



POA Bulletin



POA4US.org

SEPTEMBER 2023

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Upcoming POA General Membership Meetings

September 15, 2023 • 7 pm

Everglades Recreation Center

Speaker: Joe Rojas, Union President
Coleman Federal Prison

September 19, 2023 • 7 pm

Laurel Manor Recreation Center

Speaker: Joey Hooten
Sumter County Property Tax Assessor

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General Membership Meetings*

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Sumter County Commissioners Cave to Pressure from Businesses

Vote Down Funding Increase for Fire & Ambulance Services

The Sumter County Commissioners left the Villages Public Safety Department (VPSD) Fire Department and the Sumter County Fire Department scrambling when they voted down an increase in the annual Fire Assessment Fee that would have fully funded both departments. **The vote to deny the increase from \$124 to \$323.64 occurred after a public hearing held on August 22.**

The new funding structure would have also required commercial businesses and other non-residential property owners to pay based upon square footage instead of the current \$124 per rooftop. Apartments and other multi-family units would have paid by the unit instead of by the rooftop. The rate structure was presented in an in-depth study commissioned by the County and reviewed at the July Commissioner budget workshop.

VPSD will have to find \$14 million and Sumter County \$12 million to cut from their budgets by reducing personnel, services, and programs.

VPSD will not be able to hire fifty-seven (57) additional firefighter/paramedic personnel, build new fire stations, and will eliminate services such as the fall prevention program (smoke detector battery replacement), AED neighborhood program, along with others. VPSD Fire Chief Brian Twiss said he will reduce

staff and/or close three fire stations. Sumter County Fire Chief Rob Hanson said he will have to lay off thirty (30) firefighters and close four (4) fire stations. He will also have to eliminate the hazardous materials team.

Both chiefs said emergency medical services including advanced life support (ALS) will not be affected, but response times will suffer. As a result, the fire rating score provided to fire departments and insurance companies by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) will likely increase. The score reflects how prepared a community and area is for fires. Chief Hanson said their current ISO score of 3 could go up to as much as 8-10. A lower score is better. The score can affect the insurance premium of every homeowner.

The next step is that the public hearing will be continued until September 19 at 6 P.M. when

Cave continued on page 2

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

IndependenceHonestyFairnessObjectivityRespect

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.

Cave *continued from page 1*

Commissioners will take public input on raising the current Fire Assessment Fee from \$124 to \$125, a whopping one dollar per rooftop increase.

How did Sumter County get to this place, and what caused three of the five commissioners (Ulrich, Wiley, Bilardello) to vote No on a rate that each of them agreed to in the budget workshops held in July? Simply put, it was pressure via phone calls, emails, and texts to Commissioners, and testimony at the public hearing from the business community led by Terry Yoder of T & D Enterprises.

The POA has written about this issue on numerous occasions over the last two years. Here is a timeline of events and discussions that occurred.

2021 Resident outcry over ambulance response times provided by American Medical Response (AMR) contractor for transport services.

June 2021 Ad Hoc Committee for Fire, EMS, and Medical Transport Services was established.

July 2021 VPSD proposed an Independent Fire District that would put total control, including funding, of fire and emergency medical services with VPSD.

August 2021 Ad Hoc committee recommended termination of ambulance transport service contract with AMR and the creation of two separate fire departments and an ambulance transport service to be managed by Sumter County. One fire department would serve The Villages and one the rest of Sumter County. Funding would continue to be a part of the Sumter County budget. Ultimately two departments were created, each having an ambulance transport service.

September 2021 The Sumter County Commissioners voted to terminate the AMR emergency transportation service effective September 30, 2022. The Commissioners also voted to create two separate fire departments with Advance Life Support (ALS) transport services, effective October 1, 2022.

2022 Sumter County and VPSD departments order ambulances and prepare to implement ambulance transport services.

2022 The Florida legislature and Governor Ron DeSantis pass legislation to allow a referendum question to be placed on the November ballot that would fund an Independent Fire District for The Villages. The referendum question that residents would vote on was:

Shall the district cap any ad valorem taxes at 1 mil, and levy annual non-ad valorem assessments beginning with the 2023-2024 fiscal year to fund fire protection, rescue, emergency medical services, administration, governance, and associated capital not exceeding \$124 per parcel plus \$0.75 per \$1,000 of value of improvements thereon, together with identified administrative costs, collection costs, and statutory discounts, with increases limited by growth in Florida personal income over the previous 5 years?

October 1, 2022 New departments and ambulance services are implemented.

November 2022 The referendum to fund the Independent Fire District failed by a close margin.

2023 Sumter County Commissioners order study Fire Assessment Study to establish Fee.

July 11 & 12, 2023 Sumter County Commissioners Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget Workshops. Commissioners were determined to reduce roll back millage rate to 5.19 and raise the Fire Assessment Fee to \$323.64 for residential, along with a per square footage fee for commercial and other non-single family home structures.

All five Commissioners agreed to this funding structure.

July – August 22, 2023 Full court press with phone calls, emails and texts to Commissioners and testimony at public hearing, primarily by commercial businesses against the proposed rate structure, led by Terry Yoder, long-time beneficiary of residential development in The Villages.

Now, because these three Commissioners caved to this pressure, residents will once again be the ones who suffer the most when the fire departments have to cut services and response times once again grow. Residents may also be faced with even more increases in their homeowner’s property insurance, if they are not dropped altogether. Remember when, in 2019, at a public hearing

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Cave continued from page 2

where three times the number of people attended the public hearing about the 25% property tax increase and the Developer’s five Commissioners passed it anyway?

