Property Owners' Association of The Villages, Inc. Champions of Residents' Rights Since 1975



# POA4US.org

# **OCTOBER 2024**

FREE COPY Issue 50.10 | Circulation 69,500

### Upcoming POA General Membership Meetings

### October 3, 2024 • 7 pm Everglades Recreation Center

### CANDIDATES NIGHT Sumter County Sheriff Sumter County Clerk of Circuit Court & Comptroller Wildwood City Commission

Group 5

### October 15, 2024 • 7 pm

Laurel Manor Recreation Center SPEAKER: One Trust TOPIC: HUD

### November 19, 2024 • 7 pm

Laurel Manor Recreation Center SPEAKER: Glenn Stein, Realty Executives TOPIC: Changes in Real Estate

### December 17, 2024 • 7 pm

Laurel Manor Recreation Center SPEAKER: Charter One Research Group Topic: ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

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

# **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

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Protecting Yourself Against Fraud **20** 

# POA Endorses Two Candidates for CDD Supervisor Positions

The POA Board of Directors has made the following endorsements for Community Development District (CDD) Board of Supervisor positions in CDDs 1 and 7. Biographies were provided by the candidates.

### Judy Biebersheimer, CDD 1 Board of Supervisors

Ms. Biebersheimer was chosen because of her longtime commitment as a supervisor for CDD l, and her engagement with the important Amenity Authority Committee (AAC). Ms. Biebersheimer has dealt with the difficult issues, such as deed compliance complaints. Her opponent in the race was recently reported to have submitted more than 30 anonymous complaints against his neighbors, in retaliation for a complaint made against him.

### Gilbert Windsor, CDD 7 Board of Supervisors

The POA Board believes CDD 7 needs new leadership and endorses Gilbert Windsor for the seat. Mr. Windsor is a regular attendee and watchdog of CDD 7, taking issue regularly with the expenses incurred since CDD 7 opted out of the contract with the District's shared law firm. Mr. Vicenti has served admirably for 12 years and was a valued member of the POA Board of Directors. However, his efforts to negotiate changes to the contract with the Sumter Landing Community Development District (SLCDD) nearly led to the CDD being abandoned by the parent board.

**Endorsements** continued on page 2

# **REMINDER: THE POA WILL HOLD ITS LAST CANDIDATES NIGHT ON OCTOBER 3 AT EVERGLADES RECREATION CENTER AT 7 PM.**

Candidates for the Sumter County offices of Sheriff, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, and Wildwood City Commission Group 5 have been invited to speak. After the Candidates Night, the POA Board of Directors may make endorsements in these races. These endorsements will be announced on The POA Facebook page and via email.

### **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 Ho Objectivity Re

Honesty Fairness 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

These biographies were provided by each candidate and have not been edited

Judy Biebersheimer, CDD 1 Board of	F
Supervisors	

### Biography

As one of the incumbent supervisors for CDD 1, I have worked diligently to maintain and manage the infrastructure within the boundaries of CDD 1.

We are charged with caring all things maintenance related for our District, including villa roads.

Since all of this comes with a price tag, our committee wants to be financially responsible to our residents. The funds we work with come from the annual maintenance charge on our tax bill. Believe me, we want it to be as low as we can keep it and still maintain the financial security for the years ahead.

I have gone to nearly every AAC and CDD I meetings for years. As a resident and concerned about our community, I believe all of us should show an interest and take an active part if we think we can make a change for the good. I believe I am doing that. I would appreciate your continued support.

### Gilbert Windsor, CDD 7 Board of Supervisors Biography

I AM A STRONG ADVOCATE FOR THE RESIDENTS of CDD 7!

If Elected I will do the following for the Residents:

- "Fiscal Responsibility"- Revise CDD 7's Legal Fees which have skyrocketed by rehiring the original Law Firm who offers a substantially lower cost savings to the residents.
- "Cap Amenity Fees" I will work with PWAC to review the formula used for Reserve Fees to apply a ten-year forecast of expenses. The goal is to reduce the current Amenity Fees paid by the residents.
- "Transparency"- Propose Monthly "Question and Answer" meetings for residents. The monthly meeting would greatly provide updates from CDD 7's Board of Supervisors' current agendas.
- "Respect & Integrity" I will build better relationships with the Villages District Government, PWAC Committee and all other CDD's. We need each other to continue our wonderful lifestyle. We can disagree and continue to govern by respecting each other. I believe strongly Integrity is priceless.

The POA does not make a recommendation for the open seat on CDD 8, due to the active lawsuit brought by one of the candidates in the "white cross" controversy. Nor does the POA make a recommendation for the open seat for CDD 13, as it is not familiar enough with the candidates or issues facing that district.

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Email your name, village, and phone # to poa4you@gmail.com. Put your preferred route (i.e. Route 10) in the subject line.







