POA4US.org

**FEBRUARY 2024** 

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## **Upcoming POA General Membership Meetings**

February 20, 2024 • 7 pm

**Laurel Manor Recreation Center** 

Speaker: Dr. Norman Anderson Topic: Innovations in Cancer Treatment

#### March 19, 2024 • 7 pm

**Laurel Manor Recreation Center** 

Speaker: Cheryl Chestnutt, UF/The Villages Hospital Topic: Hospital Update



Donuts & Coffee will be available at the POA General Membership Meetings

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## Villages Fire Department Strives to Keep Up With Demand

According to Fire Chief Brian Twiss, the Villages Fire Department's goal for the year is to keep up with demand, get the new Dependent Fire District up and running, and get the funding the Department needs. Chief Twiss spoke to residents at the POA's first General Membership Meeting of the year in January.

The Mission Statement of the Fire Department is "The Villages Public Safety Department is committed to the safety of our community through the delivery of emergency services, fire prevention, and education. We will safeguard life, property, and the environment." Chief Twiss emphasized that they are a very fast-growing department and will do everything they can to fulfill their mission.

Division Chief Kenneth Wannen is responsible for Emergency Medical Services (EMS), which transported 15,586 patients last year. That is significantly higher than initial projections. They transport 42-46 patients a day out of 60 EMS calls. The average response time is 7 minutes, 42 seconds. It is an EMS more incredible than any Chief Wannen has seen. During peak times they have 6-7 calls an hour. It takes 50-60 minutes round trip to arrive, treat, transport, and get back to the assigned zone. That does not include what the fire department does with lift assists, smoke

investigations, or vehicle accidents.

There are 15 ambulances, with 10 that are staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. High volume areas have a second ambulance at the station so they can respond even when one is out. One ambulance operates 12 hours a day during peak times. There are 4 reserves/spares, with 3 on order. They will likely need more ambulances as growth continues in the south area of The Villages.

Ambulances are strategically placed according to call volume. There are 3,000 hours on every unit which equates to about 80,000 miles. Chief Wannen said it takes about two years to build an ambulance, which requires advance planning.

All units have two paramedics or a paramedic and an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), and all have Advanced Life Support (ALS.) Patient transfers have decreased from 40 minutes down to 25 minutes, working with the hospital and

**Fire Department** 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**

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.

#### **Fire Department** continued from page 1

Emergency Room administrators. Chief Wannen said he gets mostly thank you calls, with a minor number of complaints. Most transports are from Sumter County.

Chief Twiss talked about the Villages Public Safety Department Dependent District (VPSDDD), created after the Sumter County Commissioners' proposed increase in the Fire Assessment Fee was defeated, leading to a \$14 million budget cut. Chief Twiss said that some of the benefits of the new board are that the members are elected and will

- give them the ability to efficiently deliver fire & EMS services.
- support and fund capital equipment and levels of services.
- establish equitable and proportionate rates, fees and charges.
- provide security for the attraction of firefighters and EMS personnel.
- put the department in a position to serve the continuous growth in The Villages.

## Chief Twiss said The Villages Fire Department is currently fully staffed.

As established, the VPSDDD will generate revenue with non-ad valorem assessments and the allowance of up to .75 mills in ad valorem taxes.

With more than 90 square service miles, the Department covers Sumter County portion of The Villages, Wildwood including Community Development Districts (CDDs) 12, 13, and 15, Middleton and Eastport Industrial Park, Fruitland Park (CDD 11), the Enclave in Lake County, and Leesburg CDD 14. Most calls are obviously in Sumter County.

Average response time, including ambulances and fire, during Fiscal Year 22-23 was 5 minutes, 42 seconds.

The Villages Fire Department this year received the second highest rating by the Insurance Services Office (ISO), with a Class 2/2Y rating. This indicates superior fire protection based on the comprehensive evaluation of the department's apparatus equipment, station locations and water supply. Chief Twiss said that ISO ratings have a significant role in the underwriting process of

insurance companies and is used in determining policy premiums for personal or commercial property. The rating occurs every five years, and they are striving for a rating of 1.

Growth is occurring with new construction starting on Station 46 in the Fenney area. Also under construction is Station 48 on Marsh Bend Trail and Station 49 construction will begin this year on CR 470.

Chief Twiss concluded saying that as The Villages continues to grow at a rapid pace, VPSD is going to grow synonymously with the community as population, service demands, and response areas continue to increase. They intend to uphold their commitment to the community and public they serve, and have served, for more than 20 years.

## How are new stations and locations determined?

It is not exactly determined by the number of homes, but when service calls warrant, they start looking at units and availability. Stations are within 5 miles of each other.

#### How do you handle a 911 call if you arrive at the residence, the door is locked and there is no answer?

They look at factors such as where the call came from and if a vehicle is in the driveway. They will check with neighbors and look in windows. If necessary, they will force entry.

## What is the neighborhood Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and what is its value?

The AED program in The Villages is second to none and has very high results. Residents can contact the fire department to see how to set up a program for their neighborhood.

NOTE: The POA has also been involved in helping neighborhoods set up programs. Contact Cliff Wiener for more information or a presentation.

#### How will new fire stations be funded?

The establishing ordinance does not reference using a Fire Impact Fee. Funding will come from the allowed assessments. The District has not considered issuing bonds.

**Fire Department** continued from page 2

## Why do both ambulances and fire trucks arrive respond to calls?

It is all related to response times. A fire truck may be the first on the scene and its personnel can do everything an ambulance can except transport.

