

THE



Issue 43.09



With Honor & Gratitude
We Remember

BULLETIN

September 2017

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Champions of Residents' Rights Since 1975

The POA Website - poa4us.org

Sumter County Sheriff's Lieutenant Siemer Shares Unique Safety Programs for Villagers

Lieutenant Robert Siemer has been serving the residents of The Villages for the better part of the last 22 years. At one time, he was the only detective in The Villages and now he is the District Supervisor, replacing Jeremiah Wolfe who retired and recently became the Chief of the Villages Public Safety Community Watch.

Lt. Siemer spoke to POA members at the August membership meeting, sharing several of the programs that Sheriff Bill Farmer has implemented over the years to provide safety and peace of mind for Sumter County residents.

Vial of Life. This program streamlines efforts of first responders in locating vital emergency information that saves lives. Information provided by the "Vial" (a large orange pill-like bottle) includes information such as medical history, medications, dosages, doctor's name, insurance provider (optional), emergency contact numbers, hospital preference, and other information.



The container is placed in the refrigerator because it is an appliance located in every home and, in the event of a fire, its contents would be undamaged or the last to burn. Law enforcement, firefighters and emergency personnel have been trained to look in the refrigerator for the Vial.

The Vial comes with green

decals to be placed on your front door and on your refrigerator door. The Vial goes on the top shelf.

You should also try to keep your medications list as current as possible. The Vial is available at the Sumter County Villages Annex building at 7375 Powell Road (CR139) in Wildwood.

Peace of Mind Program. This program offers "peace of mind" for residents, knowing that someone is waiting to receive a call from them each weekday (except holidays) and that someone will check on them if they do not call. The program is staffed by volunteers who answer the calls at the Sheriff's Annexes. Each participant fills out a form giving information required for this service. You are then given an identification number to use when you call on

weekdays between 8AM and Noon. If the volunteer does not hear from you, they will call your designated contact person, or if no contact is available, a deputy will be dispatched by the Communication Center to your residence to check on your welfare.

Lt. Siemer shared an example of how the program worked to help a resident in need. A woman was known to call in every day at 9AM sharp. One day she didn't call. While they normally wait until noon to do a check, the volunteers knew they could set their clocks by this person. So, they called the contact person and met them at the resident's home. The woman had fallen in the bathtub and could not get her-

(Continued on page 2)

The Enrichment Academy (TEA) Debuts Courses and Instructors at Expo

By all accounts a huge success, The Enrichment Academy (TEA) kicked off its new curriculum at a "Learn and Grow" Expo held at Lake Sumter Landing August 3. Hundreds of Villagers came out to get a first look at the course catalog, look at displays and meet instructors, and register for courses that will begin the first week of October.

More than 200 residents signed up for spots in one or more of the 140+ courses that are being offered. TEA Manager Melanie Sarakinis reported in *The Villages Daily Sun* that 523 seats were filled, with many residents signing up for multiple classes. Registration is open

(Continued on page 4)

Tuesday, September 19, 2017
POA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Third TUESDAY of the Month - 7PM
LAUREL MANOR RECREATION CENTER

The Villages Community Watch
Serving Villages

Residents in Many Ways
Presented by Chief Jeremiah Wolfe

Followed by Questions & Answers
Audio and Visual in Overflow Room

Donuts and Coffee for All After the Meeting!

All Residents Welcome - Come and Join Us!

Safety Programs

(Continued from page 1)

self out. This "peace of mind" program saved this woman from a bad situation.

Lt. Siemer said only about 65 people are signed up for it right now and encouraged residents to take advantage of this life-saving program.

Free Home Security Audits. The Sheriff's department will send people out to help you evaluate your home security circumstances and offer helpful tips on what you can do to keep yourself safer at home. The service is free and takes about an hour.

Alert Sumter. The previous CodeRed program was terminated on August 15 and replaced with Alert Sumter, which mirrors the programs in Lake and Marion Counties. It is used for a variety of circumstances, including weather alerts, reverse 911, and public safety alerts. For example, you will receive an alert if your address is in the path of a storm or some danger, not just generally passing through the region as many weather radios do.

Lt. Siemer shared a story of a home burglary situation with the suspect on the run through various neighborhoods; they alerted residents in the path of where the suspect had been seen. With residents calling in tips and with the help of canines, they apprehended the suspect AND let residents know the area was safe again.

Scent Kit. Lt. Siemer reported that studies have shown that 9.7% of Villages residents have a memory issue – that could be as many as 9,000-10,000 people! The Sumter County Sheriff's office offers a "Scent Kit" that can be stored for up to seven years, providing offi-

cers and scent hounds a valuable resource in locating a lost resident. He said often people with memory issues who wander off get afraid and hide when someone is looking for them. The scent kits and canines have been able to find people within minutes of using the kits. Lt. Siemer said that Marion County has also ordered the kits.

Safety and Scams. When trying to compare crime statistics with other communities of over 100,000 people, Lt. Siemer said The Villages barely shows up. He emphasized The Villages is a very safe community. However, one area that our residents get hit with a lot is scams. He said one of the latest is that you get a call saying you have won an SUV and "only need to pay the taxes" on it. You're then instructed to send payment with a pre-paid credit or gift card. Really? No tax collectors Lt. Siemer knows of takes an iTunes card as payment.

Other scams include people posing as IRS collectors, calling to alert you that if you don't send payment NOW, the police will come and arrest you. First, the IRS will NEVER call you and ask for payment; you will always receive this kind of communication in writing and you should verify through the official IRS government website or phone number that it is legitimate. Second, Lt. Siemer said if the police are going to arrest you, they will NOT call you first to give you a heads up they are coming!