These three Commissioners wrung their hands, described choosing between two evils (not even the lesser of), and declared they need to look deeper to find another way. **Where were those thoughts in July before they agreed to this increase?**

The business community will once again accuse the POA of trying to scare residents about the seriousness of what will occur in the future. But this is real. **VPSD Fire Chief Brian Twiss will speak at an upcoming membership meeting. Tentatively, he is scheduled to speak at the January 16, 2024 meeting.**

The POA is also very concerned about the residents who live outside of the Villages and are served by the Sumter County Fire Department. They will face deep layoffs of fire personnel and closure of fire

stations. Their response times will be significantly impacted.

Clearly, the Commissioners backing down on the increase came as a surprise to the public safety officials. No doubt they will be working non-stop to see what they can do to minimize the negative impacts this will have on citizens. The information in this article is as up to date as can be within our print deadline. It is also likely that the topic of a Special Fire District may come up again.

The POA has moved this issue to the top of its Watch List. There is nothing more important that will affect residents in the short and long term. Perhaps, Ms. Ulrich, Mr. Bilardello, or Mr. Wiley will have come up with any amazing new ideas. The \$1 increase in the Fire Assessment Fee will not be enough to save the two fire departments from the cuts they have outlined. These cuts took that new \$1 per qualifying parcel into account.

One thing the POA is pretty certain of is that Mr. Yoder will be able to afford \$1 in his budget without laying anybody off. 🟢

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Villages Hospital Back to One Star Rating



In March 2023 the UFHealth/The Villages Hospital Chief Clinical Officer Cheryl Chestnutt said her goal is to get the hospital to a five-star rating. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) updated hospital ratings at the end of July showing UFHealth/The Villages Hospital fell to just one star, down from its previous two-star rating.

According to the CMS Care Compare website, the overall star rating for hospitals summarizes quality information on important topics, like readmissions and deaths after heart attacks or pneumonia. The overall rating, between 1 and 5 stars, summarizes a variety of measures across 5 areas of quality into a single star rating for each hospital. The 5 measure groups include:

- Mortality
 - Safety of care
 - Readmission
- Patient experience
 - Timely and effective care

The overall rating shows how well each hospital performed on an identified set of quality measures compared to other hospitals in the U.S. The more stars, the better a hospital performed on the available quality measures. Some new or small hospitals may not report data on all measures, and therefore, aren't eligible for an overall hospital rating.

Ms. Chestnutt said in March that a number of strategies have been developed to meet the care standards challenges head-on.

- Identify sepsis early and recognize if a patient is presenting with symptoms of sepsis
- Reduce hospital acquired conditions such as pressure (bed) sores and blood infections
- Length of stay initiative – patients and staff are waiting too long for authorization for discharge, which further increases wait times in the Emergency Department (ED)
- “All Hands on Deck” initiative to improve the patient experience, including hiring a concierge that will tend to waiting patients and families in the ED
- Emergency Department throughput (The process of patients being seen, admitted to a rooms or discharged)

Following are some of the CMS ratings

Sepsis care

Sepsis is a complication that occurs when your body has an extreme response to an infection. It causes damage to organs in the body and can be life-threatening if not treated. Sepsis can sometimes turn into septic shock, which has a higher risk of death. Identifying sepsis early and starting appropriate care quickly increases the chances of survival.

Percentage of patients who received appropriate care for severe sepsis and/or septic shock

Higher percentages are better

46%	58%	63%
of 160 patients	National average	Florida average

Complications & deaths

Patients who are admitted to the hospital for treatment of medical problems sometimes get other serious injuries, complications, or conditions, and may even die. Some patients may experience problems soon after they are discharged and need to be admitted to the hospital again. These events can often be prevented if hospitals follow best practices for treating patients.

Ratings in this category showed UFHealth/The Villages Hospital to be “no different” than national averages.

Hospital continued on page 6

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Hospital continued from page 5

Emergency department care

Timely and effective care in hospital emergency departments is essential for good patient outcomes. Delays before getting care in the emergency department can reduce the quality of care and increase risks and discomfort for patients with serious illnesses or injuries. Waiting times at different hospitals can vary widely, depending on the number of patients seen, staffing levels, efficiency, admitting procedures, or the availability of inpatient beds. The information below shows how quickly the UF Health/The Villages Hospital treated patients who come to the hospital emergency department, compared to the average for all hospitals in the U.S.

Percentage of patients who left the emergency department before being seen

Lower percentages are better

2%	3%	2%
of 44,260 patients	National average	Florida average

Percentage of patients who came to the emergency department with stroke symptoms who received brain scan results within 45 minutes of arrival

Higher percentages are better

50%	69%	70%
of 20 patients	National average	Florida average

Emergency department volume

High 40,000 - 59,999 patients annually

Average (median) time patients spent in the emergency department before leaving from the visit

A lower number of minutes is better

Other High-volume hospitals

186 minutes	207	167
	National average	Florida average

Ms. Chestnutt said there were also specific initiatives for the ED:

- Reduce wait times and off-loading from ambulances.

Ms. Chestnutt said that working with the Village Public Safety Department (VPSD) has been a substantial improvement. The relationship was actually hostile with the previous ambulance provider. Now they get data every day from VPSD and there has been a 50% improvement in the last month. It is now a "great partnership."

She also said they see 80-100 patients a day and 50% of them are admitted. The national average is just 24%.

