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# The Bulletin

The POA – Champions of Residents' Rights Since 1975

APRIL 2020

POA4US.org

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*Villagers are getting a first look at what a partnership with the University of Florida Health brings with it, with the announcement on March 23 that UF Health would operate a Coronavirus test center at the Polo Fields in The Villages. The lead article is an announcement about community testing on the UF Health website. It is not known how long testing will be available in The Villages. To sign up for an appointment visit [coronavirus.ufhealth.org/testing](https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/testing). This is also a very robust site that includes Frequently Asked Questions and much more.*

**THE APRIL POA MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS CANCELLED DUE TO THE CLOSURE OF RECREATION CENTERS.**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**Important information on Closures and Cancellations from District Government Sumter, Marion, and Lake County Government**

For Up-to-Date Information and to sign up for E-Notification:

**DistrictGov.org**  
**352-753-4508**  
Customer Service

## About COVID-19 Community Testing

“In this time of crisis and uncertainty, UF Health’s missions of research, teaching, patient care and community service are more urgent than ever. Our health system has been a leader in providing excellent health care for many years. Our patients rely on us to give our best to improve their lives, to ease their suffering and to bring forward the latest medical discoveries and clinical advances in their time of greatest need.

As the No. 7-ranked public university in the nation, we are bringing to bear all our considerable resources to battle the coronavirus, working hand-in-hand with the state to confront the unfolding outbreak. From virologists at the UF Emerging Pathogens Institute and experts at UF Health Pathology Laboratories to infectious disease specialists and emergency room physicians and health care providers at UF Health, we are well-positioned to provide the best response possible to a shifting epidemic that is bound to test us all.”

**UF Health teamed up with The Villages® community, The Villages Health primary care network, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and state health and emergency management officials to begin offering large-scale testing for COVID-19 to residents of the region.**

In this coordinated response to the coronavirus public health emergency, these initial efforts involved a team of about 25 volunteer UF Health medical professionals together with Villages Health personnel to evaluate 400 to 500 people a day for five days who preregistered for evaluation and potential testing. A group of more than 100 volunteer UF medical, physician assistant and nursing students also assisted.

**Area residents who preregistered were assessed for symptoms, travel and exposure history and tested if they met clinical criteria. Depending on the severity of their illness, they could have been evaluated further on-site or at a UF Health facility or sent home to self-quarantine while awaiting test results.**

If they were concerned yet did not have symptoms nor met standard clinical testing criteria, they had the opportunity to sign up for a UF Health research study that enabled them to receive testing as part of an epidemiological protocol known as community surveillance. The purpose of the study is to assess the degree of asymptomatic viral shedding at the onset of a COVID-19 outbreak. This is a valuable public health activity to identify people with early disease or asymptomatic shedding of virus.

*Testing continued on page 3*

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.

# SPECIAL MESSAGE from POA President Cliff Wiener



The past month has produced a whirlwind of uncertainty for all of us, and as of this date, there is no certainty in the foreseeable future. The POA membership meetings are obviously suspended until further notice when the recreation centers can re-open.

We had to begin by cancelling the March meeting and our speaker, Don Henderson, CEO of UF/Central Florida Health. This was a much-anticipated presentation. We have been assured that when this crisis is over, Mr. Henderson will present at a future POA meeting. Our best guess is early Fall.

Sadly, we will also have to suspend publication of our Bulletin. It is not fair to our advertisers, many of whom cannot conduct business under these circumstances. Their contracts will be extended when we are able to begin operations again.

Kudos to our District leadership team and staff for taking the necessary actions to keep the residents safe and for their open and regular communications. The principle of transparency that District Manager Richard Baier has espoused from the beginning of his tenure has never been more important.

Life is difficult for all of us right now. No one can live their “normal” life. The good news is that an abnormal life in The Villages is probably better than anywhere else! Even though most of our amenities are currently unavailable, we still have beautiful landscape, walking and recreation trails, preserves and the ability to move about as we choose.

So, let’s all try to stay positive and get through this together. Please refer often to the POA website [poa4us.org](http://poa4us.org) and on our Facebook page for any updates.

Stay well!

Cliff Wiener, POA President ■

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Testing continued from page 1

The move is a first step toward offering the ability to screen for the novel coronavirus more expansively across the state.

