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The Bulletin

The POA – Champions of Residents' Rights Since 1975

FEBRUARY 2020

POA4US.org

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UPCOMING POA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

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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Can't Make it to a Meeting?

Visit our newly redesigned website to watch the Video of our Membership Meetings! The latest video will be posted by the end of the week of the meeting.

Poa4us.org

Sumter County Tax Reduction Plan

After the bruising unanimous decision by the Board of County Commissioners in Sumter County to increase the property tax millage rate by 25%, the POA is proud to announce the following:

NEW PAC

A Political Action Committee (PAC) has been formed with the following purpose: to replace the 5 existing County Commissioners with independent, qualified, thoughtful candidates who will always place the interests of Sumter County residents FIRST. This PAC, formed with the assistance of the POA, is an independent entity, and is headed up by Dr. Reed Panos, a resident of Sunset Point in The Villages.

The PAC is named Fair Government for Sumter and has an active website at FG4S.org.

Among the first orders of business for the new PAC:

- Identify and support one outstanding candidate for each of the three open County Commission seats: Districts 1, 3, and 5.
- Communicate, advertise, support and advocate for and about these candidates.
- Solicit donations to help support them
- Coordinate campaign strategies to ensure all three have the very best chance of winning their seats.

The POA actively will assist in education, communication, expertise and other support.

The three candidates are invited to attend the regular monthly POA Membership Meetings to meet and greet members and answer questions. A "Candidate Night" will be held at a POA Membership Meeting in the Spring to provide each candidate a forum for further clarification.

POA members are encouraged to support Fair Government for Sumter by:

- Reading *The Bulletin* carefully as these issues are presented,
- Asking questions and making suggestions,
- Signing petitions for these candidates,
- Visiting the **FG4S.com** website,
- Donating,
- Volunteering to help this worthy effort.
- The other important way to help is to VOTE. Since Sumter County is so heavily Republican, this election will probably be decided at the Republican Primary election.
- Be sure that you're registered by July 20, to vote at the Republican Primary on August 18.
- Vote for them at the Primary August 18 and again at the General Election November 3.

Reduction Plan 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.

Reduction Plan continued from page 1

Please see **FG4S.com/Volunteer** and **FG4S.com/Donate** for more information on volunteering and donating to the **Fair Government for Sumter PAC**

THE CANDIDATES:

It cannot be overstated that the POA and the PAC can only recommend and support one candidate for each open District. Two or more challengers will only split the vote and ensure the incumbents’ victory.

The Pac adopted the following criteria beforehand for selecting among competing candidates:

- Independence from outside influences.
- Relevant experience, education, knowledge, etc.
- Electability: charisma, scandal-free, name recognition, etc.
- Support available: organization, donations, etc.
- Efforts and Results to date

For County District 1, we were pleased to see CDD 1 Supervisor Craig Estep throw his hat in the ring. Mr. Estep has served with distinction in that capacity and has long demonstrated his independence, knowledge, and dedication to District 1 residents. He’s a known quantity, and he’s well qualified.

For County District 3, Gary Search came forward by speaking strongly at the Commission Open

Hearings in September and demonstrated his leadership throughout this process. His experience as President of his County Commission in Pennsylvania is impressive, and his demonstrated fiscal conservatism is appreciated.

At press time, Both Districts 1 and 3 had only one candidate registered at the Election Board. For District 5, three candidates registered: Oren Miller, Charles Kasner, and Dan Myslakowski. Members of the PAC and the POA spoke with all three and invited them to provide additional input on their qualifications, especially with regard to our stated criteria.

After a very careful consideration, the PAC has selected Oren Miller as the most qualified candidate to challenge Steve Printz for District 5. Oren launched the Reverse One Sumter initiative even as the property tax increase was just beginning to be revealed. He has monitored the County Commission meetings for the past five years and gained institutional knowledge and insight. His qualifications and dedication are much welcomed by the PAC and the POA. Charles Kasner has graciously accepted this decision and agreed to withdraw from the race. Mr. Myslakowski has apparently decided otherwise.

Craig Estep, Gary Search, and Oren Miller, the Tax Reducers.

For additional information about each candidate, and the selection process, please see **FG4S.com/Candidates.** ■





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POA 2020 AND BEYOND MEMBERSHIP & CONTRIBUTION FORM

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 Three years – 2020/2021/2022 - \$30 per/household

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- Enclosed is a Stamped, Self-Addressed Envelope, along with this form and my check.
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Here are 4 ways of becoming a Member or Renewing your membership.

