



# POA Bulletin



POA4US.org

AUGUST 2024

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## Upcoming POA General Membership Meetings

DATE **August 27, 2024 • 7 pm**  
CHANGE **Laurel Manor Recreation Center**

CANDIDATES NIGHT  
CDDs

**No Meeting In September**  
**Due to Laurel Manor Closure for Remodeling**

**October 3, 2024 • 7 pm**

**Everglades Recreation Center**

CANDIDATES NIGHT  
Sumter County Sheriff

Sumter County Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller

**October 15, 2024 • 7 pm**

**Laurel Manor Recreation Center**

TBA

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

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Sumter County Commissioners to Lower Millage Rate Again **6**

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# POA Sumter County Candidate Endorsements



*Editor's Note: These candidate endorsements were determined by a vote of the POA Board.*

*Candidate for Commissioner, District 1, Deb Butterfield, also the Editor of this Bulletin, did not attend that meeting nor in any way influenced the vote by the Board. Dan Warren, a POA Board member, wrote the following article.*

**Sumter County Commissioner District 1 — The POA endorses Debora “Deb” Butterfield.** Deb has attended hundreds of Sumter County, City and Villages District meetings of all types. This places her in the best position to effectively represent the citizens and businesses of the County. Deb also supports the philosophy that growth should pay for growth through equitable user and impact fees on new development. By contrast her opponent, Mary Lazich, has only attended a hand full of meetings, chose not to attend the POA candidate's forum, and has failed to state a specific position on any meaningful County issue. She can be characterized as a ‘Career Politician.’ Deb's opponent has accepted over \$80,000 from the Villages Developer and his business partners.

**Sumter County Commissioner District 3 — The POA endorses Craig Estep.** Craig has an extensive track record as County Board Chairman the last 3 years by spearheading a lower tax rate each of those years. He has deep knowledge about every aspect of Sumter County government. He believes the County should not take any more funds from businesses and citizens than is necessary to maintain the high quality of life citizens require. Craig supports the philosophy that growth should pay for growth through equitable user and impact fees on new development. By contrast, his opponent Todd Coon, chose not to attend the POA candidate's forum to express his qualifications. He has failed to state a specific position on any meaningful County issue and has no experience in County government. Craig's opponent has accepted over \$80,000 from the Villages Developer and his business partners.

**Sumter County Commissioner District 5 — The POA endorses Oren Miller.** Oren has past experience on the County Board. He believes impact fees should be used to help fund growth as long as they are fair to citizens and businesses. His opponent, Don Wiley, opposes fire impact fees for the Villages Public Safety Department. Oren's opponent has accepted over \$80,000 from the Villages Developer and his business partners.

**Endorsements** 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.

**Endorsements** *continued from page 1*

**Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller — The POA endorses Erin Munz.** Erin is clearly the most qualified and experienced. She has worked for decades in every aspect of the clerk and comptroller’s office in her service to the citizens of Sumter County. In a complicated position that provides many services for citizens, hands on experience is crucial. Although her opponent, Dan Myslakowski, has general limited experience in a few areas, he is lacking in the County-specific experience required to hit the ground running like Erin will.

**District Superintendent of Schools — The POA endorses Logan Brown.** Logan represents a stronger background on the business side of education. Although his opponent may have more experience as an educator, we feel at this time the stronger business experience is what is required. Existing staff are certainly capable of enhancing Logan’s educational and curriculum experience. Logan also represents a fresh approach and new thinking.

**State Committeeman — The POA endorses Bob Greene.** Bob is a conservative Republican who has extensive public policy and committee experience at the state level. He is committed to transparency and accountability.

**State Committeewoman — The POA endorses Dianne Olsen.** Diane is committed to sharing information from the state and national GOP and to strengthening the grassroots and Republican Party relationships. She promises transparency and unity in the Sumter County Republican Party.

