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# The Bulletin

The POA – Champions of Residents' Rights Since 1975

JANUARY 2020

POA4US.org

Issue 46.01 | Circulation 65,150

## UPCOMING POA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

**Tuesday**

**January 21, 2020 • 7 P.M.**

**Laurel Manor Recreation Center**  
**Stephen Kennedy**  
Sumter County 911 Call Center

**Tuesday**

**February 25, 2020 • 7 P.M.**

**Eisenhower Recreation Center**  
**Dale Grafton**  
Coleman Prison

**Tuesday**

**March 17, 2020 • 7 P.M.**

**Laurel Manor Recreation Center**  
**Don Henderson, President & CEO**  
Central Florida Health

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## District Manager Reports Improvements & Big Savings



The POA ended a busy year on a high note with District Manager Richard Baier as its final General Membership Meeting speaker in December. Mr. Baier was appointed District Manager in July 2018, and 18 months later, reports significant changes and savings in District operations.

Mr. Baier's focus has been on enhanced communication, enhanced customer service, and systems and analytical decision making for its **\$2 Billion** of public infrastructure. He reported that first year savings exceed \$3.5 million and have been accomplished by:

- Changing the organizational structure, combining such functions as Community Standards and Customer Service;
- outsourcing its fleet and enhancing the Interlocal Agreement with Sumter County for services such as fleet maintenance;
- going from a "paper-based" system of management to enhanced IT Asset Management platforms; and
- implementing contract efficiencies.

Continued growth in The Villages, says Mr. Baier, is certain to continue throughout our lifetimes, with more property acreage owned for development south of CR 44 than exists north of these new development areas. Already spanning 70 square miles with a population more than 125,000, The Villages is larger than 96% of the

municipalities in the State of Florida, making it the 17th largest of 412.

There are currently 16 Community Development Districts and the total District annual budget for Fiscal Year 2019-20 is \$336,370,165. Mr. Baier said that his departments are challenged to reassess process and systems to determine how to work more effectively and efficiently in meeting the needs of the District and community in a cost-effective manner.

Several capital projects are underway, or on the table for future development:

- Brownwood Woodshop – located behind the Fire Station across from Eisenhower Recreation Center; will be completed by the end of 2020.
- Multi-modal Path Wayfinding Signage was completed in 2019 to identify major destinations, direction of travel, and provide standardization of signage throughout the community.

*District Manager continued on page 2*

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.

### 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
- Honesty
- Fairness
- Objectivity
- Respect

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.

*District Manager continued from page 1*

- Paradise Recreation Center is the largest and most aged recreation complex in the District with a \$16-\$18 Million price tag to rebuild. For a variety of reasons, this project will be contemplated in the future.
- District Property Management will have a "South Annex" behind the new fire station on Morse Blvd. south of CR 44 that will provide greater efficiency and quicker response time.
- First Responders Recreation Center will be developed starting in 2020.
- A Customer Service Satellite office has been co-located at the new Fire Station building on Morse Blvd. south of CR 44 that offers the same types of customer services as the main office, including replacement of gate cards, guest passes, paying utility bills, etc.
- "Unit 56" Stormwater Piping Project is a re-piping project that will redirect the stormwater flow in the area of the Calumet Grove sinkhole locations that occurred nearly two years ago. Mr. Baier described a long and frustrating process of resolving the issues in that area.

Other major initiatives include the Solid Waste and Recycling Plan, which began with a series of workshops in 2019 and will be finalized in 2020 to address the increased costs of waste management and the lack of markets for almost all products that are currently recycled such as glass, paper and plastic. Mr. Baier said that it costs \$900,000 annually to subsidize the current recycling program. One solution will be to utilize more enhanced "energy to waste" disposal, which is already being done south of CR 44. Much more information will be coming in 2020.

Mr. Baier also described many environmental initiatives which will continue in the new year. He stated that residents will no longer see Styrofoam cups or plastic straws and stirrers in District facilities, including recreation centers. LED lighting is now being used in all postal stations and 35% of the District's fleet of vehicles are hybrid.

Clearly, Mr. Baier hit the ground running in 2018 and his strong team of department leaders and employees have responded to the many initiatives that are serving Villages residents well.

The POA, on behalf of its residential property owners, says "Thank You and Job Well Done!"

*District Manager continued on page 3*



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*District Manager continued from page 2*

**Questions and Answers**

**What method of budgeting is used by the District?**

The District uses zero-based budgeting and is always looking for efficiencies. Mr. Baier stated that Community Development Districts (CDD) 5 – 11 have held the line on the annual maintenance fees, with no increases. In 2020, all infrastructure north of CR 466 in CDDs 1-4 will be reviewed and capital and maintenance improvement plans will be developed.

**Does the District “buy American?”**

About 50 % of the fleet is American made. The District uses several purchasing consortiums, mostly through statewide contracts.

**Why wasn’t the piping issue in Calumet Grove discovered at the time the system was built?**

There is no way to predict when/if a sinkhole will occur, and nothing could have been anticipated.

