

POA Bulletin

VillagesPOA.org

AUGUST 2025

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Upcoming POA General Membership Meetings

NO MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN AUGUST

September 16 • 7 pm

Laurel Manor Recreation Center
SPEAKER: Dr. Norman H. Anderson, CEO
Robert Boissoneault Oncology Institute

October 2 • 7 pm

Everglades Recreation Center
SPEAKER: Sumter County Sheriff Pat Breeden

October 21 • 6 – 8:30 pm

Laurel Manor Recreation Center
POA 50th Anniversary Expo

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

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AAC Member Proposes “Paradigm Shift” with Gates

The Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) vice chair Reb Benson proposed an “outside of the box” and paradigm shift when it comes to staffing gates in The Villages.

No one has ever been able to explain the thinking behind what gates are staffed and what aren’t. An examination of gate traffic statistics does not indicate that staffing is traffic driven, except in the case of the Morse Boulevard North gates. Here are just some of the statistics (entrance only):

Not staffed:		Staffed:		Staffed:	
Briar Meadow North	2,443*	Briar Meadow South	590*	Glenbrook	1,395
Belvedere	4,476	Morse North	5,980	Bonnybrook	2,339
Southern Trace	2,380	Morse South	8,210	Sanibel	4,184
St. James	4,393	Chatham	1,320	Marsh Bend South	564**
March Bend East	2,537**	Del Mar	5,031		
Citrus Grove	6,622				

There is a total (currently) of 143 gates throughout The Villages, with 12 staffed north of CR 466, 9 staffed between CR 466 and SR 44, and 6 staffed south of SR 44. That is less than 20% of the gates that are staffed. There are plenty of gates with high volume traffic that are not staffed.

Last year, Community Watch Director Nehemiah Wolfe recommended reducing shifts at several gates from 24-hour to 12-hour, with no coverage after midnight. The total estimated savings over a 5-year period for all areas served was \$944,217, less than \$250,000 annual budget impact.

While that was a good start to reduce costs, Mr. Benson is suggesting going further:

First item...Requests.
Areas for Community Watch to keep assessing regarding potential budget cutting expenses while evaluating the various tasks of Community Watch to see which ones are a necessary level of service versus could be modified, transferred, dropped, or replaced by technological improvements.

Second item...Possibilities.
Look “outside the box” - “paradigm shift” on how we address that we are a community with gates... **not a gated community** (emphasis added) ...and save residents money.

Paradigm Shift continued on page 2

Mission Statement

The Property Owners’ Association, Inc. (POA) is the original property owners’ group in The Villages. Established in 1975, the POA operates with complete independence from the Developer of The Villages. Membership is open to all property owners and residents of The Villages. The POA is committed to acting as a watchdog to ensure that the Developer and local government are responsive to the needs, interests, and rights of residents.

Vision The Property Owners’ Association, Inc. (POA) is a champion for the rights of residents of The Villages. Guided by member input, investigation and determination, the POA brings attention to and acts on issues that may impact property values and quality of life.

Goals The POA provides 1) a forum for discussion of issues; 2) research and analysis; 3) programs of interest; and, 4) is a conduit for objective and accurate information. Specific attention is given to resolving housing, community and local government issues.

Values

Independence	Honesty	Fairness
Objectivity	Respect	

The POA Declaration of Independence

The POA is free of any outside influence. This is the only way we can assure our members of absolute autonomy to act on their behalf. From the very beginning in 1975, we recognized this need for independence, and we’ve cherished and nurtured it ever since.

The *POA Bulletin* is published monthly by the Property Owners’ Association of The Villages, Inc. Articles represent the opinion of the POA or the writer, and Letters to the POA postings represent the opinions of the writers. Care is taken to ensure that facts reported herein are true and accurate to the best knowledge of the POA and are taken from reliable sources. The POA assumes no liability for any information published, opinions expressed, or delivery to any person or location. The POA does not endorse or recommend the products or services of any advertiser or discount partner. All publication rights are reserved. Publication or reprinting of any material contained herein is by written permission only. The POA reserves the right to remove and/or discontinue any advertisement or advertiser from its *POA Bulletin* at any time at its sole discretion.

Paradigm Shift *continued from page 2*

Request 1: Manned gates...continue to assess the ability to decrease hours at these gates from the current 18 hours per day (3 shifts of 6 hours each) - especially at gates that see less traffic (and were less than 18 hours prior to the previously implemented cost saving measures).

Provide the hourly traffic load at each manned gate and potential options at a future quarterly update. [Could see options such as 3 shifts of 5 hours each or 2 shifts of 7 hours each or even 2 shifts of 6 hours each at several or all gates (except Morse Boulevard)].

Request 2: Community Watch Patrols... continue to assess if something less than 3 shifts of 7.5 hour each per day is possible. Provide any future assessment, as that is accomplished in the continued assessment of operations, and seen as an adequate way forward. [Could see options such as 3 shifts of 6 hours each per patrol zone either with some overlap time between zones or no overlap (having gaps) or 2 shifts of 7 hours (5am to 12pm & 5pm to 12am) with 2 roaming shifts of 5 hours (12pm to 5pm & 12am to 5am) that cover key areas in 2 or more zones per shift].

Possibility 1: Ease of access through the gates.

Option 1...Driver’s headlamp secure tag reader that the district is looking into.

Option 2...Convert entrance gates to automatically open like the exit gates...probably lower cost to implement and no card or tag reader to purchase/replace. Time the sensor to allow recording of car/license plate and driver’s face before the gate goes up.

Possibility 2: Remove barriers (i.e., gates) to travel on Morse Blvd. Option...

First...install gates with cameras at all Village entrances and Rio Grande Avenue along Morse Boulevard (between CR-466 & El Camino Real) - 25 total.

Second...remove guard entrances on each end of Morse Boulevard.

