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The Bulletin

The POA – Champions of Residents' Rights Since 1975

JANUARY 2019

POA4US.org

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UPCOMING POA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2019 • 7 P.M.

Laurel Manor

District Manager Richard Baier

Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2019 • 7 P.M.

Eisenhower Recreation Center

Voyage Autonomus

Self-Driving Cars

Tuesday, Mar. 19, 2019 • 7 P.M.

Laurel Manor

**Don Henderson, President & CEO
of The Villages Regional Hospital**

Update on Improvements at TVRH

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

POA Watch List 2019

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.

Here is the POA “Watch List” for 2019. We think these issues will continue to be discussed and acted upon, and the POA will be acting as your “Champion for Residents Rights,” as we have since 1975.

The Villages Regional Hospital

New Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) hospital quality ratings should be available sometime in January, and we will be looking intently to see if there has been improvement in The Villages Regional Hospital (TVRH) ratings over what we reported last year.

According to published reports by the hospital, through the creation of a “Supertrack” system in the emergency room, those wait times went down in September. However, those statistics do not encompass the entire emergency room experience, and were the only figures the hospital released after our reporting last year.

CMS quality ratings were due to come out in October, however, we received this communication in September: “July 2018 Overall Hospital Star Ratings data will not be publicly reported as CMS decided to not release the July

star ratings update to give time for additional analysis of the impact of changes to some of the measures on the star ratings and to address stakeholder concerns.

The next time CMS will update/refresh and publicly report on the Overall Hospital Star Rating on Hospital Compare will be January 2019.

The October measure dataset will be posted on Hospital Compare in late October, but not Overall Hospital Star Ratings.”

ALERT! Central Florida Health CEO, Don Henderson is scheduled to speak at the POA General Membership Meeting on March 19 at Laurel Manor. Stay tuned for updates and information about this meeting! (See current update on page 7)

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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

Watch List continued from page 1

Amenities Fees

In December, we reported that the Developer advised that “The Villages will be adjusting the contractual amenity fee for all previously owned homes closed on or after October 1, 2018 and all new homes contracted on or after October 1, 2018.”

We again remind residents that if you stay in your current home, your amenities fee rate will not be affected, except by the annual CPI increase, or unless/until the Village Center Community Development District/Amenity Authority Committee (VCCDD/AAC) or the Sumter Landing Community Development District/Project Wide Advisory Committee (SLCDD/PWAC) vote to increase their current \$155 Deferral Rate.

The District asked its law firm, Stone & Gerken, for an opinion as to how the deferral rate and prevalent rates are affected in districts throughout The Villages, and that opinion was provided in late October.

The opinion letter explained that the Amenity Fees prevalent rate is established by the Developer and is stated in the Declaration(s) of Restrictions, which each purchaser of a new or pre-owned home signs, and states that the “prevalent amenities fee that is then in force and effect for new Owners of Homesites in the most recent addition or unit.” This means that when

the Developer changes/raises the prevalent rate in new areas, i.e., The Villages of Fenney and Southern Oaks, it applies to all other existing homes, once they are purchased by a new owner.

Example. Mr. & Mrs. Jones have owned a home for 15 years, and their current prevalent rate is \$145 and deferral rate is \$155. Due to annual CPI increases, they are now at the maximum deferral rate and pay \$155. They have just sold their home, and the new owners will take possession on December 1. The new homeowners’ prevalent and deferral rates will now be \$159.

There are a number of issues the POA has with the interpretation of the Declarations, as they relate to the AAC’s Interlocal Agreement, and the Resolution that expanded the PWAC’s role to include oversight/advisory functions with respect to amenity fees.

- Paragraph 7.B.VII states that “The Amenity Authority Committee shall be authorized to establish from time to time a maximum Amenity Fee for the Center District Territory that increases Amenity Fees whether by Consumer Price Index, *resale of a home* or otherwise *will not result in an Amenity Fee for a particular homesite within the Center District Service Territory having to pay in excess of such maximum amount.*” (emphasis added.)

Watch List continued on page 3

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Watch List continued from page 2

- Paragraphs 8.G and 9.H state that “It is understood that the Amenity Fee rate applicable throughout the Village Center Service Territory varies and nothing contained herein shall be construed to mandate a uniform Amenity Fee.”
- Paragraph 2.d. gives PWAC the power for “rate setting of Amenity Facility user fees to the extent permissible under the Declaration of Restrictions.
- Paragraph 2.f. is the same as 7.B.VII of the AAC agreement.

The current maximum Deferral Rate is \$155, so can the Developer raise that to \$159 for Villagers living north of CR 44?