**Is the District at risk for “ransomware”? (When the IT systems are locked and held for ransom.)**

The District has ransomware protection in its IT contract, and a backup, redundant system to ensure its security and continued operations.

**There are serious environmental concerns about waste to energy processes.**

Mr. Baier stated that waste to energy is more heavily regulated than any other industry, with minute by minute, hourly, daily, monthly and annual limits on emissions. Advanced scrubbers clean the exhaust and create less emissions than are created by trucks taking waste for removal.

**Why are bonds so high on new homes?**

Bonds are set by the Developer to cover the per unit cost of construction and the District has nothing to do with these bonds.

**How many units will be at The Lofts apartments in Brownwood.**

It has recently been reported that there will be 279 units. ■



**POA 2020 AND BEYOND MEMBERSHIP & CONTRIBUTION FORM**

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**Good:** Fill out the renewal form in *The Bulletin* newspaper if you do not have a computer, and mail it to us with your check/SASE.

# BIG News Announced for The Villages Health and The Villages Regional Hospital

Within days of each other, two major announcements were made last month by University of Florida Health (UF) and The Villages®, and Central Florida Health, the entity that owns both The Villages® Regional Health (TVRH) and Leesburg Hospital.

According to the first press release on December 6, 2019, The Villages® and UFH signed a letter of intent to continue exclusive talks as they work to build a new model for health care in the region that will include a comprehensive health care campus offering a full portfolio of education, research, and advanced health care and wellness services for The Villages® community, **including construction of a new general acute care hospital.**

The release did not specify if the facilities being constructed on CR 44 is the location of the campus, nor did it specify where a new hospital would be built. Timing of the venture was also not addressed, but the release indicates the parties will meet regularly to continue these exclusive talks.

The press release issued by UF said the health campus may eventually also include residential facilities for faculty, graduate trainees and students as well as space for innovative research that develops products and services for older adults.

Officials say they aim to forge a national model for expanding life expectancy through a healthy, active, continuous learning approach to living. Plans will integrate the educational, research and

clinical resources of Florida's leading university with the unique resources of the largest older adult community in the country.

UF, the No. 7-ranked public university by *U.S. News & World Report*, has a comprehensive land-grant mission and a tradition of comprehensive excellence and is seeking to grow access to its exceptional health care services.

The move complements an existing affiliation agreement the UF Health Shands hospital system has with Central Florida Health and its two hospitals — Leesburg Regional Medical Center and The Villages® Regional Hospital — which has emphasized the development of leading-edge patient care programs and access to clinical studies for residents of Lake, Sumter and Marion counties. The focus of that relationship has included laying the groundwork for the creation of primary care physician training opportunities to meet the increasing demand for primary care physicians as the region's population quickly grows.

UF Health physicians work with Central Florida Health to provide comprehensive stroke care and telestroke services to their patients when needed, offering timely access to the latest technology

and the most advanced treatments available, and providing around-the-clock access to consults with a vascular neurologist regarding treatment plans and decisions related to administration of the clot-busting drug tPA for patients who remain in the local area. UF Health also provides educational opportunities, including continuing medical education about the latest in stroke care.

## UF to Acquire Central Florida Health Hospitals – TVRH and Leesburg Hospital

Almost immediately following the first big announcement, came the news that UF Health will acquire the two CFH hospitals in early 2020, pending final reviews, saying the acquisition builds on a strategic affiliation that has connected local residents to leading-edge stroke care and other health care services for several years. The Villages® Regional Hospital will become UF Health The Villages® Hospital and Leesburg Regional Medical Center will become UF Health Leesburg Hospital.

The release says that the move will strengthen and improve the availability of high-quality, efficient, affordable health care for Lake, Sumter and Marion counties through the 660-bed regional system, and will preserve and enhance the hospitals' focus on other important missions of research, medical education and charity care. Over time, long-term capital plans for facility improvements and new equipment and technologies will be considered, including

*Hospital continued on page 7*

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# POA Watch List for 2020

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. Be assured, the POA will be acting as your "Champion for Residents Rights," as we have since 1975. Our Board members always have an "ear to the ground" to anticipate and learn about issues as they occur.

## Here is the POA "Watch List" for 2020.

### #1 – Local Elections and One Sumter.

2020 is not only a big election year on the national level, but many Community Development District (CDD) seats and County Commissioner Districts 1, 3 and 5 are also up for grabs in Lake, Marion and Sumter counties.

After the outcry following the 25% property tax increase voted on by the current Sumter County Board of Commissioners, residents are seeking to unseat three incumbents in the next election. The POA launched its "Fair Government" initiative and will continue to provide residents with information about qualified candidates, including hosting candidate forums prior to the August primary elections. It is most likely the outcomes of these seats will occur at that time since the Republicans have had a stronghold on the County Board of Commissioners in Sumter County.

The POA will also look at what is happening with Lake and Marion County governments and how costs compare. The Villages represent a small percentage of each of those counties, while in Sumter The Villages comprise about 85%. Nonetheless, representation and costs are just as important

*Watch List continued on page 6*

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*Watch List continued from page 5*

to our neighbors to the North and the POA will represent all our areas.

