



POA Bulletin

POA4US.org

JUNE 2021

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UPCOMING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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.

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Positions Available with the POA

Sumter Co. Commissioners Create Emergency Care Advisory Committee

There was a packed room with an overflow crowd at Everglades Recreation Center, as residents once again showed up for a Sumter County Board of Commissioners workshop on May 18 to hear a presentation from County Administrator Bradley Arnold regarding how to improve emergency medical services, including wait times for ambulances.

The Commissioners agreed to establish an advisory committee comprised of fire department and hospital representatives, marking the first time the Commissioners were unanimous in moving forward with a strategy to address an important issue for residents.

Medical emergencies accounted for 84% of all 911 calls in Sumter County in 2020 and significant delays in ambulance response times prompted Mr. Arnold to present 10 options to the Commission for consideration. Prior to the meeting, the Firefighters union representing The Villages firefighters issued a harsh statement criticizing one of Mr. Arnold's options that would eliminate emergency response by The Villages Public Safety Department (VPS).

In the State of Florida, decisions regarding the provider of emergency response services lies with county government. Currently, VPS has seven stations that serve The Villages with 16 paramedics. There are eight other stations with 8 paramedics that serve the rest of the county

with an agreement that whichever department is closest to the call will respond until an ambulance service arrives for transport. That \$1.28 million transport contract is held by the private, for-profit American Medical Response (AMR) company that has come under fire recently for increasingly longer response times. The contract expires in September.

The VPS response times have also lagged, increasing from the benchmark goal of 5 minutes, 30 seconds to 6 minutes and 18 minutes for suburban areas. Firefighters say that increased call volume and a lack of ambulances from AMR have impacted the shift, while AMR says that increased "off-load" times at the hospital – the time it takes the ambulance crew to hand off a patient to hospital staff – are to blame.

One of Mr. Bradley's options is to have UF Health take over the emergency response function.

The advisory committee will report its recommendations in the Fall. ■

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.

AAC and PWAC Nix Live Streaming for Residents

District Manager Richard Baier asked the right question of the Amenity Authority Committee during the discussion of live streaming and posting District Board and Committee meetings for residents. **What is your goal? Do you want people to attend meetings or have access to their local government officials?** He stated that they are two very different goals. It is a discussion that should have occurred during budget workshop sessions in April before the preliminary budgets were presented for approval last month.

The suggestion for live streaming/recording of meetings was not brought up by any board or committee member, so in fairness, they really had no stated goal on the desired outcome. However, Villages resident and POA Bulletin Editor Deb Butterfield asked District Manager Richard Baier to bring the item to budget workshops for discussion. Ms. Butterfield asked for live streaming to be included in the communications strategic planning that she was told would be occurring. To date there has been no update on the status of that planning. The usual annual discussion about the printing vs. using technology for the weekly Recreation News didn’t even come up during budget discussions.

Assistant District Manager Carrie Duckett presented an \$80,000 annual price tag with an initial capital investment of \$5,000 or \$14,000 per meeting location (currently only the Savannah Center). Keep in mind that the \$80,000 annual cost could be split among 13 CDDs, VCCDD, SLCCDD, BWCDD, NSCUDD, AAC and PWAC, costing each \$4,210 a year, which, minimally would be \$350 or less per meeting!

While cities, towns, counties, churches, schools, and businesses across the country have embraced technology to reach their constituents, patrons and customers, the “world class” Villages chooses to put the onus on residents to choose between a round of golf, a walk or run, a doctor appointment, and a plethora of all the other activities available to them in The Villages OR physically come to a meeting to see what decisions your boards and committees are making to spend your money.

Here are a few examples of how a live stream could benefit residents. On May 24 CDD 7 held a workshop with its new Tallahassee attorneys

to discuss issues regarding PWAC participation, legal agreements, etc. The meeting was held after the deadline for this Bulletin’s publication, but it is likely that the meeting lasted several hours. It is also likely that few, if any, residents (other than other CDD supervisors) attended the meeting. CDD 7 has decided to substantially increase the money it is spending for independent legal representation and has significant questions and concerns about many items that will impact their residents. Maybe residents didn’t want to or couldn’t spend 5 hours to attend the meeting, but wouldn’t it be helpful for them to be able to view it from home?

