**Property Owners' Association of The Villages, Inc.** Champions of Residents' Rights Since 1975



POA4US.org

**JUNE 2020** 

FREE COPY Issue 46.06 | Circulation 62,900

## JUNE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING CANCELLED

Until Recreation Centers in The Villages are fully operational and able to accommodate more people, the POA General Membership Meetings cannot be held.

We are hopeful that we can have our July meeting, when Sumter County Administrator, Bradley Arnold, is our scheduled speaker.

## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

Who is Covanta?

Budget Workshops Reveal Surprises

Our Opinion on the Recreation News

Boards Back to Work

## **New POA Membership Database & Website**

We are hopeful as we go to press that we will have launched our new membership database and website in mid-June.

Please see page 18 for instructions on how to access and verify your membership account!

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

DistrictGov.org 352-753-4508 Customer Service

# A New Direction for Trash Pick Up: NSCUDD Chooses Waste to Energy Option

After a year of study and workshops, and delay created by the COVID-19 closures, in a special workshop meeting held on May 6, the North Sumter County Utility Dependent District (NSCUDD) Board of Supervisors and residents heard the final proposals to move forward on enacting a long-term Solid Waste Management Plan.

In the end, after evaluating three final options, the NSCUDD Board directed the District to pursue the "Covanta" option, which will have ALL material – solid waste, recycling and yard waste – collected two times a week, co-mingled and taken to the Covanta Energy from Waste (EfW) plant. Please see related article on page 3 to learn more about Covanta and the EfW process. Only Supervisor Richard Rademacher voted against this option, while virtually all residents present supported this option as a "new way of recycling."

### The factors considered in the evaluation were:

- Number of times a Collection Truck drives past a House Total number of times per week a truck drives past a house to collect all material, less is better
- Miles traveled Miles traveled by collection trucks to facility, or miles traveled by transfer trailers to facility, less is better
- Recycling Rate amount of material beneficially reused, more is better
- Sanitation fee per household \$/household per month, less is better

Comparison of Final Options	WMI	WMI and Covanta	Covanta
# Times a Collection Truck drives past a house	4	3	2
Total (collection & transfer) truck miles	503,500	274,500	254,800
Recycling Rate	27%	62%	56%
Fee per household/month in FY20/21	\$20.85	\$22.05	\$22.24

Trash 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 POA Bulletin at any time at its sole discretion.

### Trash continued from page 1

Another consideration was cost. Last year, the NSCUDD Board determined that its revenue was falling short of the required reserve for the \$54.6 Million purchase of Sumter Sanitation in 2012. As a result, the monthly household assessment was increased from \$17.90 to \$19.38. In addition, the cost to recycle in FY 20/21 was projected to be \$80 per ton to recycle versus \$41 per ton for landfill disposal.

The cost for the Waste to Energy option falls in the middle at \$69 per ton.

Comparison of Monthly Household Assessment for Final Options	FY 20/21	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25
Waste Management, Inc.	20.85	21.48	22.13	22.8	23.54
Covanta & WMI	22.05	22.71	23.39	24.16	24.95
Covanta	22.24	22.97	23.72	24.5	25.30

In a workshop at which residents could "vote" on various factors, one being cost, the District learned there is a tolerance for a monthly household assessment increase of up to \$2/household/month, as well as for a fee for "white goods" pick up. These are large, bulky items such as furniture and appliances.

The chart above shows an initial impact of + \$1.39/household/month and a fifth year increase of \$1.76/household/month, well within the \$2 threshold.

Residents who spoke at the meeting, many of whom were self-proclaimed lifelong recyclers, were very favorable about the new option and consider it a different way of looking at recycling since the waste will be turned into energy, there will be less truck emissions due to less trips and miles, and unfortunately, there isn't much of a market for traditionally recycled goods.

The District expects to have contracts ready for final approval at the June 18 NSCUDD meeting.

The new program will be implemented on October 1.



## What is Covanta and **Energy from Waste?** Is it Safe?

Now that the District has a direction to change waste pick up in The Villages (all CDDs except those in Lake County), to Energy from Waste (EfW) and intends to contract with Covanta, people are interested in knowing a bit more about the company and the EfW process. Is it safe? It is definitely not like the stockpile trash burn of days of old before there were environmental regulations.

Covanta is a publicly held company located in Morristown, NJ. Most of its revenue comes from operating power plants that burn trash as fuel. It charges a fee for waste disposal, sells electricity produced in the process, and recovers metal for recycling. As of 2018, the company burned 20 million tons of trash annually and recycled 550,000 tons of metal from its more than 40 EfW operations around the world. (Source: Wikipedia)

There are at least 14 Covanta facilities in Florida; the nearest to The Villages located in Okahumka. Covanta also works with local governments to safely dispose of prescription medications.

A 2008 study by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency found that EfW plants were better for the environment than landfills, in part because they reduce the methane garbage produces in landfills and reduces reliance on other fuels like coal. Other studies say that if waste to energy was as popular in the United States as it is in Europe, the U.S. would reduce carbon emissions by 264 million tons annually.

Environmentalists have widely begun to embrace the EfW disposal process. Currently, approximately 60% of the world's garbage ends up in landfills, which continue to grow at an alarming pace. There are numerous advantages of EfW by simply reducing the space eaten up by landfills and eliminating the resulting groundwater contamination that can occur.



