

FREE COPY The POA – Champions of Residents' Rights Since 1975 FREE COPY MAY 2018

POA4US.org

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#### UPCOMING POA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

#### Tuesday, May 15, 2018 • 7 P.M.

Laurel Manor Recreation Center Home Values in The Villages Speaker: Glenn Stein, Realty Executives *Followed by Questions & Answers* Donuts & Coffee for All After the Meeting! All Residents Welcome – Come and Join Us

#### Tuesday, June 26, 2018 • 7 P.M.

#### Eisenhower Recreation Center Lightning Matters!

Presenter: Len Hathaway Donuts & Coffee for All After the Meeting! All Residents Welcome – Come and Join Us

#### 2018 MEETING SCHEDULE

July 17	Laurel Manor
Aug 28	Eisenhower
Sept 18	Laurel Manor
Oct 23	Eisenhower
Nov 20	Laurel Manor
Dec 18	Laurel Manor



# AAA Agent Discusses Sinkhole, Golf Cart Insurance Coverages

With sinkholes at the forefront in the minds of Villagers these days, Diane Digristina, a licensed insurance agent with AAA in The Villages, stepped in as a last-minute fill-in when The Villages Regional Hospital postponed its presentation until August.

Ms. Digristina began with good news for current AAA members – emergency service for golf cart and bicycle break-downs is covered with your membership! She recommended downloading the AAA app, and if you need to use the service with a smart phone, it will find you with your GPS tracker. The service is available 24 hours a day. If you don't have a smart phone, call the number on the back of your membership card.

She said that much has changed since she last spoke to POA members 4 years ago.

**Catastrophic or Sinkhole Coverage?** What's the difference? Florida law requires that all insurance companies offer catastrophic coverage, which is defined as a **total loss** of home. If there is a sinkhole or other damage due to sinkhole that is **not under roof**, it is NOT covered. Catastrophic coverage is a home that is uninhabitable, whereas the broad sinkhole coverage puts a cap on your out-of-pocket expense for any partial loss under the roof line which is usually 10% of your Coverage A dwelling, as posted on your declaration page. Not all homes qualify for the broader coverage, which is admittedly, a scary proposition in Florida. Companies are not required to provide the broader coverage, and many do not. Sinkhole protection only covers anything under the roof line; anything beyond the roof line is NOT covered.

**Screened Enclosures.** After Hurricane Irma, some companies are no longer covering screened enclosures. AAA is still covering the enclosure and the screen, not just the structure.

**Golf cart coverages.** Ms. Digristina recommends that you get a separate policy for your personal golf cart and any cart you may provide with a rental property. It is relatively new that you can have a cart with a rental property covered. She said you should also get a separate golf cart policy from your homeowners' coverage to avoid claims that could affect your premium.

**Flood Insurance.** Ms. Digristina said that in the U.S., insurance carriers pay out more for flooding than any other damage. If water gets inside your home from the outside caused by a storm, a broken water line or even a fire hydrant, *Coverages continued on page 2* 

## The Bulletin MAY 2018

## **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.

Coverages continued from page 1

you must have flood insurance. Ground water flowing in from the outside is solely covered by FEMA, not your homeowners' policy.

There were numerous questions about specifics relating to sinkholes and coverage that we will consolidate.

Ms. Digristina had good news for new home buyers – 99% of them would qualify for the broader sinkhole coverage. Among the factors that may disqualify a home from coverage – new or existing – is the proximity of the home to a location where there is an active sinkhole issue. Companies define what that proximity is; often it is within a  $\frac{1}{4}$  -  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile. She also said that a company may tell you they cannot provide coverage, when in fact, they simply don't sell it and don't provide the broader coverage.

You can find out if there has been sinkhole activity in your area or in an area where you are considering purchasing or constructing a home by searching for sinkhole activity in your county. You may also call your county to see what activity has occurred in that area.

A property must be claim-free of sinkhole activity for 5 years before it can be reviewed for consideration by another insurance carrier. This is strictly on a case-by-case basis. The company that does the mitigation should give some assurances or warranty its work. It is a myth that there is government help or that The Villages will help you. Once you purchase your home you are responsible, not the Villages or government.



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"Where the people make the difference!" A sinkhole may be in an area where a drain pipe caused erosion, but you still own the property and you are liable for damages on your property. Ms. Digristina said that average mitigation can cost as much as \$100,000. Deductibles generally start at 10% of the home's value for the broader sinkhole coverage, and is only for damage under the roof line.

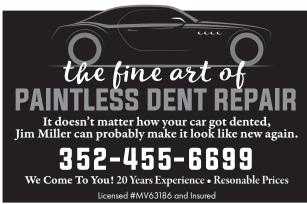
Companies also have different definitions of what is grandfathered. Ms. Digristina stresses the importance that if you are covered now, and as long as your premium is up to date and your policy remains active, you should not have any issues. Always check your policy at renewal to see if your carrier is, in fact, still offering the broader protection.