- Create new patient-centered processes, including hiring the concierge.
- Refresh the identity and design of the ED, giving it a "refresh" that is more welcoming.

Patient Survey

Patients who reported that their nurses "Always" communicated well

66%	79%	74%
	National average	Florida average

Patients who reported that their doctors "Always" communicated well

65%	79%	74%
	National average	Florida average

Patients who reported that they "Always" received help as soon as they wanted

47%	65%	58%
	National average	Florida average

Patients who reported that the staff "Always" explained about medicines before giving it to them

47%	61%	56%
	National average	Florida average

Patients who reported that their room and bathroom were "Always" clean

62%	72%	68%
	National average	Florida average

Patients who reported that the area around their room was "Always" quiet at night

49%	62%	57%
	National average	Florida average

Patients who reported that YES, they were given information about what to do during their recovery at home

77%	86%	82%
	National average	Florida average

Patients who "Strongly Agree" they understood their care when they left the hospital

37%	51%	47%
	National average	Florida average

Patients who gave their hospital a rating of 9 or 10 on a scale from 0 (lowest) to 10 (highest)

46%	70%	65%
	National average	Florida average

Patients who reported YES, they would definitely recommend the hospital

44%	69%	65%
	National average	Florida average

Hospital continued on page 7



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Hospital continued from page 6

Ratings for other hospitals in
The Villages area are:

★	UFHealth/Leesburg Hospital
★★★★	Advent Health Waterman (Tavares)
★★★★	Advent Health Ocala
★★★	Marion Community Hospital (Ocala)
★★★	HCA Florida Citrus Hospital (Inverness)
★★★★	Orlando Health South Lake Hospital (Clermont)



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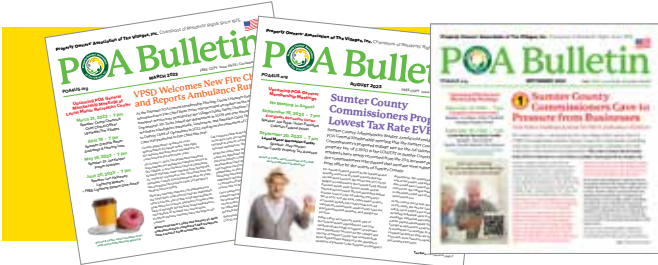
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2023 Watch List – UPDATED!

The POA has modified its 2023 Watch List and added the current issue of funding for the Fire, EMS and Emergency Transportation Services as the #1 issue. For more than two years the POA has said this is the most critical of all issues for residents of The Villages.

All of the others listed below are still important and will remain on the list behind this new public safety issue.



Villages and Sumter County Fire, EMS & Emergency Transportation Services

The POA and most residents thought this issue had been settled last year when separate Fire & EMS departments were created for The Villages and Sumter County, each with their own ambulance transportation services. The referendum for The Villages Independent Fire District failed in November by a slim margin so Sumter County continued to provide the funding mechanisms for both departments.

Sumter County conducted a study to determine a fair and equitable Fire Assessment Fee which recommended a raise from \$124 to \$323.64 per rooftop and a square footage assessment for commercial and other structures. Multi-family buildings would be charged on a per unit basis. Every member of the Board of Commissioners agreed that the fee schedule as presented was the appropriate way to fund the fire departments after discussion at the July budget workshops.

However, three of the five Commissioners flipped at a public hearing in August, caving to pressure primarily from the business community.



UF Health/The Villages Hospital

Now in the #2 spot is UF Health/The Villages Hospital. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released 2022 quality ratings in November and The Villages Hospital remained a 2-star facility based on a number of factors. Patient survey results



gave the hospital only one star. However, a recent update gave both the Villages and Leesburg Hospitals only one star. *See the article on page 5.*

With Snowbird season about to ramp up, concerns will likely begin about wait times in the Emergency Department. Fortunately, it is hoped that wait times for ambulances as well as long off-load times will be reduced now that The Villages Public Safety Department has taken over ambulance transportation services.



Personal Property Insurance

Even before Hurricane Ian hit the Gulf Coast of Florida, the personal property insurance industry was in trouble in Florida. Plagued by roofing scams that drove six insurance companies out of business in 2022, Governor Ron DeSantis called two special sessions of the Florida Legislature in June and December. Legislation was passed to help ease the burden on property owners and to tighten the regulations on roofing companies that have driven roofing costs up and insurance companies out of business.

The Florida Office of Insurance Regulation has imposed a 2% surcharge on Property owners in 2023, depending on when their policy renews, so the Florida Insurance Guaranty Association (FIGA) can cover more than 14,000 claims from insolvent companies that need to be satisfied.

Experts predict it may take years to see whether the new legislation has helped homeowners remains to be seen. In the meantime, Farmers Insurance has announced it will no longer offer homeowner policies and AAA has significantly reduced those it will cover.

Updated continued on page 9



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Updated continued from page 8



US 441 Construction Project

At the December 2022 POA General Membership meeting, officials from the Florida Department of Transportation provided an update on the US 441 construction that has already frustrated motorists for two years and claimed the life of a construction worker. Two other serious accidents have occurred in the construction zone, including two teens who were killed.

The 4.157-mile, \$45.3 million road improvement that began in July 2020 is on track to complete and re-open the entire roadway in early 2024.