If you get a message on your computer saying there is a problem with it and it's going to crash soon if you don't get on their website right away, login with them and send payment, DON'T DO IT! You have now given them your credit card information and access

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

The POA Bulletin is published monthly by the Property Owners' Association of The Villages, Inc. Articles represent the opinion of the POA or the writer, and Letters to the POA postings represent the opinions of the writers. Care is taken to ensure that facts reported herein are true and accurate to the best knowledge of the POA and are taken from reliable sources.

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Cracked Lanai Ceiling Update

The independent engineer completed a full day of inspections in August and is now researching codes, looking at photos and working on a written report for the POA Board.

The report is expected sometime in September, at which time the Board will review and determine next steps. We will inform the people who have contacted us and the membership when we have more information. □

SHINE Updates

“UNDERSTANDING MEDICARE”

Presented by SHINE

(Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders)

September 13 and October 11

1 – 3 PM

Manatee Recreation Center

1512 Hillsborough Trail, The Villages, 32163.

No reservation needed.

Future Funding for SHINE is in Jeopardy!

SHINE is a federally funded program and the funding may be cut or eliminated.

It is the only FREE, non-biased Medicare counseling program in the country and helps millions of America's senior citizens understand their Medicare benefits and choices so they can make informed policy decisions. One area seniors realize the most savings is in the Medicare Part B – prescription medication policies.

SHINE is asking senior citizens to contact their federal legislators to emphasize the value of this program. See page 16 for contact information. □



WHAT CAN THE POA DO FOR YOU?

Founded in 1975, the Property Owners' Association (POA) of The Villages is an independent organization run by resident volunteers elected by the membership. The POA is dedicated to making a great place to live even better by insuring that Residents' Rights are respected and local government is responsive to our needs and interests.

For more than 40 years, the POA has been involved in many issues that have affected residents. The following are just a few; more can be found on the POA's website poa4us.org.

- Spearheaded the inspection of over 1,500 homes and prodded the home warranty department and various contractors to repair sloppy work and installation of vinyl siding on homes built south of CR466 between 2005-2008.

- Filed a class-action lawsuit against the Developer and the Villages Center Community Development District, alleging a decline in services and facility maintenance north of CR466 that resulted in a \$40 Million settlement. The Amenity Authority Committee, with members elected BY the residents, was created to control the settlement funds and all non-bond related amenity fees.
- Opposed and defeated a proposed Sumter County Hospital Tax, which would have cost residents \$200-\$300 annually.

Numbers Matter. The larger our membership numbers, the easier it is to argue that the majority of Village residents support our advocacy effort. The larger our number, the greater our impact.

So, Help Us Help You – Join the POA Today! □

POA 2017 AND BEYOND MEMBERSHIP & CONTRIBUTION FORM

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

PLEASE PRINT! or Use the **ONLINE FORM** found online at poa4us.org

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal Number of People in Household: _____

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)

MEMBERSHIP

DUES (Please Select One):

- ☐ One year - 2017 - \$10 per/household
- ☐ Two years - 2017/2018 - \$20 per/household
- ☐ Three years - 2017/2018/2019 - \$30 per/household

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION IF DESIRED: Please accept my additional contribution to the POA in the following amount: \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT FOR DUES AND ANY CONTRIBUTIONS: \$ _____

- ☐ Enclosed is a Stamped, Self-Addressed Envelope, along with this form and my check. Please mail my Membership Card to me.
- ☐ Please hold my POA Membership Card for me to pick up at one of the monthly POA Meetings.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE POA

Safety Programs

(Continued from page 2)

to everything on your computer.

Residents should also be aware of the “romantic” scam, where people develop relationships through online dating services and are then conned into sending sometimes hundreds of thousands of dollars to “help out” the new “amour”. Lt. Siemer said that, unfortunately, the money is rarely recovered and most often it leaves the country. He cited a circumstance where a woman was bilked out of \$700,000.

Questions and Responses:

Q. Are these same programs available for residents in Lake and Marion Counties? **R.** Many of them are. You can check with the county Sheriff's Department or website (see info below) to see what programs are available.

Q. What is the best way to be informed of weather alerts? **R.** Use your county's alert system. It will notify you if your address is in the path of a storm.

Q. Is Sumter County working on the Smart 911 system? **R.** Yes, they are working with the Fire Department to have a more reliable location from cell phones. However, whenever possible, Lt. Siemer advises to call from a land line as it automatically shows up on the communication center's screen.

Sheriff's Department Contact Information:

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, CALL 911

- Sumter County – Villages Annex - (352) 689-4600, sumtercountysheriff.org
- Marion County – Ocala – (352) 732-8181, marionso.com
- Lake County – Tavares – (352) 343-2101, lsc.org □

HAPPY AUTUMNAL EQUINOX

SEPTEMBER 22

**POA SPEAKERS
AVAILABLE
Call Cliff Wiener
352-430-8497**

Enrichment Academy

(Continued from page 1)

only to Villages residents until August 21, when any available spots will be open to non-residents. Registration can be completed online through the District website districtgov.org. Scroll down on the home page for a link to registration or click on 'Recreation' under the 'Departments' tab. Registration can also be completed in person from 8:30AM – 4PM Monday through Friday at the Lake Miona, La Hacienda, Eisenhower or Rohan recreation centers, where course catalogs are also available.


The curriculum is based on “Core Courses” which are identified as a course that contains, focuses and emphasizes course curriculum that is academically and culturally beneficial to the students. These courses teach students the foundational knowledge and skills they will need for growth. Examples of these courses include writing, foreign language, history, art, dance, science and technology. There are nineteen course categories listed in the catalog. Most of the courses are taught by Villages residents, who were given the first opportunities to sign up to be instructors.

TEA reports that there will be no negative impact on recreation center room usage since the rooms had previously been allocated to

the now-defunct Lifelong Learning College.