**Please view the video of the POA Candidates Night held on July 18 at [poa4us.org](http://poa4us.org).**

**Early voting begins August 10.** You may vote at any open precinct location.

**Election Day is August 20.** You may only vote at the precinct where you are a registered voter. To find your precinct go to **SumterElections.org**. Right next to Supervisor Keene’s photo you can log on to your sample ballot and see your voting location. ●

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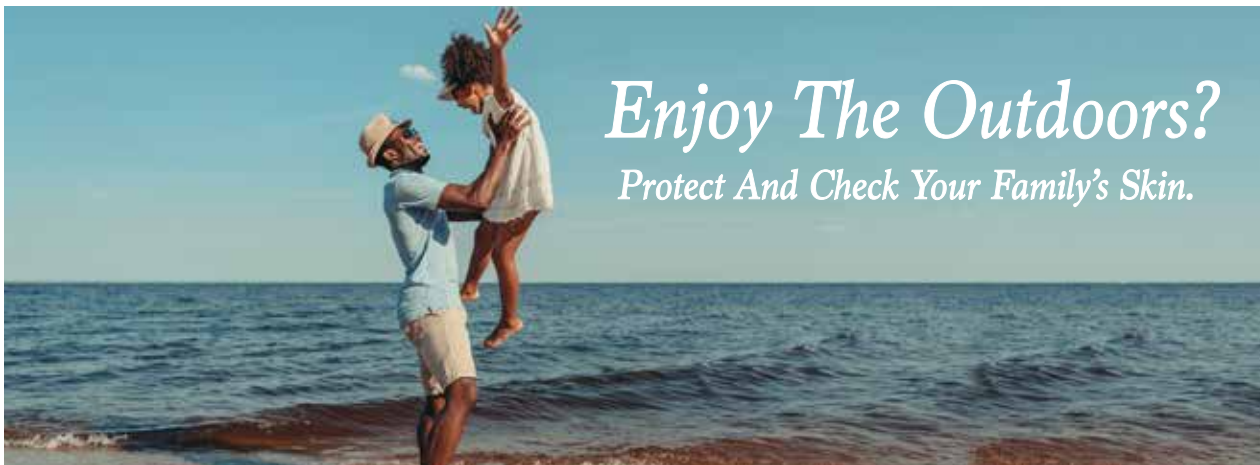
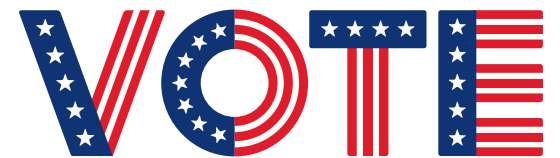
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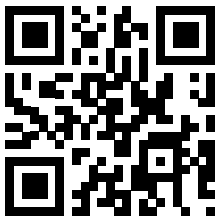
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## Sumter County Commissioners to Reduce Millage Rate Again

While wrestling with the difficult issue of funding the now separate Sumter County Fire & EMS Department, the Sumter County Commissioners gave direction to Administrator Bradley Arnold to proceed with the General Fund budget based on a millage rate of 4.8900 which is less than the 4.8935 rolled-back rate. Mr. Arnold presented the budget overview at the July 16 POA General Membership Meeting, the fifth year in a row he has done so.

Mr. Arnold began by discussing the funding for the Sumter County Fire & EMS Department and the new Villages Public Safety Department Dependent District (VPSDDD), often a source of confusion as the new funding mechanisms are rolled out.

A study conducted by the Benesch Consulting Firm was used to determine the appropriate Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU) for Sumter County Fire. The study used a methodology that combined benefits received from the availability of the Fire Department with use of its resources, including equipment and personnel, for non-ALS (Advanced Life Support) incidents to determine the relative special benefit received and allocate costs to each

assessable property. The portion of the Fire/EMS budget associated with ALS services is excluded from the calculation of the MSBU Fire Assessment rates developed in this report.

The proposed (and passed at the July 23 Commission meeting) FY 24/25 Sumter County Fire & EMS budget MSBU residential rate is \$355.58 per year for Sumter County residents outside of The Villages and the MSTU (Tax Unit) Millage Rate is 0.29. The MSTU rate is the additional rate necessary to fund the Advanced Life Support (ALS) services not covered by transport revenues. Businesses will be charged based on their category and square footage.

