



POA Bulletin

POA4US.org

APRIL 2021

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No April Meeting

UPCOMING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

TUESDAY, MAY 18 | 7 PM

LAUREL MANOR RECREATION CENTER

Speaker: TBD

TUESDAY, JUNE 15 | 7 PM

EVERGLADES RECREATION CENTER

Speaker: Len Hathaway,
"Lightning Matters"

TUESDAY, JULY 20 | 7 PM

LAUREL MANOR RECREATION CENTER

Speakers: County Administrator
Bradley Arnold and District 3
Commissioner Craig Estep

Social distancing will be observed.

Masks required.

Overflow room will be available
for extra attendance.

Stay connected at POA4US.org.

SHREDDING EVENT

DETAILS ON PAGE 7

New Sumter Co. Commissioners Fulfill Pledge to Voters

Road Impact Fees Raised on New Development

The contentious dialogue about road impact fees in Sumter County has been concluded, at least for now. By a 3-2 vote on March 24, the Sumter County Commissioners voted to raise impact fees to 70% of the recommended fees, up from the 40% that has been in place.

New Commissioners Craig Estep, Gary Search, and Oren Miller voted in favor of the increase, keeping their campaign pledges to voters who elected them to replace three Commissioners that voted for a 25% property tax increase in 2019 to pay for road improvements in the new areas of The Villages south of CR 44. Commissioners Gary Breeden and Doug Gilpen, also part of the group of five that chose to raise the tax on residents, opposed the impact fee increase.

In January, after listening to pleas from businesses the Commissioners voted to table the discussion until July. In February, the Developer offered to voluntarily increase fees for his new developments by 40%, a move that would put The Villages Development at 56% of the recommended full amount. Commissioners declined that offer because they felt it was too low and there were too many conditions that would allow the Developer to get out of the deal. Commissioners were then backed into a corner after legislation was introduced and co-sponsored by Developer employee Brett Hage to limit increases in impact fees to just 3% a year, leading to the public hearing and action in March.

Throughout the debate, The Villages developer-owned newspaper, The Daily Sun, gave one-sided misinformation on a daily basis. Commissioner Search even said that he would no longer comment to the paper because his quotes were taken out of context and not used in their entirety.

When asked specifically about the impact on the proposed new hospital, County Administrator Bradley Arnold confirmed that the hospital is subject to impact fees, but that the location that has been suggested is in both Lake and Sumter counties, and where the hospital itself would be located has not yet been determined. He also commented that it wouldn't necessarily be negative if it were located on the Lake County side since it is a non-property tax paying entity, while Sumter could enjoy the benefits associated with for profit tax-paying businesses.

The chair of the Commercial Contractors Association said they have been opposed to road impact fees since 2003, and stated he believes roads and transportation are for general welfare and should be paid for with property taxes.

Impact Fees 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.

Impact Fees continued from page 1

He also suggested that the data in the 2019 study is dated and may be grounds for a lawsuit.

Commissioner Gilpen said he "refuses to vote for any tax that digs deeper into the pockets of taxpayers." While saying he welcomes all residents, he also voted for a 25% increase on property taxes in 2019, a move that will dig into taxpayer pockets for years to come, rather than a one-time impact fee.

Commissioners Estep, Miller and Search said they had talked with and heard from many constituents and had spent hours studying the issue of impact fees. Mr. Estep said he was particularly moved by young people who want to build a home

and identified single family homes as the only comparable. His conclusion was that Sumter County needed to stay below 72% of the total recommended in the study to remain lower than other counties.

Accusations of being anti-growth (made repeatedly by the Daily Sun) are simply not true, said the three Commissioners voting for the increase. Nor are they against The Villages developer.

Commissioner Breeden acknowledged that they were in this voting position because of the legislation that had been filed, but that his sources said the bill is not going to pass. He decried the proposed increase as political, not practical.

The increase will take effect on June 28, 2021. ■

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(Note: if no preference circled then **Driveway** is default, once account established, make changes at poa4us.org)

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO THE POA.

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

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Hospital CEO: “I Can’t Live with Average”

The Chief Executive Officer for the University of Florida Health, Edward Jimenez, told POA members at the March General Membership Meeting that he is laser focused on making incremental progress toward UF Health Hospital in The Villages, along with the hospitals in Leesburg and Shands in Gainesville, becoming the best they can be. His measure is not by comparison with each other, but by comparison to other peer hospitals.

