



POA Bulletin

POA4US.org

JULY 2020

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JULY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

July 21, 2020 - 7 P.M.

Laurel Manor Recreation Center

Sumter County PV 20-21

Annual Budget Proposal

Featuring Sumter County Administrator
Bradley Arnold

Just we were going to press, we received word that All Villages Lifestyle Group meetings were once again cancelled due to the recent spike in Coronavirus Covid-19 numbers.

Please refer to **POA4US.org**
for updates.

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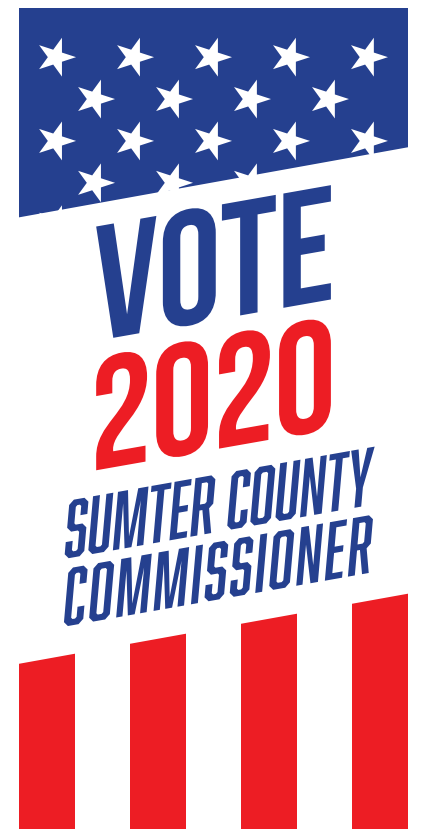
PWAC "Exhibit A"

POA Endorses Search, Estep and Miller for Sumter County Commissioner

After careful consideration of the candidates who are running against the incumbent County Commissioners, the POA Board of Directors voted to endorse **Gary Search** for the District 1 seat, **Craig Estep** for District 3, and **Oren Miller** for District 5. The Board determined that after recent events and an attempt to manipulate the voting process, it could not remain silent in making an official endorsement. The Board made the selections after considering the qualifications of all of the candidates in the primary race.

After last year's action to raise the Sumter County property tax millage rate by 26% – yes, in spite of what some would like you to believe, it is an increase in your taxes – the POA provided leadership to help restore fair government to Sumter County. The POA continues to encourage the fair and respectful treatment of ALL candidates, and further encourages residents to do their own due diligence before making their decisions to vote.

The Republican Primary is August 18. See the article on page 8 regarding the latest attempt by the Sumter County Republican Party to manipulate the election and what you can do to make your vote count, **even if you are not currently a registered Republican.**



Endorsements continued on page 3

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.

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.

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.

Mission Statement 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 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

The candidates that the POA has endorsed provided the following bios. The POA believes their backgrounds and experience will provide the necessary leadership in Sumter County to move it forward in a more fair and equitable manner for all residents.

GARY SEARCH (District 1)

I served as a Township Commissioner in PA for 13 years, 12 of those years as the President of the Board. With sound fiscal and comprehensive planning, there was no tax increase during my tenure. I also held every developer responsible for the infrastructure improvements that were needed for the impact they were going to have in the community. With thirty-five years in education – 30 as a school counselor, I have the skills to listen to people and treat them with respect and dignity. As a certified Crisis Prevention Intervention trainer, I was able to teach administrators, teachers, coaches, and police officers the skills necessary to diffuse a possible crisis/altercation. I believe in transparency of government making sure all voices are heard and questions answered. I hold myself personally responsible to every resident of Sumter County.

CRAIG ESTEP (District 3)

I currently serve as a CDD 1 supervisor. In that capacity, I am familiar with the nuances of many of the operations within Sumter County. I attended the first ever Citizens Academy put on by Sumter County and have toured and witnessed many of its functions first hand. I also have built relationships with all five incorporated cities in the county. I possess fiscal foresight, and would have recognized the need to take action prior to raising taxes 25% on the county portion of your tax bill. This is evidenced in the collaborative effort I championed while working to remove and replace the Hacienda Hills multi-modal path. If we build stronger relationships and maintain a transparent interactive collaborative dialogue, everyone benefits. Our citizens deserve respect and dignity in their transactions with the county. I will stand in the gap for the citizens and actively listen to their needs.