Mr. Arnold provided the following tables to show the comparison from the current \$125 Fire Assessment Fee and the new funding for the VPSDDD and the Sumter County Fire Department, respectively. As the tables show, based on a \$150,000 taxable value, Villages residents will pay an additional \$154.79 and Sumter County residents will pay an additional \$229.08. These amounts will change based on an individual’s taxable value. The combined millage rate with the MSTU and property tax is 5.18 for Sumter County and 4.9207 for The Villages residents.

**Millage Rate** *continued on page 7*



## Why is it best for a radiation oncology physician to administer my...radiation?

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**Millage Rate** *continued from page 6*

**Example 2024 County Portion of the Tax Bill – \$150,000 Taxable Value**

2023 County Tax Bill

General Fund	\$778.50
MSBU	\$125.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$903.50</b>

The Villages Public Safety Department Dependent District

General Fund	\$733.50
MSBU	\$320.71
MSTU	\$4.08
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,058.29</b>

Sumter County Fire and EMS Area

General Fund	\$733.50
MSBU	\$355.58
MSTU	\$43.50
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,132.58</b>

The next chart shows the continued General Fund expenditures for both Fire & EMS departments FY 24/25. The Villages District Manager, Kenny Blocker, made the statement in several meetings of the VPSDDD and gave examples of a 1.31 reduction in the VPSDDD millage rate that was outside of the funding for the VPSDDD area. However, the chart shows these continuing expenses, with \$12 million in funding for services in The Villages contained within the Sumter County General Fund, representing a significant portion of the 1.31 to which Mr. Blocker referred.

**Continued General Fund Expenditures for Both Fire & EMS Departments FY 24/25**

Service	Cost
Call-Taking and Dispatch	\$3,050,897
Computer Aided Dispatch System Upgrade	\$4,847,058
Fleet Repair & Maintenance	\$585,000
Public Safety Radio	\$3,106,554
AED Countywide Program	\$139,040
Cost of Readiness & Baker/Marchman/EP Transports (TVPSDDD \$12.0M / SCFEMS \$6.5M)	\$18,591,934

*Millage Rate continued on page 9*

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**Millage Rate** *continued from page 7*

Another area of interest for Villages residents is the road plan for the next five years:

	<b>FY24/25</b>	<b>FY25/26</b>	<b>FY26/27</b>	<b>FY27/28</b>	<b>FY28/29</b>
The Villages® Companies Regional Road Reimbursement	12,620,330	18,503,920	8,604,011	7,910,561	13,553,272
Villages Resurfacing Project	4,309,036	2,067,286	-	-	200,000
Marsh Bend Trail, Central Pkwy to Corbin Trail	205,000	-	-	-	-
Bridge Rehabilitation	215,996	-	-	-	-
C-470 Resurfacing Outlet River to CR-485	3,748,000	-	-	-	-
LAP C-466 at CR-475 Improvements	4,028,430	-	-	-	-
Sidewalk Masterplan Phase III	100,000	100,000	100,000	-	-
CR-656 Reconstruction to US301	-	-	-	-	2,987,840
Rehabilitation of Morse Blvd Bridges	-	-	1,245,100	-	-
C-48 East of CH-LAP	954,521	4,065,000	-	-	-
CR-747 Improvements	500,000	500,000	-	-	4,000,000
C-466 Resurfacing Phase I	4,166,943	-	-	-	-
C-44A and CR-213 Sidewalk	1,153,000	-	-	-	-
Capital Road Resurfacing	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
US301 and C-466 Intersection Improvements	200,000	250,000	1,000,000	-	-
C-466A Corridor Improvements	85,000	1,050,000	-	-	-
US301 at CR-472 Traffic Signal Project	425,000	-	-	-	-
Signalization at US301 to C-462	2,530,000	2,232,715	-	-	-
Twisted Oaks Reimbursement C-462	1,500,000	-	-	-	-
SR 44 and 229 Signalization Improvements	1,242,454	-	-	-	-
C-466 at C-209 Signal Design	1,410,000	-	-	-	-
C-470 Safety Improvements CR-527 S to CR-529	4,000,000	-	-	-	-