One Sumter was a proposal that passed in 2004 to have all five Sumter County commissioners elected in a county-wide election rather than just by the voters in their individual home districts. Candidates would still have to live in their respective districts.

Proponents said that commissioners make decisions for the entire county and therefore should be elected by all voters in the county. The suggestion was that Villagers would be disadvantaged or denied equity if One Sumter was not passed.

Opponents said that the five districts have issues and situations particular to their separate localities, and they needed their own commissioners to represent their local views.

The POA opposed One Sumter at that time and supports its repeal in 2020. To be placed

on the ballot, 12,000 signatures are needed. To obtain a petition email [orenmiller@centurylink.net](mailto:orenmiller@centurylink.net).

There are thirty seats that will be elected in twelve Community Development Districts, and two seats for the Amenity Authority Committee (ACC). The CDDs are responsible to set and administer the maintenance budgets for your individual district. These supervisors are also the final "judges" when deed compliance violations cannot be resolved. In CDDs 5 – 12, the supervisors also appoint a representative from their individual districts to the Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) which advises the Sumter Landing Community Development Committee (SLCDD) on agreed-upon shared maintenance projects such as multi-modal paths and on the amenity facilities and fees in those districts.

The AAC was created after the POA supported 2008 lawsuit to administer the amenity fees budget for rooftops north of CR 466. Members

are elected from CDD's 1-4 and Lake County/Lady Lake.

Many CDD and ACC incumbents find themselves with no competition. The POA encourages residents to take an interest in their local government and consider running for a seat when it is open for election.

## #2 – University of Florida, The Villages Health, and The Villages Regional Hospital.

The POA has been carefully monitoring and reporting on the quality rating for The Villages Regional Hospital (TVRH) for the last two years, watching it decline from a 3-star rating in 2016 to a 1-star in 2018. The news of the acquisition of TVRH by the University of Florida Health, and the enhanced partnership with The Villages Health is great news for residents. We have long advocated for world-class healthcare in The Villages, and it now looks like we are on that path.

*Watch List continued on page 8*



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*Hospital continued from page 4*

construction of a new general acute care hospital in association with The Villages.®

In January, a new 24-hour freestanding emergency room will open on State Road 44 in Wildwood, just across from Brownwood Paddock Square in The Villages.®

Officials suggest that as the demand for primary care physicians is increasing as the region's population quickly grows, and doctors tend to establish their practices close to where they complete their training. UF Health and Central Florida Health have been working to develop leading-edge patient care programs and improve access to specialty services, advanced technology and clinical studies for area residents. The focus has included creating primary care physician training opportunities to meet this increasing demand.

David R. Nelson, M.D., senior vice president for health affairs at UF and president of UF Health said "We are looking forward to working with community physicians who practice at the hospitals and others on the health care team to serve the needs of the community and bring the latest health care advances to the region."

Officials also will discuss establishing common approaches to quality care and safety initiatives.

"Combining our organizations' talents and resources is easy because we share common values and a common vision: Each day our health care teams come to work with a singular focus on the patient. The patient is at the center of everything we do," said Ed Jimenez, chief executive officer of UF Health Shands, part of the University of Florida. "We are excited

*Hospital continued on page 18*

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Watch List continued from page 6

See the article on page 4 about these exciting new developments. The POA will be watching to see what changes and improvements will occur and hope to see continued local representation in the hospital’s board of directors.

**#3 – Growth and Continued Cost Increases in The Villages.** We now know that Sumter County officials asked The Villages developer to continue building south of CR 44, and we now know what that cost Sumter County residents – a whopping 25%+ increase in property taxes. Whether you are okay with the increase because there hadn’t been one in more than 10 years, or whether you’re mad about it, most everyone can agree that the cost increases are adding up.

1. 25%+ increase in Sumter County property taxes;
2. 8% water rate increase by North Sumter County Utility Dependent District (NSCUDD);
3. Removal of Amenity Fee Deferral Rate that was previously capped at \$155; now subject to annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjustment; and
4. In 2020, a new Solid Waste Management Plan could add \$2 - \$5 to the monthly solid waste pick up charge, with other (non-monetary) changes possible.

The POA has questioned before whether continued growth is paying for itself and whether the Developer is paying a “fair share” for services it contracts with the District to provide. We will continue to examine these cost issues and provide residents with as much analysis as possible. It is predicted that The Villages current size of 70 square miles could double in the foreseeable future. It is hard not to think this will continue to raise costs for the rest of the residents. And what will the effect be for existing home values? The POA will seek accurate data to help residents understand these impacts.

Do you have an issue you’d like to bring to the POA’s attention?  
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**AARP now offers a 90 minute Smart Driver Technology (SDTEK) program for mature drivers. For more information: [aarp.org/findaworkshop10](http://aarp.org/findaworkshop10) or 352-430-1833.**

**All available courses are listed at [aarp.org/findacourse](http://aarp.org/findacourse) or call 877-846-3299.**

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January 15	Sumter Grand	Pauline Bolwell	352-205-3880
January 18 & 25	Paradise	Jack Haughn	352-603-1420
January 20 & 23	Savannah	Don Walker	352-430-0610
January 21	Freedom Point	Brenda Oleksa	610-392-9552



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

Even with the holiday season in full gear, our District office, Community Development Boards, and Committees were hard at work addressing resident concerns and District Business. Here is a recap of the highlights.