Two issues need to be explored further by the AAC and PWAC. One is whether the Developer can actually change the prevalent rate to be higher than the current deferral rate north of CR 44. District Manager Richard Baier believes the Declarations clearly supersede the AAC Interlocal Agreement and the PWAC Resolution, and that any issue in this regard is between the signers of the Declarations (homeowners and Developer.)

The second issue is that amenity fee rates cannot be mandated to be uniform.

Watch List continued on page 19





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You should have already received your pre-filled renewal form in the mail. You can return that form with your check or go online to pay your 2019 dues, which is a snap to do and saves you time.

Join thousands of other Villages property owners who belong to the ONLY Independent advocacy organization – Champions for Residents’ Rights Since 1975!



POA 2019 AND BEYOND MEMBERSHIP & CONTRIBUTION FORM

The POA, 8736 SE 165th Mulberry Ln, PMB 111, The Villages FL 32162
Please print on this form, or use the online form at poa4us.org

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

FULL NAME(1) _____

FULL NAME(2) _____

ADDRESS _____

VILLAGE _____ VILLAGES ID# _____

VILLAGE _____ VILLAGES ID# _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

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

MEMBERSHIP DUES
(Please Select One):

- One year – 2019 - \$10 per/household
- Two years – 2019/2020 - \$20 per/household
- Three years – 2019/2020/2021 - \$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.



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Freestanding Emergency Rooms Offer Choice and Access

According to a 2016 article in the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM), one of the fastest growing trends in health care is Freestanding Emergency Rooms (FSERs), and two of those have opened recently in areas accessible to Villagers.

Two years ago, Ocala Health opened its ER in Summerfield on US 441 in South Marion County, and in June of this year, Orlando Health opened its Blue Cedar ER in Leesburg on SR 27.

John Moore, President of Orlando Health South Lake Hospital, said Orlando Health has opened several freestanding ERs and medical pavilions to provide services in underserved areas. The Blue Cedar facility was in response to numerous inquiries from that area where, all along SR 27, there are many active lifestyle 55+ communities with residents seeking more choices for medical services.

Mr. Moore said the FSER is just like an ER attached to a hospital, with all the same types of imaging, technology, lab and physician services. Blue Cedar has 12 rooms, including two resuscitation rooms for active heart attack patients, two observation rooms, board certified ER physicians, telemedicine for any medical specialty, a helipad for transport, nurses, nurse practitioners/physician assistants, and full in-house labs. He said they can treat just about any condition, but are not a trauma ER.

There is a lower level of patient admissions – 8-12% vs. 19% in a regular hospital ER – but when admission is required, patients are transported a short distance by Lake County EMS to the

Orlando Health South Lake Hospital, according to Mr. Moore. He said that prior to finalizing plans to build the ER at Blue Cedar, the hospital reached out to both Lake and Sumter County EMS departments to ensure they were aware of the services offered at the new ER and that patients calling 911 for emergencies could be transported to the ER if appropriate.

With more focus on CMS ratings, Mr. Moore noted that like many hospitals, they too are on a CMS improvement journey, with the time from ER arrival to admission going down from 373 to 254 minutes at the main South Lake Campus. He also commented that, unlike the times when more advanced imaging equipment such as MRIs, was considered costly and “nice to have,” it is now considered a “must have.” He said one of the greatest benefits of a FSER is quicker treatment for stroke and cardiac patients that results in less overall care needed and very little wait time at the FSER.

As is pointed out in the NEJM article, Mr. Moore also said there are debates on both sides about whether having more FSERs will help reduce the overall cost of health care. The focus for the Orlando Health Blue Cedar is closer access to quality care with minimal wait times.

Freestanding ERs continued on page 5



Bobby Schulte
Vice President

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Freestanding ERs continued from page 4



**Orlando Health South Lake Hospital
Emergency Room and Medical
Pavilion – Blue Cedar**

22316 U.S. Hwy. 27, Leesburg, FL
Phone: (352) 536-8831

Designed to meet the needs of growing communities in Central Florida, the Orlando Health Emergency Rooms and Medical Pavilions provide residents access to nearby emergency medical care along with convenient outpatient healthcare services.

The freestanding emergency rooms are staffed by board-certified physicians and feature full-service, 24-hour emergency care. Outpatient services may include laboratory, physical rehabilitation, and imaging, such as CT, X-ray, ultrasound and MRI. The medical pavilions will also include primary care and specialty physician offices so residents can find the care they need right in their own neighborhood.