The Best: The pre-filled form is the best to use because all you have to do is verify the information, correct where necessary, enclose your check, and return to the POA. *All renewals wanting membership cards mailed to you must enclose a Self Addressed Stamped Envelope (SASE).*

Second Best: Go to POA4US.org to renew and pay (credit card) on line.

Very Good: Go to POA4US.org and fill out the on line form, print it, and then mail it to us with your check/SASE.

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.



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Please let us know the DATES you will be away, at least 2 WEEKS before departing, and we will stop delivery of the Bulletin during that time.

POA General Membership Meeting Open Forum

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

What is the status of the repairs to the Morse Bridge embankment?

The Project Wide Advisory Committee is considering a new, fourth alternative that will cost several hundreds of thousands of dollars less than the original solution that was approved with cost of \$2.4 Million. Even if/when this solution is determined viable, Lake Sumter's water level has been too high since Hurricane Irma to fully inspect or repair.

Who takes care of spraying for mosquitoes?

Some jurisdictions do not spray at all. The last time Marion County sprayed was after Hurricane Irma. Lake County is very accommodating and uses an "on demand" approach. Sumter County determines when spraying will occur based on "trapped" mosquitos. You can find out more by contacting the County government in which you live. The Villages District does not spray for mosquitos.

What is the status of Magnolia Plaza, south of CR 44?

That is a private development of The Villages. Usually those projects are updated regularly in The Villages Daily Sun.

The October issue of The Bulletin indicated that the Fair Government Initiative was one of the most important issues to come before the POA, yet we have heard very little since. Why has there not been more information?

There has been much work behind the scenes since October to get things organized and moving forward. Please see the article on Page 1 of this Bulletin for more information about how to get involved.

There was a recent break-in at the Postal Facility in Fenney. What is being done about this?

The Villages Public Safety Director Nehemiah Wolfe advised that this issue has been addressed in the regular meetings he attends with the other law enforcement agencies that cover The Villages.

Is it true that insurance companies will not renew a policy if a roof is 15 years old?

You will need to check with your own insurance company to determine their requirements, but it is possible they may at the least require an inspection of an older roof at renewal

What does the bond that each homeowner pays cover and how is it determined?

The bond is set by and paid to the Developer for the cost of infrastructure he puts in. This includes roads, stormwater systems, etc. It does not include amenity facilities such as golf courses and recreation centers. The cost of the bond is determined by the cost of the infrastructure divided by the number of homes in that area. Not all bonds in each Village or parcel are the same.

What is the status of the signage replacement on the multi-modal paths? The green and white signs are easy to read while there are others that are not. Will they be upgrading more signs?

The phase of directional signage installation is complete. The Multi-Modal Path Discussion Group, comprised of members of the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC), Project Wide Advisory Committee, and the residential Community Development Districts Boards of Supervisors will be meeting again this year to assess and discuss whether more signs will be installed.

The District has shared the new sign standards with the Developer with the hope that as new areas are developed, the new sign guidelines will be utilized so the District does not have to invest in replacing them as new areas are acquired. ■

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State of the Art E-911 in Sumter County

The first call made to an E-911 center was made in 1969. In 2009, just under 40,000 calls were made to the Sumter County E-911, and by 2016 the call volume had increased to nearly 60,000. The device used to make these calls has also changed with the vast majority now coming in from cell phones.

Assistant Sumter County Administrator Stephen Kennedy filled residents in on the County's State-of-the-Art E-911 services at the January POA General Membership Meeting. Mr. Kennedy said the County's Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) in Sumter County is in The Villages® - Sumter County Public Safety Center south of CR 466A, with the Sumter County Sheriff Office as the Primary PSAP and Sumter County Fire & EMS as the Secondary PSAP. A fully redundant back up PSAP is in Bushnell in the event of a system failure at the primary facility.

Today, the originating phone number determines how calls are routed (Enhanced E911). Tomorrow, call routing will be determined by location Services (Next Generation 911). Mr. Kennedy said that Sumter County expects to have its "Next Generation 911" fully operational by September 2020.

Text-to-911 is currently available, allowing users who cannot make a phone call to text their emergency. It won't be quite as fast because the person is not talking directly to a dispatcher. Geological Informational System (GIS) mapping for Sumter County is complete and has created community layers that can now identify the specific Village from which the call originates. Mr. Kennedy reported that GIS synchronization is a 100% match from phone number to GIS database. Emergency Services Internet (ESINET) is provided through Century Link and Rapid SOS will pinpoint a location, not just an address.

Mr. Kennedy said that call processing performance is measured by the amount of time between when a call is made and when a unit is dispatched. The national benchmark is 80% within 60 seconds and 95% within 106 seconds. Sumter County performance exceeds those standards with 87.3% and 97.75%, respectively.