The website also describes a Pathogen Testing Institute that has existed long before coronavirus became a household word.

### Emerging Pathogens Institute

Our Emerging Pathogens Institute, long before the coronavirus emerged as a shadow on the world health stage, constantly tracks, monitors and researches pathogens seen around the planet, from the Zika virus, tuberculosis, Ebola, citrus greening and less virulent forms of the coronavirus. In a sense, the Institute has been preparing for this very day since its creation in 2006. EPI supports the best minds to better understand how infectious diseases affect the world, with its 200 affiliated faculty conducting research in 30 nations. They work to anticipate outbreaks. Indeed, since the new coronavirus first emerged in China, the Institute has been working on the problem. ■



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## POA 2020 AND BEYOND MEMBERSHIP & CONTRIBUTION FORM

The POA, 8736 SE 165th Mulberry Ln, PMB 111, The Villages FL 32162  
Please PRINT on this form, or use the online form at [poa4us.org](http://poa4us.org)

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

FULL NAME(1) \_\_\_\_\_

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

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

VILLAGE \_\_\_\_\_

VILLAGES ID# \_\_\_\_\_ VILLAGES ID# \_\_\_\_\_

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

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EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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

**MEMBERSHIP DUES**  
(Please Select One):

- ☐ One year – 2020 - \$10 per/household  
☐ Two years – 2020/2021 - \$20 per/household  
☐ Three years – 2020/2021/2022 - \$30 per/household

**ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION IF DESIRED: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT FOR DUES AND ANY CONTRIBUTIONS: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Enclosed is a Stamped, Self-Addressed Envelope, along with this form and my check.  
Please mail my Membership Card to me.
- ☐ Please hold my POA Membership Card for me to pick up at one of the monthly POA Meetings.

### 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](http://POA4US.org) to renew and pay (credit card) on line.

**Very Good:** Go to [POA4US.org](http://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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# District Closures and Cancellations

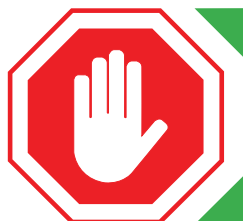
**The District posted the following update on its website on March 30.**

The safety of residents, guests, staff and visitors in The Villages community continues to be of utmost importance to the District. As the guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Florida Department of Health and Governor DeSantis on the prevention of COVID-19 continues to update, the District implemented the following facility and schedule changes. In addition to the closures below, please refrain from participating in gatherings of 10 or more people as recommended by the CDC.

## District Administrative Offices – 984 Old Mill Run in Lake Sumter Landing

- The District Customer Service Center Satellite office located at 4856 South Morse Boulevard is closed.
- Access to the District Administrative Offices located at 984 Old Mill Run is **by appointment only**. Please contact the appropriate District department via telephone or email for assistance.
- All services provided by the District will be available via telephone or other electronic means.
- Customer Service Center – (352) 753-4508 or **customerservice@districtgov.org**
  - Resident ID Card Services, Gate Access Cards, Enrollment in Community Watch Programs, Executive Trail Fees, Guest IDs, RV Storage Facility Rentals, Adopt-A-Bench, General District questions or concerns
- Utility Billing – **utilities@districtgov.org** or (352) 750-0000
  - Utility/Amenity bill payments or inquiries
  - Utility bills can still be placed in the boxes located at each postal facility or in the breezeway located outside of our office at 984 Old Mill Run
- Finance & Bond Information – **Bonds@districtgov.org** or (352) 751-3900
  - General finance or bond related inquiries or payoffs
- Recreation & Parks – **Recreationdepartment@districtgov.org** or (352) 674-1800
  - The Enrichment Academy, Resident Lifestyle Volunteer Groups, Room Reservations, General Recreation Inquiries
- Community Standards – **DeedCompliance@districtgov.org** or (352) 751-3912
- There is a drop box available in the breezeway outside of the District office. If you need to drop off correspondence, please refrain from entering the building and utilize the locked drop box.

*District Closures continued on page 5*



**Go to Poa4us.org Select Bulletin >  
Snowbird Bulletin STOP/START**

Please complete this form at least 2 WEEKS BEFORE departing,  
and we will stop delivery of the Bulletin during that time.