Ocala Health Summerfield ER

14193 S US Hwy 441
Summerfield, FL 34491
Phone: (352) 245-4440

Summerfield ER, a 24/7 freestanding emergency room, offers all the resources you need for acute care of a serious illness or injury. The 10,500-square-foot facility brings comprehensive emergency services that are available at Ocala Regional Medical Center and West Marion Community Hospital to the residents of Summerfield and surrounding areas.

- 24/7 adult and pediatric emergency care
- 11 patient care rooms
- Diagnostic imaging including CT Scan, Ultrasound and X-ray
- Laboratory services
- Dedicated, multidisciplinary team including physicians and nurses
- 40 full-time employees including nurses certified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Pediatric Advanced Life Support ■

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Urgent Care or Emergency Room?

GUIDELINES & LOCATIONS

The following guidelines to using Urgent Care or Emergency Room facilities were provided by The Villages Regional Hospital, but are only guidelines. You are the best judge of your symptoms and your body!

Most Urgent Care facilities have extended hours, but it is a good idea to call first to make sure they are open. You might also be able to check wait times. At some Emergency Rooms, you might be able to check wait times or even check-in online and wait at home*.

When to Use Urgent Care

If you have any of the following conditions:

- Allergies
- Bladder and Urinary Tract Infections
- Childhood Illnesses
- Cold or Flu Symptoms
- Cuts, Bruises, and Burns
- Ear and Eye Infections
- Headaches and Migraines
- Respiratory Infections
- Skin Conditions
- Sore Throats
- Sprains, Strains and Fractures

When to go to the Emergency Room

- Chest Pain
- Stroke
- Serious accidents
- Head injury, followed by confusion blurred vision or headache
- Loss of consciousness
- Sudden and severe abdominal pain or headache
- Seizures
- Poisoning of suspected poisoning
- Bleeding that will not stop or deep cuts
- Suicidal or homicidal feelings

Urgent Care Facilities In or Near The Villages:

441 Urgent Care

These facilities do NOT do X-rays

Brownwood

4669 E SR 44, Suite 101
(352) 693-2340, ext. 3
Open M-F 7 AM – 5 PM
Weekends 8 AM – 5 PM
(Open 365 Days)

Buffalo Ridge

3206 Wedgewood Lane
(352) 350-1526
Open M-F 8 PM – 5 PM

Colony Plaza

340 Heald Way, Suite 208
(352) 633-2827
Daily (incl. Sat., Sun., & Holidays)
8 AM – 8 PM

Lake Sumter Landing

910 Old Camp Road, Suite 182
(352) 350-1525
Open M-F 7 AM – 5 PM
Weekends 8 AM – 5 PM
(Open 365 Days)

Mulberry Plaza

8489 SE 165th Mulberry Lane
(352) 268-2464
M-F 7AM-5PM

Summerfield

17820 SE 109th Ave., Suite 108
(352) 693-2340
Daily (incl. Sat., Sun., & Holidays) 8 AM – 8 PM

Exceptional Urgent Care

13940 US Hwy 441, Suite 501
(352) 391-5200
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Lake Regional Urgent Care

Hours at all Lake Regional facilities are
M-F 8:30 AM – 7 PM, Sat. & Sun. 8:30 AM – 5 PM

These facilities do X-rays, No CT Scans

910 Old Camp Road #114
(352) 259-4322

16890 US Hwy 441, Mt. Dora
(352) 385-4405

8404 US Hwy 441, Leesburg
352.315-8881

Leesburg Regional Urgent Care

(located at Leesburg Regional Hospital)
550 E Dixie Ave., Leesburg
(352) 323-2273
8 AM-8 PM

Paramount Urgent Care

805 CR466, Lady Lake
(352) 674-9218
Daily 8 am – 8 pm
On-site labs, medicines, x-rays, EKG & more.

Premier Urgent Care

1580 Santa Barbara Blvd.
(352) 259-2159
M-F 8 AM-6PM, Sat. 9 AM-4 PM, Sun. 9 AM-3 PM

Unova Urgent Care

539 Rolling Acres Rd.
(352) 973-4070
M-F 9 AM-9PM, Sat., 9 AM-5PM
Closed Sunday

Urgent Care or Emergency Room continued from page 6

Emergency Rooms in Lake, Sumter & Marian Counties

Florida Hospital Waterman

1000 Waterman Way, Tavares, FL
(352) 253-3333

Leesburg Regional Medical Center

600 E. Dixie Ave., Leesburg, FL 34748
(352) 323-5762

Ocala Health/ Summerfield ER

14193 S US HWY 441, Summerfield, FL 34491
(352) 245-4440

Orlando Health South Lake Hospital Emergency Room and Medical Pavilion - Blue Cedar*

