

Property Owners Association of The Villages
General Membership Meeting
June 20, 2023

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

- Board members present: All, except: Sal Torname, Ken Knodel and Dan Myslakowski, excused.
- Members present: Approximately 195, with over 250 watching via live-streaming. When asked, about 35 people raised their hand stating they lived south of SR-44.
- Organizations present: Realty Executives, Sun Kool, Seniors vs. Crime, SECO, 1Trust Home Loans and A-1 Lightning.
- May membership meeting minutes read by Reb Benson and unanimously approved.
- Treasurer Report by Ash Marwah: May, Income: \$8,489; Expenses: \$15,635; Net Loss: \$7,146; Operating Funds: \$120,755.
- Membership Report by Cliff. Announced that the discount card that new members get when joining are also available to all members for \$5...contain over \$20 worth of benefits at local establishments.
- Raffle: Three winners of \$30 each announced; then one winner at the end of the evening of a lightning arrestor system from A-1 Lightning and one with a gift basket from SECO.

Announcements:

- Representatives. Cliff introduced Craig Estep, Sumter County Commissioner; Jim Reitz, Lady Lake Mayor; Jerry Ferlisi, Gary Kadow, Steve Lapp, Mark Hayes, and himself as District Supervisors; Reb Benson as Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) member; and, Dan Warren as North Sumter County Utility Dependent District (NSCUDD) member.
- Bulletin Deliverers. Cliff mentioned the need for drivers to deliver Bulletins in the fast-growing Villages area south of SR-44.
- Live Streaming. Cliff said the POA has accomplished this for 2 years now.
- House Insurance Rates. Cliff said he is finding it tough to get a speaker on insurance rates, stating he just heard from another resident whose rate went from \$2,100 to \$5,200. He will keep working with Representative John Temple to try and get someone from Tallahassee and/or someone else.
- Water Meter Spikes. Cliff said he is hopefully this issue will resolve itself soon, resulting in better communication on issues and excellent customer service. NSCUDD is addressing a policy to allow a one-time forgiveness of a spike – which will be helpful.
- Multi-Modal Path (MMP) Committee. Cliff mentioned there were over 65 folks at the first meeting (12 from south of SR-44). A second meeting was set for July, but due to the interest by residents at the session plus other issues the districts are tackling, District management has decided to implement a District Information meeting that will have a representative from each district and committee attend to go over issues impacting all districts (such as MMP, Deed Compliance, etc.). First meeting is on July 17th at 1:30pm at Savannah.
- Vial for Life and CHIRP Program. Cliff went over what the Vial for Life and CHIRP by Community Watch are about and the fact he has firsthand experience they both work. He mentioned the POA have the vials and whistles available for folks to take home.
- Cliff mentioned there will be a POA Board recruitment meeting on October 24th for those interested in being a Board member.
- Deb Butterfield asked members to email her any issues they have and mentioned the posting of more information will be happening on Facebook to keep resident informed timelier than the monthly bulletin. She added that next month she will go over the steps to use Facebook.
- Member Meetings. Bradley Arnold & Craig Estep on Sumter County Budget in July; no August meeting; Joey Hooten, Sumter County Property Appraiser, in September; and, Capt. Siemer from the Sumter County Sheriff's Department in October. Cliff added there will be four additional meetings in 2024 on the first Thursday of January, April, July and October at the Everglades Recreation Center plus one on a Friday this September at Everglades.

Questions:

- Ponds were dry but now they are full on just a few days of rain, is this normal? **Ans:** Cliff said yes.
- A resident stated someone can get a loan on your house or sell your home with just a signature. **Ans:** Cliff mentioned Marion, Sumter and Lake Counties allow you to register to receive notice if anyone takes action to try and sell your house, etc. Gary Kadow added do not turn over your Durable Power of Attorney until necessary, folks can use that to sell your house, etc.

Speaker: Len Hathaway, John Reformato and Frank Cristie discussed tips on lightning protection (based on authoritative books on the subject)...to inform, combat myths and detail experiences.

- General Knowledge (Len):
 - Florida is the lightning capital of the US, with Indonesia and Africa having the highest days per year of lightning strikes in the world. Lake County was 7th and Sumter County 14th in the nation. May thru September are the busiest months in Florida.
 - More men than women have been struck by lightning with leisure activity (water related) the main environment.
 - There were 19 fatalities (5 in Florida) last year and 5 (2 in Florida) so far this year. A 12-year-old was struck at the Polo Fields in September 2017 and survived due to the quick CPR action of folks. Of note was the fact it was not raining and lightning was 2 miles north...proving the randomness of lightning. There have been 11 golf-related lightning fatalities since 2016.
 - When thunder roars go indoors! Stay away from windows and running water, current can carry thru plumbing, electrical lines and corded phones.
- Lightning Strikes (John on Indirect and Frank on Direct)
 - **Indirect Strikes:** Flag pole, tree, etc. More frequent but less severe affects.
 - Need primary (Type 1) surge protection (such as SECO unit) and/or circuit breaker protector to protect what you don't plug in and secondary (surge protection cords and plugs) to protect the rest of your electronics you do plug in. Secondary protectors help protect the small surges you get over time (when air conditioner comes on, etc.) and possibly a large surge such as a lightning strike.
 - **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. Uses lightning rods, cable (copper or aluminum) and ground rods.
 - Use only a qualified installer that complies with the National Electrical Code.
 - If high tolerance for risk...do nothing; if low tolerance...then get an LPS for peace of mind.
 - Lightning strikes on homes in The Villages (since 2004): 21 (16 stucco, 5 vinyl) without LPS and all had damage, last one on June 15th; 15 with LPS and none had damage.
- Gas Lines and Myths (Len):
 - Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST), mainly north of CR-466. Recommend installing an LPS or change to steel piping. Seven homes have had fires with CSST leaks from lightning strikes. Also know where to turn off your gas line.
 - Some myths:
 - Rubber shoes or rubber tires on a car will protect you and if not raining you're safe.
 - Lightning never strikes the same place twice and always strikes the tallest object.
 - Sandy soil or a tower or a tree will provide protection.
 - LPS attracts lightning; If LPS on home next door my home won't get hit; LPS doesn't work.
- Questions, some pertinent ones:
 - Need to have an installed LPS check? **Ans:** Yes, have it checked every 3 to 5 years and after a roof shingle installation.
 - How about a pool pump, do you need a SECO surge protection unit and circuit breaker unit? **Ans:** Recommend one of them both if you want more protection, but also have a secondary surge protector at the pump, same for other equipment – surge protector at the source.
 - Bought a house with a LPS is there anything I should do? **Ans:** Recommend you have a certified LPS installer, like A-1 Lightning, inspect your system for proper function. Inspection cost is \$150.

- Can an aluminum flag pole be struck? **Ans:** Yes, it needs to have an LPS.
- Where can you get good information on lightning in your area? **Ans:** There are many apps out there with this information. A good one is Weathercall Lightning.

There was a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm that was seconded and unanimously approved.
Submitted by: Reb Benson, Secretary