

THE



Issue 41.04



BULLETIN

April 2015

Free Copy

Champions of Residents' Rights Since 1975

The POA Website – www.poa4us.org

Recreation Trail Striping The Multi-Modal Path Story Continues

Thanks to the interest of The Villages' residents, and especially to the Board of Supervisors of CDD4 who kept the issue alive by going ahead with placing centerline striping on their multi-modal paths, the use of striping on the Recreation Trails continues to be a hot topic. If you are not familiar with this issue, you can catch up by going to our website, poa4us.org, click on "Archived Bulletins", and read the front page article in both the February and March 2015 Bulletins.

The POA has pursued the striping issue because an overwhelming number of our members favored some type of striping on the trails. Most residents believe striping would visually assist golf cart operators during night time driving and inclement weather, resulting in a more comfortable experience under those conditions.

A description of various striping options being considered, (yellow skip centerline striping, white curb striping, and/or reflectors with solid yellow lines on the curves), are described in this issue on page 9, in an article which provides the results of POA surveys completed in Districts 2 through 9.

So, where do we go from here? District Manager Janet Tutt provided the following memo to all of the residential boards and the AAC at their March meetings:

"ISSUE: Request from the Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) to designate a

Board/Committee member to participate in a multi-modal path discussion group.

"ANALYSIS/INFORMATION: At the January 5, 2015, PWAC meeting, presentations were made by The Villages Public Safety Department relative to golf cart accident statistics, and Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.'s engineer, Mr. Busche, regarding striping the multi-modal paths. Based on the relevancy and importance of the information, the PWAC requested the same information be presented at the February monthly meetings for Districts 5-10. This provided an opportunity for the District Boards to discuss the information presented and provide input for their PWAC representative for the March 2,

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WOW!!!! WHAT A GREAT PARADE

The POA is proud to have played a part three years ago in helping the Irish, German and Italian Clubs save the parades. The Parade Committee, Club members, Volunteers and the District Recreation Staff are to be commended for an **ABSOLUTELY OUTSTANDING EVENT!**

Highlights from John Rohan's "Recreation Update"

The reason I always start off my speaking engagements with some stats is that we have a lot of great facilities out there from which the residents can take advantage. We currently have 23 Villages recreation centers, 75 swimming pools, 11 softball fields, 9 regional recreation centers, 45 neighborhood recreation centers (those are the ones with the neighborhood postal facility and usually have the adult swimming pool with it), and we have 603 holes of golf. It's really exciting and we keep

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Tuesday, April 21, 2015

POA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Third Tuesday of the Month – 7:00 PM

Laurel Manor Recreation Center

**"Tips on Preventing Crime"
Presented by Joe Pine
Metro Crime Prevention
of Florida**

**Followed by Questions & Answers
Audio and Visual in Overflow Room
Donuts and Coffee after the Meeting**

All Residents Welcome - Come and Join Us!

Trail Striping

(Continued from page 1)

2015, meeting of the PWAC.

"Following extensive follow-up discussion at the PWAC meeting, the Committee members came to a consensus that any issues or suggestions pertaining to the multi-modal paths needed to be discussed Villages wide. District Manager Janet Tutt said the meeting is about golf cart safety on the paths and not exclusively about striping on the paths.

"The PWAC requested an exploratory meeting take place that would include members of the PWAC (representing CDDs 5-10), representatives from CDDs 1-4 and the AAC. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss, review and identify any issues pertaining to the multi-modal paths that require additional review." (All of the invitees accepted and the Multi-Modal Path Discussion Group Workshop has been scheduled for **Tuesday, May 5th at 9:00 AM, at Eisenhower Regional Recreation Center in the Theater Room.**)

The POA has identified three areas that they believe should be thoroughly reviewed at this workshop, including:

1) Striping for night time and inclement weather golf cart operators.

2) the conflicting findings of the Sumter County Sheriff's Department, and the residential Districts' attorney, Valerie Fuchs, on the definition of a golf cart, and

3) the use of reflectors to identify islands on the multi-modal paths instead of the solid yellow lines approaching and going around the obstacle as appears to be recommended by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

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STRIPING ALTERNATIVES:

1) Yellow skip centerlines with solid yellow lines on the curves – Engineer Busche opined that they would fundamentally change the trail to a "golf cart highway", that there is no accident data to warrant a change, that golf cart drivers might crowd walkers thinking they could not cross over the skip centerline, and that a striping decision must be consistent throughout the Districts.

2) Reflective white solid striping on the curbs – Mr. Busche was asked if he would provide his opinion on this type of striping but he stated that he had been commissioned to evaluate centerline striping and had not reviewed the issues around curb striping and refused to provide an opinion until he had time to study it. (We certainly hope that his opinion will be secured and presented at the Workshop.)

3) Roadway pavement markers (RPM's) with solid centerlines on curves – Mr. Busche had recommended this during the initial discussions about striping the curves.

Members of the POA Board of Directors have attended various District and AAC meetings and have had numerous discussions on the issue. We all agreed that something needs to be done for the golf cart operators using the paths at night and in inclement weather, and certainly striping would be much less expensive than lighting the paths. We unanimously agreed that reflectors should not be used due to the fact that they could cause bicycle accidents and tripping events for walkers. Even though we were split on the desire for a centerline, curb striping, or having both a centerline and curb striping, the walkers on the POA

(Continued on page 4)

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, unslanted news reporting from local news sources.
10. Be informed beforehand by the Developer on any major change in our community. □

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A BIG WINNER!!

At the March 17th POA Meeting our speakers donated a complete lightning protection package which included installation (donated by Glen and Bobby Schulte of Triangle Lightning Protection, Inc.) and all materials (donated by Chuck Cooley, Marketing Manager for ERICO), valued at \$1,295. The lucky winner of the drawing for the lightning package was Doug McIntosh. □

DID YOU KNOW?

FIRST AID: In the event of a cut, a sting, or a bruise, there's a first aid kit close at hand throughout The Villages. Each of our thirty-two neighborhood/regional Recreation Centers has a mobile, well stocked, first aid kit with band-aids, gauze bandages, tape, and ice packs ready for you when you need it.