#### What is a premier level of service?

It is all about the quality of care and response times

## With the current budget, is the funding adequate?

With the budget cut, 57 new personnel have not been hired, but yes there are adequate funds. District Manager Kenny Blocker said that the board will be looking at the assessments and will make decisions based on good, factual information. Ambulance service is not part of the Fire Assessment Fee.

#### Will all stations have ladder trucks?

It depends on the location and the commercial composition of the area. All new stations will be built to accommodate the largest equipment.

#### Does the VPSDDD include other counties?

There are Interlocal Agreements with Lady Lake, Fruitland Park, Lake County and Leesburg where assessment fees are paid. There is a Mutual Aid agreement with Marion County, which means The Villages Fire & EMS will respond when requested.

## How can information be found about the VPSDDD?

A link for the VPSDDD has been created on **DistrictGov.org**.

#### Why aren't Fire Impact Fees being considered?

That is a Sumter County question. Mr. Blocker said they (the District) "don't do impact fees."

## Can dispatch relay calls that only send the necessary ambulance if it can get there in three minutes?

Two units do not go to every call, and yes, dispatch does evaluate the calls as they come in.





MEMBERSHIP DUES Joining or Renewing at \$15 per year per household

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ACCOUNT INFORMATION

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Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

# of Residents at address below

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Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for membership card(s).

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## Understanding Alzheimer's Disease

Dr. Craig Curtis, MD, is a national expert on Alzheimer's Disease with 25 years spent researching treatments and brain health. He focuses on prevention and treatment of Alzheimer's disease and his research has been published in leading national and international medical journals. His company, K2, is part of a national study group called AHEAD that began in 2020, examining the causes of Alzheimer's Disease. AHEAD includes such national health research leaders as the National Health Institute (NIH), Harvard, Mayo, Stanford, Cleveland Clinic, and others.

Right here in The Villages! You can become part of the research project, attend educational seminars, and have your brain tested!

The Alzheimer's timeline began in 1850 with the birth of Auguste Deter and she met Dr. Alzheimer in 1906, after which he published his famous paper. Nothing really happened for 80 years until 1984 when doctors discovered what Dr. Alzheimer wrote about. They called it "amyloids." In the 1980s the theory was that if amyloids were what caused Alzheimer's, and they could get rid of amyloids, could they slow the progression of Alzheimer's? That theory was proven in 2023 when the world's first medicine to lower amyloids was found to slow the progression of Alzheimer's by about 27%. That medicine was approved by the FDA last year.

An amyloid PET scan was developed in 2004 at the University of Pittsburg so doctors could see amyloid in the brain, and they no longer needed spinal fluid or tissue. In 2020, the world's first blood test was cleared to find amyloid in the brain.

Dementia is an umbrella term. There are about 30 kinds of dementia, and it simply means progressive memory loss that impairs your daily functioning. Alzheimer's makes up 60-80% of cases, with other types such as Lewy Body and Frontotemporal Dementia.

## The #1 risk factor is age, and genetics account for 70% of cases.

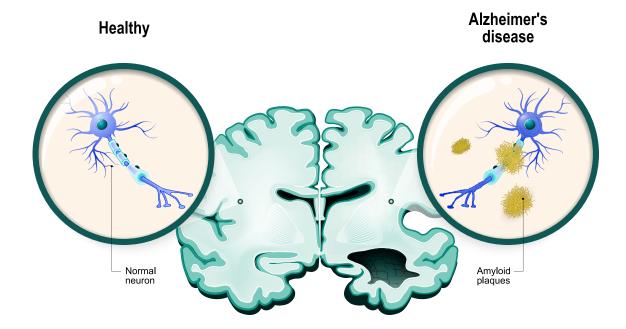
The brain has 100 billion brain cells and about 100,000 can fit in one grain of sand. Alzheimer's attacks the hippocampus part of the brain, causing short-term memory consolidation (loss).

When in her 40's, Auguste Dieter developed symptoms such as memory loss, problems with thinking and changes in behavior, which her family interpreted as mental health issues. They took her to Dr. Alzheimer who was a top German psychiatrist. He put her in his hospital where he took care of her for a couple of years until she developed a bed sore and died. Dr. Alzheimer looked in her brain and saw the amyloids which he wrote about in his paper. The brain cells looked tangled with plaque surrounding them. Previously these plaques were referred to as senile plaques, and when they were discovered again, they began to understand more about the disease.

Amyloids are a normal substance in the brain. Something happens to them and causes them to misfold and create these deposits. Other diseases such as Parkinson's and Lou Gehrig's disease have proteins that are also necessary but cause these diseases when they clump in that part of the brain. Amyloids causing Alzheimer's were found earlier than either of these other clumps. Heart disease can also be caused by the buildup of plaques. The mis-clumping of these proteins is being studied all over the world.

How is Alzheimer's diagnosed? Of course, they conduct medical tests, blood tests, and get general medical history mainly to rule out other causes of the memory loss. One of the most important tests is the PET scan that looks at the brain for the buildup of amyloids.

Everyone has "senior moments," and they are absolutely normal. But they are also the first sign of Alzheimer's. Research has now shown that amyloids start to build up about two decades before the first signs of memory loss and scientists are grappling with this fact. They are going after amyloid now before there are symptoms and are part of the world's largest prevention trial. The US government is funding a very large trial at 75 research centers around the country run by the NIH, Harvard University, and the University of Southern California. K2 Research is part of that study.