He said the most important take-away for residents is to **Be patient and answer the Dispatcher's questions.** While it may seem that the dispatcher is wasting time, they are trained according to national standards and

the questions they are asking will verify your location, emergency and what type of help to dispatch. They will stay on the phone with you, and if needed, will provide you with emergency response directions.

Here are the questions you can expect:

- Do you need police, fire or EMS?**
- Where are you? (Confirmed twice)**
- What is your phone number?**
- What is the problem?**

What is "Smart 911?" This FREE program allows you to set up a profile online that can be accessed that will allow you to provide additional information to 911 so they can help you faster. See the article on page 10 on how to sign up. You can provide as much information about your household and people who live there as you want to. You can also download an app to your phone.

What is "Pulse Point?" This is another free app that can pinpoint your exact location for the 911 dispatchers. It can also send out a CPR alert if you sign up to be available in your area to perform CPR. It will pinpoint AED locations for emergency responders, although it does not coordinate the dispatch for community/ neighborhood responders. Keep in mind, however, that all AED's may not be accessible, and the neighborhood AEDs are locked and can only be opened by the community response team members.

E-911 continued on page 6

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E-911 continued from page 5

E-911 Questions and Answers

If a person is on a golf course can their location be pinpointed?

Yes, the golf courses are now geo-mapped to specific holes at golf courses, although this is not fully implemented for use yet. A resident stated that he had been advised that he should not call 911 from the golf course but should instead call the clubhouse. Mr. Kennedy said he would always advise calling 911 because it will save time and you will be talking to a trained person who can fully assess the situation and offer emergency response directions as needed.

A neighbor couldn't get through to 911 from her home when there was a fire. What was the problem?

If calling from a mobile phone there is no guarantee that it will work. If it is connected via WIFI and that service is interrupted the phone won't work. Mobile phone providers also

sometimes have outages.

If you call 911 for an ambulance, can you choose what Emergency Department or hospital you are taken to?

Yes, within reason. The ambulance personnel will be able to give you information about how busy a particular emergency room might be, and might make a different recommendation, but the choice is yours. With the increasing number of free-standing emergency rooms (newest coming on CR 44 by Brownwood and in Trailwinds Development on CR 466A), while they are fully functioning emergency departments, if you have to be admitted, you will have to be transported a second time to a hospital.

The neighborhood AED program uses the Ready Alert system? Does PulsePoint coordinate?

Mr. Kennedy was not aware of how or if the two systems are coordinated.

According to Safety Director John Longacre of The Villages Public Safety, when the call is referred by the dispatcher to EMS, it simultaneously goes out to the Ready Alert system and the community responders for that area are mobilized. The Public Safety website indicates that they are also partnering to bring PulsePoint Respond to support public safety agencies working to improve cardiac arrest survival rates through improved bystander performance and active citizenship. PulsePoint Respond will alert users of a cardiac arrest in a public place. This program is NOT replacing ReadyAlert as it is not designed for residential AED groups.

What if an emergency occurs in a location not associated with an address?

Dispatchers will use cross roads and other information you provide to get to that location.

E-911 continued on page 7



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E-911 continued from page 6

The responders that are dispatched have this information updated in route via computer.

How much of the 911 charge on the monthly phone bill is actually received locally?

Generally, it is approximately 40 cents, but depends on the type of phone that is being used and the address associated with that phone.

Who is the information that is collected from you shared with? Any “big brother” organizations?

No one can just access your record and it is only available for a period of time to the dispatch center after the call comes in. You are initiating the contact by calling and providing the information that is needed. If law enforcement or some other agency wants those records about your location, they can get it from your phone service.

Can the call center access offsite locations such as stores and restaurants? Yes.

Is there an emergency response helicopter available in Sumter County?

Those are operated by private carriers., and currently there is not one located in Sumter County. However, the county has been approached about providing a certification for a new provider.

If you can’t get through to 911, is there another number to call?

Sheriff’s Department 352-793-2621 or the Fire Department at 352-569-1011 Keep in mind, however that they do not have location services available at those numbers.

How can you test 911 to make sure it’s working?

They do allow testing but would like you to coordinate with the office rather than just calling.

Do you screen for fictitious calls?

First, if you are not sure you’re having an emergency that warrants a 911 call, call anyway.

The dispatcher will help you through that situation.

Sometimes situations of “swatting” or “pranking” occur, and calls are not legitimate. But they treat them all as legitimate calls, and fortunately it hasn’t been a big problem in Sumter County.

How is treatment “upgraded” by the emergency responder?