Here is another example shared by POA President and CDD 4 Supervisor Cliff Wiener. The Marion County Board of Commissioners was presented with a proposal for a huge apartment development adjacent to The Villages and of great concern to residents in CDD 4. Supervisor Don Deakin attended the meeting, but Mr. Wiener could not. He watched the presentation not once but twice!

On May 17, the Sumter County Commissioners heard a lengthy presentation about ambulance and emergency response services. The room was packed and there was an overflow. A video stream was provided to all of the fire stations for those employees to hear the presentation. How was that possible when it is not possible for residents? If residents can’t get in the room or just can’t attend, they are left out in the cold (or heat!)

One of the arguments made against video streaming was that residents can always request an audio CD of any meeting for a dollar. That requires 1) a computer with a CD compartment which is not that easy to find; 2) download a

Live Streaming continued on page 4



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Live Streaming continued from page 2

program that allows you to listen to the video; 3) call or email to request the CD; 4) go down to the District office to pick up the CD; and 5) try to figure out who is saying what and what is actually happening at the meeting. Is that really customer friendly government?

So, back to Mr. Baier's question – what is your goal? Informed residents or attendance at a meeting? It is a good question and one that deserves a real discussion among board, committee, and district staff members. The POA hopes the goal is informed residents and customer friendly government, and that this is a topic that will be fully explored sooner rather than later. ■

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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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Dr. Norman Anderson: Important Supplement Addresses Source of Many Problems of Aging

One of the most significant problems as people age is inflammation, and there may be a supplement that can help, according to Dr. Norman Anderson, CEO of the Robert Boissenaault Institute of Cancer. Dr. Anderson told residents at the POA Membership Meeting in May that Alpha Lipoic Acid (ALA), in his opinion, is one of the most important supplements people can take as they age. He has used it to help people with COVID, certain kinds of cancer, and has even used it to regenerate a new liver.

As the body ages, inflammation reduces the body's immune system's ability to fight off disease. With COVID or other disease, what Dr. Anderson said is a Cytokine Storm can occur, causing the immune system to release too many cytokines into the blood too quickly. This can then affect healthy cells as well. With COVID, it can take 2-3 days for the immune system to kick in and the virus itself is growing every one- and one-half hours causing this cytokine storm and affecting lung tissue, GI tract, heart, and brain.

While every cell in the body produces energy, every one also produces waste products that pile up and have to be dealt with. They create inflammation that contributes to aging. This is neutralized with radicals with antioxidants, with ALA being one of the strongest,

L-glutathione, a tripeptide produced by the liver and smaller than a protein, controls the entire immune system. As we "mature", production of this peptide goes down and we become more susceptible to infections, fungus, and other disease. It is important to recognize infection ASAP.

Dr. Anderson has a long list of the benefits of ALA:

- Reduces inflammation
- Increases the production of L-glutathione
- Oppresses insulin resistance
- Slows progression of aging
- Improves lung function
- Reduces blood lipid levels (fats)
- Reduces weight (for those who need to lose; does not cause weight loss if not needed)
- Stimulates death of human colon cancer
- Reduces oral fibrosis
- Reduces hair loss in breast cancer patients receiving chemotherapy
- Reduces neuropathic pain (especially caused by diabetes)
- Promotes bone growth in spite of steroid use
- Inhibits HIV implication
- Assists wound healing
- Suppresses collagen induced arthritis
- Sensitizes lung cancer cells to the benefit of chemotherapy
- Destroys certain types of cancer
- Promotes healing of the liver
- Treats chronic prostatitis/chronic pelvic pain syndrome

There are also side effects from taking ALA, including gastrointestinal upset, which Dr. Anderson said can be addressed by spreading out the doses and taking with food. He said the average dose is 600 mg. He also said there is a type of the supplement – R-Alpha Lipoic Acid – that is easier on the gastrointestinal system and is also very affordable.

ALA can also cause a thyroid replacement imbalance, and especially people who are on thyroid medicines should carefully monitor blood values.

Dr. Anderson urged people not to take his word for the benefits of ALA, but to do their own research. He suggests the website pubmed.gov for many articles on its benefits. ■



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

Budget Workshops Produce Results for Some Residents

Following discussions in April and reporting in The Bulletin regarding the amounts of money held in reserve accounts, at least two (at the time we went to press) Community Development District (CDD) boards took actions that will benefit their residents. CDD’s 5 and 9 each directed district staff to present preliminary budgets for approval in June that reflect a 20% decrease in the maintenance fees residents are currently paying in those districts.

