

# THE



Issue 43.12



# BULLETIN



December 2017

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Champions of Residents' Rights Since 1975

The POA Website - [poa4us.org](http://poa4us.org)

## Year In Review Events & Issues Affecting Villages Residents in 2017

**The Enrichment Academy.** As 2016 ended with the disappointing news that the Lifelong Learning College (LLC) was closing, The Villages Recreation and Parks Division announced plans in January to replace it with The Enrichment Academy (TEA), and gained approval by the Village Center Community Development District (VCCDD) to move forward with the establishment of an enterprise fund. The POA supported and applauded the quick response by the Recreation Department to get a new program launched within a matter of months.

TEA kicked off its new curriculum of 140 courses at the "Learn and Grow" Expo held in early August, and classes began the first week of October. District Recreation and Parks Director John Rohan said that room usage in recreation facilities would not be adversely affected since they held open those room slots previously used by the LLC.

Special accommodations are available for Assisted Listening Systems, Qualified Interpreters, Auxiliary Aids & Services, Screen Readers, Talk to Text Services, Written Materials, and Electronic Format Materials, and may be requested in advance.

Visit [DistrictGov.org](http://DistrictGov.org), click on "Recreation" on the dropdown "Departments" menu at the top and select "The Enrichment Academy" for more TEA information.

**Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) Assumes Oversight Advisory Responsibilities for Amenities South of CR466.** When the sale of Amenity Facilities, Programs and Fees by the Developer to the Sumter Landing Community Development District (SLCDD) occurred, the POA vehemently advocated for an Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) as was established north of CR466 in 2008. A survey to 9,500 residents south of CR466 indicated that this is what residents wanted.

Instead, PWAC was chosen as an **Advisory** committee to the SLCDD, a role it already performs for shared maintenance budgets and issues in Residential Community Development

Districts 5-11. The resolution that passed in April, though, mirrored the Interlocal Agreement between the AAC North and the VCCDD, and stated the SLCDD intended to enact, adopt or put into place the rules, policies, procedures and other actions recommended by PWAC. It also calls for a joint meeting between the two bodies in the event there is a question or disagreement about moving forward with a PWAC recommendation.

Even though PWAC members are not directly elected to PWAC for this purpose, they are appointed by their individual district boards to which they are elected. The POA believes it is acceptable and will continue to closely watch to be sure residents' amenity issues and concerns are being addressed.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Officials/Residents Discuss Historic Side Hurricane Woes

At a meeting at Paradise Recreation Center, hosted by the Neighbors to Neighbors group on the Historic Side of The Villages, all agreed on one point – communication could have been better before and after Hurricane Irma came roaring through.

While several residents expressed frustrations about not knowing where to turn and feeling abandoned, other residents said that residents have a responsibility to seek out the information that official are making available to them. Other volunteer groups thought they were the only ones who went to help residents after the storm, seemingly unaware of what others were doing.

*(Continued on page 5)*

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

**Neighbors Helping Neighbors:  
Villages AED Program  
Saves Lives!**

**Presented by Lieutenant John Longacre,  
Villages Public Safety Division**

**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!**

Year in Review

(Continued from page 1)

**Growth in The Villages Continues South of CR44.** Announcements by the Developer of a new explosive growth plan that has the potential to expand The Villages by up to 26,000 homes took residents by surprise and raised red flags. Many believe The Villages is already "too big," and more growth will have a continuing negative impact on amenity usage, traffic, and crowded restaurants, stores and services. The Villages of Fenney and Southern Oaks are located south of CR44, on both sides of the Florida Turnpike, and currently have no golf cart access to The Villages north of CR44. Plans call for connection via golf cart paths and tunnels, and residents of those new areas will have access to amenity facilities throughout The Villages. The same applies to Villagers who live north of CR44, but wish to use the amenities south of CR44.

In June, the Developer unveiled the amenities plan for Fenney, which includes the same level of facilities, services and golf courses as exist in all other areas, based on the criteria the late Gary Morse established in 2007. The plan also includes new kinds of amenities, such as a "resort-style" swimming pool, a splash pad and a playground for children.

The POA continues to monitor these growth plans and will keep residents updated as new areas are built to ensure that amenities and services in established areas are not adversely affected.

**Cracked Lanai Ceilings.** Since March, the POA has been contacted by more than 1,000 residents who have experienced cracks in the

**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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The POA reserves the right to remove and/or discontinue any advertisement or advertiser from its Bulletin at any time at its sole discretion. □

drywall of their lanai and garage ceilings. The POA put together a team to inspect these situations, hired an independent engineer, and has been working to find a solution to repair these ceilings in a manner that will last. Part of the issue has been that homeowners have had the ceilings repaired during their warranty period, but the problem has come back. Other residents reported they were advised by the Warranty Department to wait until near the end of their warranty period to have them repaired, and when the repair also failed, they were no longer in warranty.

**Drought/Water Usage Surcharge.** The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWF-WMD) issued a Phase III Water Conservation order, effective June 4 and renewed until October 31, causing the District Water Utility to implement a 10% surcharge on all water usage.

Water District hydrologists reported an 11-inch deficit in water levels, the lowest in more than 100 years. However, residents were angered as the order was extended through the end of October, considering the rainy season that began in May added significant rainfall to the aquifers – and then came Irma...

**Hurricane Irma.** Undoubtedly the news story of the year, throughout the entire State of Florida, Hurricane Irma hit overnight in The Villages on September 11. The District began preparing recreation facilities and draining ponds to make room for the significant anticipated winds and rainfall. All areas performed according to their design specifications, said the District's water resource engineer. Even so, road and tunnel flooding was especially bad on the Historic Side where power was also out for a week. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), was called in to conduct a road by road assessment on 5 streets in that area.