There are medical protocols that are followed, and it is possible to get a medical professional on the phone if needed. ■

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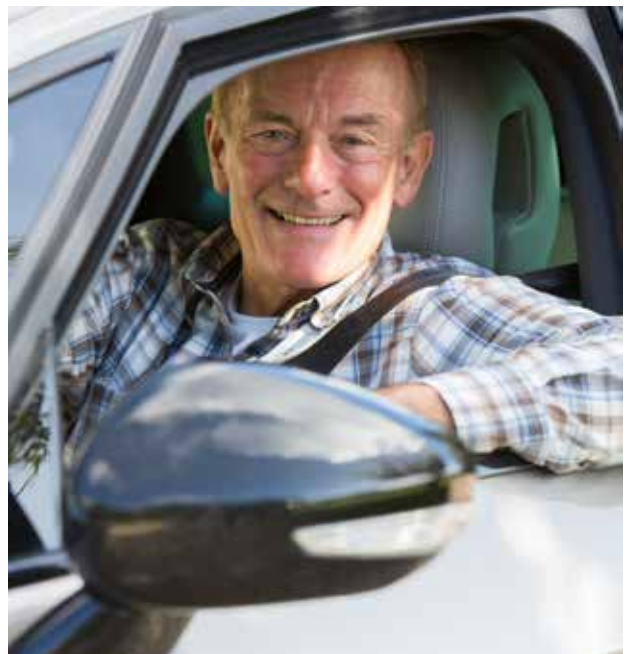
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| February 15 & 22 | Paradise | Brenda Oleksa | 610-392-9552 |
| February 17 & 20 | Savannah | Don Walker | 352-430-0610 |
| February 19 | Sumter Grand | Linda Bosco | 302-545-2004 |

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

How Much Does the Developer Pay?

Community Development District 4 Supervisor Mark Hayes asked about amenity “licenses” that have been provided for Chatham Acres. There are seven rooftops that pay amenity fees to the Developer since that area is not a part of the District. Those residents have full privileges to use all amenities in The Villages, as do all residents who live in areas still owned by the Developer. The Developer pays the District for services provided in those areas on a “pro rata” basis.

This is true for the new developments south of CR 44, still owned by the Developer, but with services provided by the District. And it was the same with the Phillips and Soulliere Villas until the District recently purchased those amenities and amenity fee revenue stream.

Rio Grande Gun Range Costs Sky Rocket

The original approved budget for renovations to the Air Rifle Range at the Rio Grande was \$154,000. The scope of that project was for minor renovation/ modifications to the existing structures and site.

However, during the initial design phase the project scope was expanded to include constructing a new air gun range on the existing site due to the costs to repair and replace the existing structural elements and the incremental increase in cost to build a completely new facility. As a result, the revised project cost was estimated at \$250,000.

Since that time, during the construction design phase, staff identified site limitation issues with constructing the new facility to current standards at the existing location and the decision was made to locate the new facility on an adjacent undeveloped District property, which increased the projected budget cost by approximately \$45,200.

During the final construction design, The District received feedback and suggestions from the residents and users for additional

improvements to the plans that added another \$25,000.

When construction bids were received in December 2019, the lowest bid was \$7,000 over the last revised estimated bid cost of \$320,200. An additional \$50,000 was then added for additional improvements including landscaping and bullet traps, and with contingency and other fees, the total project cost is now \$446,386.

Even though the costs have increased significantly, AAC committee members felt that there will now be a great facility for residents and approved the additional budget costs.

District to Look at Facility Maintenance During Holiday Periods

AAC Committee Member Don Deakin said he had several resident inquiries about facilities, such as pools, being closed for routine maintenance during the December holiday season. He said people had a difficult time locating other facilities that were open and caused some overcrowding. District Manager Richard Baier said they would look into the maintenance schedules for future consideration.

Developer Should be Held to Same Sign Guidelines on District Property

Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) member, Don Wiley, advised the committee of several examples in the Brownwood area where the Developer has put up signs on District property that do not meet the established guidelines. He said he does not have a problem with additional signs if they are signs that promote The Villages sales centers.

District Manager Richard Baier said the new signage guidelines have been shared with the Developer and he will follow up and provide a report at the next meeting as to when any signs that do not meet guidelines will be removed.

Fiscal Year 2020/21 Budget Calendars Established

Now is the time for residents and elected officials to mark their calendars for important budget discussions that will take place for the upcoming 2020/21 budget cycle. Each Community Development District (CDD) Board of Supervisors will hold workshops, as will the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) and the Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC).

CDD Boards are responsible for maintenance projects, as is PWAC for shared maintenance projects for Districts 5-13. The AAC sets the annual budget for amenity facilities north of CR 466 and the PWAC advises the Sumter Landing Community Development District on the amenity facilities south of CR 466 to CR 44.