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Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for membership card(s). MAIL TO: The POA, 8736 SE 165th Mulberry Lane PMB111, The Villages, FL 32162



# Candidate Bios – Sumter County, Wildwood City Commission and Community Development Districts

The November election is quickly approaching – thank goodness! Vote by mail ballots were scheduled to go out on October 3. Early voting will begin at Sumter County polling locations on October 22. You may vote at any open polling location. Election day is on November 5. You must vote at your assigned precinct location.

REMINDER: The POA will hold its last Candidates Night on October 3 at Everglades Recreation Center at 7 pm. Candidates for the Sumter County offices of Sheriff, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, and Wildwood City Commission Group 5 have been invited to speak. After the Candidates Night, the POA Board of Directors may make endorsements in these races. These endorsements will be announced on Facebook and via email.

Full candidate profiles can be found at **Sumterelections.org**. Click 'Candidates & Committees Profiles and Financial Reports' from the left menu. The biographies were provided by the candidates and have not been edited.

### SUMTER COUNTY

# Eric Anderson, Sumter County Sheriff

I have been fortunate to have a wide range of experiences: Marine, State Trooper, Firefighter, Marksmanship and Gun Safety Instructor, Riding Instructor, Certified Life Coach, Foster Parent, and Founder of SET—Spirit Equine Therapy. These and many others, made me understand it takes all kinds.

One important trait is communication and listening for understanding. A top goal would be to establish open communication channels and promote community engagement.

Doing the right thing for the right reasons is my code of conduct. Not going along with the existing power structure makes you a target, which is why I am a No Party Affiliate candidate, to take politics out of law enforcement.

The sheriff is elected by the people working for the people. With our vote, We hire lawmakers, law enforcers, judges, and We occupy jury boxes. It all starts with We the People in the voter's box.

**Candidate Bios** continued on page 5

# Help advance medicine. Join a Clinical Trial for Alzheimer's.

We're evaluating new investigational medications for Alzheimer's disease. If you have a family history of Alzheimer's, signs of memory loss, or a diagnosis of mild cognitive impairment or Alzheimer's disease, you may qualify to participate.

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# POA Bulletin 5

Candidate Bios continued from page 4

# Patrick "Pat" Breeden, Sumter County Sheriff

My Name is Patrick "Pat" Breeden, and I am a candidate for Sumter County Sheriff. I was born and raised in Sumter County, and I have served the citizens of Sumter County for 34 years, all with the Sumter County Sheriff's Office. I advanced my career to my current position of Sumter County's Undersheriff through hard work and dedication.

Sumter County is one of the safest counties in the State of Florida, and I will, through my vision and experience, continue to keep it a place we are proud to call home.

### Education:

- BA degree Criminal Justice Administration
- Saint Leo University Command Officer's Management Program
- Florida Sheriffs Association Command Officer program
- Thousands of hours of specialized training in Law Enforcement and Administrative functions
- Sixteen years on S.W.A.T. as operator and team commander

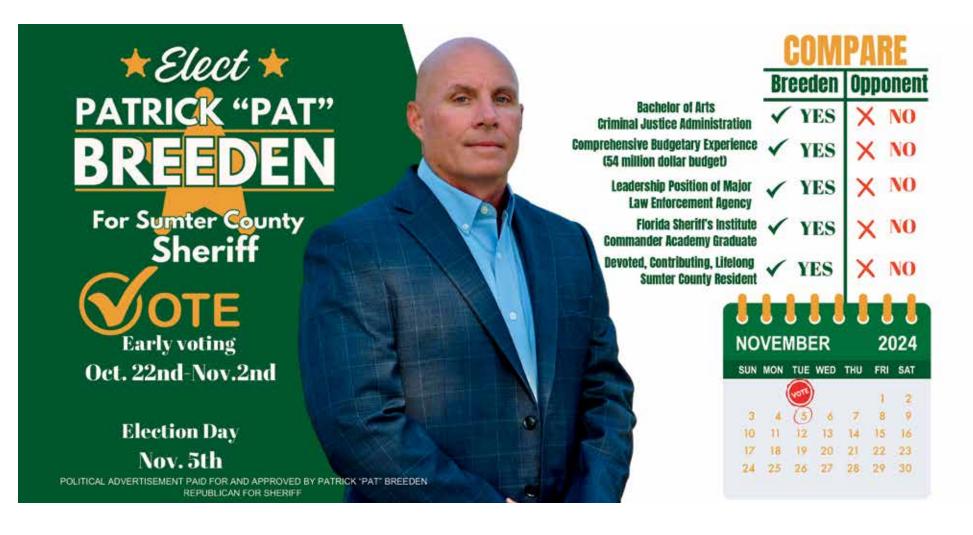
Keep Sumter Safe – Vote Patrick "Pat" Breeden

Endorsed by Sheriff Bill Farmer and numerous other Sheriffs within Florida.