*District Closures continued from page 4*

## Recreation Sponsored Events/Activities

**Recreation Activities** – the following recreation activities are closed or postponed until further notice. It is unlawful to trespass into any closed recreation or District facility (pools, dog parks, etc.).

Refunds will be processed for socials, special events, Spanish Springs 5K, The Villages Senior Games and Fitness Clubs (partial refund for unused time).

All individuals that registered will receive a full refund in an estimated 3-4 weeks. For additional information, please email [RecreationDepartment@districtgov.org](mailto:RecreationDepartment@districtgov.org).

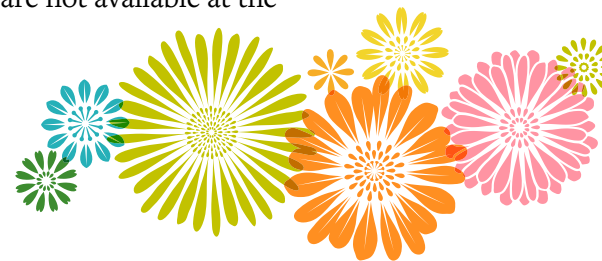
- All Recreation Centers are closed.
- All Dog Parks are closed.
- The Wilkerson's Creek Playground is closed.
- All swimming pools are closed.
- The Enrichment Academy (TEA) courses are postponed and will be rescheduled. Participants will be notified by email of alternate course dates.
- Outdoor Excursions and Lake Sumter Line Boat Tours are cancelled.
- All Fitness Clubs are closed.
- The Southside Hot Tub is closed.
- The Mark Twain Library is closed.
- Softball is cancelled.
- Recreation Sponsored Leagues are cancelled.
- All recreation-sponsored events have been cancelled, including:
  - Senior Games
  - Camp Villages – Easter
  - Running of the Squares 5K
- Parks, Fenney Putt & Play, Outdoor Exercise Equipment & Sports Courts remain open. The equipment sheds are locked and equipment rental is not available. We recommend you bring your own sanitizer or wipes. Water coolers are not available at the outdoor court areas.

The following District Board Meetings are scheduled to take place in April 2020. All other District Board & Committee Meetings are cancelled in April 2020.

- Village Center Community Development District
- Sumter Landing Community Development District
- Village Community Development District 8
- Village Community Development District 9
- Village Community Development District 13

The following District events are cancelled:

- CDD Orientation
- Resident Academy
- The Villages Public Safety Department
  - Smoke detector changes
  - CPR classes ■





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# County Closures and Cancellations

## SUMTER COUNTY

All Sumter County community buildings will be closed through May 4.

The Veteran Service Offices will remain closed for in-person services through May 4, 2020 and available to answer questions for our veterans and their families by calling 352-689-4400.

All Sumter County libraries will be closed for in-person services through May 4, 2020. Customers are encouraged to keep materials at home during this closure until the library reopens. All library fines will be waived for items due through April 12, 2020. The library will still be available to answer questions about services via phone at 352-689-4567 and email at [reference@sumterlibrary.org](mailto:reference@sumterlibrary.org).

### The following remote services are available to Sumter County residents:

- Any Sumter County resident that does not currently have a library card may apply online for a temporary card to access the vast collection of online services. A temporary card will only be issued to those with residency in Sumter County and will require visiting the library in person once the library branches are reopened.
- The library will be providing virtual opportunities and resources for cardholders to learn about online services.
- The library will also be hosting virtual storytimes for children.
- The library will continue to provide the following online services for all cardholders:
  - On-Demand Audiobooks through RBDigital
  - On-Demand Music Downloads through Freegal
  - On-Demand Magazines through RBDigital
  - On-Demand eBooks for Kids K-6 through Tumblebooks
  - On-Demand eBooks, movies, TV shows, music through Hoopla
  - On-Demand Indie Authors eBooks through Indie Author Project Select
  - Online Foreign Language Learning Program through Mango Languages
  - Online Self-Publishing Tool through Pressbooks
  - Online Learning Courses through Universal Class
- For more information and updates on services, please visit [SumterPublicLibrary.org](http://SumterPublicLibrary.org).

