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POA4US.org

MARCH 2021

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UPCOMING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

TUESDAY, MARCH 16 | 7 PM

LAUREL MANOR

Speaker: Mr. Ed Jiminez, CEO UF Health Shands

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NEW DATE!

DATE: April 10, 2021

LOCATION:

Wildwood Community Center 6500 Powell Road

TIME:

9 AM - Noon

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Sumter Co. Commissioners Reject Developer's Impact Fee Offer

Within a month of the Sumter County
Commissioners decision to delay a hearing
until July to determine how it would proceed
with its evaluation of Road Impact Fees, the
Developer, via a letter from the Vice President for
Community Relations, Gary Lester, made an offer
to increase The Villages Impact Fees from the
current 40% to a maximum of 56%. This equates
to a \$400 increase per home from \$972 to \$1392,
or a 40% increase. The agreement would be in
effect for the remainder of the current term of the
Impact Fee ordinance and provided that no other
categories of impact fees would be changed.

By a vote of 4-1, the Commissioners rejected the offer. The lone "No" Vote came from Doug Gilpin, an executive with longtime Developer contractor T & D Concrete. Mr. Gilpin complained after the vote that the "misinformation" about Impact fees has been horrible and people are giving their opinions "without facts." For what may have been the first time, Mr. Gilpin acknowledged that there had been a tax increase in 2019 but said the Commissioners had also made the pledge that there would be no further increase for at least five years.

Commissioner Craig Estep rejected the offer as an "insufficient increase to satisfy the needs of all taxpayers." Commissioner Gary Search agreed and added that he didn't want the Commission's hands tied for three years, which was a stipulation of the agreement.



Misinformation

must be a matter of perspective.

While Mr. Gilpin decried people as uninformed, perhaps what he really meant is that the Commissioners and residents are not buying into the Developer's own misinformation campaign in the newspaper he owns, The Daily Sun. Take for example the front-page article after the meeting, saying that "businesses and homebuilders who want to expand throughout Sumter County will not be spared from a potentially crippling tax increase."

The Commissioners have taken no action to raise anything yet. All they have dared to do is say no to the Developer (something he is completely unaccustomed to) and ask for more time and information.

The article repeatedly (10 times) refers to an Estep-Search-Miller tax increase. Let's be clear. An impact FEE is NOT a tax, it is a one-time fee applied to new construction. The purpose of the fee is to fund capital projects for roads (such as construction, land acquisition). And no increase has yet been proposed.

MARCH 2021

Mission Statement

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.

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.

Goals 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 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.

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.

Impact Fees continued from page 1

In 2019 then Commissioners Gilpin, Printz, Burgess, Butler, and Breeden passed a 25+% tax increase advertised as a total increase of \$50,947,400! Why? To pay for \$92 Million in road improvements for the Developer South of CR 44. The Sun article quotes Mr. Gilpin as saying that the tax increase cost residents with a home valued at \$255,700 a mere \$348 a year (notwithstanding any rollbacks.) Over the 5-year period they said they wouldn't raise taxes again, that totals \$1,740. He also said that the increase was needed to pay for fire and public safety, failing to mention the funding for roads for the new development.

The Developer asked to pay \$1,392 ONE TIME for each home he builds, 25% less than what "average" homeowners have been asked to pay over five years.

The Sun article referred to the "massive" outcry at the January Commission meeting where construction vehicles packed the parking lot and prevented many residents from attending the meeting. Unlike the Commission of 2019, the Estep, Search, Miller Commission voted to delay consideration of any increase in Impact Fees until at least July. Residents will recall that their "massive" outcry in 2019 fell on deaf ears.

The 2015 Impact Fee Study update conducted for Sumter County says that an impact fee is generally regarded as a regulatory function established as a condition for improving property and is not established for the primary purpose of generating revenue, as are taxes. An impact fee must be tied to a proportional need for new infrastructure capacity created by new development.

Translation: The cost of new roads or improvements to create additional capacity should be paid for through **Impact Fees on the new development!**

The report also revealed that several jurisdictions in Florida index transportation impact fees on an annual basis. For example, Collier County, Charlotte County, St. Lucie County, Volusia County, and St. Johns County have applied annual indices that have both increased and reduced the impact fee rates as land and construction costs have fluctuated in recent years. Some use the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) as the index, something that is used every year in The Villages to adjust the Amenity Fee rate for homeowners.

