringing in an electrical engineer to help with the investigation.

Michael S. Tucker Fire and Public Safety Chief







Keep Your Doors Locked

Immediately below is the text of an email circulating widely in The Villages about two disturbing incidents involving potential home break-ins. The follow-up story is from the Center District staff in an effort to get to the bottom of the factual situation and what really happened.

We were at a friends house yesterday in Duvall sitting in their living room...a guy walked into their lanai and tried to open the sliding door into their bedroom. He did not knock...just tried to open the slider. When he found it locked he immediately left. Our friend went out immediately and asked him what he was looking for...he said "another

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address".....to fertilize the lawn....????

Also, there was a woman in Lynnhaven got out of the shower and found a lady in her house with a roll of paper towels. She asked her what she was doing in her house. She said she was going door to door looking for houses to clean and giving everyone a "free roll of paper towels"....She told her to get out of her house immediately!

This was reported at the Lynnhaven ladies luncheon and several others commented she had been to their door, but declined cleaning offer. There was a car out front with a guy in it...(The thought was they were also looking for things "to take")....

We get a false sense of security living in The Villages. Please pass this on to everyone you know and please KEEP YOUR DOORS LOCKED! (Even the garage door coming into the house if you have your garage door open)......

Wendy Kueck

Editor's Note: In each of these experiences the Community Watch phone number, at 753-0550, should have been called immediately. If it looked like a crime was being committed, or locations being "cased," then 911 or your county's law enforcement offices should have been called. If you experience something like this, never confront the person directly, but try to remember physical characteristics, clothing, car license plate numbers, accomplices, etc. And, remember to keep your doors locked and garage doors

down at all times.

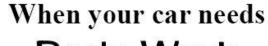
On Monday, April 12th, VCCDD staff began to receive an unusual amount of email originating from a single individual within the community. The email was entitled "Keep Your Doors Locked." The email described some situations in which homeowners had experienced either someone in their home, or attempting to enter their home. Due to the number of emails as well as the resulting aura of "fear" resulting from these emails, staff made contact with the individual originating the email in an effort to gain a better understanding of the situation.

Battalion Chief Scott Wilder was able to make contact and discovered that, as with all rumors, there are some parts that are factual while the majority of the story – especially when spoken – takes on a slightly different life than when passed along as gospel in the written form of an email.

The individual initiating the email had, in fact, been at a friend's home as the friend was preparing to move into the new home. At this point the home was vacant and the two individuals were sitting on the floor. While sitting there, a man fertilizing a neighbor's yard did attempt to open the door.

The individual in question was in fact wearing a uniform of the company he worked for and a company vehicle was witnessed in the area as well. When approached, the indi-

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Keep Doors Locked

(Continued from page 8)

vidual stated that he was trying to locate a new client for whom he was supposed to provide service.

At this point the "fertilizer man" and the two individuals parted ways, and neither of the individuals felt it necessary to contact law enforcement.

Battalion Chief Wilder has also been in contact with Sumter County Sheriff's Office to advise them of the situation and to determine if any other similar situations had been reported. To date no other similar situations have been reported.

In retrospect the situation involving the "fertilizer man" appears to be a serious error in judgment as to how this man conducted business and not an attempt to illegally enter private property.

Battalion Chief Wilder also inquired as to her including a description of the second incident in which a homeowner came out of the shower to discover a woman in her home holding paper towels.

At this point in the conversation the email initiator stated that she did not have any factual information of this incident, and stated that she had only "heard" about this incident at a "social" function.

This same incident was described to VCCDD staff more than a year ago as well.

When asked about this incident Sumter County Sheriff personnel also did not have any reports of an illegal entry described other than the rumored incident.

The misinformation being transmitted via email has accomplished scaring several property owners, but it does not appear to point to a rash of illegal entry incidents by criminals.

VCCDD staff is continuing to work with the law enforcement agencies of the respective jurisdictions to determine if any further actions need to be taken.