22316 U.S. Hwy. 27, Leesburg, FL
(352) 536-8831

The Villages® Regional Hospital

1451 El Camino Real, The Villages, FL
(352) 751-8863

**A new online scheduling tool is coming soon to Orlando Health South Lake Emergency Room – Blue Cedar so you can check-in and wait at home until your time to be seen. Learn more at www.OrlandoHealth.com/ER.*

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The Villages Regional Hospital Emergency Department Update

Donald G. Henderson, President and CEO of Central Florida Health (the not-for-profit parent company of The Villages® Regional Hospital and Leesburg Regional Medical Center), reported that improvements have been made at The Villages Regional Hospital (TVRH) that have had a positive impact on patient wait time in the Emergency Department.

SuperTrack, similar to the Fast Track model used in many Emergency Rooms, further segments the ED patient population for those who require less intensive care, allowing the EDs to decompress the treatment and waiting areas for all ED patients.

All patients are admitted in the same registration area and are either sent to the Super Track or admitted for further tests and treatment. Super Track patients most often present with an extremity injury, cough, cold, sore throat, urinary tract infection, laceration, dental pain, or need of a medication refill.

Wait Time Improvements

November 1 – November 30, 2018
(from the same period in 2017)


Door to Provider Times Wait time for patients to be seen by a physician (or nurse practitioner or physician’s assistant who staffs the fast track was 13 minutes—58 percent less than the 2017 31-minute average wait time.

Registration to Hospital Admission.

The average wait time for patients to be admitted from the time of their arrival was 260 minutes—26 percent less than the 2017 355-minute wait time.

Registration to Discharge for Patients with Minor Injuries and Illnesses Wait Times

(Super Track) Improve The average total time for those patients with minor injury and illnesses improved to 133 minutes—50 percent less than the 2017 269-minute total time.



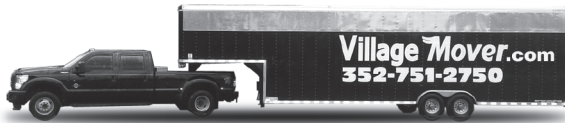
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POA Board of Directors Inducted

Officers and members of the POA Board of Directors were inducted for 2019 at the December General Membership meeting. They are:

OFFICERS

President – Cliff Wiener – Piedmont

Vice President – Jerry Ferlisi – Poinciana

Treasurer – Donna Kempa – Glenbrook

Secretary – Carolyn Reichel – Sunset Pointe

DIRECTORS

Susan Ball – Buttonwood

Ken Copp – Duval

Andrew Curtis – Mallory

Tita Dumagsa – Fenney

Cathy Peppers – Tamarind Grove

Bill Schikora – Santo Domingo

Peg Tackett – Santo Domingo

Sal Torname – St. James

OFFICER BIOGRAPHIES

PRESIDENT, CLIFF WIENER

Cliff and his wife Sharon are natives of Cleveland Ohio. They moved to the Village of Piedmont in 2002, where he helped organize the Piedmont Social Club and served as its Vice President for 3 years. Cliff attended Ohio University for 2 years and then transferred to Fenn College (now Cleveland State), and graduated with a degree in Accounting. He then applied for an apprenticeship with Local 38 IBEW and worked for 41 years as an electrician.

Cliff was recently appointed to serve a vacant seat on the Community Development District 4 Board of Supervisors, and is serving as Vice Chair. He was a District Commander for CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams); is a Certified CPR/AED Instructor teaching many

classes throughout the year, and with fellow POA Board Member, Sal Torname, is helping neighborhoods implement AED programs. Cliff was a member of the CIC (Community Improvement Council) for 4 years, the last 2 as vice president; has been a Mason for 56 years and is a member of the Villages Masonic Lodge and its treasurer; is a member of Bahia Shrine and is treasurer of The Villages Shrine Club; was on The Villages Architectural Review Committee, and served as its chairman for 3 1/2 years; and has been a member of the Ohio Buckeye Club for 13 years and its treasurer.

In his spare time, he is secretary of a bowling league he started in 2002, and he plays golf 2 or 3 times a week.