*Millage Rate continued on page 10*

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# CRAIG ESTEP

FOR

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**Millage Rate** *continued from page 12*

After the presentation Mr. Arnold received direction from the Florida Department of Revenue that the millage rate should be shown at an aggregated rate of 4.9630 to include the impact of the two MSTU rates. As such, the rate will be advertised as a tax increase because it is above the rolled-back rate of 4.8935. The rolled-back rate is the millage rate that would generate the same revenue as the previous year, regardless of what the rate actually is. The Truth in Millage (TRIM) notice that residents will receive will have the 4.89 millage rate with the MSTU and MSBU rates listed separately.

The public hearing on the FY 24-25 budget will be held September 10 at 6 pm at Everglades Recreation Center. Final approval will occur at

the September 24 meeting, at the same time and location. The Road Impact Fee public hearing that includes an increase to these fees will be heard at the September 17 Commission meeting at the same time and location.



The Sumter County proposed budget documents and Sumter County Fire Assessment study can be found by scanning the QR code at left.

The Villages Public Safety Department Dependent District proposed FY 24-25 budget can be found by scanning the QR code at right. ●



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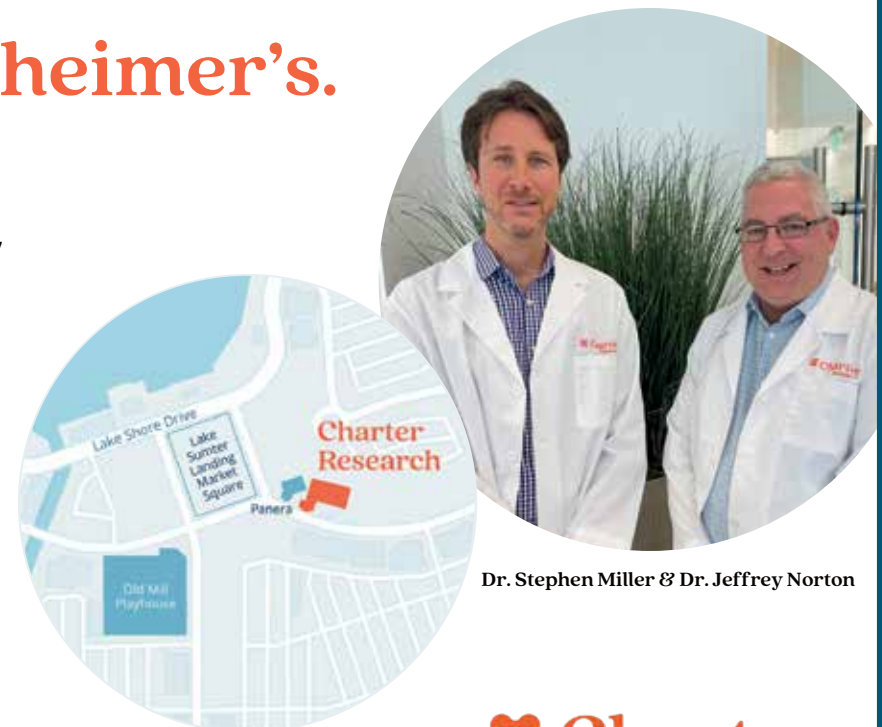
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— Michelle Harmon, Community Manager



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

## Golf Operations Announces Three New Courses; Maintenance Showing Improvements

After months of criticism, it appears that The Villages Golf Operations and Maintenance departments are getting back on track. At the July meetings of the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) and Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC), three new course openings were announced along with major improvements to current courses.

The three courses, shown below, are the Laurel Oak 9-hole course that will open in October; the Live Oak Pitch & Putt 18 hole course that will also open in October, and the Belle Aire Executive 9-hole course that will open in November.



The USGA agronomic guidelines that have been implemented are resulting in improvements to course conditions. In addition, the golf maintenance department is using new software to further accountability and oversight and is adjusting inventory management practices. New staffing models are being used to provide adequate staffing on the courses.