In a more serious situation -- or, when the seriousness of the injury is at all uncertain, officials recommend that you call 911 and let the call taker determine whether you need emergency help. Don't hesitate! No one will criticize you if you err on the side of safety first. □

REASONS TO JOIN THE POA

The Board of Directors of The Property Owners' Association of The Villages (POA) would like to thank you for your support. We will continue to speak out for Residents' Rights as we have in the past. The POA has no special interest or hidden agendas, except to protect, preserve and improve the rights of all residents. We believe the POA is a needed check and balance to ensure that the Developer and governments decisions are in the best interest of the residents.

The POA will continue informing and educating all residents (POA member or not) on issues that have an impact on their quality of life and their public safety in our free POA Bulletin.

Every third Tuesday, 7PM, we have a gen-

eral meeting at Laurel Manor, where residents can participate in a question and answer session and voice any concerns, as well as hear a speaker on a selected topic.

POA membership entitles you to participate in our Discount Partners Program. (See page 23 for information.) As an active member, you will also qualify to receive our monthly email alert which keeps you instantly updated on Villages issues.

Your membership and contributions are vital to our existence. The larger our membership, the more credibility and strength the POA has. If you want to know more about us, please visit our website at poa4us.org.

Get involved, support your POA in 2015. □

POA 2015 MEMBERSHIP – NEW/RENEWAL & DONATION FORM

Please complete each section and return to: **The POA, P.O. Box 386, Oxford, FL 34484**

New Renewal Number of People in Household

PLEASE PRINT! or Use the **ONLINE FORM** found on our website **POA4US.ORG**

NAME(S)(1) _____
(SAME LAST NAME)

NAME(S)(2) _____
(DIFFERENT LAST NAME)

ADDRESS _____

VILLAGE _____ VILLAGES ID# _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

(We respect your privacy. Your email address is for POA Official use ONLY)

1. MEMBERSHIP NEW/RENEWAL: Please enroll my POA membership for **2015** at the **Annual Rate of \$10 per household.** A check payable to POA is enclosed. Memberships are for Households and run annually from **JAN 1ST to DEC 31ST.** (check the box that applies)

I will include a stamped, self-addressed envelope with this form and my check. Please mail me my 2015 Membership Card.

Please hold my POA Membership Card for me to pick up at one of the monthly POA meetings.

2. ADDITIONAL DONATION:

Please accept my additional 2015 contribution to the POA in the following amount: \$ _____

3. TOTAL CHECK AMOUNT: \$ _____

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Trail Striping

(Continued from page 2)

Board convinced the others that while a center stripe might enhance the experience for nighttime golf cart operators, it made some walkers uncomfortable about being squeezed by golf cart operators. Since the survey of our members had high support for both centerline and curb striping, the POA Board agreed that curb striping would **identify the boundaries of the path** which was the concern at night and during inclement weather, without the possibility of negatively impacting other users of the path, and they **unanimously agreed to support reflective white striping on the curbs.**

MULTI-MODAL PATHS AND GOLF CART/BIKE LANES ON SHARED ROADWAYS (Can street legal golf carts and LSVs use them?):

Here are a few excerpts from the July 6, 2010, Memorandum from District Counsel, Valerie Fuchs, to Janet Tutt follow:

"Village Community Development Districts No. 1-4 ("Districts") were developed as mixed-use retirement communities pursuant to County and State approved development orders ("D.O.s"). The D.O.s require that the Districts

provide non-automotive, non-vehicular, multi-modal paths for bicycles, pedestrians, skaters and golf carts... It is clear that the intent of the D.O.s is to provide a uniform system of multi-modal paths throughout the Districts as alternative transportation routes for pedestrians and golfers to access The Villages' numerous golf courses and amenities. It is also clear that the paths shall be open for use by pedestrians, skaters, bicycles and golf carts..." "The question has been asked whether other means of conveyances such as Segways, mopeds, motorcycles, street legal golf carts and low speed vehicles ("LSV") can use the multi-modal paths..."

She advised that, "... a golf cart is defined as a "motor vehicle" designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting and recreational purposes (F.S. 316.003) and not a "vehicle" for transporting people on the highways, unless a golf cart is made "street legal". However, **there is another definition of a golf cart in the Florida Statutes** that could, and maybe should, have been referenced instead, which is as follows:

Title XXIII **MOTOR VEHICLES** **Chapter 320** **MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSES**

320.01 Definitions, general. - As used in the Florida Statutes, except as otherwise provided, the term: (1) "Motor vehicle" means:

320.01 (22) "Golf cart" means a motor vehicle that is designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding speeds of 20 miles per hour.

(41) "Low-speed vehicle" means any four-wheeled vehicle whose top speed is greater than 20 miles per hour but not greater than 25 miles per hour, including, but not limited to, neighborhood electric vehicles. Low-speed vehicles must comply with the safety standards in 49 C.F.R. s. 571.500 and s. 316.2122.

Using the definition she opted for, she then opined that those statutory provisions apply to the State's uniform traffic control requirements for public streets and are not dispositive as to determining the permitted uses of the multi-modal paths and went on to conclude that "street legal" golf carts were still golf carts and could use the multi-modal paths. In regard to their use by LSVs, she advised that, "...While LSVs were not in existence at the time the D.O.s were approved, it should be noted that The Villages golf courses allow LSVs meeting certain standards to utilize the golf courses." She then deemed it a fair interpretation that the intent of the D.O.s is that LSVs are a type of vehicle that fits within the definition of "golf cart".

IN CONTRAST, that does not appear to be the same interpretation that is being used by Sumter County Law Enforcement. In a recent POA question and answer forum the following was asked: Is it legal for "street legal" golf carts and LSVs to ride in the golf cart/bicycle lane on streets shared with vehicles, or are they required to ride in the main part of the street with the cars, et al? A) Sergeant Siemer conferred with Lt. Wolfe and they advised the POA that, "...after much research and talking with the Sheriff's Office legal adviser, here is our take on it: NO, LSVs and registered Golf Carts (street legal) cannot travel in the lane that is marked cart/bicycle

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Trail Striping

(Continued from page 4)

lane." When asked about their use on the multi-modal path (recreation trails), Lt. Wolfe referred us to the District for this answer, which can be found in the 2010 Memo that we cited above.

