



# POA Bulletin



POA4US.org

FEBRUARY 2025

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## Upcoming POA General Membership Meetings

February 18, 2025 • 7 pm

Laurel Manor Recreation Center

SPEAKER: Debbie Selsavage

Coping With Dementia, LLC

TOPIC: Positive Approach to Care™

March 18, 2025 • 7 pm

Laurel Manor Recreation Center

SPEAKER: Cheryl Chestnutt

Chief Clinical Officer

UF/Spanish Planes Hospital

TOPIC: Update and Progress

## New Sumter County Sheriff Promises Increased Traffic Enforcement and Improved Communication

New Sumter County Sheriff Patrick “Pat” Breeden hit the ground running when he was sworn in last month, and promised residents continued and enhanced traffic enforcement and a partnership with citizens through communication. Speaking at the POA January 21 General Membership Meeting, Sheriff Breeden said Sumter County maintains a position as the 6th-8th lowest crime rate in the State, not easy as one of the fastest growing populations with two interstate highways running through it.



Sheriff Breeden said one of the keys to this success is that citizens are very good at the “See something, say something” mantra and helps to keep violent crime low.

Captain Robert Siemer is The Villages District Commander and shared the many aspects of the department’s “Safe Program” with residents at the October POA Membership meeting. Captain Siemer referred to the program as the “non-traditional” law enforcement services they provide.

## Vial of Life

The Vial of Life is a program designed to provide needed information to emergency personnel in situations where you are unable to do so. The information provided in the Vial will include medical history, medications, dosage, doctor’s name, insurance provider (optional), emergency contact numbers, hospital preference and other information.

The Vial should be located in the door of the refrigerator, where emergency personnel have been trained to look. The contents of the refrigerator will also remain undamaged in a fire.

Place the green magnet on your refrigerator door and the green sticker on the front door or window. Remember to update your forms when/if your medication or health changes. Captain Siemer also recommended that residents keep a vial in their cars and golf carts.

Lake and Marion counties have similar programs.

**Sheriff** continued on page 2



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

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**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.

*Sheriff continued from page 1*

**Peace of Mind Program**

Designed for people who live alone, the Peace of Mind program is a daily check-in program with the Sheriff’s office. The resident will call each day and be checked off a list. If no call is received, the Sheriff’s office will realize something may be wrong and can follow up. They ask that someone, a neighbor or family member, be designated as a “key holder” to provide access to the home if needed.

Captain Siemer estimates they save approximately three people annually through this program. He said that Lake and Marion counties have similar programs. About 100 people are in the program in Sumter County.

**Home Security Inspection Program**

Several officers have been trained to come to residents’ homes to provide a free safety inspection. This includes checking windows and locks, shrubbery, check door to garage, etc. They recommend putting a peep hole in the door from home to garage so you can see through it if you hear something instead of opening the door.

**Human Scent Preservation Kit**

Captain Siemer said approximately 10% of people in The Villages have dementia or Alzheimer’s and the Sheriff’s Department has blood hounds that

are used to help locate people that have wandered off. They used to give them a shirt or item that the person has used recently and send the dog off in search. However, there are many scents on such items as the person is exposed to many different people.

The Scent Preservation Kit is a glass jar that is double insulated and sterile. It should not be opened until it is ready to use. Inside is a sterile pad that the person will rub all over the body and get as much scent on it as possible. Put it inside the jar and fill out the information on the outside sticker with the person’s name and date it was put in service. It will last for seven years. If another person helps the person whose scent is being collected, there is a place on the label to indicate who assisted so they will know there will be another scent associated with the sample. They have trained dogs who can be called “off” the second scent and only search for the primary.

The department brings out every resource when someone has gone missing – off duty personnel, helicopters, etc. until the person is found. Time is of the essence. Captain Siemer emphasized calling as soon as you think someone is missing.

Sumter County is one of only five counties in the country that won a grant with which they purchased lockable GPS watches to monitor where they are. These programs have cut in half the time to find someone who is lost.

*Sheriff continued on page 3*

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Sheriff continued from page 2

**Free Mobile App**

You can find the app on your phone or device and will receive push notifications about a variety of incidents that may be occurring. On the app there is a Most Wanted list, Inmate Search, Sex Offender locator, Community Crime Map, Calls for Service, Human Trafficking Reporting, Sumter Scam Sting, and a place to submit comments and feedback.

