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# The Bulletin

The POA – Champions of Residents' Rights Since 1975

SEPTEMBER 2018

POA4US.org

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## UPCOMING POA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

**Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2018 • 7 P.M.**

Laurel Manor Recreation Center  
**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GOLF CART SAFETY**

Presented by Lieutenant Robert Seimer of Sumter County Sheriff's Office and "The Golf Cart Attorney," Tim Babiarz of The Villages.

**Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2018 • 7 P.M.**

Eisenhower Recreation Center  
**CANDIDATES NIGHT**

Meet candidates who are running for Community Development District Supervisor seats and for the Wildwood and Fruitland Park Commissions

**POA of The Villages FL is Live!** LIKE us and Share POA of the Villages FL

**Watch the POA General Membership Meetings Live as they happen!**

Other meeting and relevant information will be posted on a timely basis. This page is NOT intended to be a "social media blog" or to be used as an opinion center for residents.

**Please continue to send questions or comments via email or call the POA phone number 352-418-7372.** ALL content will be monitored by the Administrator and posts containing opinion or debate will be removed.

Find us on 

## What's Going on At The Villages Regional Hospital?

We had hoped to give residents the opportunity to ask questions of The Villages Regional Hospital (TVRH) officials at the August General Membership meeting and to provide an update in this article. However, for the second time this year, hospital officials cancelled their scheduled presentation on the day *AFTER The Bulletin* was sent to the printer.

Needless to say, we are extremely disappointed that TVRH officials stood up The Villages residents again. The POA Board members probably get more questions and comments about the hospital than any other topic besides sinkholes. We know one thing for sure – The Villages promotes itself as a world-class community, and residents deserve a world-class hospital that provides world class medical care and that is responsive to residents! Is that what TVRH is providing?

In January 2017, Michael Pittman, Chief Clinical Officer and Site Administrator for The Villages Regional Hospital (TVRH), promised that the hospital was on a journey toward becoming "Extraordinary" in providing health care services to the residents of The Villages. Mr. Pittman has been with TVRH since March 2016. He said that they were creating processes designed to respond quickly and that were proactive in nature. There were four primary expectations for which the leadership team was being held 100% accountable: 1) Patient safety and quality, 2) Staff safety, 3) Patient satisfaction, and 4) Staff satisfaction.

When asked where TVRH ranked among other hospitals in Florida, Mr. Pittman said that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) had rated them 3 stars and Leesburg (the "parent" hospital system) is 2 stars. The average for the state of FL is 2.4 stars. He said, "I am very confident, that the next time that they do rate us –they look at you twice a year and give you points for each thing you are doing – I would like to see us 4 stars by the end of the year (2017), and we will be working for 5 stars... that is a journey that will probably take a couple of years."

**According to the latest CMS rating, TVRH has gone down to a 2 rating!**  
(See chart on page 2)

*Hospital continued on page 2*

## The POA Declaration of Independence

The POA is free of any outside influence. This is the only way we can assure our members of absolute autonomy to act on their behalf. From the very beginning in 1975, we recognized this need for independence, and we've cherished and nurtured it ever since.

### Vision

The Property Owners' Association, Inc. (POA) is a champion for the rights of residents of The Villages. Guided by member input, investigation and determination, the POA brings attention to and acts on issues that may impact property values and quality of life.

### Mission Statement

The POA provides 1) a forum for discussion of issues; 2) research and analysis; 3) programs of interest; and, 4) is a conduit for objective and accurate information. Specific attention is given to resolving housing, community and local government issues.

### Values

- Independence
- Objectivity
- Fairness
- Honesty
- Respect

### ATTENTION ARCHIVES ONLINE!

We have just completed putting 24 years of the early POA Bulletins from 1978 to 2001 on the website, adding to the already 16 years 2002 to Present.

We invite you to read how the POA has grown over the years and that we are still passionate about Villages Residents Rights since 1975.

*Hospital continued from page 1*

## CMS Hospital Quality Star Rating 2017

### Methodology

CMS1 publishes hospital quality star ratings on Hospital Compare to help patients choose a hospital based on quality performance. Overall hospital quality star ratings were released on July 26, 2017, and results are updated as metrics change throughout the year.

CMS uses metrics from the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program and Hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting (OQR) Program to determine star ratings. Some metrics are updated quarterly while others are updated on an annual basis. For more information on the reporting timeframe and source for each metric, review the list of measures and data periods updated on Hospital Compare.

Star ratings are calculated using a composite of 57 distinct quality metrics. Metrics are grouped into seven categories, and hospitals receive a score for their performance in each category, as shown the table below. Category scores are then weighted and aggregated to create an overall hospital score. Star ratings are assigned based on overall ranking. The top 2.86% of hospitals receive the highest rating of 5-stars while 48% of hospitals (roughly 1,780 hospitals) receive 3-stars. For more details on the CMS Hospital Compare Star Rating methodology, review the CMS QualityNet website.