Third...add a dedicated traffic light at Barraza Ct to allow southbound golf carts to cross over Morse Blvd to continue south to the CR-466 tunnel (coordinating on any final Multimodal Path solutions along Morse Boulevard).

Note 1...with an automated/unmanned gate, can install them far enough in at each location off Morse Blvd to not disturb residential property or create a backup traffic concern going thru the gate. Should be nearby power sources at each location.

Note 2...sounds like current gate camera systems are adequate...but might need further evaluation to ensure maximum ability to trace a car/driver regarding any incident to support follow-up, forensics, etc.

The POA applauds Mr. Benson for thinking outside of the box and proposing bold measures to reallocate funds where they are needed. His suggestions have sparked much debate about the gates and attendants. Mr. Benson is not suggesting eliminating gates, except perhaps at Morse Boulevard for ease of traffic flow. This could present a more dangerous situation because of the golf carts traveling across oncoming traffic; however, many people complain about the gate attendant not looking for golf cart traffic. Overall, it is a bad situation that needs a solution.

Others, including the POA, have suggested that gate attendants could be reassigned to swimming pools and courts to check IDs while District staff researches electronic solutions to amenity entrances.

The total proposed Community Watch budget for FY 25-26 is \$11,995,023, allocated between the Village Center Community Development District (VCCDD), north of CR 466 (\$3,638,614) and the Sumter Landing Community Development District (SLCDD), south of CR 466 (\$8,356,409.) Obviously, the majority of growth has occurred south of CR 466 and SR 44 so the 51.8% increase in the SLCDD budget in just two budget years may not be a surprise.

Paradigm Shift *continued on page 3*

Paradigm Shift continued from page 2

Deputy District Manager Carrie Duckett cautioned the AAC to consider whether these suggestions would constitute a “reduction in service.” The POA believes that a reallocation of resources that relies on technology is a more cost-effective means to improving customer service, rather than a reduction. “We’ve always done it this way” thinking is not a definition of level of services, and The Villages has changed dramatically since the first gates went in north of CR 466. By looking at the numbers and locations of gates, it is clear that the highest number of staffed gates is north of CR 466, which has the lowest population of the three geographic areas and less growth than any other area.

The POA urges the AAC to take a serious look at these suggestions, and that the Project Wide Advisory Committee do the same. The AAC will hold a workshop at a later date to discuss in more detail and gather community input. ●

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AAC Proposes Amenity Freeze at \$199

The Amenity Authority Committee has spent several months discussing a freeze/cap on Amenity Fees paid by residents North of CR 466. Motions have been made and failed.

In July, the discussion was back on the table, and this time a resolution was passed that will require action by other District government entities that collect Amenity Fees. Following is the analysis provided by District staff, along with the resolution that was passed. It is now in the hands of the Project Wide Advisory Committee (PWAC)/ Sumter Landing Community Development District (SLCDD), as well as the Developer, to determine if the proposal can go forward.

Background/Analysis (provided at AAC Meeting)

Throughout The Villages, homeowners pay monthly amenity fees as set out in Declarations of Restrictions. Under the Declarations, the amenity fees adjust annually with the consumer price index (CPI). The Village Center Community Development District (Center District) understands the Declarations to allow deferral of CPI adjustments by the Center District, so long as the Center District continues to meet its legal

obligations and there is no reduction in amenity facilities or services.

Since 2008, the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) has been delegated express authority to establish a maximum amenity fee for the Village Center Community Development District (Center District) service territory. The Declarations do not allow for the reduction of a homesite’s amenity fee and say that CPI adjustments not imposed on the adjustment may be imposed later. So, a maximum amenity fee set by the AAC operates as a “deferral rate.” Annual CPI adjustments are imposed only on homesites with an amenity fee below this deferral rate. The CPI adjustment on homesites at or above the deferral rate will not be immediately imposed but will be deferred and may be imposed at a future date.

The AAC must act within certain limitations. The AAC actions must comply and be consistent with bond documents, Declarations, and applicable laws. AAC actions may not reduce amenity

facilities or services. All policies, procedures, fees and services relating to Amenity Fees and Amenity Services provided by Center District, and Sumter Landing Community Development District (SLCDD) must be identical. No action by the AAC can result in residents of The Villages outside the AAC area being treated differently than Villages residents inside the AAC area.

The Center District understands this to mean that any deferral rate must, among other things, be consistent with bond covenants, allow the Center District to maintain levels of service, and be uniformly applied to homesites everywhere in The Villages. Prior to implementing a deferral rate for the Center District service territory, Staff will seek feedback from bond counsel and seek confirmation from other amenity owners that the deferral rate will be adopted throughout The Villages. The Center District will not adopt the resolution if all proper conditions are not met.

AAC continued on page 5

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ACC continued from page 4

During recent meetings, the AAC requested the Center District staff to provide materials for the consideration of an amenity fee “deferral rate” to be set at \$199. The analysis assumes a target implementation date of October 1, 2025.

Resolution Passed by AAC and Presented to Center District

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE VILLAGE CENTER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

1. The monthly Amenity Fees for recreational services and the common areas shall not be adjusted above \$199.00 per month for any owners at the time their adjustment is due under the various Declarations of Restrictions until such time as the Village Center Community Development District determines otherwise and may at that time make the adjustment which may include any accrual of adjustments not previously made by the Village Center Community Development District

2. The non-adjustment to amenity fees is for a maximum of one year from the adoption of this Resolution and any continuation of this policy shall be based upon the fiscal impact and any other criteria as determined by the Village Center Community Development District.