Residents, boards and committees should be thinking now about what is needed in their districts and what capital projects residents are seeking for their amenity facilities.

The AAC will conduct its first workshop on March 18 at 2 P.M. at the District Office in Lake Sumter Landing. The full budget calendar can be found on districtgov.org. Select ‘Departments’ from the top menu and ‘Budget’ from the drop down. ■

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When you call 9-1-1, your Smart911 Safety Profile displays on the 9-1-1 screen and the 9-1-1 call takers can view your addresses, medical information, home information, description of pets and vehicles, and emergency contacts. You can provide as much or as little information as you like.

Smart911 is a national service meaning your Smart911 Safety Profile travels with you and is visible to any participating 9-1-1 center nationwide.

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Safety Profiles can include:

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- Phone numbers associated with your family**
- Pets, service animals, and livestock**
- Medical conditions and allergies**
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- Property details, layout, and utility information**
- Vehicle descriptions**
- Emergency contacts**

Alerts powered by Smart911, allow you to sign up for notifications from your community to keep you informed of weather, traffic, and

other emergencies. Hear immediately about life-saving actions you must take to keep yourself and your family safe.

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Going on in the County...

The Bulletin is beginning regular coverage of activities and actions at the county government level that may be of interest to Villages property owners. The Villages is within the boundaries of three counties: Lake, Marion and Sumter. The vast majority of The Villages lies within Sumter County, but it is important that residents are aware of what's going on if they live in one of the other two.

Sumter County Launches Resident Academy

The Sumter County Citizens Academy will be offered quarterly beginning January 2020. The Sumter County Citizens Academy is a free program that provides an online and in-person opportunity to learn more about your county government. Each of the four quarterly classes are limited to 30 participants. All participants must be at least 18 years of age and be a resident of Sumter County. You can sign up at sumtercountyfl.gov.

Sumter County Commissioners Meeting Locations Changed

In what some consider a snub to the rest of Sumter County's citizens, the Sumter County Board of Commissioners recently announced that it will be conducting its two regular monthly meetings at Everglades Recreation Center on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month. Meetings begin at 5 P.M. Others have complained

that it is not golf cart accessible yet, as were the meetings held once a month at Colony Cottage. On the third Tuesday of every month at 5 P.M. the Commissioners hold a workshop at The Villages Service Center at 7375 Powell Road. Agendas and minutes are available at sumtercountyfl.gov.

Sumter County Road Improvements to Begin

In a press release in early January Sumter County officials announced that the Buena Vista Boulevard improvement project construction will commence the week of January 20, 2020, and is scheduled to be completed on May 16, 2020, in advance of the hurricane season that formally begins June 1st of each year. The area of construction will be from the South of Lake Miona Drive to CR 44A. Given the location of the construction, lane closures will be utilized during the daytime hours between 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

This project is the final phase of the repaving of Buena Vista Boulevard from C-466 to SR 44.

The Morse Boulevard improvement project construction will commence the week of March 2, 2020, and is scheduled for completion on June 14, 2020, shortly after the start of the formal hurricane season of June 1st. Given the location of the construction, lane closures will be utilized during the daytime hours between 7:00 AM and 5:00 PM. This project is the second of three phases to complete the renovation of Morse Boulevard. This phase includes the section 1,000 feet South of Stillwater Trail to Morse Boulevard. The final phase will follow receipt of a one-million-dollar grant from the State of Florida that will be available after July 2020.

Officials advise that partial lane closures are to be expected, and heavy machinery will be working near the travel way. They ask drivers to please use caution when traveling during the construction in these areas and travel at the posted construction speed limit to protect yourselves and our construction workers.

County Websites and Meeting Schedules

Lake County - lakecountyfl.gov

The Lake County Board of County Commissioners meetings may consist of several components, including work sessions, discussion agenda items (departmental business), consent agenda items and public hearings. Lake County residents are encouraged to attend the meetings and to speak at public hearings.

County continued on page 17

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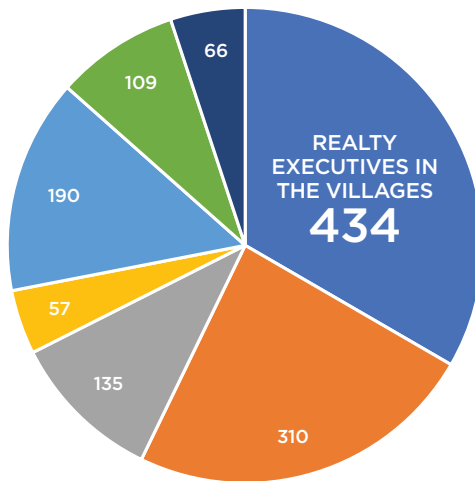


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What is Florida-Friendly Landscaping™?