### Categories of Metrics Used to Calculate the CMS Hospital Quality Star Ratings

Category	Category Weight	Examples of Included Metrics	Number of Metrics
<b>Mortality</b>	22%	30-day mortality rate for patients suffering from a heart attack or receiving coronary artery bypass graft surgery	7
<b>Readmission</b>	22%	30-day readmissions rate for patients suffering from a heart attack or receiving coronary artery bypass graft surgery	8
<b>Safety of Care</b>	22%	Catheter-associated urinary tract infection rate Overall Clostridium difficile infection rate	8
<b>Patient Experience</b>	22%	Patient's perception of information communicated by doctors and nurses.	11
<b>Effectiveness of Care</b>	4%	Patient and caregiver were offered influenza immunization	11
<b>Timeliness of Care</b>	4%	Time taken for various events in the emergency department, such as time from arrival to discharge.	7
<b>Efficient Use of Imaging</b>	4%	Assess the clinical necessity of imaging	5

*Hospital continued on page 3*

*Hospital continued from page 2*

Since Mr. Pittman and the “powers that be” chose not to present information to residents directly, we went to the sources of data – specifically, CMS (see *Methodology on page 2*) – to look at quality measures that might help explain this declining rating and the reason that so many residents complain about their experience at TVRH.

In four of seven categories – Mortality (incidents of death), Safety of Care, Patient Experience and Timeliness of Care – TVRH ranks “below the national average.” It ranks “above the national average” in Readmission and Efficient Use of Medical Imaging, and it is the “same as the national average” in Effectiveness of Care. (Source: Medicare.gov/hospitalcompare)

The website [Medicare.gov/hospitalcompare](http://Medicare.gov/hospitalcompare) provides details about the measures referenced above for any hospital you choose to search. Under each category, there are more specific measures and patient satisfaction survey results are also included. You can compare data for any three hospitals that you choose.

For this article, we chose TVRH, Florida Hospital Waterman in Tavares, and Leesburg Regional Health. The data is also compared to the Florida Average and the National Average. We looked at Timely and Effective Care and Survey of Patient Experiences.

*Hospital continued on page 4*

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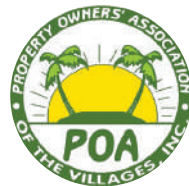
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We don’t take our quality of life lightly, and the POA is committed to do all that it can to make sure our lifestyle continues, and to address issues when they arise.

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](http://POA4US.org) and sign up and pay online. ■



## POA 2018 AND BEYOND MEMBERSHIP & CONTRIBUTION FORM

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Please print on this form, or use the online form at [POA4US.org](http://POA4US.org).

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

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FULL NAME(2) \_\_\_\_\_

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CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