Four courses are currently undergoing complete renovations. The Amenity Authority Committee approved funding for Chula Vista and Amberwood courses, which are projected to be open by the end of the year. The Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) approved funding to renovate the Pimlico and Pelican courses, which should be open in the Spring of 2025.

There is a new Executive Golf Course Conditions tab on the Quick Links menu on the Executive Golf portion of the District website. The POA recommends putting the link on the home page Quick Links menu as well.

## AAC Agrees to Fencing along Griffin Road

Many residents attended the July meeting of the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) seeking favorable approval for a fence along Griffin Road in Silver Lake. New apartments and other commercial buildings are under construction and residents have expressed concerns about safety and views in what was once a more rural setting.

The cost for white vinyl fencing was presented; however, after lengthy discussion, the AAC asked for other options that might better suit the aesthetics of the area, such as a block or stucco wall. District Property Management will come back with these options at the August AAC meeting.

## CDD 6 Also Hears Fencing Request

Community Development District (CDD) 6 Board of Supervisors has also heard a request for fencing for a home that backs up to Cherry Hill Road, where the massive Hammock Oaks development is going in across the road. A stockade fence was put in more than a decade ago, and after a complaint was lodged last year by a resident of Polo Ridge, the fence was found to be a violation of the deed restrictions.

The CDD 6 board members were sympathetic to the homeowners' concerns about replacing the fence and offered them two options. At their own expense they can either put up a 6-foot white vinyl fence or the traditional four board fence, neither of which seemed to be acceptable to the homeowners.

The Board granted another 3-month extension to the homeowner to bring the violation into compliance.

**Highlights** continued on page 13

**Community Watch Presents Efficiency Plan**

AAC members have expressed concerns for the last two years about significant budget increases to the Community Watch department and have encouraged Chief Nehemiah Wolf to come up with cost-savings measures. What at first appeared to be savings that could make an impact, turned out to be a disappointment to committee members when they learned the projected \$944,000 over five years, would be distributed among the area north of CR 466 (AAC area), between CR 466 and CR 44 (PWAC area), and south of CR 44 (Developer area). This amounted to an approximate \$28,000 per year savings in the AAC budget.

There are currently twelve staffed gates north of CR 466, with seven staffed 24 hours and the others between 14-17 hours. Chief Wolf proposed going to an 18-hour staffing model to achieve the savings.

The total annual Community Watch budget for FY 24/25 is \$3,773,853 for AAC (+17.5%) and \$5,875,792 (+6.7%) for PWAC, for a total of \$9,649,645. Neither the areas north of CR 466 or from CR 466 to CR 44 have had substantial growth, so board and committee members are asking “What are the residents getting for these substantial increases?” Stay tuned for updates.

*Highlights continued on page 15*

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**Highlights** continued from page 13

### **SECO Tries to Justify Astronomical Pole Rental Increases**

Last month, CDD supervisors were boiling over the astronomical increase in pole rental fees, more than 600% for some CDDs. According to the SECO website, “Area light services are provided through service agreements with the “governing bodies” of various communities, such as homeowners’ associations, community development districts, and municipalities; the fees charged for light service can be found in SECO Energy’s Rate Tariff. These products (the fixture, the pole, and any necessary transformers) are maintained and serviced by SECO. Maintenance and service-related activities include repairing, replacing, and storing necessary supplies to provide high quality area lighting service.

Over the past few years, costs for area lighting have increased. Accordingly, the fees for

maintenance and equipment of the fixtures increased in May, and due to the potential impact of the increases needed to recover SECO’s cost for the poles and other equipment, SECO proposed delaying implementing the necessary increase for these services until October 2024. Upon further discussions with representatives from the governing bodies of the impacted communities, SECO devised and is implementing a two-year phase-in of the necessary increase. One half of the necessary increase will be implemented on October 1, 2024, and the remaining half will be implemented on October 1, 2025.”

