



# POA Bulletin



POA4US.org

JULY 2024

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## Upcoming POA General Membership Meetings

July 16, 2024 • 7 pm

Laurel Manor Recreation Center

Speaker: Bradley Arnold, County Administrator

Topic: Sumter County FY 24-25 Budget

July 18, 2024 • 7 pm

Everglades Recreation Center

CANDIDATES NIGHT

Sumter County Commissioner Candidates  
Districts 1, 3 & 5 will present their credentials at the  
POA Membership meeting, and answer questions

*Donuts & Coffee will be available at the POA  
General Membership Meetings*

**July 22 is the last day to change  
your party \*affiliation.**

You can do this online at  
[SumterElections.org](http://SumterElections.org) or

in person at 7375 Powell Rd., Suite #125  
Wildwood, FL 34785

or 316 E. Anderson Ave. Bushnell, FL 33513.

*\*You can change it back for the general election*

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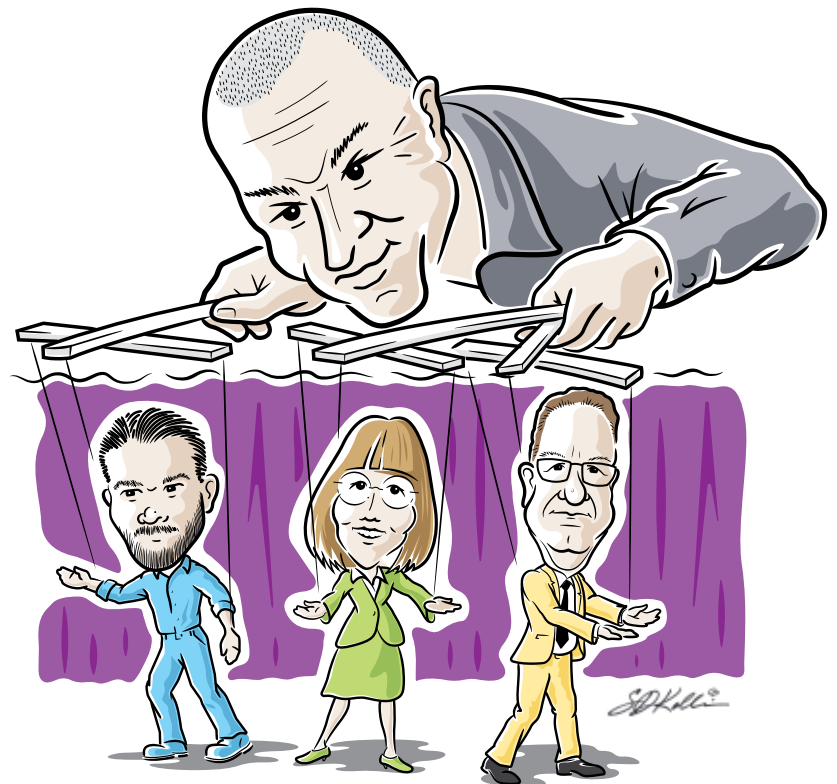
Lightning Safety **14**

# Developer Puppets Rake in \$282,313 in Campaign Donations



By comparison, the other candidates – Craig Estep, Deb Butterfield and Oren Miller – have raised just a combined total of \$13,380.

Take a look at the full list of their donors on pages 2 - 7. You will see the number of the same donors that anteed up, along with their occupations. Notice the number of construction-related businesses or affiliated individuals that are represented as well as other contractors for The Villages like Jacobs, The Villages IT and various engineering firms.



Who do you think Mr. Coon, Ms. Lazich, and Mr. Wiley will represent if elected?

*Puppets 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.

**Puppets** *continued from page 1*

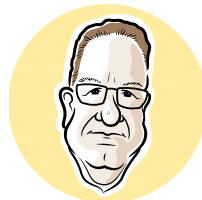
On the next several pages you will see the full donation list as of May 31 for each of the Developer’s chosen candidates. You will also notice a pattern of repeat donors, everyone from Mark Morse to the Superintendent of The Villages Charter School, Randy McDowell. Most are \$1,000 donations.



**Blue – Todd Coon**  
**\$109,933.10**



**Green – Mary Lazich**  
**\$82,250.00**



**Yellow – Don Wiley**  
**\$86,000.00**

*Source: Sumter Co. Supv. Elections, Candidate Profiles & Financial Reports*

*As of 5/31/24*

Donated By	Location	B/I	Occupation	Amount
Agewave Solutions Inc.	The Villages	B	Architecture/ Engineering	1000
AgeWave Solutions, Inc	The Villages	B	Architects & Engineers	1000
AgeWave Solutions, Inc.	The Villages	B	Architect	1000
Alex-Cor INC	Leesburg	B	Concrete Contractor	1000
Alex-Cor Inc	Leesburg	B	Concrete Contractor	1000
Alex-Cor, Inc	Leesburg	B	Construction Materials	1000
ASG Solutions LLC	Wildwood	B	Consulting	1000
ASG Solutions, LLC	Wildwood	B	Information Technology	1000
ASG Soutlutions LLC	Wildwood	B	Landscape	1000
Austin Berry	Lake Panasoffkee	I	Construction	1000
Austin Berry	Lake Panasoffkee	I	Construction	1000
Austin White	Lake Panasoffkee	I	Construction	1000
Austin White	Lake Panasoffkee	I	construction	1000
Austin J White	Lake Panasoffkee	I	Construction	1000
Austin Roger Berry	Lake Panasoffkee	I	Construction	1000
Bailey Industries Inc	Leesburg	B	Kitchen Design	1000
Bailey Industries, Inc.	Leesburg	B	Construction Materials	1000
Bailey Industries, Inc.	Leesburg	B	Trade Contractors	1000
Becky Dixon	Lake Panasoffkee	I	Construction	1000
Becky Dixon	Lake Panasoffkee	I	Construction	1000
Becky Dixon	Lake Panasoffkee	I	Construction	1000
Bobby Trinh	Oxford	I	CEO	200
Bobby Trinh	Oxford	I	Healthcare	200
Bobby Trinh	Oxford	I	Healthcare	200
Brady Barnes	Lake Panasoffkee	I	Construction	1000
Brady Barnes	Lake Panasoffkee	I	Construction	1000
Brady Barnes	Lake Panasoffkee	I	Construction	1000
Brandon Matulka	Valparaiso	I	Senior Manager	1000
Brandon Matulka	Valparaiso	I	Dzuro & Associates	1000
Brandon Matulka	Valparaiso	I	Consulting	1000
Brian Foulkes	Clermont	I	Vice President	500
Brian Foulkes	Clermont	I	Water treatment	500
Brian Foulkes	Clermont	I	Engineering/ Consulting	500
Brian Hudson	The Villages	I	Attorney	1000
Brian Sellers	Middleton	I	Construction	1000
Brian Sellers	Middleton	I	Construction	1000
Brian Sellers	Middleton	I	Construction	1000
Brian D Hudson	The Villages	I	Attorney	1000
C Dale Borrowman	The Villages	I	IT Services	1000
C Dale Borrowman	The Villages	I	Technology Contractor	1000
C. Dale Borrowman	The Villages	I	technology Group	1000
Celeste Hankins	Orlando	B	Attorney	1000
Celeste T Hankins	Orlando	I	Attorney	1000
Celeste Thacker Hankins	Orlando	I	Attorney	1000
Century 21 Prime Prop Resource	Bushnell	B	Real Estate Broker	1000
Century 21 Prime Property	Bushnell	B	Home Sales	1000
Century 21 Prime Property Res	Bushnell	B	Real estate	1000
CJ Barnes	Bushnell	I	Construction	1000
CJ Barnes	Bushnell	I	Construction	1000
CJ Barnes	Bushnell	I	Construction	1000