Staff continues to encourage residents to contact law enforcement in situations where they feel threatened or witness a violation of the law.

Lightning Matters

By Len Hathaway
The Study Group on Lightning

We are sometimes asked in our Power Point presentation, *Lightning Tips for Villagers*, if it is worthwhile to replace the corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) gas pipe in our attics with rigid steel pipe. Here are some issues you may wish to consider when making that decision.

Background

CSST is a thin-walled gas pipe that is typically routed horizontally across the attic and supplies gas to the furnace, hot water heater, stove, clothes dryer, and any other gas appliance. It is economical, easier to install than rigid pipe, and is allowed by the plumbing codes in all 50 states. In some homes CSST may also be found in the vertical drops inside walls to each gas appliance. In other homes the vertical drops inside walls are typically heavy-walled galvanized pipe. CSST gas pipe is not as robust as rigid steel pipe and therefore may rupture due to electrical arcing from lightning, releasing gas, ignite and cause fire damage to the home.

2007 Class Action Lawsuit

In 2007 there was a nationwide class ac-







Lightning Matters

(Continued from page 9)

tion lawsuit where the court found, "that CSST poses an unreasonable risk of fire due to lightning strikes". The defendants were four manufactures of CSST who denied the allegations but decided to settle rather than risk further legal costs. The case involved the failure to warn the consumer about the lightning-induced fire problem. Homeowners in the affected class were entitled to apply for a voucher to help offset the cost of a lightning protection system (i.e. lightning rods) installed by a court appointed Underwriters Laboratories "listed" installer.

There was no product recall and CSST continues to be permitted in all states.

Local "Direct Lightning Strike" Fire Experience.

Of the seven homes destroyed by lightning in The Villages during the past six lightning seasons all had a natural gas installation and presumably CSST gas pipe. To the best of our knowledge, in no case did the official investigation report link CSST to the event. However, it is not uncommon to hear residents make such a link. In one case the homeowners opted for all electric appliances when the home was reconstructed. Their next door neighbor replaced all of their gas appliances and also went all electric. In another case the homeowner retained the gas but specified that the plumbing contractor use

rigid galvanized pipe.

Local "In-Direct Lightning Strike" Fire Experience

We have also received reports from four residents who experienced a CSST gas line breach during a thunderstorm where there was no physical evidence of a direct lightning strike to the home. This is what is called an in-direct lighting strike.

In each case the homeowner saw, heard, or smelled something, went to the attic to investigate and found fire burring on the CSST gas line. The fire department was called promptly, the gas was shut off, the fire did not spread, and the home was saved.

Issue to Consider

Changing out the CSST with rigid steel pipe does not change the probability of a direct or in-direct lightning strike to your home. The chance of a home being struck is very low. If a home with rigid steel pipe is struck and the gas lines are not breached it MAY give firefighters a better chance to limit damage. As discussed above this is highly dependant by timely notification to the fire department.

In discussing CSST replacement with two local plumbing contractors we estimate that about 60 homeowners have changed out their CSST with rigid galvanized gas pipe. The cost is in the \$800 to \$1,200 range. You may also wish to consider if the cost of CSST replacement would be better spent to offset the expense of installing a lightning protection

system according to the national standard by an Underwriters Laboratories and Lightning Protection Institute "listed" installer.

Homeowners needs to assess their own tolerance for risk when considering this decision.

All homeowners would be wise to know how to shut off their gas under emergency conditions.

The Study Group on Lightning, a small group of volunteers, with no affiliation to any firm or organization related to the lightning protection industry, offers a 30-minute Power Point presentation, *Lightning Tips for Villagers*, that addresses direct lightning, indirect lightning, validation of LPS, CSST gas pipe, common myths and misunderstandings. It is intended to help homeowners make an informed decision on their own residential lightning risk.

If your group or organization would benefit from a presentation contact lhatha@aol.com or STALIT1@aol.com.