Special Accommodations. The course catalog includes instructions for requesting special accommodations for Assisted Listening Systems, Qualified Interpreters, Auxiliary Aids & Services, Screen Readers, Talk to Text Services, Written Materials, and Electronic Format Materials. To request an accommodation, contact TEA at 352-674-1800, mail to The Enrichment Academy at 984 Old Mill Run, the Villages, FL 32162 or send email to TheEnrichmentAcademy@DistrictGov.org. See page 26 of the course catalog for specific information and policies. □

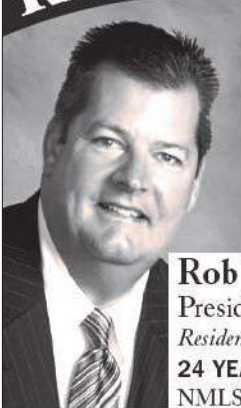


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Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) Meeting Highlights August 7, 2017

Resident Comments

A Rio Ponderosa resident asked the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) to reconsider the original request for more courts for lawn bowling and croquet, 7-day play, additional storage and additional parking at Rio Grande Recreation Center. District Manager Janet Tutt instructed Recreation and Parks Director John Rohan to address the request. Later in the meeting, after discussion of the Baptist Church property purchase (see related article on Page 6), members also said that while plans for expansion would not go forward at Rio Grande to the extent they had hoped, these needs should be considered.

New Business

- First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall and Property Purchase. AAC members voted to direct staff to proceed with preparing purchase documents with an offer of \$1.5 Million. See article on Page 6.
- Ownership and Maintenance Responsibility of the Power Corridor Trail. At the June 7, 2017 AAC meeting, CDD4 Chairman, Paul Kelly, requested that the AAC improve the Power Corridor Trail (PCT) in the Springdale area. One alternative previously provided by Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. (KHA), was to widen the trail to 15.5 feet with the installation of 6-inch ribbon curbing. At its July 12 meeting the AAC requested that CDD4 take formal action indicating they would accept ownership of the PCT. At its July 14, 2017 meeting, the CDD4 Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a motion that it would reassume ownership and maintenance of the PCT if it was retrofitted to 15.5 feet wide with a 6-inch ribbon curb.

AAC members approved a motion to authorize staff to work with legal counsel to take the necessary steps to prepare the required documents to transfer ownership and maintenance to CDD4, subject to the retrofitting described in its motion, work

on securing additional land required from the Villages of Lake Sumter, Inc. (VLS), and to work with KHA to develop the necessary bid documents should the project be approved.

AAC Chairman Carl Bell said they are not committing to spend any money for the actual improvements, only that these action steps be taken to move forward. Once actual costs are determined, the AAC will vote whether to expend the funds, and when. Ms. Tutt said the work that would be done now to move forward will not go to waste.

Old Business

After discussion of lighting and water spray of decorative water features, the AAC authorized an expense of \$1100-\$1200 to change out nozzles for layered spray at the El Santiago feature. District Property Manager Sam Wartinbee said he would have to get additional costs for changing out the nozzles on the features on CR466, as they are different.

Capital Projects Update

Hacienda Trail project is on schedule and Phase II is beginning. **Ms. Tutt reminds residents this is a construction zone and they should stay out of the area.**

Budget Workshop

A budget workshop was held on August 23, 2017 (after deadline for this *Bulletin*), prior to public hearing and final budget approval on September 6, 2017.

The next regular meeting of the Amenity Authority Committee is September 6 at 9AM at Savannah Center. Meeting agenda and minutes can be found on districtgov.org. Click on "Amenity Authority Committee" on the left side menu, then click to the far right on the desired meeting for agendas and minutes. □

SEPTEMBER 2, 1945



DID YOU KNOW??

If you have a question about anything in The Villages, or how to do something, or want to report a problem, etc., you can call the VCDD Customer Service Center at 352-753-4508.

AAC Authorizes \$1.5 Million Offer to Purchase First Baptist Church Property on CR42

Nearly two years after the potential purchase of the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall and 10 acres on CR42 came to a halt, the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) directed District staff to move forward again with a new purchase offer of \$1.5 Million. Committee members unanimously agreed that the Church property still represents an excellent opportunity to expand amenity facilities and programs for residents north of CR466, something they have been trying to accomplish for a long time.

Once the details of the offer are put into writing

and presented to the Church's leadership, the *Bulletin* has learned the Church's membership will vote to determine whether to accept the AAC's offer.

At the July AAC meeting, District Manager Janet Tutt advised the AAC of conversations she had with Church officials, who expressed an interest in revisiting the possible District purchase of its property and Fellowship Hall. Committee members asked Ms. Tutt to obtain additional information, including an engineering evaluation, road use, and timeline. Ms. Tutt presented that information at the August meeting.

Villages Community Development District (VCCDD) appointee, Gary Moyer, said that programming will be important and the District can explore newer amenities similar to those being developed South of CR44.

Committee member, Don Deakin, said he had reviewed all of the documents from 2015, visited the property, and met with District Manager Janet Tutt to ask many questions. He feels satisfied that this is an excellent opportunity to address the "wish list".

Other committee members also visited the property and toured the building again, and found it to be in excellent condition. Chairman Carl Bell said the due diligence has been done, and reminded the committee that fiber optics, wiring, access road issues, and other things still need to be addressed. "This is not just a \$1.5 Million decision; there will be programming and other expenses," he said.

Ms. Tutt said she has confirmed with the Villages of Lake Sumter (VLS) that they are still willing to construct the pool for the Soulliere Villas on the Church property. Construction timing,

possession, and written confirmation from Marion County to allow the property to be used for recreation need to be worked out.

In the previous purchase agreement presented in December 2015, the purchase price was to be based on two appraisals. If the lesser of the two values was not greater than 5% less than the higher appraised value, then the purchase price would be the lower of the two. If it is greater than 5% but less than 10% the price would be the average of the two. If the difference is greater than the 10%, then the two parties would meet in an attempt to determine the purchase price. Either party could withdraw from the contract within 30 days after both appraisals were received, which the Church chose to exercise, deciding that the approximate \$1.2 Million appraisals did not meet its financial expectations.