**B = Business    I = Individual**

**Puppets** *continued on page 3*

Donated By	Location	B/I	Occupation	Amount
Clifton, Ezell & Clifton Golf	Apopka	B	Golf Course Design	500
Clifton, Ezell & Clifton Golf	Apopka	B	Design Consulting	500
Clifton, Ezell Golf Design LLC	Apopka	B	Golf Course Design	500
Clymer Farner Barley	Wildwood	B	Civil Engineering	1000
Clymer Farner Barley Inc	Wildwood	B	Surveying	1000
Clymer, Farner Barley, Inc.	Wildwood	B	Surveying	1000
Daniel Dixon	Lake Panasoffkee	I	Construction	1000
Daniel Dixon	Lake Panasoffkee	I	Construction	1000
Daniel Dixon	Lake Panasoffkee	I	Construction	1000
Darrell R Weicherz	Wildwood	I	Electrician	500
Davis Const Alliance LLC	The Villages	B	Construction	1000
Davis Construction Alliance	Ocala	B	Construction	1000
Davis Construction Alliance LLC	The Villages	B	Construction	1000
Dennis Stradinger	The Villages	I	Construction	500
Dennis M Stradinger	The Villages	I	Assistant Director	500
Dwayne R Manns	Wildwood	I	Electrician	1000
DZ Block INC	The Villages	B	Manufacturing	1000
DZ Block Inc	The Villages	B	Concrete materials	1000
DZ Block Inc	The Villages	B	Concrete Fabrication	1000
DZ PRECAST SOLUTIONS INC	The Villages	B	Construction	1000
DZ Precast Solutions Inc.	The Villages	B	Concrete Fabrication	1000
DZ Precast Solutions, Inc.	The Villages	B	Concrete materials	1000
Earthscapes Unlimited LLC	Coleman	B	Commercial Landscape	1000
Earthscapes Unlimited, Inc	Coleman	B	Landscaping	1000
Earthscapes Unlimited, Inc.	Coleman	B	Sitework Contractor	1000
Eleazar Flores	Oxford	I	Construction	1000
Eleazar Flores	Oxford	I	Construction	1000
Eleazar Flores	Oxford	I	Construction	1000
Ellen Decker	The Villages	I	retired	50
Elliot Sussman	The Villages	I	Health care	500
Elliot J Sussman	The Villages	B	Chairman VH	500
Elliot J Sussman	The Villages	I	Healthcare	250
Eric D Langenbrunner	The Villages	I	Attorney	1000
Erick Langenbrunner	The Villages	I	Attorney	1000

Donated By	Location	B/I	Occupation	Amount
Erick D Langenbrunner	The Villages	I	Attorney	1000
Five Star Landscaping & Irriga	The Villages	B	Landscaping	1000
Five Star Landscaping INC	The Villages	B	Landscaping Company	1000
Five Star Landscaping Inc	The Villages	B	Landscaping Contractor	1000
Florida Paint & Coatings LLC	Winter Garden	B	Painting contractor	1000
Florida Paints & Coatings LLC	Winter Garden	B	Paint Suplies	1000
Florida Paints LLC	Winter Garden	B	Paint Manufacturing	1000
Frank Ancona	The Villages	I	Retired	50
Fred Nickel Tile INC	Ocala	B	Tile Supply	1000
Fred Nickel Tile Inc	Ocala	B	Flooring contractor	1000
Fred Nickel Tile Inc	Ocala	B	Flooring Retailer	1000
Fresh Made Kitchen Res. Group	Wildwood	B	Restaurants	1000
Fresh Made Kitchen Rest Group	Wildwood	B	Restaurant/ Hospitality	1000
Fresh Made Kitchen Restaurant	Wildwood	B	Restaurants	1000
Friends of Blaise Ingoglia	Tampa	C	Senator Committee	1000
Friends of Blaise Ingoglia	Tampa	C	Political Committee	1000
Friends of Blaise Ingoglia	Tampa	F	Political Committee	1000
Gary Lester	The Villages	I	Community Relations	1000
Gary Lester	The Villages	I	Development	1000
Gary Mark	The Villages	I	Director of Design	1000
Gary Mark	The Villages	I	Construction	1000
Gary Mark	The Villages	I	Development	1000
Gerig Concrete INC	Henando	B	Concrete Supply	1000
Gerig Concrete, Inc	Hernando	B	Construction materials	1000
Gerig Concrete, Inc.	Hernando	B	Contractor	1000
Glendora Yoder	Lake Panasoffkee	I	Construction business ow	500
Global Contracting Group LLC	Wildwood	B	Contracting Firm	1000
Global Contracting Group LLC	Wildwood	B	Sitework Contractor	1000
Global Contraction Group LLC	Wildwood	B	Construction	1000
Great Lakes Carpet	Wildwood	B	Flooring	1000
Great Lakes Carpet & Tile LLC	Wildwood	B	Carpet and Tile Store	1000
Great Lakes Carpet & Tile, LLC	Wildwood	B	Flooring Retailer	1000
Green Scene Land & Water Gp	Oxford	B	Landscaping	1000
Green Scene Land & Water Group	Oxford	B	Landscaping	1000

**Puppets** continued from page 2

In addition, as occurred in the last election, just before the filing deadline, loyal soldiers Pat Francis, Kevin Burke and William Statom filed as “write-in” candidates, **so the August 20 primary is now considered “closed” to all primary voters except registered Republicans.**

Samantha Scott, Chairman of the Sumter County Republican Party, expressed her gratitude to the write-in candidates in a Letter to the Editor published in *Villages-News.com*, stating that the Party is “protecting the integrity of the Republican Primary Election by adopting the policy of facilitating write-in candidates to lawfully preserve the right of Republicans to choose our Party’s nominee without interference.”

She accused Democrats of trying to crash the Republican Party Primary.

It seems that Ms. Scott and the Sumter County Republican Party have no qualms about eliminating the other 20,000+ voters who are registered to vote with no party affiliation. According to the Sumter County Supervisor of Elections web page there are 71,338 registered Republicans, 24,304 Democrats and 26,989 “Others.” Republicans have an overwhelming majority of registered voters at 58%. So, what are they so afraid of? Perhaps that independent thinking voters might just decide they’d rather back other Republican candidates that have not sold out to the Developer?

Voters are reminded that they have until July 22, to register to vote or update/change their party affiliation in order to ensure voting in the August 20 primary. Early voting begins August 10.

Albert Einstein defines insanity as “doing the same thing over and over again, expecting a different result.” These are the same dirty tactics used in previous elections, and voters proved that they could beat the power hungry at their own game. The POA predicts the same result this year. 🟢

**NOTE: The list of donors is so long it continues on the next 5 pages!**



Donated By	Location	B/I	Occupation	Amount
Green Scene Land & Water Group	Oxford	B	Consulting	1000
Greg Lammer	Oxford	I	home builder	1000
Greg M Lammer	Oxford	I	Development	1000
Gregory M Lammer	Oxford	I	Home Builder	1000
Heather Dixon	bushnell	I	Construction	1000
Heather Dixon	Bushnell	I	Construction	1000
Heather Dixon	Bushnell	I	Construction	1000
HIW Construction Services Inc	Wildwood	B	Construction	1000
HIW Construction Services Inc	Wildwood	B	Construction	1000
HIW Construction Services LLC	Wildwood	B	Construction Services	1000
Jacobs	The Villages	B	Refuse Collection	1000
Jacobs	The Villages	B	Engineering	1000
Jam Rock Interiors INC	Wildwood	B	Exterior designs	1000
Jam Rock Interiors Inc	Wildwood	B	Interior Design	1000
Jam Rock Interiors Inc	Wildwood	B	Interior Design	1000
James Anderson	Ocklawaha	I	Construction	1000
James Brown	Wildwood	I	Construction	1000
James E Brown	Wildwood	I	Contractor	1000
James E Brown	Wildwood	I	Sitework Contractor	1000
James M Anderson	Ocklawaha	I	Construction	1000
James M Anderson	Ocklawaha	I	Construction	1000
Jason Dixon	Bushnell	I	Construction	1000
Jason Dixon	Bushnell	I	Construction	1000
Jason Dixon	Bushnell	B	Construction	1000
Jeffrey Pardue	ST Petersburg	I	Environmental Permitting	500
Jeffrey Pardue	St Petersburg	I	Environmental Eng.	500
Jennifer Parr	The Villages	I	Land Developer	1000
Jennifer Yoder		I	Construction	1000
Jennifer L Parr	The Villages	I	Vice President Sales	1000