If a scam is reported on the app, it is vetted by the scam team and once verified it will be listed in that section of the app. Captain Siemer recommends checking that periodically for updated information on scams that have been reported.

Sargeant Adam Dodge said that Sumter County is a very safe community with violent crime at almost zero. He said the most prevalent crimes committed are “crimes of opportunity”, such as leaving an unlocked car in the driveway or leaving a purse in the car or cart.

Scams are the other biggest problem. He said if you didn’t buy a Nigerian lottery ticket you didn’t win the Nigerian lottery! He advised never giving out numbers – phone, social security – to anyone. They have a “No Numbers Campaign” to remind people. If you get a message from your bank, don’t call the number they have provided. Get the number you know to be your bank and find out if there is anything going on.

Anytime you think something doesn’t sound right, call the Sheriff’s office and let them know so they can find out what’s going on.

Captain Siemer said there is a “Safe Program” that allows residents to identify the programs they have signed up for. This information is connected with the resident’s address so that if there is a call to the house, the responding deputy can access important information prior to arriving at the scene.

Sheriff Breeden has assembled a citizens Crisis Intervention Team that assists in cases of mental and emotional cases. After the scene is secure, the team can go in to talk with the resident having the problem and can follow up after care is received.

Sheriff continued on page 4



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# of Residents at address below \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Village Name \_\_\_\_\_

Unit # (see Villages ID/UL) \_\_\_\_\_ Villa Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Resident First & Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Relation \_\_\_\_\_

**BULLETIN DELIVERY**  Driveway  E-Bulletin  Driveway & E-Bulletin  None

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**Sheriff** continued from page 3

**Citizens Academy**

The Sheriff’s Office offers two Citizens Academy Programs. One is a 10-week program that meets for 2 hours and explores all aspects of the department. The other is an abbreviated 2-hour program in a classroom. Captain Siemer encouraged residents to consider attending.

**Q & A**

**Please address the high rates of speed on North Morse Blvd. and Buena Vista. Why is there no radar enforcement?**

Sheriff Breeden assured residents that traffic enforcement is one of his top priorities. He was able to secure grant funding last year from the State to pay for overtime for traffic enforcement patrols. Every year he has added additional traffic units – three last year. He is also using a new program that helps identify the five top traffic areas, and North Morse Blvd. is one of them. He will utilize that information to increase patrols in those areas.

**Since the Sheriff’s budget is approved by the Sumter County Commissioners, has the Commission supported the need for additional deputies?**

Growth is the biggest challenge facing the Sheriff’s Department. Last year the budget increased \$3-4 million. The average cost to put a new deputy in place is \$100,000. Sheriff Breeden said they only ask for what they need, and they must be competitive to recruit and retain.

**Does the Sheriff’s Office use drones?**

Yes, there are two on every shift. They basically do the same thing as the helicopter and can be deployed more quickly. But they don’t have the range the helicopter does. ●



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# Spotlight on Golf in The Villages

While Old Man Winter took up residence in Florida during the month of January, die-hard golfers had plenty of courses to choose from, with 42 Executive (9-holes) courses, 14 Championship (18-27 holes), 4 pitch and putt, and 4 putt and play courses, each with two 9-holes.

**Golf is the hallmark of the lifestyle in The Villages, with more than 2 million rounds played each year.**

## Executive Golf

The Executive Golf Trail courses are owned and operated by the Village Center Community Development District and the Sumter Landing Community Development District. They are supported and maintained by the Amenity Fees of the residents of The Villages, meaning Greens Fees are free for all residents of The Villages. Renters who receive a temporary resident card with their rental are considered residents during their stay and qualify for free golf on the executive courses.

Use of a golf car does require a paid trail fee, which can be paid daily, semi-annually, or annually.

Executive Golf Courses in The Villages are 9-hole courses, rated Level 1 to 4 based on the difficulty of the course, with 1 being the friendliest and 4 the most challenging.

## Championship Golf Courses

While the Championship Courses and Golf Academy are owned and operated by the developer of The Villages, each Championship Golf Club offers something different with unique course designs and challenges. They are either 18 or 27-hole courses.

Villages residents are automatically members of every Country Club and Championship golf course, affording them the opportunity to play any course. Residents can upgrade their membership to “enhanced” which comes with additional perks and lower greens fees.

Fees range from \$37.50 - \$59 per round for “enhanced” members, depending on the course played.