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

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**MEMBERSHIP DUES** (if joining or renewing) at \$10 per year

# of Years (1 - 10)\_\_\_\_\_ Membership Amount \$\_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_ Donation (optional) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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First & Last Name		
Email Address		
# of Residents at address below		
Phone Number	Village Name	
Unit # (see Villages ID/UL)		
City	Zip Code	
2nd Resident First & Last Name		
Relation		
<b>BULLETIN DELIVERY</b> Oriveway E-Bulletin Oriveway & E-Bulletin None		
(Note: if no preference circled then <b>Driveway</b> is default, once account established, make changes at <b>poa4us.org</b> )		

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Other pros of this process that are often cited are the generation of the energy itself and a lower carbon footprint.

There are potential cons as well, if the process isn't regulated as it is now for emissions of toxic pollutants. Some people believe that landfills are the only waste disposal option worse than incineration.

There is ample information by conducting a simple internet search on the Pros and Cons of Energy to Waste for people to reach their own conclusions. For The Villages, it will be the preferred method of disposal.

# AAC and PWAC Budget Workshops Reveal Proposed Project Funding and Some Surprises

The Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) and the Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) each held lengthy budget workshops in May. The AAC is a landowner-elected body with authority over the amenity fee streams and amenity facilities north of CR 466. PWAC is a committee with representatives appointed from each of the numbered CDDs CR 466 to CR 44 and Brownwood. PWAC acts is an advisor to the Sumter Landing Community Development District (SLCDD) – whose members are elected by the landowners in Sumter Landing, aka the developer – which has final authority for amenity fee revenue streams, amenity facilities, and the common maintenance PWAC funds identified in "Exhibit A."

This year's budget presentations by Budget and Management Director Barbara Kays were a bit more reserved and uncertain than in recent past years. Forecasts have been mixed, largely because of the uncertainties associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Kays reported that the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is used to make annual adjustments to monthly amenity fees, have declined in just one month from 2.33% in February to 1.54% in March. With the Federal Reserve lowering interest rates to zero, there will also be an impact on interest revenue.

The Recreation Amenity Division (RAD) and Sumter Landing Amenity Division (SLAD) funds pay for Amenity Services such as:

- Recreation Centers, Pools, Executive Golf Courses
- Gates and Community Watch Services
- Common Areas Landscaping and Maintenance
- Administrative Services and Public Safety Services
- Debt Service and Reserves

## **Recreation Amenity Division Fund**

The major funding source for RAD (north of CR 466) is Amenity Fees at 94.5%. The proposed budget reflects a 1.8% increase in revenues from the FY 19-20 original budget. Overall expenditures reflect a 2.1% decrease from the current FY original budget.

The last payment from the Settlement Funds of

the 2008 POA-backed lawsuit will be made in December 2020, leaving an estimated balance of uncommitted funds \$5,524,416.87. Committed projects from the March 2020 balance of \$12,251,369.54 includes \$6.5 Million for the First Responders Recreation Center.

**Silver Lake Golf Course** The biggest surprise presented by District Staff for AAC consideration was converting the Silver Lake Golf Course to a Pitch & Putt and Putt & Play Course. Three options were presented.

- 1. Renovate current outdated and poor-condition course. Cost \$500,000.
- 2. Pitch & Putt Course. Cost \$836,640.
- 3. Pitch & Putt with Putt & Play. Cost \$1,087,790.

District Manager Richard Baier explained that he has challenged staff to explore "out of the box" ideas when major restoration/renovation of existing amenities are needed. AAC members initially reacted that changing the course would represent taking an existing amenity away, which goes against what has traditionally been accepted. Don Deakin said another way of looking at it is as an enhancement, not a take-away. It may also not be allowed per the stipulations in the 2008 lawsuit settlement agreement.

No final determination has been made. AAC members instructed District staff to put out a survey to all residents with the Village of residence identified. That survey is now posted on **Districtgov.org**.

The POA urges the AAC to look at the settlement document carefully and to listen to the residents. This could be a precedent-setting move and should be handled carefully. While the AAC directed staff to conduct a survey of all residents, priority should be given to the residents of Silver Lake.

As facilities age from north to south, there will be more opportunities to redesign or replace with a more modernized version. That's not a bad thing but there needs to be a careful process in place.

Paradise Recreation Center Based on the AAC discussion at the January 2019 budget workshop, at which the committee recommended that staff could identify a time frame to begin the design process for the Paradise Recreation Center, an estimate of \$1,232,000 for Concept to Final Design (Bid Documents) was presented for consideration in the FY 20-21 budget. The premise was that once construction begins on the First Responders Recreation Center – slated for Fall of this year – design work would begin for Paradise.

Workshops continued on page 5



## Workshops continued from page 4

Estimates for other major renovation projects were presented at just over \$300,000 and capital project estimates for \$250,000.

## **Sumter Landing Amenity Division**

Amenity Fees account for 92% of revenue for the SLAD budget (south of CR 466). The proposed budget reflects an overall 2% increase in revenues from the FY 19-20 original budget. Overall expenditures reflect a 0.8% increase from the current FY original budget.

The budget shows more than \$3.6 Million reduction in major expenditures, which Ms. Kays explained will fluctuate from year to year depending on projects that are considered. Proposed SLAD Capital Projects include \$500,000 for Sandhill and Sweetgum golf course Greens Renovations, and replacement of irrigation pump sluice gates at four courses for \$300,000.

# Wayfinding Signs, Tunnel Lighting and License Plate Recognition

The ACC and PWAC were both presented with costs for Phase II of the Multi-Modal Path Discussion Group's (MMPDG) successful wayfinding signage. This phase will focus on intermediate trail destination signs at decision

points not located on or at the tunnels. Five signs were identified for replacement north of CR 466 and will be replaced through the maintenance budget.

Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) captures data through cameras and can read and record license plate data that can be tied to law enforcement databases. Since the District does not have the legal ability to maintain and access the ALPR data, a local law enforcement agency must maintain the server and software.

