

VHA Town Hall Meeting

Laurel Manor Recreation Center

October 15, 2019

The VHA thanks the following people for providing answers for VHA members and Villages residents at the VHA Town Hall meeting: Dr. Gary Lester – Vice President Community Relations; Richard Baier – Villages District Manager; Sam Wartinbee – Director of District Property Management; Lt. Robert Siemer – Villages Lieutenant from the Sumter County Sheriff's Department.

(The next VHA Town Hall will be in January. Suggestions for the Developer may be sent at anytime at www.thevillages.com. At the bottom of any page click on "Feedback.")

Villages District officials may be contacted at www.districtgov.org or call Customer Service 352-753-4508.

Additional questions may be sent to the VHA at www.thevha.net)

1. How is the situation of two children living full time in the Village of Santiago being addressed?

Dr. Lester: The Developer takes community standards seriously and while it would be inappropriate to comment on a particular situation, we can confirm that the normal process of addressing violations is being followed.

Richard Baier: Some issues are HIPA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) related. Some additional involvement has slowed down this process for solution.

2. Now that the lease is signed by USPS for the postal station, what is the estimated time for building the La Plaza Grande South buildings, parking lots and roadway?

Dr. Lester: The estimated time is the middle of 2020 which includes securing the permits and building time.

3. Are more fast food restaurants such as McDonald's and Culvers being planned for Lake Deaton Plaza? People are often lined up outside at the new Italian restaurant.

Dr. Lester: Yes. The long lines are making it easier to interest other establishments to consider this area. We are actively working on this.

4. What is the projected timeline for connectivity with multi-modal path bridges and the area south of SR 44?

Dr. Lester: The middle of 2020 is the projected time.

Richard Baier: The bridge over the Florida Turnpike named “Waterlily” requires a separate permitting process. Completion is estimated in mid 2020.

5. a. What is the status of the sale of the Hacienda Hills Country Club?

Richard Baier: This Developer’s offer has been withdrawn due to lack of interest by AAC (Amenity Authority Committee).

b. Is the pool bar at Hacienda Hills CC serving food and drinks?

Dr. Lester: Yes, it is.

6. What is the estimated time for work to Paradise Recreation Center for tear down and replacement?

Richard Baier: The AAC has made the completion of the First Responders Recreation Center a priority. The projected date of completion is near the end of 2021. The planning process on Paradise Recreation Center will begin at the start of 2022 due to considerations for needed programmable swing space during construction and finance considerations.

7. What can be done about the cell phone service in The Villages near Hwy 301 and the Florida Turnpike?

Richard Baier: A recent State law called the “small cell bill” protects the integrity of the aesthetic investments made within communities like The Villages so that small cell appurtenances and other related large antenna equipment cannot be located within the rights of ways. Accordingly, telecommunication carriers must invest in their own infrastructure outside of The Villages.

Dr. Lester: Our State Representative Brett Hage was instrumental in protecting our community’s standards from this new rule.

8. When are changes planned to the Rio Grande Air Gun Range?

Sam Wartinbee: The club representative wanted more issues addressed for safety. The roof eave will be cantilevered and a hedge planted that will grow to 18 feet. Both will help address early morning sunshine making it difficult to see. The timing for permits and work makes the completion date most likely in February 2020.

9. Since many walkers use the roadways as well as the multi-modal paths could an article on pedestrian safety be featured in the Daily Sun on a regular basis as is done with articles on lightning safety?

Dr. Lester: Yes, this topic of pedestrian safety is being discussed with the Daily Sun. The Villages has been rated a Gold Level Bicycle Community making it one of only two communities anywhere in Florida.

Q. Is there a standard for crosswalk placement?

Lt. Siemer: A. We don't control where crosswalks are marked and placed as this is completed by a professional engineer. We encourage pedestrians to stay safely on the curb until traffic is clear and crossing is advisable.

Richard Baier: As to your follow up question, the District does not plan to request Sumter Co. to revise those plans as these plans are laid out by a professional engineer who takes into account current design standards. The District receives requests for pedestrian lights and speed bumps which studies have shown that they are often more distracting and create a false sense of security.

10. What liability insurance is available for rental golf carts? Villages Golf Cart Rental and Villages Insurance Agency state that there is only insurance for stolen golf carts. With many golf cart accidents occurring it is troubling to drive without this coverage.

Dr. Lester: We are not aware of anyone offering such insurance.

**11. a. What is the frequency of updates for the District web site section "Villages Neighborhoods?"
b. Which department has an updated list of new villages/villas? When called neither Customer Service nor the Sales Department had the answer.**

Richard Baier: The District does not follow the Developer's sales schedule. However, updates occur on the www.districtgov.org web site over time/periodically as the District accepts the unit infrastructure and the infrastructure transition to the District.

**12. What can be done about the mold around the tiles at the St. Charles pool?
Complaints were given to maintenance who said calls had been made?**

Sam Wartinbee: That is missing grout and not mold. This issue will be addressed in a couple of weeks. The pool will be closed a few days during repairs.

13. Can a POW-MIA flag be added at the Eisenhower Recreation Center?

Richard Baier: This is not intended as a slight to the POW-MIA or any other military groups. The decision is to fly the two flags: Federal-American Flag; State-Florida Flag and the Eisenhower Recreation Center as well as Veterans Memorial Park are an affirmation to all present and past service men/women.

14. Can lockers be installed in the sports pools changing area to reduce the number of articles residents place around the pool deck?

Richard Baier: For obvious reasons, the District encourages residents to bring the least items necessary when using the pools. For this project to be considered, it would need to be given

appropriate consideration by the respective budgetary intake entities (PWAC and AAC) during the community interactive budget process this winter.

15. *The following questions were sent to: Bradley Arnold – County Administrator at Sumter County Board of County Commissioners*

a. At the intersection, northbound Morse Blvd & Rio Grande Ave the right arrow light stays amber for seconds. If the signal is capable of operation, why doesn't it stay amber for the full cycle?

Bradley Arnold: The northbound right-turn green arrow bulb is dead, hence the reason for the amber full cycle since that is in default condition. Our signal contractor will replace the bulb by the end of next week.

b. Why doesn't the arrow change to red when southbound Morse Blvd has the green left-turn arrow, this essentially allows both the right-of-way?

Bradley Arnold: The southbound left-turn signal has both a protected and a permissive permitted operation. This means that vehicles traveling southbound and making a left-turn are protected only when the left arrow is green. It is permissive when the arrow flashes yellow or has the green ball. Only during the protected operation can the southbound driver assume that they do not have to compete with northbound traffic as the northbound traffic will have a stop condition; however, northbound right-turning vehicles are still permitted to make a right turn on red after they stop and if there is no conflicting traffic from southbound protected left-turning vehicles. If the southbound left-turn signal has the flashing yellow arrow or green circle illuminated versus the green arrow, northbound traffic is permitted to continue through the intersection, either as a through movement or a right-turn. In this scenario, southbound left-turn traffic must yield to the northbound traffic flow.