This has been the established process for governments when making a purchase of this size. In fact, when the AAC was discussing the purchase of the 40 acres on CR42, Ms. Tutt advised the committee that, as a governmental entity, the District does not have the ability to negotiate a sales price as an individual can do when purchasing property.

However, in a memo to AAC members regarding the current suggested offer of \$1.5 Million, Ms. Tutt said, "The decision to purchase rests soundly in the reasonable discretion of the AAC and the District board after evaluating all factors as to whether the purchase is fair, and in the District's best interest. While my public sector career experiences required two appraisals and did not provide for paying above appraised price, District Counsel advises that Florida law does not require that two appraisals be obtained."

The memo further stated that as appraisals are not required, similarly, the District is not limited to paying the appraised price. However, before exceeding the appraised value, the AAC "must be confident that the best interests of the District are served."

Ms. Tutt outlined six factors as support that the purchase price is fair, appropriate and in the District's best interest:

1. The price is reasonable for the purchase of the building and property which will provide for both specialty and unique indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities.
2. The property includes the necessary infrastructure and utilities which provide for economical improvements and any proposed expansions.

(Continued on page 7)

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Church Property

(Continued from page 6)

- The property provides current and available golf cart and vehicular accessibility to recreation facilities (including gate access).
- Stormwater has been provided for in the original plans/development which provides a buildable site for additional facilities.
- As previously discussed, The Villages of Lake-Sumter, Inc. (VLS) had agreed to construct the pool scheduled for Soulliere Villas at the Church site. If property is purchased, and time assurances are provided to VLS to meet the Soulliere Villas construction schedule, VLS has agreed to build the pool on the Church property.
- District staff, thus far, has not been able to identify available property as desired by the AAC to provide additional recreational facilities with golf cart accessibility, and available infrastructure.

Ms. Tutt said that the Purchase and Sale Agreement will include the following considerations:

- The Contract would be contingent on the concurrence, in writing, from Marion County that the property can be used for Recreation purposes.
- The purchase price will include conveyance of property to allow access from CR42 to the Church property.
- Staff recommends that vehicular traffic to and from the Church from Clearview be golf carts only, in order to reduce the impact on the residents on Clearview.
- The Church would be allowed to use the property at no cost until a date to be determined, with consideration of the construction of a new Fellowship Hall and the construction of the swimming pool. The Church will continue to provide maintenance and pay all associated expenses as will be specified in a lease agreement.

Committee member Deakin asked Ms. Tutt to look into a contiguous property of approximately 10 additional acres to determine its availability, although not to be considered as a part of this purchase.

Ms. Tutt also stated that while there has been no lack of suggestions and resident input with respect to recreation facilities and programming for the property, District Recreation and

Parks Director, John Rohan, will go through the same resident input/development process as has been used for other facilities.

In response to audience comments regarding overcrowding and availability of lawn bowling and croquet courts at Rio Grande, Committee member John Wilcox said that while the expansion in that area would not occur to the extent originally discussed, those issues should still be addressed. Other members concurred. □



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Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) Meeting Highlights August 7, 2017

Old Business

• Morse Boulevard Embankment Project.

District Property Manager Sam Wartinbee reported that the limestone from Fenney construction is too lightweight and cannot be used for this project. The engineers also explained that it would be cost effective to have the contractor order and bring materials to the site as needed. He does not expect any seasonal limitations on the work, but District Manager Janet Tutt said they will work at night to minimize impact on traffic, with a sensitivity to sound carrying late at night so as not to be disruptive to residents in the area.

• Lake Miona Conservation Easement Update.

Ms. Tutt said District legal counsel has completed the review of all conservation easements as requested, and are awaiting a few final details from the Developer. Final discussion of the issue will be postponed to the next meeting. They are also waiting for a written summary from the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) of a meeting held to discuss the specifics of what will be allowed.

• Bridgeport Gate.

Mr. Wartinbee has estimates between \$12,000-\$13,000 to complete the project to improve the site lines at the entrance gate. Ms. Tutt asked to postpone final action until the next meeting, and reminded the Committee that part of the funding will come from their Sumter Landing Amenity Division (SLAD) budget, and part from the PWAC budget.

NOTE: The next meeting of PWAC was scheduled for August 28 as a combined budget workshop and September's regular meeting which would fall on Labor Day. This date is after the publication deadline for this *Bulletin*. □

AAC and PWAC Budget Workshops Provide Updates and Allocation Formulas

The Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) held a Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget Workshop on August 23 and the Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) on August 28 – both after the deadline for this issue of the *Bulletin* – at which members of each received updated budget figures and allocation formulas.

District Budget Director Barbara Kays had previously indicated she had asked all District departments to “think outside of the box” with respect to allocations, given the significant changes that resulted with the purchase of amenities south of CR466 last year. Since preliminary budget information was presented in May, the Budget department has been reviewing all allocation methodologies and applying to the final budgets.

Among the issues that surfaced during the preliminary budget presentation was a significant rise in the cost of producing the weekly ‘Recreation News’ insert to the *Villages Daily Sun* and the rising costs of Community Watch.

However, in the latest budget packet available online, the *Recreation News* costs are only \$14,000 higher than FY 2016-17, and Community Watch expenses are virtually the same as the current fiscal year. The budgets can be obtained on the District website *Districtgov.org*, click on “Departments” from the top menu and select “Budget” from the dropdown menu.