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#### **Alzheimer's** continued from page 5

They are finding people over the age of 55 who are not showing serious signs of memory loss. They come in for a blood draw and if there is evidence of amyloids, they are given a PET scan. Then they go into a study with the medicine that was approved to lower amyloid in the brain, with the hope they will never progress to ever having Alzheimer's dementia. Prevention is now the hottest topic in the world in Alzheimer's research.

#### **Non-Medicinal Prevention:**

- Exercise 30 minutes a day, 4 days a week, i.e. a brisk walk (not a "stroll").
- · Stay socially engaged.
- · Keep your brain active.
- Mediterranean diet lots of fresh fruits, vegetables, olive oil, fish and poultry, less red meats. You don't need to do all 21 meals a week. Two things in this diet are the Omega 3 and Omega 6 fatty acids and polyphenols that have heavy antioxidants. Plant micronutrients are very powerful and important.

For more information about Dr. Curtis' research study and how to get involved, you can scan this QR code or go to his website CraigCurtisMD.com or call 352-500-5252. His office is located in the Sharon Morse building on US 441.







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#### Are there side effects of the medications?

The medicines are antibodies that bind amyloid. Amyloid sticks to the blood vessels. When they are removed, it can cause some fluid leaking, and they do worry about brain bleeds. However, about 1 in 1,000 will naturally have a brain bleed while it goes up to 2 in 1,000 with the medication. It becomes a decision of risk vs. reward. MRI monitoring must be done. The medicine must be given under the care of a doctor.

#### What is sonic "smashing?"

The problem is with the blood vessels which ultrasound can break up to allow the medicine to pass through.

#### What about supplements?

The best supplement is the "Mind" (Mediterranean) diet. Some people take quercetin, Omega 3 and 6 (not too much!), turmeric, fresh fruits, legumes, fish, and poultry.

#### Will there be a vaccine?

They are working on a vaccine.

#### Is Artificial Intelligence (AI) helping?

Al is one of the hottest topics in medicine but not helping a lot for this right now. They don't know yet why amyloid clumps.

#### Does Amyloid show up in regular blood tests?

No, it does not. Your doctor can order the blood test, but Medicare doesn't pay for it yet.

#### Are you familiar with a study on Down Syndrome?

Yes. Chromosome 21 is an extra that causes Down Syndrome, and it also produces more amyloid. It is something they are actively studying.

#### What is the cost of the new medicine?

It is very expensive -- \$25,000 a year.

#### What about multi-vitamins?

Studies have found no benefits, but Dr. Curtis still takes his!

## **Senior Moments Just Got Awesome**

### A Beautiful Community...Countless Reasons to Make Your Move

**Looking to move?** Water Oak Country Club Estates is an affordable, resort-style 55+ manufactured housing community, where acting your age is not required! Located in the Town of Lady Lake, just outside the clamor of The Villages, our friendly community has nearly all amenities that other communities have to offer, at a fraction of the cost.

Water Oak has over 1,300 occupied sites at present, and we are expanding! Our homes are gorgeous and stand toe to toe with any stick-built home. With prestigious manufacturers such as Skyline and Palm Harbor, they are built like a stick-built home but in a factory, not on site. That is a huge cost savings to the consumer. In addition, as a land leased community, you pay a monthly lot rent but will never get a tax assessment, pay HOA fees or bonds. I know what you are going to ask next, but what about appreciation? The homes in Water Oak follow all the real estate trends.

Our lot rent includes but is not limited to the following: private streets (maintained by Water Oak), 24/7 manned gate, lawn mowing, 2 clubhouses, sports complex, a fullservice restaurant/bar (open to the public), 2 pools with a 3rd planned, and too many activities to mention in this article.

Our newly renovated, 18-hole Championship Golf Course which is open to the public, has available and affordable tee times! Resident discounted memberships apply.

Don't forget to unwind after a round of golf at the 19th Hole, our full-service bistro restaurant/bar.

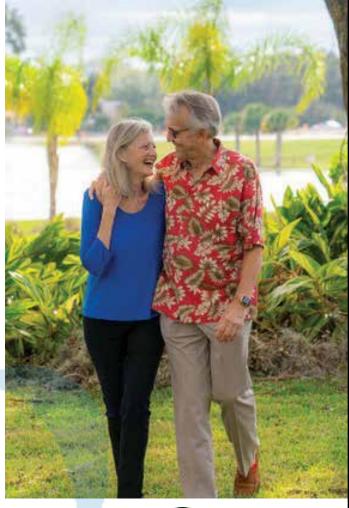
Water Oak has so much to offer its residents right here in the community, they rarely leave! Whether you are an active or not-so active senior, we have a plethora of activities to meet all needs. Don't forget, the shopping and activities in the Village Squares are open to the public. One can still enjoy those amenities yet live out of the congested hustle-bustle of The Villages.

Many of our residents have moved out of The Villages and into Water Oak for a smaller, closer-knit community where everybody knows your name. So, although smiling may cause wrinkles, here at Water Oak, there is MUCH to smile about. Dip into one of our two crystal clear heated pools. Take your furry friends to our existing dog park with a second one planned. Need a more active lifestyle? How about a game of pickle ball, tennis, bocce ball, soft ball, horseshoes, kayak, fishing, golf, or sand volleyball to name a few.

We invite you to visit Water Oak Country Club Estates and see for yourself. It's truly a stunning community which likens to a beautiful oasis hidden just off the beaten path.