In its third environmentally focused workshop, District Government held an informative workshop in January educating Villagers on the importance of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™. What is it?

The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program was created by the University of Florida to educate homeowners on science-based landscaping practices for the design and maintenance of landscapes that are attractive and sustainable. There are nine principles.

1. Right Plant, Right Place

Select plants that match a site’s soil, light, water, and climatic conditions. Help stop the spread of invasive plants by removing them from your yard—see the *UF/IFAS Assessment of Non-Native Plants in Florida’s Natural Areas*.

2. Water Efficiently

Water conservation can be achieved by grouping plants with similar water needs together and zoning your irrigation system appropriately.

3. Fertilize Appropriately

Fertilize according to UF/IFAS recommended rates and application timings to prevent leaching—fertilizer leaking down through the soil rather than being absorbed by plant roots.

4. Mulch

Mulch helps retain soil moisture, protects plants, and inhibits weed growth. The Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program does not recommend the use of cypress mulch, as its origins may be difficult to determine.

5. Attract Wildlife

Animals have trouble living in today’s heavily urbanized landscape. By providing food, water, and shelter for birds, butterflies, bats, and others, you can help these displaced Floridians while bringing beauty and benefits to your home landscape. Reducing insecticide use can be good for you and many animals and beneficial insects. They eat pests and help pollinate your flowers!

6. Manage Yard Pests Responsibly

Concerns for human and environmental health have led scientists to recommend Integrated Pest Management (IPM), a strategy that helps gardeners manage pests with as few chemicals as possible.

7. Recycle

Landscape maintenance activities like mowing, pruning, and raking generate yard waste that you can recycle to save money. Decomposed organic matter, like pruned branches or grass clippings, releases nutrients back to the soil in a form that plants can easily use.

8. Reduce Stormwater Runoff

Florida’s waterways are vulnerable to everything we put on our home landscapes. Fertilizers and pesticides can leach through the soil or run off into storm drains. Along with landscape debris and eroded soil, these can wreak havoc on our water quality and the fragile ecosystems our water resources support. Florida-Friendly Landscaping seeks to retain and use as much of the rainfall and irrigation water that lands on our home landscapes as possible.

9. Protect the Waterfront

Florida boasts over 10,000 miles of rivers and streams, about 7,800 lakes, more than 700 freshwater springs, and the U.S.’s second-longest coastline. One of the most important steps you can take to protect any water body is maintaining a 10-foot “maintenance-free zone” around it. Do not mow, fertilize, or use pesticides in this zone.

The video presentation of the workshop can be found on the District website **DistrictGov.org**. ■

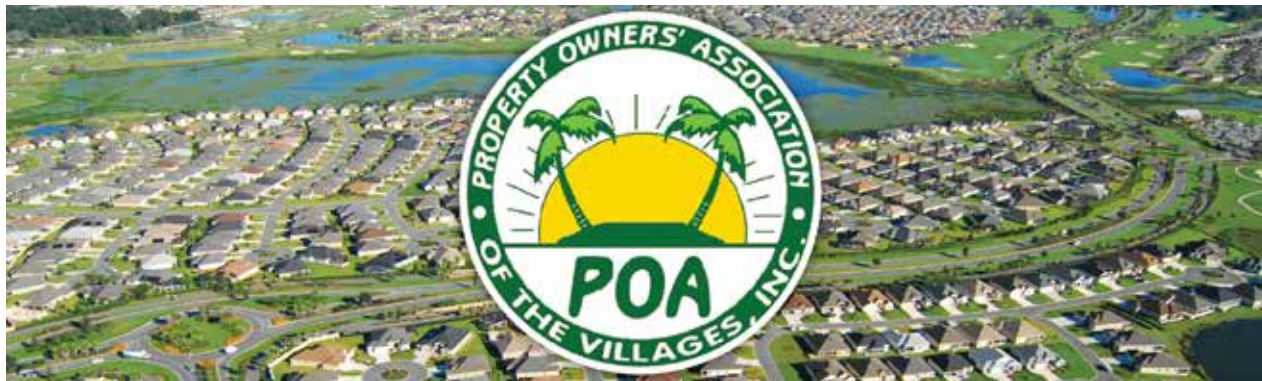
Source: University of Florida Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ website https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/homeowners/nine_principles.htm



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County continued from page 11

The Board normally meets in regular sessions the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m. in the Administration Building, located at 315 W. Main St., Tavares.