There has been no specific proposal put forth by the Commissioners to raise impact

fees. After the vote to reject the Developer's offer, Commissioner Estep asked County Administrator Bradley Arnold for a table that shows what revenue each 5% increase on the fees would generate. This is a reasonable approach. There is no reason to jump on the first or any offer that comes from the Developer. Sound policy makers look at all of the facts and impact on residents and businesses alike.

The misinformation campaign that is going on now is from the Developer and his newspaper, and his only champion on the Commission who is a longtime beneficiary of favorable policy to the Developer. No one, certainly not the new Commissioners, is trying to cripple the economy, create an anti-business climate or kill the golden goose. Just as residents were told in 2019, it may be time for a "reset" (that's what they called the tax increase) on Impact Fees so that everyone can reap the benefits of our strong local economy and growth.



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POA Supports Proposal for Live Streaming District Meetings

It has been a tough year for residents, organizations, governments, and businesses. The COVID-19 pandemic has kept people shut-in, not able to socialize, visit family, shop, attend church or public meetings. Feelings of isolation and not being connected have weighed heavily.

Families have relied on Zoom and Facetime, online shopping, and delivery services. Churches have live streamed services. Somehow, we have adjusted and are hanging on.

The POA thinks there is a piece of connectivity missing to our local elected officials. All District Community Development (CDD), Amenity Authority (AAC), and Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) meetings are held at Savannah Center, not the most convenient location for the majority of Villagers, with social distancing guidelines in place. Attendance by the public has declined, with next to no one hearing what is going on at these all-important meetings of our local government decision makers.

District Manager Richard Baier announced at March meetings that the District has created a series of modules that combine the topics in CDD orientation and Resident Academy that have been on hold because of the pandemic.

Each module is 20-48 minutes long and will be available on the District website in the coming weeks.

The POA applauds the District for providing these new opportunities for residents.

However, the POA believes it is even more important to give residents access to the various CDD, AAC and PWAC meetings without having to attend in person at the Savannah Center. POA Bulletin Editor Deb Butterfield has proposed to Mr. Baier that the District invest in and install equipment to livestream and download to its website all public district meetings. She will also present the idea to the AAC and PWAC members at their March budget workshops.

The POA strongly urges the District and these two committees to not just discuss for funding in the FY 21-22 budget but that they consider implementation at the earliest possible date.

Ms. Butterfield has provided information to Mr. Baier that demonstrates this technology upgrade could be accomplished quickly and without significant capital expenditure or additional staff time. It is not necessary to invest in studio quality productions. Keep it simple and easy to manage.

The most important component of the proposal is that the video, which while good to allow residents to view the proceedings, is integrated with the proper sound mixing equipment so the audio is crisp. Ms. Butterfield has researched other communities that have accomplished this for less than \$10,000.

The POA believes this is a minimal investment and should be done now beginning with the Savannah Center, where meetings will be held through at least September. After that, a central location (District office or Colony Recreation Center) and Everglades should be equipped when meetings are able to be held in different locations again.

This is a no-brainer. Let's get it done! ■



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AAC and PWAC Kick Off Annual Budget Workshops

The Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) will hold its budget workshop for the FY 21-22 on Wednesday, March 17 at 1 PM, and the Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) will hold its workshop on Wednesday, March 24 at 2 PM. Both meetings will be held at Savannah Center.

The AAC is a landowner-elected body with authority over the amenity fee streams and amenity facilities north of CR 466. PWAC is an appointed committee, with representatives from each of the numbered Community Development Districts (CDDs) from CR 466 to CR 44 and Brownwood.

PWAC acts in an advisory capacity to the Sumter Landing Community Development District (SLCDD) which has final authority for amenity fee revenue streams, amenity facilities, and the common maintenance PWAC funds identified in "Exhibit A."

Each committee will listen to presentations by District staff on various projects, and review funding proposals. They will consider expenditures for projects that have come up for discussion or may have been presented by a resident.

THESE BUDGET WORKSHOPS ARE IMPORTANT AND THE POA ENCOURAGES RESIDENTS TO ATTEND!