#### **Other Questions and Answers**

How do I know what extra coverages I have? Call your agent. You can also look at the bottom of your Declaration page and it will list all "perils." This is where your hurricane and sinkhole coverage will be listed. It will also show your deductible percentage, based on your home's insured value.

Are there credits available if you install a Lightning Rod Protection System on your home, similar to credits for security systems? No, there is typically not a credit for Lightning Rods. This is a system that you would install to give yourself peace of mind in a storm.

If I have a AAA membership from another state, are its benefits honored here? There are different membership clubs in different regions of the country; however, your home club should cover any benefits wherever you are located.



## MAY 2018 The Bulletin

# Noteworthy

**Have a Great Summer!** We know many of you will be heading back to your Northern homes or visiting family during the Summer months.

Please don't forget to Stop your *Bulletin* driveway delivery while you are away. We want to help keep our neighborhoods tidy. Call 352-325-1540 or simply email delivery@poa4us.org.

**Stay in Touch!** The POA *Bulletin* is online and publishes every month. Don't miss out on what's happening in The Villages. **Visit poa4us.org and select Bulletin Links from the left column menu.** Have a safe and happy summer. We'll see you in the Fall!

**The Villages Regional Hospital** presentation to the POA membership has been re-scheduled for the August 28 meeting at Eisenhower Recreation Center. We apologize to anyone who attended the April meeting at Laurel Manor expecting the Hospital presentation. We were notified of the cancellation after the April *Bulletin* went to press.

**Don't forget that new Medicare Cards** are beginning to be mailed out in June. It will take a full year to mail to every state. You don't need to do anything to get your new card. When you get it, don't laminate it as it might ruin the numbers on it. And remember, Medicare will never call you uninvited or ask for your personal or private information to get your new number and card. You do not have to pay for your new card and anyone who tells you they can help you get it if you pay them is a scammer!

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. The POA assumes no liability for any information published, opinions expressed, or delivery to any person or location. The POA does not endorse or recommend the products or services of any advertiser or discount partner. All publication rights are reserved. Publication or reprinting of any material contained herein is by written permission only. The POA reserves the right to remove and/or discontinue any advertisement or advertiser from its *Bulletin* at any time at its sole discretion.

# **POA Membership is a Great Value!**

Where can you get an advocate, informative programs, discounts from businesses, and a wealth of information about your community for just \$10 a year?

That's right; with your POA membership. The POA is the original Property Owners' Association, advocating for property owners since 1975.

We all pay for, with our maintenance and amenity fees, golf courses and pools, recreation centers, activities galore, beautiful landscapes and preserves. We also have fantastic town squares with nightly entertainment, restaurants and shopping. We don't take our quality of life lightly, and the POA is committed to do all that it can to make sure our lifestyle continues, and to address issues when they arise.

The POA can help you, if you help us, by strengthening our membership and getting involved! \$10 a year? You can't beat it!

If you haven't sent in your pre-filled renewal form, please do it today or go online to renew. If you've never been a member, you can use the form below and mail a check or go online at **POA4US.org** and sign up and pay online.

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## POA 2018 AND BEYOND MEMBERSHIP & CONTRIBUTION FORM

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(Please Select One):	Two years – 2018/2019 - \$20 per/household
	Three years – 2018/2019/2020 - \$30 per/household
ADDITIONAL CONTRIE	BUTION IF DESIRED: \$
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# Amenity Authority and Project Wide Advisory Committees Discuss 2018-19 Budget Considerations

Budget preparations have begun for the upcoming fiscal year and both oversight committees – the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) and the Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) – have held workshops to discuss spending priorities and projects, and hot-button topics such as the Recreation News, allocations by rooftop and amenity fee deferral rates.

Rooftop allocations are used in many spending areas to equitably distribute costs for services such as Community Watch. For workshop and planning purposes only, the allocations are 64% for Districts located in the Sumter Landing Community Development District (SLCDD) area and 36% for the Village Center Community Development District (VCCDD) area. Those percentages will be adjusted to actual before final budgets are approved.