Those two CDDs have the highest level of reserves, with CDD 5 holding \$15+million (405% of budget) and CDD 9 \$16+ million (409%). A 20% reduction means residents could save \$100 or more next year on the maintenance fee. To balance their budgets, funds will be transferred from Working Capital reserves.

The POA applauds these two CDDs for taking a hard look at their reserve balances and making decisions that benefit the residents in their districts.

CDD 7 Holds Lengthy Workshop with New Attorneys

A special workshop was scheduled on May 24 (after deadline for this month’s Bulletin) for Community Development District (CDD) 7 supervisors and their new attorneys to discuss issues regarding funding, their role and participation in the Project Wide Fund agreement, and a host of other topics. The agenda was robust, and the discussion was anticipated to be intense.

Longtime CDD 7 Supervisor Dennis Broedlin resigned shortly after the regular May meeting, after not attending meetings since the decision was made to separate the legal representation from the District-hired firm, engaging instead, an independent and significantly more expensive law firm from Tallahassee. The first two invoices approved by CDD 7 for March and April totaled \$10,848 for Hoppings and Green versus \$5,110 for January – March for the former firm Brionez & Brionez.

The purpose of the meeting for May 24 was stated “to provide direction to the District’s legal counsel on the projects that the Board would like reviewed, and to prioritize such projects.” Below is a list of topics that have been discussed as potential issues for legal counsel to review.

1. **District 7 Participation in Project Wide Advisory Committee**
 - a. Process for District 7 input into and approval of PWAC budget
 - b. Percentage of PWAC budget allocated to Village 7 lands (past and present)
 - c. Flow of funds from District 7 to PWAC
 - d. Allocation of PWAC funding responsibilities among participating CDDs
 - e. Term of agreement
 - f. Renewal provisions for agreement
 - g. Evaluation of infrastructure currently maintained by PWAC
 - h. Process for adding new infrastructure to PWAC responsibility under Appendix A
 - i. PWAC’s role as advisory versus decision-making
 - j. Analyze financial impact on District 7 of being part of PWAC versus not participating
 - k. Analyze financial impact of removing District 12 and future CDDs by creating PWAC 2 including a review of changes that would be made to Appendix A and what happens with infrastructure that connects PWAC 1 lands with PWAC 2 lands
 - l. Duress when Agreement approved
2. **Management Services Agreement**
3. **Procurement/Purchasing Protocols, Agreement Forms and Options**
 - a. Participation by District 7 in approving RFPs and evaluation criteria
 - b. Evaluation of proposals submitted
 - c. Review of forms of agreements
 - d. Alternatives to current structure for procurement
4. **ARC meeting attendance**
5. **List of assets and infrastructure owned by the Village 7 CDD**
6. **Review of bond documents regarding roadway reserves**

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In Case You Missed It continued from page 12

PWAC Chair Submits Letter to SLCDD Board of Supervisors

At the April meeting of the Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC), as the members were discussing the creation of a second and separate PWAC 2, PWAC Chair Don Wiley told committee members he was going to look at the Third Amended and Restated Interlocal Government Agreement to the Project Wide Agreement. He reported that he met with the District Manager and Deputy District Manager and identified items in the agreement for discussion in anticipation of a new agreement to create a second Project Wide Fund and Advisory Committee for those districts being created south of CR 44.

In a letter to Dan Berning, Chair of the Sumter Landing Community Development District (SLCDD), the legal authority and “parent” board for PWAC, Mr. Wiley requested the following changes/additions to the current Project Wide Agreement:

1. Exhibit A would not be changed or amended without first obtaining the recommendation from the Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC).
2. Exhibit A to be updated with maps/graphics depicting all properties currently included in Exhibit A of the Project Wide Agreement in addition to its current textual content, and any future additions shall also contain the same textual and graphical information of the properties under consideration for inclusion.
3. The term on the agreement should be modified to 10 years with a 10-year renewal cycle.
4. The content and essence of SLCDD Resolution 13-5 (PWAC Establishing Resolution) be included in the updated Project Wide Agreement. Additionally, the conflict resolution agreement (section 3) of SLCDD Resolution 17-11 should be included with these additions to the Project Wide Agreement. Resolution 17-11 shall continue to stand as written.
5. Annually, and as situations may require, the Chairman of the SLCDD would attend a PWAC meeting to discuss any issues or concerns and provide feedback to the PWAC concerning upcoming or pending community direction and plans.