Clarification was made by the District’s attorney, Kevin Stone, that it would not be the intent of the members of the current AAC to collect any “deferred” Amenity Fee or to immediately jump to the Amenity Fee being collected by other entities if a future AAC Board determined it needed to remove the freeze. It is the intent of this Board that the CPI would begin to be applied to the current rate a resident is paying at the time a deferral is removed. ●

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Increased Fire Assessment Fees Will Impact Sumter County FY25/26 Budget

By Karen O’Farrell

Bradley Arnold, Sumter County Administrator, addressed the POA membership on July 15, 2025, and shared results of that morning’s Sumter County Board of County Commissioners’ Budget Workshop. He stressed that every bit of the tax increase proposal is firmly focused on public safety as the #1 priority as well as additional funding for road maintenance.

The Board decided to hold the General Fund millage rate at 4.89 for FY25/26, the same rate as FY 24/25. Holding that 4.89 rate this year and by itself, even without an increase in the MSTU from 0 to some other number, would still constitute a tax increase because the Board is not going to drop to the rollback rate. Holding that line does still generate additional revenue to support the road maintenance initiative that the Board wants to proceed with.

- **Millage rate:** The amount of tax owed per every \$1,000 of a property’s assessed value.
- **Rollback rate:** The millage rate where the county government would get no additional tax revenue based off the existing properties that went up in value based solely on market conditions. This rate would generate the same revenue as the previous year, regardless of what the rate actually is. New construction growth is not included in the calculation for the rollback rate.

- **Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU):**
A special assessment to ensure the “readiness” of specific public services or improvements within a defined geographic area, in this case Fire & EMS services. These services are financed through non-ad valorem assessments, meaning the cost is distributed among all property owners who benefit from the improvements, rather than being based on property value. Each Fire District – Sumter County and The Villages – has its own fire assessment MSBU.
- **Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU):**
Funding through an additional property millage tax rate within each of the MSTU boundaries to fund actual services (fire & EMS) delivered.

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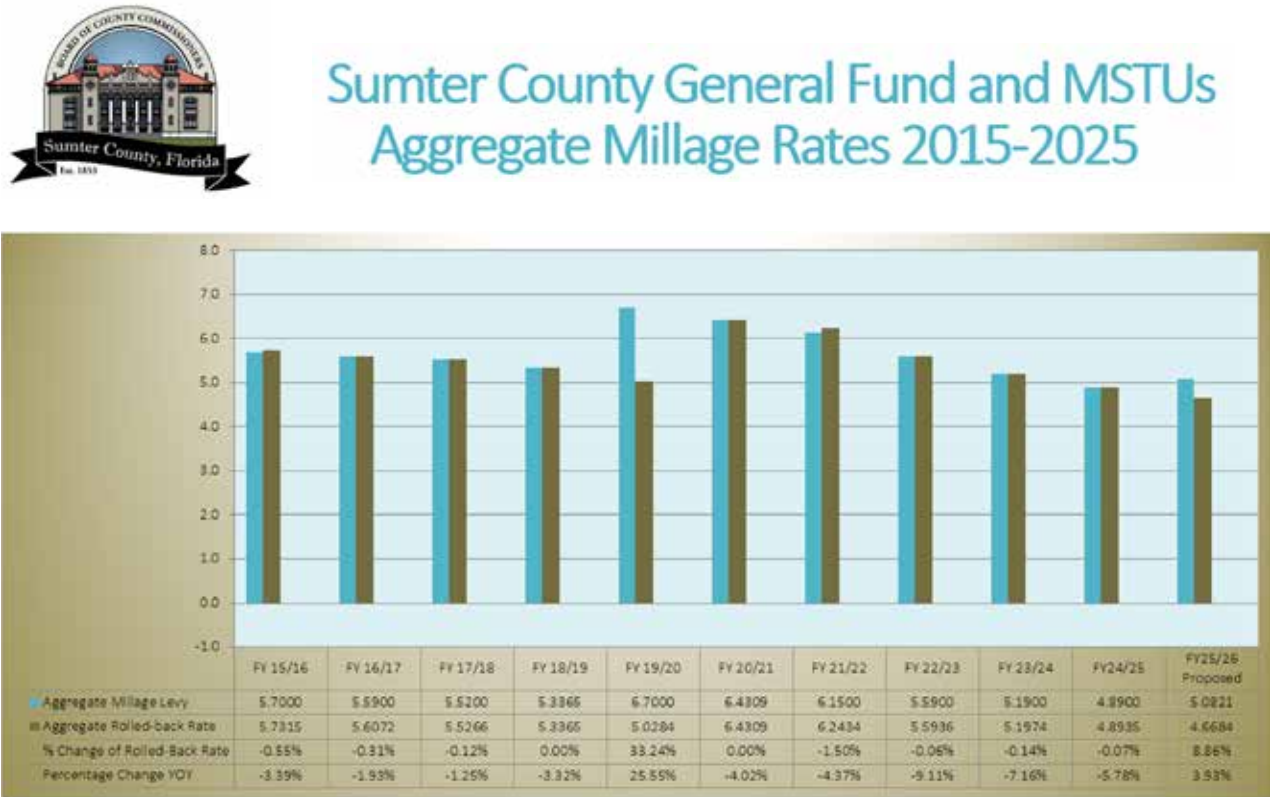
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Fire Assessment continued from page 7

The biggest component of the proposed tax increase has to do with the MSTU rates. If you live in The Villages Public Safety Department Dependent District (VPSDDD) service area, the proposed millage is .0464. If you live adjacent to The Villages, you may be in that service area also. For Sumter Fire & EMS, the MSTU rate is .0871. The MTSU is what is driving the aggregate overall rate for the Board to advertise a tax increase.