### AAC Decides on Pool Style

The Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) decided on a resort-style pool with step entry for the new First Responders Recreation Center. The direction was postponed last month so committee members could look at newer pools – Fenney and Cattail – south of CR 44 to decide whether the pool should be zero entry, have entry steps, or both. After debate and a 4-2 vote, the direction is for steps. Members were concerned that a zero entry took up too much swimming space and didn't allow for enough "deeper" areas. The two dissenting votes thought zero entry and steps made more sense and allowed for multiple options for users but were outvoted.

A Soulliere Villas resident expressed his frustration that a dog park was taken off the list, but committee members quickly reminded him that there are no other recreation centers that include a dog park, and it was only included because it had been mentioned. Nothing was excluded from the list for consideration, but not everything made the cut.

District Manager Richard Baier cautioned committee members not to get involved in cost discussions at this stage of the development. Even though residents have many questions, Mr. Baier said until there is a revised site plan, there is no point trying to answer them or to address cost impacts.

### Holiday Gate Entry Signs Removed

District Property Manager Sam Wartinbee reported that 10-foot-tall holiday flags that were removed from various Village and Villa entrances because they did not meet the approved holiday decorations policy that the Community Development District (CDD) Boards have passed. District Manager Richard Baier stated they created risks and indicated that he would review the decorations policies with the CDD Boards next year.

### CDD 4 Will Enforce Sign Rules Again

Community Development District (CDD) 4 supervisors voted of 3-2 to enforce the sign rules in their CDD again, for the first time since November 2012. Prior to that when the Developer was in charge, the rules weren't enforced either.

However, in recent months, CDD 4 Supervisor Cliff Wiener began voicing concerns about an increasing abundance of signs that have been going up and staying up. There was a town hall meeting held in October to discuss the issue. The two longest serving CDD 4 supervisors, Don Deakin and Jim Murphy, voted against enforcement.

It will take some time to implement the enforcement and, in the beginning, it will be complaint driven. It may be February before the procedures can be put in place to enforce the rules. Only CDD 1 will continue its non-enforcement of the sign regulations.

### Workshop Dates Set

**Florida-Friendly Landscape.** District Manager Richard Baier announced that a Florida-Friendly Landscape Workshop will be held on January 13 at Rohan Recreation Center on January 13 from 11 A.M. – 1 P.M. It is a FREE but ticketed event.

**District Update.** The semi-annual District Update Momentum Meeting will be held for all District Supervisors and Committee members on February 28 at Laurel Manor Recreation Center from 8 A.M. – 10 A.M. No ticket is required, and the meeting is open to the public. ■



**Villages Masonic Lodge 3rd Annual**

*Valentine's  
Dinner Dance*

**When: Saturday, February 15, 2020**

**Where: Paradise Recreation Center**  
1403 Paradise Drive

**Dinner: Baked Ham, Mashed Sweet Potatoes,  
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# 2020 POA Board Officers and Directors Inducted

## Cliff Wiener, President

Before retirement he was a member of Local 38 IBEW and retired after 41 years as an electrician. Since moving here he has been a Guardian Ad Litem, a member of the CIC for 4 years, on the ARC for 4 years (Chairman), and is now a District 4 board supervisor (vice chairman). He has also been a member of the Ohio Buckeye Club (treasurer), is a member of Forest City Masonic Lodge 388, Village Masonic Lodge 394, Bahia Shrine, Village Shrine Club (treasurer), Scottish Rite of Ocala, and the High Twelve Club of the Villages. He also started a bowling league and was secretary for 15 years, worked at the golf courses and was an outside manager at Havana Country Club. He has served on the POA board for the last 7 years and the last 4 years as president.

## Jerry Ferlisi, Vice President

Jerry and his wife, Maureen, acquired their "Village" home in 2005, but became full time residents in the Village of Poinciana, in May 2010, upon Jerry's retirement.

He's had a long and distinguished career in Finance. He holds a BS in Accounting from Long Island University. He was trained in Public Accounting (Pannel, Kerr Forster) 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). Jerry served in the United States Army and National Guard.

In addition to being Vice President of the POA, Jerry has been re-elected 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 attend various clubs, and is an avid member of SOSB (Seniors on a Spring Break). He is the proud father of two sons, with two daughters-in-

law & two gorgeous granddaughters and has the pictures to prove it.

## Donna Kempa, Treasurer

After visiting The Villages since 2004, Donna and her husband, Tony took the plunge and became full time residents in 2013. Their 'first' home was a suburb south of Buffalo, New York; in ski country, where they enjoyed cross-country and downhill skiing. They are glad to have finally defrosted, and currently live in the Village of Glenbrook.

Donna a graduate of the University at Buffalo with a BS in Accounting and Finance. She also holds a degree in Computer Programming. She is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Fraud Investigator (CFE) and a Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA). After working in Public Accounting as an information technology auditor, Donna moved to the health insurance industry; where she has worked for the past 10 years. She continues to work as a remote employee for a regional health insurance carrier from the Buffalo area.