When you come in for a tour and show your Village ID Card to one of our sales team members, you will receive a gift card to the 19th Hole/Pro Shop AND be entered into our Villager's Monthly wine basket raffle!

Michelle Harmon, General Manager





## Water Oak

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Speaker: Dr. Norman Anderson **Topic: Innovations in Cancer Treatment** 

#### March 19, 2024 • 7 pm

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Speaker: Cheryl Chestnutt, **UF/The Villages Hospital** Topic: Hospital Update

#### April 4, 2024 • 7 pm

#### **Everglades Recreation Center**

Speaker: Dr. Danielle Rossier, Audiologist **Topic: Hearing Loss** 

#### April 16, 2024 • 7 pm

#### **Laurel Manor Recreation Center**

Speaker: Clarence Haynes of **Edelman Financial Engines** Topic: How to Choose a Financial Advisor

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# Memory Loss??

## Craig Curtis, M.D. **US NAVY VETERAN**



Dr. Craig Curtis, MD, is a national expert on Alzheimer's Disease with 25 years spent researching treatments and brain health. He focuses on prevention and treatment of Alzheimer's Disease and his research has been published in leading national and international medical journals. Dr. Curtis is particularly interested in the underlying biology and prevention of memory loss, dementia, and Alzheimer's Disease - and pursuing the science that one day will lead to an effective treatment.

## Join Dr. Craig Curtis for a FREE Seminar where you will learn about:

- Causes of memory loss and proper diagnosis
- Memory, Forgetfulness and Aging What is Normal?
- Differences between Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia
- New FDA approved treatments to slow Alzheimer's Disease
- A brain healthy diet and lifestyle
- ALL are welcome to this educational event

## **CALL TODAY TO RSVP**



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# **Elections Update**



Election Season 2024 is well underway, with more candidates filing to run for local office. Following is a Sumter County update, with a reminder there is still plenty of time to consider running for one of your Community Development District (CDD) Board of Supervisors' seats or for county offices.

#### **Sumter County Sheriff**

Eric Ryan Anderson – No Party Affiliation Patrick Breeden - REP Anthony Pellicano - REP Daniel L. Sells - REP

#### **Sumter County Commissioner**

Debora K. "Deb" Butterfield, District 1 – REP Craig A. Estep, District 3 – REP Donald Wiley, District 5 – REP

#### Villages Community Development Districts (VCDDs) - All are running as Non Partisan

Rocky Hyder – VCDD 1 – Board of Supervisors, Seat 5

Cliff Wiener – VCDD 4 – Board of Supervisors, Seat 1\* Marion County

Gerald Ferlisi – VCDD 5 – Board of Supervisors, Seat 3

Philip Beitel – VCDD 5 – Board of Supervisors, Seat 4

Mark Schweikert - VCDD 5 - Board of Supervisors, Seat 4

Wayne Anderson – VCDD 8 – Board of Supervisors, Seat 1

Steven Bova – VCDD 10 – Board of Supervisors, Seat 4

Visit your county's Supervisor of Elections website for instructions on how to file and other contact information: SumterElections.org; VoteMarion.gov; LakeVotes.com.



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## **Are Your Estate Planning Documents in Order?**

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#### **Attorney Kathryn Linn will discuss: Estate Planning**

- Whether your out-of-state documents are valid in Florida.
- The Probate process and how to potentially avoid it.
- How to provide for a special needs/handicapped beneficiary.
- How to potentially minimize or eliminate estate taxes.



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### **POA Offers Additional Discount Card for New Members**

If a resident signs up as a New Member, they will receive a special Discount Card featuring 21 businesses. Just use the card a couple of times and you've recouped your \$15 membership fee!

Use the membership form on page 3 to sign up or come to a membership meeting, held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7 pm at Laurel Manor Recreation Center.

#### Existing members may purchase the card for just \$5! One box of donuts and you've received your \$5 back!

Check out our full list of Discount Partners available to every member for more savings!





## Elect Deb Butterfield

FOR SUMTER CO. COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1

**Lifelong Republican** 

F.I.T. for Office! **FAIRNESS. INTEGRITY. TRUTH.** 

Deb Butterfield is a Lifelong Republican, originally from Valparaiso, Indiana, and currently living in the Village of Winifred.

President/Owner Deb Butterfield Communications, Inc. since 2008

Appointed to Valparaiso, IN City Council, District 2 & subsequently Elected to At-Large Council Seat

Member of Valparaiso, IN Plan Commission & Park Board

Member of Valparaiso, IN Parks Foundation Board

Appointed to the Ivy Tech Community College State Board of Trustees

Chamber of Commerce executive in Indiana for 15 years

Member of numerous other community boards & organizations

Small Business Retailer in Indiana and The Villages 2008-2016

Independent Writer/Editor of the POA Bulletin

Recipient of Distinguished Community Leader Award in Valparaiso, IN

Graduate of Indiana University, B.A. Degree in Journalism

Deb Butterfield believes that everyone in Sumter County deserves to be treated with the same respect, whether an individual or a business, whether a resident of The Villages or other parts of the County. Everyone deserves access to quality services, quality roads, and quality emergency and safety services. At the same time, everyone - individual or business should pay their Fair share.

Deb Butterfield will not compromise her integrity to make decisions that do not pass the Fairness test.

She conducts herself with Integrity...having the qualities of honesty and strong moral principles.