The License Plate recognition software upgrade, with a contract put in place in 2016, was put on hold when the company could not meet the terms of the agreement and the contract was terminated.

In order for the project to move forward, communication will need to be re-established with law enforcement for a host, certain cameras will need to be replaced, ambient white light needs to be installed, and the software still needs to be upgraded. Total project cost now is \$440,226 for RAD and \$567,144 for SLAD, or a total of \$1,007,370, compared to the \$665,591 that had previously been allocated. Given that the cost is significantly higher, and the District has no authority to access the data, it is unlikely that the project will move forward. It is important to note, that the cameras already do capture data.

# Please Support Local Businesses

## **Developer Owned Amenity Fees and Facilities South of CR 44**

The Developer controls the Amenity Fees and Facilities south of CR 44 and pays the District for services provided in those areas. Whether or not the Developer is paying a "fair" price for those services is often a subject of discussion amongst residents.

## PWAC Common Maintenance Budget

Again, PWAC serves in an advisory capacity to the SLCDD, recommending the budget for common infrastructure maintenance costs such as Rights-of Way landscaping and lighting, Water retention areas, irrigation an drainage, multi-modal paths and tunnels, and entry features such as walls, fountains and fences. A document known as "Exhibit A" identifies other features located in the commercial district at Lake Sumter Landing such as the windmill (repair in this proposed budget) and lighthouse. The Morse Bridge Revetment is also under PWAC's purview.

All locations are based on assessable acreage to participating donor districts. Those districts are CDDs 5-13, Lake Sumter Landing and Brownwood. There is a total of 8,777.98 total current acres with the two commercial districts representing only 235.09 acres or 2.7%. The rest of these common maintenance fees are born by the residential districts and are paid through the annual maintenance fee. PWAC then assesses each district its portion. Most CDDs are well under a .5% increase in PWAC allocations, with CDD 9 coming in at a 1.2% increase due to a change in acreage, which also brings with it additional revenue.

The Morse Bridge Revetment project has been under discussion for three years, with \$3.2 Million allocated two fiscal years ago. Hurricane Irma sent Lake Sumter water levels too high to move forward, and in 2018 a change in District Manager led to the project options being revisited. In October 2019 Kimley-Horne Associates provided an update, adding a fourth alternative. The Geoweb Stone Reinforced Slope is recommended by District Property management at a cost of \$1,230,000, significantly less than the original allocation. PWAC members agreed.

Workshops continued on page 6

## Workshops continued from page 5

MMPDG Phase II signs are also presented in the PWAC maintenance budget. Up to 30 signs will be replaced at an estimated cost of \$30,000.

In the Fall of 2019, PWAC undertook a pilot project to study the effects of interior contrast painting to determine the effects on daytime lighting levels within the subject tunnel. Review of the data indicates an increase of approximately 160% in the lighting levels. District Property Management is recommending contrast tunnel coating painting of 31 tunnels at \$5,000/tunnel, for a total budget impact of \$155,000.

PWAC members were also presented with a surprise project, the Lake Miona Walking/Nature Trail from the Lake Miona Recreation Center to just beyond Old Mill Road. In an effort to enhance opportunities for nature walks similar to those being created south of CR 44, this property that winds around the Black Lake Preserve was identified. The preliminary construction estimate is \$260,000.

## **Recreation News**

We cannot end the budget review for AAC and PWAC without mentioning the requested total budget of \$790,000 for the weekly Recreation News. The allocation for RAD is \$197,500 and \$434,500 for SLAD, with the Developer picking up \$158,000 of the cost. Last year the allocation methodology was changed to be based on the number of regional recreation centers.

An impassioned plea by Recreation and Parks Director John Rohan, who appeared at one of the first public meetings following closures from the pandemic as the only person NOT wearing a mask, (the doors to the building were plastered with signs insisting masks must be worn), took more than an hour of precious budget discussion time from both AAC and PWAC, without providing much in the way of detailed alternatives. *See more on this subject in the related article on page* 12.







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# In Case You Missed It... News Highlights

While there were few District meetings held in April during the COVID-19 stay-at-home period, some CDDs did meet remotely to take care of time sensitive business. All boards and CDDs have been "making up for lost time" in May with regular board meetings and additional budget workshop sessions. It was a challenging time, as the District balanced public health guidelines with the need to take care of business.

The Project Wide Advisory Committee attempted to meet via phone, with only District staff, the PWAC chair and a few members of the public present at the Savannah Center, but after an hour of interrupted telephone communication, the decision was quickly made to open the room at Savannah Center so that all board members could be present with seating for approximately 24 members of the public.

District Manager Richard Baier provided a PowerPoint presentation for all the boards called "The District at Work", showcasing the many projects that were completed during April while facilities were closed, and residents stayed at home. From painting to fence repairs to bathroom floors, Mr. Baier assured supervisors that work continued.

Business is being conducted with new guidelines in place. Rooms are now set up for social distancing and masks are required inside of all the buildings.

The District has slowly reopened facilities, swimming pools, tennis and pickleball courts, with new sanitation guidelines in place. Groups like the POA are still not able to hold their regular meetings in recreation centers and it is not known when those activities will begin again.

## **CDDs Hold Budget Workshops**

Residential Community Development Districts have been working overtime to catch up on regular business delayed by the COVID-19 and conducting budget workshops in order to meet state deadlines for accepting preliminary budgets. These are the budgets from which assessments CANNOT increase although they can be made lower before the final budgets are approved in September.

Once the preliminary budgets are accepted, with placeholders for items such as Administration and estimated costs for projects, District staff will work over the summer months to refine the expenditure numbers.

Not all CDDs had met prior to Memorial Day to review their budgets. It was not known at press time what, if any, adjustments up or down were recommended for each district's maintenance assessment.