□









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David Oreck, Founder

Cancer Center Still Pending

I talked with Jennifer Parr regarding The Villages donating or selling some land for the Cancer Center in the Villages. I learned who to contact and wrote them a letter; below is the answer. I hope you all can help locate the Cancer Center here in the Villages. Your publication is doing a fine job and I am going to join, check will follow.

Clark Tadych

Editor's Note: Thank you for sharing your comments and the response letter which you received from Mr. Lee Huntley, CEO of the Central Florida Health Alliance, which reads as follows:

Dear Mr. Tadych:

I am responding to your recent letters to the Chairman of our Board of Directors, Dr. David Sustarsic and Dr. William Dalton, CEO of Moffitt Cancer Center. On their behalf, as well as my own, thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts and concerns regarding the planned location of the Cancer Center being developed by Central Florida Health Alliance.

We understand how personal health care becomes when family members are dealing with daily visits for care. We appreciate it is important that patients are able to stay close to their family and support systems, especially for cancer care. We are early in our planning and still strongly considering many issues vital for organizing and implementing this healthcare service.

We also want you to understand that a comprehensive, <u>regional</u> and specialized Cancer Center, located in Leesburg, would greatly reduce drive rime to another distant cancer facility from hours to minutes, improving the patient experience considerably. We are taking all this into consideration with the goal to offer services that are most convenient to the over 400,000 residents in our service area. We are mindful that we also need to insure that we can initiate this specialized care in a safe manner with the physicians and support services properly in place with the necessary physical space to exceed our patients' expectations.

As I said to the many Villagers who at-

tended the recent Villages Homeowner's Association meeting, the center planned to be developed on our Leesburg campus isn't the <u>final</u> step for the provision of cancer care in the region. It is merely the <u>first</u> step.

Let me assure you that our talented team of professionals has their "eyes on the ball" as far as the Villages community is concerned and even now are discussing when and how we will provide similar services in your hometown community. We didn't disappoint you when we brought interventional cardiology and joint replacement services to The Villages Regional Hospital.

I don't believe we will ultimately disappoint you with cancer services either. I hope you can exercise some patience while our team works through all of our plans. You have my assurances that we will be communicating further as plans are finalized.

Please be assured that your opinions were heard, are of great value to us, and will be taken into consideration as our coordinated planning for The Villages Regional Hospital and Leesburg Regional Medical Center continues. Trust us to make the best decisions

(Continued on page 12)

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Cancer Center

(Continued from page 11)

possible in regards to cancer care in The Villages.

Thank you for writing. Sincerely,

Lee S. Huntley, FACHE

President & CEO

Editor's Further Note: Mr. Huntley implies that the final decision has not yet been made, and that some accommodation for The Villages might be in the offing.

We do not know if the 67,000 sq. ft. hospital building (Health Alliance owned in The Villages), will be selected as the location for the Cancer Center. This seems like a better alternative than building another \$20 million facility on the Leesburg Campus.

We would urge Villagers to continue writing to the decision makers. In the Central Florida Health Alliance, this would be Lee Huntley at the email address:

Lhuntley@leesburgregional.com or at the street address:

Mr. Lee Huntley Chairman and CEO Central Florida Health Alliance 600 E. Dixie Avenue Leesburg, FL 34748

If you haven't already written or emailed to the decision makers on this important issue for our community, please do so now.

AAC MEETING April 7, 2010

Old Business:

Ken Laws

• Multi-Modal Paths - The committee received an updated report from Engineer Jonathan Thigpen of Kimley-Horn regarding the Recreation Trail reconstruction project. The project is on schedule with construction anticipated to begin in July following the awarding of contracts. It is expected that paving and grading will be substantially completed by Thanksgiving 2010. CDD3 requested that the AAC modify the plans for the Belle Aire crossing to go behind the gates. The AAC agreed with this change and the engineers were so notified. CDD3 further clarified that the Polo Ridge and Glenbrook crossings will remain in front of the gates as originally requested. The AAC directed staff to proceed with design plans for the Summer-

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chase trail, which was recently determined to be the responsibility of CDD3 rather than CDD2. While CDD2 had agreed at an earlier workshop that this trail not be considered for refurbishment at AAC expense since it is not considered a main transportation thoroughfare (like Buena Vista and El Camino Real), CDD3 has asked for reconsideration. The AAC agreed to consider a cost sharing negotiation with CDD2 and 3 once the bid pricing has been received.