IF STRIPING IS 'REQUIRED' TO BE CONSISTENT THROUGHOUT THE VILLAGES, SHOULDN'T THE DEFINITION OF A 'GOLF CART' ALSO BE CONSISTENT THROUGHOUT THE VILLAGES?

(NOTE: we have heard from more than one street legal golf cart operator that they use the multi-modal paths because then they can exceed their 25 mph limit without having to worry about getting a speeding ticket.) Therefore, we hope that this issue will be addressed at the upcoming Workshop.

IDENTIFICATION OF OBSTACLES (ISLANDS) IN THE MIDDLE OF MULTI-MODAL PATHS:

We are aware of a number of golf cart operators who failed to see a reflector indicating the division of the path and hit the curbing. When reviewing surveys and articles from around the country regarding striping, we did notice the recommendation to use yellow re-

flective paint identifying an obstruction in the middle of a shared path, such as our islands, and hope the Engineer that approved the use of reflector(s) will reevaluate this situation.

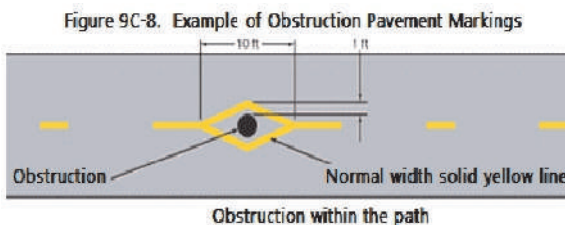


Figure 9C-8 Example of Obstruction Pavement Marking (MUTCD). □

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Recreation Update

(Continued from page 1)

adding more stuff and things keep getting improved.

We have had a big push the last couple of years to get information out to the 110,000 residents about what's going on with the Districts, the board meetings, our budgets (we're actually in budget preparation right now). We offer CDD orientation held every Thursday at 10AM, Welcome Wednesday at 8AM, and Resident Academy (for information, see the District website, districtgov.org).

If you have ideas and/or suggestions for this upcoming fiscal year, talk to your District Board members, come to the meetings, go to

the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) and get involved with the process by sharing your thoughts and ideas, because we actually use that input in our decision making for our programming for the upcoming areas.

We have a lot going on, for example:

- Complete renovation of Paradise Park - Residents are out there using the outdoor exercise equipment, equipment that you would find in a fitness center. No other park has that. There is also lakeside walking paths and picnic areas;
- Total renovation of the Southside Neighborhood Recreation Center;
- Renovation of the La Hacienda Sports Pool complex;
- Demolition of the old one room Tierra Del Sol Recreation Center and creation of a totally new multi-room recreation center which is taking shape very nicely and we hope to have open sometime in May;
- Chula Vista was also completely renovated;
- The new El Santiago Recreation Center has been approved and they have already set up a construction site for that location. So, unless you have a hard hat, please steer clear from there as the demolition guys get in there and start tearing it down

and it will be just like the new Tierra Del Sol. It will be torn down and a brand new facility will be built overlooking the beautiful golf courses and we will have that open sometime this year around December.

(Editor's Note: All of the above improvements were funded with monies received from the class action lawsuit settlement, supported by the POA.)

On the south side of CR466, we have opened the following new Recreation/Neighborhood Recreation Centers - Lake Deaton, Dunedin, Atrium Dells, Manatee Village and Soaring Eagle. The LaBelle Neighborhood Center is getting ready to open.

No matter where you live, one of the beautiful things about living in The Villages is that you have access to all of these wonderful amenities. There are over 1,000 different courts and rooms and billiard tables that are available for your use and enjoyment.

Our job is to facilitate everything. Staff's job is to try to establish "on-going" best practices with standards, inventory, equipment and supplies, so no matter where you go, our recreation centers should have common, similar equipment and supplies at those facilities.

(Continued on page 14)




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Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) Meeting Highlights March 11, 2015

Audience Comments:

- A resident requested assistance on a road maintenance issue. Staff was provided with the address and will review the roadway.

Consent Agenda:

- Consideration to remove the \$4 payment of trail fee by resident spectators on executive golf courses was addressed. The concerns brought up by AAC members included the payment of non-residents and a request for a clarification on the proposed spectator limit. Staff requested the item be added to the March 18th Budget Workshop agenda to allow adequate time to review and further discuss the issues.

New Business:

- Improvement to and staffing of the Del Mar Gate where there continues to be concern about the high volume of traffic was reviewed. The four-way stop near the gate which was recently implemented by the Town of Lady Lake has not solved the back-up problem which results from three lanes of traffic trying to turn into one lane of traffic.
- Staff presented an option to install a second gate to allow two lanes of traffic, instead of just one at an estimated cost of \$90,000. The proposal would allow three lanes of traffic to be funneled to two lanes at the gate and then to one lane. The AAC voted unanimously to have Staff work with the Lady Lake Town Commission and the District's engineering firm to develop a site plan for the changes to bring back to the AAC for approval. Janet Tutt also indicated that the engineer will look into the possibility of a golf-cart bypass, similar to the one at the Morse gate near Hwy 27/441.
- Staffing of the gate was also discussed, including possible staffing by a gate atten-

dant on either a full or part-time basis, seasonal adjustments, and staffing for major events at Spanish Springs Town Square.

- A decision was requested on the approval of the Agreement, effective April 1, in which the Buffalo Crossing Assisted Living facility would pay amenity fees so residents of 10 units could use amenity facilities. Due to a glitch, the agreement was not attached to the Agenda. The AAC voted to continue their meeting to precede their scheduled budget workshop so that they would have adequate time to review the Agreement before voting on its acceptance.
- Chairman Forrester volunteered to represent the AAC at the Multi-Modal Path Discussion Group which will be held sometime in April

Old Business:

Capital Projects Update:

- El Santiago Recreation Center: Demolition of the existing building was scheduled to take place the week of March 23, 2015. (Paid for with lawsuit settlement funds.)
- Tierra Del Sol Recreation Center: The contractors are installing the exterior finishes and completing the interior framework. Projected

completion date: May 2015. (Paid for with lawsuit settlement funds.)