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

Hospital continued from page 3

Medicare.gov/HospitalCompare	Villages Regional Hospital	Leesburg Regional Medical Center	Florida Hospital Waterman	Florida	National
	★ ★ ★ ❌ ❌ ❌	★ ★ ★ ❌ ❌ ❌	★ ★ ★ ❌ ❌		
<b>Timely and Effective Care</b> Percentage of patients who received appropriate care for severe sepsis and septic shock. <i>Higher percentages are better</i>	22%	19%	52%	56%	49%
<b>Timely Emergency Room Care</b> Average (median) time patients who came to the emergency department with broken bones had to wait before getting pain medication <i>A lower number of minutes is better</i>	17 Minutes	15 Minutes	84 Minutes	43 Minutes	48 Minutes
Percentage of patients who left the emergency department before being seen <i>Lower percentages are better</i>	2%	3%	3%	2%	2%
Percentage of patients who came to the emergency department with stroke symptoms who received brain scan results within 45 minutes of arrival <i>Higher percentages are better</i>	76%	Not Available	76%	74%	73%
Volume legend (patients annually): Low: 0 - 19,999 Medium: 20,000 - 39,999 High: 40,000 - 59,999 Very High: 60,000+					
<b>Emergency department volume</b>	Medium	Medium	Very High		
Average (median) time patients spent in the emergency department, before they were admitted to the hospital as an inpatient <i>A lower number of minutes is better</i>	454 Minutes Other med. volume hospitals Nation: 262 Minutes Florida: 260 Minutes	466 Minutes Other med. volume hospitals Nation: 262 Minutes Florida: 260 Minutes	296 Minutes Other Very High volume hospitals Nation: 334 Minutes Florida: 316 Minutes		
Average (median) time patients spent in the emergency department, after the doctor decided to admit them as an inpatient before leaving the emergency department for their inpatient room <i>A lower number of minutes is better</i>	204 Minutes Other med. volume hospitals Nation: 91 Minutes Florida: 88 Minutes	254 Minutes Other med. volume hospitals Nation: 91 Minutes Florida: 88 Minutes	96 Minutes Other Very High volume hospitals Nation: 140 Minutes Florida: 147 Minutes		
Average (median) time patients spent in the emergency department before leaving from the visit <i>A lower number of minutes is better</i>	246 Minutes Other med. volume hospitals Nation: 142 Minutes Florida: 141 Minutes	202 Minutes Other med. volume hospitals Nation: 142 Minutes Florida: 141 Minutes	192 Minutes Other Very High volume hospitals Nation: 171 Minutes Florida: 154 Minutes		
Average (median) time patients spent in the emergency department before they were seen by a healthcare professional <i>A lower number of minutes is better</i>	49 Minutes Other med. volume hospitals Nation: 21 Minutes Florida: 17 Minutes	33 Minutes Other med. volume hospitals Nation: 21 Minutes Florida: 17 Minutes	35 Minutes Other Very High volume hospitals Nation: 26 Minutes Florida: 21 Minutes		
<b>Blood Clot Prevention</b> Patients who developed a blood clot while in the hospital who did not get treatment that could have prevented it <i>Lower percentages are better</i>	7%	16%	5%	1%	2%
<b>Preventive Care</b> Patients assessed and given influenza vaccination <i>Higher percentages are better</i>	96%	98%	98%	98%	93%
Healthcare workers given influenza vaccination <i>Higher percentages are better</i>	74%	81%	85%	77%	88%
<b>PATIENT SURVEY RESULTS</b>					
More Stars are Better	2 out of 5 stars	2 out of 5 stars	4 out of 5 stars		
Patients who reported that their nurses “Always” communicated well	72%	73%	80%	77%	80%
Patients who reported that their doctors “Always” communicated well	68%	67%	76%	77%	82%
Patients who reported that they “Always” received help as soon as they wanted	57%	59%	70%	63%	70%
Patients who reported that staff “Always” explained about medicines before giving it to them	55%	56%	66%	62%	66%
Patients who reported that their room and bathroom were “Always” clean	69%	67%	82%	70%	75%
Patients who reported that the area around their room was “Always” quiet at night	51%	50%	64%	59%	62%
Patients who reported that YES, they were given information about what to do during their recovery at home	76%	78%	89%	85%	87%
Patients who “Strongly Agree” they understood their care when they left the hospital	40%	42%	54%	50%	53%
Patients who gave their hospital a rating of 9 or 10 on a scale from 0 (lowest) to 10 (highest)	53%	57%	79%	69%	73%
Patients who reported YES, they would definitely recommend the hospital	52%	58%	79%	70%	72%

Hospital continued on page 14





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## POA Reaffirms Its Independence

Since 1975, the Property Owners' Association has been the only truly independent property owners' group in The Villages. The POA Board of Directors recently reaffirmed its independence during a comprehensive strategic planning process.

"Our independence from the Developer is what has made the POA effective for all these years" said Cliff Wiener, POA President. "Residents know that we have no hidden agenda; our only purpose is to be a champion and advocate for their rights, and to do all we can to protect their property values," he added.

The POA Board also updated its Vision and Mission Statements, and identified its guiding values. Cliff said that the entire process helped the Board focus on the future of the POA, and establish processes to address issues that homeowners are facing, such as the continuing fears about sinkholes.

We will be replacing these statements in future issues of The Bulletin on page 2, but believe these statements are so important that we want to introduce all residents to them in this article.

### POA Vision and Mission Statements

The Property Owners' Association, Inc. (POA) is the original property owners' group in The Villages. Established in 1975, the POA operates with complete independence from the Developer of The Villages. Membership is open to all property owners and residents of The Villages. The POA is committed to acting as a watchdog to ensure that the Developer and local government are responsive to the needs, interests, and rights of residents.

Individual property owners of The Villages have many different priorities and concerns that may vary a great deal. POA pledges to safeguard those rights by listening, evaluating, investigating, reporting, explaining, and acting on behalf of the residents. Most often, we can do that in a civil and collaborative manner.

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*POA continued on page 7*

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POA continued from page 6



### Objective 1 - Governance

Establish a governance structure that 1) serves all geographic areas and demographics of the Villages residents; 2) attracts dedicated Board members with a diversity of talents and skills; 3) provides Board members the opportunity to be knowledgeable, active and fulfilled by their experience on the POA Board; and, 4) ensures financial stability for the organization.

### Objective 2 - Membership

Define a POA membership experience for which property owners find value; one that ensures sustained membership growth commensurate with growth in The Villages.

### Objective 3 - Communication

Create a communications plan that is innovative, reaches all demographics of The Villages property owners, and keeps property owners engaged in issues that affect their property values and quality of life.

Stay Tuned! The POA Board of Directors will continue to put “meat on the bones” of these important objectives in order to continue as the advocate and watchdog for property owners. ■

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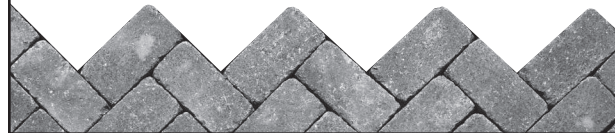
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# Project Wide Fund Shares Maintenance Costs South of CR 466... But is it Fair?