Mr. Jimenez said that is why the CMS rating system – used by the POA as a quality measure – is flawed. He said even Shands is only a two-star hospital cited by the CMS ratings and that it isn’t a good comparison. He also acknowledged that there is some good data from CMS, but his focus is on infection rates, surgical infections, complications, and unplanned, unknown complications. By comparing with the peer “best” benchmarks they can focus on what matters to patients.

Mr. Jimenez promised to always tell the truth and to be accessible to residents. He explained why UF Health was interested in The Villages and Leesburg hospitals. Shands is primarily a referral hospital with only 30% of its patients being local and 70% coming from outside the area. Other teaching hospitals are the opposite with the majority of patients being local. Since coming to Florida eleven years ago, he has seen the number of patients from Lake, Sumter and Marion counties grow, which he said led to a fragmentation (disconnect) of care.

To reduce that fragmentation, the hospitals began working together to streamline the movement of information, standardize

protocols, enhance education and training and facilitate the care of the patient. The next area of improvement was emergency care, leading to the new Brownwood Emergency Department. Mr. Jimenez realized they could not run the facility from 70 miles away, and that to manage the quality of care, they needed to go “all in.”

After the transaction closed on the purchase of the two hospitals in early 2020, there began an intentional journey to integrate the hospitals, beginning with anesthesiologists. That process was disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic but continued slowly with the introduction of a Critical Care Interventionist for the Intensive Care department.

Then a Full Time Chief Medical Officer with a “UF pedigree” was hired, and the focus shifted to patient safety and care. Now there is a search for a Chief Operating Officer for the two hospitals in The Villages and Leesburg, and plans are being discussed for a new 200 bed hospital along

the Florida Turnpike between the south section of The Villages and Leesburg. Mr. Jimenez said the number of beds could easily increase to 600 over time.

Mr. Jimenez addressed the issues with wait times at the Emergency Department at The Villages Hospital, a concern that may take “forever” to fix because the hospital is full much of the time. That leads to a stacking/queuing problem because patients in the ED that need to be admitted have to wait for a bed. He said they are not going to kick someone out of a bed, so the solution has to be to build more beds and decrease fragmentation.

Toward that end, a new doctor group was put in place to identify when fragmented conversations are occurring. They are also creating a new cardiac area that may free up beds, and as a last resort, may have to look at two beds in rooms again.

Mr. Jimenez cautioned that the journey to be the best is going to get expensive and that they will have to pay for good people. He noted that while hospitals rely on frontline people – doctors and nurses – people behind the scenes – housekeeping, food services, maintenance – need to be well paid also. They are looking for people who love their jobs, not those who just clock in.

Hospital CEO continued on page 6

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Hospital CEO continued from page 5

Residents are encouraged to contact Mr. Jimenez, but he said he is looking for specificity so he can make the situation better the next time. He said his management approach is not to deal with “what ifs” and hypotheticals.

POA Members had some great questions for Mr. Jimenez.

Would more Full Time Employees help with the problems in the ER?

Yes, but they really need to correct the fragmentation issues and queuing problems.

As a not-for-profit hospital, is the new hospital affected by road impact fees?

Mr. Jimenez emphasized he is staying out of the political discussions regarding impact fees but acknowledged that they will have to look at total costs to build the new hospital before deciding to move forward. There will be 90 days of operating costs before a new hospital opens and generates revenue.

How are you addressing hospital staff who choose not to be vaccinated for Covid-19?

They do not ask about vaccinations, but masks are mandated for all employees. Science has proven that the risk of transfer of the virus is almost non-existent if people are wearing masks.

What quality measures are used, if not CMS?

Mr. Jimenez said they use a peer platform called Vizient that focuses on strategies that help the whole pack move toward improvement.

The Vivient website describes itself as “the largest member-driven, health care performance improvement company in the country... In the new environment of value-based reimbursement, patient outcomes are at the center of the value equation and have a major role in determining reimbursement dollars. Critical to the delivery of exceptional health care is putting processes in place to deliver the right care at the right time with the right team.”

Will there be residents and students working in the hospitals here?

Yes, residents and students will be working in hospitals here within the next 3 years.

Will there be new surgical procedures done here?

Yes, they will do some new surgeries, but there are some, i.e., heart transplants, that will never be done here.

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Will UF Health have primary care services here?