Anonymous Complaints

Community Development District (CDD) 5 is reporting good results from eliminating the anonymous complaint system in its district, and other CDDs are starting to pay attention. CDD 5 supervisors say there has not been a degradation of aesthetics as a result, signaling that its new system may be working. CDD 2 has also done away with the anonymous complaint system and several others are having discussions. District Staff is working on a new process it hopes will make it easy for residents to file complaints yet address the issue of anonymous complaints from “trolls” and others who may not live in the neighborhood.



Water Usage Unexplained Overage Charges

Residents began reporting unusual spikes in their water bills last year, along with a lack of response from the Utilities Department Customer Service Department.

The POA and many residents brought the issue before the North Sumter Utility Dependent District (NSCUDD) and changes have already been made in the customer service area. In addition, the NSCUDD board recently approved a refund policy to allow for one-time credits for leak-related overages, and a policy for unexplained spikes in water usage readings. ●

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Public Discussion of Morse Blvd. Multi-Modal Path Alternatives Report

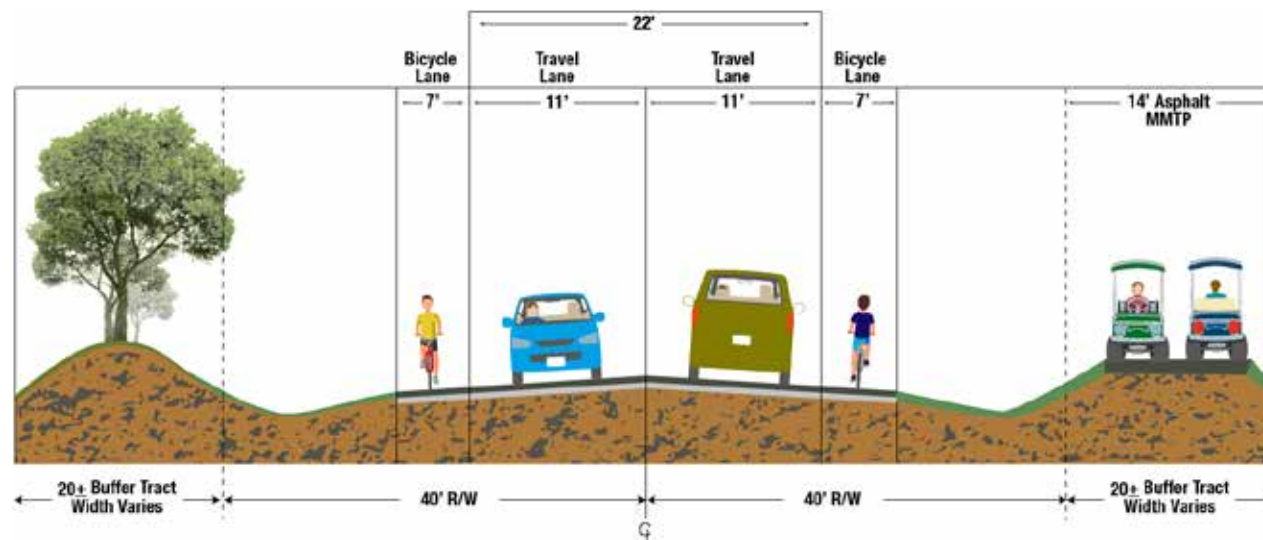
Community Development District (CDD) 1's Board of Supervisors heard a presentation at its August meeting of two alternatives that would address separation of the multi-modal path from the roadway along Morse Boulevard. The study area is from just north of CR 466 to just south of El Camino Real, with a total length of approximately 2.8 miles. Kimley-Horn and Associates was contracted by CDD 1 to study the roadway and golf cart path adjacent to it to see what could be done to provide a safer separation.

The report will be presented for discussion again in a Town Hall meeting on August 30 at 6 P.M. at La Hacienda Recreation Center. The meeting will occur after the deadline for this *POA Bulletin*, so this article will only contain information from the report and the CDD 1 Board meeting.

Sumter County owns and maintains Morse Boulevard. Their approval is necessary for either alternative. Sumter County does not have plans for modification to Morse Boulevard and has indicated it will not contribute funds towards modification of the multi-modal transportation path (MMTP) design.

Alternative 1 consists of constructing a 14-foot MMTP within the 20-foot VCCDD owned tract. The MMTP would include a 13-foot-wide asphalt surface bordered by a 6-inch concrete ribbon curb on either side. This design is consistent with the MMTP section located along Morse Boulevard north of Soledad Way. In this alternative the existing golf cart/bicycle lane would be restriped, and new signs would be posted to be a bicycle lane only. Golf carts would no longer be allowed to travel in these lanes. The cost for this option is \$15,280,000.

Alternative 1 Typical Section of Morse Boulevard, north of C 466



Two mid-block crossings will be created at locations where the MMTP shifts from one side of the roadway to the other: one crossing between Soledad Way and Medina Avenue and one crossing south of San Marino Drive and north of the postal center. The crossing at Soledad Way is not expected to have a significant volume of golf cart traffic. Standard crosswalk marking and signage is recommended at this location. The crossing south of San Marino Drive will have a significant volume of golf carts. Special emphasis with signing and marking is recommended at this location, as detailed in subsequent sections.

Alternative 2 consists of widening and repurposing the existing roadway footprint to include a 11-foot travel lane with 1-foot shoulder in each direction for automobiles and a 14-foot paved MMTP lane separated from the automobile lanes using a 4-foot concrete separator. This will require an addition of 6 feet of pavement to the existing roadway. The widening and repurposing of lanes will require pavement overbuild and cross slope correction to move the crown of the roadway to be centered on the automobile lanes, and regrading of the adjacent drainage swales along with other miscellaneous drainage improvements. The cost for this option is \$12,620,000.