At the August meeting of the Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC), in preparation for final review of the PWAC 2018-19 budget, District Manager Richard Baier provided an overview of how the Project Wide Fund was established, its areas of responsibility, and the benefits to the Districts in sharing certain maintenance costs. PWAC membership currently consists of CDDs 5-12.

Mr. Baier stated that the overall purpose of the Project Wide Fund is to spread the cost and risk of infrastructure and facilities that benefit all residents in the community. Below are the updated percentages of allocation for each District (CDDs 5-12, Lake Sumter Landing (LSL) and Brownwood (commercial districts), which is based on assessable acreage:

0.80%	LSL	11.12%	District 8
1.73%	Brownwood	12.63%	District 9
14.01%	District 5	16.07%	District 10
15.55%	District 6	5.39%	District 11
9.91%	District 7	12.79%	District 12

These percentages represent the amount that each district pays into the Project Wide Fund for the current fiscal year. Note the significantly lower percentages for LSL and Brownwood; we will explain these. The percentages above are proposed for the 2018-19 budget – that has been reduced by approximately \$900,000 to approximately \$13 Million, which PWAC will give final review to at its meeting on September 5 at 9 A.M. (note the date change) and recommend to the Sumter Landing Community Development District (SLCDD – the official fiscal body) for approval. At its August meeting, PWAC members recommended using approximately \$180,000 from its working capital fund in order to keep the increase to districts at 1.5%.

### So, what exactly does the Project Wide Fund pay for?

- Landscaped Rights of Way including Street Lighting and Associated Walls / Fences
- Entry Features
- Lakes, Shorelines, Conservation, Stormwater Management System and Buffer Areas
- Transportation Trails
- Tunnels

### Project Wide Maintains:

- Approximately 290 Water Retention Areas
- Approximately 27 Miles of Multi-Modal Trails
- Over 700 Acres of Preserves
- Approximately 387 Acres of Wetlands
- 19 Entry Pond Fountains

By comparison, districts north of CR466 that do not have a Project Wide Fund must pay for the maintenance of each of these items from their own budgets. Mr. Baier cited the situation in Community Development District 4 (CDD4), which is facing upwards of \$1 Million in maintenance costs due to Hurricane Irma and the current sinkhole issues in its district. CDD 4 is also the only CDD responsible for all road maintenance (instead of Marion County), and all CDDs north of CR466 maintain their own multi-modal paths, ponds, and other infrastructure.

Only CDDs 2, 3 and 4 have raised their maintenance fee for residents for the upcoming budgets, because of these kinds of unforeseen, major expenses.

*Project Wide Fund continued on page 9*



Project Wide Fund continued from page 8

**Why do the Lake Sumter Landing and Brownwood commercial areas pay so little?** Because, at the time the Project Wide Fund was established, the Developer had elected the individual district boards who wrote the resolution and defined the assessment methodology based on assessable acres as “equitable.” The POA has argued for years that the more “equitable” methodology is actual acreage. In that case, all the acreage in Lake Sumter would be considered, including all of the areas that are considered “government” properties that are not assessed, such as the massive parking lots.

In addition, the Developer was able to shift (to the residents) the maintenance expense responsibility for such features as The Landing (boardwalk and areas surrounding Lake Sumter,) the Lake Sumter Landing Lighthouse, Lake Sumter Landing Market Square, the Paddock Square at Brownwood, and “The Villages” Welcome signs on CR 466, CR 466A and SR 44. So, any common maintenance on those would also be paid primarily by the residents’ portion of PWAC. This is also the reason that the residents are bearing the brunt of the cost for any expense (identified as \$1.7 Million in 2017) for the Morse Bridge revetment project.

**Is there a financial advantage to having shared expenses?** Yes, that has been proven. Are these expenses evenly or fairly distributed based on usage? The POA still believes the answer is NO. ■

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**AARP now offers a 90 minute Smart Driver Technology (SDTEK) program for mature drivers.** For more information: [www.aarp.org/findaworkshop10](http://www.aarp.org/findaworkshop10) or 352-430-1833.

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DATE(S)	LOCATION	INSTRUCTOR	CONTACT #
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September 11 & 14	Laurel Manor	John Shepard	352-399-2344
September 12*	Harbor Chase	Charlie Webb	352-693-2562
September 15 & 22	Paradise	John Shepard	352-399-2344
September 17 & 20	Savannah	Charlie Webb	352-693-2562
September 25 & 26	Rohan	Paul Scannell	352-399-6414
October 2 & 3	Colony	Paul Scannell	352-399-6414
October 8 & 12	Laurel Manor	Al Cloutier	352-633-3793
October 10*	Harbor Chase	Chet Kowalski	352-430-1833
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The POA has launched a new partnership with the Villages Public Safety Department (VPSD) to proliferate the neighborhood automatic external defibrillator (AED) program. Our Villages' AED program is one of the best in class lifesaving initiatives that has exceeded the cardiac arrest national survival rate by multiple times. This AED initiative currently covers some 25% of all homes in America's Friendliest Hometown, leaving much room to expand.