## Pitch ‘n Putt and Putting Courses

Holes on the Putt ‘n Play courses range from 40-110 yards in length with focus on shots around the greens. They are considered a par-3 course, allowing golfers to play a quick 18-hole round in less than 2 hours. They are also golf car-free.

There are four Putting courses in The Villages, three located south of CR 44 and one at First Responders Recreation Center. Each offers two 9-hole courses.

## Other Golfing Resources

- Four Driving Ranges.
- Practice greens at every Championship and most Executive courses.
- Hitting nets are featured at all country club facilities without a driving range.
- Practice bunkers at the following locations: Glenview Champions, Nancy Lopez Legacy, Palmer Legends, or the Sarasota Golf Practice Center.
- Golf Instruction available with golf professionals through The Villages Golf Academy.
- Good Golf School teaches golfers to be considerate of other golfers and those living on the course, taking care of the course, and practicing safety in our golf car community.
- Courses for beginners and refreshment courses for seasoned golfers.

Much criticism was directed at maintenance issues on many of the Executive Golf Courses in 2024, ultimately leading to a contract with the United States Golf Association (USGA). The USGA professionals came in and evaluated every course, and helped develop new strategies to keep courses in the condition that residents expect. Positive results came quickly.

A second issue for residents was communication about course conditions and closings. Now, a robust communication mechanism is in place on the website, detailing conditions on every course, listing course closures, maintenance schedules and a host of other information. Quarterly reports are given to the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) and the Project Wide Advisory Committee, both oversee the amenity fees spent on golf maintenance.

To make the most of your golfing experience in The Villages go to **DistrictGov.org** and select ‘Golf’ from the navigation bar. ●

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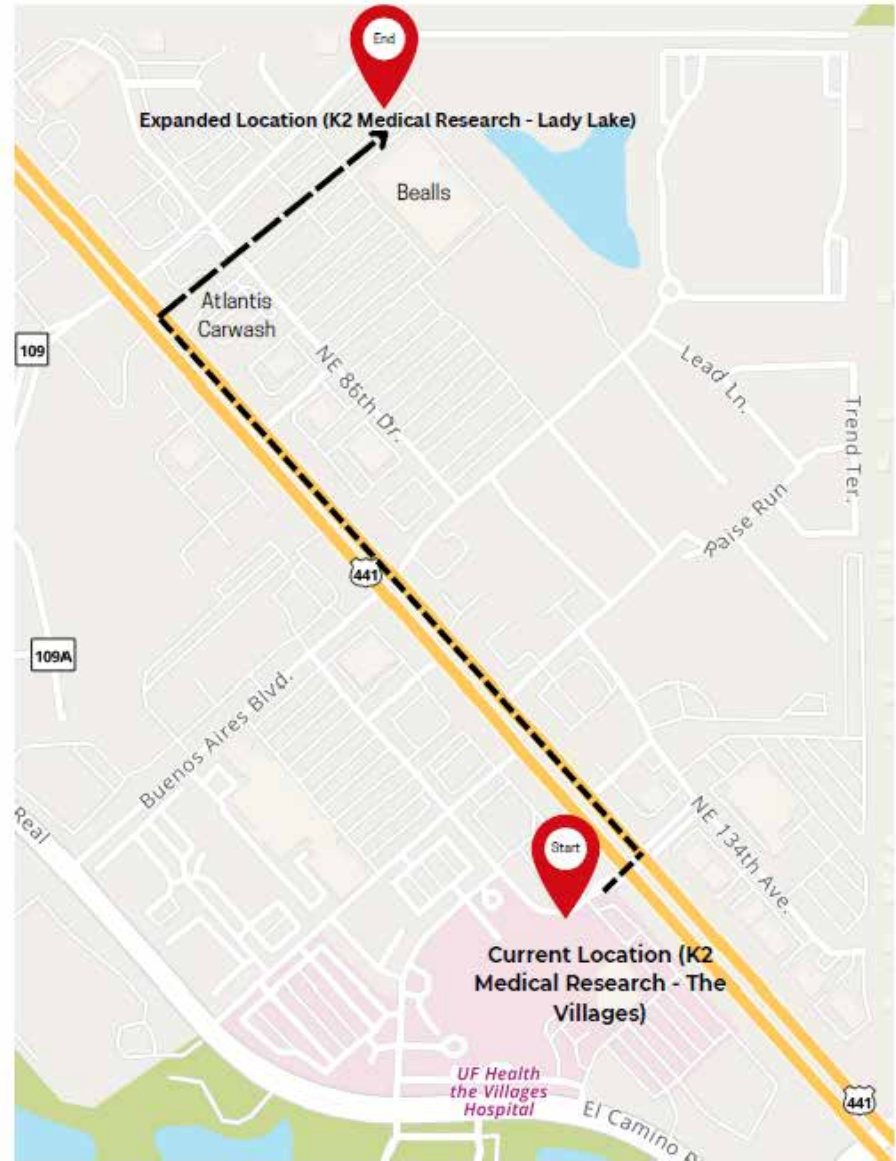
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**Expanded Location:** 8577 NE 138th LN, Lady Lake, FL 32159