A meeting of Emergency Management and local government officials was held on Novem-

(Continued on page 4)

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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. □



## Signup/Renewal of Membership for 2018 and Beyond

To those of you who have been loyal members this past year, and for many years, we say "THANK YOU." By now, you should have received your pre-filled form to renew your membership for 2018 and beyond. **To renew**, check over the form and make any necessary corrections. If you want to pay by check, check the box for the year(s) you want to renew and/or any donation. Include the total where indicated. Make the check payable to the "POA" and send the check, along with the form. For your convenience, our address is included on the form.

If you have a multi-year membership that includes 2018, you will not receive a renewal notice.

**For only \$10 a year you're getting one of the most valuable information and advocacy resources available to you!** ☐

### POA Annual Officers & Directors Elections

POA Board and Officer elections were held at the November membership meeting. Following are the results. Installation of officers and board members will be held at the December Membership meeting on December 19 at 7PM at Laurel Manor Recreation Center.

#### OFFICERS

President - Cliff Wiener - Piedmont  
Vice President - Jerry Ferlisi - Poinciana  
Treasurer - Donna Kempa - Glenbrook  
Secretary - Carolyn Reichel - Sunset Pointe

#### DIRECTORS

Susan Ball - Buttonwood  
Ken Copp - Duval  
Bob Rovegno - Lake Deaton  
Bill Schikora - Santo Domingo  
Sal Tornare - St. James  
Bill Yelverton - Mallory ☐

### Medicare Annual Election Period (AEP)

**Deadline December 7<sup>th</sup>**  
See Page 7 For Information

### Coming in 2018!

To accommodate our residents south of CR466A, the POA will hold quarterly membership meetings at Eisenhower Recreation Center on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of January, April, July and October! Meetings will start at 7PM. Dates for 2018 are: January 22, April 23, July 23, October 22. This is in addition to our regular monthly meetings at Laurel Manor on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, and will feature different speakers. ☐

### \*\*\*NEW! PAY ONLINE FEATURE ON POA4US.ORG!\*\*\*

***We are pleased to announce that the POA can now accept payments online!***

Go to [poa4us.org](http://poa4us.org), click 'Membership' in the left column menu and select 'Membership Form / Pay Online Form.' Then, click the 'Pay Online' box under the heading and fill in the form. New for version of the online form, if you received a 2018 renewal notice, please find and enter the Member Id number (it's the number under the barcode on the RENEWAL form we mailed out).

"NEW" members do not have to wait until January to sign up for 2018. You can use the form below and mail your check or follow the instructions above to pay online. ☐

#### POA 2018 AND BEYOND MEMBERSHIP & CONTRIBUTION FORM

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

**PLEASE PRINT ON THIS FORM! OR**

**Use the ONLINE FORM found online at [poa4us.org](http://poa4us.org) to [PAY ONLINE](#) or by check!**

☐ New ☐ Renew How Many Occupants: \_\_\_\_ Member ID (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

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 - 2018 - \$10 per/household  
☐ Two years - 2018/2019 - \$20 per/household  
☐ Three years - 2018/2019/2020 - \$30 per/household

**ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION IF DESIRED:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT FOR DUES AND ANY CONTRIBUTIONS:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE POA**

## Year in Review

(Continued from page 2)

ber 20, sponsored by the Neighbor to Neighbor group to discuss issues and concerns. (See page 1.)

Debris pick up also turned out to be a lengthier process than District officials had anticipated, based on contractors having said they could get it done in three weeks. However, subcontractors "followed the money" and after the first day went to areas that were offering more. The Florida Attorney General is looking into practices of Miami/Dade County who reportedly offered as much as \$20 more per cubic yard to subcontractors, creating debris pick up headaches all over the State.

The Villages District Manager, Janet Tutt, authorized the suspension of weekly yard waste pick up until the storm debris contractors were

done after determining that it would not be logistically possible for both crews to be criss-crossing each other. Some residents and unscrupulous debris haulers even took debris to postal stations and recreation facilities.

Misunderstanding about the Developer also came into play, with some believing he was making a windfall by having FEMA approved debris haulers doing the pick up. But, in fact, the costs for clean-up – expected to be in the millions – will only cost the District (residents!) 5% of the total. And, the Developer has no financial interest or gain in the process.

Ms. Tutt invited residents to provide input and offer suggestions to improve communications and address other concerns so that if there is another incident of this magnitude, it can be improved.

**New Firefighters Contract.** The Village Center Community Development District (VCCDD) and the Professional Firefighters of The Villages, IAFF 4470, agreed to a new 3-year contract after several months of contentious negotiations. Among the terms were increases in starting pay, an annual 3% pay increase, and longevity incentives.

**Golf Cart Fatalities.** Two more Villages residents died because of tragic golf cart accidents, bringing the total golf cart accident fatalities to 23 since 2008.

The POA urges residents to use seat belts

in their golf carts, as most of these deaths and traumatic injury are caused by the victim being ejected from the cart. Additionally, the POA reminds residents that golf carts are not toys, and drinking and driving when using a golf cart is just as dangerous as when driving a car. Residents should be mindful of letting children drive the carts, and everyone should be aware of the rules of the multi-modal paths.

### **New Amenity Facilities Coming to District 4.**

The purchase of the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall and 18 acres of property means that new amenity facilities and programs will be coming to District 4 in 2018. See page 9 for details!

*The POA works hard to stay on top of issues that may affect our continued quality of life, and we strive to bring you relevant, reliable information to help you understand what's going on in The Villages.*

*We wish you and your families a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!* □



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## Historic Side

(Continued from page 1)

Lake County Commissioner Josh Blake and Emergency Management Director Tommy Carpenter spent nearly two hours explaining the processes followed before and after the storm, and hearing stories and concerns from residents of The Villages Historic Lake Paradise area.

Mr. Carpenter described a "huge miscommunication" about the shelter at The Villages Elementary School on Rolling Acres, which was supposed to be a special needs shelter. He said when the generator was tested to open the shelter, it didn't work, so they had to relocate those special needs folks to another shelter in Umatilla – where a tornado came through, requiring them to move people yet again. Late Saturday, the generator was fixed and the shelter, which had quickly filled, was back online.