The POA has created a neighborhood presentation to encourage non-participating areas to get involved in getting their units underway. Neighborhood coordinators are needed to initiate and shepherd the effort toward becoming an AED community. The presentation answers questions of the necessity of the AED program, how it works, and recurring and non-recurring costs associated with the program.

Presentations are available for your neighborhood by calling Cliff Weiner, 352-418-7372 or Sal Torname, 352-350-2218.

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#### *Hospital continued from page 4*

Deaths that occurred within 30 days of treatment leads us to two other measures we found to be significant. Death rates for heart failure and pneumonia patients were each categorized as “worse than the national rate,” which are 11.7% and 15.7% respectively. Death rates for heart attack and stroke patients were categorized as “no different than national rate.” Incidents of healthcare associated infections were also listed as “no different than national benchmark.”

There are areas within the hospital care that have received awards and accreditations. TVRH recently announced that it had achieved advanced certification from The Joint Commission as an Advanced Stroke Center. According to the hospital’s website, in 2017 it also achieved Chest Pain Center Accreditation with PCI and Resuscitation 2017 from the American College of Cardiology.

TVRH Rehabilitation Hospital is a 30-bed acute inpatient rehabilitation facility for patients who suffer from chronic conditions including, but not limited to, stroke, spinal cord injury, amputation, brain injury, and neurological disorders. Just this year it received a 3-year accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

#### **The website also gives these statistics for 2017:**

Admissions (Inpatient Adult) ....	19,188 ED
Visits .....	38,485
Surgeries .....	5,406
Heart Catheterizations.....	5,880
Outpatient Visits.....	22,987
Observation Admissions .....	4,964
Community Benefit .....	\$16,987,403

The Villages Regional Hospital opened in 2002, and currently has 307 licensed beds (297 acute care), 464 physicians with hospital privileges and 1,229 employees. It is part of Central Florida Health, which also operates the Leesburg Regional Hospital.

The POA recognizes that TVHR’s employees are skilled and compassionate in the care they provide. There are more than 1,000 dedicated volunteers who serve and minister to people at the hospital.

But the data is troubling, particularly the wait times in the Emergency Room – patients wait nearly 8 hours before being admitted to the hospital and nearly 3 hours before being admitted after being seen by the doctor. This indicates a lack of beds or a serious problem in processing admissions. We may think that our situation is different, with our seasonal and elderly population. But don’t let that fool you! These statistics are compared to other ERs with similar volumes! In all areas, the TVRH ER wait data is nearly twice or higher than similar sized hospital ERs.

And from a patient satisfaction standpoint, only 53% gave their TVRH overall experience a 9 or 10, and only 52% said they would recommend the hospital.

Is it a deficiency in number of staff, staff turnover, communication, or just poor management that has caused such severe patient dissatisfaction? We wish we had real answers, and the POA leaves the door open for the hospital’s CEO, Don Henderson, to accompany Mr. Pittman in a presentation to The Villages residents to tell us what they are doing to turn this poor performance around. And we want to see an annual update on their progress. That’s what we attempted first in April, and then again in August.

In the meantime, we encourage residents to turn in their patient surveys, check the CMS website for updated data, and always have an advocate with you when receiving care in the hospital. Document your experience and send it to Mr. Pittman.

You can also report your experience to the Joint Commission on Hospital Accreditation at the Office of Quality and Patient Safety, The Joint Commission, One Renaissance Boulevard, Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois 60181. ■



LETTER TO THE POA

# Dancing in ‘The Villages’ is Dangerous!

**Why dangerous? Because of slippery floors in our ‘multi-functions, rec center rooms. So ... what can be done?**

As a case in point, this problem has recently been effectively addressed in our two professional venues; “The Sharon” and “The Savannah Center”. Each is now equipped with an ‘activity friendly’ “Marley” floor surface. Prior to this significant alteration, our visiting ‘truck and bus’ theater companies, in order to insure the safety of their performers, often brought their own portable “Marley” stage surface, which required rolling it out, taping it together, and reversing the process after their ‘final curtain’. Quite an undertaking but not anymore .... we have our own Marley!

What is a Marley floor surface? ‘Marley’ is a semi-hard, rubberized material that has been manufactured and used ‘world-wide’ for decades as a safe and sturdy stage surface for theater performances involving dance and other demanding physical activity. It is either produced in rolls, taped together for portable use or can also be installed as a permanent floor surface directly over existing or ‘sub-floor’ material.