Donated By	Location	B/I	Occupation	Amount
Jennifer L Parr	The Villages	I	Development	1000
Jennifer S Yoder		I	Construction	1000
Jennifer S Yoder		I	Construction	1000
John Arnett	Ocala	I	Vikus Water	500
John Ca;amdrp	The Villages	I	Retired	100
John P Calandro	The Villages	I	Retired	150
John P Colandro	The Villages	I	Retired	100
John W Arnett III	Ocala	I	Vikus Water	500
John W Arnett III	Ocala	I	Engineer	500
Joseph McManon	N. Tonawanda	I	Retired	1000
K P Architect, P.A.	Ocala	B	Architecture Firm	1000
K P Studio Architect PA	Ocala	B	Architectural Consulting	1000
K.P. Studio Architect, P.A.	Ocala	B	Architect	1000
Kaley Barnes	Lake Panasoffkee	I	Construction	1000
Kaley Barnes	Lake Panasoffkee	I	Construction	1000
Kaley Barnes	Lake Panasoffkee	I	Construction	1000
Kelly Flores	Oxford	I	IT Services	1000
Kelly L Flores	Oxford	I	Technology Solutions	1000
Kelly L Flores	Oxford	I	Technology Contractor	1000
Kevin Burke	Wildwood	I	Landscaping	1000
Kevin Burke	Wildwood	I	Landscaping	1000
Kevin Burke	Wildwood	I	Landscaping	1000
Layna Hoopfer	Oxford	I	Executive Assistant	100
Layna Hopfer	Oxford	I	Construction	100
Layna C Sasser	Oxford	I	Administrative	100
Lester Coggins	Leesburg	I	Retired	200
Lester Cooggins	Leesburg	I	Pilot	200
Lester A Coggins JR	Leesburg	I	Brownwood Supervisor	200
Linda Crenshaw	Wildwood	I	Retired	200

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# Sumter County Commissioner Candidates Night and Candidate Biographies

The POA will conduct a Candidates Night for candidates running for Sumter County Commissioner, Districts 1, 3 and 5. The event will be held Thursday, July 18 at 7 pm at Everglades Recreation Center. All candidates were invited to participate. Those confirmed to attend are Deb Butterfield, Mary Lazich, District 1; Craig Estep, District 3 (Todd Coon declined the invitation); and Oren Miller and Don Wiley, District 5.

Each candidate will be allowed time to introduce his/her qualifications for the position and will answer questions presented by the POA. Residents may submit questions to [lpresidentPOA@gmail.org](mailto:lpresidentPOA@gmail.org).

**Questions will be screened and must be received by July 15.**

All candidates were also given the opportunity to provide a 150-word biography. The bios presented below are as they were received without editing.

## Candidate Biographies District 1

**Deb Butterfield:** I am a fiscally conservative, lifelong Republican with a long track record of community leadership and service. I was a City Council member in Valparaiso, IN, and served on the Plan Commission and Parks Board. I was also a Chamber of Commerce executive for two chambers in Indiana, working with businesses to help them grow and thrive.

In 2012 I purchased a small retail business in Colony Plaza. After selling the business in 2016, I became an independent writer/editor for the POA Bulletin. I have been immersed in local government issues, attending District and Commissioner meetings. I am challenged to research and understand the issues in order to present factual information to homeowners.

I am not driven by money or power. My coffers are quite poor compared to other candidates. I am driven by doing the right thing for ALL voters. I stand proudly on my values: Fairness, Integrity, and Truth.

**Mary Lazich:** My government experience as conservative Republican President of the Wisconsin State Senate, State Senator, State Assembly Member (State House), County Supervisor (Commissioner), and City Council Member empower me with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to contribute to Sumter County as a County Commissioner.

Within each of the positions of my past experience, I served on numerous committees, boards, and commissions providing me with in-depth knowledge and experience of most, if not all, state and local government functions.

My husband and I have been married 49 years. We have three adult children and seven grandchildren. I have a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee graduating summa cum laude, major Political Science, minor Communications, with Pre-Law option.

With over 30 years of Government service, constituents are always my number one priority. Vote Experience, Independence, Fiscal Conservative.

*Candidates continued on page 6*

Donated By	Location	B/I	Occupation	Amount
Logan Sitework Contr inc	Fruitland Park	B	Sitework Contractor	1000
Logan Sitework Contractors	Fruitland Park	B	Siftework Contractors	1000
Logan Sitework Contractors Inc	Fruitland Park	B	Construction	1000
M'Lissa Morse	The Villages	I	homemaker	1000
M'Lissa Morse	The Villages	I	Development	1000
M'Lissa M Morse	The Villages	I	Homemaker	1000
Marcos Flores	Oxford	I	Construction	1000
Marcos G Flores	Oxford	I	Construction	1000
Marcos G Flores	Oxford	I	Construction	1000
Mark Morse	The Villages	I	developer	1000
Mark Morse	The Villages	I	Land Developer	1000
Mark Morse	The Villages	I	Development	1000
Mark Cook Builders INC	Leesburg	B	Builders	500
Mark Cook Builders, Inc	Leesburg	B	Construction	500
Mark Cook Builders, Inc.	Leesburg	B	Construction	500
Martin Dzuro	The Villages	I	Dzuro and Associates	1000
Martin L Dzuro	The Villages	I	Dzuro and Associates	1000
Martin L Dzuro	The Villages	I	Consulting	1000
Mary A Lazich	The Villages	S	Retired Legislator	500
Matthew Yoder		I	Construction	1000

Donated By	Location	B/I	Occupation	Amount
Matthew L Yoder		I	Construction	1000
Matthew L Yoder		I	Construction	1000
Michael E West	The Villages	I	Development	1000
Michael Manly	The Villages	I	Construction	1000
Michael E West	The Villages	I	Construction	1000
Michael J Manly	the Villages	I	Construction	1000
Michael J Manly	The Villages	I	Business Owner	1000
Michael Pape & Assoc PA	Ocala	B	Design Consulting	1000
Michael Pape & Associates PA	Ocala	B	Master Planning	1000
Michael Pape & Associates PA	Ocala	B	Land Planning	1000
Michelle Yates	Wildwood	I	Construction	1000
Michelle Yates	Wildwood	I	Construction	1000
Michelle Yates	Wildwood	I	Construction	1000
Mike West	The Villages	I	Construction	1000
Mike Scott Plumbing	Hernando	B	Plumbing contractor	1000
Mike Scott Plumbing INC	Hernando	B	Plumbing Service	1000
Mike Scott Plumbing Inc	Hernando	B	Plumbing Contractor	1000
Nicolas Hemes		I	Retired	500
Philip Bernard	Windermere	I	Accountant	1000
Philip Bernard	Windermere	I	Accounting	1000



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Candidates continued from page 5

### District 3

**Todd Coon:** I grew up in Leesburg and moved to Sumter County after my wife Melissa and I were married. She has lived her entire life in Sumter County. We raised our 5 children here, and 3 of them have returned after college to work here in one of our family businesses.