### Gloria Rowe Hayward, Sumter County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller

Gloria Rowe Hayward, a 4th-generation Sumter County resident, has devoted 55 years to the Clerk's Office and has been serving as Clerk of Court and Comptroller since 1996. Her extensive experience includes playing a key role, in partnership with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, in developing the Offender-Based Tracking System (OBTS), which greatly enhanced case tracking and reporting. In 1997, she established the highly successful Teen Court Program, providing first-time juvenile offenders with a chance to avoid a criminal record through a structured diversion process. Her financial expertise is reflected in her effective management of the Clerk's Office budget, and she has been recognized for 15 consecutive years with the Florida Government Accounting Award. With proven leadership, a commitment to transparency, and unwavering dedication, Gloria R. Hayward is the best candidate to continue guiding the Clerk's Office with excellence.

### Candidate Bios continued on page 7



# Memory Loss??

# Craig Curtis, M.D. US NAVY VETERAN



Dr. Craig Curtis, MD, is a national expert on Alzheimer's Disease with 25 years spent researching treatments and brain health. He focuses on prevention and treatment of Alzheimer's Disease and his research has been published in leading national and international medical journals. Dr. Curtis is particularly interested in the underlying biology and prevention of memory loss, dementia, and Alzheimer's Disease - and pursuing the science that one day will lead to an effective treatment.

# Join Dr. Craig Curtis for a FREE Seminar where you will learn about:

- Causes of memory loss and proper diagnosis
- Memory, Forgetfulness and Aging What is Normal?
- Differences between Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia
- New FDA approved treatments to slow Alzheimer's Disease
- A brain healthy diet and lifestyle
- <u>ALL</u> are welcome to this educational event

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Sharon L. Morse Medical Center Building 500 • Located on the 3rd Floor 1400 North US Hwy 441 • Suite 537 The Villages, FL 32159 Candidate Bios continued from page 5

### Erin Munz, Sumter County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller

Erin Munz has proudly called Sumter County home since moving here in 1984. She is a dedicated public servant, spending 27 years working in the Sumter County Clerk's Office and volunteering with various community programs. Beyond her professional career, Erin's passion for service extends deep into the community. She has served as Past President of the Sumter County Fair Board, Wildwood Rotary, and the Florida Association of Teen Courts, founded the Wildwood FFA Alumni, a team leader for Flags for Fallen Veterans, and serves on the Joint Veterans Support Committee. Erin is also a mentor and 4-H leader and the former Sumter Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year. If elected Clerk of Court, she will bring modern technology to the office while keeping traditional values. Family is at the heart of Erin's life-and she enjoys nothing more than being LaLa to Theo. When she has spare time, you can find her playing pickleball with family.

# WILDWOOD CITY COMMISSION Julian Green, Wildwood City Commissioner, Group 5

I am the current Commissioner, and I am asking for your support. I was raised and attended the local schools and have close ties to the Wildwood area. I remember when our city had a population of just 3,000 residents and two major traffic lights (currently 32,000 residents). I am pleased to be a part of the planned and responsible growth and at the same time keeping our "down home" feel. I am proud to be a fiscally responsible person. I have championed the lowest tax rate in Sumter and the surrounding counties with six consecutive annual millage rate decreases.

As your current City Commissioner, I approved school crossing guards, and recruited local businesses i.e. Home Depot, Lowes, coming soon Target Stores, among other things. I will continue to champion responsible growth i.e. downtown area, wastewater facility and safe roadways. I will always advocate for our residents.

# Philip Montalvo, Wildwood City Commissioner, Group 5

My wife of 38 years, Linda, and I moved to Florida from Illinois in 2011. In 2019, we moved to the Village of Linden in the City of Wildwood. We have 4 children and 11 grandchildren.

I am a Villages CDD 12 Supervisor.

The City of Wildwood is a wonderful community - I want to help make it even better. About 75% of Wildwood lies inside The Villages, yet only ONE out of FIVE Commissioners lives in The Villages. This growing area, with its unique challenges, deserves to have a second representative on the Commission, and I want to be that person.

I understand governmental financing structures and how municipal and state governments work.

I practiced law for 40+ years, was the City Attorney for a city the size of Wildwood, served as Chief Legal Counsel for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and was a board of directors' member of the Illinois Development Finance Authority.

### Candidate Bios continued on page 8



Candidate Bios continued from page 7

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS (CDDs) Judy Biebersheimer, CDD 1

ENDORSED BY POA. SEE PAGE 1

# Ken Mann, CDD 1

I'm running for a Supervisor's position because I believe that to make positive changes in my community I need to be "part of the solution." I've found that there are safety issues with multimodal paths and streets and problems with processes like deed restriction compliance. I want to do whatever I can as a Supervisor to see that the safety issues and process problems are addressed.