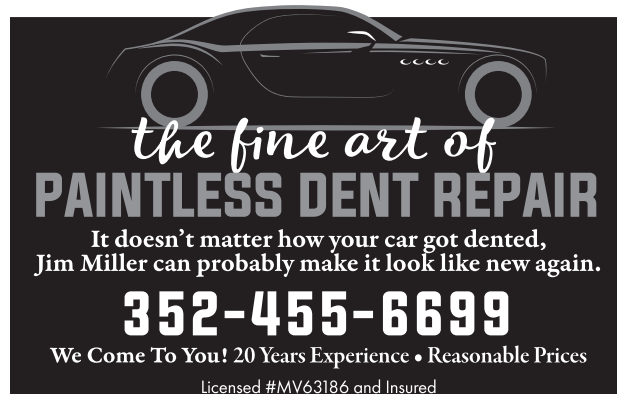
Today, it is frequently applied to multi-use facilities like our recreation center rooms. It is far less expensive than ‘hard wood’, easier to maintain, may more safely accommodate all varieties of musical theater dance, and comes in a wide array of colors, including ‘wood-grain’ patterns. We have most urgently recommend that a reasonable number of our multi-purpose recreation center rooms (also used for ‘dance’) be equipped with a Marley floor material.

These concerns and recommendations were raised with our Recreation Department’s Administration at a February, 2018 meeting. Several samples of Marley floor material were brought, discussed by two of our most knowledgeable ‘professional dance teacher/choreographers’ and left with Mr. Rohan and his staff for further review. We were promised that a serious assessment of our concerns would occur with findings and recommendations to follow. We’re still waiting.

**Update:** A couple of weeks ago, during a dance rehearsal at the Coconut Cove Rec Center, Ms. Violet Ray, a well-known dance teacher/choreographer was injured in a fall on one of our many “slippery surfaces”. Ms. Ray’s injuries were serious and required surgery! Incidentally, Ms. Ray in not a beginner, nor will she be the last injured unless and until floor safety is more effectively addressed.

*Written by ‘Villager’, Bill Yelverton (In consultation with three of our most prominent Dance Choreographer/Educators, each with ‘decades’ of ‘subject-specific’ professional experience.)*

**POA Response:** We have observed that when an issue is important to a group of people, first communicating with the District Staff and then members of Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) or the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) by email or in person usually gets a productive dialogue established. If this does not work, then an individual or a group with an issue may wish to attend one or both of the meetings. In the case of flooring in recreation centers, both PWAC and AAC have responsibilities for these facilities. Recent issues where dialogue was established at one of the meetings includes usage of Lake Sumter by Duck Boat groups, resident concerns about conservation easement clean up at Lake Miona, and proposed fencing to keep people and dogs out of public areas. We encourage your group to do the same. ■



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## In Case You Missed It...Highlights from August Meetings

### Lago De Leon Retention Pond

Residents from Community Development District 2 (CDD 2) in the area surrounding the Lago De Leon Retention Pond packed the CDD 2 August Supervisors meeting asking for answers about the pond that has, once again, drained apparently because of sinkhole activity. Residents said there have been 18 sinkholes in the area.



District Property Manager, Sam Wartinbee, confirmed there was sinkhole activity that occurred at the end of July, while he was on vacation. He said his staff did not appropriately report the situation in his absence. Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) testing has been done and residents heard the results at a Q & A meeting hosted by CDD 3 Supervisor Bill Schikora on August 28 (after The Bulletin has gone to press.) Mr. Wartinbee said he expected engineers to make recommendations on what to do next at the pond.

Residents expressed concern for their property values, insisting that they paid more for the pond location and it has now become an eyesore. Supervisor Bryan Lyfsey said that ponds in the older areas do not have membrane liners like the newer ponds, and that the Supervisors had, in the past, determined the cost of installing liners to be too expensive. Supervisor Marty Rothbard asked for a total of repair costs that have been made over time at the pond, and Supervisor Barton Zoellner was fearful of incurring the same “astronomical” costs that CDD 4 is now having with the sinkhole issues in Calumet Grove.

District Manager Richard Baier cautioned that it is important to gather all the information before making any decisions.

### CDDs and Other Boards to Pass Final 2018-19 Budgets at September Meetings

Most of the final adjustments have been made to the proposed budgets passed earlier this year for 2018-19, and now, boards will hold final public hearings and vote to pass spending for the upcoming fiscal year. For a list of hearing dates and votes, visit DistrictGov.org, click on ‘Departments’ and select ‘Budget.’