When asked if there were enough shelters for all the people who needed them, and specifically if Paradise could be designated as a shelter, he said there are never enough spots exactly where they are needed, but the County provided transportation to other locations for those who needed it.

It would be up to The Villages to ask the County to have Paradise become a certified shelter, but cautioned that if it was county-managed, it would be open to any person who needed shelter, whether they live in The Villages or not. Mr. Carpenter said that shelters are opened for safety, and after the storm has passed and most people go home, those who cannot return home are consolidated into less locations where comfort needs can also be addressed.

Carpenter reported the County transported 452 people to and from shelters, and made residents aware of how to sign on the transportation list, which is confirmed on an annual basis. The Lake County Emergency Management website [lake-countyfl.gov/departments/public\\_safety/emergency\\_management/](http://lake-countyfl.gov/departments/public_safety/emergency_management/) says "Emergency Management plays a key role in evacuating citizens who are in danger and registering those who need special medical attention or would require transportation to a shelter. For more information on the Special Needs Program, call (352) 343-9420."

When they return residents to their homes, they make certain they are safe, have power and are not flooded.

Several women from the social media group

Villages Friendly Folks on Facebook said they went out Wednesday morning to check on people, going door-to-door and distributing water and ice for five days after the hurricane.

They asked what can be done to help residents get across US 441 when the golf cart paths are flooded, leaving people who only have golf carts stranded without access to food and medical help. Lady Lake Mayor Jim Richards said the State Department of Transportation controls access to US 441 and what vehicles can cross at what locations.

Richard St. Armant, a resident on Debra Lane, disputed reports that there was no flooding, when his home sustained significant damage due to flooding on his lanai and up to the door to his house. He said that had Lake Paradise been drained by just 3 inches, the water damage wouldn't have been so bad.

The Villages District Manager, Janet Tutt, said that she made the decision to open Paradise Recreation Center as a "refuge", knowing she had no statutory authority to do so. But she had been told the shelter on Rolling Acres was full and there were Villages residents who were

(Continued on page 6)

## Revocable Living Trust & Income Tax Seminar



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## Historic Side

(Continued from page 5)

scared. Parks and Recreation Director, John Rohan, and several volunteers staffed the center, which had about 120 people. The building is not rated as a shelter, and the power went out at 1AM.

Ms. Tutt applauded the Lake County Emergency Operations and members of the Community Response Emergency Team (CERT), who she said went door-to-door in the area, and who provided her with incident reports of where they went and what the conditions were. A member of CERT said they were called out by The Villages Public Safety Department and had 20 teams out within 45 minutes. Ms. Tutt also said they pushed out information by every means available, including the e-notification system for residents who are signed up. She put out an invitation to residents to give feedback and suggestions on what can be improved, and said the input will be reviewed at a future Welcome Wednesday meeting.

Ms. Tutt reminded residents that the infrastructure was built in this area of The Villages decades ago, and was never designed to withstand this kind of storm. However, The Villages Assistant District Manager, Richard Baier, will be working with their engineer to see what sol-

utions they can find to mitigate or help resolve the issues that occurred. She said she can't give any guarantees and advised that any improvements that are made will be paid with resident amenity fees.

Each government entity is gathering information from their departments for an "After Action Report", from which improvement plans will be developed. In an interview prior to the meeting, Mr. Carpenter said he doesn't issue "mandatory" evacuation orders, saying that, in 11 years in emergency management, he has never come across someone who didn't know they should leave their home. But, he said, they can't force them out of their homes either. He said that, countywide, there were about 5,000 people in shelters, 800 of them staff and volunteers.

Mr. Carpenter said he was not made aware of any problems in the Historic area until several weeks after the storm. He said (and told residents at the meeting) that his department has 3 people to serve 350,000 people in Lake County, and he relies on other public safety agencies to do the "after storm" checking. He was in communication with The Villages Public Safety, and the Town of Lady Lake, so he knew areas were being checked. Lake County safety personnel also conducted a "snapshot" check, getting personnel out as soon as it was safe to check areas and people for damages. Mr. Carpenter

said no one ever contacted his office about issues. He emphasized that Lake County has a great relationship with The Villages Public Safety and Fire Department, and he is willing to assist in any way to improve communication, respond or whatever needs to be done.

**Patience, Understanding and Neighbors Helping Neighbors.** No matter how much planning and preparation by government and citizens, when a storm the magnitude of Irma thankfully only comes around every 100 years or so, there are opportunities to learn and improve.

Government agencies have plans, and residents, too, have a personal responsibility for their own and their families plan. We must all seek out information and be proactive in knowing how and where to sign up for programs that meet their personal needs. We strive to give you that information on a regular basis in this **Bulletin**. See page 17 for instructions on how to sign up for The Villages e-Notification and the Sumter, Lake and Marion County Alert systems.

And after a storm or emergency, we all have a responsibility to help each other, friends and strangers alike. This practice is what The Villages is known for. If you have a community group dedicated to this kind of help, please send an email to **TheBulletin@poa4us.org**. We want to help residents to be able to find you. □

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## Medicare Annual Election Period (AEP)

**Deadline December 7<sup>th</sup>**

The Medicare Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) began October 15 and goes through December 7. During this period, you MUST make any desired changes to your Plan(s) or wait until the next year's AEP, except in cases of "life-changing events," which can include a move to another state.

SHINE – Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Elders – is a program available to provide free consulting. Our local SHINE is a group of 24 volunteers, led by Area Coordinator Betty Cunningham. They hold sessions at the Lake Miona, Eisenhower, and Chula Vista Recreation Centers, along with the Langley Health Center.

Counselors do not make recommendations. Their mission is "to provide free and unbiased health insurance counseling through a dedicated network of volunteers, empowering Florida seniors to make informed health care choices." They learn about your individual circumstances, your medical and prescription drug needs, and your current plan, and offer you up to three options to consider. According to Betty, her sole mission is "to make a positive

difference in a person's life." She advises that "one size does not fit all" and it is very important for each person to review their individual circumstances every year.