They plan to discuss these services with The Villages Health in the next 6 – 9 months.

Mr. Jimenez was surprised that no one asked about United Healthcare, saying that UF Health does not accept United Medicare because United doesn't want to work with University Hospitals. United has offered to pay only 75% of Medicare.

The POA will be following up with this issue that affects thousands of Villagers who have United insurance. ■



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Sumter County Fire Assessment Letter Confuses Residents

An unintended “firestorm” was created when Sumter County officials mailed a letter to residents last month advising that the Board of Commissioners would hold a public hearing to raise the cap on the Fire Assessment fees to \$360. Residents were outraged thinking the rate itself was going up from the current \$124.

Officials have scrambled to correct the misunderstanding.

According to Commissioner Craig Estep, in response to an inquiry from POA President Cliff Wiener, the current rate is capped at \$125, allowing only a \$1 increase. That cap was set in 2007 using specific methodology that “yielded a legally defensible maximum Non Ad Volorem Fire Assessment of \$125.” That same legally defensible methodology was used to set the new cap.

Mr. Estep noted that the last cap increase has lasted for 13 years, since 2007, and he anticipates that the proposed cap would take some years to reach as well. The Sumter County Republican Club suggested phasing in the cap or just adding \$20-\$50. However, Mr. Estep said it cost \$39,000 to mail letters to 70,911 legal addresses, and every time a change in the cap is proposed a new letter must be mailed. In his opinion, raising the cap to this level now provides a cost savings over time without having to incur additional mailing costs.

The public hearing on the cap increase is set for Tuesday, April 13 at 7:00 pm at the Everglades Recreation Center. ■

SHREDDING EVENT



DATE:
April 10, 2021

LOCATION:
Wildwood Community Center
6500 Powell Road

TIME:
9 AM – Noon

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POA General Membership Meetings are a great way to make connections with others and stay abreast of topics and issues. Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, either at Laurel Manor Recreation Center or Everglades Recreation Center.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND!
But we hope you will consider joining! Use the membership form on page 4 or go online at **POA4US.org**.

Mark your calendars now!



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

AAC and PWAC Budget Workshops – No Surprises

The Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) and the Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) each held budget workshops with no real surprise funding suggestions coming forward. The budget workshops are intended to provide staff with direction regarding project spending so preliminary budgets can be presented in May.

The Fund Balance for the Recreation Amenity Division (RAD) – the Amenity Fee Fund for residents north of CR 466 and directed by the AAC – is currently at \$30 Million and is projected to peak at just under \$60 Million by

FY 26-27, before dipping back to just under \$55 Million in FY 30-31.

The Sumter Landing Amenity Division (SLAD) budget, for residents south of CR 466 currently sits at just under \$75 Million and is projected to peak at just under \$95 Million by FY 24-25.

The RAD and SLAD funds pay for Amenity Services such as:

- Recreation Centers, pools, executive golf courses
- Gates and Community Watch services
- Common areas Landscaping and Maintenance
- Administrative services and Public Safety services
- Debt Service and Reserves

Recreation and Parks, Executive Golf and Property Management presented an overview of projects and organizational changes. Property Management Director Bruce Brown advised that the Selection Committee would meet on March 26 for final selection recommendations on the

First Responders Recreation Center and would present their recommendations at the April 7 AAC meeting.

An updated cost estimate of \$19.6 Million was given for the demolition and rebuild of Paradise Recreation Center, with initial and final design to cost between \$1.5 Million – \$1.81 Million. That design process will move forward after the First Responders Center construction is underway.

Several major facility projects are proposed for the SLAD fund including replacing Colony Cottage HVAC system, roof replacements on Coconut Grove, Lake Miona and Bridgeport, renovation and resurfacing of up to 50 sports courts, and \$1.7 Million in recreation center renovations such as carpet, wood flooring, curtains, etc.

The complete budget workshop presentations can be found with the downloadable agenda on **DistrictGov.org**. Select AAC or PWAC under committees and then Agendas and Minutes for the budget workshops.