2025 Sumter County Fire & EMS Service Area
Tax Bill Example –
\$150,000 Taxable Value (No Exemptions)

2023 County Tax Bill

General Fund	• \$778.50
MSBU	• \$125.00
Total	• \$903.50

2025 County Tax Bill
The Villages Public Safety
Department Dependent District Service Area

General Fund	• \$ 733.50
MSBU	• \$ 320.71
MSTU	• \$ 6.96
Total	• \$1,061.17

2025 County Tax Bill
Sumter County Fire
and EMS Service Area

General Fund	• \$ 733.50
MSBU	• \$ 355.58
MSTU	• \$ 128.57
Total	• \$1,217.65

When the Board made the decision to go with zero instead of the proposed 0.29 MTSU for FY24/25, cuts had to be made to Fire & EMS personnel. Additional positions were immediately dropped, and mandatory overtime began in order to maintain the service levels. The larger jump now is to make up for what was lost last year in terms of level of service.

Fire assessment is a significant revenue source at 45.78%, and the transport fees add nearly 13% of the Sumter County Fire and EMS Fund budget. Ambulance fees fill the gap. Rates are set, but Medicare will only pay a maximum rate. The rest is often a write off.

Seventy percent of our public fire and EMS personnel are in their stations ready to serve. It’s called “cost of readiness to serve.” The proximity of the station and staffing levels help keep insurance rates down for residents. Thirty percent of their time is spent transporting or responding to fire scenes, vehicle accidents, rescues, and lift assists. The cost of readiness is \$20M annually.

Both the VPSDDD and the Sumter County Fire/EMS service personnel are dual certified as both a firefighter and medical response personnel. Sumter has 6 fully staffed ambulances with sometimes a ramp up based on call volume. The Villages has 13 fully staffed ambulances. These numbers are significant in an area of this size. There are 18 fire stations across the county. The apparatus and personnel certifications contribute to cost of readiness and lower insurance rates.

Mr. Arnold explained that there has been excellent cooperation with The Villages, adjacent counties, and the 5 cities within Sumter County with regard to assistance and sharing of information. For example, Sumter County has a maintenance agreement for service on The Villages fleet of white vehicles.

Fire Assessment continued on page 9

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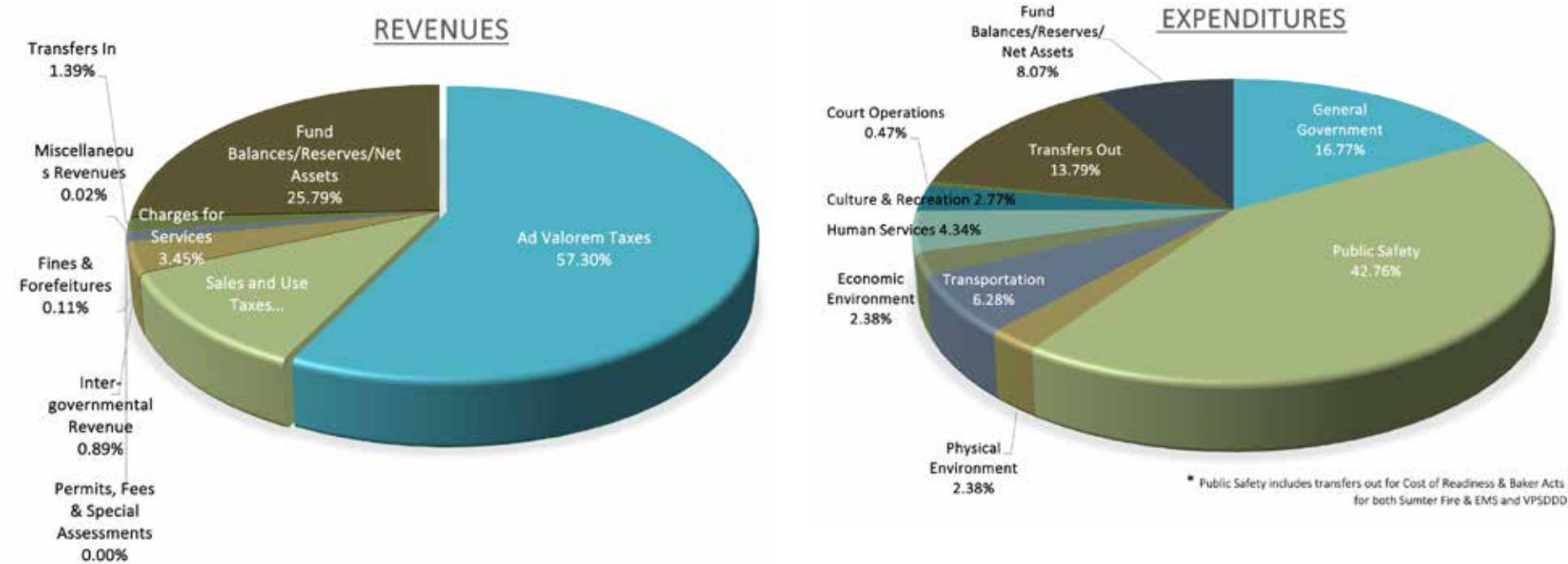
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Fire Assessment continued from page 8

A Look into the Future:

- The Sheriff’s Department continues to need additional funds to address continued growth in the county.
- After postponing road maintenance, the time has come to fund and implement a plan.
- Some of the future road projects were highlighted. While they are not yet budgeted, the County is looking at how to get them accomplished.
- And what happens if the property tax is eliminated? Will it be replaced with something else? 42.8% of the Sumter County general fund is public safety; 57% could be unavailable if property tax is eliminated.
- Residents were encouraged to participate in their local government. Follow what is done with your tax dollars. Report how we can provide cuts or improve efficiencies.

Proposed General Fund Budget FY 25/26



A \$3.5M mobile stroke unit will soon be available through UF Health. Has the County had discussion about this unit with UF?

There is always mutual aid present, and Sumter County will make the call for the stroke unit as needed.

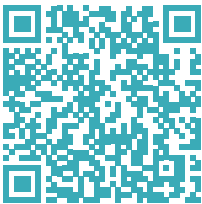
How would you describe the County’s relationship with other agencies?