When she is not working her "real" job or helping assist the initiatives of the POA, she can be seen power walking along Talley Ridge and Buena Vista, playing pickleball or golf (neither very well), cheering on her husbands' softball team or enjoying the entertainment at any of the town squares.

## Reb Benson, Secretary

Mr. Richard E. (Reb) Benson is from Virginia and lives in the Palo Alto Village. Mr. Benson retired from Air Force Civil Service as a GS-15 in February 2018 after 11 years of negotiating and implementing international arms control treaties and agreements. In addition, Mr. Benson is a retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel with 23 years of distinguished service in space and missile operations, serving as crew commander, staff officer and strategic planner. In addition, he commanded a Recruiting Squadron and served in a variety of staff assignments for Strategic Air Command and Headquarters, Air Force. Mr. Benson was also a Program Manager and Senior Analyst for Scientific Applications International

## OFFICERS

President - Cliff Wiener - Piedmont  
Vice President - Jerry Ferlisi - Poinciana  
Treasurer - Donna Kempa - Glenbrook  
Secretary - Reb Benson - Palo Alto

## DIRECTORS

Vicki Alkema - Woodbury  
Andrew Curtis - Mallory  
Ken Copp - Duval  
Tita Dumagsa - Fenney  
Cathy Peppers - Tamarind Grove  
Bill Schikora - Santo Domingo  
Peg Tackett - Santo Domingo  
Sal Torname - St. James

Corporation (SAIC). He is currently an SAIC Senior Consultant plus a Golf Ambassador at The Villages Tierra Del Sol golf course. Reb enjoys playing golf and flying radio-controlled airplanes. He is a Deacon at First Baptist Church at The Villages. ■

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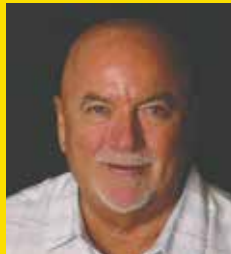
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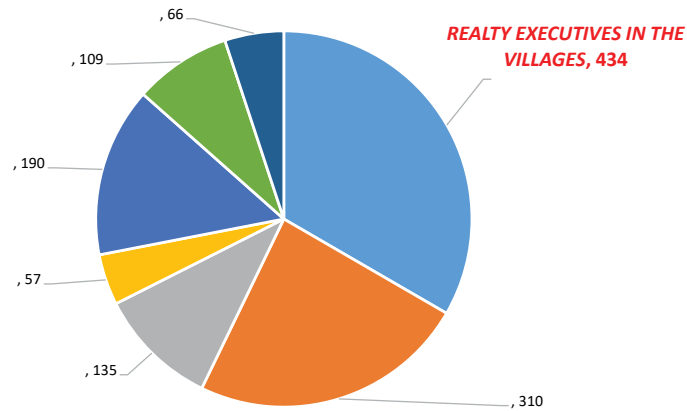
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# Urgent Care or Emergency Room? Guidelines and Locations

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

**If you are having  
 an Emergency,  
 call 9-1-1**

sure they are open. You might also be able to check wait times. We make every effort to provide a comprehensive and accurate list every year and have verified the information below with the providers listed. If there are new facilities we may have missed, please let us know!

### 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

*Guidelines and Locations continued on page 15*

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*Guidelines and Locations continued from page 14*

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*These facilities do NOT do X-rays*

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Weekends | 8 AM – 5 PM

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**Buffalo Ridge**

3602 Wedgewood Lane

M-F | 8 PM – 5 PM

**Colony Plaza**

304 Heald Way, Suite 204

Daily (incl. Sat., Sun., & Holidays) 8 AM – 8 PM

**Lake Sumter Landing**

910 Old Camp Road, Suite 182

M-F | 7 AM – 5 PM

Weekends | 8 AM – 5 PM

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**Mulberry Plaza**

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**Lake Regional Urgent Care**