# Multi-Modal Path Discussion Group Continues Safety Discussions

With the passage of a resolution to participate by all Community Development Districts (CDD) except CDDs 3, 6, 11 and 13, the Multi-Modal Path Discussion Group (MMPDG) has been formalized as a committee with the following purpose listed on the District website:

*The Multi-Modal Path Discussion Group (MMPDG) has been established to address safety concerns, maintain consistency, provide education and generate ideas for enhancing the experience on the multi-modal paths from a community-wide perspective.*

*The MMPDG serves in an advisory capacity and does not have the authority to make final decisions or implement changes to the multi-modal paths. Financial decisions and actions shall be the responsibility of the respective entities (Village Community Development Districts and the Amenity Authority Committee) based on their established procedures and authority.*

*The establishment of the MMPDG does not preclude residents and Board/Committee Members from addressing immediate safety or maintenance concerns related to the multi-modal paths. Residents are encouraged to continue attending monthly District and Committee Meetings to voice their concerns and provide input on matters related to the multi-modal paths and other community issues.*

The meeting held on January 21 and attended by approximately 75 residents continued the focus on safety issues. Several CDD 1 residents attended to express their concerns about safety on N. Morse Boulevard, however, that area is not part of the multi-modal path system in The Villages. Most residents who spoke said they believe the biggest

issues are with speed and not sharing the paths safely with pedestrians and bicycles.

The committee reached consensus that Raised Pavement Markers (RPMs) are preferred over striping and would recommend consistency if CDDs are considering one over the other.

Following is an updated cost of using RPMs in each CDD:

RPM's Cost	
District 1	\$ 2,530.00
District 2	\$ 1,310.00
District 3	\$ 2,265.00
District 4	\$ 1,030.00
District 5	\$12,868.00
District 6	\$19,667.00
District 7	\$ 7,594.00
District 9	\$ 7,926.50
District 10	\$22,683.00
District 12	\$12,003.50
District 13	\$31,388.50
District 14	\$ 1,079.00
District 15	\$ 6,280.00

Assistant District Manager Bruce Brown said the costs are based on spacing. Currently, where RPMs are used, they are placed at 20' on straight, open areas with the spacing decreasing to 10' in advance of and in/around the areas with curves, bends, hills, blind areas, center islands, etc. Most Districts which have RPM's currently use a combination of 10' and 20' spacing as explained. He added that it is recommended to use this spacing as any new RPMs are put down as the decreased spacing serves as a warning to drivers that there are areas ahead that require more attention, have obstacles, curves, line of sight challenges, etc.

**Multi-Modal** continued on page 8

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**Multi-Modal** *continued from page 7*

Golf cart accidents are an ongoing concern and continue to occur in alarming numbers. The Villages Public Safety Department reported the following numbers of accidents in 2024:

**Golf Cart Accidents with Injuries – 66**

**Golf Cart Accidents with No Injuries – 64**

**Golf Cart vs Pedestrian Accidents – 3**

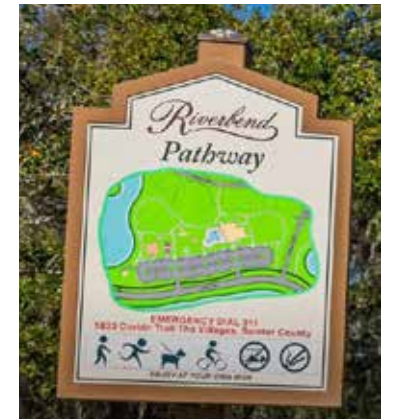
The Sumter County Sheriff’s Office also keeps accident statistics, however, due to a data breach last year, the figures for 2024 are not available. The County keeps the statistics for accidents that occur on public roadways. There are hundreds of miles of public roads with and without golf cart lanes where golf carts must mingle with other vehicular traffic. While much attention is given to the situation on North Morse, the POA and the MMPDG hope to get data on the numbers throughout The Villages.