The preliminary budgets for each district, AAC and PWAC, and NSCUDD can be found at DistrictGov.org by selecting 'Budget' from the dropdown 'Departments' menu at the top.

# AAC Landowner Elections for CDDs 3 & 4

A Landowner Election will be held on November 3, 2020 for Village Community Development District No. 3 and Village Community Development District No. 4. The Amenity Authority Committee advises the Village Center Community Development District on matters relating to Amenity Facilities, Amenity Fees and services related to Amenity Facilities and Amenity Fees north of CR 466.

If you are interested in having your name placed on the ballot for the 2020 Landowner Elections to become the representative for your District, you must complete the Official Statement of Eligibility for the Amenity Authority Committee and submit it to the District Clerk's Office between May 18, 2020 through June 19, 2020.

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The form is available at **DistrictGov.org** or can be obtained by contacting Jennifer McQueary, District Clerk at (352) 751-3939 or **jennifer.mcqueary@districtgov.org**. Applicants must be a landowner and a resident of the District they are interested in representing.

# **Villa Parking Controversy Continues in CDD 2**

As CDD 2 Board of Supervisors continue to wrestle with neighborhood complaints about temporary parking in the villas, one resident of La Cresenta Villas was arrested in a dispute with the owner of a box truck that seems to be at the heart of the controversy. Supervisor Bryan Lifsey presented a white paper on the topic while Supervisor Jim Cipollone thinks residents should self-police the parking areas. Supervisor Bill Shikora believes they have a responsibility to the residents to come up with a workable solution to the problem. After the February meeting, the Board seemed to be closer to coming up with such a solution, but after the delays

caused by the COVID-19 it seems they might be back to square one.

# Improvements in Public Rights of Way "at Your Own Risk"

Improvements that a resident has made or might make in a public right of way on "their" property has gotten the attention of the ARC and raises concerns for residents. A public right of way is an area designated by a governmental entity or utility needed for access to equipment or utilities.

Responding to a question from District Manager Richard Baier, Sumter County Administrator, Bradley Arnold said "Per Sumter County Code Section 20-87, utilities and driveways would be the only appurtenances permitted in the county's maintained rights-of-way following the receipt of an application and review and approval of such. Stonework and stone edging and hardscape landscaping such as fountains would not meet the requirements of Section 20-87 for consideration of permitting within the maintained rights-of-way."

As a result, the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) has said if asked to approve pavers, there will be a note that it is only approved on a resident's property, not in the right of way. If the resident has put in pavers and the county must access the right of way, the resident would have to pull up the pavers and put them back down when the work is finished. If the county removes them, they will only replace with concrete.

## CDD 9 Amends Boundaries by 11.1 Acres; Takes in The Brownwood Lofts Apartments

At a meeting held remotely April 16, the CDD 9 Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution to file a petition with Sumter County and the City of Wildwood to pass an ordinance to amend its boundaries, adding 11.1 acres in Brownwood for The Lofts of Brownwood apartment complex of 265 units.

Many questions have arisen about why the District would recommend adding what some

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## POA Bulletin

## Highlights continued from page 8

consider commercial property to its district, even though the apartments are zoned residential.

According to the Resolution that was passed, the Developer has agreed to provide sufficient funds to the District to reimburse the District for any expenditures including, but not limited to, things like legal, engineering, filing, administrative and other expenses.

Assistant District Manager Kenny Blocker presented information at the CDD 9 budget workshop that indicates the Developer will pay the assessed maintenance fees per apartment unit in the complex, thereby creating a positive financial impact for residents of that district.

Details about the apartment complex and its amenities have been sketchy, but residents who rent there will be paying Amenity Fees and will have access to all amenities throughout The Villages. Residents from outside of the complex are supposed to have access to amenities in the complex as well. District Manager Richard Baier said that in the purchase agreement for the Amenity Fees and Facilities south of CR 466 in November 2018 the Developer was given 350 Residential Amenity Units to use as he

265 apartments account for a portion of that allocation. It is unclear just how much the Developer will pay the District for services that will be rendered by the District in that complex.

CDD 8 Saves Millions with

pleased, and 150 units for senior living. These

## CDD 8 Saves Millions with Bond Refinancing

At its April meeting held remotely, CDD 8 finalized the refinancing of the Phase II and Phase III bonds, saving an estimated \$43 Million, much of which was passed along to residents in those phases. Interest rates on those bonds were over 6% and the average homeowner will save approximately 6-13% annually!

Unfortunately, with the economic forecasts because of the Coronovirus and the Federal

Reserve lowering interest rates to 0, the opportunities for favorable refinancing of other bonds any time soon will be unlikely. To find out what your bond assessment is, go to **DistrictGov.org** and select Residential Bond Assessment Information from the Quick Menu on the left side of the screen. You will also find information about how you can pay off your bond and realize significant savings of interest.