I'm a retired Air Force Officer spending 20-1/2 years in the military. I'm a registered Professional Engineer and have a master's degree in civil engineering.

I'm not married and was a single parent for half of my Air Force career. I have 3 sons and lost my daughter after a lifetime of health issues. I enjoy spending time with my family, including my 4 grandchildren, and taking part in a variety of outdoor activities. Gilbert Windsor, CDD 7

ENDORSED BY POA – SEE PAGE 1

### Jerry Vicenti, CDD 7

District 7 (CDD7), representing the Villages of Hemingway, Duval, Hadley & Bonita have given me the honor to be their District 7 Supervisor and Chairman and Project Wide Advisory Committee representative for the last 12 years. Served on The Property Owners Association (POA) as membership director. Inducted into (POA) Hall Of Fame in recognition of my service. Retired from the Port Authority Of NY & NJ after 35 years as supervisor of operations, construction, security of the Brooklyn Cruise Terminal and negotiating multiple million-dollar contracts. Worked on the World Trade Center Recovery Unit on 9/11. Received Special Citation award for my work in the Port Authority World Trade 911 Recovery Unit. I'm devoted to Protecting the Health, Welfare & Quality of Life of the residents. District 7 Supervisors raised maintenance fees only once within the last 11 years, that's the definition of being financially responsible. Please Re-elect Jerry Vicenti

# Kevin "Mac" McGovern, CDD 8

Mac has spent over 40 years serving his country in Naval Aviation. During his exemplary career as both enlisted and Navy Officer, he operated across the globe serving on both active duty and in the Navy reserve. In Afghanistan he served as a Senior Officer assigned to the International Security Assistance Force (NATO), under GEN Petraeus.

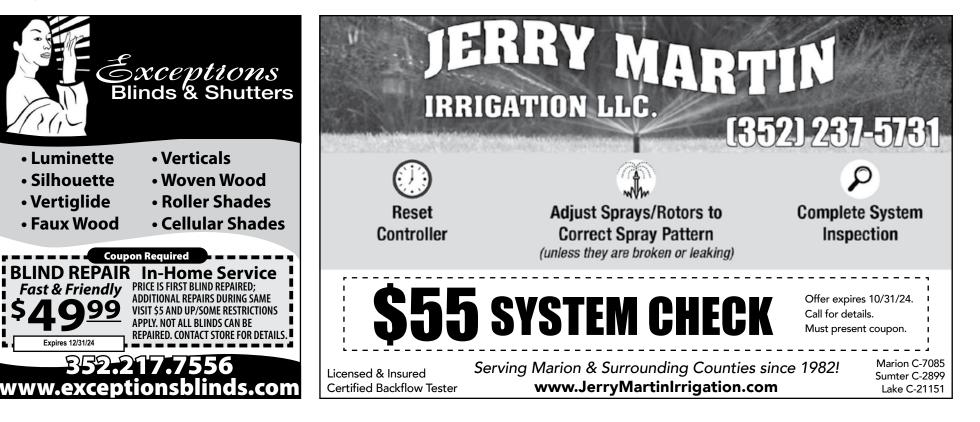
While in Washington, D.C. he oversaw the production of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, our latest generation fighter aircraft. He was responsible for the international production and delivery of the first fifty-nine jets to Eglin AFB, FL.

He is a graduate of Purdue University and holds a degree in Electrical Engineering. He earned his commission as a Navy Officer in Pensacola, FL. He is a graduate of the Defense Acquisition University.

Mac volunteers with Habitat for Humanity and fights for veterans' rights. Mac and his wife Maggie live in St. Charles.

His website is mac4cdd8.com

### Candidate Bios continued on page 9



My philosophy is getting things done without making excuses.

### Candidate Bios continued from page 8

### Wayne Anderson, CDD 8

As your new Board Supervisor in District 8, I will fight to protect your rights at your homes, including your right to display the little white cross.

Pursuant to Florida law, the Board must exercise its duties in a manner that is "generally beneficial" to Villagers. The anonymous-complaint process is not beneficial to anyone and should be repealed at once. Also, the "selective enforcement" practices of the Board must cease immediately.

I will work with Board members and the Developer to make your lives as happy as can be. You worked hard for a happy retirement. And you deserve it. But I will not make your lives a living hell, spending tens of thousands of your dollars, suing homeowners for years over their religious faith.

I will be an independent voice on your Board—and not a rubber stamp for The Villages.

Your interests are foremost. Please, vote Wayne!

### John Kerrigan, CDD 13

My name is John Kerrigan, current Supervisor for District 13 Seat 3.

Served in the Navy for eight years. Honorably discharged in August 1981.

Worked forty years at Callaway Nuclear Plant in Missouri. Managed major budgets and coordinated with government officials to ensure the health and safety of workers and residents.