- Gate Connectivity: Final cost will be \$104,136 LESS than the original projected cost. Staff advised that April 6, 2015, will be the date of the "PLUG IN" ceremony. (Paid for with lawsuit settlement funds.)

PLEASE GO TO THE districtgov.org WEBSITE FOR THE OFFICIAL MINUTES, AGENDAS AND MEETING SCHEDULE.

NEXT AAC MEETING – WEDNESDAY, April 8, 2015, 9:00 AM AT THE SAVANNAH CENTER. □

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NRMLA LENDER

Problems with Verizon Reception

We have been contacted regarding the poor Verizon service and/or reception in the area of Brownwood and have been asked if we would study the problem and determine what, if anything, Verizon can do to provide improved reception in this area.

Along these lines we have included in The Bulletin a form (below) which residents can fill out and forward to us identifying the problem in their area.

Please include the information below and forward to rehesto@poa4us.org or mail to: Property Owners Association, PO Box 386, Oxford, FL. 34484-0386.

Attention: Verizon Program:

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Phone numbers:

Home _____

Cell _____

Cell Phone Brand _____

Short statement regarding your reception problems:

_____ □

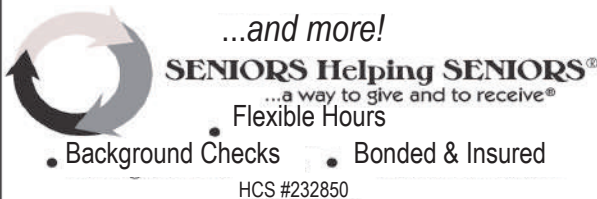
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Owens-Corning Update

Effective March 16, 2015, the Sumter County Office of Seniors vs. Crime transferred approximately 180 cases involving complaints of **defective** Owens-Corning roofing shingles to the Florida Attorney General's Office in Tallahassee. Her Office of Special Investigation has now assumed responsibility for pursuing those investigations. We have no further details as to how they will proceed or even when, or if, any Villagers will be contacted by that office. **We can continue to accept new cases from Villagers, but will only be forwarding them to the AG's Office for further action.** □

Sinkhole Insurance Update

The POA Sinkhole Insurance Committee continues to move forward on its investigation of a possible means to make some type of sinkhole insurance more available to Villages residents. Thus far, they have been able to find a way around each roadblock they have encountered, but there are more and bigger ones ahead. Members of the Committee have been exploring various regulatory issues and meeting with individuals in the insurance industry. Evidence indicates that they are building some institutional support. Stay tuned! □



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Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 - POA Recreation Trail Striping Survey

RESULTS

PURPOSE OF SURVEY: To determine the preferences of residents in each District.

BASIC DATA:

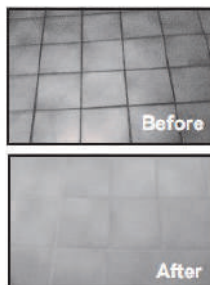
	CDD2	CDD3	CDD4	CDD5	CDD6	CDD7	CDD8	CDD9	DISTRICT Average
Households Opened the Email:	387	460	673	361	1,056	779	834	685	654
Households responding:	161	198	261	308	323	266	280	207	232
<u>How many people are in your household?:</u>									
One Person:	15%	16%	14%	12%	13%	9%	13%	5%	12%
Two People:	84%	82%	84%	84%	85%	90%	85%	93%	86%
More than Two People:	1%	2%	2%	4%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%
<u>Do you own or drive a golf cart?</u>									
Yes:	95%	94%	93%	95%	97%	97%	96%	96%	95%
No:	5%	6%	7%	5%	3%	3%	4%	4%	5%
<u>Do you ever drive a golf cart at night or in the rain?</u>									
Yes:	91%	87%	86%	90%	94%	95%	94%	94%	91%
No:	9%	13%	14%	10%	6%	5%	6%	6%	9%
<u>Are you in favor of striping Recreation Trails/Multi-modal Paths?</u>									
Yes:	83%	86%	82%	85%	84%	77%	84%	82%	83%
No:	17%	14%	18%	15%	16%	23%	16%	18%	17%
Note: If you answered YES to question No. 4, please answer ALL remaining questions, 5 - 9. We need that data to get the best evaluations. THANK YOU. If you answered NO to question No. 4, you will be taken to the end of the Survey.									
<u>Do you favor using Reflective Yellow Skip Centerline Striping?</u>									
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a 3 foot long center stripe with 9 feet between stripes. It identifies the lanes for users traveling in opposite directions. It alerts users to use caution if passing slower traffic. It improves visibility at night and during rain storms. (Cost is about \$ 0.12-0.33 cents per household, per year)* 								
Yes:	89%	88%	94%	90%	83%	91%	81%	82%	87%
No:	11%	12%	6%	10%	17%	9%	19%	18%	13%