I believe that each of these changes serves to strengthen the Project Wide Agreement to the benefit of all parties, improves the relationship between the SLCDD Board and PWAC, and will provide the residents of The Villages with a higher level of trust in our local governmental bodies.”

The letter, which was sent prior to the May meeting of PWAC (and therefore without input from other PWAC members) was presented to the SLCDD, who took it under advisement. The creation of a new PWAC and/or any revisions to the current Project Wide agreement must be approved by all parties to the agreement, which includes the SLCDD and CDDs 5 – 12. Several CDDs have seen this as an opportunity to renegotiate portions of the Third Amendment. Without all parties in agreement, a new Project Wide cannot be formed. There is speculation that CDD 7, in particular, may obstruct efforts to move forward without negotiation.

CDD 1 Continues Sign Policy

Despite encouragement from Community Development District (CDD) 4 Supervisor Cliff Wiener to seek resident input, the CDD 1 Board of Supervisors decided at its May meeting to continue its current sign policy, which provides that the signage rules would not be enforced.

Supervisor Chair Kathy Porter has suggested that the board re-evaluate its position on signs, citing numerous complaints from CDD 1 residents. However, Supervisor Judy Biebesheimer said she hadn’t heard anything from her neighbors and made a motion to keep the non-enforcement of the rule in effect. Even though there were only three supervisors at the meeting, they voted to leave things alone.

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In Case You Missed It continued from page 13

**NOTICE OF VACANCY
VILLAGE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DISTRICT NO. 1 BOARD OF SUPERVISOR
and the
DISTRICT NO. 7 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

The Village Community Development District No. 1 and District No. 7 Boards of Supervisors are each seeking applicants who are interested in filling Seat 1, which is vacant due to the resignation of a Board Supervisor. The remainder of the existing four (4) year term for the vacated Seat will expire in November 2022.

Any interested applicants must be a qualified elector in the respective district, which is defined by Florida Statute 190 as “any person at least 18 years of age who is a citizen of the United States, a legal resident of Florida and of the district, and who registers to vote with the Supervisor of Elections in the county in which the district land is located.” To obtain additional information or request an application you may contact Jennifer Farlow, District Clerk at (352) 751-3939 or obtain a copy of the application by clicking on the header of this announcement.

Applications for District 1 must be submitted to the Jennifer Farlow, District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at the District Office, 984 Old Mill Run, The Villages.

The District 1 Board of Supervisors will interview applicants during a Board Meeting to be held on **Friday, July 9, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. in the Savannah Regional Recreation Center, 1545 Buena Vista Boulevard, The Villages, FL.**

Applications for District 7 must be submitted to Jennifer Farlow, District Clerk no later than Tuesday, June 29, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at the District Office, 984 Old Mill Run, The Villages.

The District 7 Board of Supervisors will interview applicants during a Special Board Meeting to be held on **Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. at Savannah Center. ■**



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by Anne Lambrecht Fanatical Gardener mrsanneo4@gmail.com

Begonias are a cool family of plants that like shade or morning sun. The name Begonia means “Begon’s flower” named for French amateur horticulturalist Michel Bégon who discovered them on Santo Domingo.

Sometimes begonias can seem cheap and common, like the bedding plants that grow en masse in our common areas here throughout the year. The begonia family contains more than 1,300 species and hybrids, many of which are commonly grown as potted foliage plants. These tropical plants can be grown in USDA hardiness zones 8b to 11. We are 9a so be sure to protect your outdoor begonias from frost. They can also thrive indoors.

Begonias that do best in the landscape generally fall into three groups: wax begonias, cane or angel-wing begonias, and rhizomatous begonias. Other types like tuberous, Rex, and Rieger begonias prefer cool temperatures and do not usually make reliable landscape plants in Florida, but you can always try them outside in pots in the shade and indoors as houseplants. It’s a good idea to keep them in pots so you can bring them to a protected area when the weather gets cool.

Wax Begonias. In the landscape, wax begonias are the most popular, with flowers that keep their rich color, even during the summer. There are numerous single and double flowered varieties in shades of red, pink, and white, with either bronze or green foliage that looks “waxy”. Popular and reliable, wax begonias thrive in sun or shade and perform well in landscape beds or containers.