Mr. Arnold described his relationship with Kenny Blocker, The Villages District Manager, as excellent and also with other cities and towns.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is an outstanding relationship with much coordination, often working in lockstep on projects. There is a reciprocal relationship with certain county properties the State needs. This is probably the best working and financial relationship.

The Florida Department of Commerce is our second largest partner, working with them on general economic development.

A disconnect can sometimes occur with State officials who have not all had local government experience regarding funding and local impacts.



Scan here for Sumter County Proposed Budget FY 25/26 Documents

Fire Assessment continued from page 9

Engineers keep saying that North Morse Boulevard is okay. Can the County put more deputies on the road between 466 and San Marino?

Related to Community Development District (CDD) 1 concerns and the view that it is the most dangerous section of road, Mr. Arnold said he cannot change how people feel. But the facts do not support that feeling. He gives credit to CDD 1 on the great study it did that looked at how to move golf carts off the road. Studies associated with that document showed there is a path in the study. Whenever CDD 1 is ready to move forward with a design, the County will be there to review the design. As CDD 1 moves forward with the construction of it, he said Sumter County will be there to make sure there will be no impact on the roads during construction.

What is the rehabilitation of the Morse Boulevard bridge?

We are seeking a grant from the state to get funding to rehabilitate the “Humpty Dumpty” decking.

\$2m allocated for road resurfacing and nothing else for the next five years? That seems like pretty slim pickings for roads that get a lot of traffic?

The increase in the millage rate has additional funding built in to help support road repairs, but the budget has not yet been approved. With the increase in the MSTU, the Board did not feel comfortable with an additional tax burden this year. Mr. Arnold stressed that road maintenance remains a priority for the Board.

Why are there sidewalks going in along 44?

The state government and FDOT have a requirement to provide more opportunity for multi-modal movement in the state. Mr. Arnold stated he had seen people using the sidewalk, often residents west of 301 who appear to be service industry employees. The hope is that as more people become aware the walkway is there, use will increase. ●



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.** ●

August 2025 Schedule						
Instructor	Phone #	Day	Date	Day	Date	Location
Chet Kowalski	(352) 430-1833	Tue	8/5/25	Wed	8/6/25	Colony
George Rodriguez	(802) 349-8080	Fri	8/15/25			Buffalo Crossings



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Recreation Department Clarifies Sports Pool Usage Decisions

In response to recent resident criticism over decisions to change group schedules for utilizing the 12 sports pools in The Villages, the Recreation Department issued the following statement in the District's July 12 weekly bulletin.

"We understand that recent discussions on social media and in the community may have led to concerns about water exercise programs being limited or removed. We want to assure all residents that there are no plans to reduce or eliminate any current water exercise classes. Instead, what is taking place is a comprehensive review of how our sports pools are being used, with the goal of enhancing access and program variety for all residents.

Over the past several months, staff have been working closely with resident volunteer leaders to assess and review water exercise schedules for the upcoming fall and winter seasons. This process is part of our ongoing commitment to best practices as a Nationally Accredited Recreation and Parks agency. The goal is to ensure safe, consistent, and optimal use of our sports pools for all residents.

Data-Driven Decision Making

Staff are conducting a thorough, data-driven review of how our 12 sports pools are currently being used. This review includes:

- Statistical analysis of past participation numbers
- Input from resident volunteer leaders
- Consideration of how to allow more residents to enjoy the pools safely

Currently, 7 of the 12 sports pools already share space for different activities, including water aerobics, lap swimming, and water walking, with 20 shared sessions per week. This model has successfully managed both safety and noise levels, while increasing opportunities for different types of pool users.

Exploring Flexible and Inclusive Options

Several ideas are being considered to improve the pool schedule while maintaining the quality of existing water exercise programs:

- Using the entire pool for water aerobics when participation numbers support it
- Allocating two-thirds of the pool for water aerobics with lane ropes in place (but unused) and no other programming in the remaining area
- Sharing lane-rope areas for other water-based programs, such as water walking or lap swimming, when space and safety allow

We are also looking at expanding our program offerings to include additional activities such as water volleyball, lap swimming, and future water-based fitness classes, depending on demand and pool availability.

Enhancing the Experience

As always, we are committed to improving the quality of your recreational experience. For example, to better support our water aerobics instructors, we've invested in wireless, waterproof microphones, improving sound clarity and instruction in active environments.

A Collaborative Approach

We want to reassure all residents that no final decisions will be made without thorough discussion and input from our volunteer leaders and community members. Staff is working hard to ensure fairness, consistency, and an enhanced experience across all facilities.

Our goal is to ensure that the sports pools serve all members of the community—today, tomorrow, and into the future. Through thoughtful planning and open communication, we are confident that this collaborative approach will lead to a better, more inclusive pool schedule — one that serves the needs of today's residents and future generations.

For any questions or concerns, please reach out to the Recreation and Parks Department directly. Your feedback helps shape the future of our community programs." ●

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Big Celebration Planned October 21

Members and residents should mark October 21 from 6 pm – 8:30 pm on their calendars for a special Expo event to celebrate the POA's 50-year anniversary. Bulletin/Magazine advertisers and partners will have booths and there will be lots of giveaways and drawings. Refreshments and entertainment are also planned.

Board members and volunteers will be on hand to help residents sign up for membership or log into an account with an email address, as well as to help people Like/Share the Facebook page so they can view the meetings online.

Mr. Wiener said more details will be coming over the next few months about the event, but the most important thing to do now is **REGISTER YOUR ACCOUNT AT VillagesPOA.org**.

Stay connected for the latest announcements and to watch Membership Meetings live streamed!

We have 1,900+ total page likes and 2,500+ 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.



Scan the QR code to access the POA Facebook page. Like, Follow and Tune-In for Membership Meetings Live Streamed.

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Is Slowing Parkinson’s Disease Next?