OREN MILLER (District 5)

I will work to turn back the reckless tax increase and add impact fees so the Developers help pay for the infrastructure required with growth. I will make Animal Control a No Kill Animal Shelter where animals are only euthanized if they are too sick or too aggressive to return to society. I will work to make it a safe environment for our pets and allow volunteers so we can reduce costs and improve the possibilities for adoption. I will work to repair and replace the roads in Sumter County based on safety and conditions. I will work to stop the sale of Sumter County water. I will bring transparency back to Sumter County. I will represent the people of Sumter County and make decisions based on their needs and desires. ■



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CDD 7 Continues to Explore Separation from PWAC

At its June 11 meeting, the Community Development District 7 (CDD 7) Board of Supervisors continued to explore how it might separate from participation in the Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC).

Supervisor Ron Ruggieri reviewed the lengthy history of the PWAC, starting with its formation in 2003. The resolution on page 12 reviews its formation date and several amendments that added other CDDs. The amendment in 2012 gave the Sumter Landing Development District (SLCDD) carte blanche to add items to "Exhibit A" on page 13.

CDD 7 members expressed that they felt "intimidated" into signing the amendment in 2019 that extended the contract for an additional 20 years from that date. They expressed further intimidation with the receipt of a letter last month from SLCDD Attorney Lewis Stone, which stated, "While SLCDD does not control District 7's budgeting process, it is clear that the failure to budget for the contribution to the project wide fund expresses an intent to abandon District 7's duties under the Interlocal to the detriment to SLCDD and every other numbered district in the project. **These duties are part of an enforceable contract, meaning that the failure to meet an obligation gives rise to an actionable breach.** SLCDD strongly encourages you to consider this as the final budget is developed and to make provision for paying invoices as they come due."

Supervisor Jerry Vicente said he also felt intimidated by the letter received by the CDD's own attorney, Mark Brionez, until Mr. Brionez explained that he was only addressing the concerns the supervisors had raised. He clarified that he was not the CDD's attorney at the time

Separation continued on page 5



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NSCUDD Approves New Solid Waste Contract

As expected, after conducting a final work session in May, the North Sumter Community Utility Dependent District (NSCUDD) Board of Supervisors approved a contract with Covanta that signals a new era in waste and recycling pick-up for Villagers north of CR 44 – and a new price tag.

In the memo provided to the Board, staff analysis stated that the current NSCUDD agreement with Waste Management for recyclables was set to expire, and the rate was proposed to go from \$28.35 per ton to \$90 per ton with a transportation fee of \$25 per ton. After several workshops that included resident input, on May 14, 2020, the Board directed staff to negotiate a long-term contract with Covanta for the acceptance, process and disposal of all acceptable waste including household waste combined in one bag with any former recycling materials, and yard waste.

See the June 2020 issue of the *POA Bulletin* at **POA4US.org** for a full explanation of the new Energy from Waste process.

The negotiated fee will be \$48 per ton with an annual minimal commitment of 48,000 tons of waste as described above. The agreement for the initial period will be from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2025 and may be extended for up to three additional terms of five years each.

In a separate action, the Board voted to increase the current charges from \$19.38

to \$22.24, which is the starting increase discussed in the May workshop. However, the annual increase of \$3.25 for the following nine years is slightly higher than was discussed. By FY 24-25 the monthly rate will be \$25.50 rather than the \$25.30 that was originally projected.

The District will implement a resident education campaign so residents understand what the new process of pick up will be.



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Separation continued from page 3

the 2019 resolution was passed, and that he would have pointed out some issues in that proposed resolution. One of those is the 20-year extension.

Mr. Brionez's opinion letter states, "...I must advise you that if District 7 fails to remit payment to PWAC after invoice, then it may find itself defending a lawsuit brought against it by the Sumter Landing Community Development District or other numbered districts, for breach of contract...as evidenced by the letter from Attorney Lewis Stone..." He also cautioned that any Supervisor that votes or takes action to exclude the allocation of funds to PWAC could also be named individually in the suit.

At the meeting, Mr. Brionez advised that the Board pass the preliminary budget that includes an allocation for PWAC while its legal options are explored.

Among the issues that CDD 7 is disputing are:

- Allocation of PWAC funding on the basis of assessable acreage is not fair.
- PWAC members are not elected by residents and have no authority.
- CDD 7's allocation to PWAC has grown to represent 49% of its total budget.
- Exhibit "A" includes items that provide more benefit to commercial development and can be amended solely by SLCDD (see page 13).

POA will continue to provide detailed information on these above issues in future articles. We would not normally publish a lengthy document in its entirety as we have with **Resolution 19-08** on page 12. However, there is no link directly to that resolution or any of the other amendments on the District website. The 2019 resolution gives important context for the current issues raised by CDD 7. ■

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



Silver Lake to Remain Executive Golf Course

A large yet socially distant group of residents crowded the Amenity Authority Committee's (AAC) June meeting to protest a suggestion to change the Silver Lake Executive Golf Course to an 18 hole Pitch 'n Putt course with improved cart paths. The residents resoundingly rejected the plan.