Last year, recognizing the growth and changes in The Villages, the District began the process of looking at other ways of allocating expenses that would be more equitable, based on geography and usage. For example, property management changed some of its expenses based on Supervisor territories, instead of using rooftop allocations. This year, the Recreation News is allocated based on location of the recreation centers. That means that the Sumter Landing Amenity Division (SLAD) budget will pay 62%, the VCCDD's Recreation Amenity Division 28% and the Developer 10%. There continues to be debate about the \$700,000+ annual cost to produce the Recreation News, with arguments for and against continuing to provide a weekly, printed publication. The Recreation and Parks Department continues to explore opportunities to reduce costs and are encouraged to implement pilot projects that use technology and touch screens in recreation facilities. Amenity fees are those resident fees paid monthly for amenity services and facilities. The amount paid is based on the prevailing rate - set by the Developer and currently \$145 - at the time a resident purchased or built the home, and is adjusted annually according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), until it reaches the maximum \$155 deferral rate. It won't go higher until the SLCDD and the AAC raise the deferral rate. It should be noted that the amenity fees that are paid North of CR 466 may be significantly lower than South of CR 466 because they started at a much lower point, and only 5,500 homes are currently at the deferral rate of \$155. That number doubles by FY 2019/20 and is at nearly 100% by 2024/25. As homes are resold or rebuilt, the new owner begins again at the prevalent rate.

Budget Director, Barbara Kays, provided two 10-year forecasts for the AAC and PWAC members, assuming a 3% and 4% increase in operating expenses beginning in 2018-19. At 3%, expenses would exceed amenity fee deposits (with the deferral rate at \$155) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 in the PWAC area south of CR 466, and FY 25/26 for AAC areas north of CR 466. At a 4% increase in operating expenses, expenses are projected to exceed deposits by FY 2022-23 in the PWAC area and by FY 23/24 for AAC.

#### Budget continued on page 6





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#### Budget continued from page 4

District Manager Janet Tutt said that forecasting is a great tool, but, there are so many uncertainties right now, it is difficult to look beyond 3-5 years. She is not recommending looking at the rate now, but cautioned that if the CPI continues to go up and District Property Management continues to see increases in bids, the discussion will need to occur in the next 2-3 years. She said the CPI is only being applied to 37% of people in the PWAC area because the rest are already at the maximum rate.

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#### **Highlights of Discussions:**

- Single Golf Trail Fees will not be considered. There are too many complexities in administering such a change, and the bonds used to purchase the amenities and fees forecast those revenues. The governing bodies

   VCCDD and SLCDD – have a fiduciary responsibility to protect that revenue stream.
- Storm Water Improvement Plan the AAC approved the immediate purchase of generators for the Golfview and Mira Mar Pump stations. The addition of these generators will enable District Government to convey excess storm water from Lake Paradise and Lake Mira Mar to Golfview Lake. Staff and AAC members feel the purchase is necessary in order to protect residents before another hurricane season begins.
- Paradise Recreation Center is the oldest regional recreation center in The Villages and consists of two modular buildings. Since it is not site built, it will not have the same life expectancy as other centers, and already faces major challenges. Staff asked for, and AAC gave, direction to evaluate the options and costs to tear down and reconstruct the buildings.
- AAC authorized exploring improvements to the Rio Grande air rifle range for inclusion on the Project Consideration List.
- Staff recommended that PWAC fund and budget (3) Aquatic Access Lifts for fiscal year 2018-19 to be allocated to Laurel Manor Region, Lake Miona Region, and Colony Cottage Region for a fiscal impact of \$27,000. This will ensure each region will have a minimum of one Aquatic Access Lift at a Sports, Family, and Neighborhood Adult pools respectfully in these regions. All the other regions meet or exceed this allotment of Aquatic Access Lifts. Moving forward, staff is recommending Aquatic Access Lifts be considered based on resident requests.

The numbered districts will review their budgets at their scheduled May meetings, and all proposed budgets will be presented for approval at June meetings. For more information on the District budget process, go to DistrictGov.org; click on 'Departments' on the top menu and select 'Budget.'

# April Membership Meeting Forum Q&A

Each POA General Membership Meeting features a Forum for residents to ask questions. We try our best to provide answers. If we don't know the answer, we'll find out. Sometimes, unfortunately, there is no answer or one we don't like. Here's what was on people's minds in April.

#### Is the POA Bulletin available online?

Yes! Every current issue and Bulletins dating back to 2002 are available online! Visit poa4us.org and select 'Bulletin Links' from the left column menu.

#### What can be done about vacant homes that have become unsightly and even have mold?

This is a growing problem and sometimes homes have been sitting vacant for years. There isn't anything that can be done about some of the issues, but the District will take care of issues outside the home such as grass, weeds and mold. Call Community Standards to report the issue at 352-751-3912.

#### We live behind Parr Drive (in Tall Trees) where the Elan Independent Living has been built. We'd like to have more trees and shrubs put in to buffer our properties from that facility. Who should we talk to?

Go to your Community Development District 6 meeting to make the request. They meet on the 3rd Friday of each month at 9:30 AM at the District office in Lake Sumter Landing.

