

VHA Town Hall Meeting

10:00 AM – La Hacienda

July 16, 2019

- 1. Has there been any progress in finding an alternative replacement(s) for the Farmer's Market in Spanish Springs?**

Dr. Lester: Yes, a plan is being developed to bring fresh produce to Spanish Springs on a regular basis. Follow the Daily Sun for details.

- 2. Where else will a schedule be available for the location of the Villages Grown Airstream besides the Villages Grown website such as perhaps weekly in the Daily Sun? Some residents do not own or have easy access to computers.**

Dr. Lester: See above - The Daily Sun will soon have exciting information about more convenient ways – including access to the Airstream - for residents to participate in Villages Grown and enjoy fresh produce on a regular basis.

- 3. As a disabled person the low boy toilets at MVP are not easily useable. Who can be contacted to get these toilets replaced with comfort height toilets?**

Dr. Lester: The building was built according to code and any renovations would be the responsibility of the MVP Athletic Club.

- 4. Can the championship golf courses be improved for more lush growth? In many cases the fairways seem to be cut shorter than the greens.**

Dr. Lester: The Golf Team is committed to continual improvement. They are working hard to keep our courses in the best shape possible. We are not aware of any instances of fairways being cut shorter than greens.

- 5. Can more golf practice areas be built in the south region of The Villages. Currently there are only 30 practice spots at Sarasota serving that entire area.**

Dr. Lester: Yes. Follow the Daily Sun for updates.

- 6. Can consideration be given by the Entertainment Department to have a polka band scheduled for Dyngus Day Monday after Easter in Brownwood for the Polish dancing?**

Dr. Lester: The Entertainment Department is working on some heritage celebrations including polka and are hoping to make announcements in a couple of weeks. Watch the Daily Sun and their website www.thevillagesentertainment.com for announcements.

- 7. Can more independent films be included in the offerings at the Brownwood movie theater as they are at the Rialto?**

Dr. Lester: Yes. Suggestions for specific films will be considered.

- 8. Please clarify the process regarding how residents can send suggestions to the Developer?**

Dr. Lester: Go to our website www.thevillages.com. At the bottom of any page click on "Feedback." We encourage residents and guests to give us immediate feedback.

- 9. As building progresses in The Villages south of SR 44 please consider the following additions:**
- a. Add another performing arts center since events seem to be sold out so quickly making it difficult to get tickets?**
 - b. Add another movie theater, perhaps a bistro style like The Marcus Majestic Movie Theatre in Brookfield, WI which includes a bistro section for dining while watching a movie.**
 - c. Build a facility that includes an indoor walking trail or track?**
 - d. Include pinball machines and old arcade games into the design for a new recreation center?**

Dr. Lester: All the suggestions have been passed on. We thank you for your feedback.

- 10. Since a person at the age of 18 can vote and serve in the military could you please explain why the minimum age to use The Villages adult pools is 30?**

John Rohan: The age requirement was established early on and originally requested by the residents. Currently any changes to this rule would need to be done legally and go through the state government. We believe in a 55+ community most residents appreciate the age requirements at the pools.

- 11. Could you provide an update on any decisions regarding future use for Hacienda Hills Country Club?**

Richard Baier: This is a private facility owned by the Developer. The AAC (Amenity Authority Committee) is not involved with the associated priority pool, golf enterprise operations and the food services. The AAC will receive information in August as to any additional information on the Developer's offer.

- 12. Can a walking path be built in the Village of Santo Domingo? This village has no recreational facilities.**

Sam Wartinbee: There is no property available for this. The land around the retention ponds is occupied by homes.

13. Do the new laws stating no use of cell phone for talking or texting while driving also pertain to golf carts?

Lt. Siemer: Yes, all the rules for cars pertain to golf carts.

14. Can an effort be made to find Gate passes similar to SunPass so car windows don't have to be opened particularly during inclement weather? Many people have to have their window mechanisms fixed from excessive use.

Richard Baier: The District has 3 major technology based projects which must be addressed at this time: Asset Management System- the ability to efficiently manage and budget for 2 billion dollars of vertical and horizontal infrastructure through a platform with GIS; BS&A- a second phase of our financial management platform and related software which created will interface with the Asset Management System and be paperless & afford real time financial accounts in sync across the board; a Document Imaging Software Package to replace an aging platform which is no longer supported. The last item will be completed in approximately 5 months. It is important that we are current with technology. Any funding for additional projects/considerations is on hold until these major projects are completed.

15. What can be done about the non-residents that have been using the pools at Chula Vista, Rio Grande and Paradise? Who should Residents call when obvious abuse of this privilege is occurring?

John Rohan: We will step up our presence if residents observe there is an issue at their pool. Residents need to call Community Watch 352-753-0550 when and if they believe there is a problem. If law enforcement is necessary, they will be contacted. There is a myth that people jump into the pool when IDs are being checked. We have not observed this. We do not follow a regular schedule for checking IDs and find that these unscheduled checks work best. In fact at a recent community meeting, the District Mgr. was presented with several scenarios where residents expressed that the Recreation and Parks Staff had carded too often at several D 2 pools.

16. What can be done about these issues in and around the Soulliere Villas near CR 42?
a. Residents have been going out on CR 42 and cutting the grass and weeds to improve the sight line for entering and exiting the entrance. Marion County's maintenance is not timely to the growth and does not seem to be concerned. There is a small hill and speeding cars cannot be easily seen.

Richard Baier: The Chairperson for CDD 4 wrote to Marion County and received a response that "mowing occurs by the calendar and there is no plan to do more than scheduled." Jeff Gold from Marion County now attends the CDD 4 meetings providing residents an opportunity to bring up issues directly to a county official.