Executive Golf Director Mitch Leininger presented results of the survey conducted to gather resident input on the future of the golf course. More than 5,000 residents participated, with 1,816 located east of US 441 and 2,395 north of CR 466. Just under 80% indicated they preferred the option to fully renovate the 9-hole executive course, keeping the same layout.

At its Budget Workshop in May, District management and executive golf staff surprised the AAC with an option/proposal to change the course from executive golf to a pitch 'n putt, at more than double the cost.

AAC Chair Ann Forrester declared "The process worked," with the survey and resident input advising staff and the AAC of the residents' preference.

CDD Boards and Committees Approve Proposed FY 20-21 Budgets

After conducting budget workshops in May, all Community Development District (CDD) Boards and Committees approved the proposed FY 20-21 preliminary budgets as presented, with the numbered residential districts voting for **no increase** to their annual maintenance assessments. CDD 9 **lowered** its annual assessment by 1% because of the additional acreage added for the Brownwood Lofts

Apartment Complex. CDD 13 will make its first annual maintenance assessment in this upcoming fiscal year.

The proposed percentage of increase for CDDs 5-13 for Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) allocations was negligible for the numbered districts in the upcoming fiscal year; however, in the prior year-to-year the increase was 7.6%. This has been a source of contention for CDD 7, in particular, which is questioning its continued participation in PWAC. (See article on page 3.)

With the exception of the Silver Lake Executive Golf Course presentation, AAC members had no further questions or discussion and passed the preliminary FY 20-21 budget as presented. No additional information was requested regarding the costs and options for the weekly Recreation News, despite a plea in the May Bulletin for a fuller explanation and a presentation by CDD 2 Supervisor Bryan Lyfsey. PWAC also approved its preliminary budget as presented, with no further discussion of the Recreation News.

The budgets for FY 20-21 have now been set at levels from which they cannot be increased. District staff will fine tune the expenses and allocations over the summer months, make adjustments and come back with proposed final budgets in September. Each District and

Committee will conduct a public hearing prior to approving the final budget. To review your CDD's budget and any others, visit **DistrictGov.org**, and select 'Budget' from the 'Department' drop down menu.

CDD 2 Takes Initial Step on Temporary Parking Issues

After months of contentious battling among neighbors in Villa neighborhoods over temporary parking spaces, the Community Development District 2 (CDD) Board of Supervisors determined they would start with signage to clarify that the spaces are intended for temporary guest parking, as they continue to look at how the rules can be enforced and what penalties may be incurred for residents violating the policy. Residents and Supervisors alike have been frustrated trying to come up with a solution that can be enforced.

Villa roads and parking areas are private property, and are not subject to the same laws as public streets so they cannot be ticketed or towed by county officials.

Two years ago, Florida statute was changed that gave broader authority to District governments to ticket and tow, but specific actions must be taken to set that up. At that time, the CDDs, including CDD 2, decided not to go to that extent, but it is a tool still at their disposal. ■

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"Paid by Craig Estep, Republican,
for Sumter County Commissioner."

Sumter Co. Republican Club Tries to Manipulate Elections

After having to buy the bid for re-election for two of the three seats for Sumter County Commissioner because the candidates failed to collect the required signatures for their petitions*, The Villages Republican Club pulled another rabbit out of its dirty bag of tricks just before the filing deadline.

Two well-known local Republicans (including the chair of the club) filed as “write-in” candidates for Districts 3 and 5 in order to lock out more than 45,000 people from voting for the legitimate challengers to their bids for re-election. In Florida, if only one party runs candidates in a primary, then all other registered voters – Democrats and Independents – can also vote in what is usually a closed election. The District 1 seat was already a closed primary because a candidate with no party affiliation has filed to run, and will run against the primary winner in November.

Many Democrats and Independent voters may not have known they could vote in the Republican primary. Perhaps what the Republican Club did was “poke the bear – or, in this case the donkey” just enough that these non-Republican voters can (hold their nose) change their party affiliation to Republican just so they

can vote in the primary to oust these incumbents and return fair government to Sumter County.

Here is how to do it, and understand this can be just a temporary change! Simply go to registertovoteflorida.gov/home but you must do it within 29 days of the election. **For the August 18 primary, this must be done before July 20.** You can then go back online and change your registration back to the affiliation of your choosing.

The POA is appalled by the brazen tactics of the Republican Club, and encourages otherwise registered voters to take back fair government for Sumter County residents. They must also believe they have a strong hold over the already registered Republicans and that they could lock in a victory by keeping it a closed primary. We think they may have overplayed their hand. There are plenty of people who are angry about last year's

tax increase and the shenanigans of this local Republican Club.