I have a bachelor's degree in chemistry and business management from Columbia College.

Moved to Hammock at Fenney in December of 2021.

My job is to respond to neighbor's issues and ensure district properties and services have exacting standards and use the best vendors at competitive prices.

Susan and I both love this community, and I would be honored to continue to serve my neighbors as a District 13 Supervisor.

- Member POA.
- Board member of Vietnam Veterans of America and Little Rascals Men's group.
- VHA Assistant VP.
- Hamock at Fenney Facebook Administrator.
- AED Responder.
- Board Member, The Villages Photo Club.

Candidate Bios continued on page 11



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# POA Bulletin 9

# **10 POA Bulletin** The POA – Champions of Residents' Rights Since 1975 **OCT**

**OCTOBER 2024** 



# POA Bulletin 11





HEMINGWAY, DUVAL, HADLEY & BONITA

Re-Elect Jerry Vicenti (CDD) District 7 Supervisor. For the last 12 years I've had the honor to be your District 7 Supervisor and Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) Representative and been given the honor to be Chairman of District 7.





### Candidate Bios continued from page 8

## **Richard Pastor, CDD 13**

My wife and I live in the Village of St. Johns.

I have a Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering (SUNY Polytechnic) and a MBA (Syracuse University).

I have extensive leadership experience working across boundaries and feel it is important to get involved at this critical juncture.

The district is now in its sixth year. Per statute, new open seats will transition from landowner/ developer nominated seats, to those elected by registered voters.

My interest and approach to working on this board is quite simple:

- Be a respectful advocate for our residents' rights, while also being consistent, honest and attentive to the needs of all parties.
- Research, seek to understand and clarify concerns to enable fair solutions based on the data.
- Clearly share accurate and timely information with district residents.

I hope to provide a unique perspective to complement the supervisors supporting our district.

Thank you for your consideration.

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### **Update on Reverse Mortgages** Your Questions Answered Tues, Oct 8 & Tues, Nov 12, 12:30 p.m. at The Standard Coffee Shop in Spanish Plaines Plaza 1552 Bella Cruz Dr, The Villages 32159 Wed, Oct 16 & Wed, Nov 20, 12:30 p.m. at Bob Evans, Colony Plaza 360 Colony Blvd, The Villages 32162 FREE IUNCH RSVP 352-462-0636 or for more details. Dan Kapellen RMExplained.com Certified Reverse Mortgage Specialist in The Villages Pacific Lending Group £1

Mortgage Bankers

NMLS 2302495

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That's because our age-55+ resortstyle community in Lady Lake is ten minutes from shopping and dining in The Villages—but in a MUCH quieter setting with better lifestyle features. And



yle features. And at prices that allow you to take a long term look at your future!

Our new manufactured homes by two trend-setting builders have the bright, wide-open spaces that you see in stick-built homes you've toured—but are much lowerpriced. Some 2-bed/2-bath plans set to

close late this fall can deliver in the \$150s!

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You'll have the comfort and security

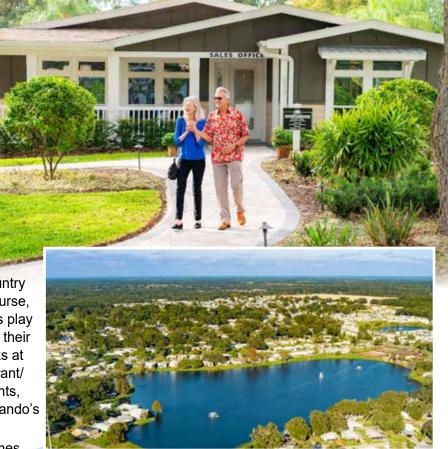
of a friendly neighborhood with front-yard landscape maintenance and a 24/7 manned gate. And you're going to love our two clubhouses with resort-style pools, tennis and pickle ball courts, and a full range of fitness/sports venues.

And be sure to come see Water Oak Country Club Championship Golf Course, where our resident members play at discount rates...and finish their rounds with dinner and drinks at our '19th Hole' bistro restaurant/ bar. Just like Villages residents, they're just an hour from Orlando's attractions and airport.

Our newest release of homes show off some views of Florida's rolling hill country (there's an option for a 2-car attached garage). If you prefer to "test drive" the Water Oak lifestyle before you buy, we can arrange a rent-to-own program (several new residents are doing that now).

Either way, you could be meeting the neighbors and enjoying our quiet life right away. Check in at the security gate east of Hwy 441 at Water Oak Blvd for directions to the models; and bring your labradoodle! We already have a dog park; and another is planned to arrive close to our newest homes!