**Deb Butterfield tells the Truth.** She believes that people have the ability, when presented with facts and the truth, to understand and to make up their own minds.

#### **Deb Butterfield will**

- · Work to keep taxes low.
- · Work with, and listen to, every resident in Sumter County.
- Balance the interests of residents and business.
- Make decisions that will maintain a high quality of life.

I'd love to talk to you and your neighbors about issues that are important to you - contact me today!



219-508-6863



(C) Elect Deb Butterfield@gmail.com

Paid Political Advertisement paid for in-kind by the Property Owners' Association of The Villages Approved by Debora K. "Deb" Butterfield, Republican, for Sumter County Commissioner, District 1





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



#### **Dependent Fire District**

The next meeting of the Villages Public Safety Department Dependent District (VPSDDD) will

be on Wednesday, February 7 at 1 pm at Savannah Center. It is expected that the District will receive the consultant's report on the study into the assessment methodology that PFM Financial Advisors said would be "fair and equitable" to all parcel owners.

The VPSDDD has the power to determine, order, levy, impose, collect, and enforce non-ad valorem special assessments to operate and maintain District facilities and provide services as described in the establishing ordinance.

Members of the newly seated Board of Supervisors for the VPSDDD were pleased with the turnout of so many residents at its first meeting in December and encouraged residents to be involved, attend the meetings, and provide input.



## Multi-Modal Path Discussion Group to Hold Meeting

The Multi-Modal Path Discussion Group will hold its next meeting on February 20 at 1:30 pm at Savannah Center. The meeting was scheduled at the request of the Chairman of Community Development District (CDD) 4, Cliff Wiener.

Two meetings were held last year. Mr. Wiener would like to discuss ongoing safety issues with the multi-modal paths, as well as other topics that affect districts throughout The Villages. Last year one of the biggest issues that came up was the sale of properties that were later found to be in non-compliance with their deed restrictions.

The meeting is open to the public and residents are encouraged to attend and participate.

#### Morse Embankment Revetment

District Property Management will be performing revetment for the island's shoreline below Parker Morse Bridge to prevent erosion. This will involve clearing the area and installing rip-rap around the shoreline. The main area of construction will be stationed at the Sunset Park lookout at the center of the bridge. The park will be closed for the duration of the project. Curbing will be removed between the golf cart lane and automotive lane to allow entry and exit for equipment and construction materials. Construction flagmen will direct traffic when construction vehicles are commuting the bridge. Construction was scheduled to begin on Monday, January 29 and work hours will be 7 am to 7 pm. If you have any questions, please call District Property Management at 352-753-4022.

#### Basin Has Had 30+ "Anomalies"

A water retention basin in the Fenney area, known as Basin D12, has had more than 30 "anomalies" that have caused water to drain, and District Property Management has been trying to determine how to fix it. The latest proposal was to separate the basin into two areas with a berm since the anomalies have occurred primarily on one side. However, that fix would have cost more than \$600,000, and it was not certain that it would really take care of the problem.

Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) members expressed frustration that this basin, along with others, have continued to have issues resulting in hundreds of thousands of dollars in repair costs. One resident suggested that the proposed berm would not solve the problem and that the District should go back to the original designer to make an Error and Omissions claim.

Assistant District Manager said they could not make an insurance claim, but residents could take legal action. Mr. Brown also indicated that staff is not recommending the berm solution but said that the permit from the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFMD) requires an immediate repair if a hole opens. He stated that with more than 750 basins throughout the Villages extensive stormwater overflow system, there are bound to be breeches.

PWAC member Steve Bova recommended watching the basin over the next 12 months and continuing to monitor repair costs. Other members agreed.

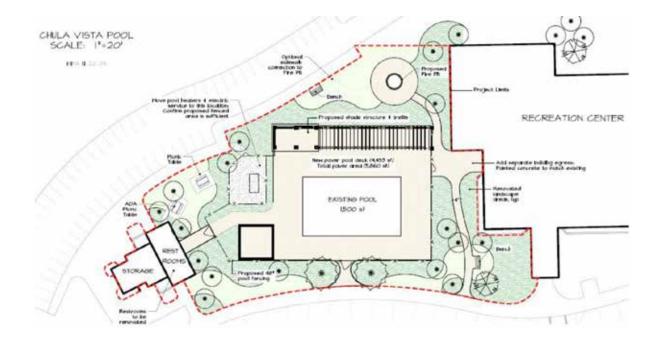
**In Case You Missed It** continued on page 15



#### **Chula Vista Pool Renovation**

Construction bid documents are expected to be ready in March for the renovation of the Chula Vista pool. The renovation project will include:

- Complete pool renovation including a new interior finish, waterline tile, brick coping and decorative brick deck pavers over old cement "cool deck" painted finish.
- A new PVC shade trellis and the addition of a shade pavilion on the pool deck.
- Extension of the pool deck area by 1200+ square feet.
- · Refresh of the existing restroom and relocation of the existing pool equipment.
- · Natural gas firepit overlooking the golf course with stack stone paver wall and seating area.
- Brand new landscaping, addition of picnic tables and paver sidewalks for pool, recreation center and restroom access.
- · The project is expected to take 120 days and will begin in July. The target completion date is November 2024, before the Paradise Recreation Center pool is closed.



A resident who met with staff along with other residents last year said they came with a list of items they would like to see, and none of those items appear to be included. Specifically, they are asking for a structure wall instead of landscaping alongside of the pool deck area. They also expected the project would have been done earlier in the Fiscal Year.