The POA feels confident that the candidates who are challenging – Estep, Miller and Search – have the qualifications to represent all of the people of Sumter County. Do not be fooled by people who call our reporting, and that of others, “fake news” when they try to tell you there was not really a 25% increase. The incumbent commissioners did, in fact vote to increase the Sumter County millage rate by 25! There is nothing fake about that!

These incumbents have collectively raised hundreds of thousands of dollars (much of it from contractors who do business in and for The Villages) and they will spend it on ads in the (Developer-owned) *Daily Sun*, mailers and other advertisers trying to rebuke the truth. We give Villagers more credit for seeing through their smoke and mirrors efforts.

*If a candidate can collect 965 signatures, their name goes on the ballot. If not, they have to ante up; Butler and Burgess each had to pay \$3,534 to run for their \$100,000+ salary package for the Commissioner position. ■

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LOOK FOR OUR THURSDAY & SATURDAY ADS IN THE DAILY SUN

An Introduction to the Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC)

For Villagers in Community Development Districts (CDDs) 5 – 13, understanding how and why the Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC) was established will help to inform how CDDs are assessed, and consequently, how much of the residents’ maintenance fee is actually allocated to PWAC for common maintenance items identified on “Exhibit A”, as currently identified in the following resolution and attachment.

There are four main issues that CDD 7 has raised in its debate on how it can extricate itself from PWAC or negotiate better terms. The POA has raised these same concerns many times over the years. These issues include the allocation formula that is based on assessable acres which favors the commercial properties in Lake Sumter Landing and Brownwood. Additionally, CDD 7 and the POA have always argued that members of PWAC should be elected directly by residents and have **authority rather than advising** the Sumter Landing Community Development District (SLCDD) whose members are elected by commercial property owners (the Developer).

The resolution below is the most recent that was passed, and to avoid duplication, only the full list from Exhibit A is included with the items added from this most recent resolution highlighted in yellow. Note that the SLCDD, most of whose members are not even residents of The Villages, have sole power to amend this list.

These are complicated issues that the POA will cover piece-by-piece beginning with this issue. The POA applauds CDD 7 for its bold stance and encourages the other CDDs to look seriously at these issues on behalf of the residents they are elected to serve.

RESOLUTION 19-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR SUMTER LANDING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT AMENDING EXHIBIT “A” OF THE SECOND AMENDED AND RESTATED INTERLOCAL GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR MAINTENANCE OF PROJECT WIDE IMPROVEMENTS.

WHEREAS, an Interlocal Governmental Agreement for Maintenance of Project Wide Improvements was entered into on August 29, 2003, between Village Community Development District No. 5 (District No. 5) and Sumter Landing Community Development District (Sumter Landing District); and

WHEREAS, an Amended and Restated Interlocal Governmental Agreement for Maintenance of Project Wide Improvements was entered into on November 17, 2006, (Amended and Restated Agreement) between District No. 5 and Sumter Landing District, and

WHEREAS, a Second Amended and Restated Interlocal Governmental Agreement for Maintenance of Project Wide Improvements was made effective May, 2010, (Second Amended and Restated Agreement) between District No. 5, Village Community Development District No. 6, Village Community Development District No. 7, Village Community Development District No. 8, Village Community Development District No. 9, Village Community Development District No. 10, and Sumter

Landing Community Development District (sometimes collectively referred to as the “Parties”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to paragraph 6 of the Second Amended and Restate Agreement, each community development district subsequently formed within the Project shall join in the Agreement by executing a Joinder and Consent; and

WHEREAS, Brownwood Community Development District became a part to Second Amended and Restate Agreement via Joinder and Consent executed on September 20, 2012 and Village Community Development District 11 became a party through a Joinder and Consent Agreement executed on March 11, 2015; and Village Community Development District No. 12 became a party through a Joinder and Consent executed on April 13, 2017.

WHEREAS, pursuant to paragraph 3 of the Second Amended and Restated Agreement, Project Wide Improvements “PWI” include those improvements described in EXHIBIT “A” attached to the Second Amended and Restated Agreement and as additional Project Wide Improvements are developed within the Project,

Resolution continued on page 13

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Resolution continued from page 12

Sumter Landing Community Development District, by resolution, shall add such improvements to the Exhibit "A;"...