Among the documents you signed when you purchased your home were the Declaration of Restrictions that includes the obligation to pay monthly amenity fees. 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

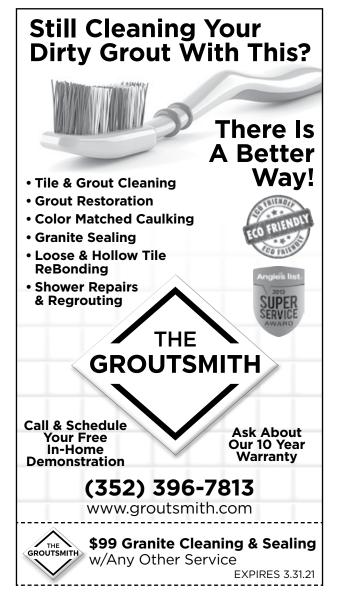
Your Amenity Fee is paid monthly with the utility bill that comes from the Village Center Community Development District (VCCDD).

A portion of the annual maintenance fee for residents who live in CDDs 5 - 12 is allocated to the Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) for maintenance required on landscaped right of ways including street lighting and associated walls/fences, entry features, lakes, shorelines, conservation, stormwater management system and buffer areas, transportation trails, tunnels and other common maintenance items identified in the Project Wide Fund resolution's "Exhibit A." Some of these items have come under scrutiny by various Community Development District Boards because they include things like the Lighthouse at Lake Sumter and bridges. CDD 7 has been a critic of the PWAC resolutions because nearly 50% of its maintenance budget goes to the Project Wide Fund and because the CDDs agreed to give the SLCDD full authority to add anything they want to Exhibit A.

CDDs north of CR 466 do not have a common maintenance fund and pay for all expenses in the maintenance category. If there is a major maintenance expense, such as may be caused to infrastructure by a sinkhole or storm damage, the CDD bears the cost. In extreme cases, such as happened in CDD 4, maintenance fees had to be raised significantly.

This annual maintenance fee is also paid with your county tax bill and is listed as a Non-ad Valorem tax. Each residential CDD Board of Supervisors determines the amount of the assessment for each rooftop in its district based upon the projected maintenance needs. Each rooftop in that district pays the same percentage, but the annual assessment differs from district to district.

Workshops continued on page 8





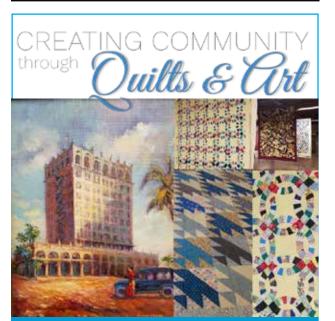


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Workshops continued from page 7

Each CDD also conducts a budget workshop, scheduled as follows.

Mar 17 (Wed) Preliminary Budget Workshop				
AAC	1:00 pm	Savannah Recreation Center		
Mar 24 (W	ed) Prelimi	nary Budget Workshop		
PWAC	2:00 pm	Savannah Recreation Center		
No later th	an May 1st S	ubmit Safety Recommended Budget to Sumter County Administrator		
May 10 (M	on) Regular	Meeting - Budget Review		
PWAC	8:30 am	Savannah Recreation Center		
May 12 (W	ed) Regular	Meeting - Budget Review		
AAC	9:00 am	Savannah Recreation Center		
May 13 (Th	u) Regular I	Meeting - Budget Review		
District 13	3:00 pm	Everglades Recreation Center		
May 17 (M	on) Budget V	Workshop		
District 9	8:00 am	Savannah Recreation Center		
District 10	9:30 am	Savannah Recreation Center		
District 11	11:00 am	Savannah Recreation Center		
May 18 (Tu	May 18 (Tue) Budget Workshop			
District 5	8:00 am	Savannah Recreation Center		
District 6	9:30 am	Savannah Recreation Center		
District 7	11:00 am	Savannah Recreation Center		
District 8	2:00 pm	Savannah Recreation Center		
May 19 (W	ed) Budget \	Workshop		
District 12	1:30 pm	Everglades Recreation Center		
May 25 (Tu	ıe) Budget V	Vorkshop		
District 1	8:00 am	Savannah Recreation Center		
District 2	9:30 am	Savannah Recreation Center		
District 3	11:00 am	Savannah Recreation Center		
District 4	2:00 pm	Savannah Recreation Center		
May 27 (Tl	ıu) Budget V	Norkshop		
NSCUDD	9:00 am	Savannah Recreation Center		
		•		

Proposed budgets are approved in June with final budget approvals in September. District staff works between the proposed and final approvals to finalize numbers and allocation methodologies.