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Weekends | 8:30 AM -5 PM

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910 Old Camp Road #114

(352) 259-4322

16890 US Hwy 441, Mt. Dora

(352) 385-4405

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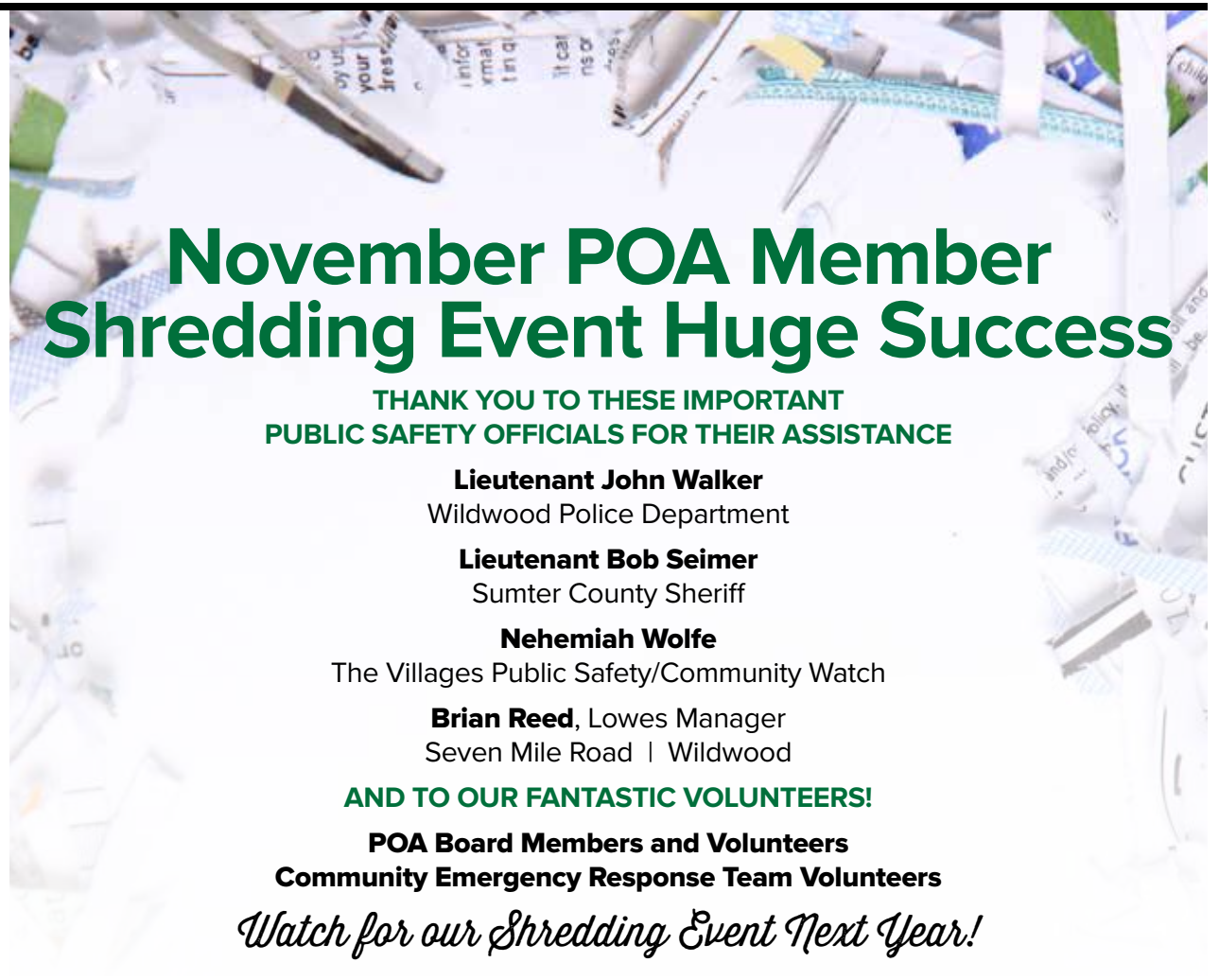
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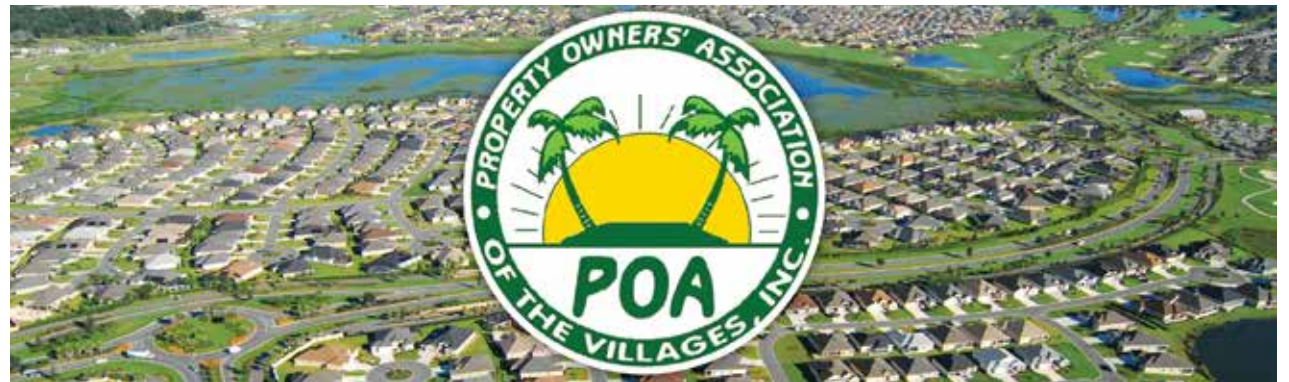
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*Hospital continued from page 7*

about maximizing treatment options, improving coordination of care, offering the latest medical breakthroughs and exploring new opportunities related to our community service, medical education and research activities.”

The release also says that the acquisition is technically known as a member substitution agreement. As The Villages® seeks to become America’s “healthiest hometown,” the broad vision will include a variety of UF Health medical practices as well as teaching and research alliances with various UF colleges, such as Dentistry, Health and Human Performance, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health and Health Professions, and Veterinary Medicine, along with associated centers and institutes. UF/IFAS extension programming focused on food and nutrition also will be a highlight.