By Craig Curtis, MD (U.S. Navy Veteran) and Kimberly Salazar, MD (Colonel, U.S. Army, Retired)

You may have heard that two medications are now available that slow the progression of Alzheimer’s disease. Yes, you read that correctly — we can now slow memory loss in Alzheimer’s. But what about Parkinson’s disease?

Interestingly, there are important similarities between Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s. Both are progressive brain disorders with different — but somewhat related — underlying causes. In Alzheimer’s disease, abnormal buildup of proteins called amyloid and tau contribute to memory loss. Medications that target and remove amyloid have shown the ability to slow Alzheimer’s disease progression, and medications that target tau are being actively studied.

In Parkinson’s disease, a different protein called alpha-synuclein accumulates in the brain, causing the classic signs of Parkinson’s disease such as tremors, stiffness, and slowing of movement. Unfortunately, there are currently no approved treatments that remove alpha-synuclein or slow Parkinson’s progression — but researchers are working hard to change that.

Here in The Villages, Dr. Craig Curtis (U.S. Navy veteran) and Dr. Kimberly Salazar (Colonel, U.S. Army, Retired) are collaborating with leading scientists on three cutting-edge clinical trials aimed at slowing or halting Parkinson’s disease. Each trial uses a different approach, but all share one goal: to target Parkinson’s disease at its source.

Importantly, researchers believe these treatments work best when started early. Drs. Curtis and Salazar offer same-day appointments to evaluate whether one of these trials may be right for you.

If you’ve noticed a tremor (often in the hand while at rest), slowness of movement, or are already taking medication for Parkinson’s, please contact our office for a free evaluation. The same applies to memory concerns — if you or a loved one has noticed memory changes, don’t wait. Early detection leads to better outcomes.

Dr. Curtis also offers free weekly seminars where you can learn how to protect your brain health through simple nutrition and exercise strategies. Please call our office today at (352) 707-5252 for more information or to reserve your spot at an upcoming seminar. ●



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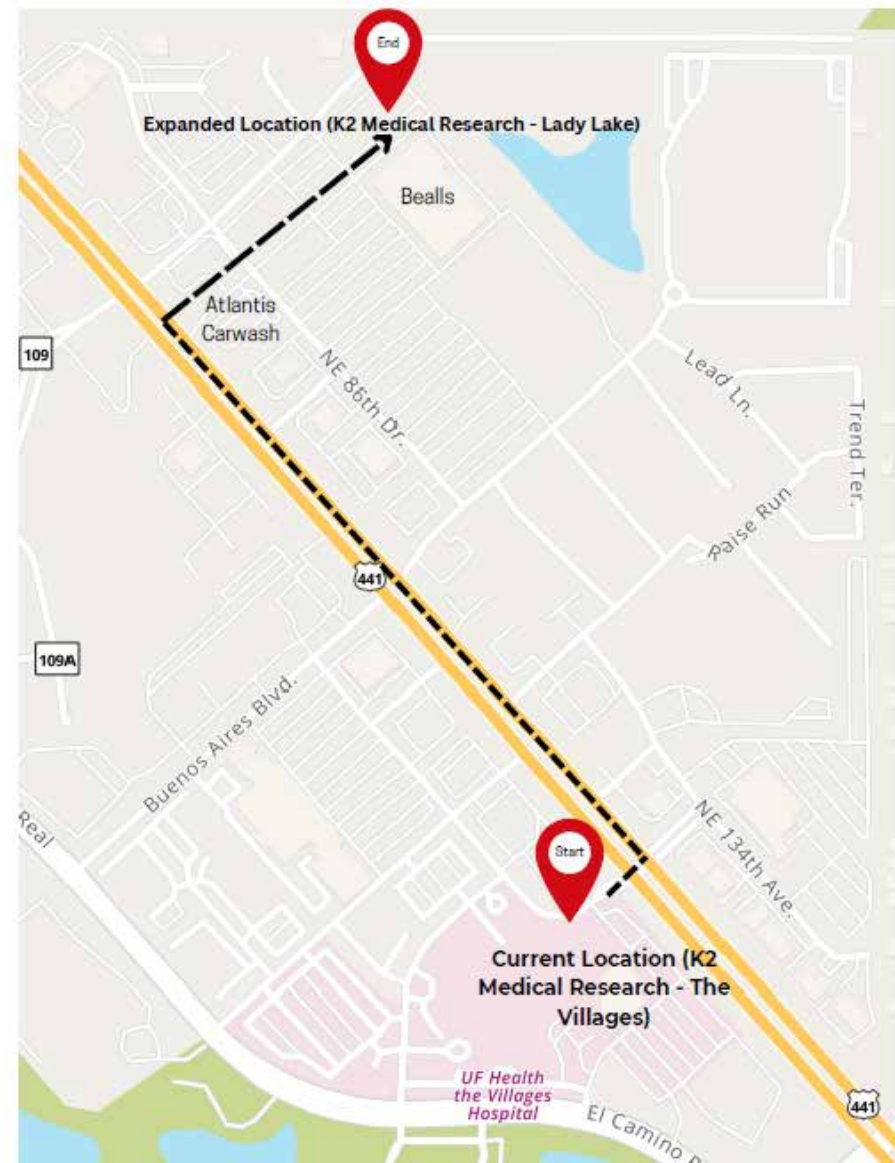
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Directions from our Current Location

- Turn left (north) on HWY 441
- Turn right at the Atlantis Carwash
- Follow that road straight back (you will be driving through a parking lot)
- Our office will be on your left and Bealls will be on your right



Current Location: 1400 N. US HWY 441, The Villages, FL 32159

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

A Fond Farewell to Paradise Recreation Center...

Residents and District staff bid a fond farewell to the Paradise Recreation Center on July 22 with “A Walk Down Memory Lane” to The Villages oldest recreation center. Paradise will close on August 15, and a groundbreaking will be held on August 20 at 9 am to mark the beginning of the tear down and rebuilding. Construction fencing will be installed, and all remaining furniture, fixtures and equipment removal will begin on August 15.