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



Residents Reminded of Parking

Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) Chair Don Deakin brought a serious parking issue to the AAC for awareness.

The golf cart in the photo is parked illegally, making it very difficult for the red van, which is legally parked in the "HANDICAP" area at the Chatham postal station, to leave without backing all the way out to the entrance.

This poses a risk to the van of getting hit by other vehicles turning into the postal station.

There are other times when vehicles park illegally in the Handicap pedestrian access area, (white hashmarks to the right of the red van), which then blocks people with disabilities from using the ramp.

All vehicles (including cars and golf carts) should only park in designated parking spaces.

This issue is not unique to the Chatham postal station. Illegal parking is an issue throughout The Villages, in every District, every recreation facility, and every commercial area, from County Road 42 all the way down to Fenney.

This issue was presented and discussed with Blair Bean, Director of District Property Management, who reviewed the situation, and after considering several options, has suggested that enhanced communication is needed to educate residents.

Illegal Clearing Raises Concerns and Possible Legal Issues for Residents

A contractor has been arrested and about a dozen homeowners are under investigation by the Sumter County Sheriff's office for their roles in the illegal clearing of land behind their homes in the Lake Deaton area of District 10. District Manager Richard Baier advised that this was not done unknowingly as there is a fence and a walled area between the homes and the area. The acreage that was cleared was done to provide better views for homeowners, however, it is a wetland regulated by the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

This incident is reminiscent of a similar illegal clearing of land in the Lake Miona area of District 5 several years ago. At that time, an anonymous fund was created to pay the \$50,000 to remediate the area.

The investigation is ongoing and the cost to mitigate the damage or any fines have not yet been determined.

Residents are reminded that property beyond their boundaries that are public land cannot be disturbed for any reason. If a resident is considering involvement in such an act, they should always contact the Community Standards office to discuss.

Timers May be Used at District Meetings

While it has been a stated rule that residents may only speak for three minutes on a topic, District Manager Richard Baier proposed that a big, red timer be displayed on the meeting screen so speakers could easily see how much time they had left. Most district supervisors were lukewarm to the visible display but acknowledged that it might be useful when there is a topic that brings a lot of speakers to the

The chair will have the discretion to allow more time than three minutes on any topic.

CDD 7 Finalizes New Attorney Contract

POA Bulletin

The Community Development District (CDD) 7 Board of Supervisors finalized a contract with Hopping Green & Sams, P.A for legal services. This represents the culmination of several months of research and discussion to replace Mark Brionez as the CDD 7 attorney after he announced that he had a conflict of interest in representing CDD 7 in issues concerning the Project Wide Advisory Committee and Fund because he represents the other CDDs who are parties to the agreement.

The cost will be significantly higher for residents of CDD 7, who, like residents in other districts benefitted from a shared contract with Brionez & Brionez. However, CDD 7's supervisors have been on a mission to address issues with the last resolution it agreed to with PWAC and its growing allocation to the Project Wide Fund.

Chairman Jerry Vicenti asked for a public workshop to discuss issues with the new law firm and suggested that the proposal by CDD 12 to create a PWAC "2" could open the door for renegotiation of the contract. The workshop will be held in April.

Law Enforcement Quarterly Update

Lt. Robert Siemer attended residential district meetings in February to provide an update on accidents and citations. He reported that there had been 283 vehicle crashes and 44 golf cart crashes. There was a total of 358 vehicle citations and 19 golf cart citations.

Be aware and be safe, drivers!





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POA Welcomes New Board Members

Editor's Note: With sincere apologies to Karen Lambert, whose name was listed incorrectly in the POA Bulletin February issue!



Karen Lambert

Karen relocated from New York to The Villages in 2019 and lives in the Village of Poinciana with her greatest teacher, her hubby Mike. Karen has two sons and 4 grandkids who she visits and babysits very often. She holds BA in Deaf Education, a BA in Psychology from Marymount Manhattan College, a MA in Human Resource Management from NYU, and a MA in School Building Administration from Mercy College.