The issue for CDDs is that there was no advanced warning and it appears that SECO did a poor job of planning for and communicating to members these increases, knowing that “over the past few years, costs for area lighting have increased.”

The other issue for CDDs is that there is absolutely nothing they can do about it except pay the increases. SECO offered a 2-year phase in and

CDDs will use reserves to pay this year’s increase. But in future years, those costs will have to be passed on to residents. According to the SECO website, that could amount to a \$5/month increase or \$60/year.

The only thing residents and CDD supervisors can do is pay close attention when board members are elected. SECO is a member-owned, not-for-profit utility. This means that customers are all SECO Energy members. And that means we all get a vote. ●



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*Lighting continued on page 19*

# SHINE Offers Medicare Help

SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) volunteers are available to assist clients with Medicare related questions including Medicaid, Medicare, and Medigap plans, financial assistance, and scams. The service is free and unbiased, and reservations are not taken.

Counselors are scheduled at the following locations to assist area residents for one-on-one counseling on the indicated days.

**Eisenhower Recreation Center,  
9 am – 11:30 am, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays.**

**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.

For more information, go to [FloridaShine.org](http://FloridaShine.org) or call (800) 963-5337. ●



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# Lightning Update

By Len Hathaway

On July 8, 2024, most of The Villages experienced one of the most intensive thunderstorms featuring non-stop cloud-to-ground lightning for an extended period of time. Miraculously, no homes were struck causing physical damage. This could be considered a near miss. But two homes in St. Charles and Sunset Pointe were not as lucky in another storm on July 20, each sustaining fire damage. Earlier this year three homes received direct lightning strikes and were rendered uninhabitable in Charlotte, Osceola Hills, and the Rio Grande Villas.

## INDIRECT LIGHTNING STRIKES

Through various sources including social networks we understand that some homeowners experienced indirect lightning strikes damaging appliances and electronics. There is no way to know how many homeowners suffered this level of damage leading to the costly replacement of valued electronics such as TVs, computers, modems, microwaves, A/C, garage door operators and other sensitive electronic equipment.

If you have not already done so you may wish to consider your level of surge protection against an indirect lightning strike that can cause havoc to electronics. To protect against about 80% of the surges induced into your home consider a Type-2 surge protection

device (SPD) such as the Eaton Ultra on your electric panel that is installed by a licensed electrician. For the other 20% of the surges consider a Type-1 SPD on your electric meter from your electric utility. These are considered Primary Surge Protection.

But do not stop there as you may wish to consider Secondary or point-of-use (technically Type-3) SPD for TVs, computers, modems, microwaves, garage door operator, etc. These can be obtained from electronics, hardware, big box stores, and on the internet. REMEMBER LIGHTNING LOVES TECHNOLOGY!

Surge Protection is a layered system required in order to best protect your appliances and electronics.

## DIRECT LIGHTNING STRIKES

If your concern is for a direct lightning strike to your home, see the July POA Bulletin at [poa4us.org](http://poa4us.org) starting on page 14.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like to learn more about your lightning risk living here in the Lightning Capital of the USA, consider attending the Study Group on Lightning’s next Power Point presentation called Lightning Tips for Villages on August 23, 4:00 PM, for the Philosophy Club at Lake Miona Regional Recreation Center. You only need a Villages ID to attend.

Option additional info or side bar article

## COMMON LIGHTNING MYTHS

1. My next-door neighbor has lightning rods so their home will get struck but mine will not. FALSE: There is no experience or scientific data to support this claim. Lightning rods do not attract lightning they simply give lightning a safe path to ground.
2. Lightning rods do not work. FALSE: They do work if they are designed, installed, and maintained according to the national standard on lightning. They have been used all over the world since their invention by Ben Franklin in 1752. You can observe them all over Villages including pumping stations, all the sales centers, the Sharon, the Savannah Center, nearly every building at Sumter Landing, fire department headquarters, the hospitals, schools, many homes and most of the large churches and hotels in the area.
3. Lightning only strikes the highest point or structures. FALSE: Lightning strikes are random and unpredictable acts of nature.
4. You are safe from lightning in a vehicle with rubber tires. FALSE: The rubber tires have nothing to do with it. The all-metal body of a vehicle is a safe harbor from lightning but not golf carts, bicycles, or convertibles.
5. Florida is the lightning capital of the world. FALSE: Florida is the lightning capital of the USA.