It has been wonderful for our family to live the American Dream as the owners and operators of both Tri County Landscapes and Desantis Air Conditioning and Appliances. Our mission is to serve our customers with quality products at affordable prices. In that same vein, I believe we need government at all levels to have that same attitude.

I am not a politician. I am a father, small businessman, and community leader.

**Craig Estep:** Chairman Craig Estep’s first 3 years as Commissioner:

- Went above and beyond his goal to erase the 25.5% millage increase by driving the rate to the lowest ever in county history and totally erasing the increase from 4 years ago.
- Ensured the citizens of Sumter County are well represented at both the local and state level by actively participating in 10 boards and executive committees statewide.
- Encouraged the pursuit of grants by staff of approximately 50 million dollars
- Encouraged a solar project to support electrical cost efficiencies with an ROI of 10 years.
- Been elected by his peers to be Chairman of the Sumter County Board of County Commissioners for the last 3 years running.
- Diligent in overseeing a balanced budget and responsible growth.
- Chairman Estep’s pledge to you in the next term:
- Continue the priorities achieved above.
- Loyalty to YOU, the citizens of Sumter County

Candidates continued on page 7

Donated By	Location	B/I	Occupation	Amount
Philip J Markward	The Villages	I	Director of Media	1000
Philip J Markward	The Villages	I	Media	1000
Philip L Bernard	Windermere	I	Accounting	1000
Philips Markward	The Villages	I	Development services	1000
Phillip Montalvo	The Villages	I	Retired	50
Phillip Montalvo	The Villages	I	retired	50
Pikes Electric	Wildwood	B	Electrical Contractor	1000
PIKES ELECTRIC INC	Wildwood	B	Energy Solutions	1000
Pikes Electric Inc	Wildwood	B	Electrical Contractor	1000
Rainey Construction CO LLC	Middleton	B	Construction	1000
Rainey Construction Co LLC	Middleton	B	Sitework Contractor	1000
Rainey Construction Comp LLC	Middleton	B	Construction	1000
Randy G McDaniel	The Villages	I	Director of Education	1000
Randy McDaniel	The Villages	I	Educator	1000
Randy G McDaniel	The Villages	I	Education	1000
Reora Inc.	Ocala			540
Richard Barr	Tallahassee	I	Sr Vice President	200
Richard Barr	Tallahassee	I	Engineering Consultant	200
Richard Barr	Tallahassee	I	Retired	200
Richard Yates	Wildwood	I	Construction	1000
Richard Yates	Wildwood	I	Construction	1000
Richard Yates	Wildwood	I	Construction	1000

Donated By	Location	B/I	Occupation	Amount
Ro-Mac Lumber & Supply	Leesburg	B	Construction Materials D	1000
Ro-Mac Lumber & Supply INC	Leesburg	B	Lumber Company	1000
Ro-Mac Lumber & Supply, Inc.	Leesburg	B	construction supply	1000
Robert Chandler	Leesburg	I	Development services	1000
Robert D Johnson	The Villages	I	Retired	250
Robert Richardson	Sumterville	I	Construction	1000
Robert F Richardson	Sumterville	I	Construction	1000
Robert F Richardson	Sumterville	I	Concrete Manufacturing	1000
Robert L Chandler	Leesburg	I	Development	1000
Robert L Chandler IV	Leesburg	I	Board of Supervisors	1000
Roberta Ulrich	The Villages	I	County Commissioner	500
Roger A Kass	The Villages	I	Retired	50
Roger Kass	The Villages	I	retired	50
Scott Muder	Summerfield	I	Home Builder	500
Scott Muder	Summerfield	I	Construction	500
Scott Muder	Summerfield	I	Construction	500
Scott Renick		I	CPM Commercial	1000
Scott C Renick		I	Director	1000
Scott C Renick		I	Property Management	1000
Shea Turner	Wildwood	I	Construction	1000
Shea B Turner	Wildwood	I	Construction	1000
Smith & Smith Realty INC	Wildwood	B	Real Estate	1000



Candidates continued from page 6

### District 5

**Oren Miller:** I have lived in The Villages for 12 years with my wife, Angie Fox. Together, we’ve been dedicated to saving lost animals and helping the people of Sumter County. For over a decade, we attended Commissioner’s meetings, inspiring me to run for office to make a difference.

Despite my successes in promoting fair and equitable taxation, the People in Charge unjustly had me arrested, leading to 73 days in inhumane jail conditions.

I have a clear vision of what needs improvement and genuinely want to hear your thoughts on priorities. My mom always said, “Never give up.” Your vote is crucial for change. I’m eager to work for you and support our community.

**Don Wiley:** I am a small business owner here in Sumter County, a retired construction Project Manager, and retired Navy Chief Petty Officer. I served on the CDDIO and PWAC boards for nearly eight years before assuming the position of County Commissioner when appointed by Governor DeSantis and subsequently elected to the seat by the residents of Sumter County. As a lifelong Republican I was raised with the unwavering belief in serving my country and community. My wife Debbie and I have lived in Sumter County for over 10 years and are proud to call it our home.

Sumter county is one county and ALL of it must be served equally and justly for ALL the county to prosper. Favoring any one part over another always leads to the failure of the entire community. I lead with uncompromising integrity and unbiased pragmatism for the good of all in the community. 🟢



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Smith & Smith Realty, inc	Wildwood	B	real estate	1000
Stacey A Richardson	Sumterville	I	Concrete Manufacturing	1000
Stacy Lester	The Villages	I	Agriculture	1000
Stacy Richardson	Sumterville	I	Construction	1000
Stacy A Richardson	Sumterville	I	Construction	1000
Steve C Munz	Wildwood	I	Electrical const.	1000
Steven Carter	The Villages	I	Home Builder	500
Steven Carter	The Villages	I	Construction	500
Steven Carter	The Villages	I	Construction	500
Steven C Printz	The Villages	I		50
Sun Kool Air Conditioning	Ocala	B	HVAC	1000
Sun Kool Air Conditioning INC	Ocala	B	Air Conditioning	1000
Sun Kool Air Conditioning Inc	Ocala	B	HVAC Contractor	1000
T & D Pool Construction, Inc.	Wildwood	B	Pool Construction	1000
T & D Supplies, Inc.	Wildwood	B	Construction Supply	500
T and D Concrete Inc	Wildwood	B	Construciton	500
T and D Pool Construction INC	Wildwood	B	Pool Construction	1000
T and D Pool Construction Inc	Wildwood	B	Construction	1000
Terry Yoder	Lake Panasoffkee	I	Construction	500
The Floor Shoppe	Wildwood	B	Floor Supplies	1000
The Floor Shoppe	Wildwood	B	Flooring	1000

Donated By	Location	B/I	Occupation	Amount
The Floor Shoppe	Wildwood	B	Flooring Retailer	1000
Theresa Wendrickx	Belleview	I	Homemaker	24
Thomahawk	Inverness	B	Flooring Retailer	500
Thomahawk DBA Best Flooring	Inverness	B	Flooring supplies	500
Thomahawk, DBA Best Flooring	Inverness	B	Flooring	500
Thomas K Mc Donough	The Villages	I	Director	1000
Todd Burns	Lady Lake	I	Sales	500
Todd Burns	Lady Lake	I	Real Estate Sales	500
Todd Coon	Oxford	I	Landscaping Contractor	25000
Todd Brian Burns	Lady Lake	I	Sales	500
Tommy McDonough	The Villages	I	Development services	1000
Tommy K McDonough	The Villages	I	Development	1000
United Church The Villages	Oxford			1000
Ventura Ranch LLC	Lake Panasoffkee	B	Agriculture	1000
Ventura Ranch LLC, DBA	Lake Panasoffkee	B	Soil Provider	1000
Ventura Ranch, LLC	Lake Panasoffkee	B	Construction materials	1000
W Jeffrey Pardue	St Petersburg	I	Environmental Consulting	500
Wade Surveying INC	Lady Lake	B	SURVEYING	250
Wade Surveying Inc	Lady Lake	B	land surveying	250
Wade Surveying Inc	Lady Lake	B	Surveying/ Mapping	1000
William Deluccio	The Villages	I	CPA	250
<b>Grand Total Developer Bought Puppets</b>				<b>\$282,314</b>



