

Your Story Life Changing

Your Stories

You have something to share about the community association experience. It may be good, bad, funny, or poignant.

It may be something your community has done that's exemplary, interesting, or just plain different. Tell us about it. Send photos, ideas, and information to commonground@caionline.org. Submissions may be edited for content and clarity.

THE ASSOCIATION OF POINCIANA VILLAGES (APV), one of the largest homeowners associations in the U.S. and the largest in Florida, has always prided itself on its diverse cultures and striving to make the community one of the best places to live in the state. The association recently decided it needed to do more to bring its residents together and promote a true sense of community. Established in 1972, APV encompasses 47,000 acres stretching across Polk and Osceola counties in central Florida, has more than 500 miles of roads, and boasts a population of more than 50,000.

About a year ago, APV introduced a lifestyles program that has proven to be a positive addition

than \$70,000 for 2017, which included the formation of an official lifestyles department. Along with administration, public works, and code enforcement, lifestyles becomes one of APV's four major components. These departments work in unison to maintain and improve the community.

Last year, APV also expanded its activities campus by adding a community swimming pool, a beautiful community center, and a remodeled fitness center and indoor basketball court. Additionally, APV's multi-million dollar strategic alliance with Osceola County Parks and Recreation will lead to the completion of the new Poinciana Villages Aquatic Center, which will include a competition pool; sporting, recreation



and has brought the community together as a whole. Through the program, APV has offered amazing celebrations and community events. In just a few short months, the community's event attendance grew from 180 people at a spring Easter egg hunt to more than 2,000 at a pumpkin fest and Halloween party. Other activities have included a reopening event for the new basketball court, a Memorial Day celebration, a July 4th party with the community's first ever fireworks display, a Veterans Day flag raising ceremony, as well as a new summer camp program.

The quick success of the lifestyles program also convinced the APV board to allot a budget of more

and dog parks; and an additional community center.

Managing an association of this magnitude takes a civic-minded board with a common goal of unity and growth for the community and residents. APV consists of nine villages, each with its own board of five. The nine villages select one board member to sit on APV's master board. These nine dedicated board members donate their time, heart, and soul to the community.

APV is managed by FirstService Residential. Mark Maldonado serves as the community's general manager. APV has more than 100 employees, many of whom are residents of the community too.

—Association of Poinciana Villages, Poinciana, Fla.