	CDD2	CDD3	CDD4	CDD5	CDD6	CDD7	CDD8	CDD9	DISTRICT Average
<u>Do you favor using Reflective White Solid Striping on the Curbs?</u>									
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It identifies outside edges on BOTH sides of the Recreation Trail. It improves visibility at night and during rain storms. It enables users who may be blinded by the glare of oncoming headlights to look down and away from the glare. It has a longer life because it is not in the high traffic areas. (Cost is about \$ 0.24 – 0.66 cents per household, per year)* 								
Yes:	88%	84%	84%	87%	87%	82%	92%	81%	86%
No:	12%	16%	16%	13%	13%	18%	8%	19%	14%
<u>Do you favor using Roadway Pavement Markers, (RPM's)?</u>									
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These are reflective, raised markers, (usually white or yellow), glued to the road, (like the blue reflectors previously used in The Villages to identify fire hydrants). Used primarily on curves and narrower sections of the Recreation Trail in addition to centerline striping. Note: RPM's can be a tripping hazard for pedestrians, skaters, cyclists, etc. (Cost is about \$ 0.04 per household, per year)* 								
Yes:	46%	45%	41%	62%	58%	52%	61%	74%	55%
No:	54%	55%	59%	38%	42%	48%	39%	26%	45%
<u>Do you favor using BOTH Centerline and Curb Striping?</u>									
	(Cost to do BOTH is about \$ 0.36 – 0.99 cents per household per year)*								
Yes:	81%	75%	76%	77%	75%	79%	75%	74%	77%
No:	19%	25%	24%	23%	25%	21%	25%	26%	23%
<u>Do you favor using ALL three (Centerline/Curb/Reflector)?</u>									
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> But only using Reflectors/Solid Yellow Lines on curves and narrower sections of the Recreation Trails. (Cost to do ALL three is about \$ 0.40 - \$1.03 per household, per year)* 								
Yes:	51%	50%	41%	60%	58%	49%	58%	63%	54%
No:	49%	50%	59%	40%	42%	51%	42%	37%	46%
*Cost varies depending upon the amount of recreation trails that are located within your District boundary.									

□

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Another Villages Expansion

The Villages has proposed the addition of three hundred new courtyard villas in Marion County. The villas will be part of The Villages CDD4 and will be age restricted to 55 and older.

They are planning to develop two parcels, each with a recreation center and swimming pool, consisting of a total of 64.27 acres. Both properties abut CDD4 residential areas (Village of Calumet Grove and Village of Woodbury) and will have golf cart access to the rest of The Villages through those Villages. All motor vehicles will have in and out access to the new villas ONLY via CR42 and/or the Mulberry/VA Plaza area.

The properties are located at the north end of The Villages, just south of CR42. One is on the west side of Buena Vista Boulevard, just west of the new Baptist Church which is located on CR42, and the other is a split plan on the east side of the VA Clinic. The northern piece of the property will be zoned commercial (hopefully to include an additional grocery store), and the southern part of the parcel will make up the new residential area.

Gary Moyer, The Villages Vice-President and Director of Development, said there are numerous details yet to be worked out and that The Villages will be working with CDD4 and Marion County in the future on the planning for these new parcels.

When queried by an audience member, both Mr. Moyer and Mr. Roy acknowledged that the proposed 300 new units would be the ones permitted in the lawsuit settlement agreement. Thus, having reached the 300 limit, any additional new amenity contracts in the VCCDD territory would have to be approved by the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC)

A meeting/workshop with the Developer's representatives has now been scheduled to be held at 1PM on April 7th at the Mulberry Recreation Center. All residents are welcome to attend and ask questions. □

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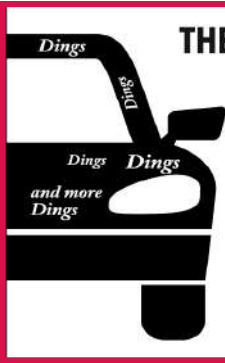
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DISPOSING OF BIG TRASH: Anything too big or heavy for a trash bag is classified as a bulk item (like furniture, large household items, homeowner - not contractor! - generated remodeling debris, bicycles, lawn mowers, loose items in open boxes, toilets, carpeting, fencing, lumber, and electronic equipment - just about everything except bricks and concrete) and is included in your garbage service.

Bulk items should be placed curbside and must be placed at least three feet (3') away from normal household garbage, trees, fire hydrants, cars, and/or sprinkler heads.

There is no additional fee for this service, BUT pick-up should be scheduled in advance and will usually be set for the next day. Keep in mind: Trash will go into a standard size

pick-up truck (not a big garbage truck) so there is a limit on how much they'll take at one time. Call Monday thru Friday. 8AM to 5PM; Sumter/Marion (352) 748-0109; Lake (352) 323-0824. □



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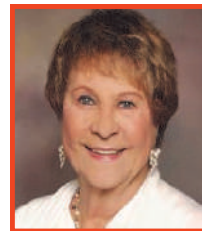
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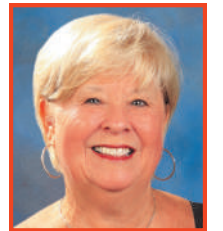
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Carol Youkey
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Marilyn Gerke
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Cissie Smith
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Karla Mason
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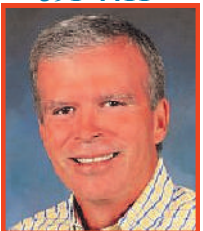
Lauren Arch
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Frances Pierce
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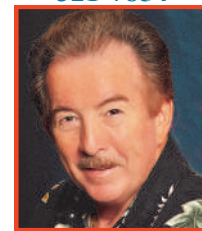


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Sheriff's Tips

Tips to help secure your home:

1. Look around when leaving your home. A burglar may be watching your neighborhood waiting for people to leave.

2. If you see a suspicious person or vehicle call the Sheriff's Office and make note of the tag on the vehicle if possible. A description of the people and vehicles will be helpful when investigating.

3. If only one person leaves the home and shortly afterwards someone you do not know knocks on your door, call the Sheriff's office and report a suspicious person right away. The reason to make this call is that it could be the burglar checking to see if anyone is home prior to breaking in.

What to do when you find that your house has been burglarized:

1. Upon learning that your house has been broken into, exit the residence the same way you entered and call the Sheriff's Office and wait for a deputy to arrive.

2. Someone may still be in your house, exiting your house is safer for you and better for the deputy who will be looking for evidence.

3. Do not touch anything or walk around inside or outside of the residence. Leave everything as you found it. There could be evidence that could lead to the capture of the suspect. When you walk around inside the residence, you are covering up their possible shoe prints on your floors. When you touch the items in your house you are covering, smudging and ruining possible fingerprints that could be discovered by the deputy.

4. During the investigation remain outside




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as not to contaminate the residence and lose any evidence that might be found by the responding Crime Scene Deputy.