VICE-PRESIDENT, JERRY FERLISI

Jerry and his wife, Maureen, acquired their home in the Village of Poinciana in 2005, and upon Jerry's retirement became full time residents in May 2010. He's had a long and distinguished career in Finance. He holds a BS in Accounting from Long Island University. He began his career as an Auditor in Public Accounting (PKF International) and moved into Hospital Finance where he served as Controller, St John's University, South Shore Division. He held senior positions at Staten Island University Hospital including Controller, VP, and Sr. VP and CFO. He's held similar positions (CFO and Sr. Director) for the NYU Hospital for Joint Diseases. He has served on numerous Finance Committees, including the Hospital Association of NYS (HANYS) and Greater NY Hospital Association (GNYHA). Earlier in his career, he served as Treasurer for the New Springville Civic Association, (a not for Profit Civic Organization).

In addition to being Vice President of the POA, Jerry is serving a 2nd term as a Supervisor for District 5. He was a member of The Villages CERT (Certified Emergency Response Team). He and his wife are trained responders for their block AED program. Jerry loves to bowl and golf, as well as attending various clubs, and is an avid

member of SOSB (Seniors on a Spring Break). He is the proud father of two sons, with 2 daughter-in laws & two gorgeous granddaughters and has the pictures to prove it.

TREASURER, DONNA KEMPA

Donna and her husband, Tony, live in the Village of Glenbrook; originally from a suburb south of Buffalo, New York.

She is a cum laude graduate from the University of Buffalo, with a BS in Registered Accounting and Finance and also holds a degree in Computer Programming. Donna is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA); Fraud Investigator (CFE) and Information Systems Auditor (CISA). She has worked in Public Accounting and most recently, the health insurance industry. Currently, she is an offsite Information Technology Audit Consultant for Independent Health, a regional health insurance payer and former employer.

In her spare time, Donna can be seen jogging along Talleyridge, watching her husband's softball games, playing pickleball, golfing, participating in yoga or enjoying the entertainment at the town squares.

SECRETARY, CAROLYN REICHEL

Carolyn lives in the Village of Sunset Pointe. She graduated from Colorado College with a degree in Sociology. After raising a family, she returned to school and became a Registered Nurse. With the demands of nursing, Carolyn continued her education looking for alternatives.

In this process, she became a Registered Record Technician, a Paralegal, a Certified Professional in Health Care Quality, earned a Master's Degree in Legal Studies, and finally settled in as a Nursing Home Administrator for 17 years, before retiring to The Villages twelve years ago.

In retirement Carolyn volunteers as a counselor for SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Elders). In her spare time, she enjoys golf, bridge and singles activities.



Driver Safety

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 available courses are listed at www.aarp.org/findacourse or call 877-846-3299.**

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

DATE(S)	LOCATION	INSTRUCTOR	CONTACT #
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Jan 9*	Harbor Chase	Charlie Webb	352-693-2562
Jan 16 *	Sumter Place	Wes Eades	321-402-4839
Jan 19 & 16	Paradise	John Shepard	352-399-2344
Jan 21 & 24	Savannah	Joel Oleska	610-509-1915
Feb 5 & 6	Colony Cottage	Wink Daniel	352-753-856
Feb 12 & 15	Laurel Manor	John Shepard	352-399-2344
Feb 13 *	Harbor Chase	Al Cloutier	352-693-2562
Feb 16 & 23	Paradise	Art Donnelly	631-792-2203
Feb 20*	Sumter Place	Pauline Bolwell	352-205-3880



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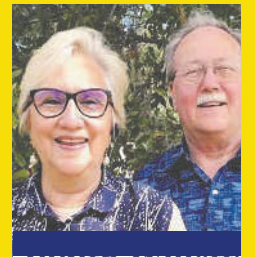
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In Case You Missed It...News Highlights from December Meetings



Osceola Hills Entrance Landscaping

The Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) approved a \$12,000 expense to upgrade the landscape at the entrance to the Village of Osceola Hills. The investment will bring the entrance into uniformity with other entrances along major roadways, adding quarterly annual plantings and necessary irrigation. District Property Manager Sam Wartinbee said adding the annuals will cost an additional \$4500-\$4800 on an annual basis for the plantings.

District Manager Richard Baier emphasized that upgrading this entrance is only because it is on a major roadway, which he identified as Morse Blvd., Buena Vista, or El Camino Dr., and also represents the first entrance to The Villages community north of CR 44 on Morse.

After approving the expense, PWAC Chair, Peter Moeller, requested that a written policy be developed as guidance for landscaping on major and secondary roadways.

CDD 7 Board of Supervisors Vote to Allow Flag Display

In October, Community Development District (CDD) 7 residents, Joseph and Margaret Ganci, appealed a decision that resulted from an anonymous complaint about yard flags and ornaments, one that included an American flag. CDD 7 Supervisors struggled with upholding the original ruling and asked for time for research into the issue.