In Case You Missed It continued on page 9

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In Case You Missed It from page 8

CDD 7 Continues to Examine PWAC Costs

Community Development District 7’s new legal representative is now in place, and supervisors continue to question allocations made to the Project Wide Fund. Specifically, they want to know how much of PWAC’s funds have been/are being spent in CDD 7. CDD 7 Chair Jerry Vicenti and Supervisor Steve Lapp don’t believe they are seeing how the budget is being allocated in order to determine if residents in CDD 7 are getting an appropriate payback in improvements in their area. Deputy District Director Ken Blocker reminded the supervisors that they see that detail every year when they are presented with the budget. However, the information will be extrapolated for discussion at an April 30 work session with the new attorney. The meeting will be held at 9:00 am at Savannah Center and is open to the public.

District 1 Board Meeting on April 9, 2021

The Board of Supervisors for Village Community Development District No. 1 are seeking public input regarding the deed restriction specifically pertaining to the enforcement of signage. There will be a presentation and discussion during their normal board meeting held on Friday, April 9, 2021 at 8:00 am at the Savannah Center, 1545 Buena Vista Boulevard, The Villages, Florida to discuss the signage. The meeting is open to the public and a discussion will take place including the non-enforcement of signage and the enforcement of signage.

For more information, please contact Community Standards at (352) 751-3912. You may also contact your District 1 Supervisors by visiting DistrictGov.org

Alternates Needed for Architectural Review Committee for CDD’s 6, 7 & 8

The alternate applicant must be a fulltime resident of the District and have lived in The Villages for at least one year. Candidates are recommended to have education and/or experience in any of the following areas: architecture, ability to read site plans, residential/commercial construction, building management, deed restricted communities, landscaping, county code enforcement, etc.; however, this is not required. The Committee meets weekly, on Wednesdays, for approximately 3 hours (8:00 am until 11:00 am). The required attendance for the alternate member is to attend an Architectural Review Committee meeting each week for four (4) weeks and then monthly thereafter.

If you are interested in becoming an alternate member on the Architectural Review Committee, you can print out the application from the DistrictGov.org Homepage and submit it directly to the Community Standards Department, 984 Old Mill Run, The Villages, Florida no later than 5:00 pm on April 16, 2021.

Section 112.3145(7)(g), Florida Statutes requires that Architectural Review Committee members must complete and submit a Statement of Financial Interests (Form 1) at the time they are appointed to the Architectural Review Committee. ■

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Looking for More Ways to Connect and Stay Involved?

The POA is Looking for Volunteers!

The POA Board is a small group of volunteer leaders who spend a great deal of time working on behalf of the residential property owners in The Villages. We need a few more volunteers who can commit to a leadership role in the following areas.

- **IT/Website Management** – We are looking for someone with strong computer and IT skills to manage our Help Desk for members. This involves creating a team of volunteers who can be trained to resolve member login issues, correct email and mailing addresses, resolve issues with POA Bulletin delivery, etc.
- **Video Camera Operation** – Enjoy shooting video? The POA is seeking someone to operate our MEVO camera system at General Membership meetings and other POA events. Our immediate goal is to post our meeting online. Our long-term goal is to Live Stream our meetings!
- **Membership Management and Analysis** – Our membership is growing! We need someone to put together a membership team who can assist at our membership meetings and occasionally help with mailings.

Please go to our website POA4US.org and click on ‘Volunteering’ for an application.

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Lightning Matters

A look back at the 2020 lightning experience and a look ahead to the 2021 season.

Trivia Question: What does Santa Claus have to do with it?

In 2020 the number of thunderstorm days increased to 117 days with lightning or 20 more than 2019 according to unofficial recordkeeping by local weather observers. According to the National Weather Service the average number of thunderstorm days for our area is 80. Locally, our seven-year average is 110 thunderstorm days and that is a lot of lightning! In August alone we had lightning on 27 of 31 days proving once again that Florida is the Lightning Capital of the US (but not the world).

A Dunedin home was struck and rendered uninhabitable. Two homes struck by lightning in 2019 were repaired and reoccupied in 2020. Local fire departments responded to 19 homes that experienced nearby lightning strikes causing minor damage.

An unknown number of homeowners experienced lightning induced surge damage from indirect strikes causing damage to appliances and electronics that were not properly protected by primary and secondary surge protection devices. Remember: Lightning loves technology!

Looking ahead to the forthcoming 2021 lightning season

If your club, organization, church, or civic group is holding in person meetings and would benefit from a free non-commercial educational Power Point presentation, Lightning Tips for Villagers that addresses personal lightning safety, lightning surge protection for appliances and high-valued electronics, lightning protection systems, and debunking ten common lightning myths contact Len Hathaway at LHatha@aol.com. Lightning will be the subject of the June 15 POA meeting at the Everglades Regional Recreation Center at 7:00 PM.