Other Key Pieces:

- Demolition Phase commences on 01 September (~90 Days).
- Total Project Duration is 540 Days (Spring 2027 Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting).
- DPM is coordinating joint closures of the Paradise Regional Recreation Center with the HVAC Replacement at La Hacienda and the Flooring Replacement at Savannah Center. There will be some overlap of closures, however DPM & Recreation is minimizing impacts to residents and lifestyle groups.
- All Sports Courts & Knudson Softball will be closed during the Demolition Phase of the Project. The Church, Archery, Fitness & Dog Park will remain open throughout the duration of the project. There may be periodic closures as needed.



A Dedicated Web Page for the Paradise Regional Recreation Center Construction Project featuring Project Updates, Photos & Videos is available now at: districtgov.org/paradiserecreation-projectupdate/ 🟢



Local Adventures in Lake County, Ghost Town Edition – Kismet.

The Rise and Fall of Kismet

Founded in 1884 by the Kismet Land and Improvement Company, this settlement arose on the eastern shores of Lake Dorr, Florida. Ambitiously planned, it featured a 50-room hotel, a sawmill, school, post office—and orange groves stretching across roughly 200 acres. It was envisioned as a thriving winter retreat for settlers and tourists alike. But Florida's temperamental climate delivered a devastating blow: the Great Freeze of 1889–1895 decimated the citrus groves, crippling the town's economic backbone.

By the turn of the century, Kismet's buildings were gone. The iconic hotel was dismantled and transported to Eustis, where it reopened as the Grand View Hotel, only to be torn down again in 1955. Now, all that remains of Kismet are a few gravestones hidden among forested roads—echoes of its past as a bustling community.

A Disney Connection

Kismet's most enduring claim to fame is its connection to the Disney family. On January 1, 1888, Elias Disney—age 28—married Flora Call, about 19, at her parents' home in Kismet. Elias, originally from Canada via Kansas, had acquired a 40-acre farm here, near Lake Dorr.

The Calls—Flora's parents, Charles and Henrietta—were educators and farmers who settled nearby in Paisley. They even attended church in Kismet and are buried in the nearby Ponceannah Cemetery, their grave marked by a white stone carved like a tree stump.

After the frost wrecked their groves and Elias battled malaria, the couple abandoned Florida in 1889, moving to Chicago. There, their children were born, including the future Walt Disney in 1901.

Kismet's Imprint on Walt Disney World

The little town of Kismet continues influencing Disney's creative philosophy. When designing Disney Springs, Imagineers took inspiration from late-19th-century Florida towns like Kismet, aiming to evoke the charm of small-town living that reflects the Disney family's roots. Even Main Street U.S.A.'s design echoes this heritage—tiny details, like a plaque bearing Elias's father's name "Kepple," pay homage to real family history and Florida's nostalgic rural communities.

Visiting the Ghost Town Today

While Kismet no longer appears on maps, adventurous explorers can find traces via:

- A remote cemetery along Kismet Road with scattered gravestones ghosttowns.com.
- Historic artifacts in nearby Paisley, including the Call family graves in Ponceannah Cemetery.
- The streets of Eustis, where the Grand View Hotel once stood as a relocated vestige from Kismet.

Legacy and Reflection

Kismet's tale is a testament to Florida's cyclical boom-and-bust in its early days. Yet, the town lives on through its connection to Disney's family story and the echoes of its built landscape in modern theme parks. As a frontier settlement born of ambition—and undone by nature—it underscores the deep roots Walt Disney's legacy has in Florida's landscape and lore.

This month's Local Adventures in Lake County were brought to you by the team at Water Oak Country Club Estates. Come in today and tour one of our new construction homes, starting at just \$149,995, these 2- & 3-bedrooms homes offer a variety of floorplans and open concept living areas all in the active 55+ community of Water Oak.



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

NSCUDD Revises Board Vacancy Process

The North Sumter County Utility Dependent District (NSCUDD) proposes to amend the process for selecting new board members when a vacancy occurs, and recommends the following process:

1. Advertise the vacancy
2. Receive candidate applications through the County’s portal
3. Interview, if they choose
4. Recommend a candidate to the Sumter County Board of Commissioners (BOCC), if they choose
5. Send all applications to the BOCC for BOCC to fill the vacancy.

The District’s attorney, Kevin Stone, said that the NSCUDD Board’s original rules called for the NSCUDD Board to make the appointment in the event of a vacancy, but for reasons unknown to him, in 2012 the BOCC rescinded the Board’s authority to make the appointment. He said the proposed change can be presented to the BOCC and they can choose whether or not to accept it.

Assistant District Manager Bruce Brown said the rule change will need to be advertised, and a public hearing held in order to make the proposed change.

In June, when a second vacancy occurred on the NSCUDD Board and there was no mechanism in place to advertise the vacancy, the POA called for more transparency in the process. The proposed rule change begins with the most important aspect of the process – notifying residents that there is a vacancy.

AAC & CDD 4 Video Recording Meetings

After years of prodding by the POA, the District is now video-recording the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) and the Community Development District (CDD) 4 meetings. The videos can be found under the Meetings section of each of the boards that are using the video recording.

This is a HUGE step forward for residents to see these Boards in action, and the POA applauds the District and these boards for stepping into the 21st Century!

The POA hopes that the other Boards will follow suit and give their residents the opportunity to see them in action. The POA further recommends that the District create a Facebook presence so the meetings can actually be live-streamed while they are occurring.

Highlights continued on page 19



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Highlights continued from page 18

Sumter County has already announced that it will be live-streaming all of its meetings when the new Customer Service Center opens next year.