At the December meeting, the District's attorney, Valerie Fuchs, said she had extensively research the US Flag Code and concluded that the flag in the Ganci's yard was hung in a respectful manner, was an actual American flag, and was not in a position to be easily soiled or stained. The Gancis also said they properly light it at night and change it out every two months.

Ms. Fuchs said the Board can keep its current lawn ornament policy and allow the Ganci's to continue to fly the flag, adding that the CDD can make judgements on a case-by-case basis.

The Board unanimously voted in favor of allowing the flag in the Ganci's yard.

Golf Course Management

PWAC members and Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) members each approved the conveyance of the golf course management contract, previously held by Golf Management Solutions (GMS), to The Villages of Lake Sumter (the Developer). District Manager Baier said that the Developer has taken back the reins of GMS, and described the conveyance of the contract as similar to the conveyance of the waste hauling contract from CH2M to Jacobs. "The Developer is not taking over our golf courses," Mr. Baier stated, explaining that the District continues to own all of the same courses. "Instead of making payments to GMS, we will now make the contract payment to VLS," he said.

Villagers and District Officials Shut Out at Marion County Code Enforcement Meeting

Villages residents in the Calumet Grove area of McLawren Terrace, where sinkhole damage has disrupted the quiet streets since February 2018, District Manager Richard Baier and attorney Valerie Fuchs were all shut out of commenting on action taken by the Marion County Code Enforcement Board on December 12. Residents Frank and Jan Neumann were granted an extension until March 26 to get their property stabilized and repaired. That extension also causes a continued delay in getting the streets and infrastructure in the area repaired, frustrating residents and Villages officials alike.

Mr. Baier said that the District's engineering reports from the surrounding properties indicate there is instability still occurring at, around and within the Neumann's property. Mr. Baier said they continue to be very concerned about public safety.

Highlights continued on page 15



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Highlights continued from page 14

Developer Continuing Repairs on Nancy Lopez Golf Course Sinkhole

A retention pond on the Nancy Lopez golf course continues under repair when water drained out after sinkhole activity on homes in the Calumet Grove, causing the Torri Pines Nine on the Lopez course to remain closed indefinitely. Rumors have circulated that the course had closed because of new sinkhole activity, but it is because crews continue to pour grout into the affected area.

The Golf Division's website indicates the course will be closed indefinitely.

Recreation News Continues Improvement Journey

District Recreation and Parks Director told AAC members that beginning January 10, the weekly Recreation News will be unveiled with 56 pages, new layouts, easier-to-read fonts, and will once again include club information every week. For over a year, changes and improvements have been made to the Rec News to improve readability and reduce costs. These announced changes are being made within the approved budget allocation.

Software that was approved and purchased has helped optimize use of the publication on mobile devices and the District's website. Mr. Rohan said that they will continue to look for improvements and cost savings.



Resident Input Survey to Begin January 7 for Villages of Marion Property

The District purchased and closed on the First Baptist Church Property Fellowship Hall (building is approximately 9,154 square feet and acreage is +/- 19.28 acres) on September 6, 2018. Now it is time begin the task of identifying programming, facility amenities, and recreation that will be built on the property.

The outline for the capital project includes the following:

- December 12, 2018: Finalize Survey, Marketing and Advertising
- January 7, 2019: Survey goes live (one survey per Resident ID)
- February 28, 2019: Survey deadline
- March 6, 2019: Summarize survey data
- April 10, 2019: Submit overview and recommendations to Amenity Authority Committee

The survey will be available online at DistrictGov.org and at any recreation center.

Notices will also be posted at respective media outlets and postal stations.

Input from residents will be gathered by District Staff, compiled and submitted to the AAC for direction and feedback during the April 10, 2019 meeting. All resident suggestions will be reviewed. Upon outlining the project requests, other factors (costs, space, programming, etc.) will be taken into consideration to achieve the best use of location.

Staff requested that the AAC approve a theme for the new facility that would honor and recognize first responders. AAC members enthusiastically agreed to the theme. Chair Ann Forrester suggested a separate workshop when the survey overview and recommendation are ready in April. ■

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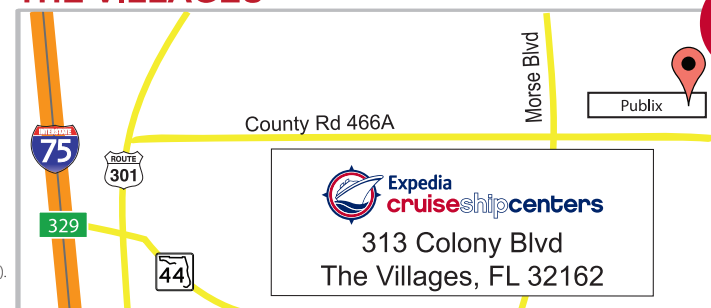
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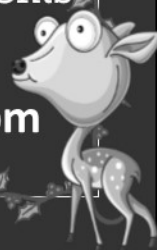
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Watch List continued from page 3