Trivia Answer: Two of Santa's reindeer are named Donner (thunder) and Blitzen (lightning)! ■

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DISCOUNT PARTNERS

The POA Discount Partner Program is a continuing benefit for POA members. Just show your current year POA Membership card when ordering the product or service listed here. Please say “thanks” to our Discount Partners for participating in this program and welcome our new Discount Partners highlighted on the following pages.

Not a POA member? Join online **POA4US.org** or mail in the form in this Bulletin!

APPAREL

Villages Apparel Southern Trace Shopping Center, (352) 750-1600. 10% POA Discount off custom screen printing, minimum order 25 shirts.

AUTOMOBILE

Bill Bryan Automotive Group (Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram) Offering to POA members with a valid membership card: **UP TO 15% DISCOUNT** from MSRP PLUS 100,000 MILE WARRANTY AND 1ST YEAR FREE MAINTENANCE. Located at 3401 US Hwy 441/27, Fruitland Park, FL 34731. (352) 787-2223

Lexus of Orlando / Lexus of Winter Park Offering SPECIAL PRICING ONLY for POA Members with a valid membership card. Call the DEDICATED HOTLINE for POA Members: (407) 671-1850 to make an appointment or Email: villages@lexusoforlando-winterpark.com for your SPECIAL DISCOUNTED price with NO DEALER FEE! We will even deliver your NEW Lexus to your Villages home!

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Seat Belts Installed Golf cart seat belt installation. 10% off seat belt installation on golf carts. Lifetime warranty. Call John 757-236-2950. New customers only.

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Cozco Handcrafts 1121 Main St., Spanish Springs, (352) 430-0386. 10% off non-sale items.

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Would You like your Company listed as a Discount Partner?

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Elite Lifestyles of Florida, Inc. specializes in Glass Lanai Enclosures, Sunrooms, Floor Tile Install, Louvered Pergolas, Screen Rooms, & Pool Cages. Any Remodeling Jobs. Our Motto is: “If you can think it, we can build it!” Offering a 10% discount to POA Members with a valid membership card. President is a Marine Veteran & Resident of the Villages. Certified General Contractor, FL License # CGC1511071

Fire Safety Specialists 12217 S. U.S. Highway 441, (352) 480-5003. \$10.00 off Home Fire Safety Service of \$99.00 Home Fire Safety Service includes dryer vent cleaning through the roof, smoke alarm inspection including FREE smoke alarm batteries, and fire extinguisher service.

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Kiley & Sons Plumbing 219 S Old Dixie Hwy, Lady Lake, (352) 753-5301. 10% POA discounted labor on a SERVICE Call. Valid on a minimum 1 hr. of service for POA members. Visit our Showroom.

Discount Partners continued from page 14

Lopez Professional Landscaping Reasonable Prices, references upon request, 10% Discount to POA members. (352) 484-8098.

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Routed Lamp Post Signs (419) 705-5272 Spanish Springs - Mon & Wed., Sumter - Tues. & Thurs. 10% Discount to POA members.

Roof Commander, 4680 Lake Industrial Blvd. Tavares, FL 32778 - Offering to POA members with a current valid membership card: Roof Commander would like to offer a 30% discount for all roof cleanings and \$500 off all roof replacements. Call (352) 459-7599.

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Sherwin Williams #2906 at Lake Sumter Landing, (352) 205-8067 - 30% off regular pricing for paints and stains, and 15% off all supplies with POA membership card at time of purchase.

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Discount Partners continued on page 17



POA Website and Member Database POA4US.org

Now, POA members have easier access to their membership records, submit questions, and stop/start Bulletin delivery including signing up for e-delivery.

Go to **POA4US.org** and follow the steps from one of the icons toward the bottom of the page. You can choose from **JOIN POA, POA Member, POA Bulletin Delivery.**

IF YOU ARE A MEMBER, under POA Member, click the highlighted text that says “Verify Your Account.” You will be prompted to set up your own password. Once you receive a confirmation email, you will be able to access your account. Your account page will allow you to know when your membership expires, select your Bulletin delivery preference, change your email, etc. **You will now do these steps instead of sending an email to the POA.**

IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER, to manage your Bulletin Delivery, you can create a guest account by clicking on the *POA Bulletin Delivery* icon. Or, click on JOIN POA, to become a member.