In her previous life she was a teacher for the deaf; a career that began with a passion right after graduating from college in Venezuela and ended 42 years later in the USA. As a Deaf Educator she held a myriad of positions that included counseling of parents of deaf babies, leading parent groups, caring for fidgety preschoolers, enlightening many-a-elementary wanderers, taming middle-school know-it-alls, to guiding lost high -schoolers.

In the Villages you may find her on a Yoga mat, dancing on the Zumba floor or the squares, deepening her understanding of A Course In Miracles and The Law of Attraction, learning Italian or in the kitchen satisfying her gourmet palate. Following a family tradition of service to the community, she has volunteered as Tae Kwon Do Association President, Girl Scout Leader, Parent-Teacher President, Teacher Association President, and now an opportunity to serve the Villagers.



Daniel E. Warren

Dan Warren is a University of Wisconsin registered professional Civil Engineer with an MBA in finance from DeVry University.

POA Bulletin



He has extensive experience in land development, construction and project management of major storm water, solid waste, water and waste water

treatment systems. He is intimately familiar with all aspects of this infrastructure such as planning, engineering, finance, construction, operation, maintenance and regulatory compliance.

Dan was also dedicated to serving the public as commission president of the Waukesha Wisconsin Water Utility for 24 years and was elected to the Waukesha School Board for 21 years. He is a current member of the Villages Architectural Review Committee representing District 9.

He has attended numerous NSCUDD, County Board and VCDD meetings over the years providing citizen input. He most recently provided alternative suggestions for the process of the CSU purchase from the Developer, County Road Impact fees, solid waste conversion to the Waste-to-Energy disposal option, changing water and irrigation meter reading from manual to automated and proper reserve funding for the Villages Districts.

Dan and his bride Nola have been married for 48 years and permanently retired to the Village of Gilchrist in 2014. They have three sons, two living in the Minneapolis area with five grandchildren and one son in Seattle. Dan's leisure time interests include golfing, acrylic painting, stained glass work, history reading and Harley-Davidson motorcycle riding with Nola.



Looking for More Ways to Connect and Stay Involved?

The POA is Looking for Volunteers!

The POA Board is a small group of volunteer leaders who spend a great deal of time working on behalf of the residential property owners in The Villages. We need a few more volunteers who can commit to a leadership role in the following areas.

- IT/Website Management We are looking for someone with strong computer and IT skills to manage our Help Desk for members. This involves creating a team of volunteers who can be trained to resolve member login issues, correct email and mailing addresses, resolve issues with POA Bulletin delivery, etc.
- Video Camera Operation Enjoy shooting video? The POA is seeking someone to
 operate our MEVO camera system at General Membership meetings and other POA
 events. Our immediate goal is to post our meeting online. Our long-term goal is to
 Live Stream our meetings!
- **Membership Management and Analysis** Our membership is growing! We need someone to put together a membership team who can assist at our membership meetings and occasionally help with mailings.

Please go to our website POA4US.org and click on 'Volunteering' for an application.

Key Dates in March & April

MARCH 14

Daylight Savings Time!

March 16, 7 PM

POA Membership Meeting at Laurel Manor

March 17, 1 PM

AAC Budget Workshop at Savannah Center

March 24, 2 PM

PWAC Budget Workshop at Savannah Center

April 10, 9 AM – NOON

POA Shred Event at Wildwood Community Center









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Lady Lake Commission Rejects Developer's **Proposal for Apartments**

For the second time in a week, a proposal put forth by the



Developer of The Villages was rejected. The Lady Lake Commission, by a vote of 3-2, said they did not want apartments in the Spanish Springs town square.

The proposal for apartments has been pending for several months, first brought to the Commission last year after the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) gave the Developer the right to use 286 Amenity Units for other than independent or assisted living units on the site of the former Hacienda Hills Country Club. Residents in that area were outraged by the AAC's actions and have been fighting the proposals ever since. Action by the Lady Lake Commission has been delayed due to an illness on the board.

After listening to the same lengthy presentation given to the Sumter County Commissioners last year by the Developer's representatives, featuring Marty Dzuro passionately describing the Developer's long and continuing commitment to The Villages quality of life, the Lady Lake Commission turned down the request.