This resolution was adopted on January 17, 2019 by signatures of Richard Baier, Secretary (District Manager) and Michael Berning, Chairman SLCCD. **The full Exhibit A follows with these most recent amendments highlighted.**

EXHIBIT "A"

1. LANDSCAPED RIGHTS-OF-WAY INCLUDING STREET LIGHTING AND ASSOCIATED WALLS AND FENCING EXCEPT VILLAGE/NEIGHBORHOOD ENTRY FEATURES

1. County Road 466
2. Country Road 466A from County Road 139 East to the Lake County line. The southerly ROW of CR 466A from the Lake County line to the easterly boundary of Villages of Fruitland Park DRI. (less portions abutting Colony Plaza, Pinellas Plaza, and Colony Professional Plaza)
3. Rainey Trail
4. Stillwater Trail – between Morse Boulevard and Buena Vista Boulevard
5. Buena Vista Boulevard South of County Road 466
6. Morse Boulevard South of County Road 466

Resolution continued on page 14



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TAKE BACK SUMTER COUNTY



The August 18 Republican Primary is your last chance to replace developer-backed Commissioners Butler, Burgess and Printz, who voted to massively increase your taxes while maintaining the developer's sweetheart impact fee. In their place, vote for the Republican challengers Search, Estep, and Miller, who will return county government to the residents of Sumter County

Not registered as a Republican voter. You must take action before July 20. See www.fg4s.org/vote

In the August 18 Republican Primary

GARY SEARCH
CRAIG ESTEP
OREN MILLER

Visit www.fg4s.org

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- Learn about the tax issues
- Volunteer to help advertise
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- Make a campaign donation

Pd Pol Adv paid for by Fair Government for Sumter, 333 colony Blvd #160, The Villages, FL, 32162, with approval of candidates Gary Search, Craig Estep and Oren Miller, all republicans for county commission.

Resolution continued from page 13

7. Old Mill Run from Buena Vista Boulevard east to the property line boundary of CDD No. 6 to the north and CDD No. 8 to the south.
8. The northerly ROW at State Road 44 adjacent to Villages of Wildwood DRI and Villages of Sumter DRI
9. That portion of County Road 44A lying adjacent to Villages of Wildwood DRI and Villages of Sumter DRI
10. Powell Road from northerly ROW at State Road 44A to northerly ROW at State Road 44
11. That portion of Colony Boulevard from the intersection of Morse Boulevard, to the west side of Sembler Way.
12. Portions of Warm Springs Avenue (fka CR 468) from U.S. Highway 301 east to Morse Blvd.
13. County Road 501
14. Marsh Bend Trail from Samuel Villas entry road easterly to Warm Springs Avenue (fka 468) less that portion of south right of way abutting Magnolia Plaza north of the tunnel.
15. Fenney Way from Warm Springs Avenue (fka CR 468) southeasterly to Spanish Moss Way.

2. ENTRY FEATURES

1. Morse Boulevard at (a) County Road 466, County Road 466A, and (c) State Road 44
2. Belvedere Boulevard and County Road 466
3. Buena Vista Boulevard at (a) County Road 466, (b) County Road 466A, and (c) State Road 44
4. Canal Street and County Road 466A
5. Powell Road and State Road 44
6. Drake Drive and CR466A

7. Warm Springs Avenue (fka CR 468) and Fenney Way West
8. Warm Springs Avenue (fka CR 468) and Fenney Way East

3. LAKES, SHORELINES, CONSERVATION, STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, BUFFER AREAS, AND GREEN SPACES

1. Dry Prairie-Miona Prairie Reserve
2. Unit 79 Kestrel Reserve – Gary Mark Kestrel

Preserve

3. Liberty Park Gopher Tortoise Preserve
4. Lake Miona and Black Lake Conservation, Mitigation and Buffer Area
5. Maintenance obligation for the Stormwater Management System (SWMS). The SWMS includes Lake Sumter, the Stormwater Retention Basin (SRB), other Water Retention Areas (WRA), underground stormwater conveyance systems and similar areas conveyed to those Community Development Districts (CDD’s) or over which CDD’s have assumed maintenance but excluding such bleed down underground conveyance systems operated pursuant to the VWCA and SWCA irrigation systems and not part of the SWMS.
6. Sharon Rose Wiechens Preserve
7. Evans Prairie Conservation Area, and all other Conservation Area, Reserves, Preserves, Mitigation Areas and other similar areas required by the Village of Wildwood DRI, Villages of Sumter DRI and the Villages of Fruitland Park DRI or required by government regulation of general application.
8. Reader Wildlife Preserve.
9. Hogeye Sink Preserve.
10. Green spaces associated with transportation, multi-modal, golf cart and pedestrian paths and trails listed in Section “D.”

