

**Property Owners Association of The Villages
General Membership Meeting
January 21, 2025**

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

- Board members present: Jerry Ferlisi, Reb Benson, Ken Knodel, Tita Dumagsa and Dan Warren; excused: Gary Search.
- Members present: Approximately 75.
- Organizations present: Sun Kool and Seniors vs Crime.
- Membership meeting minutes (December 17th) read by Reb Benson and unanimously approved.
- Treasurer and Membership Report: Not addressed, except for Cliff stating we had a couple good months of about \$65,000 in revenue from ads and membership renewals (not counting new members) with these funds necessary to help defray the costs of publishing the Bulletin monthly for all residents.
- Raffle: Not accomplished.

Announcements:

- Cliff introduced the various representatives in the room: Mark Hayes, Ron Baxa, Jerry Ferlisi, Patsy Osborn and himself, District Supervisors; Dan Warren, North Sumter County Utility Dependent District Supervisor; and, Reb Benson, Amenity Authority Committee member.
- Cliff mentioned the annual Shredding Event will be on March 29, 2025 from 9am-12pm at the New Covenant Methodist Church. Must be a POA member, with dues current at the end of March, and have a ticket to participate. He added there are about 700 of the roughly 1,100 tickets left and that folks should send an email and a ticket will be sent out.
- Cliff mentioned the meeting is live streamed and will be available to view on the POA website by the next day.
- Member Meetings at Laurel Manor. Cliff mentioned Coping with Dementia in February; The Villages Hospital in March; and, not sure about April – could be Dr. Curtis on new things with Alzheimer's research or he might be in May.

Questions:

- Any word on the lampposts? **Ans:** No other updates from what was presented at the January 2nd POA meeting, but do know SECO received some grants and low interest loans totaling \$140,000,000 and they will be evaluating in March how this can assist with the lamppost cost increases this year and next year. He added there is a meeting in February to vote on a SECO trustee that represents most of The Villages, a good time to present any concerns and vote in the right person.
- Someone stated District 7 is looking at going with solar powered light poles with another commenting that we should look at the current contracts and issues associated with taking over ownership of the existing lampposts with hopefully all districts on the same page on next steps.
Ans: Cliff said he agreed for the most part with a review, adding that he why he mentioned to District Staff that all Districts should receive a briefing from SECO.

Speakers: Sumter County Sheriff Breeden, District Supervisor Captain Siemer and Sgt Adam Dodge.

- Sheriff Pat Breeden mentioned communications and transparency are his key objectives.
 - Cameras...ensuring body cameras are worn and getting cameras in all police vehicles.
 - Urban SDK program...a new program that targets problem traffic areas – like North Morse Blvd.
- Captain Bob Siemer addressed the Safe Program (free non-traditional services) and other programs.
 - Safe Program Registration and Safe ID Card...good program to belong to.
 - Vial of Life...provide medical and any other pertinent information in a vial in your refrigerator; plus put the info in your car, golf cart, etc. Lake County has the same program and Marion County has a similar one.
 - Home Safety...free inspection accomplished on normal weekday hours. Things like putting in garage motion-sensor lights and a peephole on the door into the garage.

- Human Scent Preservation Kit...good for tracking down a lost person, such as a person with Alzheimer's that wanders off.
- DREAM...a GPS watch that allows a person to help locate an individual via their phone. 1 of 5 counties in the State to receive funds to obtain the watches.
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Peace of Mind Programs.
- Other programs: Alert program – get text messages regarding bad weather; and, Academy Classes – Citizens (1 week long) and Mini (2 hours long); call Sheriff's office to sign up.
- Sgt Adam Dodge addressed theft and scams.
 - There is very little major crime in The Villages, mainly thefts of opportunity (unlocked cars or front doors, clubs on back of golf cart when at the squares, etc.).
 - Scams are very prominent since we are a targeted group – a generation geared to helping folks. Don't fall for sense of urgency emails, calls, texts, etc. Best defense is to share the scam so others can learn also.
- Sumter County is between the 6th and 8th safest county in Florida...low violent crime (but there are drugs). It is low because of resident involvement..."see something-say something."
- Questions, some pertinent ones:
 - Where do you get the Human Scent Kits? **Ans:** At the Sumter County Sheriff's office or, if you live in another county, call their law enforcement office.
 - What is being done regarding the high rate of speed on roads like Morse and Buena Vista? **Ans:** Adding three more traffic and one motorcycle unit to speed enforcement; did this by putting some civilians where they can help in the field – accident investigation, etc.
 - Do you use drones? **Ans:** Yes, there are two drones on every shift, but they don't have the range of the helicopter.
 - What is your relationship with Villages Public Safety? **Ans:** We have a great working relationship with them and Community Watch; hold quarterly meetings.

There was a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm that was seconded and unanimously approved.
Submitted by: Reb Benson, Secretary