Marion County - marioncountyfl.org

The Marion County Board of Commissioners holds its regularly scheduled meetings in the McPherson Governmental Campus Auditorium, 601 SE 25th Ave., Ocala, on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m. The zoning portion of the meeting is held on the third Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m. All commission and zoning meetings are open to the public. General public items, public hearings, consent agenda items and other items that the board is expected to discuss are posted on this page by the Thursday before each board meeting. Items are downloadable for your convenience. ■

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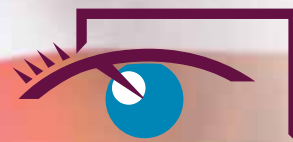
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What to Recycle

We continue to receive many questions about what can be recycled with The Villages weekly recycling pickup.

Remember, the District is in the process of finalizing a new Solid Waste Master Plan. You can locate video presentations of workshops that were held last year on the District website **DistrictGov.org**.

A draft of the Solid Waste Management Plan should be presented to the North Sumter County Utility Dependent District (NSCUDD) Board in February 2020. Until a path forward has been determined, please refer to the following guidelines as to what to put and what not to put in your recycling bags for those who reside in Districts 1 through 11.

What Can Be Recycled:

- Cardboard
- Paper
- Food Boxes (no plastic coating)
- Mail (no plastic coating)
- Beverage Cans
- Food Cans
- Glass Bottles
- Jars (glass & plastic)
- Jugs
- Plastic Bottles

What NOT to Recycle:

- Dirty tissue paper or paper products
- Food waste
- Paper milk and juice cartons
- Aluminum foil
- Yard waste
- Styrofoam containers
- Clothes hangers
- Diapers
- Electronics
- Ink Cartridges
- Batteries
- Construction & demolition materials
- Light bulbs
- Medical waste
- Animals (huh?)

Residents who live in Districts 12, 13 and south of CR 44 have their recyclables picked up through a private contract with Waste Management. Please refer to them for recycling guidelines.

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Gardening Spot

February is for Roses

by Anne Lambrecht Fanatical Gardener mrsanne04@gmail.com

Like most people, I love roses in my garden. However, any plant in the garden must be low maintenance and able to play well with others. Over the years I have discovered that the easiest roses for our area are the “antiques” or Old Garden Roses.

There are three main groups of roses, according to the American Rose Society: Species Roses which are wild roses (some of the oldest on the earth), Old Garden Roses (roses in existence before 1867) and Modern Roses (roses NOT in existence before 1867). I like the idea of Old Garden Roses. They’ve been around for a while, they’re really fragrant, they’re very pretty and they have cool names. The Knock Out Rose, which many Villagers have, is not an Old Garden Rose but a hybrid cultivated for Florida climates. Use the same recommendations for Knock Out Roses as for Old Garden Roses.

Many Old Garden Rose bushes have been discovered on old homesteads and in cemeteries where they have had little or no care for decades. The most common within the group are called China, Tea, Noisette, and Bourbon. These are all fragrant and are repeat bloomers.

China roses are usually smaller than the other Old Garden Roses and have thin, branching canes covered by clusters of roses. Nearly all are low maintenance, tolerant of hot weather and pruning.

Tea roses are the forerunners of the modern Hybrid Teas. Marie van Houtte, a pink rose, is a good example of a tea rose that performs well in Florida.

Noisette is the only Old Garden Rose originating in the United States. Many Noisettes are large, sprawling, repeat blooming roses that can easily reach 20 feet tall and are excellent for growing on structures as climbers.

Old Garden Roses need sunlight, air circulation, water, and premiere soil.

SUN: at least six hours of full sun daily with morning sun being the best. Try to keep them from too much of the hot afternoon sun.

AIR CIRCULATION: to discourage fungal diseases and insects, space Old Garden Roses at least six feet apart.

WATER: Roses love water. They need two to three inches of water a week. If it is hot and dry, in addition to regular irrigation, it is good to hand water rose bushes so that they are refreshed and any insects are washed away. It is important that the leaves dry off before nightfall when fungus can set in. The soil they are in must provide adequate drainage.

SOIL: Amend the soil by mixing 1/3 good soil mix, 1/3 yard soil, and 1/3 organic matter such as cow manure, oak leaves, mushroom compost, peat moss, etc.

FERTILIZER: Roses are heavy feeders so during the growing season give them plenty of slow release fertilizers and organics three or four times during the growing season. I recommend the Espoma brand of fertilizers which make the “Tones”: Rose Tone, Citrus Tone, Holly Tone, etc. Soluble fertilizers should be used from time to time so that the roots may drink up the nutrients right away. Miracle Gro and bloom boosters are good choices and they contain the secondary and minor nutrients in the correct percentages. I also like fish



emulsion. It stinks to the heavens (temporarily) but it does wondrous things in the garden. If you have your roses in pots, you will need to feed them more often but with less strength.