Final budgets will be presented for approval to the AAC and the Villages Center Community Development District (VCCDD) and the Sumter Landing Community Development District (SLCDD) Boards of Supervisors on September 6 and 14, respectively. The numbered residential districts will also approve their budgets in September. The schedule follows:

Aug 23 (Wed) Budget Workshop

AAC 1:30 PM District - Large Conference Room

Aug 28 (Mon) Meeting/Budget Workshop

PWAC 9AM District - Large Conference Room

(Continued on page 9)

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Budget Workshops

(Continued from page 8)

Sep 6 (Wed) Approve Final Budget Recommendation

AAC 9AM Savannah Center, Ashley Wilkes Room

Sep 6 (Wed) Public Hearing to Adopt Final Budget

VCCDD 2PM District - Large Conference Room

District 11 3PM District - Large Conference Room

Sep 7 (Thu) Public Hearing to Adopt Final Budget

District 7 8AM District - Large Conference Room

District 12 10 AM District - Large Conference Room

Sep 8 (Fri) Public Hearing to Adopt Final Budget

District 1 8AM District - Large Conference Room

District 2 9:30 AM District - Large Conference Room

District 3 11AM District - Large Conference Room

District 4 1:30PM Savannah Ctr, Ashley Wilkes Room

Sep 14 (Thu) Public Hearing to Adopt Final Budget

SLCDD 10AM District - Large Conference Room

BCDD 11:30 AM District - Large Conference Room

District 9 1:30 PM District - Large Conference Room

District 10 3PM District - Large Conference Room

Sep 15 (Fri) Public Hearing to Adopt Final Budget

District 5 8AM District - Large Conference Room

District 6 9:30 AM District - Large Conference Room

District 8 11:30 AM District - Large Conference Room

No later than Sep 15th Sumter County Board of Commissioners - Adopt NSCUDD Final Budget (SC Ordinance 2010-10) □



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POA Hall of Fame Nominations - 2017

POA Hall of Fame nominations are now being accepted for the 2017 induction year.

A nomination letter should include information on how to contact the nominee, a rationale explaining why the nominee should be inducted into the POA Hall of Fame and the name of and contact information for the nominator. Nominations must be received by the POA Board of Directors by November 1, 2017.

Nominations may be submitted by mail to The Property Owners' Association, Box 386, Oxford, FL 34484, or emailed to POA Board member Bill Yelverton (wey44@aol.com) as email text, or as PDF or Word attachment.

Induction into the POA Hall of Fame is an honor reserved for past or present POA members who have made notable contributions to the POA and to residents of The Villages. A list of members who have been inducted into POA Hall of Fame appears in every issue of the POA *Bulletin* on page 23. The list may also be reviewed from the online version of the September 2017

Bulletin on page 23 (or view online at poa4us.org/bulletins_files/bulletin201709.pdf)

The POA Board will carefully consider all nominations and collectively decide which nominees are to be formally inducted into the POA Hall of Fame for 2017. The induction ceremony generally occurs at the December POA membership meeting. □

Did You Know? Golf Cart Insurance

A homeowner policy that extends to a golf cart probably also says that operation is limited to "...within the confines of the insured property, on a golf course, or going directly to/from a golf course." Visit a friend or stop at a store and you technically violate the terms of your contract.

Separate policies that provide liability coverage of identified golf carts contain an important provision. **Per Florida Statute:** "Golf cart" means a 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."

Regardless of how you insure your "golf cart" –

if it is capable of sustaining speeds greater than 20 miles per hour – it no longer qualifies as a "golf cart" and is, therefore, no longer an insured vehicle.

These commonplace scenarios leave the owner 100% exposed to uninsured liability. The financial risk to the owner, driver, and/or injured party is unimaginable.

Be sure to read the terms of whatever policy you are using to cover your golf cart, and consult with your insurance agent to be sure you understand and have adequate coverage. □

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Proud Americans, It's Time to Celebrate your Ancestry!

Fun and entertainment will be had at these ethnic festivals; the Italian Parade on October 3rd, German Parade October 17th and, of course, the Irish Parade on March 16th, 2018.



The clubs, participants, volunteers and the Parade Committee dedicate part of the year planning these annual events. Much appreciation is given to the volunteers and the Recreation Department which help to make it possible.



As in past years the parade committee is asking our Villages Families to step up once again as volunteers to help with parade duties and functions. The primary functions needed are:

- Staging - The organizing before the parades
- Parade Marshalls - To accompany the groups along the parade route
- Crossing Marshalls - To man the intersections along the route
- Clean-up - To help take down signs and tents etc., after the parades

There will be a pre-parades meeting on September 25th at Laurel Manor for Participants and Volunteers at 1:30 PM. Please contact Sally Canna, at thevillagesparades@gmail.com for further information. For years these parades have been a source of fun and pride for all involved, including spectators. Step up and assist in making it one more thing to be proud of our community in The Villages. □

Celebrating and Thanking Workers



Sometimes the origins of holidays are lost in the celebration with barbeques and friends. Labor Day, like Memorial Day, is a perfect example.

The annual celebration of workers and their achievements began during a very dark period of American labor. At the height of the industrial revolution in the late 1800's, the average American was working 12-hour days, seven days a week. Despite laws in some states, children as young as 5 or 6 were used as laborers



in mills, factories and mines, earning pennies to the dollar on adult wages. Working conditions were abhorrent, with insufficient access to fresh air, sanitary facilities and breaks.

As the country continued to move from an agricultural economy to increased manufacturing, labor unions grew more prominent and vocal. They held strikes and rallies to protest poor conditions and force employers to renegotiate hours and pay. Many events turned violent, including the Haymarket Riot of 1886, in which several Chicago policemen and workers were killed. Other protests sparked the beginnings of longstanding traditions, with the first Labor Day parade held in New York City on September 5, 1882.

This "working man's holiday" began to be celebrated on the first Monday in September in many other areas and several states passed legislation recognizing it as a holiday.

In 1894, employees of the Pullman Palace Car Company in Chicago went on strike to protest wage cuts and the firing of union representatives. The American Pullman Union called for a boycott of all Pullman railway cars, crippling railroad traffic nationwide. The federal government sent troops to Chicago which resulted in riots and the deaths of more than a dozen workers. In an attempt to repair relations with American workers, Congress passed an act making Labor Day a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

Yet, more than a century later, the true founder of Labor Day has not been identified.