4. TRANSPORTATION TRAILS

1. Those transportation, multi-modal, golf cart and pedestrian paths and trails within the Project: but excluding (a) those trails

paths lying within the paved surface of a road right-of-way, (b) golf cart paths and trails which are part of and necessary to play any particular golf course, (c) the portion of that trail along Fenney Way from the entry road of Fenney Recreation Center easterly to Warm Springs Avenue (fka CR 468), (d) that trail along Marsh Bend Trail from Samuel Villas entry road westerly to Pearlman Way, and (e) that trail along Corbin Trail.

5. TUNNELS

1. Morse Boulevard
2. Stillwater Trail
3. County Road 466
4. Buena Vista Boulevard
5. Belvedere Boulevard
6. County Road 466A
7. Rainey Trail
8. County Road 44A
9. Powell Road
10. March Bend Trail
11. Warm Springs Avenue (fka CR 468)
12. County Road 501

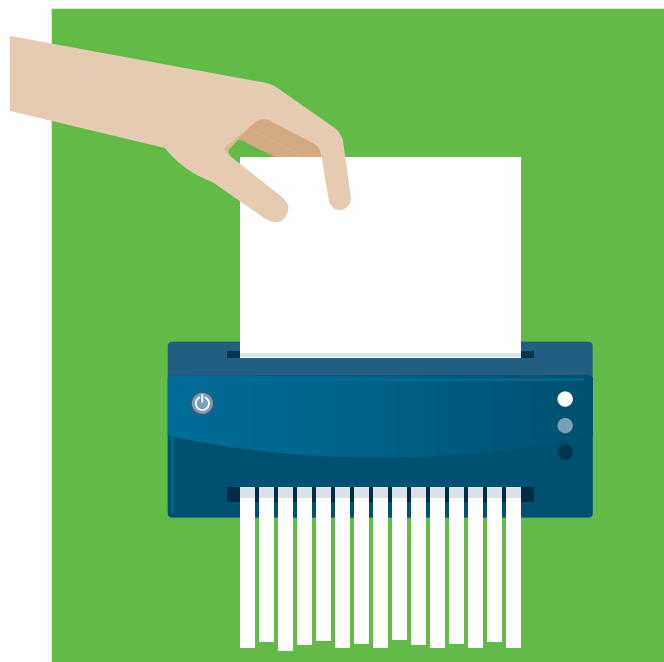
F. OTHER

1. The Landing
2. The Lake Sumter Landing Lighthouse
3. Lake Sumter Landing Market Square
4. “The Villages” Welcome signs on County Road 466, County Road 466A and State Road 44.
5. Paddock Square ■

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Customer Service



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Fabulous Favorite Insects

THE FANATICAL GARDENER

by Anne Lambrecht Fanatical Gardener mrsanneo4@gmail.com

Whether you’re a gardener or not, you know there are thousands of insects in your yard. There are more than one million species of insects on this earth, the largest group of creatures on the planet. Thirteen thousand species of insects are from Florida. But did you know that less than one percent of these are considered “bad insects”? Insects are a huge part of the kaleidoscope of life. They are pollinators, destroyers of crop-eating insects, aid in scientific studies and some give us food like wonderful honey. Think before you destroy them. We need them. I like them.

Here are my favorite fabulous five:

Zebra Longwing is the official state butterfly of Florida. They are black with yellow stripes. They don’t fly, they “flit” and flutter and are gentle, curious creatures. Zebras are remarkably social butterflies and can live up to 5 or 6 months. Zebras drink nectar and also feed on pollen and lay their eggs on purple passion vines. At night they roost together in groups of up to 60 individuals in soft Spanish moss, returning to the same roost every night. This is truly a spectacular sight.



Mud Daubers and Potter Wasps

are Hunter wasp cousins and both are harmless natives of Florida. These wasps are more closely related to bees than to a wasp and remembered more for their distinctive mud cell nests on the walls and eaves of your house than for their slender waistline and beautiful black and yellow coloring. The mud dauber’s nests are built with great speed and skill, the female making hundreds of trips to the nearest source of mud and plastering each dab in a crescent shaped pattern. The nest is constructed with several chambers and usually plastered over with a final layer of mud. Each chamber is packed with paralyzed baby spiders then sealed. When the mud dauber is working on her nest, she “sings,” with a high-pitched buzzing. I’ve heard one at work gathering mud from the opening of a large flower pot-awesome! Many kinds of spiders are used to provision their nests but their favorites are crab spiders, orb weavers and jumping spiders. Only one egg is laid per cell. The pot builders use caterpillars to feed their baby wasps inside a cute little round mud jug.

Spiny-backed Orb Weaver also called crab, star or jewel box spider. Orb weaving spiders build the typical wheel-shaped web which most people associate with spiders. It has a flattened abdomen in white covered with black dots which can look like a face, and it has red spines around its outside edge. Scientists think the spines deter birds from swallowing them. It puts little tufts of silk in its web perhaps to serve as a warning to prevent birds from flying into the web and destroying it. Spiny-backed orb weavers are not dangerous and are beneficial insects. They should not be killed.