The Household Electronics and Hazardous Waste Mobile Collection Amnesty Day scheduled on April 4, 2020 has been cancelled. The next regularly scheduled Amnesty Day will be November 7, 2020. Information about the event is available on our website at [SumterCountyFL.gov/AmnestyDay](http://SumterCountyFL.gov/AmnestyDay).

The following meetings are being postponed to the later date shown for each:

- Code Enforcement Special Master Meeting - April 30, 2020
- Tourist Development Council (TDC) Meeting - May 7, 2020
- Affordable Housing Advisory Committee (AHAC) Meeting - May 14, 2020
- Planning and Zoning Special Master (PZSM) Meeting - May 4, 2020

The rescheduled dates for the above meetings will be posted on [SumterCountyFL.gov](http://SumterCountyFL.gov).

Regular meetings of the Board of County Commissioners will continue to take place on April 14 and 28, as well as the workshop for April 21, 2020. The location for the April 28, 2020, regular meeting location is subject to change.

County continued on page 7



*County continued from page 6*

## LAKE COUNTY

Lake County opened its Citizens Information Line for residents starting Monday, March 30. The phone number is (352) 253-9999, and it will be open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Lake County residents may call the Citizens Information Line with COVID-19 inquiries relating to local government operations, small business resources, County transit services, veterans information, re-employment resources and much more. The Lake County Office of Transit Services has temporarily suspended non-essential trips for Lake County Connection, the County's paratransit service.

Lake County temporarily closed some of its buildings – including the County Administration Building located at 315 W. Main St. in Tavares – to the public on March 19. Services continue to be provided through email, by phone and online ([lakecountyfl.gov/online\\_services](http://lakecountyfl.gov/online_services)). The Supervisor of Elections also closed its facilities to the public and recommends that residents utilize the services available on its website at [lakevotes.com](http://lakevotes.com) or by phone at (352) 343-9734.

### The following County services and facilities remain available to the public:

- The Animal Shelter remains open for adoptions, fosters, reclaims and emergency intake at 28123 County Road 561, Tavares.
- Permitting applications can be completed online at [lakecountyfl.gov/offices/building\\_services/](http://lakecountyfl.gov/offices/building_services/). Users needing assistance may call (352) 343-9653, ext. 5.
- Lake County's parks and trails remain open.
- Ride LakeXpress is fully operational. Social trips for the Lake County Connection paratransit service will be discontinued starting at 5 p.m. on March 20. All other trips are continuing.
- Housing and indigent burial services remain available via a self-service station in the lobby of 2008 Classique Ln. in Tavares or by calling (352) 742-6540.
- The Veterans Services office is closed to public access. Services are available by phone at (352) 742-6585 and email at [veteraninfo@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:veteraninfo@lakecountyfl.gov).

The Board of County Commissioners meetings will be held. Residents are encouraged to view the meeting via live stream at [LakeCountyFL.gov/board\\_agendas](http://LakeCountyFL.gov/board_agendas) and submit their comments via email to [nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:nbooth@lakecountyfl.gov).

Lake County reminds residents to utilize online services whenever possible. Visit [lakecountyfl.gov/online\\_services](http://lakecountyfl.gov/online_services) for a complete list of services available online.

*County continued on page 8*



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*County continued from page 7*

## MARION COUNTY

Cancelled county events and programs that are able to be rescheduled will be announced to the public as this information becomes available.

- County community centers are closed.
- County boat ramps are closed.
- Marion County government buildings are closed to the public. However, services will continue to be provided per regular schedule.

### Animal Services 352-671-8700

- Residents who have lost their pets should first check the Animal Services' website to see if their pet is in the custody of the shelter. Appointments will be made during business hours to reclaim lost pets. Owners may call 352-671-8700 or email [animalservices@marioncountyfl.org](mailto:animalservices@marioncountyfl.org) to connect with MCAS staff.
- Other business, to include pet adoptions, will be conducted by appointment only and during normal business hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. To schedule an appointment, please call 352-671-8700.
- For after-hour emergencies, call 352-732-9111.
- All appointments will require a pre-screening interview which will be conducted by phone.
- Neuter Commuter services and public surgeries are suspended until further notice. Residents who have already booked an appointment for their pet may be rescheduled for a later date, once normal operations resume.
- MCAS staff will continue to work and provide care for the animals in their custody.