Labor Day continues to be celebrated across the United States with parades, picnics, fireworks and other gatherings. It also represents the end of the summer and start of the back-to-school season in many communities.

Source: **History.com**

The POA Thanks and Honors Hard-working Americans Everywhere! □

DID YOU KNOW? Retire Worn U.S. Flags Here in Lady Lake

If you have an old, worn-out U.S. flag, you can take it to "Flags & Flag Poles" for proper retirement. Flags can be dropped off any time 8AM - 4PM Monday - Friday at 211 US-27, Lady Lake, next door to Tire Round-Up. They can be reached at 352-751-1876. □



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District and Firefighters Reach Tentative Settlement

After months of sometimes contentious negotiations, the Village Center Community Development District (VCCDD) and the Professional Firefighters of The Villages, AFF 4470 have reached a tentative settlement that was under a 14-day member review at the time of this *Bulletin* deadline. If adopted, the 3-year contract will go into effect on October 1, 2017.

Among the terms are increases in starting pay, an annual 3% increase, and longevity incentives.

Starting Pay Firefighter Increases:

- EMT's - \$36,000, an 8 percent increase
- Paramedics - \$48,500, an 11 percent increase
- Lieutenants - \$56,000, a 10.8 percent increase

Longevity Incentives:

- 4-8 year employees – additional 2.5 percent increase
- 8+ year employees – additional 5.5 percent increase

The POA supports the work of our Villages Public Safety Firefighters, and is hopeful the contract issues are now resolved. □



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August Forum Q&R

Q. What is the federal funding level for SHINE and is there any state funding? **R.** There is no state funding, and the previous funding level of approximately \$900,000 has been cut in half.

Q. There was a recent medical emergency at Briarwood and the golf course ambassador took no action other than to call 911. Aren't they trained in CPR and other emergency care? **R.** POA President Cliff Wiener said that when he was a part of CERT, they offered to provide emergency training for golf course personnel and they were turned down. He said there are likely liability issues, and staff and volunteers have a manual that tells them exactly what they can and cannot do.

Q. I am turning 65 in January and twice within a week people showed up at my door asking to help me with Medicare decisions. Where did they get my information? **R.** Unfortunately, the internet is full of personal details about individuals, including birthdates, political affiliation, mortgage information, addresses and phone numbers.

Community Watch has no authority, and even though there is a "No Solicitation" policy in The Villages, according to Lt. Robert Siemer of the Sumter County Sheriff's Department, there are no longer enforceable solicitation statutes in Florida. He did say, however, that if someone is trespassing on your property, you can call the Sheriff's office and they can remove them. It is also advised that if you can get a business card with contact information, or if you can provide vehicle description, plate number, etc., then the person can more easily be located.

Lt. Siemer also advised that people should not throw unwanted mail with your address and potentially other information in the trash at the mail station. He said they have apprehended people who have mail in their cars that do not belong to them. Take the mail home, shred and dispose of it there.

Along these same lines, lightning expert, Len Hathaway, reminds us of scams involving "pick-up truck" contractors who may canvas an area offering to put in lightning prevention systems. Salesmen offering to install lightning rods have been known to flaunt the Villages no solicitation policy and engage in door-to-door prospecting. If they are successful they will most likely solicit your neighbors. This is a buyer beware market place for lightning pro-

tection system installers. You have no way to know if the installed system meets the national standards. Qualified installers do not engage in door-to-door sales. Two qualified installers are A-1 Lightning Protection Systems, Inc. (see page 19) and Triangle Lightning Protection (see page 17).

Q. Regarding access tunnels and bridges connecting the new area south of CR44 (Fenney), can we (Villagers) have any input regarding design? **R.** These are being put in by the Developer who will make all the design decisions. The District will not have any involvement during the construction phases. □



**THE POA HAS YOUR BACK...
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Membership Form on Page 3!**



IS YOUR LOVED ONE IN THE HOSPITAL? Do you need a caregiver advocate?

The caregiver advocate provides support, direction, education and guidance during critical care experiences and crisis management. If you have a loved one in the hospital and are unsure of what your options and resources are, a health care advocate can help make sure that all of your resources are being presented and your rights are being respected. When a loved one is in the hospital, decision-making can be difficult especially in such an overwhelming health-care arena. The Tri-County Caregiver Resource Center can supply you with an advocate and help families put a caregiving action plan in place for future planning in hopes of preventing crisis management from a hospital bed. Transitioning your loved one from hospital, to rehab and back to home successfully is difficult to do because there is so much information and knowledge necessary to make the best decisions. The Resource Center will help direct the options that best suit your clinical financial and social criteria so that the family does not have to run in many different

Elected Officials Contact Information

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rick.scott@eog.myflorida.com

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Don Hahnfeldt

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US Representative Daniel Webster

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352-383-3552 □

directions chasing options that end up not being appropriate. If you would like more information please contact the Tri-County Caregiver Resource Center at 352-775-2952. We are a non-profit organization with the goal of providing a trusted source of education and guidance for our community.

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www.tricountycaregiverresourcecenter.org

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Developer Adds 6,000+ Homes to District 12 Plan

Plans, submitted to the City of Wildwood City Commission on August 14, 2017, add up to 6,200 homes to Villages Community Development District 12 (CDD12) to earlier submissions to the City, bringing the total number of new homes to more than 20,000 for the development south of CR44. The submittal also identifies up to 7 Million square feet of non-residential space. The 2,014 acres identified on the plans are on either side of CR501 at the intersection of CR468 near the Florida Turnpike.

According to an article in *The Villages Daily Sun*, Utility Engineer Trey Arnett said The Villages will utilize its "Balanced Water System" so that the growth will have no adverse effect on the Floridan aquifer or regional water resources.