Leaf Cutter Bees

get their name from the circles or ovals that are cut from the leaves of my roses. They also use grape and certain plants in the pea family. It does not hurt the plant. These bees use the leaf circle as a baby blanket in their burrow and it will lay one egg in each compartment. They collect pollen on the hairy underside of their bodies for their nests. They are beneficial pollinators. There are 65 species of leaf cutter bees in Florida. It is so awesomely wonderful to see a bee flying away with a circle of leaf.

Bumble bees There are about 50 species of bumble bees in North America, but only five occur in Florida. Bumble bees are easily recognized by their large, fuzzy, black and yellow striped bodies.

They have pollen baskets on their hind legs. They are often heard before they are seen, with their loud bumbling buzzing. I love to hear them in too-tight tubular flowers. They are ground nesters which is usually an abandoned mouse nest or a similar burrow. ■





POA Launches New Website and Member Database

POA4US.org

The POA launched its new and improved website and modernized its database to give members easier access to their membership records, submit questions, and stop/start Bulletin delivery including signing up for e-delivery.

Go to **POA4US.org** and follow the steps from one of the icons toward the bottom of the page. You can choose from **JOIN POA, POA Member, POA Bulletin Delivery.**

IF YOU ARE A MEMBER, under POA Member, click the highlighted text that says "Verify Your Account." You will be prompted to set up your own password. Once you receive a confirmation email, you will be able to access your account. Your account page will allow you to know when your membership expires, select your Bulletin delivery preference, change your email, etc. **You will now do these steps instead of sending an email to the POA.**

IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER, to manage your Bulletin Delivery, you can create a guest account by clicking on the POA Bulletin Delivery icon. Or, click on JOIN POA, to become a member.

If you have any difficulty you may contact our help desk by emailing helpdesk@poa.org and someone will get back to you.

The new website is a work-in-progress and we will be adding features as we go along. Please, log on and explore! ■



Not a registered Republican but want to vote for Estep, Miller and Search for County Commissioner?

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by July 20. You can then go back online and change your registration back to the affiliation of your choosing.

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Fight Back Against Telemarketers

SENIORS VS CRIME

Tired of incessant telemarketing calls? You aren't alone. According to Kathy Stokes of the AARP Fraud Watch Network, complaints to the Federal Trade Commission average 190,000 a month. If you've added all of your phone numbers to the National Do Not Call Registry, you might be wondering why you still get so many telemarketing calls.

One reason is that some entities are allowed to call — charities, surveys, political groups and debt collectors, for example. But another reason is that many of these calls, up to half, may be scam calls. And we all know scammers don't first check the National Do Not Call Registry before targeting us. Nevertheless, there are some things you can do to help keep these calls at bay.

How It Works

- The Federal Trade Commission manages the National Do Not Call Registry, (888) 382-1222, which is intended to stop unwanted sales calls; it's free, and you can add all of your numbers to it.
- Your registration does not expire.
- Legitimate companies are not permitted to call you if you're on the registry unless you've recently done business with them or if you've given them written permission to call you.
- If legitimate telemarketers call a number on the National Do Not Call Registry and don't otherwise have permission, they are susceptible to stiff fines from the Federal Communications Commission.

What You Should Know

If your number is on the National Do Not Call Registry and you're still besieged by calls, they are probably scam calls. If you answer a scam call, the longer you stay on the line, the "hotter" your number is in the buying and selling of phone lists.

What You Should Do

Hang up on unsolicited calls — or better yet, let them go to voicemail. Ask your phone provider if it offers free or low-cost call-blocking services. If an incoming call directs you to press a number on your telephone keypad to be removed from their calling list, **don't press the number — just hang up.** Report unwanted calls to the Federal Trade Commission at **donotcall.gov**. When it comes to fraud, vigilance is our number one weapon.