5. Be patient during the investigation. It takes time for the Crime Scene deputy to re-

(Continued on page 14)

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Sheriff's Tips

(Continued from page 13)

spond. It takes time for the responding Deputy to complete his paperwork and a thorough investigation.

We know that it can be hot during the summer and cold during the winter. Once a Crime Scene Deputy responds and begins processing the residence, they make sure that an inside room is completed so you can return inside to one room while they complete their investigation.

To recap:

1. Exit your house and call the Sheriff's Office.
2. Do not touch anything or walk around your house.
3. Remain outside during the investigation.
4. Be patient.

In an Emergency, dial 911. If there is not an emergency, call the non-emergency number to report the burglary at 352-569-2621.

William O. "Bill" Farmer, Jr., Sumter County Sheriff. □

Recreation Update

(Continued from page 6)

We work really hard to be sure we purchase a quality product. We're at the Lincoln Theater in Laurel Manor. If I bring people from the outside to see this recreation center they say, "no way this is a recreation center".

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I want to make sure that there's a plan in place, and so does our team, that is sustainable for residents today, tomorrow and in the future. We're going to keep maintaining all these facilities. You should be happy when you wake up in the morning and you read that a new recreation center north of CR466 is being renovated, that a new park is opening, etc.

You've got great leadership with Janet Tutt and the rest of the folks who are in charge of the District departments. We're here to serve. At the end of the day our responsibility is the residents, but it's really about us working together. It's about the partnership and relationships and working with the residents.

There's a lot of great energy going on in our community here, but if we do have a problem, let's try and work through it. Send me an email. I'd rather get 5 emails, if something's not working properly, than not get any.

I'm glad to be here tonight speaking to the POA membership. Elaine and I have worked together for years. If she hears of a problem, she gives me a call. Let's keep that friendship

(Continued on page 15)

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Recreation Update

(Continued from page 14)

going. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH JOHN ROHAN:

1) I would like a good answer on why you don't put up lights at Hacienda Pool and keep it open late at night. A) That would be something that would need to be taken before the AAC for consideration. If they direct staff to put lights up – swim away! That's something you can approach them about.

2) Are there plans for a pickleball complex? A) "Complex" is a big word that has many descriptors to it. I do know that at the last regional recreation center there are going to be 18 pickleball courts. You can call that a complex if you want. I call it a lot of pickleball noise!

3) I'm a bingo player. We have a problem. When your recreation paper comes out on the last Thursday of the month for the activities for the coming month, we have to be up and at your facility by 6:30AM. At 6:30 in the morning the recreation center is not even open, so we're standing out there in the cold. When the doors open, we are given a number. If my number is under 10, I have to come back at

(Continued on page 16)

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Recreation Update

(Continued from page 15)

8:30, when the computers open, so you can start selling. If my number is in excess of 10, all the bingos are sold out. By 9:00 AM, the bingos are sold out for the coming month. So somehow, enough facility and enough time needs to be available to accommodate everyone. Some of us can't get out to play pickleball. The centers are beautiful and should be used to the maximum. **A)** I will definitely follow up with you on this issue to get more details. I want to review that whole environment. I will briefly just say that we are looking at technology to upgrade our software for recreation facility management and activity registration to get more in line with the times by going to online activity registration and things like that. We are certainly taking a look at that and even our scanners are in the process of being updated. We are trying out some new ones that are actually tablets that show 95-100% accuracy when reading the ID cards,

both inside and outside.

4) We just moved to The Villages in October and I do enjoy reading the Recreation News. I see a lot of activities that I cannot participate in because these activities are full and have waiting lists. In particular, many of the arts and crafts facilities are totally booked up, like glass fusion and things like that. When I walk by the room where these people are working, there may be only 6 people in the room using the facility. I think for something as popular as that, you need to have a better sign up system, so that the facility is totally used. Just because the club has 50 people, obviously all 50 of them are not going to show up that day. To have a session that is closed to everybody, but only have a handful of people show up is a real waste of the facility. **A)** We have 2,400 different clubs and some people think recreation runs glass fusion and other clubs like quilting, but we don't. The resident volunteers run those clubs and activities, so if I can get some more specific information from you after this meeting, I can

hone in on the program that you are talking about and get you a more definite answer on why that program is being run that way.

5) I am in the Air Gun Club and we have two very large trophies which we can't keep at Chula Vista. Is there any reason why we can't get a trophy case? **A)** In my 22 years, we have had some mixed results with trophy cases. Trophies have a tendency to take up space and accumulate dust and over time people don't know who "Tom Smith" was. We had a trophy case a long time ago. Trophy cases take a lot of maintenance and upkeep. Once we start giving a trophy case to one club or organization, I've got to start looking at space for all of them. So I'm not opposed to the idea if you already have an existing space, but when we design our facilities, we take into consideration whether a trophy case is a good use of space for a particular recreation center.

6) In the past, we were able to prepare food in the kitchens in the recreation centers and

(Continued on page 17)

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Upcoming Events

CHRIS LEMMON AS HIS FATHER JACK IN **A TWIST OF LEMMON**
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Recreation Update

(Continued from page 16)

that is no longer allowed. Why is this? A) I need to look into more detail about what day and time, and what activity, and what type of food was being prepared. Just so you know, if you read the news, E-coli and all those other diseases are out there. When you start using raw eggs and raw meat, in a kitchen that is used by multiple people and which doesn't get wiped down or cleaned enough, it presents some health risks. Most people bring covered dish items that are already cooked. So, if staff sees raw food or something that can contami-

nate and get somebody sick, we are going to err on the side of public health and welfare in that situation. But if you're warming up your lasagna dish, there's no problem with that, that's already cooked. It's the preparation of certain food products that we're going to be sensitive to right now.