The opinion letter also states “The Declarations generally provide for an annual upward adjustment to the amenities fee based on a Consumer Price Index but allow deferral of these adjustments. If a District does not **need** to impose the increase to maintain the level of provided amenities or satisfy bond covenants, the increase may be deferred.” This is a third issue, that the rates should be established solely based on budgetary need, and those needs will be different in different sections of The Villages, i.e., north of CR 466, between CR 466 and CR 44, and south of CR 44 (now known as North Villages, Central Villages and South Villages.)

PWAC and the AAC will be meeting together sometime in March 2019 to discuss the setting of

these rates. We believe the discussion should be based upon the above described points, as well as budgetary needs.

Sinkholes

Thankfully, residents have not been further impacted by new sinkholes. However, the experiences of homeowners in Calumet Grove and other areas last year, have caused lasting effects not only for those homeowners, but have impacted the District, other residents in the immediate area and all residents in some of those Districts.

Affected homeowners are incurring unimaginable costs and impacts. At least one homeowner will be filing a lawsuit, which has impacted the District’s ability to make final repairs to the roads and infrastructure in the area. Community Development District (CDD) 4’s Board of Supervisors had to make the hard decision to raise the maintenance fees for their residents by 20% for the Fiscal Year 2018/19.

The POA, and residents who attended our General Membership meetings last year, learned about the disastrous change in Florida homeowners’ insurance law passed in 2011, that changed the basic coverage for sinkhole damages from a routine “peril” (like a fire) to a separate category with all kinds of definitions that result in an affected homeowner having to pay a minimum of 10% of the value of their home for repairs.

The POA is watching this issue from two fronts. We are working with John Thompson, founder of Good Foundation Florida, Inc. to lobby for changes to the insurance laws. We are also exploring establishing a foundation that would provide financial assistance to homeowners who are impacted by sinkhole activity.

Other Issues

- Inside Deed Restrictions
- Morse Bridge Embankment Revetment
- Maintenance of Foreclosed Homes
- Anonymous Complaints
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Gardening Spot

Tips for a Healthy Lawn in Winter

by Anne Lambrecht Fanatical Gardener mrsanne04@gmail.com

Fall is in the air. The angle of the sun is different, tFor the most part, the types of turfgrass that we have in north Central Florida are usually St. Augustine and its cultivars and Zoysia grass. This doesn’t include the kind of grass that is on the golf courses. St. Augustine “Floritam” was planted here in the early days and most of us in the northern parts of the Villages have it while Zoysia grass has been installed in the southern realms. Turfgrass has been studied by University of Florida (UF) extensively because we all like our lawns. There is even a UF Turfgrass Research Center in Citra (northeast Marion County) where they demo the different types of turf that is suitable for Florida.

All of our turfgrass goes into some degree of “dormancy” during the winter months. This means that they slow their growth down and may or may not stay green. This is especially true of Zoysia grass. You know what I mean: we get one little freeze and that grass goes brown! This dormancy is a natural cycle.

You should work to keep your lawn as healthy as possible through your mowing, irrigating, and fertilizing practices. It is a good idea to become friends with your lawn maintenance people. Not friends like a Garden Buddy, but at least it’s best to know their plans for your lawn (after all, you’re paying them big bucks).

In winter, mow only every couple of weeks or even once a month. Keep the mowing height high year-round (3.5 to 4” for most St. Augustine grass cultivars and 2” for Zoysia grass). And always insist that the lawn mower guy sterilizes his blades! A little spray bottle of alcohol won’t off-put him. In winter my lawn guy mows once a month. When you do need to mow again in spring, be sure to cut at the highest recommended height for your grass type. Do not scalp the lawn, as this makes it less able to recover from freeze damage.

When you irrigate your lawn, water it for a longer time. Water “deeply” so the roots grow deep and strong. The root system will then be able to sustain many stressors. To achieve this, water longer with less frequency. But it is all right to cut back irrigation to once a week in the winter. For some lawns, like ones that are “micro-climate” protected, it can be every other week.