- Michelle Harmon, Community Manager





# Sumter County Commissioner Candidates on the November Ballot

A loophole in the Constitutional Amendment that allows open primaries in Florida, as was the intent of the people, enabled the Sumter County Republican Party to support "write-in" candidates for the August primary. The primary was therefore closed to only Republican voters. Typically, and if it was the true intent of the party, the write-ins jobs would have been done and they would withdraw. This year, inexplicably, they have chosen not to withdraw.

 $\bigcirc$ 

So, what does this mean for the candidates – Deb Butterfield, Todd Coon and Don Wiley – who won in the primary? Their names will appear on the November ballot and they must win against a blank space for a write-in below their names. To cast your vote for Butterfield, Coon and Wiley, you must mark the circle next to their names. The only write-in names that will be counted as votes are those that qualified during the filing period.

County Commissioner District 1			
Comisionado del Condado Distrito 1			
(Vote for One)	(Vote por Uno)		
Dahara K	ID . LI D. H. C. LI		

Debora K. "Deb" Butterfield REP

Write-in / Agregado por Escrito

These write-ins are also obstructing the opportunity for a smooth transition, which is particularly unfortunate as there will be two brand new Commissioners and one returning to a seat he held for more than two years. Had the writein candidates withdrawn, the primary winners would be considered "Commissioners-elect" and entitled to receive all communications received by the current Commissioners. This would afford them the opportunity for a head start on preparing for their new position on the Board. They would also be held to Florida's Sunshine laws and not be able to communicate with each other or the current board members.

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Lightning continued on page

# **14 POA Bulletin** The POA – Champions of Residents' Rights Since 1975

# **OCTOBER 2024**

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# www.CERTUSseniorliving.com



# Multi-Modal Path Discussion Group Continues to Talk Safety

The Multi-Modal Path Discussion Group (MMPDG), under the leadership of POA president Cliff Wiener, continued to talk about safety at its meeting in August. Since that time, residents have weighed in, asking for improved visibility features for night and rainstorm driving on the paths to make them safer.

Assistant District Manager, Bruce Brown, confirmed that an engineering study conducted in 2015 did not recommend striping or reflective road pavement markings (RPMs). However, The Kimley-Horne engineer stated, "Edge line striping is not warranted or recommended. However, it does not conflict with the multi-use aspect of the trails like the centerline stripe does. If the governing agency wants to install them, a specification needs to be developed so you can hire a contractor. It is allowable by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices to use reflectors in lieu of the stripe, but we will need to analyze the issue and make a recommendation should you go this route." At the time, a majority of the CDDs represented from Districts 1-10 favored going this route. However, after the meeting was held to discuss and consensus was achieved, a \$300,000 price tag was assigned as the cost and the majority of CDDs previously in favor, waivered.

The POA also conducted a survey of its membership in 2015 and reported that more than 80% who used the paths at night or in inclement weather wanted either center or edge line striping to improve visibility. In 2015, it had only recently been approved that carts could use the paths at night. Today, thousands are on the paths at all times of day and night, and in inclement weather.

The POA encourages residents to attend the meetings of their respective CDD Boards of Supervisors and ask for RPMs on the paths. It is a cost-effective and common-sense solution. It has been nearly 10 years of ongoing discussion about safety on the multi-modal paths. It is time for action.



# **STOP/START DELIVERY – SIMPLE PROCESS!**

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

# Final FY 2024-25 Budgets Passed:

### CDD 14 Residents Outraged Over Increases

A \$2 million contribution by The Villages Developer to the Middleton Wide Fund helped to mitigate the impact of a 56% increase in maintenance fees for residents of CDD 14 down to 20%, but left residents wondering what will happen next year. Will the Developer continue to make contributions?

### Amenity Authority Committee (AAC)

The AAC reviewed and discussed the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Recreation Amenities Division (RAD) budget, the five-year Capital Improvement Plan, and Working Capital/Reserve Balances during its March Preliminary Budget Workshop, and its May and June regular meetings. At the June 12, 2024 meeting, the AAC recommended approval of the Proposed RAD budget. Staff continued to work on the budget and updated the final cost allocation amounts.

The RAD Fund final budget is \$92,106,166, an increase of \$2,545,629 as compared to the proposed budget due mostly to re-budgeted capital projects and additional funds budgeted in executive golf maintenance to be used toward the direct purchase of fertilizer and chemical products. It also included reductions to the management fee services due to final allocations.

### Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC)

PWAC reviewed and discussed the Project Wide Fund budget during its May and June regular meetings. The Fiscal Year 2024-25 final budget is \$22,214,612, an increase of \$494,120 from the proposed budget approved in June. The increase was due to the SECO pole rental rate increase and capital projects that will not be completed in the current fiscal year. Staff has adjusted the amount to be allocated among participating districts and use of working capital for these additional expenses. participating districts and use of working capital for these additional expenses. There was also a decrease of \$197,707 in the recurring landscaping account due to new contract pricing for pine straw and project wide areas of District 12. These adjustments resulted in a decrease of approximately 0.9%, for most participating districts, as compared to the FY24-25 Project Wide Proposed allocation amount.