Arnett says, "Thanks to The Villages extensive use of stormwater, reclaimed wastewater and Lower Floridan groundwater, The Villages system has proven over the years that it protects the Upper Floridan aquifer and the environmental systems that are influenced by it," Arnett said.

If you have driven out to the Turnpike via CR468 lately, you have seen the extensive dirt moving "brigade" that is parked on the property.

In news that does not impact The Villages, the Developer also updated development plans to the City of Leesburg to build up to 8,000 homes and 400,000 square feet of non-residential space on 2,000 acres. □

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District Manager Hires Assistant Manager

In a memo to Department Directors and elected Board Supervisors, District Manager Janet Tutt announced she has hired Richard Baier for the newly created Assistant District Manager position. He began his new job on August 14.

"The hiring of Mr. Baier is an opportunity for the Districts to take another step toward sustainability of its operations as we move forward with anticipated growth to The Villages Community. He has an excellent background and experience in the public sector in addition to his knowledge set of transportation, utilities and infrastructure," Ms. Tutt said in the memo.

She said she has personally observed and experienced Richard's excellent customer service and have seen him exhibit our Districts' core values since his arrival to Sumter County two years ago.

Mr. Baier's initial responsibilities will be the oversight of Property Management, Golf Maintenance, Utilities and Information Technology Departments. As he becomes more knowledgeable of our District operations, he will be providing further involvement in the numbered districts. His hiring will also allow the Districts to move forward on a number of projects we

have not had the time opportunity to pursue.

Mr. Baier was most recently the Assistant County Administrator and Public Works Director for Sumter County, and has worked for 30 years in the public sector which includes the Florida Department of Transportation and the cities of Clearwater, Florida and Alexandria, Virginia.

Mr. Baier lives in the Village of Lake Deaton. □

Sumter Fire Assessment Rate Increases To \$124 Per Year

As expected, the Sumter County Commission voted to increase the annual non-ad valorem fire assessment rate from \$81 to \$124 per year per improved parcel, effective October 1, within The Villages municipal benefit unit. This means all residents in The Villages will receive the increase, the first in 11 eleven years.

The increase is due to overall growth in The Villages, immediate growth such as in Fenney, and to support the dramatic increases in The Villages Public Safety Department expenditures to support existing operations. The fire assessment is estimated to produce approximately \$5.6 million that will specifically support fire costs within The Villages.

Sumter County has not had an increase in property taxes in 13 years. □

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Our Gardening Column:

Wicked Weeds

by Anne Lambrecht,
Fanatical Gardener
Mrsanne04@gmail.com

Weeds DRIVE ME CRAZY! Each year our weather conditions are different and so we have different predominant weeds. I have noticed that this year is the year for Virginia Creeper and Chamberbitter.



Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) is lovely, really. It reminds us of the old days of stone cottages or rock walls covered with vines which turn a beautiful red in autumn. Many people encourage it on the side of their house, or into their trees, for that very reason.

It is a native – good. It is many times confused with poison ivy – bad. It can grow to 50 feet – bad. It produces beautiful blue berries which feed the birds – good. The birds drop the berries and the new plants sprout everywhere in your yard – bad.

Virginia Creeper is, indeed, native to Virginia, but is not a true ivy, and the vine is a climber, not a creeping vine.

Virginia Creeper tolerates shade and can often be found growing beneath trees, but it reaches high for the sunshine. Any time the vine encounters a tree, it begins to climb, anchoring itself into the bark with adhesive pads at the ends of its aerial roots. The vines can reach at least 50 feet in length. It can climb just about any vertical surface: telephone poles, fences, walls, and ... your house.

Left unchecked, Virginia Creeper vines have the potential to overwhelm their host tree, but they are less of a problem than, say, kudzu or wild grapevine. You can see them growing in, and over, some shrubs in The Villages.

Virginia Creeper contains oxalic compounds to which some people are allergic; they may end up with a rash from attempting to remove these vines. I recommend wearing gloves, just in case.

I know a gardener who encouraged Virginia Creeper in an area under an oak tree where Asiatic Jasmine was taking its time to get established. That was a bad idea because now he must pull out the creeper as it took over everything. He also had some grow up the side of his house

where he did not notice it. When he pulled it down, it left behind these suckers that appear to be impossible to remove, kind of like what's left behind after removing creeping fig.

Killing Virginia Creeper - Some folks dislike its aggressive growth habits and are intent on killing Virginia Creeper. Since it grows so high, it is impractical to try killing a mature Virginia Creeper by spraying its leaves.

Instead, cut the vine's trunk (near ground level), then apply the strongest concentrate of Roundup you can buy to the fresh wound. An organic method of killing Virginia Creeper is to dig it out, but this is easier said than done, as the plant spreads via rhizomes. I've got it coming up everywhere in my Indian hawthorn and I just pull it out. It's great therapy. But the roots are still there and so is the therapy.

(Continued on page 19)

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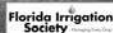


Photo courtesy of Hunter Industries

Wicked Weeds

(Continued from page 18)

Chamberbitter (*Phyllanthus urinaria*) is also known as gripeweed, leafflower or little mimosa, is a member of the Spurge family (Euphorbiaceae). It is a warm-season, annual, broadleaf weed that emerges from warm soils beginning in early summer. It reproduces by seeds, which are found in the green, warty-like fruit attached to the underside of the branch.

Chamberbitter grows upright and has a well-developed taproot. The leaves are arranged in two rows on the branchlets and are thin and oblong, with smooth margins, resembling a mimosa seedling. Weeding gets you no where: when you pull it out and shake the soil from the roots, you're planting those seeds again!

Chamberbitter is native to Asia. It usually emerges around May or June when the soil temperatures have warmed to approximately 70°F. In some folk medicine, especially in Asia and South America, Chamberbitter is believed to be used as an herbal remedy for kidney stones.