Central Florida lawns should not be fertilized between October and the end of March. The last fertilization should be done with a fertilizer high in potassium (the 3rd number on the bag) relative to nitrogen (the first number on the bag), such as 15-0-15 or something with equal or higher potassium to nitrogen. This helps to impart some stress tolerance to cold or freezing temperatures and may enhance spring green-up. Do not try to fertilize in order to green up your lawn after a freeze. This will do more harm than good because it will cause premature new growth and what if we get another freeze?

Sometimes the golf course grass creeps into your lawn. Trust me, you won’t be able to fight it. Embrace it. Likewise, with weeds: if it’s green, embrace it. There’s no point losing sleep over a few weeds. However, have your lawn service use “pre-emergent” weed killer in January and February. This kills the weeds before they emerge. After the weeds appear, pre-emergent is a waste of time and money. My guys wanted to put it down in March and I had to light my hair on fire for them to put it down in January.

How can you tell if your grass has truly succumbed to a winter freeze or if it is only dormant? One way is to cut small plugs of the grass (with roots and shoots attached) and plant them in a pot, put it in a warm spot with natural sunlight and moisture and see if the grass regrows.

Lawns are a “monoculture” which means only one “crop” is growing. It ensures systematic

maintenance but it totally removes all the diversity of the natural land and eliminates the habitat of all the other plants and animals that lived there before the monoculture. We all care about our earth and especially our little pieces of earth we all home. Lawns are a fact of life here. Let’s try to live smart with them.

For more lawn care tips, go to www.yourfloridalawn.ifas.ufl.edu.

UF Research Center in Citra (Marion County)
2556 W Hwy 318, Citra, FL 32113
Phone 352-591-2678.

Dr. Laurie E. Trenholm, Associate Professor, Environmental Horticulture, West Florida Research and Education Center. Dr. Trenholm is truly the guru of turfgrass and some of this article has been borrowed from her expertise.

For more information on how to properly manage your lawn, please refer to EDIS publication ENH979, Homeowner Best Management Practices for the Home Lawn (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ep236>).

A good book on turfgrass: *Florida Lawn Handbook An environmental approach to care and maintenance of your lawn* by Kathleen C. Ruppert and Robert J. Black University Press of Florida. ■

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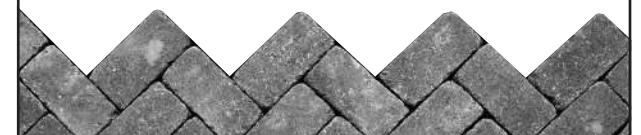
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Seniors vs. Crime

Anatomy of a Fake Check Scam

Fake checks drive many types of scams – like those involving phony prize wins, fake jobs, mystery shoppers, online classified ad sales, and others. In a fake check scam, a person you don't know asks you to deposit a check – sometimes for several thousand dollars and usually for more than what you are owed – and wire some of the money back to that person. The scammers always have a good story to explain the overpayment – they're stuck out of the country, they need you to cover taxes or fees, you need to buy supplies, or something else. But by the time your bank discovers you've deposited a bad check, the scammer already has the money you sent, and you're stuck paying the rest of the check back to the bank.

According to Colleen Tressler, a Consumer Education Specialist with the FTC, they receive tens of thousands of reports each year about fake checks. Over the last three years, the number of complaints has steadily increased, and so have the dollars lost.

The FTC, in conjunction with the American Bankers Association Foundation, offers some tip-offs to rip-offs and what to do if you get a check from someone you don't know.

According to the FTC and to the American Bankers Association Foundation, in all cases, if any of the following conditions apply to your check, it is a SCAM!

- Did someone send you a check and ask you to send some money back?
- You win a prize and are told to send back taxes and fees.
- You sold an item online and the buyer overpays.
- You get paid as a “secret shopper” and are told to wire back money.

If it's a fake check, why is money in your account?

That's a reasonable question. Banks have to make deposited funds available quickly. It's the law. But the bank may not learn for days that the check was bad. By then, the scammer has your money. And you have to repay the bank. Remember - just because the check has CLEARED does not necessarily mean it is GOOD.

What can you do to avoid a fake check scam?

- Be wary. Talk to someone you trust and contact your bank before you act.
- Never take a check for more than your selling price.
- Selling online? Consider using an escrow or online payment service.
- Never send money back to someone who sent you a check.
- Did you spot this scam and avoid becoming a victim? Tell the Federal Trade Commission: ftc.gov/complaint

Please share this information with others. Victims may be embarrassed to talk about their experiences, but you can help. A simple phone call, email or text, saying “Look what I just found” and sharing this information may make a difference in someone else's life.

If you need assistance with understanding any aspects of Fake Check 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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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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