• The AAC, which has responsibility for (Continued on page 13)







POA Financial

The Treasurer's position is open on the POA Board of Directors. Several candidates have expressed interest – and, we plan to talk with other interested candidates. So, if you are interested and have a background in finance or accounting, please contact Joe Gorman at 259-0999 for more information.

Also, we have openings on the POA Board of Directors. If you have been thinking about getting more active in the POA organization, this could be an ideal way to do that. The time commitment is less than you might think, and the rewards are truly gratifying. Call Joe at 259-0999.

Both of these are volunteer positions – but, we can offer you all the coffee and donuts you want at our monthly meetings. That's a heck of a deal.

POA Bulletin Delivery

Snowbirds or seasonal residents, please let us know the months you are gone, and we will stop delivery of the Bulletin during that time. Just email our distribution manager at delivery@poa4us.org, or call Shelley Pfaff at 259-3611, with your name, address, village, and the months you will be away, and we will add you to our "No Throw" List. If we inadvertently deliver to an unoccupied house, thanks in advance if you or one of your neighbors can pick up the Bulletin and either keep or discard it.

Remember 9/11 September 11, 2001 We Must Be Vigilant



611 North Dixie Ave. Fruitland Park, FL 34731

AAC Meeting

(Continued from page 12)

the maintenance of the Chula Vista and Mira Mesa trails, agreed to include these trails in the overall trail construction project. Staff indicated that ongoing maintenance of these two trails by the AAC would cost nearly as much as a reconstruction and that future upkeep and maintenance would be substantially reduced with the new asphalt paving.

- The AAC recommended approval of the Amendment to the Interlocal Governmental Agreement to allow for landowner absentee ballots in the election of future AAC members.
- The Committee discussed the Chula Vista recreation center and provided a consensus to proceed with wallpaper replacement, enclosure of the storage area and reconfiguration of the reception area. Staff was also directed to review lighting and air conditioning needs in the main meeting room.
- The AAC directed staff not to proceed with a requested retrofit to the storm water flow system at Pond B-11A (Wisteria). The retrofit would have restricted flow of water from that pond in the event of a sinkhole in the pond connected to it.

New Business:

• Recommended approval of the Architectural Review Committee Manual and the Amendment to the Investment Policy Manual for the Recreational Amenities Division.

Staff Report:

• As of March 1st, CDDs 1-4, plus the AAC for Lady Lake/Lake County, have commenced participation in the enforcement of deed restrictions.

Other:

- Please go to the www.districtgov.org website for the official minutes, agendas and meeting schedule.
- Next AAC meeting Wednesday May 12th, 1:30 p.m. at the Savannah Center □

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Follow-Up from April POA Meeting

The POA General Membership meeting is conducted at Laurel Manor at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month.

A regular occurrence at each meeting is a 30 minute Open Forum when attendees can ask <u>any</u> questions or express any concerns about life in The Villages. We are fortunate to usually have both Janet Tutt, District Manager, and Rich Lambrecht, Chairman of the AAC, in attendance to help us with the answers and to do any necessary follow-up.

Last month concerns were raised about the amount of debris which was on the roadways in the area of CR 466A due to the fact that a number of the construction trucks were not covering their loads with tarps. Ms. Tutt advised that Sumter County laws required them to be tarped and that she would follow-

up. We have since learned that she contacted Mr. McDonough in the construction department about the debris and he told her he will work to reeducate his contractors and copied the subcontractors in home construction about the concern and requested them to do the same.