If you have difficulty, you may contact our help desk by emailing helpdesk@poa4us.org and someone will get back to you. ■

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Discount Partners continued from page 15

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Haagen Dazs 1001 Lake Shore Dr., Sumter Landing, (352) 751-0261. 10% POA Discount.

Honey Baked Ham Company & Cafe Best Buy Shopping Center, (352) 259-3900. Buy one sandwich or boxed lunch - Get 2nd 50% off (equal or lesser value).

Ollie's Frozen Custard In the Spanish Plains Plaza, across from Lowe's Building Supply on Hwy 441. 10% POA Discount.

Panda Express 869 N Hwy. 27/441, Home Depot Plaza, (352) 751-2507. 10% POA Discount, not valid with coupons or specials.

Sammy's Italian Restaurant and Pizza in Wildwood. A 10% discount is offered to POA members. 9668 N US Highway 301 Ste 800, Wildwood, FL 34785 (352) 748-1293

The Rose Plantation, 200 Rose Ave. Fruitland Park - Offering to POA members with a valid membership card: 50% off bottles of Albertoni House Wines, Tuesdays to Fridays with the purchase of Two (2) Entrees, offer not valid on Holidays or Holiday Eves. Call (352) 805-4340 for Reservations.

Villa Pinar Cuban Cafeteria 10% Discount with current POA membership card. 13685 U.S. Highway 441, Unit 2, Summerfield, FL Hours 8 am – 5 pm. Serves breakfast and lunch, which include delicious and authentic Cuban Cuisine and Pizza. (352) 347-8898.

RETAIL

Amish Furniture 5% Discount with POA membership card. 352 Shopping Center Dr. in Wildwood (352) 205-6969.

Amish Yard Furniture FREE Delivery on Poly outdoor Furniture with current POA membership card; 308 Shopping Center Dr. in Wildwood (352) 571-4002.

Edible Arrangements Southern Trace Shopping Center, (352) 391-1334. \$3 off order greater than \$25 with POA card.

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PWAC 2 Plans Advance

Following information presented by District Budget Director Barbara Kays, the Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) members recommended to the Sumter Landing Community Development District (SLCDD) to proceed with the creation of a “PWAC 2” for Community Development Districts south of CR 44.

Ms. Kays described the purpose/benefits of Project Wide Fund as:

- Uniform Set of Maintenance Standards
- Sharing of Risk
- Consistent Design Throughout the Districts
- Flow of Community
- Staff Efficiencies

She explained that CDDs 1-4 were created as individual districts with squared off boundaries, with maintenance responsibilities with each District, and some common areas of responsibility. Districts south of CR 466 represented a development concept change with common infrastructure, different geographical configurations, different permitting agencies/requirements, and platting and development.

Districts south of SR 44 are even more diverse with different infrastructure, design that includes more common areas and environmental elements, geomorphology, and different maintenance needs. Hardscape fences and entry features are mainly stonework, multi-modal paths are

constructed differently, guardrails are used, and lighting is different. Softscape includes different landscape features utilizing more Florida-friendly concepts and walking trails that are separate from multi-modal paths. District boundaries are non-linear and non-contiguous.

Benefits were described as providing enhanced resident benefits including local oversight with greater accessibility, and a sense of ownership. The parent board for a PWAC 2 would initially be the SLCDD, until a new commercial board is created (with Developer elected members.) The same allocation methodology used for the current Project Wide Fund based on assessable acreage is proposed.

Two starting date options were given, with District staff recommending that the start date be effective on October 1, 2021 at the start of the new fiscal year. However, PWAC members recommended and the SLCDD Board approved a start date of October 1, 2022, which is closer to the election of a majority of landowners to the local district boards. ■

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Discount Partners continued from page 17

SERVICES, OTHER

Airborne Tree Services offers POA Members a 10% discount on total lawn care including mowing, lawn spraying, pruning, irrigation and tree service as well as pest control. Call Dwayne Sims at (352) 817-1380 for a personal quote.

HNR Gunworks Custom Gunsmith and Gun Shop. 3238 S Florida Ave., Inverness, (352) 503-6285. 10% off any gunsmithing service to POA members.

Villages Car Wash and Lube Bichara Blvd, La Plaza Grande Center, (352) 753-1306. \$1.00 POA Members Discount off regular price of any car wash package.