#### Traffic is getting much worse coming out of neighborhoods onto the circles. Is The Villages planning to do any traffic studies?

The roads are owned by the County in which they are located, so they would do any traffic studies. We believe they do them periodically.

## SPECIALS ALL YEAR **A-1** Lightning **MARION COUNTY:** 352-465-0620 Protection TOLL FREE: 866-465-0620 Services, Inc. FAX: 352-465-1773 **DANNY MACK**

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#### Has the POA done anything about the overcharge that occurred when the water usage surcharge was in effect last year?

The POA has asked District government, and followed up, and there is nothing that can be done. Because the meter reading and billing cycles did not coincide with the surcharge effective dates, residents were billed equally four months during the surcharge. There is, unfortunately, no appeal process in the case of someone who may have (unknowingly) used an excessive amount of water at the beginning or end of the surcharge month in which they were charged.

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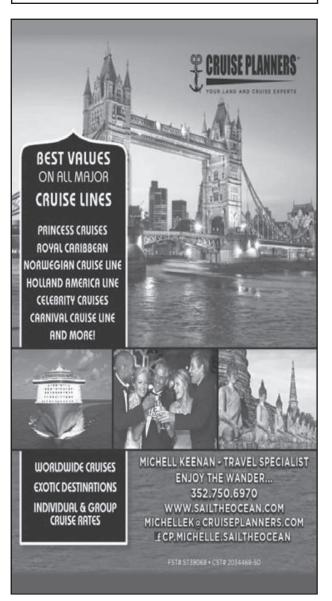


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# Multi-Modal Path Sign Plan Moving Forward

Representatives from Residential Community Development Districts 1-11 and the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) heard a presentation for a Multi-Modal Path



Directional Signage plan that will identify major destinations, direction of travel, and provide standardization of signage throughout the community.

At a meeting of the Multi-Modal Path Discussion Group (MMPDG) on April 5, the District's engineering firm, Kimley-Horn Associates (KHA) identified the project scope:

- Provide guide signs at decision points along the Multi-Modal Path, specifically related to tunnels;
- Provide consistent and cohesive guide sign treatment (design).

The project does not include assessment of existing minor directional signs or guide signs.

Guiding Principles will follow the guidelines per the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), Standard Highway Signs Manual, and The Villages Design Standards 2015 edition.

KHA made the following recommendations for consistency:

- Identification of major destinations (Recreation Centers, Medical Centers, Town Squares);
- Identification of direction of travel for the main multi-modal path network (Buena Vista Blvd North);
- Abbreviation of street suffixes (i.e. Blvd for Boulevard);
- Signs located at tunnel entrances on the main path for major decision points;
- Both directions of travel along the main multimodal path network signed at tunnel exits;
- Directions displayed in the order of through, left, and right.

Suggestions from District Representatives included identifying the shortest route to a location on signage; protecting decorative posts to reduce damage; consideration of signage at golf cart path intersections; utilization of decorative posts for signs, but with consideration of costs; consideration of height and location of signs due to landscape; request that the Developer utilize the same type of signage in new development(s); double signage is necessary at some locations; placement of signage should be considered for safety and traffic flow; include sign to direct golf cart traffic to golf cart bridge over Hwy 441/27; consider how to best address golf cart and vehicular traffic intersections; provide cost for signs, posts and installations; how will costs be incurred...per District or shared?; true value would be achieved if all Districts agree to participate; proceeding with directional signage will improve safety and help with confusion of those traveling along the multi-model paths.

Staff advised that the type of post to be utilized will be value-engineered, thick-walled aluminum at a fraction of the cost of the current posts; consideration of height/location will have to be given for landscaping and utility locates, if the project proceeds. In addition, staff has worked cooperatively with The Villages of Lake Sumter, Inc. during this engineering review for the guide signage to ensure that consistency of the directional signage will be obtained as new developments occur.

Resident comments were also received and have been considered. *Multi-Modal continued on page 9* 

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#### Multi-Modal continued from page 8

The MMPDG concurred with staff's suggested recommendation to develop design plans and specifications; provide MMPDG with estimated cost estimates for signage, posts, installation and identify the plan for bidding and construction.

Costs will be borne by the entity having budget responsibility for the tunnel or multi-modal path, either CDDs 1-4, VCCDD, BCDD, or PWAC south of CR 466.