The District has tools available to help residents learn how to safely share the paths, including a new video just produced that can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RnHrtIII2HU>.

Additionally, there is a Golf Car Safety Guide available on the District website or at any customer service center. In each it is advised that motorcycles, smart cars and mopeds should NOT use the multi-modal paths.

There is really only one practical and immediate solution to each of these safety issues, and it begins with personal responsibility to share the paths, pay attention, and make any maneuvers safely.

**The next meeting of the MMPDG will be April 22 at 2 pm at Savannah Center. ●**



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**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](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.** ●

February 2025 Schedule						
Instructor	Phone #	Day	Date	Day	Date	Location
Chet Kowalski	352-430-1833	Tuesday	2/4/25	Wednesday	2/5/25	Eisenhower
Wink Daniel	352-753-8563	Tuesday	2/11/25	Friday	2/14/25	Laurel Manor
Jack Haughn	352-603-1420	Monday	2/17/25	Thursday	2/20/25	Savannah
Jack Haughn	352-603-1420	Friday	2/21/25*			Buffalo Crossing

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My name is Dr. Craig Curtis. I've been doing Alzheimer's Research for over 25 years. I'd like to tell you about an exciting and critical **research trial on Alzheimer's prevention – right here in The Villages.** Alzheimer's Disease is a devastating condition that affects millions of individuals and their families worldwide. Our research team is dedicated to finding effective ways to prevent Alzheimer's Disease and improve the quality of life for those at risk.

The trial we are conducting is testing whether an FDA-approved study medication can potentially **prevent the onset of Alzheimer's Disease.** As a participant, you will be contributing to a cause that has the potential to change countless lives for the better. **All who qualify will receive the active study medication - there is no placebo in this trial.**

Additionally, you will have access to the latest information and resources related to Alzheimer's prevention, and you will be closely monitored and supported by our team of experts throughout the trial.

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If you are interested in participating or have any questions about the trial, please do not hesitate to contact us at (352) 240-1931.

Thank you for considering this important opportunity. Together, we can make groundbreaking advancements and a difference in the fight against Alzheimer's Disease.

Warm regards,

Craig Curtis, M.D,

Kimberly Salazar, M.D.

Ruth Paiano, ARNP

Carole Gordon, MD

K2 Medical Research

Sharon Morse Medical Bldg

1400 N. US HWY 441, Suite 537

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

### AAC Amenity Fee Workshop

The Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) is holding a workshop to discuss a possible cap on the monthly Amenity Fees paid by every homeowner in The Villages, as residents are expressing concerns about the continued affordability of living here. Residents have spoken out at both the AAC and the Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) about the fees, which go up by the CPI annually on the date the home was originally purchased.

The Developer announced the annual increase to the Prevalent Rate, now \$199, for all homes purchased on or after January 1, 2025. The Prevalent Rate is the starting rate for the Amenity Fee.

The workshop will be held February 18 at 9 am at Savannah Center.

### Combination Flooring at Savannah Center

When the AAC was presented with a proposal to replace the flooring at Savannah Center with luxury vinyl instead of carpet, members asked for time to consider other options. Committee member Don Deakin felt that vinyl would detract from the ambience of a performing arts center.

At its January meeting, members were able to see samples and costs, and ultimately decided to go with a combination. Luxury vinyl will be used in the theater, a combination of vinyl and carpet in the lobby, and carpet in the banquet rooms. The cost is \$788,535.

### More Revetment Cost on Shores of Lake Sumter

District staff have requested funding from the Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) for a second revetment project along the shores of Lake Sumter. The agenda request detailed the project:

The Shoreline from the Lighthouse to just before the John E. Parker Bridge has areas with moderate to severe erosion and therefore must be repaired. The shoreline banks in this area protect District-owned property as well as residential homes and District-owned irrigation systems and walking paths. Maintenance responsibility for this shoreline is Project-Wide. Water levels in Lake Sumter have fluctuated greatly. Droughts caused very low levels in the early 2000s which exposed bank areas which were unsupported by vegetation roots. Hurricanes and severe weather-related events have caused wave action which scoured the banks exposed by low water levels causing severe erosion. Sloughing of the bank caused severe erosion exposing buried irrigation and the failure of numerous areas of the bank.

