

The Lakesiders AED Program

**Mystic Way – Lake Ridge Drive (a portion) –
Landings Lane – Horizon Run – Baypoint Way – Brookside Place**



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 have subscribed to ReadyAlert and have purchased four AEDs (Automatic External Defibrillators) which are placed in waterproof cabinets on residents' properties to provide rapid response to anyone who experiences a sudden cardiac/respiratory arrest in the "Lakesider" area.

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 6-7% chance of surviving a cardiac arrest that occurs outside a hospital. The Villages has a much higher survival rate (over 40%) largely due to the

number of AED units located throughout the community at recreation centers, the 130+ 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 91 homes in the proposed AED community area of the “Lakesiders” We have 24 persons trained as “responders.” We have 10 persons who are on the alternate responder list. 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 be at home at any time. Each responder household would have ReadyAlert service. When a cardiac arrest occurs, someone calls 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 send a message via ReadyAlert. While one or more responders would go immediately to the home, others would pass by an AED unit and take it where needed. The units are stored in locked cabinets located on the property of the “Lakesider” area homes so 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 ReadyAlert program has an annual service fee. The batteries in the AEDs are guaranteed to last 4 years before they need to be replaced. The AED is warranted for eight years.

A bank account has been established. "Lakesiders AED Program," in which all contributed funds are deposited and from which all invoices will be paid. The account has been set up where two signatures are required to write a check.

What are the costs?

Through the Villages Public Safety dept. the AED & water-proof case is \$1,260.00 per unit, the outside cabinet was a one-time cost. The Ready Alert Program costs \$810.00 annually. Plus the funds for four replacement batteries every 4 years is \$100/ea. = \$400.00 In addition, the pads are replaced every 2 years, costing \$32.50 per device.

When the program was launched initially, a small amount of money had been added to the total cost in order to install the outside cabinets and purchase marine-quality locks for the cabinets to secure the safety of our AEDs. The cost is \$120.00 per household for the five-year program. **But remember, this is a one-time contribution. This is NOT \$120 annually.** We think this is a pretty good insurance plan! Your check can be made payable to "Lakesiders AED Program" in the amount of \$120.00.

SOME QUESTIONS

What if some people don't participate?

Because of liability concerns, **EVERY HOME** in our “designated” community – the “Lakesiders” area – 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 responder/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. Florida also has two laws that indemnify individuals who use AED's.

What about mouth-to-mouth?

Mouth-to-mouth is no longer recommended when doing CPR.

How long is the CPR/AED training?

2 to 2 ½ hours. The Villages Public Safety Dept. schedules 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 the “Lakesiders” area.

For further information contact:

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For general information, you may also contact:

The Villages Public Safety Department

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Notes:

The Villages®

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