Spanish Springs is located in Lake County and the Lady Lake Town Commission is the decision maker on land planning and use, while Hacienda Hills is in northeast Sumter County, making the Sumter County Commissioners the decision makers. Last October the Developer pushed through approval before the ousted Commissioners left office.

It is not known if the Developer will come back to the Commission or try to continue plans for the apartments anyway, as there was a hint by the attorney that they already had the right to do what was being proposed. Nothing further has come forth regarding the status of the apartments in Hacienda Hills either. Stay tuned! ■



Pruning 101 THE FANATICAL GARDENER

by Anne Lambrecht Fanatical Gardener mrsanneo4@gmail.com

The mere mention of pruning strikes a chord of dread in many of us. Some people think that they are going to kill the plant if they prune too severely. But pruning is good for our plants. With a little education and sharp, clean tools, pruning your shrubbery can be fun and even therapeutic. The University of Florida states that our last frost date is March 10th and we really shouldn't be pruning before then. WHAT? WAIT! Uh oh, we already have. (I have anyway).

"Pruning is the selective removal of plant parts, typically shoots and branches, to improve health, control growth or enhance fruiting, flowering or appearance." * Pruning should always be a part of your gardening routine. I carry a pair of clean, sharpened pruners in my pocket when gardening.

Why prune

Choosing the right plant can eliminate much of the pruning requirements in today's landscapes. Unfortunately for many of us, our landscapes have been planted with shrubs that we like the looks of and then installed according to their current size and shape, not the size the plant is going to be in five years. Then it's necessary to prune frequently to keep it within bounds or move the plant completely. Unless you've done your homework beforehand, pruning your shrubbery can be a real headache. Proper pruning is an art and an important landscape management practice. Making the right cuts in the right places to get the plant to be healthy and pretty is the art form.

What to prune

Prune almost any plant or shrub to remove dead, diseased, crossed, rubbing or broken branches.

When to prune

Trees and shrubs can be lightly pruned anytime. Spring flowering plants such as azaleas, spireas, some hydrangea, camellia, Indian hawthorn, and dogwoods should be pruned in late spring after flowering but before the flower buds set for the next season and mostly for shape. They can be pruned at other times with the result being less flowers the next year.

Plants that produce flowers on current season's growth such as allamanda, hibiscus, oleander, plumbago, golden dew drop, bougainvillea, roses and bottle brush, cassia, and crape myrtle are usually pruned while dormant or just before the spring growth flush. For us that flush is March-April-May, depending on the plant. When plants such as amaryllis or agapanthus (lily of the Nile) are finished blooming, cut the scape (the stalk). The rule of thumb is prune after flowering. If the plant never stops flowering, go ahead and prune anytime for shape, to thin it out, give it light and to clean it up. Don't be afraid to cut.

Prune trees such as oaks, maples, hickory, and other large shade trees during the dormant season or just following a growth flush. You see the landscapers trimming the live oaks on our medians in January. It is always good to know a good, certified arborist.



How to prune

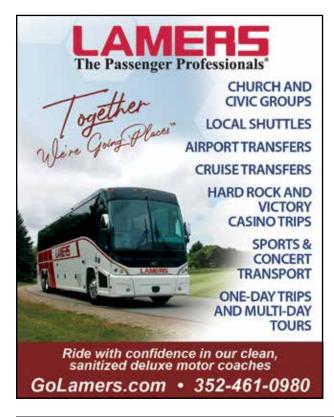
The key on how to prune is knowing where on the branch and the angle of the cut. Make a 45-degree cut at least ¼ inch right above the "bud" or "node" (the place from which the new growth will come out, kind of like a knuckle). Too close to the bud might damage or weaken the new growth, too far from the bud would stunt it. Too slanted to the bud might damage the branch and too close to the bud might cause the bud to fall off.

Do not prune when you transplant or introduce a new plant. Your plant is already stressed. Wait a few weeks until the roots have taken hold and then trim.

When we use clippers, loppers, and hedge shears, clean your tools daily using a mild bleach solution to get rid of fungus and any invisible disease you may pick up while working. Those bleachy wipes do the trick. Dry the tools, and oil with a household oil. Sharpen with a file or scissor sharpener.

Now, you're ready: get out there and get some pruning therapy!

*Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs by Edward F. Gilman and Robert J. Black University of Florida Circular 853 http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mgo87 ■



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More Money from The Government

SENIORS VS CRIME

Congress has just passed another bill to help the people and businesses whose finances are taking a beating from the COVID-19 pandemic. Once again, some of us will be getting money by check or direct deposit or maybe even a debit card. The timing and details are still a little murky, but here's what we know:

- The government won't ask you to pay anything up front to get this money. Anyone who does is a scammer.
- The government won't call, text, email, or contact you on social media to ask for your Social Security, bank account, or credit card number. Anyone who does is a scammer.
- There's no such thing as getting your money early, or faster. Anyone who says they can hook you up now (or soon) is both lying and a scammer.

According to Jennifer Leach, an Associate Director of the Division of Consumer & Business Education at the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), we know from the early days of the CARES Act that scammers will be using numbers 1, 2, and 3, above, as part of their playbook.

If you spot someone who says any of these things, you (a) know they're a scammer; (b) can warn someone you know about the scam, because (chances are) they'll get that call, text, or email, too; and (c) can tell the FTC so they can work to stop scammers and warn people about them by going to http://reportfraud.ftc.gov.

If you need assistance with understanding any aspects of new COVID-19 relief payments, contact the nearest Seniors vs. Crime office in The Villages for advice or assistance. Seniors vs. Crime also has a Speakers Bureau that will gladly come to your club, church, or group to speak about scams. To schedule a presentation, contact any of the offices. There is never a charge for their services. Seniors Vs. Crime can be reached at:

The Fruitland Park Police Department Annex in the Moyer Recreation Center in The Villages (352) 674-1882

The Marion County Sheriff's Office in The Villages (352) 753-7775

The Sumter County Sheriff's Office in The Villages (352) 689-4600, Extension 4606

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

During this pandemic, our offices are closed for walk-in complaints. Please call before you come to our offices. Hours may vary or may require appointments.

To keep up with the latest scams, LIKE 'Seniors vs. Crime Region 4' on Facebook. Hablamos Español. Por favor pregunte por Yolanda. Martes a Viernes: 10:00 A.M. a 2:00 P.M., (352) 689-4606. ■



HELP WANTED

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Must have reliable gas golf cart, able to lift 15 lbs., able to read a map, and be able to pick up your bulletins in Oxford.

For more info, Email your name, village, and phone # to

1presidentpoa@poa4us.org.

Put "delivery driver position" in the subject line.



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. ■



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2017	Myron Henry
2016	Frank E. Carr
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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.

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

2020 OFFICERS				
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We have 950 likes and 1,040 follows!

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.



STOP/START DELIVERY – NEW PROCESS!

Go to **POA4US.org**. If you are a POA member, sign into your account to change your Bulletin Delivery preference. If you are not a member, create a Guest Account by selecting POA Bulletin Delivery



s a physician by training, my wish is for everyone to "live long and prosper." Let's evaluate this virus. Think of a mere particle whose closeness to you can cause irreparable destruction...with just one breath. Its invisibility does not provide comfort, but rather enables entry by deception.

A virus is not alive: it depends on hijacking your normal cells' ability to replicate. Think of it as a pirate ship sneaking into a port. Flying no flag of recognition, the renegade slips into our vulnerable harbor, only to plunder. (Step #1). If there was a way of identifying pirate vessels while still far at sea, it could be sunk long before ever docking. But if our response is delayed, the viral ship

gains a foothold. By not accurately focusing our cannons, the body's own immune counter-offensive destroys much of the homeland. We magnify collateral damage to ourselves that becomes overwhelming. This "cytokine storm" may be fatal for multiple body organs...and ultimately for us. (Step #2). The COVID-19 virus has an outer fat layer surrounding

a protein. If the fat layer is disrupted, the protein is exposed and disintegrates. Our response must be rapid...and controlled. By doing so, we actually resolve both Steps #1 and #2.

Alpha lipoic acid is a natural anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant whose published medical results have been documented for forty years. It is not a prescription; but, it is inexpensive and safe when used as directed, and can address both steps at the same time. It is not a cure-all: rather, offering a natural balance for our immune response. The health impact goes well beyond treating a virus. If you find you do not tolerate Alpha Lipoic Acid well, consider trying the more gentle R-Alpha Lipoic Acid.

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Written by: **Norman H. Anderson** M.D.