- b. Construction trucks are coming through the gate and turning around in the pool/mail box parking lot.**

Richard Baier: Be aware that these are public roadways and we cannot redirect the trucks.

- c. The construction site needs the trash picked up.**

Richard Baier: We referred this to the private property owner.

- d. When will the GPS system pick up this new development?**

Richard Baier: We have no control over this.

17. What can be done about the trash along some of the Executive Golf paths?

Richard Baier: If trash or any issue is noticed, contact Customer Service 352-753-4508 and the call will be directed to the correct department.

18. Could signage on the multi-modal paths in the Villages of Marsh Bend, Linden, Swallowtail, etc be larger with more contrast between the background and letters?

Dr. Lester: This concern has been passed on to our design department. Our team regularly reviews signage with both function and community aesthetics in mind.

19. Can the notices stating “Only Service Dogs Allowed” be more strictly enforced in the Recreation Centers? Many people are entering with pets that are clearly not service animals.

John Rohan: We are legally restricted by state and federal regulations to ask only two questions: “Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?” and “What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?” Our staff has been trained carefully for this. When a person answers incorrectly our staff will educate the person on what is permitted.

20. Can the overhead fans at Paddock Square in Brownwood be checked and repaired? They were not working and one was missing blades.

Sam Wartinbee: We have to place an order when items need to be repaired or replaced. The fans have been ordered and should arrive about August 1, 2019. They should be installed 2-3 days later.

21. Whom does a person contact for the requirements to start a mobile business in The Villages?

Dr. Lester: If this question is about government rules, the jurisdiction - county or municipality - needs to be contacted about business licensing.

If this is a question about running a mobile business in The Villages, contact Commercial Property Management 352-753-4022.

- 22. Can liquid lights be added to the entrance & exit gate bars for better visibility for both day and nighttime? On Amelia Island green is used on exit gates and red on entrance gates.**

Sam Wartinbee: The roadways are public roadways and the standards are set by the MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices) which requires gate arms to have red and white reflective paint.

Richard Baier: In response to a follow up question, it was affirmed again that The Villages is not a private community and therefore must adhere to Florida design criteria and laws.

- 23. Could you explain why we were told to remove our garden ornaments from the front of the garden and put them back away from the street at 2473 Buttonwood Run? We have been here since 2010.**

Richard Baier: Homeowners entered into a contract when purchasing a home in The Villages which included buying into the deed restrictions and covenants on that property.

Question: Can the deed restrictions be changed?

Answer: No, the District is not a party to the purchase agreement so they cannot be changed by the District.

- 24. a. Are there still plans to close the tunnel at Saddlebrook & Buena Vista?
b. If so, what will be the location of the alternate route?**

Sam Wartinbee: There are no plans to close this tunnel.

- 25. Can the Villages radio station at the El Santiago pool be switched to an FM station? The excessive static makes the radio a disturbance rather than a desirable addition.**

Sam Wartinbee: This was field checked yesterday and the station is on FM and the static is gone.

- 26. a. When will the multi-modal path connecting San Pedro Courtyard Villas with the Rio Grande Courtyard Villas be repaved? It appears no work has been done.
b. How will the residents be notified when this repaving will begin?**

Sam Wartinbee: This is a concrete pathway and will be worked on in smaller sections so the path will not be closed off at any time. Work should begin August 5, 2019.

- 27. Residents want to know how to find the new walking trails in the Villages south of SR 44. Can maps be placed on www.districtgov.org and also published in the Daily Sun?**

Richard Baier: As they become available, the District can place these on the District's website www.districtgov.org.

Dr. Lester: We can suggest that the Daily Sun publish them as well.

28. Can you provide an update on how the two recently passed pieces of legislation will impact The Villages and in particular ARC requirements (Tree removal and Planting Gardens on Owner Property)

Dr. Lester: We have no new information on the tree removal legislation.

In regards to legislation on gardens, Rep. Hage has stated that the bill does not change anything in the current law related to private, voluntary agreements like those contained in deed restrictions. However, since the legislation has created some confusion by not explicitly addressing deed restrictions, Rep. Hage intends to add clarifying language in the next Legislative Session.

29. A recent rumor is that movies will no longer be allowed to be shown at Recreation Center Meetings due to Copyright and/or Royalty considerations. Will you please address this rumor.

John Rohan: This is not a rumor. There is a temporary hold on movies requiring licensing. Movie licenses purchased two years ago are under question. We are waiting for our legal department to get the correct licensing. We have educated our clubs on the reason for this temporary hold and showings to the public. Residents groups are considered "the public."

30. What determines the reasons for closing Executive Golf Courses?

Richard Baier: The weather conditions, overplay damage and capital projects such as bridge repair/replacement are reasons for closing the courses. This past year 5 of the District's 36 courses were closed to accommodate such needs.

31. Is the District Office planning to move its location further south in The Villages?

Richard Baier: There is no plan to move the office at this time. We created a satellite office at Fire Station 47 on South Morse Blvd within District 12 to assist residents and deliver service for all Districts but I expect the most proximate VCDDs 9-12 will frequent the satellite office. This office also allows the District to become more efficient as there is a reduction in staff travel time to address service needs and manage contractor work efforts.

Important Meetings reported by Richard Baier

July 24, 2019 – Workshop with AAC for the First Responders Recreation Center concept plan - 9:00-11:00 AM at the Savannah Center in the "Ashley Wilkes" room.

August 22, 2019 – Second Workshop discussing solid waste management and recycling in The Villages 9:00-12:00 noon in the Mulberry Grove Recreation Center.

August 24, 2019 – Firefighters Golf Scramble at Evans Prairie Country Club– preregistration through Customer Service 352-753-4508. Proceeds to sponsor a VPSD fire cadet through the Academy.