## **Sign Destinations**

#### **RECREATION CENTERS**

- Mulberry Grove Rec
- Savannah Rec
- Laurel Manor Rec
- Colony Cottage Rec
- Rohan Rec
- Eisenhower Rec

#### **MULTI-MODAL PATHS**

Buena Vista Blvd Path (North/South) Morse Blvd Path (North/South) Power Corridor Path El Camino Real Path

<b># SIGNS BY DISTRICT</b>
VCCDD 3 signs
CDD 1 1 sign
CDD 2 4 signs
CDD 3 3 signs
CDD 4 5 signs
CDD 5 18 signs
CDD 6 11 signs
CDD 7 9 signs
CDD 8 3 signs
CDD 9 9 signs
CDD 10 12 signs
BCDD 4 signs





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# **AARP Driver Safety Course**

AARP Driver Safety now offers a 6 hour "Smart Driver" course for seniors; it is designed for those 50 and older. In The Villages, there are at least 4 classes each month. The classes are either two days, 9 A.M. to Noon or one day\* 9 A.M. - 4 P.M. Fee is \$15 for AARP members, \$20 for non-members. Select your class and call the instructor to register. Instructor will give instructions and time to arrive to complete registration. All courses are listed at www.aarp.org/findacourse or call 877-846-3299.

AARP Recruiting Volunteer Instructors: Contact 352-430-1833 or www.aarp.org/auto/driver-safety/volunteer/

May 08 and May 11	Laurel Manor, Al Cloutier	352-633-3793
May 21 and May 24	Savannah, Jack Haughn	352-603-1420
May 16*	Sumter Grand, Jack Haughn	352-603-1420
May 19 and May 26	Paradise, John Shepard	352-399-2344
June 05 and June 06	Colony Cottage, Pauline Bolwell	352-205-3880
June 12 and June 15	Laurel Manor, Paul Scannell	352-399-6414
June 13*	Harbor Chase, Al Cloutier	352-633-3793
June 16 and June 23	Paradise, John Shepard	352-399-2344
June 18 and June 21	Savannah, Charlie Webb	352-693-2562

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If your business is interested in reaching every resident in The Villages, please contact any POA board member listed on Page 23 to sign up with your offer!

#### **APPAREL**

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**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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**Realtor Commission Discount** - Premier Realty agent is offering a commission discount for new home listings to POA members. Call Susie Ellis at 352-661-9440 or anderson-ellis@hotmail.com

Wholesale Computer Components - Terrace Shoppes Spruce Creek, Summerfield, across from Walmart, 352-245-1500. \$15 POA Discount on any computer repair.

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

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

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).

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

**MOE'S Southwest Grill** Rolling Acres Plaza, 352-430-3610. BOGO free every Saturday w/ purchase of two medium drinks! Not valid w/ any other offer. One offer per POA family.

**Ollie's Frozen Custard** In the Spanish Plaines Plaza, across from Lowe's Building Supply on Hwy 441. 10% POA Discount.

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

**Riccardo's Italian Restaurant** 11783 SE US Hwy 441, Belleview, FL 34420 - 10% off your entire bill. Not valid with any other offers, coupons, specials or sunset menu.

#### RETAIL

#### 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.

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

**S@feScript Pharmacy** - Custom compounding medications. \$25 Gift Card on any 3 or more transferred prescriptions. 352-748-9900. Save a Lot Shopping Center, Wildwood.

**Sparr Building & Farm Supply** - At Hwy 44 & Signature Dr., Wildwood. 352-330-1718. 10% Discount on Pool Supplies & Benjamin Moore Paints, excludes Aura & sale items.

#### **SERVICES, OTHER**

**HNR Gunworks** - Custom Gunsmith and Gun Shop. 3238 S Florida Ave Inverness, 352-503-6285. 10% off any gunsmithing service to POA members. **Villages Car Wash and Lube** - Bichara Blvd, La Plaza Grande Center, 352-753-1306. \$1.00 POA Members Discount off regular price of any car wash package.

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# In Case You Missed It... News Highlights from April Meetings

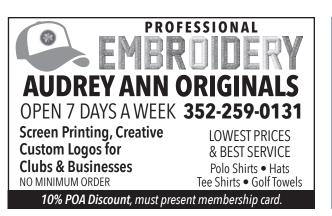


#### "This Boat Rocks" Dragon Boat Members Pack April PWAC Meeting over Schedule Change

Members of the Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) applauded Villagers from the "This Boat Rocks" (TBR) Dragon Boat Club, who packed the April PWAC meeting to express their frustration over schedule changes for their use of Lake Sumter Landing.

At issue are schedule changes that were implemented in March by the Recreation and Parks Department to make room for new feebased, guided fishing, kayaking and nature tours on Lake Sumter. The changes have primarily disrupted the TBR Club's schedule, one of seven dragon boat clubs that uses the Lake.