*January Meetings continued on page 13*

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January Meetings continued from page 12

This project proposes a shoreline stabilization with installation of a Rip-Rap Stone Revetment with bedding stone, and geotextile fabric, similar to the Morse Island Revetment Project.

The request was for \$125,000 to proceed with Scope of Work development, required As-Built Plans, Construction Layout Survey and Permitting. Actual construction costs have not yet been determined and would not occur until the fiscal year 25-26.

PWAC members unanimously agreed to send the request forward to the Sumter Landing Community Development District (SLCDD).



Photo courtesy of Villages-News

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# Lightning Safety

By Len Hathaway, Study Group on Lightning

A look back at the 2024 lightning experience nationally and locally and a look ahead to the 2025 lightning season. But first a lightning trivia question. How does Santa Claus relate to above subject? Answer below.

Last year 11 lightning fatalities were recorded in the USA that ties the record low set in 2021. We have come a long way since the early 1940's when the USA typically experienced over four hundred lightning fatalities a year. The awareness campaigns of numerous organizations over the years to educate the public about the hazard of lightning are paying off.

Florida continues to be the Lightning Capital of the Nation. Of the eleven fatalities four occurred in Florida – two standing under a tree, a bike rider, and on a beach.

Here in The Villages the number of days with lightning was ninety-seven, which was the same as last year. Our 11-year average is 107 days with lightning.

The 2024 lightning season saw an unprecedented six homes receive a direct strike causing a fire and

the property to be uninhabitable. These events occurred in Charlotte, Gilchrist, Osceola Hills, Rio Grande Villas, St. Charles, and Sunset Pointe. Two occurred about the same time on July 20th and fortunately The Villages Public Safety Department met the challenge. One occurred in March – the earliest ever experienced. This breaks the previous record of four homes destroyed in one season in 2015.

Fortunately, there were no fatalities or injuries from these events.

Catastrophic lightning strikes are a random event and there have been times when no homes were struck and destroyed in three consecutive years.

An unknown number of Village homeowners experienced lightning surge damage to sensitive electronic equipment and appliances due to the absence of layered surge protection devices

collectively resulting in thousands of dollars in damage and inconvenience.

If your club, organization, church, or civic group would benefit from a free noncommercial, educational, community service Power Point presentation, Lightning Tips for Villagers, that addresses personal lightning safety, lightning surge protection for appliances and high-valued electronics, lightning protection systems for your home, and debunking ten common lightning myths contact Len Hathaway at lhatha@aol.com.

Answer to trivia question.

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

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# Urgent Care or Emergency Room?

Sumter County officials recently warned of a significant increase in the number of flu cases. Combined with Snowbird season in The Villages, emergency rooms and urgent care clinics will reach their highest peaks and wait times. There are several free-standing Emergency Departments available to take the stress off of hospital-based emergency rooms and a multitude of Urgent Care clinics in every corner of The Villages.

## What is the difference between Emergency and Urgent Care?

Emergency Departments are staffed 24/7 with physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners and nurses trained in delivering emergency care. The team has quick access to expert providers in advanced specialties such as Cardiology, Neurology and Orthopedics. Emergency Departments also have the imaging and laboratory resources needed to diagnose and deliver care for severe and life-threatening situations.

Typically, Urgent Care clinics are staffed with physician assistants, nurse practitioners and nurses. Some Urgent Care clinics have physicians on staff as well. Urgent Care providers can order basic labs and imaging tests, such as X-rays, to help them provide diagnoses and develop treatment plans. Urgent Care clinics have set hours and an established list of conditions treated. As a result, Urgent Care clinics often are less expensive and have shorter wait times than Emergency Departments.

Always call 911 and don't drive yourself to the Emergency Department if you are having difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, a life or limb injury, or signs of stroke or heart attack.

Here are examples of types of conditions treated in Urgent Care clinics and Emergency Departments:

### Urgent Care clinics treat:

- Back or muscle pain
- Bronchitis
- Cuts and minor burns
- Diarrhea
- Earache
- Skin conditions
- Sprains or joint pain
- Upper respiratory infection
- Urinary tract infections
- Vomiting

### Emergency Departments treat:

- Chest pain or pressure
- Compound fracture (bone that protrudes through the skin)
- Head injuries
- Pneumonia
- Seizures
- Severe abdominal pain
- Shortness of breath
- Sudden, severe headache, or paralysis or weakness
- Uncontrolled bleeding

Not all Urgent Care clinics provide labs and imaging. It is a good idea to check out the clinics that are closest to where you live, find out what their hours are, what days they are open, and what services they offer. You may even want to check to see if they take your insurance.