*County continued on page 9*

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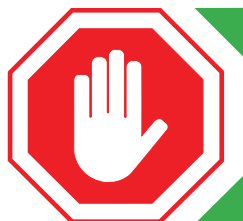
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County continued from page 8

**Building Safety 352-438-2400**

- Business will be conducted by electronic means, phone and, if necessary, by appointment.
- A drop-off location is available at 2710 E. Silver Springs Blvd., Ocala.
- Inspections will not be affected by this schedule.

**Clerk of Court and Comptroller 352-671-5604**

- Open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m.-noon until further notice.

**Community Services 352-671-8770**

- If you need to reach a staff member, please call 352-671-8776, or email [communityservices@marioncountyfl.org](mailto:communityservices@marioncountyfl.org).

**Human Resources 352-438-2345**

- Customers can call 352-438-2345 or email [humanresources@marioncountyfl.org](mailto:humanresources@marioncountyfl.org).

**Judicial Center/Courthouse**

- Closed through March 27, except for essential hearings as determined by administrative order A-2020-12-B from the Fifth Judicial Court.
- Office of County Engineer 352-671-8686
- The Office of the County Engineer can be reached by phone at 352-671-8686 or by email at [Roads@MarionCountyFL.org](mailto:Roads@MarionCountyFL.org).
- For right-of-way or driveway permits, please feel free to continue to reach out to us at [Permitting@MarionCountyFL.org](mailto:Permitting@MarionCountyFL.org) or through other email addresses and contacts you are accustomed to using to do business with us.

**Parks and Recreation 352-671-8560**

- All county sports complexes and boat ramps are closed until further use.
- All pavilions, playgrounds and restrooms at all county parks and recreation areas are closed until further notice.

- Southeastern Livestock Pavilion: All events have been cancelled until further notice.
- Entry fees for single-day use of all county parks have been waived, effective immediately. Equipment rentals, facility deposits and all other fees still apply. ■



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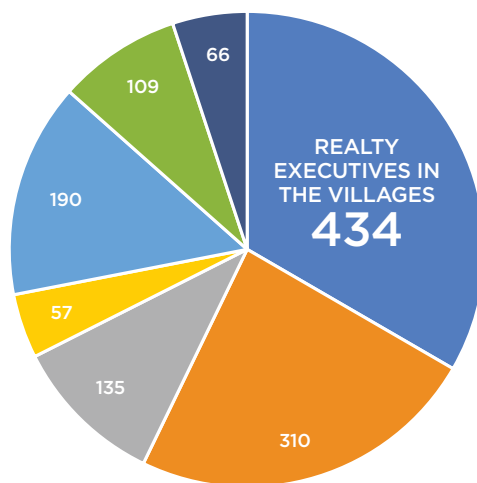
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**Lisa Esposito**  
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# District Manager's Mid-Year Update

Following the implementation last year of the District Dashboard that reports progress and savings on District-wide initiatives, District Manager Richard Baier provided a mid-year report to elected and appointed boards and committees and residents in late February.

Since April 2019 there has been a focus on re-examining the Service Delivery Model with an internal focus to better serve the boards and residents, and to ensure efficiency and excellence.

- Facility Maintenance / Janitorial Service
- Review Recruitment and Retention
- Review of Purchasing Practices
- Environmental Initiatives - On-going
- Customer Service Delivery Model - On-going

Mr. Baier said the sole purpose of these initiatives is to ensure that the lifestyle in The Villages continues to be what residents bought into in the most affordable way possible.

## Strategic Initiatives include:

- Customer Service
- Transparency
- Systems and Analytical Decision Making
- Efficient Government
- Environmental Focus

## 2019-2020 Focus Areas:

- Develop a Master Communications Plan
- Continue to organize processes and procedures to alleviate redundancies and increase efficiencies
- Asset Management
- Project Management Training
- Protection
- Completion of Capital Projects
- Continue to enhance Customer Service
- Fiscal Management

Mr. Baier reported that that the FY2019-20 Adopted Budgets for all funds total \$336,370,165 and support the initiatives above.