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Long Term Furnished Designer

2210 Margarita Drive, 3b/2b, golf cart

Long Term Furnished Courtyard Villa

Village of Santo Domingo

available, \$1800/month

Available Immediatel

Village of Bonita

2214 Pilar Place, 2b/2b \$1700/month, pet-friendly

Available Immediately





Long Term Unfurnished Courtyard Villa Village of Poinciana

1843 Clinton Court, 3b/2b \$1650/month, pet friendly Available Immediately



Long Term Furnished Designer Village of Woodbury

9215 SE 170th Fontaine Street, 2b/2b \$1600/month Available Immediately



Long Term Unfurnished Patio Villa **Village of Monarch Grove** 1904 Groesser Place, 2b/2b

\$1500/month Available Immediately



**Long Term Furnished Patio Village Village of Calumet Grove** 

17330 SE 77th Sycamore Avenue, 2b/2b \$1600/month, pet friendly Available Immediately



Long Term Furnished Designer Village of Santiago

2427 Tamarindo Drive, 3b/2b \$1700/month

Available Immediately



Long Term Unfurnished Courtyard Villa Village of Bonnybrook

425 Layton Terrace, 2b/2b \$1400/month, pet friendly



**Long Term Unfurnished Designer Village of Pinellas** 

3040 Rainsong Avenue, 3b/2b \$1800/month Available Immediately

**Property Management Department, please contact:** Gladys Vazquez for rentals N of 466A at 352-425-7629 Ron Cerota for rentals S of 466A at 352-661-8114

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Jim Hill 919-272-0958 Kathy Dugan 919-272-1389



Annette Beverly McCullough Shive 350-0168 409-6229

Kurt Harper 309-830-3970

Lee Ann Harper 309-310-3013





**Peggy Schaefer** 801-0040



216-548-9295



**Darcie Furnier** 

**Eddie Manson** 

552-6998

**Tim Davis** 446-1688



gorentvillages.com

# Costs for Recreation News Defended by Recreation Director

For more than an hour at the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) and Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) budget workshops Recreation and Parks Director John Rohan defended the proposed \$790,000 expenditure for the department's weekly Recreation News. The publication is printed by the Villages Daily Sun and distributed to PAID Sun subscribers and placed inside of Regional and Village recreation centers. The expenditure for FY 20-21 is allocated based on number of regional recreation centers in the fund's area with \$197,500 to come from AAC's Recreation Amenity Division (RAD) fund, \$434,500 from PWAC's Sumter Landing, and \$158,000 from the Developer.

Mr. Rohan provided a great amount of information to justify the value that is derived from printing a 60-page (down from 64 pages!) weekly publication that basically contains the same information week after week: 3,100 resident-led lifestyle clubs, more than 1,000 facilities and courts, 130,000 residents, etc. Six entire slides were devoted to design and layout comparisons. Five slides reviewed fiscal information, with only two of those giving cost figures that matter.

At times indignant that anyone might question that value, Mr. Rohan kept asking, "Where do you think all this comes from? It doesn't just drop from the sky. It comes from people!" He also compared the Recreation News with other, presumably similar, communities in Florida with lifestyle publications. His comparison annualized what the costs of each publication would be IF they were published weekly. A quick check of each communitie's website suggests they are printed only 3 to 4 times each year.

My Clearwater Magazine – 119,116 est. population		
<b>3X ANNUALLY</b> city publication that includes parks & rec		
68-page full color magazine	<b>\$13,993 per run x 3 = \$41,979</b> (actual annual cost)	
	Rohan annualized cost: \$727,649	
Horizons - Sunrise FL - 96,618 est. population		
QUARTERLY		
40-pg full color magazine	\$14,500 per run x 4 = \$58,000 (actual annual cost)	
	Rohan annualized cost: \$754,000	
<b>Play - Largo FL</b> - 84,996 est. popu	lation	
<b>3x ANNUALLY</b> Appears to be comp	parable to Recreation News in content	
on page full color	\$17,500 per run x 3 = \$52,500 (actual annual cost)	
92-page full color	Rohan annualized cost: \$910,000	
RECREATION NEWS - The Villages - 130,000 est. population		
WEEKLY		
60-page full color / newsprint	\$13,769 per run x 52 = \$715,988 (FY 19-20)	
	\$15,192 per run x 52 = \$790,000 (FY20-21 proposed)	

Mr. Rohan failed to address the key questions associated with options to reduce costs with the very kind of "out-of-the-box" thinking that District Manager Richard Baier said he has asked of all of the departments. What is wrong with a monthly publication? Here are the costs based on the weekly publication costs provided:

**Reduction to monthly publication \$182, 308; SAVINGS = \$607,692** What if it was not delivered to households that subscribe to The Daily Sun, and was only available at recreation facilities for residents to pick up? Would that be such an inconvenience? What if more was invested in the technology needed so that the online version was fully searchable and interactive?

The point is that no other options were even explored as viable. The POA urges members of the AAC and PWAC insist on specific information and alternatives before approving the requested \$790,000 expenditure. Better yet, reduce the expense by 50% for FY 20-21 and by 75% the next year.

As CDD 2 Supervisor Bill Shikora said, "A billion here, a billion there. Pretty soon you're talking about real money!" What could savings of up to 75% buy every year? For the RAD budget, assuming a savings of approximately \$150,000, it would more than pay for the new roof at Chula Vista or 25% of the facilities capital or maintenance items proposed in the FY20-21 budget. For SLAD it could pay for the renovation of greens at one golf course, replace the roofs at either Lake Miona or Laurel Manor or take care of 38% of the facilities capital or maintenance items in the proposed budget.

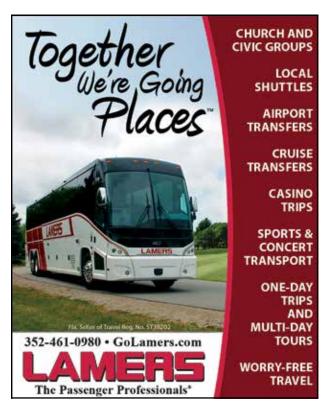
Stewardship. One of the core values of The Villages and an expectation of residents.

One final thought. The Recreation News is printed by The Daily Sun and distributed to PAID subscribers. Who owns The Daily Sun? The Developer. Enough said.