SHINE has the following schedule, which will run through December 7. NOTE: location dates are increased during the AEP:

- Lake Miona Rec Center  
Tuesdays 9 - 11:50 AM, Dec. 5
- Eisenhower Rec Center  
Wednesdays 9 - 11:50 AM, Dec. 6
- Chula Vista Rec Center  
Fridays 3 - 5 PM, Dec. 1
- Lady Lake Library  
Wednesdays 2 - 4 PM, Dec. 6



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**APPOINTMENTS RECOMMENDED**

# Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) Meeting Highlights

November 8, 2017

## Resident Comments

- Bill Schikora, a Village of Santo Domingo resident and Community Development District 2 Supervisor, expressed concern about the collection of aluminum products (cans, etc.) for recycling by the local Lions club at postal stations throughout residential districts north of CR466. He sent numerous photos to members of the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) members, demonstrating, in his opinion, the lack of timely pick up of the materials and the unintended, yet unsightly, consequence this has caused. (See related article and photos on page 14.)

Committee Member John Wilcox indicated he has studied the situation and noted the same situation at the Polo Ridge postal station, as well as the unsightly problem of old phone books being left at the postal station. District Manager Janet Tutt advised that staff will look into the situation and attempt to resolve.

- The president of the Platform Tennis Club wanted to make sure that the need for additional platform courts stays on the list of amenities when the First Baptist Church property is developed. District Recreation and Parks Director, John Rohan, said that much input had been received when the property purchase was previously discussed. The Recreation Department will review that information as well as conducting its normal process of seeking resident input prior to developing the master plan for the property. (See related article on page 9.)

## Old Business

- Installation of two-board fence around area on El Camino Real. The Committee asked for an update from District Property Manager Sam Wartinbee. He indicated that after the rainy season and Hurricane Irma, the area is coming back to its intended condition and he recommends no further action with the installation of a fence. The Committee requested it remain on the Old Business list for periodic updates.

- Church of Christian Faith. The purchase agreement has been sent to the Church. It will be presented for a vote by the congregation for a vote.
- First Baptist Church Property/Fellowship Hall Purchase. As reported last month, the Church membership voted to accept the District's offer to purchase the Fellowship Hall and 18 acres of property in CDD4 for \$2 Million. Ms. Tutt and the District's attorneys have met to go over next steps, which include surveys, master planning, and approval from Marion County to program the property for recreation. Ms. Tutt advised that she won't be back to them with purchase documents until after the first of the year as there is much "behind-the-scenes" work to be completed.

She also reminded the Committee that the Church will continue to occupy the Fellowship Hall for 8 months after the purchase. As a result, the soonest any construction on the Hall will begin will be next Fall. This will not prohibit the Recreation Department from continuing its planning process and beginning development on other portions of the property.

## Capital Projects Update

- Multi-Modal Path Projects. Phase I from Hacienda Hills to Soledad Way is complete and open.

- Power Corridor Trail (PCT) in CDD4.

Survey work must be completed before legal documents can be prepared. This should be done by end of the year.

Committee member Ann Forrester cautioned that the Committee and residents should be aware of the balances in the Settlement Funds account, and that projections indicate the estimated balance will be \$12,514,871.03 (as provided by District Budget Director Barbara Kays), as of December 2020 when the last annuity payment from the settlement is paid. She stated this does not include any projects that have not yet been approved, and believes there is a limited amount of money to use in the future.

Committee member Don Deakin suggested there are other considerations, such as the reduction in bond payments in the future, that will have a positive impact.

Ms. Tutt said she would prepare a full report that will have all funds and financial projections in perspective.

## Committee Member Comments

- Committee Chair Carl Bell said the Hacienda cart path is going to be very dark and recommended a 200-yard experiment using reflective pavement markers (RPM) on the side of the wall so the useable pavement is not

(Continued on page 10)

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## First Baptist Church Purchase Offers New Amenities Opportunities North of CR466

The Villages northern-most area will have opportunities for new amenity facilities and programs if the purchase of the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall and 18 acres located on CR42 goes through in 2018. District Manager Janet Tutt is working through the details and steps to secure the property and hopes to come back to the Amenity Authority Committee after the first of the year with purchase documents.

The Fellowship Hall will be renovated as a Recreation Center and the Developer has agreed to construct a pool. The Church will continue to use the Fellowship Hall until September 2018, so work cannot begin until then.

There are a plethora of options for outdoor recreation programs, fields and courts that can be developed on the open 18 acres. The District Recreation and Parks Department will go through a master planning process that will include resident input. Over the last couple of years, numerous suggestions have already been made that will be merged with a new process once the purchase is finalized.

Stay tuned! This is an exciting opportunity! □



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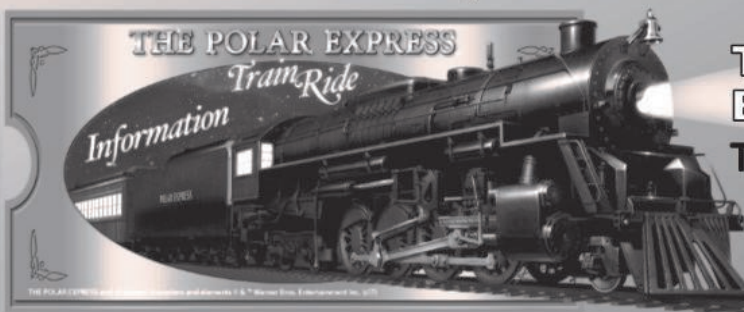
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## AAC Meeting Highlights

(Continued from page 8)

narrowed as a result. He asked committee members to think about it for discussion next month. This topic was discussed by the Multi-Modal Path Discussion Group and there were many reasons given for not doing it.

The next regular meeting of the Amenity Authority Committee is December 6 at 9AM at the Savannah Center. Meeting agenda and minutes can be found on the District website **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. □

## Did You Know?

You can request meeting agendas, minutes and other information sent to you via email by signing up on the **DistrictGov.org** website.