Capital projects in process or completed in the Recreation and Parks Department include the Brownwood Woodshop which is in the design and permitting phase with construction this fiscal year; at Savannah Recreation Center a Sound System Upgrade is in the design phase; Design is proceeding for the First Responders Recreation Center on CR 42 with plans to construct in the next fiscal year. (See page 18)

In the Villages Public Safety Department (VPSD) the Parr Fire Station construction was completed in February 2020; the South Morse Fire Station/Customer Service Satellite was recently completed and is fully operational; Construction has started at the Shay Gate entry with anticipated completion in May 2020; and the Community Watch Building has been renovated.

District Property Management (DPM) has completed construction on the Unit 56 Stormwater Piping Project, which addressed the sinkhole issues in the Calumet Grove neighborhood. The Rio Grande Air Gun Range project is continuing, along with the DPM Annex Facility.

Executive Golf is replacing the Mangrove Executive Course Bridge.

Potential capital projects for the next fiscal year, which begins on October 1, include a second phase of way-finding signage, after the successful first phase completion along the multi-modal paths. The Multi-Modal Path Discussion Group (MMPDG) is expected to meet again to discuss Phase II. The tunnel lighting pilot project is receiving positive reviews from residents and once completed, a roll out to other tunnels will be looked at. An Automated Meter Read Feasibility Project may also be conducted.

Other transactions or projects of note include the issuance of Bonds for District 13 Phase I of the next residential phase South of 44

(The POA Bulletin intends to examine this topic in more detail when we resume publishing.)

The District purchase of Phillips and Soulliere Amenities has closed and is now under the control of the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) through the Village Center Community Development District (VCCDD). This gives the rights to 300 Amenity fees and the associated recreation facilities in those areas. North Sumter County Utility Dependent District (NSCUDD) now owns the Central Sumter Utility (CSU) as a Public Government instead of a Private Entity. The local Board will have control for rate setting, budget and policy for the utility consistent with North Sumter Utility (NSU) that they have owned.

The Solid Waste Management Plan has reached its final phase of study and recommendations were to have been presented to the NSCUDD board and residents at a special meeting on March 27. Because of the shutdown of facilities, that presentation is postponed indefinitely. It had been the District's intention to make its recommendations and ask for action by the NSCUDD Board at its April meeting, in order to implement changes and rate changes in the upcoming Fiscal Year.

Community Development District 8 Phase II & Phase III refunding is in process, although it is unknown how the current shutdown circumstances may impact this refunding. It had been anticipated that CDD 8 would save \$43 Million.

The full presentation and video of Mr. Baier's report may be found on **DistrictGov.org** ■



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## Safety on the Multi-Modal Paths

In a community of 130,000+ residents and visitors, safety is important both on the multimodal paths and on the roadways. Particularly during high season, and now, during this time of closures of facilities and activities, there are more forms of usage on the multimodal paths. **They are not “golf cart” paths.**

According to **DistrictGov.org** “Who is allowed to use the multi-modal paths throughout The Villages?” is a question that the District receives on a regular basis. The multi-modal paths are for use by **NON-AUTOMOTIVE** traffic such as bicycles, golf carts, pedestrians, and skaters. It is not legal...nor is it smart...to drive vehicles such as smart cars, motorcycles, or mopeds on any of the multi-modal paths in The Villages.

The emphasis on education often focuses on the golf cart driver. While it is true that golf carts can inflict the most damage and injury with unsafe driving practices, it makes sense that pedestrians, bicyclists and others also practice safe habits when using the paths.

If you're walking, are you distracted by talking on the phone or using earphones? Do you know your way around the path systems well enough to pay more attention when you come to a “tricky” area? These include intersections at entry gates, entries to recreation centers, tunnels, split median areas, heavily landscaped areas?

If you are a recreational/occasional cyclist, do you know how to safely use the paths? There are bicycle groups in The Villages that may be able to help. The motto in The Villages is **SHARE the path.** ■



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*Submitted by the Fair Government for Sumter (fg4s) PAC*

Every time you pay your county taxes, you will, in essence, be writing a check to the Developer in the amount of your 2019 tax increase, and the amount of that check will increase in the future as the assessed value of your home increases. How can this be? The answer can be summed up as follows:

- The Developer's rapid and massive expansion of The Villages necessitates the rapid and massive expansion of county infrastructure.
- That infrastructure should be paid for by the Developer, who is going to make billions of dollars from the expansion, and not by us, the current residents of Sumter County.
- Nevertheless, the Developer has "put" the current Sumter County Commissioners in office, and those Commissioners have chosen to have us, and not the Developer, pay.