Being prepared before you need medical attention will help lessen your time and frustration in getting the help you need.

## Emergency Departments in and near The Villages

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Phone: (352) 751-8000

### UF Health Emergency Room – Brownwood

3800 Meggison Rd, The Villages, FL 32163  
Phone: (352) 643-7555

### HCA Florida Trailwinds Village Emergency

6131 Seven Mile Dr, Wildwood, FL 34785  
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### HCA Florida Summerfield Emergency

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Counselors will be 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

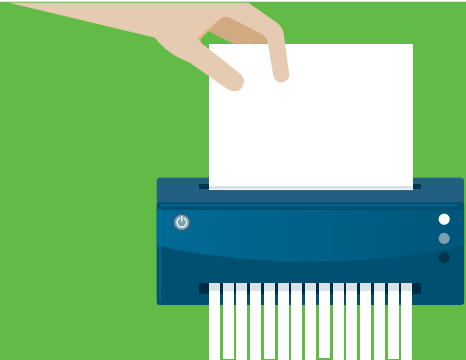
**Lake Miona Recreation Center**  
 9 am - 11:30 am | 2nd & 4th Tuesdays

**Lady Lake Library**  
 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm | 2nd & 4th Wednesdays

**Leesburg Public Library**  
 9:30 am - 11:30 am | 1st & 3rd Tuesdays

“Understanding Medicare,” a group presentation geared toward those turning 65, will be made at 1:00 pm 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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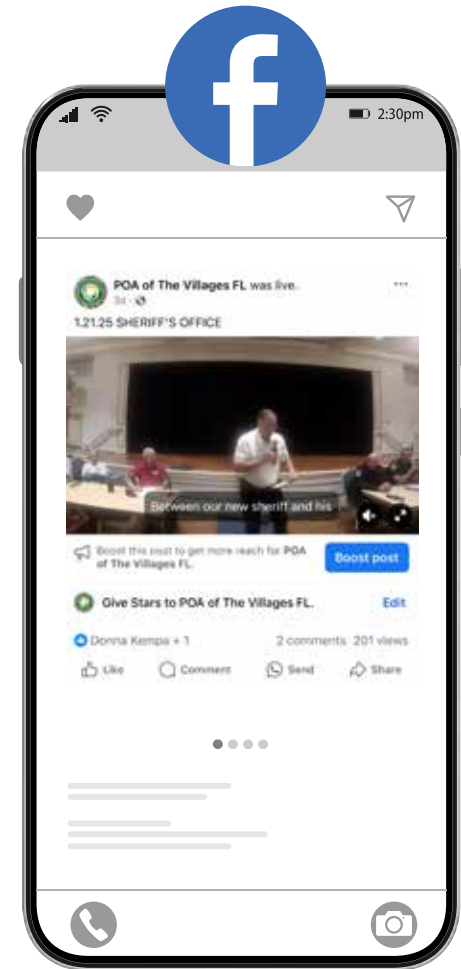
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Type **POA of the Villages FL** in the search on Facebook and you will find our page. Click **LIKE** and or **FOLLOW**, and then, suggest our page to all of your friends and neighbors that live in **The Villages!** Meetings and relevant information 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. 📌



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 1552 Bella Cruz Dr, The Villages 32159

**Wed., Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> and Wed., March 19<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 p.m.**  
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# Privacy for your Phone

## SENIORS VS CRIME

We all have a lot of sensitive information on our phones – texts with loved ones, banking details, passwords, and family photos. You really don’t want anyone snooping around, whether it’s an app maker on the other side of the world or the guy sitting behind you in the restaurant.

According to tech guru, Kim Komando, you should take five minutes to run a privacy audit and then pat yourself on the back for a job well done.

**Check Your Permissions** Apps request permissions, and the most important are your phone’s location, camera and microphone. Any app you allow to access these had better be ones you trust. To check:

**Apple iPhone:** Go to Settings > Privacy & Security and scroll down to Microphone. Then tap Locations Services for Camera.