Susan Chicoine, Captain and Head Coach of TBR, spoke on behalf of the club members present. Reading from a statement, Ms. Chicoine stated that "dragon boat access to Lake Sumter has been significantly curtailed and the remaining available hours have been randomly reassigned... resulting in a practice schedule that is not only an administrative nightmare, but also needlessly



reduces access to a Villages resource used by approximately 130 dragon boaters per day." She asked that their previous access – Monday through Saturday morning from 8 A.M. – Noon – be restored. The club contends they are being displaced by kayak, fishing or nature tours of 4 – 8 people at a time, and that these activities are open to non-resident guests of residents.

Ms. Chicoine believes that the dragon boats and other users can safely co-exist on the Lake, and that the dragon boat clubs have been an asset to improving safety with the addition of three emergency exit locations. They are available to assist in emergency situations.

According to a memo provided by the District's Recreation Director,

John Rohan, prior to 2008, all water related activities, with the exception of Lake Sumter Line Boat Tours, were strictly prohibited, according to Chapter III in the Rules of the Sumter Landing

Community Development District (SLCDD), which owns the lake. The Rule was amended and approved by SLCDD in 2008 to allow "limited scheduled organized use" that allowed the oversight and management by the Recreation Department for sailing, canoeing, and kayaking.

In 2009, Rohan was approached by the resident lifestyle Dragon Boat Club (DBC) to have practices on Lake Sumter, which was ultimately approved. During 2009, the DBC used approximately 17 hours of permitted time,



and has now expanded to seven teams that use between 900-1,000 hours of scheduled lake time annually. One permit is issued for all seven teams, and the allotment of approved times is managed by the respective club/teams and not by the Recreation Department.

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More recently, in response to resident requests and survey input, the Recreation and Parks Department received approval to begin a new start-up program called Outdoor Excursions, which offers limited guided fishing trips, nature tours and kayaking on Lake Sumter. Mr. Rohan said that prior to the program being started, staff met with the leadership of the Grand Masters Dragon Boat Club to communicate temporary changes to the dragon boat scheduling.



Mr. Rohan's memo says that 20% of the dragon boat clubs' time (44 hours) were rescheduled.

PWAC committee members expressed concerns about communication and

that scheduling changes to allow new activities were hurting existing, long-time users. They also acknowledged the significant growth in the number of Resident Lifestyle Groups, which has caused scheduling changes for use of all facilities, and that changes are difficult and inconvenient.

The Project Wide Advisory Committee has no allocation of funding for any of the activities occurring on Lake Sumter, and has no amenity oversight since the Lake is owned by the SLCDD.

Highlights continued on page 16



#### Highlights continued from page 15

However, they asked Mr. Rohan and staff to identify a forum to communicate with the This Boat Rocks Dragon Boat Club to determine how consistent practice hours can be established.

Mr. Rohan stated that the scheduling change was temporary to ensure that no safety or negative impacts occurred while the new program started up, stating they didn't "know the unknowns." He expressed confidence that the friction created with TBR can be resolved. Scheduling is done in three-month increments, and a new schedule will begin in June.

Since the PWAC meeting, Mr. Rohan indicated that he and staff have begun communicating with all seven dragon boat captains, who were previously represented by the Grand Master for all the clubs, and are working with them to identify specific needs, size and number of boats and participants. He said they are proposing a 6-month Fall/Winter and Spring/Summer schedule going forward.

He also clarified that the SLCDD owns the excursion boating equipment; excursion fees and expenses go in and out of the Amenity Division Fund.



#### Golf Cart Parking Lot near Freedom Pointe Multi-Modal Path Nears Completion

A golf cart parking area off the multi-modal path east of Freedom Pointe along El Camino Real is paved and awaiting striping and signage. The Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) authorized the 14-space lot to encourage golf cart parking by residents who are using the adjacent land for a variety of purposes, including dog walking and playing.

The AAC became concerned about the condition of the grassy area around the lake because of the number of golf carts that were driving through the area. Particularly during drought periods followed by heavy rain, maintenance had become an issue.

AAC member, Ann Forrester, emphasized that the area is public land and they are not asking the

public to stay off of it. But, they do want to restrict golf carts from driving on it, and have asked staff to determine language for installation of signage at the new parking area along El Camino Real to encourage parking within the golf cart area.

Residents are also reminded that, as a public area, dogs must be on leashes, and animal control can issue tickets when dogs are off-leash.

Highlights continued on page 17

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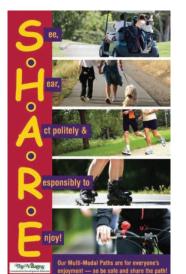
#### SHARE Signs to Be Added to Power Corridor Trail on Mulberry

The Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) authorized adding four SHARE signs and six stop signs along the Power Corridor Trail on Mulberry. The residential Community Development District (CDD) 4 requested the signs be improved.

Assistant District Manager, Richard Baier, and District Property Manager, Sam Wartinbee,

walked the entire trail and noted that several improvements could be made to improve safety and visibility. Cost of the signs is approximately \$3,500.