*Fair Government continued on page 17*

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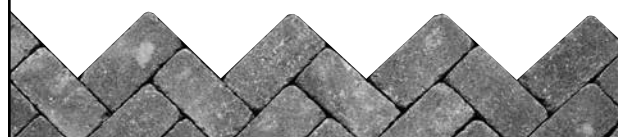
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*Fair Government continued from page 14*

Here is a further explanation:

The Developer's rapid and massive expansion of The Villages not only creates concerns about future congestion, environmental damage and pollution, the availability of hospitals and medical care, the source of future service personnel, etc.; it also necessitates the rapid and massive expansion of county infrastructure. That infrastructure comprises roads, water and sewer systems, schools (for kids of workers), libraries, government buildings, police and fire facilities, and parks. Paying for that county infrastructure is the underlying reason for our tax increase.

There are only two sources of funds to pay for that infrastructure expansion: (a) the Developer, who stands to make a billion dollars or so from the expansion, or (b) us, the Sumter County residents. Florida county commissioners control zoning, road development, the establishment of dependent and community-development districts, and most importantly, **impact fees** – as explained below. Furthermore, Sumter County and its dependent and community-development districts enter into contracts with the Developer and his suppliers worth hundreds of millions of dollars. Therefore, while a "close" relationship with county commissioners is crucially important to all Florida developers, it is especially important to The Villages Developer. As indicated above, the Developer has been very successful in establishing that relationship. In Sumter County, ANYTHING the Developer wants gets approved by a unanimous vote of the Commissioners.

For those readers not familiar with it: An impact fee is a one-time tax that is imposed on the builder of a new house, when he pulls his building permit. It is supposed to pay for the infrastructure, as described above, that is going to be necessitated by that new house. The Developer's impact fee is incredibly low: \$901/house vs. \$2,600/house for other Sumter County builders vs. \$20,000/house for senior-community builders in Collier County. However, rather than increase the Developer's impact fee to pay for the Developer-caused new infrastructure, the County Commissioners voted, unanimously of course, to increase our property taxes.

Developer-backed Commissioners (Butler, Burgess and Printz) are being challenged in the August 18 Republican primary by Search, Estep, and Miller – all highly qualified and pledging both to roll back the property tax increase and to bring competence, integrity, and independence to the Sumter County Commission. You can learn more about Messrs. Search, Estep, and Miller at the Fair Government for Sumter website: **fg4s.org**.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *The POA has provided leadership to help restore fair government to Sumter County, and applauds the volunteer efforts of this new PAC. This article was provided by fg4s and does not reflect information gathered by the POA.*

*The POA is not involved in the PAC, has not and will not make any financial contributions to the PAC or any individual candidates. We encourage the fair and respectful treatment of ALL candidates, and further encourage residents to do their own due diligence before making their decisions to vote. ■*



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## AAC Hears “Final Plans” for First Responders Recreation Center

At its March 11 meeting, the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) saw final plans for the First Responders Recreation Center on CR 42. District Manager Richard Baier advised the Committee that only small changes should be considered going forward and that it is still too early to go into great detail about costs.

John Rohan shared this tentative project schedule:

**Concept Approval: 3-11-20**  
**Construction Documents Completion: 8-11-20**  
**Construction Contract Award: 12-11-20**  
**Begin Construction: 2-1-21**  
**Completion of Project: 3-1-22**

Oversight of this project will be coordinated and provided by our Construction Manager in District Property Management.

As previously communicated, Staff will develop a formal plan for an application process to advertise, promote and receive donations/memorabilia for the First Responders Recreation Center. At this time, no donations are being received.

There is currently a budget placeholder of \$6.5 million for this project. However, Assistant District Property Management Director Blair Bean reminded the Committee that the scope of work for that estimate was based on no impacts to the under roof area of the building and a less expansive “conceptual” site amenity layout. Given these conceptual additions to the originally proposed scope, there is a potential the final project budget may trend slightly upward from the previous estimates.

Here is the final exterior site plan approved by the AAC and the interior floor plan. Follow the progress on the District website [DistrictGov.org](http://DistrictGov.org).



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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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