**Google Pixel:** Open Settings > Security & Privacy > Privacy > Permission Manager.

**Samsung Galaxy:** Go to Settings > Security & Privacy > Permission Manager.

### Lock Down Everything

**Apple iPhone:** Set this up via Face ID & Passcode.

**Google Pixel:** Go to Settings > Security and Privacy > Device Unlock.

**Samsung Galaxy:** Go to Settings and look for Lock Screen and AOD.

**You’ll also want your phone to lock as soon as possible when you’re not using it.**

**Apple iPhone:** Under Settings, choose Display & Brightness > Auto-Lock.

**Google Pixel:** Go to Settings > Display > Screen Timeout.

**Samsung Galaxy:** In Settings < Display > Screen Timeout.

**Keep Out Strangers** The short-range transfer tech built into IOS and Android is very handy when you need to share something with a friend or relative. But what if you don’t want strangers pinging you with unwanted photos, videos and other files?

**Apple iPhone:** Your device uses AirDrop for these types of transfers. Limit it to contacts only or turn it off altogether via Settings > General > AirDrop.

**Android Devices:** The transfer tool here is called Quick Share. On a Pixel phone, you’ll find the sharing preferences under Settings > Connected Devices > Connection Preferences > Quick Share. On a Samsung Galaxy, it’s under Settings > Connected Devices > Quick Share.

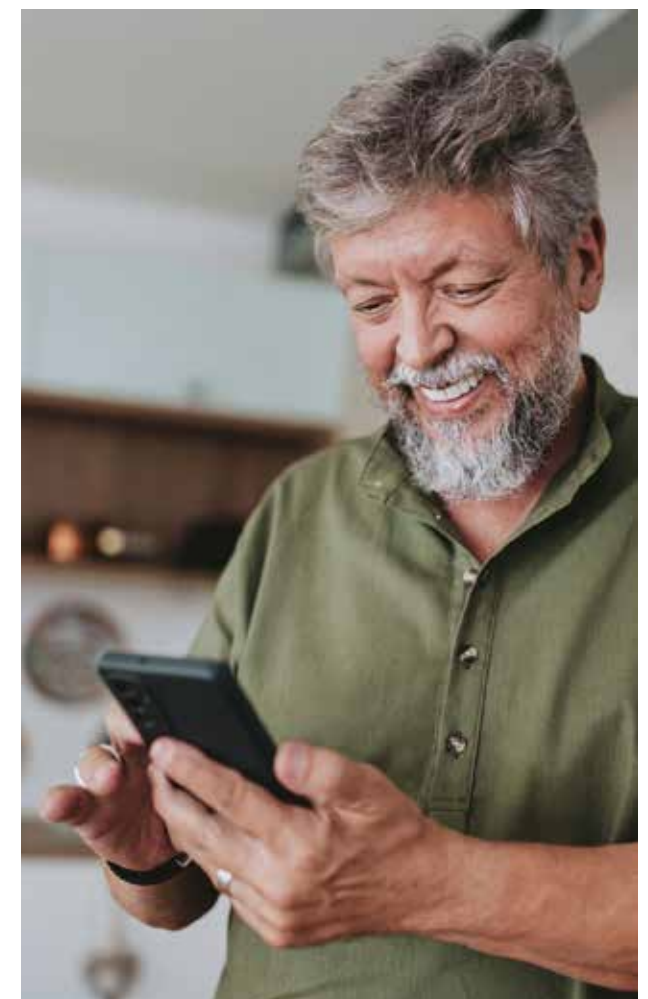
**Browse the Web** Your phone’s browser and say hello to “Instant Tracking” unless you do something about it.

Limit “tracking on your iPhone under Settings > Apps. Turn on Safari, then, in the app’s setting, scroll to Privacy & Security and toggle on Prevent Cross-Site Tracking.

For Chrome on an Android device, open your browser and tap the three (3) dots in the top right. Hit Settings > Privacy & Security > Third-party cookies and turn on Block third-party cookies.

And, as always, remember you shouldn’t answer your phone unless you know who the caller is. If you are unsure, let the call go to voicemail.

Seniors vs. Crime has 4 offices in The Villages to serve you. Check out our website at [seniorsvscrime.com](https://seniorsvscrime.com) for office locations, days of operation and contact information. There, you can also sign up to volunteer or request a speaker for your group, all at no charge. 📍



# 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](http://poa4us.org). Click ‘Discount Partners’ to access the list. ●



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POA Email	<a href="mailto:poa4you@gmail.com">poa4you@gmail.com</a>	
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