# Stay Connected for the latest Announcements!

We have nearly 770 Likes! Please type POA of the Villages FL in the search on Facebook and you will find our page. Click LIKE, and then, suggest our page to all of your friends and neighbors that live in The Villages! Meeting and relevant information will be posted on a timely basis. Please continue to send questions or comments via email or call the POA at 352-418-7372. ALL content will be monitored by the Administrator and posts containing opinion or debate will be removed.



# Lightning Matters

By Len Hathaway Study Group on Lightning

## Lightning Safety Awareness Week, June 21-28, 2020

The National Lightning Safety Council (NLSC) conducts an annual awareness campaign that is of interest to those of us living in the Lightning Capital of the US. Our area typically experiences lightning in June, July, and August up to 28 days each month. That is a lot of lightning! See the NLSC web site for lightning safety tips for indoors, outdoors, sports, medical, and home protection at <a href="http://lightningsafetycouncil.org/LSC-About.htm.l">http://lightningsafetycouncil.org/LSC-About.htm.l</a>

Lightning safety is the scheduled topic at the August 18, 2020 POA Meeting, 7:00 PM, at the Everglades Regional Recreation Center.

Here are current lightning issues of note.

## **Re-roofing and Lightning Protection Systems**

Many homes are being re-roofed throughout The Villages. If you are re-roofing AND have a Lightning Protection System (rods) consider engaging a firm that is listed by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and their installers have attained the Master Installer designation by the Lightning Protection Institute (LPI). Have that firm remove and then reinstall the system once the roofing contractor completes the work. Unfortunately, not all systems were originally installed to NFPA 780, Standard for the Installation of Lightning Protection Systems. These systems may have been sold door-to-door or by installers not affiliated with UL or LPI. Be aware that you may find that your system was not installed to the national standard.

## **Periodic Maintenances for Lightning Protection Systems**

If you have a lightning protection system and are not re-roofing, consider an inspection every three to five years. For the names and telephone numbers of installers who meet the UL and LPI criteria see my Computer Club presentation at **https://thevillagescomputerclub.com** under the Meetings & Presentations tab for April 24, 2020.



# Sign Up for **POA Bulletin Email Delivery!**

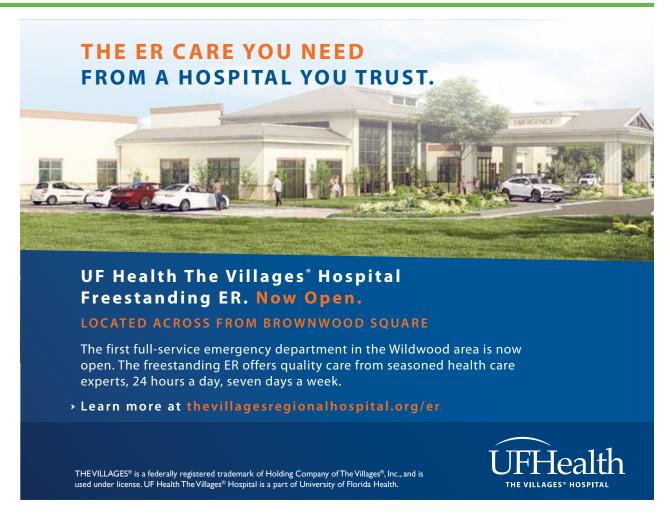
JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS! There is so much going on in The Villages these days you don't want to chance missing any updates if you're away. And, you'll have no more worries about stopping and starting driveway delivery when you go away! Every month we get a few hundred more people who have decided to get the POA Bulletin delivered in their email inbox. You'll get it earlier than driveway delivery and don't have to worry about it getting wet or **blowing away.** Help us reduce the costs of producing *The Bulletin* and do a good thing for the environment.

All you have to do is go to POA4us.org and select e-Bulletin START/STOP from The Bulletin drop down menu.

In mid-June, when the new website is launched, you will be able to change your preference under the POA Bulletin delivery icon.

You don't have to be a POA member, but for only \$10 a year, you will be supporting the ONLY true property owners' advocacy group in The Villages! Champions of Residents' Rights Since 1975! ■









# Hurricane Season Is Here! - Are You Prepared?

## **Know Your Storm:**

Hurricanes are tropical cyclones that threaten areas of the United States along the Atlantic coastline and Gulf of Mexico.

**Hurricane Watch** – conditions are possible within 48 hours.

**Hurricane Warning** – hurricane is expected within 36 hours.

**Tornadoes** are violent and rotating storms with winds that can cause severe damage. Florida ranks third in the nation for average number of tornadoes each year. Due to Florida's unique climate, tornadoes can occur any time of year. They can strike quickly with little or no warning. Tornado Watch —Conditions favorable for tornado development.

**Tornado Warning** – A tornado has been sighted by a trained weather spotter or a tornado is indicated on radar. Take cover immediately!

**Thunderstorms** are considered severe if it produces hail the size of a U.S. quarter or larger, or winds of 58 mph or higher.

**Severe Thunderstorm Watch** – favorable development for storms.

**Severe Thunderstorm Warning** – reports of 1-inch hail or winds that exceed 58 mph.

**Floods** - People who live near waterways or other low-lying areas are at highest risk, but anyone can be impacted by flooding.

**Flood Watch** – flooding is possible within 12 to 36 hours.

**Flood Warning** – Flooding is or soon will be occurring. Evacuate immediately if advised.

## What to Do:

When storms are predicted, be sure to secure loose outdoor objects, cut down dead branches and clear from around the home, secure or board windows, stock up on food and water, listen to radio or TV, and get a weather radio.

During a storm, take shelter in an inside room on the ground floor with no windows, stay away from windows, stay tuned to radio or TV. Do not shower or bathe, or go outside. If you live in a mobile home, find a sturdy building nearby.