Click on Sign Up for e-Notifications toward the bottom of the menu on the left side of the screen. □



## Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) Meeting Highlights

November 13, 2017

The Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) conducted its meeting in two segments, beginning first with the Project Wide Fund agenda items, followed immediately by the Amenities Fund agenda items.

### Project Wide Fund:

- Resident Request: A Gilchrest Village resident requested that PWAC consider reflectors along a stretch of Morse and Buena Vista Boulevards to address night driving visibility concerns, particularly with the number of new types of headlights on golf carts today. District Manager Janet Tutt stated that the practice of the Committee has been to have staff investigate and address specific resident concerns, and recommended the same process in this case. Committee members concurred.

### Old Business

- Morse Boulevard Bridge Embankment Improvement Project. Engineering firm Kimley-Horne Associates (KHA) continues to work on the plan for bids, which will be reviewed by PWAC prior to going out for bid. Because of Hurricane Irma and the high waters of Lake Sumter, the project is

somewhat delayed. District Property Manager Sam Wartinbee said it will take approximately 90 days to reduce the water levels, and expects the bid packet for committee review in January, and to go out for bid February or March.

- Lake Miona Conservation Easement Long-term Management Plan. Residents have not yet completed their comments on the plan approved, but not required, by Southwest Florida Water Management Division, for further discussion.

### Sumter Landing Amenities Division Fund:

Ms. Tutt stated that costs associated with Hurricane Irma will be paid from the working capital funds and will be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA). Since the expenses and reimbursement will fall into the same fiscal year, there is no need to adjust the budget. She also commented that from the 160 comments received in response to her request for resident input about the hurricane, she believes there continues to be great misunderstanding that the Developer made significant money by suspending weekly yard waste pick up while hurricane debris pick up was done by FEMA approved contractors.

**Please be reminded that the Developer no longer has a financial interest in the maintenance or amenity operations in residential Districts 1-11. Therefore, there was no windfall to the Villages of Lake Sumter (the Developer). If FEMA approved contractors were not used, FEMA would not reimburse the District, and the expenses would be paid from RESIDENT-PAID maintenance and amenity funds.**

**Combined reimbursement by FEMA and the State of Florida will be 95% of expenses (expected to be in the millions of dollars), with the cost from resident-paid funds only 5%.**

- The Villages Recreation and Parks Department has announced a new pilot program for kayaking, fishing, and boating on Lake Sumter. These activities will be scheduled by the Recreation Department; sign up and fees will be required. Note that individual fishing on Lake Sumter is not allowed, and the fishing with this new program is only "catch and release."

The next PWAC meeting will be held **Monday, Dec 11**, at 8:30 AM, at the District office in Lake Sumter Landing. For meeting agendas and minutes, please visit **DistrictGov.org**, select 'Committees' from the top navigation bar, and 'Project Wide Advisory Committee' from the dropdown menu. □

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Residents are able to speak on any item, on the agenda or not, at any Public meeting. Residents' comments and input are always welcomed.

Wednesday before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday  
AAC – 9 AM, Savannah Center  
VCCDD – 3:30 PM, District Office

Thursday before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday, District Office  
CDD7 – 8 AM  
CDD12 – 10 AM  
CDD11 – 11:30 AM

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday, District Office  
CDD1 – 8 AM  
CDD2 – 9:30 AM  
CDD3 – 11 AM  
CDD4 – 1:30 PM, Savannah Center

Thursday before the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, District Office  
SLCDD – 10 AM  
BCDD – 11:30 AM  
CDD9 – 1:30 PM  
CDD10 – 3 PM

3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, District Office ★  
CDD5 – 8 AM  
CDD6 – 9:30 AM  
CDD8 – 11:30 AM

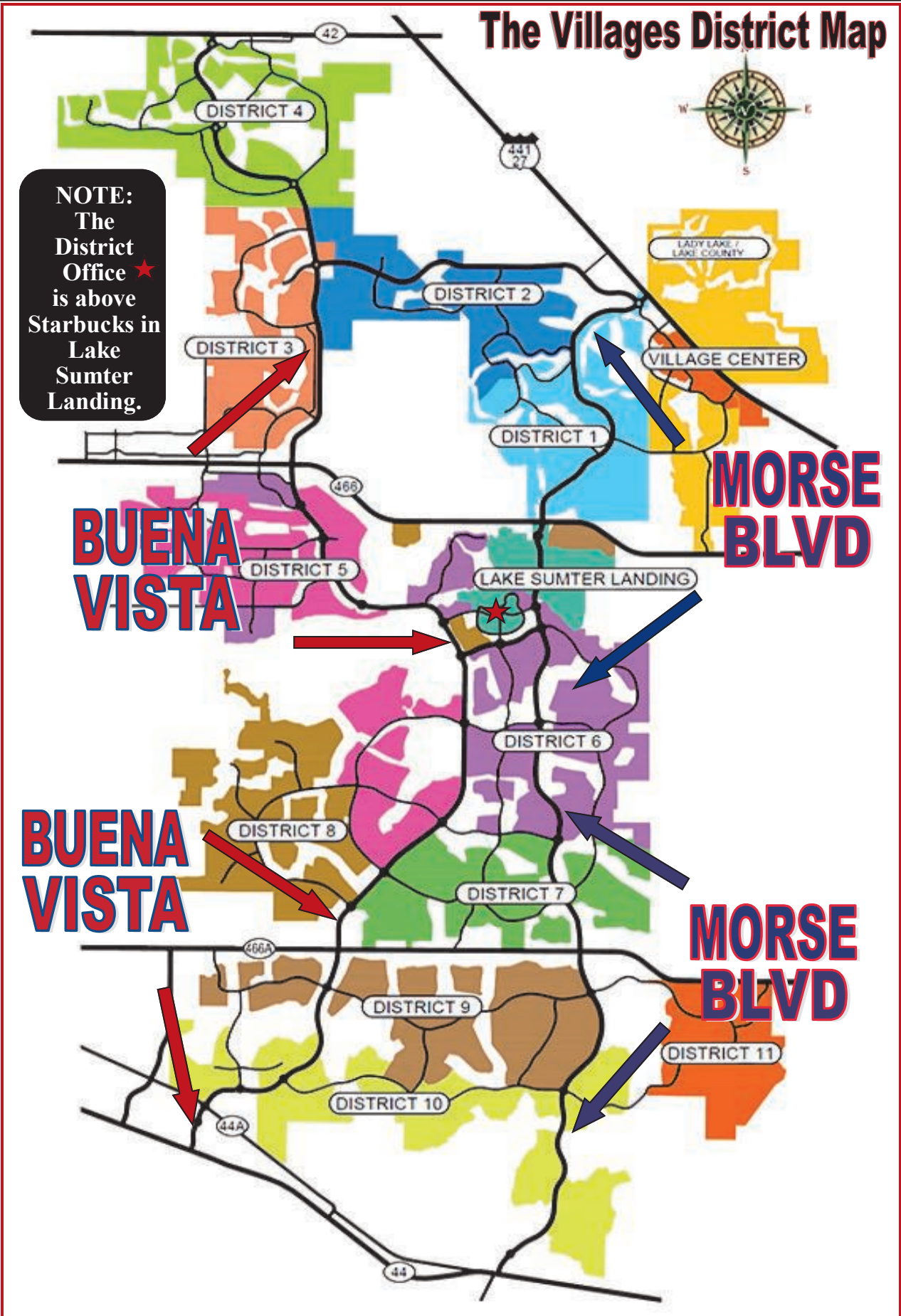
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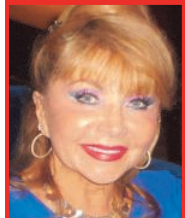
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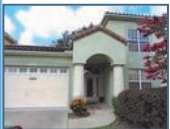
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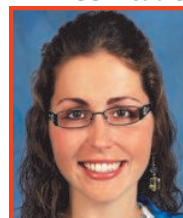
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## News from the Community Development Districts (CDDs)