The University of Florida will provide the breadth of knowledge, talented faculty and resources to ensure that healthy living is integrated into the very fabric of the community through health, education and wellness programs; UF Health will ensure a forward-looking approach to prevention, early detection and health promotion.

There are obvious details that will be coming, but the POA considers this GREAT news for Villages residents. We are anxious to learn those details, and particularly, what local representation Villages residents will have on a new Board of Directors. ■



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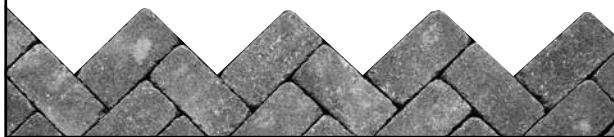
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# Gardening Spot

## Camellias

by Anne Lambrecht Fanatical Gardener mrsanne04@gmail.com

January is the month for most camellias to bloom. They are originally from eastern and southern Asia, from the Himalayas east to Japan and Indonesia. There are 100–300 described species, and around 3,000 hybrids in a remarkable range of colors, forms, and sizes. The common camellia, (*Camellia japonica*) is Alabama’s state flower. *Camellia sinensis* is related to the tea plant. *Camellia japonica* and *Camellia sasanqua* are the ornamental ones. The Japonica is the camellia everyone thinks of when thinking camellia. The Sasanqua has smaller flowers but tolerate more sun, more heat, and a wider range of soils. And both are really, really nice!

Camellias were cultivated in the gardens of China and Japan for centuries before they were seen in Europe. With the expansion of the tea trade in the late 18th century, new varieties began to be seen in England, imported through the British East India Company. The hobby went wild from there, as you can imagine.

**Exposure and Watering:** Camellias grow best in partial shade. I’ve got mine under a large oak tree with shade from the afternoon sun. The east or north side of a house is also an ideal spot if you don’t have shade trees. As they grow larger and their thick canopy of leaves shades and cools their roots, they gradually will accept more sun. Shade provided in winter reduces cold damage. Water regularly as long as drainage is good. Established older plants can survive, even thrive, on fairly little supplemental water.

**Fertilizing:** feed with an acid-forming azalea or camellia fertilizer in the spring, after the flowers have dropped. Fertilize again in mid-summer if growth seems sparse and begins to lose its deep green color. Always follow directions on the label. Do not over-fertilize, as plants grown in rich soil need little fertilizer and never feed plants that are sick or stressed.

**Soil:** plant in well drained organic material. Because I’ve got mine under the large oak, I’ve

got years of rotted leaves in the soil. If you have a new yard with lots of sand, clay and who-knows-what, then you will have to supplement your soil with compost, leaves, humus, and manure. Never plant so the trunk base is below the soil line, and never let soil cover the base. Keep roots cool with a 2-inch thick layer of mulch (no rocks please) (and kept away from the base).

**Pruning:** sparse pruning right after flowering. Remove dead or weak wood; thin outgrowth when it is so dense that flowers have no room to open properly. Shorten lower branches to encourage upright growth; cut back top growth to make lanky shrubs bushier. When pruning, cut just above a scar that marks the end of the previous year’s growth (often a slightly thickened, somewhat rough area where bark texture and color change slightly). Making your cuts just above this point usually forces three or four dominant buds into growth.

**Camellia problems:** scorched or yellowed areas in the center of leaves usually means sunburn. Burned leaf edges, excessive leaf drop, or corky leaf spots generally means over fertilizing. Chlorosis (yellow leaves with green veins) results from planting in neutral or alkaline soil. Camellias like acidic soil, which is difficult, but not impossible, to achieve here.

Tea scale is a common pest. These look like tiny



brown or white specks on the undersides of the leaves. Sooty mold grows on the honeydew they secrete. Infested leaves turn yellow and drop. To treat tea scale, apply horticultural oil or a systemic insecticide and always follow label directions.

Two fungal diseases are common. Camellia petal blight causes flowers to turn brown rapidly then drop. Sanitation is the best control. Pick up and destroy fallen blossoms as well as infected ones still on the plant. Remove and destroy the mulch, too, replacing it with fresh mulch. Camellia leaf gall causes leaves to become distorted, pale, thick and fleshy. They gradually turn white, then brown, then drop from the plant. The best control is to pick off and destroy affected leaves before they turn white.

Bud drop is a frequent complaint. This is natural for camellias (many set more buds than they can open) but it could also be caused by overwatering, summer drought, or sudden freezes. The American Camellia Society recommends removing all buds but one so that the flower is bigger.

Sources: *The Southern Living Garden Book*, *American Camellia Society (Camellia encyclopedia and Camellia Shows all throughout the south)*. ■

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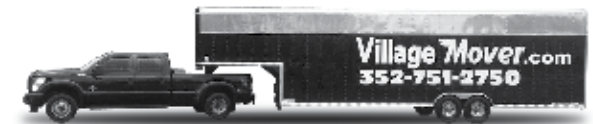
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# Seniors vs. Crime

## Census Scams

Every month here at Seniors vs Crime we get a few residents who come to us asking if a “census survey” letter they received is real or a scam. Our continual message to all residents is to tell them to use caution when someone they don’t know asks them for personal information.