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Rain Gardens

THE FANATICAL GARDENER

by Anne Lambrecht Fanatical Gardener mrsanneo4@gmail.com

Rain gardens are an easy way to return water to our aquifer, reduce erosion, and help prevent stormwater runoff. A rain garden is basically a plant “pond”, a low section of the landscape planted with plants that like to get their “feet” wet but can also tolerate dry spells. This fun little garden collects rainwater, giving it a chance to “strain” out impurities before draining into the aquifer.

Rain gardens work best when they’re placed near downspouts or naturally low spots in the landscape, usually where water tends to puddle. They’re especially useful for collecting runoff from paved surfaces. Rain gardens can be any size or shape.

Rainwater can pick up lawn chemicals and pesticides by running down driveways and parking lots and end up in our drinking water. Most homeowners direct their rainwater from the downspouts via a downspout diverter. The rain garden at the end captures this rainwater and drains it into the soil within a day. You don’t have to worry about creating a mosquito haven; the water drains before mosquitoes even have time to breed.

If there’s an especially heavy rainfall, excess water may overflow the rain garden and run into the storm sewer system. Even so, the rain garden will have done its job. It will have channeled water away from your foundation and reduced the load on the sewer system. A rain garden also reduces the amount of lawn chemicals and pet wastes that may otherwise run off into local lakes and rivers.

Rain gardens are beneficial for many reasons: they improve water quality by filtering runoff, provide localized flood control, create aesthetic landscaping sites, and provide diverse planting opportunities.

Typical rain garden plants are herbaceous perennials and grasses: plants that can tolerate

saturated (wet feet). They also must be able to thrive in our hot rainless environment. Native plants are commonly selected for rain gardens because they are more tolerant of the local climate, soil, and water conditions; have deep and variable root systems for enhanced water infiltration and drought tolerance; increase habitat value, diversity for local ecological communities, and overall sustainability once established. Rain gardens are unlikely to suffer from intense waterlogging, since the function of a rain garden is that excess water is drained from the site. Rain gardens perform best using plants that grow in regularly moist soils, because these plants can typically survive in drier soils that are relatively fertile (contain many nutrients).

When selecting plants, you’ll need to consider how much sun your site gets and how much space is available. Make sure you select plants that are not just water-tolerant, but also drought-tolerant for the times between rains. Remember “Right plant/Right place”

I’ve got three rain gardens! They are super easy to make. Just dig a circle or oval area (start small, about 1’ x 2’) about 6” deep at the end of the downspout diverter in the lawn or garden bed where your water runs from. Then you line the sides only with river rocks, bricks, small pieces of granite or tile, or some kind of edging. Plant your garden depending on the sun. If this area has lots of sun, then you plant sunny plants. If it’s in the shade (morning sun), then use low-light plants.



Here is a list of suggested plants for your rain garden:

- Iris (Louisiana iris* are perfect for this and they are native) - Sun
- Alocasia/colocasia (elephant ear) - Sun or shade
- Calla lily – the white ones only can thrive with wet feet - Sun or shade
- Oxalis - “three leaf clover plant” - Shade
- Violet – native - Sun or shade
- Ajuga or bugle weed – cute blue flower in spring - Shade
- Dwarf Mondo grass – nice in borders - Shade
- Coreopsis, the state’s wildflower - Sun
- Crinum Lily - Sun
- Amaryllis - Sun
- Scarlet Hibiscus - Sun
- Ferns - Shade
- Rain lily or zephyranthes- native - Sun
- Stokes’ aster – native - Sun
- Rudbeckia (Black-eyed Susan) native- Sun

Happy Rain Gardening!

*A good source for Louisiana Iris is Heather Oaks Farm, Heatheroaksfarm.com
4240 Christmas Ln, Lady Lake, FL 32159
Phone: (352) 753-1184 ■

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Cracking Down On Ticket Bots

SENIORS VS CRIME

For most of us, it’s been a long time since we’ve been able to attend a live event. Think back, if you can, to the last time you tried to buy tickets online to go to a concert, a game, or a play. Were you shut out because tickets sold out before you got yours? You’re not alone.

So what happened? Sometimes there just aren’t enough tickets available for everyone who wants to attend an event, especially if promoters save tickets for artists and other VIPs. Ticket bots may also be a factor. People may use software to buy tickets quicker than the average consumer. They also might use bots to cheat the ticketing system and bypass ticket limits or to buy tickets using fake names and addresses. Then they resell the tickets for higher prices. Congress passed the Better Online Ticket Sales (BOTS) Act to address these problems.