The Sumter Landing Amenity Division (SLAD) Final Budget is \$110,730,973 and the Fitness Budget is \$1,437,437. The Fiscal Year 2024-25 SLAD Final Budget reflects an increase of \$7,480,580 from the Proposed Budget due mostly to capital projects budgeted in current year that will not be completed and have been re-budgeted for Fiscal Year 2024-25, an increase in Other Maintenance for landscape maintenance at the executive golf courses as well as funding for the direct purchase of inputs (fertilizer, chemicals, insecticides, sand, etc.) as reflected in the budget packet. The Fiscal Year 2024-25 Fitness Final Budget reflects a decrease of \$32,535 from the Proposed Budget due to final cost allocation adjustments to the management fees.

Highlights continued on page 17





# **P©A Bulletin**

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Highlights continued from page 16

# Paradise Gates Decision Made

At its August meeting the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) discussed the removal of 14 gates at the Paradise Walking Trail that must be locked and unlocked daily by staff. There was consensus that the gates were not a deterrent and staff expense not warranted.

At the September meeting, Recreation and Parks Executive Director John Rohan, noted that there are numerous access areas that are not fenced or gated for afterhours access, the walking path gates currently do not prevent access to the Park, and the current 14 Gates provide limited security and/or prevent access. He presented two options for the Committee to consider:

After discussion, the Committee members recommend leaving the gates in place in the unlocked position. Staff will continue to monitor for any concerns that may warrant a change to this plan.

# Save the Date – Government Day

Government Day will be held on Saturday, November 2, 2024 from 10 am -1 pm at the Eisenhower Recreation Center. Representatives from state, local and district governments will be on hand to meet with residents.



ree

ickets!

# Beacon College Salon Speaker Series

**BEACON SALON** 

# Appallingly Funny: Humor and the Taboo

Dr. Leigh Camacho Rourks

Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. at The Venetian Center

Tickets are **FREE** and include a meal.

https://bit.ly/ SalonSeriesAppallinglyFunny







# AARP now offers a Free 60–90-minute Smart Driver Technology workshop for those thinking of either leasing, purchasing or just upgrading to a newer vehicle.

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 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.

October 2024 Schedule						
Instructor	Phone #	Day	Date	Day	Date	Location
Chet Kowalski	352-430-1833	Tue	10/1/24	Wed	10/2/24	Colony
Jack Haughn	352-603-1420	Tue	10/8/24	Fri	10/11/24	Laurel Manor
George Rodriguez	802-349-8080	ON	E DAY	Fri	10/18/24	Buffalo Crossings
Don Walker	352-430-0610	Mon	10/21/24	Thur	10/24/24	Savannah



Stay Connected for the latest Announcements and to watch Membership meetings livestreamed!

# We have 1,600+ total page likes and 2,193 total page followers!

The POA now livestreams its meetings so residents can either attend in person, watch live from home or at a time more convenient. You will hear all parts of the meeting – announcements, open forum Q & A, and the program. **You will always be connected to your POA!** 

Type POA of the Villages FL in the search on Facebook and you will find our page. Click LIKE and or FOLLOW, and then, suggest our page to all of your friends and neighbors that live in The Villages! Meetings and relevant information will be posted on a timely basis. *Please continue to send questions or comments via email or call the POA at (352) 418-7372.* ALL content will be monitored by the Administrator and posts containing opinion or debate will be removed. ●

# POA Bulletin 19



KATHRYN LINN, P.A.

Estate Planning • Probate

# Are Your Estate Planning Documents in Order?

Join Attorney Kathryn Linn for a Free Legal Seminar

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### Attorney Kathryn Linn will discuss: Estate Planning

• Whether your out-of-state documents are valid in Florida.

• The Probate process and how to potentially avoid it.

• How to provide for a special needs/handicapped beneficiary.

• How to potentially minimize or eliminate estate taxes.





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# <image><text><text>

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

# Similarly, why would a dermatologist be best to perform my...delicate skin surgery?

t is all about experience and sophistication. You wouldn't do well on a commercial aircraft flying to Europe with a pilot whose total training was less than two weeks: but "reimbursed" the same paycheck. The same analogy applies to the use of radiation.

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The plan...choose a respected dermatologist who constantly relies on our practice to administer radiation when needed, forming a team for you. We are the only accredited American College of Radiology Comprehensive Cancer Center in The Villages. You deserve this accreditation. Before you accept radiation treatment, come chat with us. Compare quality aircraft and pilots. We want you to soar in your flight of life.