The SHARE signs will be placed on the ascent and descent of the hill on the path, and the stop signs at intersecting roads.



#### Floating Flower Mat Removal Concerns Duval Residents

The recent removal of floating flower mats from various ponds has raised concerns in at least one neighborhood. Residents of Duval attended a second Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) meeting to hear what the resolution to their concerns, raised at the March PWAC meeting, would be.

In a memo provided by Assistant District Manager, Richard Baier, he acknowledged that, while the removal of the mats by District Property Management was done with good intent after Hurricane Irma damage, the removal was not well coordinated with the public and it did not receive the normal governmental body approvals through PWAC.

Mr. Baier, in his presentation of the memo, said the use of "floating islands" is associated with a "polishing treatment step" for a water body as the nutrient load they remove is comparatively little compared to other practices, such as creating furrow rows and chemical treatments.

PWAC agreed with this approach, directed staff to proceed, and asked for periodic updates. They indicated if the water does not improve, further discussion will be necessary.



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## POA Partners with Villages Public Safety To Increase AED Neighborhoods

The POA is proud to announce its partnership with The Villages Public Safety (VPS) to help neighborhoods interested in starting an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) program. Board president Cliff Wiener and Board member Sal Torname are available with a PowerPoint presentation for groups, and to help get neighborhood leaders in touch with Lt. John Longacre at VPS.

Lt. Longacre said, "Working with the POA will help expand the Automated External Defibrillator program to areas that currently do not have one in place. The POA realizes the importance of the Automated External Defibrillator program and the lives it can save."

If your group or neighborhood is interested in help from the POA to start saving lives, contact poa4us@hotmail.com.



# Seasonal Residents Stop/Restart *Bulletin* Dellivery

Please let us know the dates you will be away – at least 2 weeks before departing – we will stop delivery. Contact Shelley Pfaff **352-325-1540** or **delivery@poa4us.org** 



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## The Bulletin MAY 2018



# **Gardening Spot** Soil: The Foundation of Good Gardens

by Anne Lambrecht Fanatical Gardener mrsanne04@gmail.com

Not being allowed to stay up late or eat massive amounts of candy and pork rinds; having to wear sensible shoes and going to church gave me a good foundation, according to my mother. Having good soil gives your garden a good foundation.

Once upon a very, very long time ago, Florida was underwater. That's why there's so much sand everywhere. So, it makes sense that Florida's natural ecosystems co-evolved with the soils, and soil conditions often determine what can and cannot be grown, both on the farm and in our gardens.

Imagine the entire Floridan peninsula at the bottom of a shallow sea. The land under water is limestone – a porous, weak, light colored loamy substance which is now just a little bit under the ground we live on. While the earth was becoming our home, as ice melted and refroze and the land rose, mineral laden sediment from the melting continent was deposited on top of that limestone. The earth below us is a myriad of underground streams, lakes and sinkholes known by scientists as Karst topography. Sure, there are minerals in our soil but to have a great garden — even just a good garden — we need to give it some vitamins in the form of amendments.

Oak leaves, manure, peat, pine needles, humus, mushroom compost, mulch, kitchen scraps like eggshells and banana peels, worm castings and grass clippings are all amendments for your soil. All these amendments are referred to as compost. The definition of compost is "organic matter that is undergoing or has resulted from decomposition."

When you amend your soil, you are adding microorganisms: colonists of invisible animals in the form of bacteria, fungi and molds, invertebrate decomposers, nematodes, fermentation mites. Organic matter improves the condition of the soil because it makes the soil able to store nutrients like nitrogen, and able to retain moisture. This is good Juju.

In order to grow a garden properly, your soil should have a pH of 5-8. Basically, pH is an index of how sweet or how acidic your soil is. It is measured on a scale of 1-14, with pure water being right in the middle at 7. Certain factors can alter your pH, like fill that's been brought in from construction sites as well as the addition of organic matter. It is important to get a soil test done and usually the county extension services do this for free or for a very small charge. In Sumter County call 352-793-2728; Marion County 352-671-8400; Lake County 352-343-4101.



Each time you plant something, amend your soil. Whenever you dig out soil to put in a plant, put that soil in a place where you can add leaves or some other amendment to it. Then mix it all up and add it back into the earth. I could have the exact same plant as my Garden Buddy. We buy it at the same place. We give it the same sun and water in our respective gardens, yet my plant will look WAY better. Why? My Garden Buddy does not amend the soil. Insane jealousy prevails and then sullen sulkiness occurs. But it doesn't have to be that way. And that is not very Garden Buddy-like.