After the storm, do not go outside or drive unless you must. Assess damage carefully. Wear shoes and gloves when going outside to protect your hands and feet from sharp objects. Be observant of downed power lines and do not go near or touch them. Never drive around barricades or through high water. Do not walk through flood waters or allow children to play in them.

## Have a Plan: Keep it Simple

Planning with your family is an essential part of preparing for a storm, and can also be used in other disaster situations, such as a fire or national crisis, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic. If you live alone, make a plan with neighbors, friends, and family members living outside the area. In the case of a coming storm, try to keep family members together, and identify each member's responsibility.

If you plan to use a shelter during the emergency, identify the nearest and most appropriate shelter. Have a plan to get there, be aware of personal special needs and whether, if needed, the shelter accepts pets. Know the policies and capabilities of each

available shelter. Contact your county and sign up for your county's alert system (see below) to find out if they have a Special Needs Program for residents who have a medical or physical condition that requires special care, assistance with transportation, or are dependent on electricity. Make arrangements for your pet. If you are sheltering at home, keep the pet inside with you, in a secure crate, if possible. Be certain your pet's shots are up to date and have current pictures and identification in case you are separated.

## **Prepare an Emergency Kit**

You probably already have had a kit put together for the current pandemic stay-at-home quarantines. Make sure it is fully stocked with water, medications, non-perishable goods, pet foods, etc.

## **Stay Informed**

Sign Up for e-Notifications District Customer Service Department 352.753.4508

## DistrictGov.org

**County Alert Systems** The county alert systems will notify you of impending danger, storms, amber and silver alerts, etc. for your specific area.

Sumter County: 352.689.4400

Sumtercountyfl.gov

Lake County: 352.343.9420

AlertLake.com

Marion County: 352.732.8181

AlertMarion.com

## Sumter County Commissioner Candidates Submit Bios and Opinion

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 and any opinions are solely those of the writers.

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.

We'd like you to get to know the candidates that Fair Government for Sumter (fg4s) supports for Sumter County. They are Gary Search, Craig Estep, and Oren Miller. Each candidate will answer the question presented and respond in 100 words or less. This months question is...

"Why did you decide to run for Sumter County Commissioner?"

## **Gary Search (District 3)**

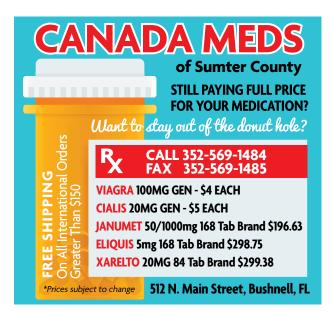
I was appalled to hear that the current Sumter County Commissioners were going to raise real estate taxes by over 25%. Having been a commissioner in Pennsylvania for 13 years and always pledging fiscal responsibility, I was curious as to the legitimate reasons behind such a large increase. I was shocked by the lack of empathy the commissioners displayed to the residents I witnessed the current commissioners exhibit some of the most unprofessional and disrespectful attitudes that I have ever witnessed at a public meeting. Not one of the several hundred speakers that spoke at the hearings even received acknowledgment for having a possible alternative. After witnessing such arrogant behavior and attitudes, I felt it was my public duty to oppose the current commissioners. They need leaders who will listen, treat everyone with respect and make decisions that are in the BEST interests of their constituents.

## **Craig Estep (District 1)**

Like many residents, I was shocked to see a 25% increase in my county taxes. This actually ended up as a 29.2% increase for me when you added the newly increased assessment as well. I attended the meetings at the Savannah like so many of my neighbors. My taxes had been cut for so many years (so people could get reelected perhaps), and then this huge increase was thrust upon us. Was there no foresight. In the tax meetings there was a lack of empathy and respect for the taxpayers who were brave enough to stand up and present their case. That put me over the top to make me run for commissioner so every taxpayer could have the right to be heard...and I mean it. Dignity and respect are important to me, and I felt this was lacking in our current commissioners at those meetings. What people say matters.

## Oren Miller (District 5)

Five years ago, my wife and I, together with many others, lead a team attempting to get the BoCC to stop killing 30-40 % of the pets taken into Animal Control monthly. I learned then that the BoCC lacked any semblance of transparency. I have attended every BoCC meeting since then and I have filed dozens of Freedom of Information Act requests for information. I've watched them vote to give away our water and refuse to fix roads in South Sumter County. I've watched them ignore dozens of residents begging them to get more information before raising taxes. I watched them spend \$65,000 to study what the Developer impact fees should be and then ignore the study and lower the rate to help the developers. They then raised our Real Estate taxes to make up the shortfall. We need commissioners that will work for the people not the Developers. ■







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## Property Owners' Association of The Villages, Inc.

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## **Coming Soon! POA Updated Website**

The POA has taken advantage of the stay at home time to develop a modernized POA website. We have been listening to our members and recognize your desire to easily access your account information and let us know your *POA Bulletin* (electronic and/or paper) preferences and dates to stop start.

You will soon be able to reset the email address that the POA uses to send the *POA Bulletin* and other communication. You will know when your membership expires and can renew online!

"Your Profile" will be yours to maintain and change online at any time.

Start looking mid-June for the new POA website!

**POA4US.org** 

# Sumter County Ya'all Just Got Bamboozled and it wasn't Nancy Pelosi and the Democrats!

Submitted by Dan Myslakowski, Candidate for Sumter County Commission

**Editor's Note:** The POA has provided leadership to help restore fair government to Sumter County, and applauds the energy of any candidate who chooses to run for public office. This article was provided by one of those candidates and does not reflect information gathered by the POA. Any opinions are solely those of the writer.

The POA is not involved with, has not and will not make any financial contributions to any individual candidate or political action committee. 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.

