

**Property Owners Association of The Villages
General Membership Meeting
May 17, 2022**

Called to order: by Cliff Wiener, President at 7:00 pm.

- Board members present: All except Andrew Curtis, excused.
- Members present: Approximately 60, with about 200 watching via live-streaming.
- Organizations present: Hospital Auxiliary, Seniors vs. Crime and Realty Executives.
- April membership meeting minutes read by Reb Benson and unanimously approved.
- Treasurer Report by Donna Kempa: April income: \$9,558; expenses: \$19,801; net loss: \$10,243; and, operating funds: \$164,512. She mentioned this should be the last month for a while with a deficit and that we have a surplus for the year.
- Raffle: Three winners of \$30 each announced, with two folks designated their winnings to Support Our Soldiers (SOS) program. Cliff thanked them and mentioned we collected \$1,800 for SOS during the shredding event in April.

Announcements:

- Cliff introduced the Sumter County Commissioner (Craig Estep); District Supervisors (Sal Torname, Jerry Ferlisi, Andrew Bilardello (running for Commissioner), Don Brozick, Mark Hayes and himself); and, Amenity Authority Committee member (Donna Kempa); plus, Jeff Bogue (running for Commissioner).
- Cliff talked about the Vials for Life Program, going over the process and stating its importance.
- Cliff mentioned we are averaging 300 to 350 folks per month watching the membership meeting online. He is hoping that PWAC and AAC, who he briefed on this capability, will incorporate live streaming in the future.
- Cliff mentioned signing up for District e-notification, especially with hurricane season approaching.
- Cliff mentioned going to Districtgov.org and to the link on the Independent Fire District. There is a lot of information about this with a chart on the last page showing the average additional cost/year per type of home that residents will pay for the capability with this setup if voted-in this November.
- Cliff mentioned the POA can provide a presentation on the POA and what is happening in The Villages; plus, Sal and he can provide a presentation on the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program if groups are interested. The Villages has 284 AED neighborhoods now.
- Cliff mentioned Candidate Night in June (at Everglades); Mr. Estep/Mr. Arnold, Sumter County Commissioner and Administrator, in July on the budget (at Laurel Manor); no meeting in August; Dr Anderson, RBOI, in September on Medicare; and, Patrick Walsh, Covanta Waste Plant, in October. He noted that started September all meetings will be at Laurel Manor (none at Everglades).

Questions:

- A resident mentioned a Saturday incident on a pickleball court where a person fell and broke their hip and the EMTs said there was no ambulance to transport them. **Ans:** Cliff said he was not surprised given AMR has the contract for transport still. He stated this should change come October when The Villages Public Safety will start transporting (they have two ambulances already).
- A resident asked what can be done to clean up debris on the roads, like at intersection of Morse Blvd and CR-466? **Ans:** Craig Estep said he will have the County Administrator look into this.
- A resident asked if the POA is advocating for the Independent Fire District? **Ans:** No, Cliff said the POA is providing information and facts for everyone to make their own informed decision on supporting or not; that the additional costs look to vary from around \$124/year (villa) to over \$1,400/year (premier home). Cliff reminded folks the cost varies by home since it's based on assessed value of the house. He also mentioned costs could change and even be offset in the end if Sumter County drops some of the fees it charges The Villages now, given if approved this Fire District would start in October 2023. Andrew Bilardello pointed out the costs for the Fire District is separate from the costs associated with Public Safety starting ambulance service in October 2022.

- Dan Warren mentioned this is the time for residents to let their district supervisors know their concerns, etc. since each district is in the process of finalizing their 2022-23 budgets.

Speaker: Len Hathaway provided a briefing on lightning (based on authoritative books on the subject) and a video to: inform, combat myths and detail experiences. This is the tenth presentation to POA members along with numerous articles in past POA Bulletins.

- Florida has on average 80 thunderstorm days per year. Florida is the lightning capital of the United States with 95 days of lightning strikes last year and a high of 124 days in the past.
- Lake County is 7th in the nation while Sumter County is 14th regarding lightning strikes.
- There were over 400 deaths from lightning strikes in 1941; it's been decreasing since then with 11 deaths in 2021 (4 in Florida), which shows education works. Most strikes happen to males (82%).
- There were 3 golf-related deaths from lightning (PA, NJ & FL) in 2021, first deaths in three years.
- Lightning is random, in 2017 a 12-year-old boy was struck at the Polo Fields with no rain and known lightning 2 miles north. When thunder roars go indoors! Wait 30 minutes from last strike.
- Indirect strikes: Flag pole, tree, etc. More frequent but less severe affects. Need primary surge protection (such as a SECO unit) to protect what you don't plug in and secondary (surge protections cords and plugs) to protect the rest of your electronics.
- Direct strikes: House, etc. Less frequent but more severe affects. A Lightning Protection System (LPS) provides a path of least resistance, hence minimizes the damage potential.
- LPS: Highly effective, but buyer beware since no installer certification required. Use only a qualified installer (like Danny Mack, A-1 Lightning) that complies with National Electrical Code. If high tolerance for risk, then do nothing; if low tolerance, then install an LPS. Pricing ranges from \$1,300 to \$3,500 installed, depending on the size of the home.
- Lightning strikes on homes in The Villages (since 2004): 20 (15 stucco, 5 vinyl) without LPS and all had damage; 15 with LPS and none had damage.
- Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST) used mainly in homes north of CR-466, with "improved" tubing in homes south of SR-44. Recommend installing an LPS or change to steel tubing. Seven homes had fires with CSST leaks from lightning strikes.
- Myths:
 - Rubber shoes or rubber tires on a car will protect you.
 - Lightning never strikes the same place twice.
 - Lightning strikes the tallest object.
 - There is a tower in The Villages that protects all of us from lightning strikes.
 - Sandy soil or a tower or a tree will provide protection.
 - LPS doesn't work; LPS attracts lightning; lightning will hit LPS home, but not my home next door.
- Using the raffle tickets purchased for the \$30 give aways, there was a drawing with a winner for 20% off the installation of a Lightning Protection System by A-1 Lightning and another winner for a gift basket from SECO.
- Pertinent questions:
 - Do secondary surge protection devices expire? **Ans:** Becky Walbridge from SECO said some don't expire but others expire within 3 to 5 years, please check labels on devices.
 - Can damage be done between installed lightning rods? **Ans:** No, Danny Mack said an LPS is installed based on square footage and proper spacing of rods.
 - Do LP gas systems need protection? **Ans:** Danny Mack said yes, if CSST is used.

There was a *Motion* to adjourn the meeting at 8:19pm that was seconded and unanimously approved.
Submitted by: Reb Benson, Secretary