Multi-Modal continued on page 11

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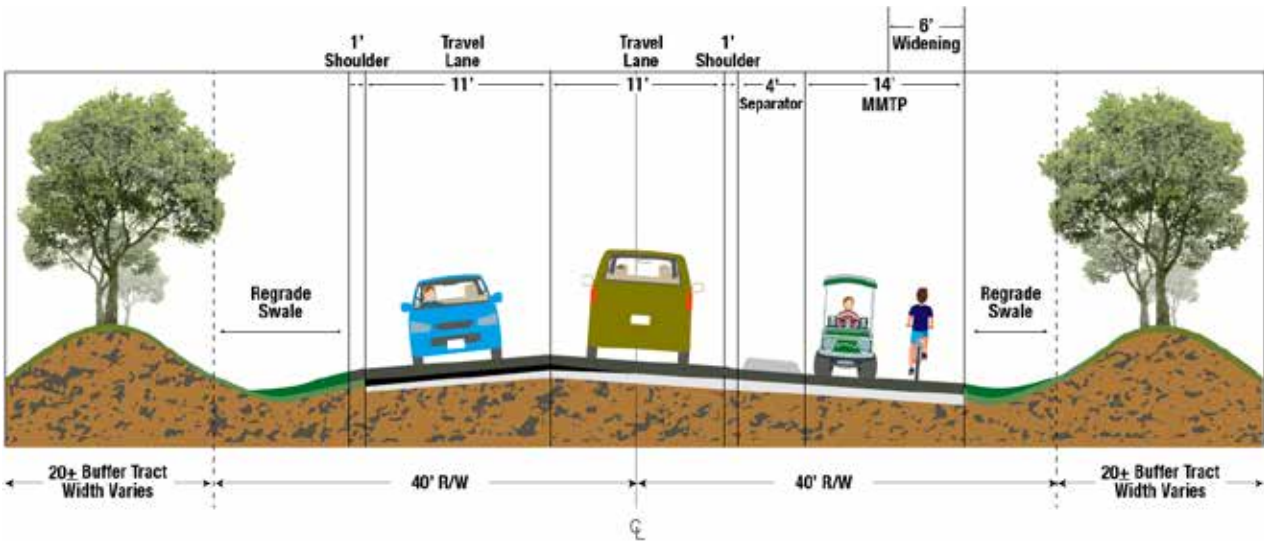
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Multi-Modal continued from page 10

Alternative 2 Typical Section of Morse Boulevard, north of C 466



There will also be two crossing locations created where the MMTP shifts from one side of the roadway to the other: one at the intersection with Soledad Way and one at a new mid-block crossing south of San Marino Drive and north of the postal center.

There are recommended improvements consistent with both alternatives based on the existing MMTP infrastructure:

Construction of a new dedicated MMTP from San Juan Drive to cross Morse Boulevard and connect to the existing MMTP on the west side of Morse Boulevard. This will eliminate the need for golf carts to travel in the existing on-street golf cart/bicycle lane, which will be signed and marked as dedicated bicycle lanes.

- Golf carts currently access San Juan Drive by turning directly from Morse Boulevard and crossing within the intersection of San Juan Drive and Morse Boulevard with automobiles.
- The proposed treatment would have a dedicated crossing, with no turning movements, for golf carts to get from one side of Morse Boulevard to the other.
- The median on Morse Boulevard is wide enough for a golf cart to stop within the median and make a 2-stage crossing.
- The proposed treatment is similar to the golf cart traffic patterns that occur today on Morse Boulevard at San Juan Drive and Desilva Street but is not consistent with other four-lane roadways in Sumter County, which do not allow golf cart crossings at-grade.

- Utilizing the existing MMTP on the west side of Morse Boulevard, from El Camino Real to Hacienda Hills Golf and Country Club.
- Finalization of a route from the MMTP tunnel at Hacienda Hills Golf and Country Club to the existing MMTP south of the Hacienda Hills Golf and Country Club.

Golf carts currently have access through the golf facility, but the original Country Club building has been demolished and a re-development of the area is underway. If either of the alternatives are constructed, additional coordination with the property owners will need to occur to refine the preferred route for this segment.

- Utilizing the existing MMTP on the east side of Morse Boulevard, from Hacienda Hills Golf and Country Club to Soledad Way.

Modification of the signalized intersection of Morse Boulevard and Rio Grande Avenue to construct a new west leg for golf carts to cross Morse Boulevard at the signalized intersection:

- A new traffic signal mast arm will be required for this improvement.
- Golf carts on the multi-modal path will be required to stop at the intersection to ensure queuing on the multi-modal path does not affect traffic operations on Morse Boulevard.
- The addition of the west leg of the intersection will reduce the green time and increase delays and queuing for Morse Boulevard.
- Signing for allowable movements will be required at the intersection to restrict golf carts on Morse Boulevard.
- There is no other signalized location within The Villages within Sumter County that has three legs of the intersection for automobiles and one leg exclusively for golf carts. The treatment will be inconsistent with other locations.
- Construction of a mid-block crossing of Morse Boulevard, south of San Marino Drive. Most of the golf carts travelling on Morse Boulevard will be present at this location and be required to cross the roadway.

Due to the high volume of golf carts crossing at this location, special emphasis features such as elevated crossing, high emphasis marking,

Multi-Modal continued on page 13



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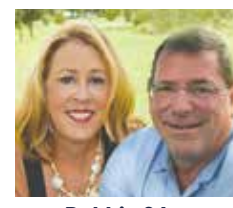
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Multi-Modal continued from page 11
advanced signage, and flashing beacons will be evaluated during implementation.