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# Write-In Candidate Loophole Closes Commissioners' Primary

## *How Independents and Other Party Affiliations Can Vote*

**Here we go again.** Write-in Candidates have once again filed bogus intentions to run for Sumter County Commissioner. This move by the Sumter County Republican Party once more attempts to shut out independent voters and those with other party affiliations. FL is supposed to be an open primary state when all candidates running in an election are from one party. Republicans used this same tactic in the 2020 election, hoping to win the primaries so independents and other party affiliated voters could not vote. However, thousands of Villages' registered voters changed their party affiliation so they could vote and defeated the Developer puppets by a 3-1 margin.

Republican Party Chair Samantha Scott defended this action by saying they are trying to protect the "integrity" of the Republican Primary. She blamed the Democrats for trying to "crash" their primary. Democratic Party Chair, Bob Berg, fired back, saying Republicans used the write-in loophole to extend voter suppression to these races. The League of Women Voters also said that while apparently legal, the move "flouts the intent of the Universal Primary Amendment," and asks, "is it right?"

Florida decided it would be an open primary state when voters amended the State Constitution in 1997 by passing the Universal Primary Amendment (UPA) that said primaries must be open to all voters if the winner of the primary will face no opposition in the general election. When candidates from only one party are running, the primary election is the de facto general election.

In 2000, then-Secretary of State Katherine Harris wrote in an opinion that write-in candidates,


registered as members of the party that isn't fielding a candidate, can close the primary. Florida courts have refused to get involved. Her finding continues to allow manipulation of Florida's elections.

**If there is a write-in candidate, independents and members of the parties not fielding candidates are shut out of the primary.**

**July 22 is the last day to change your party \*affiliation.** You can change your affiliation online at **SumterElections.org** or in person at 7375 Powell Rd., Suite #125 Wildwood, FL 34785 or 316 E. Anderson Ave. Bushnell, FL 33513.

*\*You can change it back for the general election*

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# SECO Pole Maintenance Rates for The Villages Districts to Skyrocket with No Warning

Supervisors and District Staff were shocked and angry when they were given the news that SECO Energy was raising light pole maintenance costs by a whopping \$15 million. Some districts may see increases in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Supervisors and staff met with SECO executives in a closed meeting to get some answers.

asked to continue discussions with District staff to seek some type of resolution to the roll out of the additional funding of light pole maintenance.

SECO apparently stated that for years light pole maintenance has been subsidized by the entire membership as the current light pole maintenance tariff only covered approximately \$13MM of the current expense of \$28MM. A rate study was engaged by SECO to propose a rate increase for pole maintenance. This increase was approved by SECO Board which would increase the revenue by \$15MM to provide revenue from light pole maintenance that would support this specific need and not be supplemented by other rate payers. The extra \$15MM that was coming for all rate payers will now be able to pay for deferred maintenance projects and vegetation maintenance.

### What is SECO and How is it Different than For-Profit Energy Companies?

SECO Energy is a not-for-profit electric cooperative serving over 230,000 homes and businesses across seven counties in Central Florida, making SECO the third-largest electric co-op in Florida and the seventh largest in the nation.

SECO Energy has grown from a small rural utility founded as Sumter Electric Cooperative, Inc. in 1938 to a regional Central Florida not-for-profit cooperative serving over 230,000 homes and businesses. New service activity grew strongly in 2021, and it was another stellar year in terms of service reliability and financial performance. Our growth makes SECO Energy the third-largest

Communication was an issue that was discussed as well, and supervisors asked that SECO spread out the cost over a few years. The SECO CEO was

*SECO continued on page 11*

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SECO continued from page 10

co-op in Florida and the seventh largest in the nation out of more than 900 electric cooperatives.

**SECO boasted financial strength in its 2021 Annual Report:**

**Operating Revenue: \$430,075,641**

**Net Margins: \$24,341,261**

**Total Assets: \$961,706,562**

Cooperatives are owned by the members who use its services. When you apply for service with SECO Energy, you become a member-owner. SECO is a not-for-profit electric cooperative, as such, we generally have an excess of revenues over expenses. This excess, called Capital Credits, is allocated annually to members based on their energy purchases during the year.

According to its website SECO states, “Through sound financial stewardship, SECO Energy has returned (retired) Capital Credits to members consistently for many years. The most recent retirement is \$2.01 million that was approved by the Board of Trustees in their September 2023 meeting. The co-op has retired over \$45 million in Capital Credits in the last decade and \$80 million to its current and former members since its inception.”

The president of the SECO Board of Trustees is Gerald Anderson, a Villages resident. Residents often overlook requests from SECO to attend board meetings or vote for people to serve on the Board. It appears this is another Board the POA will need to watch for unexpected cost impacts for residents. For now, SECO’s Board has said residential rates will not be impacted. However, it will be conducting a rate study in 2025.

In a follow-up communication to The District, the Board of Trustees said it has approved a resubmittal to the FPSC to request a two-year phased approach to incorporate the pole rental rate increase. With FPSC approval, SECO will reduce the approved pole rental fee increase by 50%, effective October 1, 2024. In the second year, effective October 1, 2025, SECO will adopt the full pole rental increase fee that was previously approved. Before final Board of Trustees’ adoption, this rate revision must be approved by the FPSC. ●



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# In Case You Missed It...Highlights from June Meetings

## PWAC Members Surprised by Video

Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) members expressed surprise over a video describing in detail the proposed rebuild plans for the landing at Lake Sumter. The video came out the afternoon PWAC members had been presented with the project that same morning. It was obvious to the committee members that the project had already been in the works since the slick video was ready to go.

This is not the first time that PWAC members have had a Villages project foisted on them. Two years ago, they were informed of the need to replace the water tower and windmill at the Brownwood Square. This time, the strategy was to develop Lake Sumter landing into an amenity instead of keeping it on “Exhibit A” for maintenance. The late POA Board and Community Development District (CDD) 8 Supervisor, Sal Torname, often took issue

with the items on “Exhibit A” because they were more often than not aesthetics that The Villages used as marketing tools rather than an actual service to residents.

At the May meeting when the project, priced in the neighborhood of \$3 million, was presented to PWAC, they asked if the Developer would participate in the funding. Assistant District Manager, Bruce Brown, said the communication was forwarded to the Developer, but as is typical, there was no response.

## No Go on Priority Pools

After push back from Priority Pool members, and a price tag of nearly \$250,000 to the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC), the Developer withdrew his “offer” to allow Village residents without membership to use the country club pools north of CR 466 while Paradise Recreation Center is being rebuilt.

## First Responders Recreation Center Causing Issues for Neighbors

AAC members were told at the July meeting that the light at the gate at the First Responders Recreation Center is disturbing about four homes behind the Center and there are drainage issues in backyards that they didn’t have before the construction. Neighbors hoped that once construction was complete these issues would go away, but they have not. Deputy District Manager Carrie Duckett said staff would check into the issues and they will be placed on the “Old Business” list for the next month’s agenda.