You got bamboozled by the five so-called fiscal conservative Sumter County Commissioners, the County Administrator, and the Developer who offloaded his impact fee expenses onto the Sumter County Tax Payers to fund the Infrastructure necessary for the new development south of Hwy. 44 even though the FL statute clearly states that this expense should have been paid for by the Developer's impact fees, not by the taxpayers through a whopping 25% millage tax increase!

The FL Impact Fee Act, s. 163.31801 states

– The Legislature's Office of Economic and
Demographic Research defines impact fees as
a type of regulatory fee "imposed by local
governments against new development to
provide for capital facilities' costs made
necessary by population growth. Rather
than imposing the costs of these additional
capital facilities upon the general public,

the purpose of impact fees is to shift the expense burden to newcomers." Examples of capital facilities include the provision of additional water and sewer systems, schools, libraries, parks and recreation facilities. This Florida statute clearly intended the costs for growth infrastructure should be the responsibility of the Developer not the general public.

In addition to the aforementioned FL statute which clearly defines the costs that should be borne by the Developer, there were three full-house tax increase meetings where the Sumter County residents overwhelmingly and strongly voiced their concerns against the tax increase. Never the less our current board of five Sumter County Commissioners unanimously voted for a 25% tax increase! So now, in addition to the payments you already make towards your bond, you now also pay for the infrastructure development south of Hwy. 44!

Florida has 67 Counties and the average impact fee is \$9,865 dollars per home, but in Sumter County the Developer pays only \$901 dollars per home. The Developer's stated goal is to build another 50,000 homes so the below average impact fee savings of around \$9,000 dollars per home X 50,000 homes = \$450,000,000 a sweet profit of half a billion dollars! I don't mind people making money, but don't take it out of my pocket!

The current five Sumter County Commissioners would have had a job for life! All they had to do were two simple functions: 1. Provide quality county services and 2. Keep taxes low, but they could not do that!

## This August 18th in the Republican Primary VOTE to "AX THE 25% TAX" VOTE DAN MYSLAKOWSKI COUNTY COMMISSIONER District 5!

Additionally, it is time to "Buy American" – If all the U.S. counties bought American we would not be exporting a HALF TRILLION DOLLARS of our economy, and jobs to Communist China – who is NOT our friend!

To my fellow little white-cross Christians - no deed restriction should ever supersede your constitutional rights of RELIGIOUS FREEDOM and your 1st Amendment right of "Free Speech!" As your County Commissioner, I will engage the Sumter County Legal Counsel to challenge this un-constitutional restriction.







## **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

2018 **Elaine Dreidame** 

<b>POA Hall of Fame</b>		
2017	Myron Henry	
2016	Frank E. Carr	
2013	"Class Action Five" Elaine Dreidame Bill Garner Joe Gorman Rich Lambrecht Irv Yedwab	
2012	Joe Gorman	
2011	Pete Cacioppo Betty Cunningham	
2009	Dorothy Morehouse-Beeney Vinnie Palmisano	
2008	Ray and Lori Micucci Win Shook	
2007	Rose Harvey Dorothy Hokr	
2006	Charlie Harvey Carol Kope Frank Renner	
2005	Sadie Woollard	
2004	Russ Day Eva Hawkins	

William Rich, Jr.

Glen Swindler

Jean Tuttle

## The Property Owners' Association 8736 SE 165th Mulberry Lane, **PMB 111, The Villages, 32162**

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Bulletin Editor	Deb Butterfield	219-508-6863	
POA Email	1president@poa4us.org		
POA Website	poa4us.org		
POA Phone	352-418-7372		

# DISCOUNT **PARTNERS**

## Another benefit for POA members is this Discount Partner program.

Most vendors will ask you for your current POA Membership card to receive the offered discount. If you have a favorite business who is currently not offering a POA Discount, tell them about our program. Please say "thanks" to our Discount Partners for their participation.

The up-to-date list of Discount Partners can always be found on our website poa4us.org. Click 'Discount Partners' on the left menu.



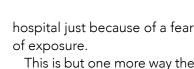
## Go to Poa4us.org Select Bulletin > **Snowbird Bulletin STOP/START**

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





Steps #1 and 2.



This is but one more way the Robert Boissoneault Oncology Institute protects you. For quality care, we have no competition. Travel to our web page to gain more knowledge and specific medical references about alpha lipoic acid, and to maximize your health.

Alpha lipoic acid is a natural compound, not a prescription, cheap, safe and efficient when taken as directed, that can address both steps at the same time. It is not a cure-all. But it could offer significant benefit. Its health effect goes well beyond treating a virus.

This virus has an outer thin fat layer

surrounding a protein. If the fat layer is

disrupted, the protein is exposed and

disintegrates. We have actually resolved

Avoid putting your body at risk through bad eating, lack of exercise, or not enough sleep. Staying healthy is even more important now because you can't go to the doctor or



Written by: **Norman H. Anderson M.D.** Radiation Oncologist | CEO

hink of a particle that is not alive, but whose physical closeness can cause harm...with just one breath. COVID-19 is scary for all of us, and since there is no cure or magic bullet yet like a

vaccine, the best protection is keeping our immune system in the best possible shape. Although a cancer physician, my advice

applies to all Villagers. Our Star Trek goal is for you to "live long and prosper."

Let me explain the challenge. A virus is not alive. It depends on highjacking a cell's ability to reproduce. Think of it as a ship seeking a port. Flying a friendly flag, the pirate ship slips into the harbor, only to plunder. (Step #1). If there was a way of identifying the pirate early, it could be sunk before docking. But what if our response is delayed, the viral ship gains a foothold, and our counter-offensive destroys much

> of the homeland. By not focusing our cannons, the collateral damage becomes overwhelming. (Step #2).

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