Animal manures are considered to be the best source of fertilizer and organic matter for the gardener. Animal manures are horse, cow, chicken, or rabbit poodie. Dog doodie is not a good choice. So. for all of us, our best bet is benign, sterilized, non-stinky Black Cow which you can buy just about anywhere. I have a few neighbors who confessed that when we were buying our homes, they had their eye on our lot which has a huge oak tree in the back. They didn't want the lot because they considered the tree "messy" due to the leaves and the catkins. These leaves and catkins are treasures to me. I rake them up and add them into the soil when I'm planting and use them as mulch and in my potting soil to fluff it up. Catkins are the little flower buds of certain trees and they are super gifts to the garden. Some of my neighbors actually bag them up for me during catkin season.

It's been many years and a long, hard time amending my soil and I'm still not all done. But now I can say I've got a good foundation – and without the sensible shoes!





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# That's NOT Your Neighbor Calling!

When your phone rings and it looks like a local call, you may be more likely to answer. Scammers count on this and can easily fake caller ID numbers. They even can match the first six digits of your own number, which is called "neighbor spoofing." The urge to answer can be tough to resist, since you might worry it's a neighbor who needs help.

If you see a number like this on your caller ID, remember that it could be faked. Letting it go to voicemail is one option. If you do pick up and don't recognize the caller - hang up.

But what else can you do? Call blocking services that block or flag unwanted calls can help. These services include mobile apps, features built into your mobile phone, cloud-based services, callblocking devices, or services provided by your phone service carrier. Some are free, and others cost money.

You also can register your number with the Do Not Call Registry. The Do Not Call Registry is designed to stop sales calls from legitimate companies, so it won't stop calls from scammers. But it could make it easier for you to spot scam calls. If a company is ignoring the Registry, there's a good chance it's a scam. Why would you want to deal with a company that is breaking the law just by calling you?

You also can help by reporting unwanted calls to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at https://complaints.donotcall.gov/complaint/ complaintcheck.aspx.

After your number has been on the registry for 31 days, you can report unwanted sales calls. You should also report calls that use a recorded message instead of a live person (whether or not your number is on the Registry). You will be asked to tell the FTC what the call was about. Even if your number is registered, some organizations may still call you, such as charities, political organizations, and telephone surveyors. Debt collectors may continue to call you whether your number is on the Registry or not.

What does the FTC do with the phone numbers that you report?

According to Emma Fletcher of the FTC's Division of Consumer and Business Education, they take the phone numbers you report and release them to the public each business day. This helps phone carriers and other partners that are working on call blocking solutions. Your reports also help law enforcement identify the people behind illegal calls.

If you need assistance with understanding any aspects of the telephone number spoofing, 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 Face Book. Hablamos Español. Por favor pregunte por Yolanda. Martes a Viernes: 10:00 A.M. a 2:00 P.M., 352-689-4606.

#### The Bulletin **MAY 2018**

# DISCOU ARTNE

Another benefit for POA members is this **Discount Partner program.** Most venders will ask for your current POA Membership card to receive the offered discount. If you have a favorite business who is currently not offering a POA Discount, feel free to tell them about our program. Please say "thanks" to our Discount Partners for participating in this program. You can find our Discount Partners on our website and on pages 12 & 13 of this issue, poa4us.org.

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#### **POA Staff**

Membership IT Tech Bulletin Editor De Hall of Fame	Ken Copp b Butterfield	552-1059 751-0086 219-508-6863 633-5955
POA Email	poa4us@l	hotmail.com
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Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger was an experienced aviator: a former Air Force F-4 'Phantom' pilot who wrestled military aircraft when engine "flame-outs" happened. Years of training prepared this hero to exhibit unnerving skill when the ultimate situation demanded. With his team of co-pilot and crew, Sully ensured that every passenger would walk (not swim) away from death's door.

Certainly the aircraft on that day was well designed and maintained. But that "bird" did not make the difference: rather, it was the combined knowledge of those professionals strapped within that fuselage. Radiation cancer care truly differs from the portrayal of a treatment machine somehow transformed into a life-saving "craft" whose performance and price tag cause spell-bound viewers to expect something magical to happen: it won't! Put decisions for care where they count. Let's compare "flight crews" and experience. **The Robert Boissoneault Oncology Institute** (RBOI) has four Villages radiation oncologists whose total expertise approaches 150 years, a nurse practitioner with almost 20 years, three PhD physicists where local competition has none, and 12 physics staff personnel. RBOI continues to hold American College of Radiology accreditation, the most respected recognition awarded a comprehensive cancer center. Since Moffitt's departure, we are now the only radiation facility on The Villages campus with such accreditation...an honor we have attained for over 22 years.

This is your life. Sound medical decisions are only found when you interact with physicians. With that in mind, bring this article to our office, and be scheduled to meet with one of our physicians for a second opinion...without cost.

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