7) I have a question about the sale of items that are created in the craft programs here in the District. It's really confusing as a craft per-

son. A) We have clarification: Pam Henry met with the craft folks and some of the residents. The craft ladies and gentlemen developed their craft guidelines on the sale of their product, so you can get a copy of that from Pam and it spells them out. It may not be perfect, but it is a general guideline because people were making stuff and then selling it and making a profit, thus running it as a proprietary activity, which we do not want to get into. □

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LETTERS

Letter to the Editor:

Verizon Cell Reception

My husband and I purchased one of the villas in Antrim Dells last spring. One of the first things we discovered was that we had great difficulty making cell phone calls from there. Calls would drop without warning, or it would be very difficult to understand the person we were talking to (and vice versa). We had chosen not to install a landline phone in the new house, so our 2 cell phones are our only means of communication. Also, I am a computer consultant and I use my cell phone to make client calls. It is very embarrassing and unprofessional when my calls get dropped unceremoniously, or my client tells me the

call is garbled.

Any pressure you can bring to bear on Verizon to install more cell towers in the southern end of The Villages or do whatever else is needed to improve the cell service, would be very much appreciated.

Thanks for your attention to this important matter.
Mary Jo Burnes

Editor's Note: We have had several calls and letters on this same issue. You will note on page 8 of this Bulletin that we have an article requesting information from others in your area who are also having this problem. We will be contacting Verizon, but to get their attention, it will be helpful if we have a large number of complaints from users. □

Letter to the Editor:

Resolved Issue

Hooray for the Property Owners' Association (POA)! I am a part-time resident after recently purchasing my parents home from them here in The Villages. My parents have lived here for 30 years and have enjoyed many aspects of life here.

My introduction to the POA occurred after we recently had a problem which NO one had

(Continued on page 19)

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Resolved Issue

(Continued from page 18)

an answer for. After numerous dead end calls and being sent in many different directions, my dad referred me to the POA.

One call to the POA, and Elaine Dreidame, and we had our answer before five o'clock the same day. This was a complicated issue which, without the knowledge and understanding and research of years of contractual agreements for property owners, we would not have had the same positive outcome. We are so lucky to have this organization and we are very impressed members!

By the way, it is only Ten Dollars a year for each Village household!

I am not sure they can help with all issues, but if you are not a member – I HIGHLY recommend you join or learn more about them; they are available for all of us here at The Villages.

Thank you again Property Owners' Association!

Sheryl Hamel Wallace and my Dad, Robert Hamel

Editor's Note: You are quite welcome. We are glad we had the background information to be able to help you. □

Letter to the Editor:

Contractor Issues Info

The article, *Issues With Contractors*, was 100% right on. If that article was taken from another publication or pamphlet, I wish you would publish the name and where it came from. If a member of staff wrote it, then he or she really did their homework.

Perhaps the POA could make up pamphlets, or at the very least, run that article about every six months.

Again, congratulations on a great article.

Joseph Quinn

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Editor's Note: Thank you. Actually, the article was a slightly condensed version of a presentation made by Attorney Joe Shoemaker, from Bogin, Munns & Munns, at a recent POA meeting. In most instances we summarize the content of our presentations in an article in the next Bulletin. All of the Bulletins are on our website (poa4us.org) and we do have a search engine so they can be identified by topic. □

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Leading the Fight Against Scams

Green Dot MoneyPak

Card Scams

It's called a Green Dot MoneyPak card and it is becoming a popular financial instrument used by fraudsters to obtain the hard-earned life savings of our senior population. So how does it work?

The potential victim will probably receive an unsolicited telephone call or a prize announcement in the mail telling them they have won a sweepstakes, lottery or an expensive automobile. The victim will be instructed to provide a small amount of money in order to pay for fees associated with the prize or taxes (commonly known as an advance-fee fraud scheme). The fraudster instructs the victim to purchase a MoneyPak card in a specific dollar amount.

A MoneyPak card is a prepaid card purchased at retail outlets that contains a personal identification number (PIN). The fraudster convinces the victim to provide the Green Dot card PIN so the victim can receive their winnings or automobile. Once the fraudster has the MoneyPak PIN number, they can transfer the funds to a prepaid card, and cash it at an ATM. **This provides the fraudster with a completely untraceable money trail!**

After the victim provides the initial money to the fraudster, then the victim starts receiving numerous telephone calls and mailings from fraudsters that eventually lead the victim to lose thousands of dollars.

Advance-fee fraud schemes are just one of many schemes used to entice seniors to lose their life savings. Another example is known as the "Grandparent" or "Emergency" scam in which a fraudster convinces the victim that their grandchild or relative is in jail, in the hospital or stranded in a foreign country and needs money to get out of the particular situation. Again, the fraudster entices the victim to transfer those funds via a Green Dot card.

Since the beginning of 2012, the Federal Trade Commission has received more than

30,000 complaints about fraudsters claiming to be a friend or family member in distress, costing Americans more than \$42 million dollars. Unfortunately, the majority of these forms of fraud go unreported because the victim feels embarrassed and doesn't want to tell anyone.

In testimony before the US Senate Committee on Aging in July 2014, the Green Dot Corporation testified that the MoneyPak PIN product has been removed from Walmart and many other Green Dot retailers and will be completely unavailable in all Green Dot retailers during 2015. It is being replaced by pre-paid debit cards.

The problem facing seniors in The Villages is that you can still lose your hard-earned money in a relatively short period of time. Within the last week, a 91 year old widower came to Seniors vs. Crime to report losses in excess of \$11K since December 2014 through the purchasing of MoneyPak cards at local drug stores. He was expecting to win cash prizes and automobiles.

As older Americans lose their loved ones and live alone, they are often vulnerable to unsolicited telephone calls from individuals who show a personal interest with the sole purpose of conning them out of their life savings.

If someone contacts you or a loved one with an unsolicited offer:

- Don't give out your financial information to individuals you don't know.
- Don't be pressured into making an immediate decision.
- Get all the information in writing before you agree to a purchase.
- Contact Seniors vs. Crime to discuss any unsolicited offer.

If you think you may already have fallen victim to a Green Dot Card scam, the bad news is that you have probably lost your money. There is virtually no way to recover funds transferred to a fraudster via these cards. Still, you can come to any office of Seniors vs. Crime and we will do what we can to assist you.