Deputy District Manager Carrie Duckett said that staff would meet with the resident/residents again to discuss the details of the project.

**In Case You Missed It** continued on page 16



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**In Case You Missed It** continued from page 16



#### Cordoba Rec Center Now Open

The new Cordoba Recreation Center on North Morse Boulevard enjoyed its grand opening on January 23. The new recreation center was built by The Villages Developer as part of the agreement for receiving amenity units from the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) for new housing on the site of the former Hacienda Country Club and restaurant.

The Center includes a picnic pavilion, two pickleball courts, corn toss area, a walking path and a resort style family pool.

Residents are also ecstatic that the new postal station — with 1200 boxes! — is also open and they no longer must use the postal trailer that has been on the site for more than a year. Residents expressed appreciation to Community Watch for being so helpful during the temporary postal situation and handing out keys to their new boxes.

#### **CDD Orientation Moves to Tuesdays**

Residents are invited to attend the District's "Introduction to your Special Purpose Local Government" informational program. In the program, residents will learn how the districts operate and learn other important community information about the people, services, and other supporting entities that help make The Villages a premier community. No sign-ups or fees are required for this presentation.

This program was held on the second and fourth Thursday of the month but will now be held on the first and third Tuesday of the month. It is held at 10 am at the District office located at 984 Old Mill Run in Lake Sumter Landing. For additional information, please contact District Customer Service at 352-753-4508.

#### **Residents Asked to Conserve Water**

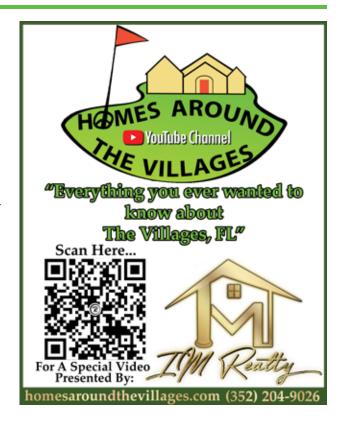
Villagers are being asked to cut back on water usage as the aquifer level is down from one year ago.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFMD) has declared a Modified Phase In Water Shortage because the aquifer level is down from one year ago. It will be in effect through July 1.

In Sumter County, even numbered addresses can water before 10 am or after 4 pm on Thursday and/or before 10 am or after 4 pm on Sundays. Odd-numbered addresses can water before 10 am on Wednesdays and/or before 10 am or after 4 pm Saturdays.

Residents may recall that during extreme drought conditions in 2017, a surcharge was assessed if residents exceeded certain water usage levels. There is no surcharge imposed at this time.

For a complete guide to watering in The Villages, check out: **thevillageswaterwisdom.com/irrigation-schedules** 





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## **SHINE Offers Medicare Help**

SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) volunteers are available to assist clients with Medicare related questions including Medicaid, Medicare, and Medigap plans, financial assistance, and scams. The service is free and unbiased, and reservations are not taken.

Counselors are scheduled at the following locations to assist area residents for one-onone counseling on the indicated days.

Eisenhower Recreation Center. 9 am - 11:30 am, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays.

Chula Vista Recreation Center, 3 pm - 5:30 pm, 1st & 3rd Fridays.

Lake Miona Recreation Center, 9 am - 11:30 am - 2nd & 4th Tuesdays.

Lady Lake Library, 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm - 2nd & 4th Wednesdays.

Also, "Understanding Medicare," 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.

For more information, go to FloridaShine.org or call 800-963-5337.

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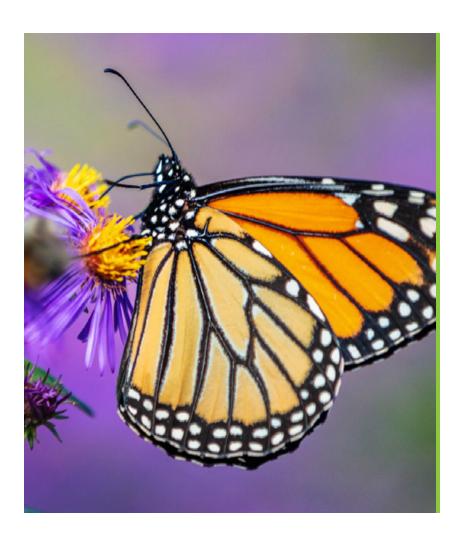


**Cliff Wiener, POA President** 

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1presidentpoa@poa4us.org





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- Kathleen Geremia Nutrition
- Donna Fox Improving Balance with Tai Chi
- Dr. Bob Goethe Managing Side Effects (Medical Marijuana)
- Amy Roberts Stress & Anxiety Reduction (Mindfulness)

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## **Driver Safety**

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.

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 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. Volunteers Needed! Contact Chet at 352-430-1833 or 352-348-4946.

February 2024 Schedule						
Instructor	Phone #	Day	Date	Day	Date	Location
Chet Kowalski	352-430-1833	Tue	2/6/24	Wed	2/7/24	Colony
Jack Haughn	352-603-1420	Tue	2/13/24	Fri	2/16/24	Laurel Manor
George Rodriguez	802-349-8080	Sat	2/17/24	Sat	2/24/24	Paradise
Don Walker	352-430-0610	Mon	2/19/24	Thur	2/22/24	Savannah
Art Donnelly	631-792-2203	Fri	2/16/24	ONE D	AY	Buffalo Crossings





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## Lightning Safety By Len Hathaway

A look back at the 2023 lightning experience nationally and locally and a look ahead to the 2024 lightning season. But first a lightning trivia question. Thor was the Norse god of thunder and lightning. How does Thor have an impact on our lives every week? Answer below.