At its August meeting, the Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) voted to recommend a 1.5% increase to CDD allocations (meaning CDDs 5-12 will contribute 1.5% more than last year), also voting to use money from working capital to keep the increase lower. CDDs 2, 3 & 4 have authorized increases to residents for their annual maintenance fees, and property owners received letters advising them of the increases. ■



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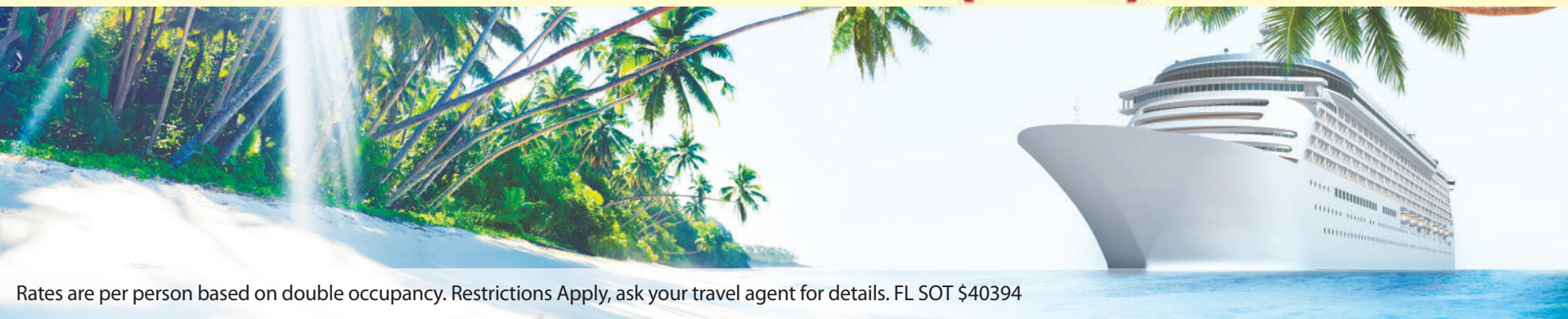
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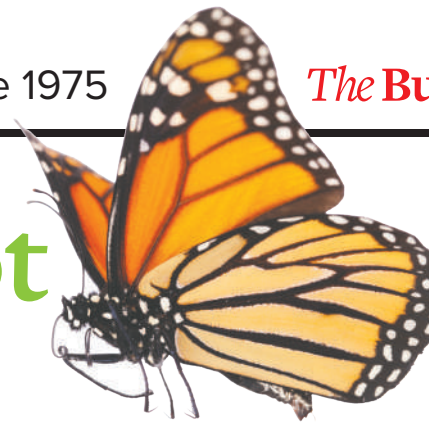




# Gardening Spot

## It's BUTTERFLY Season!

by Anne Lambrecht Fanatical Gardener mrsanne04@gmail.com



Now is the time to see TONS of butterflies here in North Central Florida. They are everywhere IF you have something for their caterpillars to eat and something for the adults to drink. My garden is alive with their fluttering and fluttering. This is because I have plants that their caterpillars will eat (don't worry, your plants will regenerate) and flowering plants for the adult butterflies to drink (nectar).

Each species of butterfly prefers a specific "host" plant and they could possibly eat it right down to the nub. They are not so choosy about what they get to drink after they become a butterfly. It is extremely important that you do not use pesticides in your garden. This will kill all the insects, bad and good.

Butterflies start life by hatching from an egg as a caterpillar (larva). The eggs are sticky so they won't wash off when it rains. When the caterpillar grows big enough, it wraps itself in a pupal case (chrysalis) and changes (metamorphosis) into a butterfly. The butterfly completes its life cycle by finding a mate and laying eggs on a host plant which will provide food for the caterpillars.

The family of butterflies and moths is called Lepidoptera which from the Greek means "scaly wings" and refers to the characteristic covering of microscopic dust-like scales on the wings. There are more species of butterflies and moths than of any other insect besides beetles.

Most butterflies have a proboscis, a long tongue or feeding tube used to suck up liquid food such as flower nectar and for sipping water. Sometimes you'll see them in a wet area of muddy earth. This is called "puddling". They are sipping up minerals from the mud.

Butterflies do not bite, sting or carry disease.

Most butterflies have very different patterns on the top and bottom sides of their wings. This

enables them to camouflage themselves by folding their wings so that only the bottom side is showing its usually dull pattern. However, when the butterfly needs to show a brilliant pattern, such as when seeking a mate, it just opens its wings.

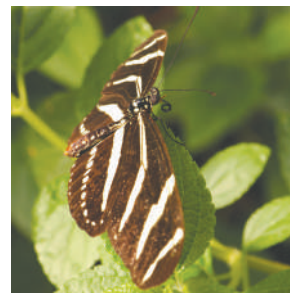
Most butterflies bask in the sun in order to warm their bodies. They are cold-blooded so they must rely on the sun to warm them. On cold days, they may not fly at all.

As a butterfly ages, its wings become increasingly ragged. Most butterflies continue to fly until approximately half of either wing is gone.

### Some common butterflies in our area and the plants that help attract/nurture them:

#### Zebra Long Wing

– a Heliconian brush-footed butterfly, Zebra Long Wing is the official State Butterfly of Florida and my personal favorite. They don't fly, they "flit" and flutter and are gentle curious creatures. Zebras are remarkably social butterflies. At night they roost together in groups of up to 60 individuals and they return to the same roost every night. They can live up to 5 or 6 months. Zebras drink nectar and also feed on pollen. Zebras love passion vines but not the red ones.