Chamberbitter tends to have reddish stalks. I know a Village gardener who has pulled out thousands of Chamberbitter plants only to have new ones sprout as dwarfs. They do not get taller than 4 inches high, and are already loaded with seeds on their undersides. They should be called "Very Sneaky Plant".

Some cousins of Chamberbitter, *Phyllanthus amarus* and *Phyllanthus niruri*, are taller and wisper and have been used in the herbal medicine called Ayurveda. They also are said to help

with a number of health conditions including bladder infections, colds, kidney disorders, ulcers. AND, you don't GRIPE as much about them as they are easily removed.

There are those who say that a weed is a merely a misplaced plant. I've got some weeds in my garden that I just love. Many are pollinator attractors.

Just when you think you've heard it all, there is actually a Weed Science Society of America! They promote research, education, and extension outreach activities related to weeds www.wssa.net.

Other great sources used in this article:

Weeds of Southern Turfgrasses University of Florida Extension IFAS, ifasbooks.ifas.ufl.edu/p-150-weeds-of-southern-turfgrasses.aspx □



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Leading the Fight Against Scams Score One For The Good Folks!

Probably one of the most ignored laws in the USA today is the Do Not Call (DNC) Law. Violations happen at a rate faster than speeding violations under the old national 55 MPH Speed Limit Law. Who among us has never gotten one of these irritating calls?

Some of the more 'frequent flyers' in the Do Not Call violation list are companies touting internet, phone and television service. They just pretend that the National Do Not Call List does not exist.

Score one for people on the **Do Not Call List**. It's been eight years of tenacious litigation by the Department of Justice, the FTC, and the Attorneys General of California, Illinois, North Carolina, and Ohio against satellite TV provider Dish Network. In early June, 2017, the U.S. District Court for the Central District of Illinois found Dish liable for millions of calls that violated the FTC's Telemarketing Sales Rule (TSR), the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA), and state law. The Court imposed a record-setting \$280 million civil penalty against Dish for calls to people on the Do Not Call list, abandoned calls, calls to people who had told

Dish they did not want to receive calls, and for assisting and facilitating telemarketers who engaged in practices in violation of the Telemarketing Sales Rule - 66 million calls, in fact, that broke the law.

Dish vigorously defended its conduct in court, but the Court wasn't having it. In the decision, the Court said, "Dish's denial of responsibility and lack of regard for consumers are deeply disturbing and support the inference that it is reasonably likely that Dish will allow future illegal calls absent government pressure."

And, in explaining the \$280 million civil penalty, the Court ruled that "the injury to consumers, the disregard for the law, and the steadfast refusal to accept responsibility require a significant and substantial monetary award."

In more good news, besides the penalty, the Court is making Dish take some actions, as the Court said, to "keep Dish's marketing personnel from reverting to their practice of trying to get around the rules." They have to hire a telemarketing compliance expert to make sure Dish and its retailers follow the law (and the Court's order).

The federal and state plaintiffs can ask the Court for unannounced inspections of Dish's (and its retailers') facilities and records. And, from now on, Dish has to comply with the law - that is, following the rules about not calling people on the Do Not Call list.

The Federal Trade Commission works to promote competition, and protect and educate

consumers. You can learn more about consumer topics and file a consumer complaint online or by calling 1-877-FTC-HELP (382-4357).

More importantly, if you are not on the National Do Not Call Registry, you should be!

The National Do Not Call Registry gives you a choice about whether to receive telemarketing calls. Registrations on the National Do Not Call Registry DO NOT EXPIRE. If you have previously registered your number, there is no need to register again.

If you are not registered, or if you don't know if you are registered, 'one-stop shopping' for the DNC list is available on line. By going to <https://www.donotcall.gov/> you can:

- REGISTER your home or mobile phone for **free**.
- VERIFY if your number is already registered on the DNC list
- REPORT if you received unwanted calls after your number has been registered on the National Registry for 31 days. Your online report goes directly to the FTC.

Remember, there are some exceptions to the DNC list. After you register, other types of organizations may still call you, such as charities, political groups, debt collectors and surveys.

If you need assistance with understanding any aspects of the DNC Registry, contact your nearest Seniors vs. Crime office in The Villages for advice or assistance.

Seniors vs. Crime can be reached at:

- The Fruitland Park Police Department Annex in the Moyer Recreation Center in The Villages - (352) 674-1882
- The Marion County Sheriff's Office in The Villages - (352) 753-7775
- The Sumter County Sheriff's Office in The Villages - (352) 689-4600, Extension 4606
- The Wildwood Police Department Annex at Brownwood in The Villages - (352) 750-1914

Volunteers at all four offices are ready, willing and able to assist you. To keep up with the latest scams, LIKE 'Seniors vs. Crime Region 4' on Facebook. Hablamos español. Por favor pregunte por Yolanda, viernes - 9:00 a 11:00; (352) 689-4606. □

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* **Firehouse Subs - Free Cookie with sandwich purchase, please present POA membership card. 13757 US-441, Lady Lake (Near Lowes), 352-430-3870.**

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(Continued on page 23)

Discount Partners

(Continued from page 22)

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Beyond the credentials, the third essential that physician/health care providers should possess is the ability to actually listen to the patient. Let the patient talk! The average time a patient speaks before being interrupted is approximately 20 seconds. It is true that "business-driven efficient medicine" has no time to waste. And yet, the greatest physicians in the history of medicine have advocated simple communication. In addition, watch the patient move...sense physical discomfort, emotional stress...examine meticulously...be aware. The result is a correct diagnosis in 90% of cases...before the first test is ever performed. It may even reveal which patients want the tests performed in the first place. So, who is really wasting time?

I view a doctor's office as a refuge. It is a place where patients come to be protected...to feel safe with their future health care. Leaving with a pile of computerized forms for tests and prescriptions are visual proof of contact, but has a "human bond" been formed?

Doctors who agree with this 3-part series are those who already embrace these essentials. It is not something that is taught. But if desired, it is something the patient must seek. After all, it is your life.