Cane Begonias have stiff, upright stems that give them their common name, and produce clusters of dangling flowers in shades of red, orange, pink, or white year-round. Leaves are spotted, banded, or splotched with color, and wing shaped, giving them the once-common name angel wing begonias.

Rhizomatous Begonias have thick rhizomes, that grow under the soil. In my opinion they are hard to grow, except in containers or very protected

areas. Rex begonias are rhizomatous and are grown for their colorful leaves instead of their flowers. However, because of foliage problems (fungus) and a preference for cooler climates, these are often better houseplants than landscape plants.

Planting and Care. Begonias can be used in mass plantings, or they can be mixed with other annuals. Plant them as soon as possible after purchase. These easy-to-grow plants prefer warm temperatures, humidity, and moist, well-drained soil. When choosing a spot for a landscape begonia, look for an area that receives several hours of morning sun; many begonias can tolerate more sunlight if they are kept moist but not too wet. Well-drained soil is particularly important as begonias will rot if they are overwatered or planted in an area that stays wet.

Your plants should be fertilized several times a year with a controlled-release fertilizer for best results. If your begonia gets leggy, don’t be afraid to cut it back. An occasional light pruning will also stimulate new growth and more flowers.

Propagation. Begonias are easily propagated at home. There are three types of begonia propagation: stem cuttings, leaf cuttings, and division. Stem cuttings are very simple. A stem cutting should be two to four inches in length and come from a healthy plant. You can root these cuttings in perlite, potting soil, or any other sterile media. Some begonias will also start from leaf cuttings. The only requirement is that the leaf portion contains a main vein. You can also divide some varieties of begonia by simply separating the stems. Take each section and plant them in clean potting media. Some respond well to rooting in water.



Check out the American Begonia Society

begonias.org. The

American Begonia Society (ABS) is devoted to the “promotion, cultivation, and study of begonias. Founded in 1932, the organization now has a worldwide membership. It publishes a bimonthly magazine, The Begonian, and maintains a seed list for members. The ABS has created a numbering system for unidentified begonias; when a plant is identified, its correct name is published in the magazine and its “U” number is retired.

Material borrowed from University of Florida <https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/ornamentals/begonias>. ■

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Grandparents Scams Explained

SENIORS VS CRIME

When it comes to scammers, nothing is sacred — including the bond between grandparent and grandchild. Lately, grandparent scammers have gotten bolder: they might even come to your door to collect money, supposedly for your grandchild in distress.

These kinds of scams still start with a call from someone pretending to be your grandchild. They might speak softly or make an excuse for why they sound different. They’ll say they’re in trouble, need bail, or need money for some reason. The “grandkid” will also beg you to keep this a secret - maybe they’re “under a gag order”, or they don’t want their parents to know. Sometimes, they might put another scammer on the line that pretends to be a lawyer needing money to represent the grandchild in court.

But, instead of asking you to buy gift cards or wire money (both signs of a scam), the scammer tells you someone will come to your door to pick up cash. Once you hand it over, your money is gone. But you might get more calls to send money by wire transfer or through the mail.

To avoid these scams and protect your personal information:

- **Take a breath and resist the pressure to pay.** Get off the phone and call or text the person who (supposedly) called. If you can’t reach them, check with a family member to get the real story. Even though the scammer said not to.
- **Don’t give your address, personal information, or cash to anyone who contacts you.** And anyone who asks you to pay by gift card or money transfer is a scammer. Always.
- **Check your social media privacy settings and limit what you share publicly.** Even if your settings are on private, be careful about what personal identifiers you put out on social media.

If you need assistance with understanding any aspects of Grandparent 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:

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The Marion County Sheriff’s Office in The Villages
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The Sumter County Sheriff’s Office in The Villages
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The Wildwood Police Department Annex at
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Humans sometimes learn slowly. Such was the case when a Subway sandwich lay unattended more than once on our kitchen counter. Turning one’s back for a moment was all the time necessary for lunch to magically disappear... wrapper and all. I doubt the number of grams of fat was ever an issue. Shadow would dawn a sincere look as if to say, “How could you possibly suspect that I would do...what I just did.”

Our pets create memorable emotional experiences. Humans, likewise, create for each other memories that serve as a basis for the warmth we feel, instilling love and affection. Hearts are valuable, deserving respect and protection.

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