Another area of concern was the house/garage fires that have occurred. Residents would like to know what the causes were so that they might better protect their own homes. Concerns about failures in the electric boxes were also expressed by a number of attendees who had experienced this problem. We asked if these safety issues could be discussed in an article by Chief Tucker. We were advised by Ms. Tutt that she has asked Chief Tucker to include safety suggestions regarding garages/fire hazards in future articles he does in the paper and to report the causes of fires once the investigations are complete.

We would like to remind all residents that

they need to keep accurate records of all interaction and activities with the Home Warranty Office. A number of questions were raised as to what could be done about drainage problems, electric circuits, etc. after their one year warranty had expired if they had reported the problem prior to that date. In each instance the resident had not kept records of their report of the problem so had no basis to try to get the Warranty Department to even consider any post warranty assistance.

Lastly, if you need to hire contractors, etc. and you do not have a reliable source for recommendations, you can contact the Home Warranty office for a list of 'approved' companies. Also, we suggest that when you are having major work done, that once you narrow down your choice of contractors that you contact Seniors vs. Crime (753-7775 in Marion County or 753-2799 in Sumter County) to see if any of your selections have been reported for any issues or problems.

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Happy Mother's Day

Once upon a time there was a child ready to be born.

The child asked God, "They tell me you are sending me to earth tomorrow, but how am I going to live there being so small and helpless?"

God replied, "Among the many angels, I chose one for you. Your angel will be waiting for you and will take care of you."

The child further inquired, "But tell me, here in heaven I don't have to do anything but sing and smile to be happy."

God said, "Your angel will sing for you and will also smile for you every day. And you will feel your angel's love and be very happy."

Again the child asked, "And how am I going to be able to understand when people talk to me if I don't know the language?"

God said, "Your angel will tell you the most beautiful and sweet words you will ever hear, and with much patience and care, your angel will teach you how to speak."

"And what am I going to do when I want to talk to you?"

God said, "Your angel will place your hands together and will teach you how to pray."

"I've heard that on Earth there are bad men. Who will protect me?"

God said, "Your angel will defend you even if it means risking its life."

"But I will always be sad because I will not see you anymore."

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God said, "Your angel will always talk to you about me and will teach you the way to come back to me, even though I will always be next to you."

At that moment there was much peace in heaven, but voices from Earth could be heard and the child hurriedly asked, "God, if I am to leave now, please tell me my angel's name."

"Her name is not important...You will simply call her Mom."

(author unknown)

Boil Water Alert to Villagers

We had a chance to talk with several residents who were in the Boil Water alert area about a month ago. Some of these folks only knew about it because they were told by a friend, who learned about it from someone else, while shopping at a supermarket -many hours after it started. Some people sel-

(Continued on page 16)



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following actions should be taken to insure

that the greatest number of people are noti-

fied on a time-urgent basis about serious

in a bold-outlined box, on the front page,

above the fold, and run daily until the situa-

the notice in the crawler at the bottom of the

screen, repeated daily several times an hour,

1. The notice in the Daily Sun should be

2. The Villages TV station should carry

problems like this:

tion is resolved.

Boil Water

(Continued from page 15)

dom watch the Villages TV, and only listen to the radio when traveling about in the car.

But when it was over, they got the reverse 911 call, often on land line phones and cell phones at the same time. We were surprised at the effort to let residents know it was over, but not to tell them at the start.

We would like to restate suggestions from the previous issue of the Bulletin:

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should also be verbalized by the news readers in every 20-minute cycle.

- 3. The Villages radio station should carry the notice daily several times an hour until the situation is resolved.
- 4. Notices should immediately be posted at all postal stations in the affected villages until the situation is resolved.
- 5. A sign, perhaps 3' by 4', should be displayed with the notice at all gate entrances to the affected villages until the situation is resolved.
- 6. For those who have signed up for email notices from the Center District office, daily emails should be sent out repeating the notice until the situation is resolved.
- 7. A reverse-911 call capability, similar to what Sumter County has for crime and weather alerts, should be used to notify affected residents via land-line phones until the situation is resolved.