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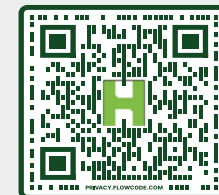
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Local presenters would be available to attend organized social / club meetings to share this information. Please contact (352) 430-1833 to arrange a presentation for your Club.

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](http://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.**

### August 2024 Schedule

Instructor	Phone #	Day	Date	Day	Date	Location
Chet Kowalski	352-430-1833		Tue 8/6/24	Wed	8/7/24	Colony
Art Donnelly	631-792-2203		Tue 8/13/24	Fri	8/16/24	Ezell
Jack Haughn	352-603-1420		Sat 8/17/24	Sat	8/24/24	Paradise
Chet Kowalski	352-430-1833		Tue 8/27/24	Wed	8/28/24	Rohan
Jack Haughn	352-603-1420	ONE DAY	Fri 8/16/24			Buffalo Crossings

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# Getting Bombed With Texts?

## SENIORS VS CRIME

Is your phone flooded with texts about “the state of our nation?” ‘Tis the season. As we get closer to the 2024 presidential election, political texts are only going to get worse. We turned to our favorite Tech Guru, Kim Komando for some pointers on how to maintain your sanity.

### Who’s allowed to text you?

Mass texting campaigns are legal if the sender uses an official text messaging organization. These orgs verify the sender is legit and complies with all opt-in and opt-out rules.

This means campaigns need your consent before they text you. They also must comply when you respond with “STOP” and not send you any future messages.

### Scam-paigns

Real political organizations are good at following the rules. But, shocker, scammers aren’t. Once you block one number, they move on to the next. Lather, rinse, repeat.

Crooks pounce at the opportunity to blend their scams with legitimate political campaigns and hope you can’t tell the difference. They’ll use political-sounding messages to push malicious links. They might even ask you to donate to a bogus campaign.

### Stay smart and stop them from bugging you

- The obvious step is to text “STOP.” But if you don’t remember opting into these messages, don’t respond. If it’s a scam text, this could tell the sender you’re a real person, leading to even more texts.
- Instead, report it to your cell provider by forwarding texts to 7726 (SPAM). If enough complaints come in about the same number, the wireless carrier will investigate and block future messages.
- Don’t donate money through a link sent in a text. If you’d like to donate to a political campaign, go directly to their official website.

### iPhone:

- Messages from unsaved numbers will have an option beneath to Report Junk. Tap that, then tap Delete and Report Junk to delete the thread and send the message to Apple and your carrier, letting them know, too, that it’s junk.
- Block the number to prevent future messages. Open the message, tap the number at the top of your screen, and then choose Info > Block Caller.
- Turn on your spam blocker. Go to Settings > Messages > Filter Unknown Senders to sort texts from unknown contacts into a separate list.
- Stop receiving notifications from unknown texters. You’ll find this under Settings > Messages > Customize Notifications (at the very bottom) > toggle off Unknown Senders.

### Android:

- Block the number. Open the message, then tap the number or menu at the top of the screen, followed by Block. Note: Your steps may vary based on your phone manufacturer.
- Turn on the spam blocker. To do this, open Messages > tap your profile icon > Messages Settings > Spam Protection.

Friends or family  
complaining about political  
texts? Pass this along.  
They’ll be glad you did.

If you have any questions about safety when using your phone or computer, contact one of the Seniors vs. Crime offices in The Villages. They can provide you with information on how to avoid being scammed on the phone or the internet.

Our services are free and no appointment is necessary. ●

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(Sumter Co. Sheriff’s Annex)

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2722 Brownwood Blvd.

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



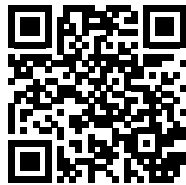
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