Numbered Residential Community Development Districts, known as CDDs, meet monthly to administer the maintenance budgets in their respective districts (see **meeting schedule** and map on **page 11** to find your district information), and address various resident concerns and questions. Following is information from some of those district meetings. Have a question

or a problem? Attend the meeting!

**CDD2** – By a vote of 3 to 2, CDD2 will proceed with yellow centerline striping of the Multi-Modal Path that parallels El Camino Real. The purpose of the centerline striping is to improve safety by giving users (golf cart drivers in particular) a "point-of-reference" for their left-to-right position on the path. This

should be especially helpful at night and/or in the rain. The centerline will be an intermittent line (skip line) in areas where safe passing may be available -- and a solid line where passing is potentially unsafe due to limited visibility. This striping project has been completed.

TOTAL COST OF STRIPING is \$1,900.00 and has already been completed.

Based on experience in CDD4 (north of us), the striping should last about four (4) years.  $1900/4 = \$475$  per year. There are 3,368 households in CDD2.  $\$475/3,368 = 0.1410$  -- LESS THAN 15 cents per household/per year.

The CDD2 Board also agreed to proceed with a project to power wash/scrub the 6" concrete curb on both sides of this same Multi-Modal Path. This also was done to improve visibility and aesthetics. TOTAL COST is \$600.

Resident and Supervisor Bill Schikora has questioned the aluminum recycling program for the local Lions Club at various postal stations north of CR466, which, in his view, has created an unsightly problem.



The program is not done at postal stations south of CR466. So, what's the story? How did this begin and should it continue? Is it a violation of the Florida law that prohibits leaving yard debris or trash on government property, including recreation and postal stations?

Ms. Tutt said the program started before she came to The Villages, and she does not know how or by whom, but said it is in the purview of the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) to determine if it should continue. She contacted the Lions Club regarding the concerns and they have immediately addressed them by adding more containers and committing to pick

(Continued on page 16)

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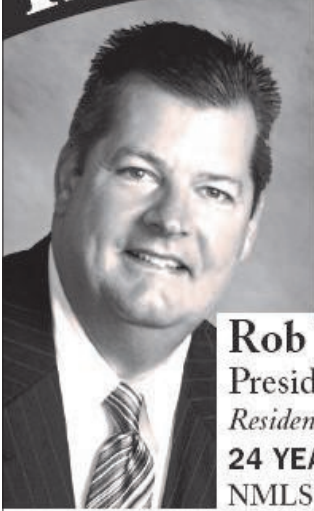
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|  <div>Bonnie Manross 446-0107<br/>Jean Kreiger 425-0865</div> |  <div>Rob Mack<br/>653-8010</div>        |  <div>Bob Payne 748-0455<br/>or 315-694-0925</div> |  <div>Kay Mann<br/>407-608-2485</div>       |  <div>Kim Aschman<br/>630-270-7584</div>    |  <div>Paul Jackson<br/>859-322-1953</div>  |  <div>Deb Woods 352-212-1268<br/>Roland Stults 406-8030</div> |   |
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## News from CDDs

(Continued from page 14)

up the aluminum three times a week. A representative will be at the December AAC meeting to answer any questions or concerns.

Should this program continue? Let us know what you think!

Supervisor Bill Schikora announced there will be resident Q&A meetings starting in January,

on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7PM, at the Santiago Recreation Center.

**CDD4** – In order to improve communications, each month residents now have an opportunity to "chat" with a District 4 Board Supervisor. Residents are able to sit down together to discuss any topics they would like pertaining to District 4. The purpose of the meetings is to provide residents with the opportunity to ask questions, get answers, share concerns, offer suggestions and address rumors. These "Q&A Meetings" provide an informal setting with no agenda, no scheduled speakers and no microphones.