Don't you become a Green Dot Scam vic-


(Continued on page 21)

Green Dot MoneyPak

(Continued from page 20)

tim. No one will watch out for your interests better than **YOU**. When in doubt as to whether an offer is a scam or not, you can always contact your local Seniors vs. Crime office for advice or assistance. It is much better to do this **BEFORE** you spend the money than after.

There is never a charge for their services. Seniors vs. Crime can be reached at 352-753-7775 at the Marion County Sheriff's Office, 352-689-4600, Extension 4606 at the Sumter County Sheriff's Office, or 352-750-1914 at the Wildwood Police Annex in Brownwood. Volunteers' at all three offices are ready, willing and able to assist you. To keep up with the latest scams, **LIKE** 'Seniors vs. Crime Region 4' on Face Book. □



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Our Gardening Column:

Florida Gardening 101

by Anne Lambrecht, Master Gardener
annegarden@embarqmail.com

If you have gardened somewhere on this planet, you can garden in Florida. Oh yes, you can! Gardening in Florida is not rocket science, but it is DIFFERENT. The plants, the soil, the heat, the water are all different. But the basics are not, and with a little "education" about Florida's extremes, you'll be all set. **YOU CAN DO IT!**

First, you must realize that you now live on land that many thousands of years ago was underwater. The soil is sandy in some areas and full of clay/limestone material in others. And when your house was built, who knows where your yard fill came from.

Get a soil test for pH. The Master Gardener's offices in Sumter, Lake and Marion Counties, will do soil testing for free or a small charge. They will tell you the procedure when you call. Most plants grow best in the pH range of 5.5-6.5.

Know your yard: you know where the sun comes up is east. So, you then know which side of your house gets the afternoon sun (west), so you can place your plant accord-

ingly.

We here in North-Central Florida (Orlando is considered central Florida) are in Zone 9A. We used to be Zone 8B. I consider us lucky to be in this zone. We have seasons-subtle, yes, but we have 'em. The springtime is crystal clear with new growth bursting out all over. There are blazing hot, sweaty humid summers. There are crisp, cool fall days and really cold and windy winters with chilling temps that could last for weeks.

OK, let's say you go to the store and see a really nice plant. It is very unusual, it has color and looks tropical, like "Florida". Read the label: will this plant do well where you live? Good for Zone 9A? What are its light requirements? How much water does it need? How high and how wide will it grow? When will it flower? Is it invasive? (will I need to prune it all the time?) Is it cold hearty? (will I need to cover it up when we have a frost warning?) What kind of insects will it attract? (butterfly, bees, aphids, etc). Just because the local nursery or box home fix-it store sells it, it may not be suitable for our area. And, just because you now live in Florida, does not mean you need to plant palm trees that may do better in another zone.

So let's say you see a blue flowering plumbago, for instance. You like it. The shape is nice, the flowers and foliage are pretty. You read the label: full sun, can withstand dry spells, repeat bloomer, requires little pruning. Great, I'll take it! So you bring it home and decide where to put it. Look for the sun. You want this plant either on the west or south side of the house (the label reads full sun). You know it'll get about 3 or 4 feet wide, so you

(Continued on page 22)

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Florida Gardening 101

(Continued from page 21)

plan, giving it plenty of room.

Now, dig your hole. The rule of thumb is to dig only as deep as the container, but three times as wide. Here is a Florida gardening hint: most roots will not grow down, but sideways, searching for water. That's why you dig your hole so wide. Now fill the hole with water. This is a test for drainage. If the water stays in the hole for two hours or more, dig another hole: you have too much clay.

In any case, you must amend your soil. Use half of the stuff which you just dug out and mix it with good composted garden soil. You should also add oak leaves, pine needles or other clean organic matter. You need to incorporate the soil which you dug out because the roots will eventually "hit" that wall of the hole and by adding the "native" soil, you're preparing the way for the roots to become strong enough to enter the wall and beyond. Place your plumbago into the hole, a little above the soil line (because the plant will sink a little) and fill it with your amended soil, tamp down and water in well. Use some quality slow release fertilizer around the plant. I like Osmocote. It costs a little more, but

you don't have to fertilize as often. I use it just on the new plantings. On more established plants and later in the season, I recommend you use an all-purpose, slow release fertilizer such as 6-6-6 with the nitrogen being organic. Mulch the bare earth around the plant (but not up against the stem) to prevent weeds from growing and to keep the moisture in. I do not like stones for mulch. They retain heat, put pressure on the root systems and add no nutritional benefit to the soil.

Another hint: Right Plant, Right Place. This is the first thing a student of the Master Gardener program learns. If your newly planted plant does not seem to be doing well where it is after about 4 weeks, then move it to another spot. But you've got to think about where you've planted it and what it needs: say the plumbago you planted on the western side of the house seems leggy and struggling to get the sun and it's not blooming vibrantly, maybe it needs southern sun exposure. Right Plant Right Place.

The east side of the house is a good place for plants that can't take the hot afternoon sun but that do need some sun. Croton, gingers, hydrangeas, azaleas, angel trumpet. The south and west sides are good for high light and heat tolerant plants: crape myrtle, agapanthus, sal-

vias, clerodendrun, roses, lilies, iris, thyralis, chrysanthemums, bougainvillea, aloe and cycads, firebush, citrus. Note that some plants can do well on two sides of the house.

It's ok to plant tropicals and delicate plants (bromeliads, elephant ear, begonias, etc) as long as you have a safe, protected place for them like under an oak tree or near overhead coverage or if you're prepared to cover them up (no plastic!) on cold and windy winter nights and uncover them before 10:00 AM. Another solution would be to pot them up and bring them inside or onto a protected area of the lanai. That seems like too much work when there are so many pretty plants for our area out there.

And how about native plants? Wow! Natives are the way to go: they live here so they survive here. You'll be surprised at how many there are! Many nurseries have them. Go to FNPS.org for more information. □



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If we inadvertently deliver to an unoccupied house, thank you in advance if you or one of your neighbors can pick up the Bulletin and either keep or discard it. □

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