**Highlights continued on page 13**

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Highlights continued from page 12

### Residents Outraged by Fiber Mess

Residents from Hemingway told PWAC June meeting about the mess the fiber Lumen Technology (formerly Century Link) is installing in their neighborhood has left behind. One resident described it as looking like a “war zone” with holes, dug up yards, damaged sprinkler heads, and cable laying all over the place. Deputy District Manager, Carrie Duckett, said the company is entitled to do work in the area because they have equipment there. He said Assistant District Manager, Brittany Wilson, has communicated complaints to Lumen.

Residents also packed the CDD 7 Supervisors meeting to complain about the company. ●

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# Lightning Safety In The Villages

by Len Hathaway

*Editor’s Note: Len Hathaway made his 12th annual presentation to the POA General Membership Meeting in June at Laurel Manor Regional Recreation Center, with his colleagues Scott Jones a retired firefighter, and John Reformato, a retired electrical engineer. Also present were representatives from SECO Energy displaying their surge equipment and Danny Mack from A-1 Lightning Protection Services, Inc. At the conclusion of the meeting there was a raffle for a lightning protection system.*

As a resident of The Villages, you need to be aware of the risk that lightning poses to you, your family, your pets, and your property and what you can do about it. Florida typically leads the nation each year in fatalities, injuries, and property damage. All thunderstorms produce lightning that can be highly dangerous and unpredictable. Our area averages 108 thunderstorm days per year. Therefore, residents need to consider the more frequent but less severe indirect lightning strikes and the less frequent but more severe direct lightning strikes.

To focus attention on lightning safety the National Lightning Safety Council (NLSC) conducts an annual campaign called Lightning Safety Awareness Week. This year the dates were June 23-29, in advance of the summer lightning season across the country.

## Lightning Awareness – Plan Ahead

The NLSC’s lightning awareness campaign is focused on planning ahead to avoid being caught in a dangerous situation.

- Listen to the local weather forecast
- Plan ahead and know where to go for shelter
- Consider a cell phone app that gives weather including lightning
- Act early so that you can quickly get to shelter
- WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS!

Places that are not safe include trees, golf courses, fences, dugouts, lakes, swimming pools, picnic areas, pickleball courts, tennis

**Lightning** continued on page 15



# VOTE

## ANTHONY PELLICANO

### FOR SUMTER COUNTY SHERIFF

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PAID BY ANTHONY PELLICANO, REPUBLICAN, FOR SUMTER COUNTY SHERIFF



**Lightning** *continued from page 14*

courts, softball fields, open fields, flag poles, picnic shelters, fishing, light poles, bleachers, dog parks, nature trails, etc. Remember lightning is not only dangerous but highly UNPREDICTABLE and does not always strike the tallest object in your area.

A hard topped all metal vehicle also qualifies as safe refuge from lightning provided that the windows are closed, and you are not touching any metal parts in the vehicle. Golf carts, motorcycles, convertibles, and bicycles are not safe during a thunderstorm.

While no place is entirely safe from lightning you should seek shelter in a substantial building which can be your own home. Even when you are in your home (or substantial building) you are not entirely safe from lightning and should avoid:

- Plumbing including taking a shower during a thunderstorm
- Electrical equipment and appliances
- Corded telephones – unless of course there is an emergency - (cell and portable telephones are not wire-connected telephones)
- Windows

**After the storm passes**

An integral part of the National Weather Service's awareness campaign, WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS, is to wait 30 minutes after the last sight of lightning or rumble of thunder. Lightning has been known to strike outside of the rain area (as was the case when a 12-year-old was struck in 2017 at

the Polo Fields) from up to ten miles away. In some cases, this has occurred even after the clouds have departed and the sun has come out. This is sometimes referred to as "a strike from the blue."

**Indirect lightning strikes**

Electronics and appliances can be damaged due to lightning induced surges into the wiring system in your home.

An Indirect lightning strike may not strike your home but may strike nearby trees, flag poles, a neighbors' home, or some unknown location. These are more common but usually less severe than a direct lightning strike discussed in the next section.

Lightning-induced surges can damage

**Lightning** *continued on page 17*



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**Lightning** *continued from page 15*

control boards and computer chips, which are susceptible to even a relatively minor surge. Remember – Lightning Loves Technology!

To protect against damage to your sensitive electronic equipment such as computers, televisions, microwave ovens, telephone answering machines, games, refrigerators, garage door operators, irrigation controllers, motorized recliners/sofas, cell phones, and while charging golf carts and electric vehicles you may wish to consider both primary and secondary surge protection.

**Primary Surge Protection**

This is surge protection installed on your electric meter by your electric utility. For example, if you are a SECO Energy customer they will lease a surge protector on your electric meter for \$5.95 per month or purchase it for \$349 for 200-amp service (\$399 for 320-amp service). Duke Energy and Leesburg Electric also have similar lease agreements. It can also be achieved by engaging a licensed electrician to install a surge protector on a dedicated two-pole breaker on your electrical panel. This level of protection is to prevent surge damage to hard-wired equipment that you do not plug into a 120-volt or 240-volt circuit. In John Reformato’s presentation on this subject he discussed layers of protection, as you may wish to consider doing both. This is not “whole house” surge protection!

**Secondary Surge Protection**

This level of surge protection is called point-of-use (POU) and the devices are sometimes referred to as “plug ins.” These surge protectors plug into a 120-volt wall outlet to protect microwave ovens, garage door openers, and refrigerators. Underwriters Laboratories listed surge protectors are another form of secondary surge protection for televisions and computers. These devices can be purchased from electronics, hardware, big box stores, and the internet. Surges can also enter your home from other sources such as telephone and satellite/cable TV lines.

**Lightning** *continued on page 19*



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**A Legacy of Trust and Family Values:**

Since our inception in 2008, Sunshine State Golf Carts has been a cherished, family-owned venture. Guided by a passion for golf carts and an unwavering commitment to customer satisfaction, our journey has been marked by trust, reliability, and a dedication to delivering an unparalleled experience. Now, with our fifth location in Summerfield, we extend the warmth of our family values to the heart of this vibrant community.

**The Finest Selection:**

Step into our Summerfield location and be captivated by a diverse array of golf cars and utility carts. We proudly showcase renowned brands such as Club Car, Star EV, Bintelli, and Atlas, each embodying the pinnacle of innovation and performance in the golf cart industry. Our commitment to offering only the best ensures that you'll find the perfect ride to elevate your golfing and recreational experiences.

**Low Overhead, High Savings:**

Sunshine State Golf Carts in Summerfield operates with remarkably low overhead, and we're excited to pass those savings directly to you. Enjoy discounts of up to 30%, making your dream golf cart more accessible than ever. We believe that quality shouldn't come with a hefty price tag, and our commitment to affordability sets us apart as your preferred golf cart destination.

**Exceptional Customer Service:**

At Sunshine State Golf Carts, customer satisfaction is more than a priority – it's our passion. Our team at the Summerfield location is dedicated to ensuring that your experience exceeds expectations. From knowledgeable staff guiding you through our inventory to our factory-certified technicians providing top-notch servicing, every aspect of your journey with us is crafted for excellence.

**Expanded Reach:**

Serving the Villages and the surrounding areas, our Summerfield location strategically places us at the crossroads of convenience and accessibility. Whether you're a resident of the Villages or a neighboring community, experiencing the Sunshine State Golf Carts difference is now just a short drive away.

**Home of the Lifetime Warranty:**

One of the many reasons Sunshine State Golf Carts stands out is our commitment to quality assurance. Our Summerfield location proudly carries the torch as the home of the lifetime warranty, offering you peace of mind and assurance in your golf cart investment. It's our way of saying that we stand behind our products and the joy they bring to your life.

**Embrace the Sunshine State Golf Carts Difference:**

In Summerfield, our commitment to excellence, low overhead, significant discounts, and unwavering customer service converge to create an oasis for golf cart enthusiasts. Join us at 15771 Highway 441, and let Sunshine State Golf Carts elevate your golf cart journey. Discover a world where quality, affordability, and family values unite to redefine what it means to ride in style. Your dream golf cart awaits – visit us today and experience the Sunshine State Golf Carts difference.