- Meetings will be held at Mulberry Grove Recreation Center, from 7-9 PM.
- Residents are invited to attend the entire meeting to listen to other residents' questions, but each resident may arrive and depart on their own schedules.
- Because residents choose the topics, each meeting will be different.
- Although water is supplied, you are welcome to bring your own beverage.

Nearly 50 people attended the October meeting!! The next meeting is on Monday, December 4.

To be added to the District 4 email list, send

your email address at [DRDeakin@aol.com](mailto:DRDeakin@aol.com) or [Don.Deakin@DistrictGov.org](mailto:Don.Deakin@DistrictGov.org).

**CDD7** – Supervisor Jerry Vicenti has received questions about the landscaping at the entrance to Hemingway looking less attractive than usual.

District Property Manager Sam Wartinbee explained that because of, first the drought conditions and lack of watering, and then, the rainy season and Hurricane Irma, the flora throughout The Villages has been difficult to maintain to our normal standards. Villages entrances and roundabouts were replanted in late October and are beginning to fill in nicely. Some of the greenery, like the jasmine behind the flowering plants, still need attention. □



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- Click on 'Sign up for e-Notifications'.
- Enter your information and choose the specific notifications you would like to receive.
- You will receive an email asking you to confirm your request. You must reply to this email before you will be added to the notification.

We recommend that you sign up for What's Happening & General Community Info for regular monthly updates, and Message from the District Manager for special and important announcements. Also sign up for Welcome Wednesday. These hand-outs will update you weekly on what's happening throughout The Villages.

Community Watch 24-Hour Phone is 352-753-0550. □



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## Season's Greetings to Our Military

A Salute to all our Men and Women in Uniform. Thank You for Your Service!



## Did You Know?

Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, our mission to *Remember, Honor and Teach* is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as over 1,200 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea, and abroad. Visit [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org) for more information. □



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**Membership Info  
 on Page 3!**

## Seniors vs. Crime

### Leading the Fight Against Scams

## Christmas Parcel Delivery Scam

Christmas is upon us! Experts suggest an extra dollop of caution is in order before clicking on email package delivery notices. Fake notifications are proliferating, bringing not holiday cheer — but holiday ransomware.

The holiday phishing season began just before Thanksgiving and will likely extend until after Christmas. Caleb Barlow, vice president for IBM Security, stated "This is a \$445 billion business. These are campaigns run by the criminal equivalent of marketers," he said. They are designed to capture YOUR HOLIDAY MONEY!

Security company FireEye sees a significant increase in fake package email alerts beginning in November, an almost 100% increase from the average of September-October.

Common email subject lines FireEye has been

(Continued on page 19)



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## Package Delivery

(Continued from page 18)

tracking include:

- We could not deliver your parcel, #00556030
- Please Confirm Your DHL Shipment
- Problems with item delivery, n.000834069
- Delivery Receipt | Confirm XYZ  
No:XXX830169
- Your order is ready to be delivered
- Courier was unable to deliver the parcel,  
ID00990381
- Your DHL package is here please  
download attachment to view detail and  
confirmation of your address

Phishing scams are proliferating as intensely as ever; it's up to you to avoid getting hooked. You, as a PC or cell phone user, have to be especially alert. In other words "Let the clicker beware."

It's important to remember that legitimate shippers such as Amazon, FedEx, UPS, and similar enterprises have nothing to do with this and haven't done anything wrong here. In fact, they and their good company names are also victims. "It's the bad guys trying to trick you into thinking it's them, not the companies themselves," Barlow said.

The companies, as well as the U.S. government, are trying hard to alert consumers like you to these scams. UPS keeps a page on its site showing various examples of fake delivery notices, with tips on how to spot fraud. The Federal Trade Commission also has information up on how consumers can protect themselves.

The fake messages tend to come in two main types.

Some contain malware that invades your computer and either allows it to be used by a botnet or attempts to find and extract personal information about you that could be sold, or login information for your financial accounts.

The most damaging can contain ransomware. This is software that allows criminals to remotely lock up your computer. They then send a message demanding payment in an untraceable digital currency, such as Bitcoin.

Your best defense against these scams is to look carefully at any emailed package delivery notice you receive. Do they include your full name, customer number and actual information from the company? Is the email address it came from actually the company or some odd variant?

If there's any doubt in your mind, don't click, experts say. Take the time to actually type in the Amazon or UPS or FedEx address. It won't take that much longer but will protect you.

According to Thomas Pore, director of IT for security company Plixer International, most malicious scammers think that Christmas is the optimal phishing season and that the phishing is good! As much as you want to click and open that email package delivery notification, just don't do it. If you do, you may end up being the "Catch of the Day!" for the scammers.

If you need assistance with understanding any aspects of holiday scams, especially package delivery scams, 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

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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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## Our Gardening Column:

**A Long Winter's Nap**

by Anne Lambrecht,  
Fanatical Gardener  
Mrsanne04@gmail.com

Mother Nature has given us a sign. The days are shorter, the air is cooler. Growth has stopped. It is time now to let our gardens rest. The New Year promises a fresh start both with our lives and our gardens. Real gardeners dream of new and different plants and ideas for our spring gardens. Those seed catalogs keep rolling in. But keep on dreaming now for at least six weeks!

In north central Florida, our winters are mild but we can have weeks of killing frosts. The fierce, relentless wind can wreak havoc on even the stoutest shrub. Winter can be a crazy quilt of weather: warm, cold, windy, rainy. Usually it's cold in the morning and warms up nicely during the day. Some days it doesn't warm up at all. All the tender green has virtually disappeared and the garden is all sticks. Other plants, especially the tropicals, have perhaps "burned" with the frost and wind. Succulents and cacti have turned to mush. Keep your plants watered, even if they're burned. Don't let plants become dehydrated. Deep watering prior to a freeze will help prevent dehydration and damage.

Many citrus trees are ready to pick. If you have a citrus tree, check the fruit now for ripe-

ness by tasting it instead of checking the color. Fruit does not sweeten after picking. It is harvest time for Navel, Parson Brown, and Pineapple oranges, Temple and Dancy tangerines, grapefruit and tangelos.