According to Alvaro Puig, a Consumer Education Specialist with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), they (the FTC) settled three cases with companies that violated the BOTS Act. The companies circumvented Ticketmaster’s security measures to buy thousands of tickets that they later re-sold at a profit. The court orders require the companies to stop their illegal ticket-buying practices and impose civil penalties.

The next time you’re looking to score tickets to a must-see event:

- **Look for opportunities to buy tickets before they go on sale to the public.** Sign up for newsletters or alerts from ticket sellers, artists, or venues, or follow them on social media. And check with your credit card company about promotions.
- **Set up an account with the ticket seller.** That way you’ll be ready to buy as soon as tickets go on sale.
- **Check back.** The promoters might make more tickets available after the initial release or add another show.

If you need assistance with understanding any aspects of ticket sale scams, contact the nearest Seniors Vs. Crime office in The Villages for advice or assistance. Seniors Vs. Crime also has a Speakers Bureau that will gladly come to your club, church, or group to speak about scams.



To schedule a presentation, contact any of the offices. There is never a charge for their services. Seniors Vs. Crime can be reached at:

The Fruitland Park Police Department Annex
in the Moyer Recreation Center in The Villages
(352) 674-1882

The Marion County Sheriff’s Office in The Villages
(352) 753-7775

The Sumter County Sheriff’s Office in The Villages
(352) 689-4600, Extension 4606

The Wildwood Police Department Annex at
Brownwood in The Villages – (352) 753-0727

During this pandemic, our offices are closed for walk-in complaints. Please call before you come to our offices. Hours may vary or may require appointments.

To keep up with the latest scams, LIKE ‘Seniors vs. Crime Region 4’ on Facebook. Hablamos Español. Por favor pregunte por Yolanda. Martes a Viernes: 10:00 am a 2:00 pm, (352) 689-4606. ■

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The up-to-date list of Discount Partners can always be found on our website poa4us.org. Click ‘Discount Partners’ on the left menu. ■



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POA STAFF

Bulletin Editor	Deb Butterfield	219-508-6863
POA Email	1presidentpoa@poa4us.org	
POA Website	poa4us.org	
POA Phone	(352) 418-7372	

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COVID-19: Facts...Focus...Future

As a physician by training, my wish is for everyone to “live long and prosper.” Let’s evaluate this virus. Think of a mere particle whose closeness to you can cause irreparable destruction...with just one breath. Its invisibility does not provide comfort, but rather enables entry by deception.

A virus is not alive: it depends on hijacking your normal cells’ ability to replicate. Think of it as a pirate ship sneaking into a port. Flying no flag of recognition, the renegade slips into our vulnerable harbor, only to plunder. (Step #1). If there was a way of identifying pirate vessels while still far at sea, it could be sunk long before ever docking. But if our response is delayed, the viral ship gains a foothold. By not accurately focusing our cannons, the body’s own immune counter-offensive destroys much of the homeland. We magnify collateral damage to ourselves that becomes overwhelming. This “cytokine storm” may be fatal for multiple body organs...and ultimately for us. (Step #2).

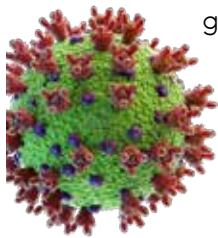
The COVID-19 virus has an outer fat layer surrounding

a protein. If the fat layer is disrupted, the protein is exposed and disintegrates. Our response must be rapid...and controlled. By doing so, we actually resolve both Steps #1 and #2.

Alpha lipoic acid is a natural anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant whose published medical results have been documented for forty years. It is not a prescription; but, it is inexpensive and safe when used as directed, and can address both steps at the same time. It is not a cure-all: rather, offering a natural balance for our immune response. The health impact goes well beyond treating a virus. If you find you do not tolerate Alpha Lipoic Acid well, consider trying the more gentle R-Alpha Lipoic Acid.

The Robert Boissoneault Oncology Institute constantly seeks ways to protect you. We are far more than just superior cancer specialists. We are human...and humane...specialists. Visit our web page to gain more knowledge about alpha lipoic acid, RBOI, and to maximize your health.

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Written by:
Norman H. Anderson M.D.
 Radiation Oncologist | CEO