PWAC to Look at Sports Pool Cooling Units, Handicapped Parking and Amenity Fee Freeze

It has been a long, and dangerously hot summer! Residents regularly using pools throughout The Villages have noted temperatures at or above 90 degrees. PWAC has been asked to consider using cooling units minimally at each of the sports pools, and depending on costs, to consider them for ALL.

District staff will provide costs for the cooling units and PWAC will determine how it will proceed.

Another resident asked the PWAC members to look at handicapped parking at Fitness Centers, which are currently located on the opposite end of the parking from the entrance to the centers. District Property Management will look at all of the Fitness Centers location and come back with a report and costs to improve.

PWAC has been asked by the Village Center Community Development District to discuss an Amenity Fees freeze that was passed by the AAC and has agreed to have the discussion at its August meeting.

Sumter County Sheriff's Office Reports Quarterly Stats

Captain Robert Siemer with the Sumter County Sheriff's Office reported the following statistics for the last quarter:

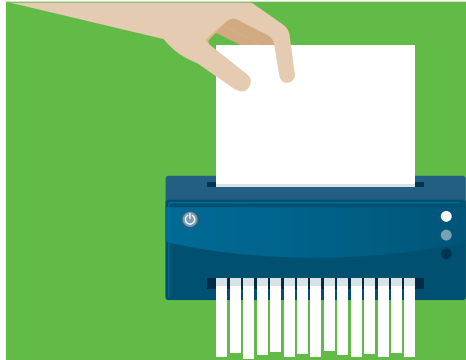
Car crashes	414
Car citations	511
Golf car crashes	27
Golf car citations	13

Captain Siemer said the biggest problem in The Villages is "thefts of opportunity," such as leaving cars unlocked in the driveway, leaving garage doors open, leaving keys in golf carts at town squares, etc. He also said that in the case of golf cart crashes, people who wear seatbelts receive substantially less serious injuries than those who do not wear them.

When asked about traffic control, Captain Siemer said they have several grants that have allowed them to increase patrols.

Marion County Presentation – August 20

Kathy Bryant, Chair of the Marion County Board of Commissioners, will present the "Chairman State of Marion County" on August 20 at 1 pm at the Mulberry Grove Recreation Center. The presentation will cover topics such as roadways, first responders, upcoming projects, and how local leaders are planning for the future. ●



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**To advertise, contact: Cliff Wiener, POA President
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SHINE Offers Medicare Help

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

Counselors 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** or call (800) 963-5337. ●

Discount Partners Program Discontinued

After many years of success, the POA Board of Directors has discontinued the Discount Partners program, effective immediately.

The Partners are no longer listed on the POA website and members can no longer use their membership card for any discounts. ●

Free Support Groups

A safe space for Care Partners to make connections and share their experiences.

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SENIORS VS CRIME

You’re on Facebook or Instagram and an ad pops up from Omaha Steaks ad, wow, what a deal. Why, it’s almost too good to be true.... Tech Guru Kim Komando had some useful advice in a recent email, and we wanted to share it with you.

Look at the image. That’s not the real Omaha Steaks. It’s from a fake site designed to steal your money.

It’s happening all over the internet right now. You see a great deal on name-brand stuff, a new smartwatch, fancy cookware, maybe some designer jeans, and you click.

Everything looks real. The logos, the layout, even Apple and Google Pay are options. But it’s a scam, and now your credit card info is out there.

A Massive Scam Designed to Steal Your Money

Silent Push analysts uncovered thousands of fake websites posing as trusted stores like Apple, Michael Kors, Harbor Freight, REI, Omaha Steaks and more. There’s a massive global scam operation that uses real payment methods on fake checkout pages. Like thousands-of-sites massive.

The twist? The criminals, likely based in China, take your payment and ghost you. No product. No refund. No customer service. Total fake-out.

They Cloned Sites

They’re copying everything. Logos, layouts, even the checkout process, so much so that you’d swear you were on the real REI website while buying \$10 trail shoes.

But there were some sites with mismatched logos and products. A Harbor Freight clone showed Wrangler jeans.

Even worse: These scam sites are popping up faster than hosting companies can take them down. Many are still up right now.

Don’t Fall For It

- **Slow down and read.** Misspelled words, weird domain names like “nordstromltems.com” (that’s an L, not an I) or random products are huge red flags.
- **Use virtual cards or a credit card. Not a debit card.** You need that fraud protection and a debit card offers you no protection at all.
- **Stick to the real URL.** Skip the sketchy ads. Always type the URL in yourself.
- **If the deal looks too good, it probably is a scam. Period.**

Bottom line:

If the deal looks like it crawled straight out of your dreams, it’s probably from your nightmares. Slow down before you click “buy.”

Now you know this is happening. This scam campaign is a big one, and you need to stay sharp. Help share this know-how with your family and friends.

Need more information on scams?

Contact your nearest Seniors vs. Crime office – there are four to serve you right in The Villages. Just go to **seniorsvscrim.com**, and you can find office locations, hours of operation, and contact information. You can also request a speaker for your neighborhood group or club. All our services are free of charge, and you don’t need an appointment at any of our offices. ●





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- 2016 Frank E. Carr
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Irv Yedwab
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- 2011 Pete Cacioppo
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- 2005 Sadie Woollard
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William Rich, Jr.
Glen Swindler
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61 Days & Counting!

The countdown is on! You have 61 days to get signed up with your email address before the driveway delivery of *The POA Bulletin* ends! The September issue will be the last printed for physical delivery. After that, the **only way** to stay up to date on all the issues and news in The Villages will be through the POA's new **POA Magazine**, available only online!

The new POA website is up and running, although we continue to tweak some aspects to make it as user-friendly as can be. You can still use the poa4us.org url to access the new site.

See page 3 for the QR code to log in. **You will also only be able to join as a member or guest by going to the new website.**

Don't be left out in Florida's heat! Sign in and sign up TODAY! 🟢

The Property Owners' Association
8736 SE 165th Mulberry Lane,
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