If you have not already planted hardy annuals, it's still a great time to plant dianthus, pansy, petunia and snapdragon. The nectar in these plants helps feed over-wintering creatures like bees and butterflies.

**It is very important that you resist the temptation to prune.** We can still freeze right into March. Our last frost date is March 10<sup>th</sup>. Waiting until March to prune and trim is too much to ask, I know--I can hardly contain myself until February, but I try...I try. I try to keep busy and productive in my garden with other chores for January. It is good to go outside, just to get some fresh air.

Some chores to take your mind off pruning:

- Weed. There are always plenty of weeds to pull.
- Clean your birdbath, bird feeders and water features. Clean your pots and containers. Use a scrub brush with a mild bleach solution and let them dry in the sun.
- Refresh the mulch in your yard. If you don't have rocks, the mulch you use will slowly decompose and put good nutrients back in the soil. Pine straw, pine bark nuggets, and Melaleuca are all good choices. Melaleuca, made from the Australian Melaleuca tree, has become a Category 1

invasive pest in South Florida. Originally its purpose was to soak up water but now it's taking over, replacing our native plant and animal habitats. So they cut it down, grind it up and bag it. You can buy it now at Lowes and it is a nice beige color.

- DO NOT FERTILIZE unless you have winter veggies.
- Amend your soil with leaves and compost.
- Clean and sharpen your tools.
- Think about what new stuff you will be growing in your nice, clean pots. Maybe a trellis in a pot with a flowering pea vine by your entranceway.

And most of all, take a little rest. It's good for us. □

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**Audrey Ann Originals** - Embroidery, Screen Printing, Logos for clubs & businesses. 352-259-0131. 10% POA Discount; must present membership card.

**Battery Boys** - Electric & Gas batteries. We also sell & repair battery chargers. Free gift with purchase to POA members. 352-643-1241.

**CHS Hair Salon** - Young Park, Stylist - \$3 off services for new clients with POA card. 352-201-9032 (call or text). Save A Lot Shopping Center, Wildwood.

**Cozco Handcrafts** - 1121 Main St., Spanish Springs, 352-430-0386. 10% off non-sale items.

**Decorating Den in The Villages** - Creating beautiful rooms since 1969. 10% POA discount - Must mention this ad. 352-787-4413.

**Edible Arrangements** - Southern Trace Shopping Center, 352-391-1334. \$3 off order greater than \$25 with POA card.

**Entry Point by Perry Decorative Glass** - La Plaza Grande, 352-751-0883. 10% off any non-sale items (cannot be combined with any other offer). Present POA membership card.

**Exercise2gether** - 10% Off Services for POA Members, please present POA membership card. 352-801-1633.

**Expedia Cruise Ship Centers** - 313 Colony Blvd. Free membership & fancy lanyard into their travel reward program. Present POA membership card. (800) 843-5183 or 352-269-0618.

**EyeSite of The Villages** - Dr. Paul E Collins - Grand Traverse "Publix" Plaza, adjacent to Brownwood. 20% Off a Complete Pair of Prescription Eyewear, Frames & Lenses (excluding Oakley & Tifosi). 352-674-3937, eyesite-thevillages.com

**Firehouse Subs** - Free Cookie with sandwich purchase, please present POA member card. 13757 US-441 Near Lowes, 352-430-3870.

**Flags & Flag Poles** - 211 S. Hwy 27/441 next to Tire Round-up. 352-751-1876. \$5 off installation of new flag pole for POA members. Discount on cash/check orders only.

**Friar Income Tax Preparation Service** - Barney Madden, Notary Public - 10% POA Discount. 1544 Hillcrest Drive. Villages resident. 352-751-4435.

**Golf Clubs & Bag Lock** - Gator Jaws, \$30 each or 10% POA discount off on 2 or more, 352-750-0488.

**Grandma's Sewing & Crafts** - Cushion, pillow and chair seat recovering, personalized gifts & custom embroidery. myshopping14@comcast.net or 352-350-7124. 10% POA Disc.

**Haagen Dazs** - 1001 Lake Shore Dr., Sumter Landing, 352-751-0261. 10% POA Discount.

\* **HNR Gunworks** - Custom Gunsmith and gun shop. 3238 S Florida Ave Inverness, 352-503-6285. 10% off any gunsmithing service to POA members.

**Honey Baked Ham Company & Cafe** - Best Buy Shopping Center, 352-259-3900. Buy one sandwich or boxed lunch - Get 2nd 50% off (equal or lesser value). Present POA membership card.

(Continued on page 22)

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## Discount Partners

(Continued from page 21)

**I. Stern & Co.** - 10% off Hi Quality Golf Clothing, 3405 W College Road, Suite 113, Ocala. 352-307-4878.

**Johnny Rockets** - 976 Old Mill Run, Lk Sumter Landing, 352-259-0051. 10% POA Disc.

**Village Kart Aide Golf Cart Rescue Service** - Get a free month when you sign up, new members only, with discount code 13412. POA and POA membership card.

**Kiley & Sons Plumbing** - 219 S Old Dixie Hwy, Lady Lake, 352-753-5301. 10% POA discounted labor on a SERVICE Call. Valid on a minimum 1 hr. of service for POA members. Visit our Showroom.

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**Panda Express** - 869 N Hwy. 27/441, Home Depot Plaza, 352-751-2507. 10% POA Discount, not valid with coupons or specials.

**Plaza Jewelers** - 16770 S. Hwy. 441, Baylee Plaza, 352-307-3846. 20 to 40% POA saving off retail price; all watch batteries \$4.

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POA President

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## What To Look For In A Doctor (Part Three of a Three-Part Series)



**Dr. Norman H. Anderson, MD**  
**Robert Boissoneault Oncology Institute**  
**1540 San Clemente Ct, The Villages, FL 32159**  
**352-259-2200**

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.