Last year 13 lightning fatalities were recorded in the US and that is close to the record low of 11 in 2021. We have come a long way since the early 1940's when the US typically experienced over four hundred lightning fatalities a year. The awareness campaigns of numerous organizations over the years to educate the public about the hazard of lightning are paying off.

Florida continues to be the Lightning Capital of the Nation. Of the thirteen fatalities four occurred in Florida – one standing under a tree, a roof worker, a boater, and walking on a sidewalk.

Here in The Villages the number of days with lightning was ninety-seven which was 14 fewer days than the previous year. Our 10-year average is 108 days with lightning.

The most significant lightning experience occurred in the Village of Linden in June when a home took a direct strike destroying the home. Another event in DeLuna in July caused lesser damage temporarily displacing the homeowners.

Twenty-two homes have been either destroyed or rendered uninhabitable due to direct lightning strikes since 2004.

The Villages Public Safety Department responded to about a dozen and half close call lightning events in 2023 – about the same as last year. Two homes experienced holes in the roof but fortunately no fire while others experienced strikes to nearby trees.

An unknown number of homeowners experienced lightning surge damage to sensitive electronic equipment and appliances due to the absence of surge protection devices collectively resulting in thousands of dollars in damage and inconvenience.

If your club, organization, church, or civic group would benefit from a free noncommercial, educational, community service Power Point presentation, *Lightning Tips for Villagers*, that addresses personal lightning safety, lightning surge protection for appliances and high-valued electronics, lightning protection systems for your home, and debunking ten common lightning myths please contact Len Hathaway at LHATHA@AOL.COM.

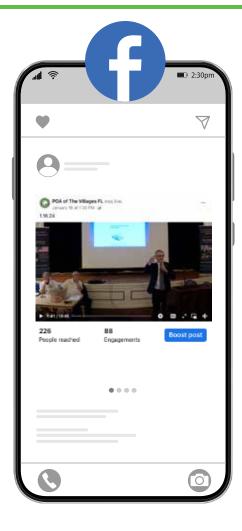
Answer to trivia question.

Thor gave us the name for the fifth day of the week Thursday that evolved from the Danish " Thorsday". In German it is "Donnerstag" - thunder day.

## **Community Watch Reports Quarterly Activity**

Community Watch Chief Nehemiah Wolf reported the department's quarterly activity for the period October 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023.

- The Community Help Initiative Response Program (CHIRP) was launched last year, with close to 4,500 CHIRP lanyards have been provided to residents to date. The lanyard has a whistle that should be blown 3 times in the event of a fall or other emergency.
- During normal daily patrols, CW Patrol Drivers have provided over 5,000 slap bands to residents to assist in being seen while exercising or walking their dog during dusk or the early morning hours when visibility is low.
- Gate operation attendants made 10,224 to Adult Watch residents during the last quarter.
- 91,223 activities were performed by all disciplines of Community Watch.
- CW Patrol Drivers also completed 2,199 House Checks at the request of Village residents.
- Opened the DeLuna Gatehouse on Marsh Bend Trail.
- CW moved into their dedicated area at the South Annex, providing a Supervisor's office, conference / training room, workstations, and storage.
- CW staffing the Hacienda Hills Temporary Postal Station.
- Due to the great success of the Patrol Drivers
   Hiring Event held on October 13, 2022, CW
   Training Coordinators trained a total of 20 Patrol
   Drivers.
- Training Coordinators trained 19 Gate Attendants.
- Community Watch Employee Recognition was held at the Largo location.
- Patrol Zone 15 was created due to the continued expansion south, providing all Villages residents with the same quality service and peace of mind.
- Community Watch north annex office opening in January 2023 near the Alhambra Storage Facility provides CW Supervisors and team members a convenient location to meet and conduct internal meetings and trainings.



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The Villages Health Lake Deaton Care Center 779 Kristine Way The Villages, FL 32163

The Villages Health **Mulberry Care Center** 8877 SE 165 Mulberry Ln The Villages, FL 32163

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The Bellamy Brothers Mon. Mar. 4, 3:30 \$25

Rilev Green

Wed. Mar. 6, 7:30

\$50



Bill Haley Jr. & The Comets Thu. Mar. 7, 10:30



ZZ TOP

Mon. Mar. 4, 7:30

FREÉ





Gene Watson

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Cody Johnson Sun. Mar. 10, 7:30 \$75



Mark Lowry

Tue. Mar. 5, 3:30

\$30

Kirk Franklin Thu. Mar. 7, 7:30 \$45



**Zach Williams** 

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The Commodores Fri. Mar. 8, 3:30



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## **Property Fraud On the Rise**

Property Fraud Alert is an online subscription service offered to the public that allows them to have their name monitored within the Recorder's office in order to track possible fraudulent recordings that affects their property.

The threat of mortgage fraud and identity theft crimes continue to rise, and all too often victims of these types of fraudulent activities are unaware their homes or identity have been stolen. While Property Fraud Alert does not prevent fraud from happening; it provides an early warning system for property owners to take appropriate actions should they determine possible fraudulent activity has taken place.

A common property fraud scenario involves a criminal filing a bogus deed making it appear that the actual owner had transferred ownership of a parcel to someone else. The criminal then takes that deed to a bank, fraudulently obtains

perpetrators of property fraud often prey on the elderly, people in long term care facilities, absentee property owners and owners who spent large parts of the year out of town.