Prune at Valentine’s Day (Feb 14) but wait until the new growth is approximately 3” long before you fertilize unless you use an organic which will not burn the roots. Stop all pruning and feeding by Halloween.

I am not a fan of chemicals in the garden and Old Garden Roses do not need any spray as long as they are adequately fed and watered with their roots in good, organic soil. Occasionally I have seen Japanese beetles here and there but not so many as to cause me angst. I do notice that circles are cut from the leaves of my roses by a Leaf Cutter bee. These bees use the leaf circle as a baby blanket in their nest. They do not harm the rose bush and are beneficial pollinators ■

The above borrowed from: *Growing Great Roses in Central Florida* presented by the Marion County Rose Society, Nelson McAfee, Editor

www.ifas.ufl.edu/ep339 Growing Roses in Florida by Sydney Park Brown

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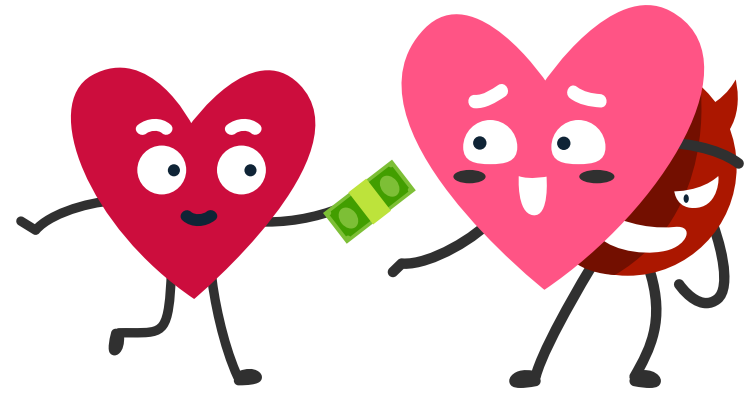
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**Individual responses may vary.*



Seniors vs. Crime

How Romance Scammers Convince Their Victims



Romance scams are on the rise. In 2018, they cost Americans, who were brave enough to admit they’d been tricked, \$143 million. The real number is likely to be much higher because so many victims are too embarrassed to report they were scammed.

The median loss now stands at \$2,600 per victim, although older folk on average lose much more, with over-70s losing a median \$10,000.

You might wonder how people still fall for these tricksters. Desperation, loneliness and gullibility are obviously factors, but not always. Sometimes the scammers spin such a convincing story that even natural skeptics can be fooled into believing them.

According to one-time victim Jan Marshall, author of ‘Romance Scam Survivor: The Whole Sordid Story’, getting people to acknowledge that they’re on the receiving end of a romance scam is a big challenge. “Scammers are extremely skilled at psychological manipulation. They lie without compunction and deliberately set out to part people from their money,” she told a newspaper earlier last year.

So how do they convince their victims?

Mostly they spend weeks, months or even years – they can take their time because they are scamming multiple ‘marks’ at the same time – building what seems to be a meaningful online relationship, before claiming they’re experiencing some kind of misfortune.

Psychological tricks they use to convince victims include:

- Asking for help toward airfare.
- Spinning stories of disasters and misfortunes over a lengthy time.

- Sending a photo that they claim is them, showing such a highly attractive person that victims suspend their belief and fall hook-line-and-sinker.
- Claiming to live in a foreign country, which makes it easier to avoid any attempts at meeting.
- Using what psychologists call coercive control. For example: becoming angry or aggressive if the victim shows any sign of wavering.
- Isolating and monopolizing them.

If you’re looking for romance or love online, here are five key actions to help you avoid a scam:

- Never, but never, send money to an online sweetheart who you haven’t met.
- Talk with an open mind with someone you trust as soon as the relationship looks serious.
- Don’t rush or let them rush the relationship. Take it slowly.
- Ask questions and keep notes of conversations for cross-checking.
- If they send you a photo, ask for more. Then do a reverse photo search.

If you need assistance with understanding any aspects of romance scams, contact the nearest Seniors vs. Crime office in The Villages for advice or assistance. There is never a charge for their services.

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, Ext. 4606

The Wildwood Police Department Annex at Brownwood in The Villages – (352) 753-0727

Seniors vs. Crime does have a Speakers Bureau that will gladly come to your club, church or group to speak about scams. To schedule a presentation, contact any of the offices above.

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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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.

More 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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