Norman H. Anderson, MD CEO, Robert Boissoneault Oncology Institute



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# **20 POA Bulletin** The POA – Champions of Residents' Rights Since 1975

# **OCTOBER 2024**

# SHINE Offers Medicare Help

SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) is increasing its counseling sites considerably during the Medicare Open Enrollment Period, Oct. 15 – Dec. 7, 2024, so that enrollees can be assisted with this once a year opportunity to make changes to their advantage or prescription drug programs. In addition, volunteers will be 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.

Lake Miona Rec Center, 9:00 – 11:30 am Tuesdays Oct. 8 through Dec. 10 except Nov. 26

Eisenhower Rec Center, 9:00 – 11:30 am Wednesdays Oct. 2, and Oct. 16 through Dec.4 except Nov. 27

Chula Vista Rec Center, 3:00 – 5:30 pm Fridays Oct. 4, and Oct. 18 through Dec. 6 except Nov. 29

Lady Lake Library, 2:00 – 3:30 pm Wednesdays Oct. 9 through Dec. 11 except Nov. 27

Leesburg Public Library, 9:30 – 11:30 am Tuesdays Oct. 1, and Oct. 15 through Dec. 3 except Nov. 26

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

For more information, go to **FloridaShine.org** or call (800) 963-5337.





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# Holidays Fast Approaching – Know the Decorations Policy!

The District will permit the Gate Houses and Village/Villa entry sign walls to be decorated by resident groups. This policy excludes postal stations. Holiday decorations must comply with community standards and not pose a nuisance or safety hazard.

Prior to installation, residents must submit a "request for approval" application to District Property Management (DPM) and sign an Activity Release of Liability. All individuals installing decorations must sign the release prior to installation or it must be signed by the "Resident Group" leader who is accepting liability for the holiday decorations. Holiday decorations without approval will be removed.

You can obtain the necessary forms at the DPM offices on the 2nd floor of 1026 Canal Street, above City Fire, or online at **DistrictGov.org**. Search for Decorations and you will find the full policy with the forms.



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# **Protecting Yourself Against Fraud**

# SENIORS VS CRIME

# Your chances of becoming a victim of a fraud or a scam increase daily. That said, don't lose hope because there are numerous things you can do to **avoid being a victim**. Here are a few:

- Recognize scam attempts and end all communication with the perpetrator. Better yet, DON'T ANSWER YOUR PHONE UNLESS YOU KNOW THE CALLER.
- 2. Create a shared verbal family password or phrase that only you and your loved ones know. Use it if you think you are being scammed.
- 3. If you are unsure of something you have been offered, search online using the company name followed by the words Complaints, Reviews. You will be surprised how much information is available on scam companies.
- 4. Resist the pressure to act quickly scammers create a sense of urgency to make you fearful or lure you into immediate action. **Better yet, go back to RULE #1.**
- 5. Never ever give out personal or financial information during an UNSOLICITED call, email or text message. If you didn't initiate the call or email, then you don't actually know who you are talking to **Rule #1 again.**
- If you are being told you MUST pay a fine or fee for something and the person tells you to pay in GIFT CARDS, IT IS A SCAM. There are NO exceptions to this rule!

- 7. Make sure all computer anti-virus, security software and malware protections are up to date.
- 8. If you get a pop-up screen on your computer that says you must call a number because your computer has a virus, SHUT YOUR COMPUTER DOWN IMMEDIATELY. DO NOT CALL THE NUMBER ON THE SCREEN. Don't panic – you don't have a virus – you have a scammer on the other end who wants to gain access to your computer or your bank account.
- 9. Be careful when you download attachments to your computer never download any attachment from someone you don't know.
- 10. If you haven't done so already, FREEZE
  YOUR CREDIT with the 3 reporting bureaus

  Experian, Equifax and Transunion. It is free and much easier to do now than in the past and it will keep you financially safer from scammers.
- If you regularly use credit cards for online purchases, go online to the card issuer's website and **place alerts on your cards**. Then, whenever anything is charged to your card, you will receive a free text message from the card issuer.

# 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!

These are just a few quick and easy things to do and to remember. Bear in mind, most scams originate with a phone call so get in the habit of letting your calls go to voicemail if you don't recognize the caller.

For additional tips on how to protect yourself, stop by or call any of the four Seniors vs. Crime offices in The Villages. Until next month, stay safe.

# DISCOUNT PARTNERS

# Another benefit for POA members is the Discount Partner program.

Most vendors will ask you for your current POA Membership card to receive the offered discount. If you have a favorite business who is currently not offering a POA Discount, tell them about our program. Please say "thanks" to our Discount Partners for their participation.

The up-to-date list of Discount Partners can always be found on our website poa4us.org or scan the QR code at right. Click 'Discount Partners' to access the list.





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2012	Joe Gorman
2011	Pete Cacioppo Betty Cunningham
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2006	Charlie Harvey Carol Kope Frank Renner
2005	Sadie Woollard
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# POA Bulletin 23

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

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