With Property Fraud Alert, subscribers will be notified when the name they have submitted is used in any recording activities within the Recorder's office. When subscribing to the service, the subscriber will have the option to choose one of the following notification methods; E-Mail or telephone call.

The best protection against property fraud is being proactive. This service is easy to sign up for and offers a little extra peace of mind with just a few clicks.

#### Please note:

- This is an ALERT ONLY and the Clerk cannot be held responsible for the recording of false or fraudulent documents
- Notifications will only be sent out after documents have been recorded, indexed and verified by our Deputy Clerk's

If you believe that you are a victim of fraud, immediately contact your local Law Enforcement or regional FBI Office for assistance.

If you have additional questions, contact our Helpdesk via email at Support@sumterclerk.com.

To begin the registration process please scan this QR code or call the Property Fraud Hotline at 1-800-728-3858.



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## The Year in Review

SENIORS VS CRIME

Seniors vs. Crime opened its first office in The Villages in mid-2002 at the Marion County Sheriff's substation near Buena Vista Blvd. and CR42. That office is now managed by Dave Cunningham. Later that same year, the Sumter County office opened at Morse Blvd. and CR466 in the Sumter Co. Sheriff's Annex. The managers at Sumter are Deb Suder (Monday), Jim Boyd (Tuesday), Don Schuster (Wednesday) and Jack Puleo (Thursday). These offices are still providing services to residents in The Villages and surrounding areas.

In October 2013, we opened an office with the Wildwood Police Department at the department's substation in Brownwood next to the theater. The office manager then was Ed Kelly who is still with us today. In September of 2021, the Wildwood office reached \$1,000,000.00 in recoveries and eleven months later, in September of 2022, they surpassed the \$2,000,000.00 mark. And just 6 short months after that, in March 2023, the Wildwood office went over \$3 million in recoveries which makes them the fastest office in the region to recover that much for their complainants.

In 2018, at the invitation of the Fruitland Park Police Department, we opened an office in their new substation located in the Moyer Rec. Center on Moyer Loop. John Townley was named as the manager, and he continues in that role today.

In 2023, the four offices in The Villages handled 624 complaints and returned a total of \$509,587.00 to the complainants who asked us to assist them. These complaints were

handled by the 54 dedicated volunteers in the four offices who donated 5,576 hours of their time to correct things for those who have been swindled or scammed. In addition, our Speakers Bureau conducted 60 presentations last year which were attended by over 5,700 people.

Many of our volunteers have worked for us for over 5 years with a significant number serving for over ten years. One volunteer in our Marion office started with us when the office opened in 2002. We are very proud of the accomplishments of our volunteers and all that they do for this community. Many of them come in every week and do their absolute best to make things right.

To learn more about Seniors vs. Crime and the work we do, visit our website at SeniorsvsCrime. com. If you need our services, you can call any one of our four offices in The Villages or our toll-free number, (800) 203-3099. No appointment is necessary, and all our services are free.



#### Sumter Co.

(352) 689-4600, X4606 8035 E. CR 466 (Sumter Co. Sheriff's Annex) Monday – Wednesday • 10 am - 2 pmThursday • 9 am - 1 pm

#### Marion Co.

(352) 753-7775 8230 SE 165th Mulberry Ln. (Marion Co. Sheriff's Annex) Tuesday • 10 am - 2 pm

#### Wildwood

(352) 775-3186 2722 Brownwood Blvd. (Wildwood Police Department Annex next to theater) Tuesday - Thursday ⋅ 10 am - 1 pm

#### **Fruitland Park**

(352) 674-1882 Moyer Recreation Center (Fruitland Park Police Substation) 3000 Moyer Loop Wednesday  $\cdot$  10 am - 2 pm

Please note that the Wildwood office has a new phone number!



# **POA 2024** SHREDDING

April 20, 2024 • 9 AM **New Covenant Methodist Church** 

### **Volunteers Needed for Shredding Event**

- Ticket Takers
- Traffic routers
- Sign holders
- Assist at drop off area

Contact: POA President Cliff Weiner at 1presidentpoa@poa4us.org



#### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

2018 Elaine Dreidame

POA Hall of Fame				
2023	Sal Torname			
2022	Bill Schikora			
2021	Bryan Lifsey			
2020	John Donahe Carolyn Reichel Jerry Vicenti			
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**

2024 OFFICERS					
President	Cliff Wiener	418-7372			
V.P.	Gilbert (Gil) Windsor	571-8226			
Treasurer	Ash Marwah	412-400-7923			
Secretary	Reb Benson	874-0179			
	Tita Dumagsa	391-4828			
	Jerry Ferlisi	391-5261			
	Mike Gross	450-0405			
D:	Ken Knodel	330-388-2308			
Directors	Steve Lapp	630-5323			
	Dan Myslakowski	248-802-2403			
	Gary Search				
	Dan Warren	630-4491			
POA STAFF					
Bulletin Editor	Deb Butterfield	219-508-6863			
POA Email	poa4you@gmail.com				
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 or scan the QR code below. Click 'Discount Partners' to access the list.



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James "Coop" Cooper (352) 626-3151



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Melissa Huennekens (352) 817-7975



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**Sunny Parsons** (352) 239-0980



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Jenna Wood (352) 408-9904



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Peggy Schaefer (352) 801-0040