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# Make Your Retirement Dreams Come True at Water Oak Country Club Estates

Here at Water Oak we aren't your typical real estate team. We pride ourselves on handling every aspect of the buying and selling process. From first time residential buyers to those looking for a second home to love, the Water Oak team is the only team you'll need to make your retirement dreams come true.

## **Meet Our Sales Team:**

**Lisa Casavant Welch,**  
*Community Sales Manager*

33+ Years' Experience

Lisa has over thirty-three + years selling homes in active adult communities in and around Lady Lake. "It has been my life's work and I love every aspect of it. I truly have my customer's best interest at heart as I actively listen to your wants and needs to ensure you find your dream home at your correct budget. I hold myself to the highest degree of integrity and have a very strong work ethic, so you will always receive what you are promised, in the time frame that we agree upon. Come by and meet me and you will feel the difference yourself!"

**Veronica Caracciolo,**  
*Sales Associate*

12 Years' Experience

A self-driven real estate expert with strong entrepreneurial skills and exceptional advisory abilities, Veronica is both personable and an excellent listener, making interactions with her enjoyable. With a successful background in the import and distribution of luxury goods, Veronica has thrived in real estate sales for the past 12 years.

She specializes in a wide range of categories including vacation homes, oceanfront condos, retirement homes and investment properties. "I am known for my loyalty, determination, and decisiveness, my leadership philosophy is to lead by example."

**Dee Cardona,**  
*Sales Associate*

21 Years' Experience

With a background in multifamily housing, mortgage loan processing and new construction real estate, Dee can help buyers of all types find their dream home. "What sets me apart is my drive, ambition, dedication and genuine enthusiasm to help and serve our community. I recognize that buying and financing a home is one of the most significant steps a person can take in their lifetime. I pride myself in guiding homeowners by the hand and navigating the intricate process of buying and financing their home from contract to closing."

The Water Oak sales team has 65+ years of combined experience! We have seen different markets and have learned to navigate through them all. We do this with expertise, knowledge, great skill and care, and a lot of laughter. We will listen to your needs and make the process fun along the way. Learn more about home ownership at Water Oak by visiting us in person daily from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday by appointment, or online at [www.wateroaksales.com](http://www.wateroaksales.com).



Water Oak Country Club Estates is an active adult community located in Lady Lake. The resort offers a newly-remodeled 18-hole golf course, beautiful swimming pool and clubhouse, an onsite restaurant, activities, events and amenities beyond your wildest dreams.

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**(866)529-8643**

[www.wateroaksales.com](http://www.wateroaksales.com)



**Lightning** *continued from page 17*

Therefore, it is vitally important that telephone lines to an answering machine or computer be routed through a secondary surge protector. This is also true for the coaxial cable line for a television.

**Lightning Protection for Your Home Due to A Direct Lightning Strike**

A direct lightning strike does not happen very often, but it can cause substantial structural damage with the ensuing fire. The chance that your home will be struck is very low, but it is not zero and is greater than winning the lottery. A total of 23 homes have been struck and destroyed since 2004 and none had lightning protection.

Only you, the homeowner, can decide if you need a lightning protection system commonly called lightning rods. One way to think about

it is assessing your own tolerance for risk. For example, if you have a high tolerance for risk you choose to do nothing, the odds are with you, the money stays in your pocket, and if the worst does happen you rely on your homeowner's insurance policy.

On the other hand, if you have a low tolerance for risk and wish to seek peace of mind to avoid the loss of your home, possessions, pets, vehicles, possible loss of life and the stress of the entire ordeal to reconstruct and live-in temporary quarters you may wish to consider a lightning protection system. Contrary to popular myth they do not attract lightning but simply give it a safe path to ground.

If you do choose to install a lightning protection system, be advised that there is no local, state, or federal oversight for residential properties and this can be a buyer beware

marketplace. Many lightning protection system installers police themselves by becoming listed by Underwriters Laboratories and employing installers who have passed a minimum of four exams to qualify as a Master Installer by the Lightning Protection Institute. Door-to-door solicitors not only violate our covenants, nor will they meet the qualification criteria. This may also be true for some firms listed in the telephone books or on the internet.

Do not be misled by a potential installer telling you that all equipment used is UL listed. Although this may be true it does not mean that the system to be installed will meet nationally recognized standards. Further, before any job is started the underground utilities should be marked by calling 811.

The 2007 corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) class action lawsuit was discussed. At that time the court found that CSST gas pipe posed an "unreasonable risk of fire due to lightning strikes" If this is a concern consider the benefits of a lightning protection system.

*Lightning continued on page 20*



# Elect





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**Lightning** continued from page 19

Here are the names of three firms that that are known to be working in our area who currently meet the above criteria:

**A-1 Lightning Protection Services, Inc.,  
352-465-0620**

**Central Lightning Protection, Inc.,  
407-380-6995**

**Triangle Lightning Protection, Inc.,  
352-483-7020**

The above is the current state-of-the art, but safety is never absolute. It should be recognized that anything man-made can fail but the systems and equipment discussed above do function as designed a very high percentage of the time. As a homeowner, you should conduct your own due diligence for your lightning risk. ●

References:

*The Art and Science of Lightning Protection, by Dr. Martin Uman, distinguished professor in the Department Electric and Computer Engineering, University of Florida. (Available at The Villages Public Library at Belvedere, 693.898 UMA) National Fire Protection Association 780, Standard for the Installation of Lightning Protection Systems, 2023 edition <https://secoenergy.com/surge-mitigator/>*

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**Upcoming POA General Membership Meetings**

**July 16, 2024 • 7 pm**

**Laurel Manor Recreation Center**

Speaker: Bradley Arnold

Topic: Sumter County FY 24-25 Budget

**July 18, 2024 • 7 pm**

**Everglades Recreation Center**

**CANDIDATES NIGHT**

Sumter County Commissioner Candidates

On July 18, candidates for Sumter County Commissioner, Districts 1, 3 & 5 will present their credentials at the POA Membership meeting and answer questions.

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**The Villages Health  
Pinellas Care Center**  
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**The Villages Health  
Creekside Care Center**  
1050 Old Camp Road  
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**The Villages Health  
Santa Barbara Care Center**  
1575 Santa Barbara Blvd  
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**The Villages Health  
Lake Deaton Care Center**  
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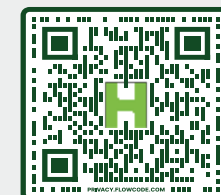
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AARP Driver Safety now offers a 6 hour “Smart Driver” course for seniors; it is designed for those 50 and older. All available courses are listed at AARP.org/findacourse or call (877) 846-3299.

In The Villages, there are at least 4 classes each month. The classes are either two days, 9 AM to Noon or one day\* 9 AM - 4 PM. Fee is \$20 for AARP members, \$25 for non-members. Select your class and call the instructor to register. Instructor will give instructions and time to arrive to complete registration. **Volunteers Needed! Contact Chet at 352-430-1833 or 352-348-4946.**



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July 2024 Schedule							
Instructor	Phone #	Day	Date	Day	Date		Location
Chet Kowalski	352-430-1833		Tue	7/2/24	Wed	7/3/24	Colony
Jack Haughn	352-603-1420		Tue	7/9/24	Fri	7/12/24	Laurel Manor
Jack Haughn	352-603-1420	ONE DAY	Fri	7/19/24	Fri	7/19/24	Buffalo Crossings
Chet Kowalski	352-430-1833		Sat	7/20/24	Sat	7/27/24	Paradise
Art Donnelly	631-792-2203		Tue	7/23/24	Wed	7/24/24	Rohan

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**Chula Vista Recreation Center,**  
3 pm – 5:30 pm, 1st & 3rd Fridays.