Implementation of special emphasis features will be inconsistent with other golf cart crossing locations in The Villages within Sumter County.

The average delay anticipated for golf carts crossing at this location is between 50 seconds and 60 seconds.

- Utilizing existing intersections for golf carts to cross from the MMTP to the adjacent neighborhoods on the other side of Morse Boulevard. This is consistent with how golf carts operate on Morse Boulevard today and is consistent with other roadways in The Villages within Sumter County.
- Creating 13 stop-controlled crossings of side-streets connecting to Morse Boulevard. This crossing treatment is consistent with other similar multi-modal paths in Districts 1 through 4 (El Camino Real, Buena Vista Boulevard), and will remove conflicts between through carts and turning vehicles on Morse Boulevard.
- Removal of the existing merge/crossing maneuver of Morse Boulevard, north of the CR 466 gate.

All golf carts will be required to cross Morse Boulevard at the new special emphasis crossing located south of San Marino Drive.

- Reconstruction of the existing wooden bridge connecting to the C 466 tunnel on the south end of the project to provide more width for golf carts, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

The report advises that both alternatives will have negative impacts including significant change in character along the roadway due to removal of existing mature landscaping; placing golf carts, bicyclists, and pedestrians closer to private properties; additional travel delay for golf carts due to stops for roadway crossings; impacts to delay and queueing on at Rio Grande Avenue due to adding a west leg for golf carts; impacts to the travelling public during construction; potential confusion for golf carts on allowable movements and travel on Morse Boulevard; and inconsistency with other similar roadways in The Villages within Sumter County.

The cost estimates are mostly for construction and do NOT include acquisition of land or moving utilities.

CDD 1 Supervisors have expressed frustration with the lack of interest by Sumter County officials. The POA is puzzled by the lack of/

negative response from Sumter County officials. These are very detailed alternatives, and, although costly, are a good place to begin meaningful discussions. ●

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Not only are we adding new lots we are adding new amenities for all our residents to take advantage of in our resort style community. We will have a new swimming pool with a beach entry, that includes lane swimming for laps, conversation areas for socializing and more!

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

AAC/PWAC accept Golf Operations from Developer

The Developer has decided he no longer wants to be in the golf operations business and notified District government that they would need to decide how to manage operations starting October 1. District management took the "termination agreement" to the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) and Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) in August for "approval."

In actuality there was no approval needed. The only decision to be made was whether the District would absorb the operations and 1,000 employees into its structure or try to find a contractor. In the past, Golf Management Services (GMS) managed the courses before the Developer bought the operation.

Both committees, though skeptical, directed staff to proceed with the transition to bring the golf operations for the executive golf courses and the championship courses owned by the Developer in-house. The Developer will pay the District to manage the championship courses via a contract that the Villages Center Community Development District (VCCDD) will enter into.

The AAC and PWAC each voiced concerns over whether employees of the courses would continue to receive their golf benefits. District management has been assured that they will, and indicated they think other benefits will also be enhanced.

PWAC 2 Discussion Resurfaces

With the creation of the Eastport Maintenance Advisory Committee for Community Development Districts (CDDs) 14 and 15, Chairman Don Brozick from CDD 11 asked fellow committee members if there was any appetite to look at a Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) 2 again. The first question is whether or not CDDs 12 and 13 are interested in joining the new Eastport Committee and whether they would be invited or allowed to join. CDD 12 representative Jon Roudabush and CDD 13 representative Tina Williamson will discuss the idea with their respective CDD boards. In addition,

each of the other PWAC CDDs were asked if they had an interest and all expressed that they do.

CDD 7 representative Jerry Vicenti was put on the hot seat when he was asked if he would support a PWAC 2 without creating an issue. Mr. Vicenti reiterated that he believes any change would open the PWAC agreement again for negotiation, but he is in favor of a PWAC 2. Other PWAC members expressed strong concern that they do not want to relitigate issues of the past.

Frisbee Golf in CDD 12

Residents will soon enjoy a new amenity as a Frisbee Golf Amenity is added in CDD 12 at the Hogeys Preserve. CDD 12 has approved an interlocal agreement for the \$80,000 project to be funded by PWAC.



PWAC Approves \$1M in Drainage Re-Do's

Because excessively high groundwater conditions have resulted in asphalt surface failures on several sports courts at Burnsed, Rohan and Eisenhower Recreation Centers, the Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) was asked to approve more than \$1 million for repairs. Geotechnical and Civil Engineering investigations recommended installation of Underdrain Systems and Rehabilitation at the Burnsed and Rohan Sports Courts and the Rehabilitation of the Eisenhower Platform Tennis Courts due to extensive asphalt cracking.

The installation of the new underdrain systems shall be connected to the existing drainage system with a purpose of improving the overall drainage conditions of the sports courts, as detailed in the construction plans provided by Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., which includes a full replacement of the sports courts with an underdrain installation.

In July 2023, an issue was discovered at the Eisenhower Platform Tennis Courts where there was significant cracking of the asphalt court surfaces. A Geotechnical investigation concluded that the installation of an underdrain system was not required. However, it was determined that rehabilitation of the asphalt courts is required,

which includes the installation of a new 6" lime rock base course and the installation of new asphalt court surface.