You have the power to protect yourself and your loved ones from scams. If you need assistance with understanding any aspects of defeating telemarketers, contact the nearest Seniors vs Crime office in The Villages for advice or assistance. Seniors vs Crime also has a Speakers Bureau that will gladly come to your club, church or group to speak about scams. To schedule a presentation, contact any of the offices. There is never a charge for their services. Seniors vs Crime can be reached at:

The Fruitland Park Police Department Annex
in the Moyer Recreation Center in The Villages
(352) 674-1882

The Marion County Sheriff's Office in The Villages
(352) 753-7775

The Sumter County Sheriff's Office in The Villages
(352) 689-4600, Extension 4606

The Wildwood Police Department Annex at
Brownwood in The Villages – (352) 753-0727

Volunteers' at all four offices are ready, willing and able to assist you. To keep up with the latest scams, LIKE 'Seniors vs. Crime Region 4' on Facebook. Hablamos Español. Por favor pregunte por Yolanda. Martes a Viernes: 10:00 A.M. a 2:00 P.M., (352) 689 4606. ■

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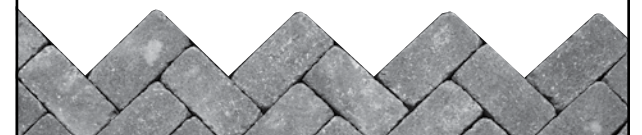
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We have over 800 likes and nearly 900 follows! Type POA of the Villages FL in the search on Facebook and you will find our page. Click LIKE, and then, suggest our page to all of your friends and neighbors that live in The Villages! Meeting and relevant 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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2008 Ray and Lori Micucci

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2007 Rose Harvey

Dorothy Hokr

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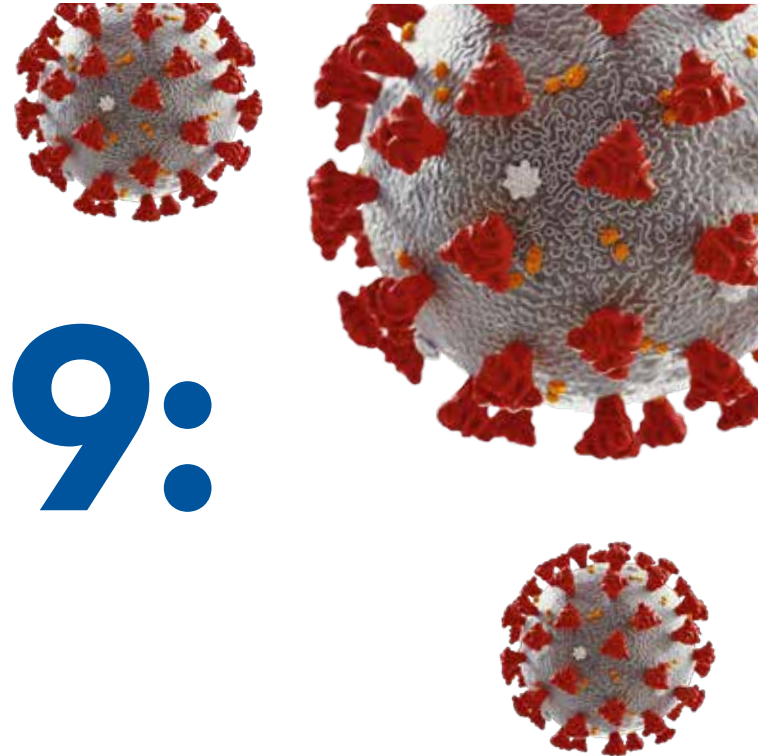


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COVID-19: Fact...Future



Think of a particle that is not alive, but whose physical closeness can cause harm...with just one breath.

COVID-19 is scary for all of us, and since there is no cure or magic bullet yet like a vaccine, the best protection is keeping our immune system in the best possible shape.

Although a cancer physician, my advice applies to all Villagers. Our Star Trek goal is for you to “live long and prosper.”

Let me explain the challenge. A virus is not alive. It depends on highjacking a cell’s ability to reproduce. Think of it as a ship seeking a port. Flying a friendly flag, the pirate ship slips into the harbor, only to plunder. (Step #1). If there was a way of identifying the pirate early, it could be sunk before docking. But what if our response is delayed, the viral ship gains a foothold, and our counter-offensive destroys much of the homeland. By not focusing our cannons, the collateral damage becomes overwhelming. (Step #2).

This virus has an outer thin fat layer surrounding a protein. If the fat layer is disrupted, the protein is exposed and disintegrates. We have actually resolved Steps #1 and 2.

Alpha lipoic acid is a natural compound, not a prescription, cheap, safe and efficient when taken as directed, that can address both steps at the same time. It is not a cure-all. But it could offer significant benefit. Its health effect goes well beyond treating a virus.

Avoid putting your body at risk through bad eating, lack of exercise, or not enough sleep. Staying healthy is even more important now because you can’t go to the doctor or

hospital just because of a fear of exposure.

This is but one more way the Robert Boissoneault Oncology Institute protects you. For quality care, we have no competition. Travel to our web page to gain more knowledge and specific medical references about alpha lipoic acid, and to maximize your health.



Written by:
Norman H. Anderson M.D.
Radiation Oncologist | CEO

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