**Lake Miona Recreation Center,**  
9 am – 11:30 am, 2nd & 4th Tuesdays.

**Lady Lake Library, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm**  
2nd & 4th Wednesdays.

Also, "Understanding Medicare," a group presentation geared toward those turning 65, will be made at 1:00 on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Aviary Recreation Center.

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# POA 2024 Watch List



Each year the POA Board of Directors creates a watch list of issues that it thinks will be important to residential property owners. Periodically, there will be updates on the issues, and usually at least one general membership meeting program will be dedicated to the topic. Following is the list for 2024, which will be summarized. For the full description of each issue see the January 2024 Bulletin online.



## Villages Public Safety Department Dependent District (VPSDDD)

Last fall after the Sumter County Commissioners failed to raise the Fire Assessment Fee to fully fund the Sumter County Fire Department and Villages Fire Department, the Commissioners passed an ordinance allowing The Villages to create the Villages Public Safety Department Dependent District (VPSDDD). Commissioners selected a board of five Villages residents, who have worked over the last several months to study the funding needs of the Villages Fire Department.

The VPSDDD Board engaged a consulting firm to study a rate structure that would fund the department. The last proposal that the Board voted on, based on a preliminary assessment roll from the Sumter County Assessor's office, suggests a "readiness" rate of \$239 per taxable parcel, along with an \$81 demand fee based on the Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) of 1,710 square feet. This helps to equalize the fee with non-residential properties and represents, in the POA's opinion, a more fair system.

The only issue the POA has had is the lack of using a Fire Impact Fee to build new stations and equip them.



## Elections

The primary elections for local offices will be coming in August. This Bulletin issue covers specifically the races for Sumter County Commissioner. As stated in the articles, Developer cronies have donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to their recruited candidates. The Sumter County Republican Party also had write-in candidates file so the primary would be closed to all but registered Republicans. See the story on page 9.

Elections will be held for residential Community Development District (CDD) Board of Supervisors positions, and a landowner election will be conducted separately for three seats on the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC), which oversees amenities north of CR 466.



## UF/The Villages Hospital

Quality of care at the UFHealth/The Villages Hospital will always be a priority for residents in The Villages. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released 2022 quality ratings in November and The Villages Hospital remained a 2-star facility based on several factors. Patient survey results gave the hospital only one star.

A presentation by Chief Clinical Officer Cheryl Chestnutt to the POA membership in February continues to demonstrate progress in the right direction, with many additional improvements already in place or in process.



## Property Insurance

Property insurance will also continue to be a concern for Villagers, with several large companies ceasing to write policies in Florida or setting stricter requirements. Fortunately, there was only one major hurricane in 2023, and lawsuits seem to be on the decline from the fraudulent business practices of some roofing contractors.

The POA will continue to watch for any developments from the State Legislature that may positively impact insurance rates in the state. Residents are encouraged to shop around at renewal time and have inspections done that may help make the case that your roof is in good condition. ●



## Morse Blvd Safety Improvements

The POA continues to monitor progress in making Morse Boulevard north of CR 466 safer for golf cart traffic that runs in lanes next to the roadway, with no barrier. Residents said a simple fix, rather than the \$15 million + that was suggested in an engineering study, is to simply slow traffic down.

The Sumter County Sheriff's Department received a grant that allowed it to put extra speed patrols in that area, and by all accounts it has helped tremendously.



**Pam Powell**

## Critter Sitter

**Villages Resident  
352-750-2420**

Very Reasonable Rates Excellent References



# Can You Spot a Scam? Here is What to Look For.

## SENIORS VS CRIME

Our friends at Wells Fargo published an article on scam spotting and how to help your family and friends avoid scams and, with the proliferation of scam complaints we hear about, the message bears repeating. Our safety starts with awareness and here are a few consistent red flags you can look out for to stop scammers in their tracks.

- 1. Unexpected contact:** A person or company contacts you out of the blue by phone, text, or email about an invoice, order, delivery, or a charge you didn't know about.
- 2. Everything is URGENT:** Scammers will create a false sense of urgency and use pressure tactics like rude or pushy language to get you to act immediately.
- 3. Very specific or unusual ways to pay:** Someone is asking you to send money using gift cards (ALWAYS a scam), cryptocurrency, a payment app or even an online wire to pay for something, resolve an “issue”, get sweepstakes “winnings” or secure a high return on your “investment.”
- 4. Threatening language:** Scammers may tell you that you owe money and then threaten to call the police if you don't pay immediately. They may also coach you on what to tell the bank to withdraw or transfer money or tell you to keep a secret.
- 5. The romantic “emergency”:** A new online love interest bombards you with “sweet talk” but doesn't seem to want to meet in person. Suddenly a hardship emergency strikes, and they want you to send them money.

### What To Do If You Suspect a Scam:

- 1. Slow down** – pause and take a breath. Think it through.
- 2. Someone YOU DON'T KNOW is asking you for your money.**
- 3. Remember – it's YOUR money and you have the right to confirm things** no matter how urgent anyone says it is. You are in charge when it comes to your money!
- 4. Contact the company they claim to be but don't use a phone number they supply** – look up the real number on the internet. Call your bank using a number you get from their website and not any number provided by the caller.
- 5. Consult with a trusted friend or family member** before you take any steps to send money.

If you need help with this or any other type of suspected scam, you can call any of the four Seniors vs. Crime offices in The Villages. You can also request a speaker for your group or volunteer for Seniors vs. Crime by going to our website – **seniorsvscrime.com**. All our services are free of charge and any money we get back goes back to you. ●

### Sumter Co.

(352) 689-4600, X4606  
8035 E. CR 466  
(Sumter Co. Sheriff's Annex)  
Monday – Wednesday • 10 am – 2 pm  
Thursday • 9 am – 1 pm

### Marion Co.

(352) 753-7775  
8230 SE 165th Mulberry Ln.  
(Marion Co. Sheriff's Annex)  
Tuesday • 10 am – 2 pm

### Wildwood

(352) 775-3186  
2722 Brownwood Blvd.  
(Wildwood Police Department Annex  
next to theater)  
Tuesday – Thursday • 10 am – 1 pm

### Fruitland Park

(352) 674-1882  
Moyer Recreation Center  
(Fruitland Park Police Substation)  
3000 Moyer Loop  
Wednesday • 10 am – 2 pm

*Please note that the Wildwood office has a new phone number!*



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The up-to-date list of Discount Partners can always be found on our website [poa4us.org](http://poa4us.org) or scan the QR code at right. Click ‘Discount Partners’ to access the list.



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 Jerry Vicenti

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 Bill Garner  
 Joe Gorman  
 Rich Lambrecht  
 Irv Yedwab

2012 Joe Gorman

2011 Pete Cacioppo  
 Betty Cunningham

2009 Dorothy Morehouse-Beeney  
 Vinnie Palmisano

2008 Ray and Lori Micucci  
 Win Shook

2007 Rose Harvey  
 Dorothy Hokr

2006 Charlie Harvey  
 Carol Kope  
 Frank Renner

2005 Sadie Woollard

2004 Russ Day  
 Eva Hawkins  
 William Rich, Jr.  
 Glen Swindler  
 Jean Tuttle

The Property Owners’ Association  
 8736 SE 165th Mulberry Lane,  
 PMB 111, The Villages, 32162

### 2024 OFFICERS

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Secretary	Reb Benson	874-0179
Directors	Tita Dumagsa	391-4828
	Mike Gross	450-0405
	Ken Knodel	330-388-2308
	Gary Search	
	Dan Warren	630-4491

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POA Phone	(352) 418-7372	

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