A member of the Platform Tennis Club asked that if the Eisenhower court is going to be torn up for the underdrain system, that it also be repositioned so that sun is not an issue. Currently the court is east/west facing and as a result gets very little play. The representative said it is dangerous. Bruce Brown, Deputy District Manager, said they would look into whether it could be moved, but advised there is a lot of infrastructure under the court beyond just the drain system.

Members of PWAC again questioned the quality of work of the original underdrain systems that they would fail in a relatively short time span.

Ultimately, the expenditure was approved.

NSCUDD Amends Credit Policy

The North Sumter County Utility Dependent District (NSCUDD) approved a credit policy for unexplained spikes in water usage that has resulted in overbilling for some residents. The policy was originally approved with the overage amount being refunded at the base rate for water.

August continued on page 18



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August continued on page 19

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August continued from page 18

TEA Expo – September 14

The Enrichment Academy (TEA) Fall Expo will be held September 14 from 10 A.M. – noon at the Rohan Recreation Center. Attendance is free and residents will have a chance to meet instructors, ask questions and see demonstrations.

Registration for the Fall classes will begin on September 18 at 8:30 A.M. for residents and September 22 at 8:30 A.M. for the public. Registrations can be made online at TheEnrichmentAcademy.org or at any Customer Service Center. New courses will begin on October 2, 2023. 🟢



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9 am — 11:30 am | Wednesday, Sept. 6 & 20

Chula Vista Recreation Center

3 pm — 5:30 pm | Friday, Sept. 1 & 15

Colony Cottage Recreation Center

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Lady Lake Library

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a group presentation geared toward those turning 65, will be made at 1:00 on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Aviary Recreation Center.

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AARP Driver Safety



AARP Driver Safety now offers a 6 hour “Smart Driver” course for seniors; it is designed for those 50 and older.

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

In The Villages, there are at least 4 classes each month. The classes are either two days, 9 AM to Noon or one day* 9 AM - 4 PM. Fee is \$20 for AARP members, \$25 for non-members. Select your class and call the instructor to register. Instructor will give instructions and time to arrive to complete registration.

September 2023 Schedule						
Instructor	Phone #	Day	Date	Day	Date	Location
Paul Scannell	352-399-6414	Tuesday	9/5/23	Wednesday	9/6/23	Colony
Art Donnelly	631-792-2203	Tuesday	9/12/23	Friday	9/15/23	Laurel Manor
Jack Haughn	352-603-1420	Monday	9/18/23	Thursday	9/21/23	Savannah
Art Donnelly	631-792-2203	Saturday	9/16/23	Saturday	9/23/23	Paradise
Jack Haughn	352-603-1420	Friday	9/15/23			Buffalo Crossing
Wanda Smith	972-358-9757	Tuesday	9/26/23	Wednesday	9/27/23	Rohan

AARP now offers a Free 60–90-minute Smart Driver Technology workshop for those thinking of either leasing, purchasing or just upgrading to a newer vehicle.

Local presenters would be available to attend organized social / club meetings to share this information. Please contact (352) 430-1833 to arrange a presentation for your Club.

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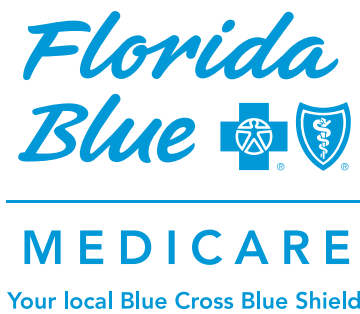
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4713 E. State Road 44, Suite 100

PLEASE RSVP: Monday - Friday 9 am - 5 pm

Medicare 101 September 1, 11 • 10 AM Get your questions answered by one of our Medicare experts	Turning 65 Medicare Event September 5 • 10 AM September 21, 26 • 2 PM Our Medicare experts are here to answer your questions	Senior Technology Class September 6 • 10 AM Bring your Apple or Android device to this 90 minute session	Fall Prevention Exercise Improve Balance September 7 • 10 AM Retired Physical Therapist Edward Yuiska
Medicare Bingo September 8, 26 • 10 AM Win prizes & learn about Medicare Ptizes given without obligation to enroll	Cardio Drumming September 12 • 10 AM Instructor Cindy Duncan Bring a 17 gal bucket, 65cm exercise ball & drumsticks MUST RSVP - SPACE LIMITED	Medicare 101 September 18, 25 • 10 AM Get your questions answered by one of our Medicare Experts	Tips for In Home Dog Training Bark Busters September 18 • 2 PM Come learn some great tips for training your canine friend
Senior Technology Class September 19, 28 • 10 AM Bring your Apple or Android device to this 90 minute session	Medicare 101 September 19, 27, 29 • 2 PM Get your questions answered by one of our Medicare experts	New Mover Medicare Event September 20 • 10 AM September 28 • 2 PM Get the Medicare information you need if you recently moved to the area	TDJ Travel Presents African Safari September 20 • 2 PM Tony DeNicola
Safety, Scams & Fraud September 21 • 10 AM Sgt David Perry Wildwood Police Department	Dancing for Health September 22 • 10-11 AM & 1-2 PM David Wade Studio	Medicare Fact or Fiction September 25 • 2 PM Come learn about Medicare while having fun!	Smart Photo Management Declutter, Save & Celebrate Your Stories September 27 • 10 AM For Ann’s Sake
Medicare Fact or Fiction September 29 • 10 AM Come learn about Medicare while having fun!	Office will be closed the following dates: Labor Day - September 4 September 13, 14, 15 for employee training		

A licensed agent will be present at each event if you have any Medicare questions or are interested in our Florida Blue Medicare Advantage Plans.