**Monarch** – Feeds on over 100 different species of milkweed throughout their range in North America. They accumulate toxins from this plant which remain in the bodies of the pupa and adults and make them distasteful to predators. They

have a distinctive flight pattern which consists of vigorous flapping followed by a long glide. It is this ability to soar and glide that helps the Monarch cover great distances during its annual migration. Scientists are trying to determine why the monarch is now in trouble. We have noticed that they've been decreasing in alarming numbers.

**Swallowtails** – one of the largest butterflies, so named because the long tails extending back from the hind wings in most species resemble the long tails of a swallow. These tails divert a bird's attention



away from the butterfly's head, toward more expendable parts. Swallowtails are strong, swift flyers. When feeding, they usually open and close their wings if the flower is strong enough for them to perch. Otherwise they hover, fluttering their wings rapidly, and grip the flower with their legs. In this manner they balance themselves in mid-air while rapidly sucking up nectar. Swallowtails can live from two to three weeks when food is abundant. Of the approximately 560 species of swallowtails worldwide, Florida has 10, more than any other state. Some of them include the Eastern Black Swallowtail which feeds on fennel, dill, parsley, members of the carrot family; the Giant Swallowtail enjoys citrus, Hercules club, wild lime; and the Tiger Swallowtail eats wild cherry, ash, sweet bay, tulip tree.



Gardening continued from page 20

**Sulphurs** – Most sulphur butterflies are yellow and some are white. The Cloudless is pure yellow with no markings. The females have the markings. At rest, sulphurs fold their wings and rarely open them except for flight. Cloudless Sulphurs and Sleepy Orange Sulphurs love cassias.



**Gulf Fritillary** – Named after the colorful, orange-red fritillary flower. The reference to the gulf is due to the fact that it is common in the states that border the Gulf of Mexico. They cannot survive freezing temperatures. The Gulf Fritillary is not a true fritillary but a longwing heliconian butterfly, and it feeds only on nectar. True fritillaries only occur north and west of Florida. Fritillaries like passion vines but not the red passion vine.

My Garden Buddy's garden boasts quite a few different species including the cute-looking skipper moths. But there are many more butterflies in my garden. ■

This information was borrowed from: *Florida's Fabulous Butterflies* by Thomas C. Emmel

There is a Butterfly Gardening Club in the Villages! Join the North American Butterfly Association: [www.NABA.org](http://www.NABA.org)

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# Seniors vs. Crime

## Secret Shopper Scams Exposed

At least once a week, sometimes more often, residents call Seniors vs. Crime to report a 'Secret Shopper Scam'. Luckily, most times these reports are for our information and our records. The resident was smart enough to NOT fall for the scam. But the Secret Shopper Scam has been around for a long time and it continues to be active in our area.

Scammers need a good story to get to your wallet. Once they find one that works, they use it again and again, many times with only slight variations to distinguish it from older scams. One of their old favorites brings together fake checks and secret shopping. Emma Fletcher, who is with the Division of Consumer and Business Education at the FTC, reports that their organization has been hearing a lot about it lately.

Here's how it starts. You get a check in the mail with a job offer as a secret shopper. You deposit the check and see the funds in your account a few days later. The bank may even tell you the check has "cleared."

Now you get to work on your new job as a Secret Shopper. You're off to the store you've been asked to shop at and report back on, often a Walmart.

Your first assignment is to test the in-store money transfer service, like Western Union or MoneyGram, by sending some of the money you deposited to a specified address. Or you might be told to use the money to buy reloadable debit cards or gift cards, such as iTunes cards. You're instructed to send pictures of the cards or to give the numbers on the cards.

Fast forward days or weeks to the unhappy ending. The bank finds out the check you deposited is a fake, which means you're on the hook for all that money you thought you deposited in your account.

### How does that even happen?

Well, banks must make funds from deposited checks available within days, but uncovering a fake check can take weeks. By the time you try to get the money back from the money transfer service, the scammers are long gone, and they've taken all the money off the gift cards, too. (By the way, money orders and cashier's checks can be faked, too.)

There is a moral to this story. If anyone ever asks you to deposit a check and then wire or send money to them in any shape, form or fashion, you can bet it's a scam. No matter what they tell you.

Want to avoid the latest rip-offs? Sign up for free scam alerts from the FTC at [FTC.gov/Scams](http://FTC.gov/Scams).

If you are the victim of one of these Secret Shopper scams, there is very probably little that Seniors vs. Crime can do to help you recover your money. Your best defense is knowledge – be wary.



If you need assistance with understanding any aspects of Secret Shopper 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**

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. Martes a Viernes: 10:00 A.M. a 2:00 P.M., (352) 689-4606. ■

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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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