It doesn’t get much more personal than a Census Bureau Survey of any kind. And most of us are aware that 2020 is the year of the 10-Year Census.

So it’s not surprising to us that people are asking questions about mailings and phone calls they’re supposedly getting from the U.S. Census Bureau concerning the American Community Survey (ACS).

According to Colleen Tressler, a Consumer Education Specialist with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the ACS is a legitimate survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, which is part of the Department of Commerce.

Unlike the 10-year Census, this survey runs all year, every year. The survey goes to a random sample of addresses in every state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Many federal, state, tribal, and local leaders use the answers to update their statistics.

If someone contacts you about the American Community Survey and you want to verify that the visit or phone call is legitimate, simply visit your nearest Seniors vs. Crime office or call your Census regional office. For residents of Florida, our Census Bureau Regional Office is the Atlanta Regional Office, 101 Marietta Street, NW, Suite 3200, Atlanta, GA 30303-2700, (404) 730-3832 or 1-800-424-6974 or FAX: (404) 730-3835 or TDD: (404) 730-3963 or E-mail: [Atlanta.Regional.Office@census.gov](mailto:Atlanta.Regional.Office@census.gov).

Here’s how the ACS survey process works:

- Census sends a letter saying that your address was selected for the ACS.
- Most people then get instructions to complete the ACS online. If you don’t complete the survey, Census will send a paper questionnaire in about two weeks.
- If you still haven’t submitted the survey, you may get a call. You also may get a call if you completed the survey, but Census needs to clarify information.
- If Census can’t reach you by phone, they may send someone to your address to complete the process in person. Interviewers may visit or call after normal business hours when it’s more likely you’ll be home. The Census representative must show a photo ID with the U.S. Department of Commerce seal and an expiration date. If you ask, the interviewer will give you a supervisor’s contact information and/or the Census regional office phone number for verification.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. If you need assistance with understanding any aspects a letter or survey you receive from the Census Bureau, don’t hesitate to contact the nearest Seniors vs. Crime office in The Villages for advice or assistance. There is never a charge for their services.

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#### 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** (temporarily located at the Moyer Recreation Center while the Wildwood Police Department wrestles with repairing fire damage at their main police station).

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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Another benefit for POA members is this Discount Partner program.

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The up-to-date list of Discount Partners can always be found on our website [poa4us.org](http://poa4us.org). Click 'Discount Partners' on the left menu.



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# Robert Boissonneault Oncology Institute Introduces Groundbreaking Treatment for Metastatic Malignant Melanoma

*Twice-daily low-dose approach yields unexpected results in a disease resistant to radiation.*

**M**ore than 59,000 people worldwide die each year from metastatic malignant melanoma. For almost half a century, this disease has been resistant to radiation. Standard, once-daily radiation that has successfully treated other cancers does not work for melanoma. Increasing the radiation dose has offered little benefit while risking significant damage to normal tissues.

Melanoma’s aggressive spread and resistance to radiation has generally made the use of smaller radiation doses given twice a day infeasible. However, research led by Dr. Norman Anderson at the Robert Boissonneault Oncology Institute has shown that giving even lower doses of radiation more frequently can eliminate all signs of the disease, reduce side effects significantly, and extend patient survival.

This type of radiation has also eliminated tumors even in untreated areas, a historically rare phenomenon called the abscopal effect. Such tumor reduction beyond the treatment area

may be due to an immune response resulting from the repeated lower radiation doses.

“The use of twice-daily treatment for malignant melanoma is a radical change from what is considered ‘state of the art,’” Anderson explains. “[T]he belief that malignant melanoma is radiation resistant at low doses is now shown to be a false assumption since these cells prove sensitive with twice-daily treatment.”

Anderson’s research stemmed from his successful treatment of a man whose metastatic melanoma had produced 23 brain lesions. Knowing that standard methods of care would be ineffective, Anderson performed whole brain radiation, administering low doses twice a day. More than two decades later, his patient remains cancer-free, with no adverse effects from the radiation.

That discovery led to a study involving 19 patients: 12 men and 7 women. Together, their melanomas had metastasized to the brain, other areas of the head, neck, lung, abdomen, liver, pelvis, and

extremities, along with lymph nodes at various locations (adenopathy). Each patient received low-dose radiation twice a day; all experienced complete remission where treated. In addition, evidence of an immune inflammatory response may relate to the elimination of tumors outside the treatment area.

“This represented a group without alternatives for treatment; and yet, their improved survival is significant,” Anderson says. “Without the use of immune or targeted therapy, our data demonstrate unexpected results after twice-daily radiation. The occurrence of further disease elsewhere over time is markedly diminished, if not eliminated, now approaching and beyond 10 years for some patients.” In addition, this radiation can be delivered at a small fraction of the cost of other treatments.

Anderson adds that further study may determine whether immunotherapy, combined with this approach, can lead to a cure.

The study was published in *Cureus*.



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