

The Latrobe Villas AED Program



Read to learn:

What it is

Why we need it

How it will work

Who will be responsible

How much it will cost

What is the proposed program?

We would purchase a number of pagers and two AEDs (Automatic External Defibrillators) which would be placed in waterproof cabinets on the outside of two strategically located homes in our community to provide rapid response to anyone living on our two streets who experiences a sudden cardiac or respiratory arrest.

Why do we need an AED program?

Even though we are not far away from a fire station, we cannot be sure that medics will be in a station when the need arises, and the emergency team may have to come from a greater distance.

Statistics show that nationwide there is a 6% chance of surviving a cardiac arrest that occurs outside a hospital. The Villages has a much higher survival rate (nearly 42%) largely due to the number

of AED units located throughout the community at recreation centers, the 25+ existing Villages AED communities, and the response time of medics.

The AED combined with immediate CPR has saved the lives of numerous people in the Villages. For every one minute delay in starting CPR and using an AED, the chance of survival decreases by 10%. Thus if the medics arrive in seven minutes there is only a 30% chance of survival if a person has not had CPR administered.

CPR BUYS TIME. THE AED BUYS LIFE!

What does the AED unit do?

When sudden cardiac arrest occurs, the heart starts to flutter (fibrillate) but not enough to pump blood. CPR (chest compression) makes the heart pump and keeps oxygen flowing to the body, but will not “start” the heart. The AED is a battery operated device that diagnoses whether a heart needs to be defibrillated (shocked) into resuming a normal rhythm. It gives audible commands and is so simple anyone who understands English can be taught its use in a few minutes.

How would the program work?

There are 65 homes in the proposed AED community area of Latrobe Villas. We would like to have at least 10 persons trained as “responders.” The Villages Public Safety will provide CPR training free of charge. The more “responders” trained the better our community will be able to handle an emergency situation. In this way, one or more responders would likely be at home at any time. Each “responder” household would have a pager. When a cardiac arrest occurs, the first thing is to call 911. The 911 operator, in addition to determining the nature of the emergency and dispatching the medics will see on their screen that the attack occurred in an “AED Community” and would also call the pagers of all the responders. While one or more responders would go immediately to the home, others would pass by the homes where the AED units are located and take them where needed. The units are stored in locked cabinets attached to poles or on house walls where they are readily available to responders, all of whom will have keys.

Who would be responsible?

The Villages Public Safety Department oversees and assists the program. They will order the equipment under their state contract, train the volunteers and provide continuing updates on training and equipment.

The responder volunteers would be responsible to administer CPR and pick up the AED unit on the way to the emergency. The pagers are on a monthly service fee. The batteries in the AED’s are guaranteed to last 4 years before they need to be replaced.

There should be a checking account established, an "AED Fund," in which all contributed funds are deposited and from which all checks will be written. The account can be set up where two signatures are required to write a check.

What are the costs to Cover all the homes in Latrobe?

Through the Villages Public Safety Dept. the AED, water-proof case, and outside cabinet have a total cost of \$1753.00. The pagers cost approximately \$5.00 a month. One AED/case/cabinet = \$1753.00. Assuming 10 pagers at \$5.00 x 10 x 12 months = \$600 for one year. Plus the funds for one battery replacement at \$245.00.

Total cost would be approximately \$5,000

The amount above included a battery replacement at \$250, locks/keys, and paint to paint the storage cabinets. After the initial training, purchase, and installation we may want to collect a smaller fee (\$10) annually to continue with pager rentals. Under ideal conditions where every household is willing to participate, the cost would be approximately \$100. per household. Realistically, it may be more like \$150 per household as every household will probably not subscribe. **But remember, this is a one time contribution. This is NOT \$150 annually.** We think this is a pretty good insurance plan!

SOME QUESTIONS

What if some people don't participate?

Because of liability and basic human concerns, **EVERY HOME** in our "designated" community would be covered in the case of an emergency regardless of whether they contributed or not.

Why should I join then?

The program needs your participation.

Do I have to be a volunteer?

No. Just if you want to.

Is the AED difficult to use?

It is virtually foolproof, and so easy to use anyone who understands English can use it.

Do I have any legal liability?

Florida's Good Samaritan laws protect any lay person who goes to the aid of a person in distress. Since the AED "shocks" only people who are clinically dead (i.e. not breathing) there is no risk of hurting someone.

What about mouth-to-mouth?

Mouth-to-mouth is no longer recommended.

How long is the CPR/AED training?

2 to 2 ½ hours. Capt. Gail Lazenby of the Villages Public Safety Dept. would schedule a training class (or classes) at no charge for those individuals who are part of the community AED program wishing to be responders.

Would we respond to all emergencies?

No, just cardiac/respiratory arrests and just in Latrobe Villas..

What about people on other Winifred streets?

The Public Safety Department feels that neighboring streets should be a separate AED program.

For further information contact:

Tom Schuler 352-751-4440

Email - JUDYSFL@aol.com

If you think this is a good idea and are willing to contribute and/or be a responder, call or email either of the individuals listed above.

In the near future, as we bring more volunteers up to speed, we will have more contacts available.

For general information, you may also contact:

Capt. Gail Lazenby

The Villages Public Safety Department

205-8280

We will schedule an informational meeting at one of our driveway parties. Captain Lazenby will be present to answer any questions you may have. Also, remember, that the Public safety Department will provide CPR/AED training for anyone in our group whether you are a responder, or not; and the training is free.

Notes:

The Villages®
PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT



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