Limited Seating - RSVP Now! **Call 1-352-353-3399**

To be able to enroll or switch to a Florida Blue Medicare Plan outside of the Annual Election Period (AEP), you must be eligible for a Special Election Period (SEP) or Initial Enrollment Period (IEP). Not sure if you qualify — ask one of our agents at the event. For accommodations of persons with special needs at meetings call 1-352-353-3399 (TTY users should call 1-800-955-8770.) Florida Blue is a PPO plan with a Medicare contract. Florida Blue Medicare is an HMO plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in Florida Blue or Florida Blue Medicare depends on contract renewal. Health coverage is offered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Inc., DBA Florida Blue. HMO coverage is offered by Florida Blue Medicare, Inc., DBA Florida Blue Medicare. These companies are affiliates of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Inc., and Independent Licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. We comply with applicable Federal civil rights laws and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. For more information visit floriadblue.com/ndnotice. ©2022 Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Inc., DBA Florida Blue. All rights reserved. Y0011_FBM0924o 2022_R



How We Get Into Trouble

SENIORS VS CRIME

We recently received a complaint in one of our offices from an area resident who reported losing \$375,000.00 in a scam involving Publisher’s Clearing House. That’s not a typo – it was \$375,000.00 and it was every cent she had – her life savings. We discovered that when she had lost about \$70,000, she filed a police report claiming she had been scammed but continued to engage with the caller(s) and ended up giving them an additional \$305,000.

And, it all started with a phone call! A call from a number she didn’t recognize but answered anyway. A number that no longer works, obviously. We want to offer you some common sense advice about the use of the telephone.

Remember this always – the telephone used to be a necessity, then it became a luxury and now, IT IS A WEAPON – the telephone has been weaponized by scammers and telemarketers and we must remember that! You can reduce your chances of being victimized by phone scammers if you just follow these “rules”.

- Rule #1:** Check your caller ID and if you don’t recognize the caller, LET THE CALL GO TO VOICEMAIL.
- Rule #2:** If someone calls you and says he/she is your grandchild and is in trouble, ASK WHICH GRANDCHILD ARE YOU? Make the caller give you their name! They will hang up.
- Rule #3:** NOBODY, repeat NOBODY can monitor the speed of your computer from a remote location – unless you allow them to do so. Not Microsoft, not the NSA, NOBODY! If someone calls from Microsoft about the speed of your computer, just hang up!
- Rule #4:** The IRS, the FBI, the US Marshals, or local law enforcement will not call you on the phone and threaten you with legal action – NEVER. Just hang up!
- Rule #5:** Never give out any personal or financial information to anyone in an UNSOLICITED phone call, email or text.
- Rule #6:** Any caller who says you owe money and must pay in GIFT CARDS is a scammer – a payment demand in gift cards is ALWAYS A SCAM – NO EXCEPTIONS!
- Rule #7:** To avoid any problems that scammers will try to run on you, just go back to Rule #1

Seniors vs. Crime can be reached at:

Marion County Sheriff’s Office in The Villages
Tuesday | 10 am – 2 pm | (352) 753-7775

Sumter County Sheriff’s Office in The Villages
Monday – Thursday | 10 am – 2 pm | (352) 689-4600, Ext. 4606

Wildwood Police Annex in Brownwood
Tuesday – Thursday | 10 am – 1 pm | (352) 753-0727

Fruitland Park Police Annex in the Moyer Recreation Center
Wednesday | 10 am – 2 pm | (352) 674-1882 ●



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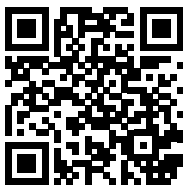


DISCOUNT PARTNERS

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 or scan the QR code below. Click ‘Discount Partners’ on the left menu. ●



QR CODE TIP: Using your smartphone or tablet, open the built-in camera app. Point the camera at the QR code. Tap the banner that appears on your phone or tablet. That will lead you directly to the linked website.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

2018 Elaine Dreidame

POA Hall of Fame

- 2022 Bill Schikora
- 2021 Bryan Lifsey
- 2020 John Donahe
Carolyn Reichel
Jerry Vicenti
- 2017 Myron Henry
- 2016 Frank E. Carr
- 2013 “Class Action Five”
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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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	Dan Myslakowski	248-802-2403
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Fighter pilots and caring doctors think alike



A fighter pilot must react instinctively. When coming off the deck of a carrier, a fighter pilot has two obligations. The first is to “take out” the target. That’s what never-ending training is all about. The second is to avoid collateral damage: you don’t hurt innocent people. If innocent people are in the “line of fire,” you abort the mission and come back on a new day.

For medicine in general, but especially for a cancer specialist, these two obligations remain constant. “Taking out” the target becomes the primary goal, whether it be an infection, a diseased/

malfunctioning organ...or cancer. But the second goal, avoiding collateral damage, is just as important: for a patient’s health, eliminate unacceptable side effects that can be avoided.

Patients should be protected with both...every time!

Our medical practice breathes such faith. We don’t exist in a “mill” that maximizes profit while feeding an assembly line. If the treatment you desire resembles a family...we are your hope. That choice has been...and always will be...yours! You shouldn’t have to pay for that comfort: it ought to blend inseparably

as part of your medical experience.

It’s best to receive care from a doctor who thinks like a fighter pilot. For cancer care, RBOI has proven to be your ultimate aircraft carrier. We are the wind beneath your wings.

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