It is not adequate to say, as the Daily Sun did, that the notice in the newspaper remains in effect until further notice, if some residents did not get the notice via the newspaper or other means in the first place.

There may actually be some legal liability

(Continued on page 17)

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Boil Water

(Continued from page 16)

for our Center District office if fully appropriate actions are not taken to notify our residents on a timely basis.

Summary – We cannot have inadequate responses to serious situations that may affect the health and well being of our residents.

We would further suggest that the appropriate parts of this technique also be used for other serious situations needing resident notice, including: evacuation orders during hurricanes, area brush fire warnings, smoke and respiratory alerts, rabid animal warnings; crime alerts, as well as, severe weather



alerts, etc.

We would also ask the Villages Public Safety department, the Center District office, and the VHA to support this POA position. We all need to be on the same page when it comes to these important safety alert matters.

We also learned about a police action in Sumter County.

Residents saw a criminal running thru their back yards. Police were in hot pursuit. One police officer had a police dog. Two helicopters were overhead. The guy was considered armed and dangerous. It went on for at least an hour.

Residents received no reverse 911 to warn them of the danger. Reverse 911 should have been used in this situation.



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Discount Partners Continued from Page 20

(Continued from page 20)

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<u>Snowbird Home Watch</u> - Watch your home while you're away. \$40.00 per month; 10% discount to POA. 352-259-1143 or check out our website at www.bikinbob36@aol.com

Sonic Drive-In - Wal-Mart Shopping Center, 352-347-2860. Tuesday Nights: 5 single patty burgers for \$5 after 5 PM. Add-on at extra charge. Wednesday Nights: 1/2 price single patty burgers; 99¢ single topping sundaes. Valid at the Summerfield location only.

<u>Southern Image Photography</u> - 97 Del Mar Drive, Spanish Springs, 352-430-2056. 10% POA discount on the Special of the Month.

<u>Stewart Lawn & Landscape Maintenance</u> 352-347-3792. 20% discount to POA members.

<u>Tip Top Tree Experts</u> - All tree work, landscaping, paving, pressure wash, auto body & paint. 10% POA discount. Call 352-516-8820.

<u>Tri-County Landscaping</u> - 25% POA discount off first 2 months of lawn care, 10% all other services, 352-693-3202.

<u>Ultimate Handyman Svcs</u>, - Drywall, trim/crowns, paint/remodel. Insured. 10% POA discount. John Sainiak, 352-516-2976.

<u>Vic's Embers</u> - 7940 US Hwy. 441, Leesburg, 352-728-8989. Complimentary after-dinner cocktail or dessert for each person in the party. Not valid with other special offers.

Villages Car Wash and Lube - Bichara Blvd., La Plaza Grande Center, 352-753-1306. \$1.00 off the reg. price of silver or gold wash.

<u>Villages 24/7 Kart Aide</u> - Triple A Rescue Service for golf carts. 10% POA discount on yearly membership. Call 352-409-5853 for details.

<u>Villagers Home Watch</u> - call us at 352-753-6545. 10% POA discount off reg. price of \$40 for first three months of service for POA members.

* Village Spa and Salon –13940 Hwy 441, Suite 802, Oakland Hills Plaza, 352-205-7081. 15% off spa pedicure.

<u>Weed Getter Landscaping & Lawn Maintenance</u>. Trim Hedges, Mulch, Planting, Etc. 10% discount for new POA Members 352-361-2854.

Wholesale Computer Components - The Terrace Shoppes of Spruce Creek, Summerfield, across from Wal-Mart, 352-245-1500. \$15.00 POA discount on any computer repair. □

If you need to contact any Sumter County official, rather than paying for the long-distance call to the Bushnell offices, just use the toll-free number at 1-866-878-6837 (1-866-8SUMTER) **Our Monthly Gardening Column:**

Dragonflies and Their Cousins

By Anne Lambrecht Master Gardener

Our Florida gardens are more than mere foliage and flowers. They contain worlds of creature families; worlds of birth, death, drama—real circles of life. Getting to know and understand some of these creatures can help us enjoy and appreciate our beautiful gardens even more.

Dragonflies and their smaller cousins, Damselflies, are one of the oldest groups of flying insects, in the order Odonata which means "toothed ones". The wingspan of Paleozoic dragonflies was 2 feet, their jaws able to tear into small rodents. Sure glad we're not living in those days! There are approximately 5,600 known species of Dragonflies worldwide and Florida is home to nearly 170 dragonfly species. Dragonflies are among the fastest aviators in the insect world, hitting speeds up to 35 mph. They are considered beneficial insects because they are ferocious eaters of bad bugs like mosquitoes. Their diet includes a tasty fly, midge, moth, bee, butterfly and even other dragonflies. Conversely, they are enjoyed by birds, frogs and spiders. It's a cruel, cruel world out there.

Dragonflies' heads are round with enormous compound eyes composed of 30,000 lenses, giving them almost 360° vision. Their eyes come together at the top of their head. Their two sets of wings are unequal with the hind wing being much broader at the base. Dragonflies at rest hold their wings straight out or sometimes turned slightly downward and forward. Unlike other four-winged insects, dragonflies are able to beat their fore and hind wing pairs independently or synchronously, which enables them to hover, fly backwards and make extremely tight turns. Florida dragonflies range in body length from the 4 inch Regal Darner to the one-inch Eastern Amberwing. Damselflies are smaller, weaker fliers and their eyes are distinctly separated on their head. Their wings are narrowed at the base and are typically held together above the body when at rest. Damselflies in Florida measure from less than an inch to just over two inches. They both come in a variety of colors and have wonderful names like Purple Skimmer, Mocha Emerald, Cinnamon Shadowdragon, Black Saddlebags, Halloween Pennant, and Ebony Jewelwing.

There are seven families of dragonflies in Florida, the most common being the Darners and Skimmers. Darners are named for their long slender abdomens which resemble darning needles. Remember when people darned socks? Darners are large, colorful dragonflies, many with a wingspan of about 4.5 inches. Their larvae are large, too, and are a menace to minnows and small fish.

The common Green Darner and the Regal Darner hunt near the ground, in the dim light of evening, devouring many times their weight in mosquitoes, and earning the name "Mosquito Hawk".

Dragonflies are sometimes hard to identify because the males and females are colored differently and also they are marked differently at certain times of the year.

Because of their reproductive cycle, dragonflies are closely tied to watery habitats such as shady creeks, coastal marshes or sandy bottomed lakes. The type of bottom (sandy or muddy), whether there are water plants or not, how much sun the water receives, the permanence of the body of water throughout the year are all important to dragonfly larvae. Baby dragonflies are born and live in or near the water for many days and sometimes months, before they emerge and molt into adulthood. The dragonflies that live in Florida are biological indicators of water quality because they are so sensitive to chemical, temperature and acidity changes in their environment. Many species have become much less common because of habitat loss and pollution.

Dragonflies are posers. It is fun to put slender bamboo sticks around the garden and watch the dragonflies rest on them. When it is very hot, some dragonflies get in the "Obelisk" position which means they do a "handstand" on the tip of their perch, with their abdomen high in the air. Scientists believe they are cooling themselves off by reducing the surface area of their body exposed to the rays of the sun.

Your yard can be dragonfly friendly if you place a few shrubs and small trees near a fish-free water garden. But they will come to dine even if you do not have water. Reducing the use of pesticides and fertilizers also will help to provide a backyard environment from which to enjoy these fascinating little creatures.

It's that time of year again and the Husband just cannot understand when I come running in with a specimen to show him, why I cannot wipe my feet first. Actually I do wipe my feet: there just might be dripping debris from my knees and hands. But what's a little good old earth between friends?



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(Continued on page 17)