

Mark Morse impresses with 'State of The Villages' VHAers treated to reports from Jennifer Parr and Tracy Matthews

Mark Morse delivered a no-nonsense, fact-packed "State of The Villages" presentation May 13 to Village Homeowners Association members. VHAers crowded into Savannah Center for some straight talk on current issues related to The Villages, and got a rare glimpse of the developer, who appears only once a year publicly when he speaks at the VHA General Membership Meeting.



Mark Morse speaks to the VHA at Savannah Center on May 13.

The No. 1 issue in The Villages, just like the nation, is the economy. Mr. Morse reported that home sales continue to be strong here, and commercial development is even stronger compared to almost any other part of the country. Home sales will be 2,000-3,000 this year, and last year 40 new commercial enterprises opened – 11 restaurants, 16 commercial and retail businesses, and 13 professional offices. He added that many have come to The Villages because of the demands and requests of Villagers themselves – calling, writing, e-mailing and creating the demand. He further added that we could help even more by asking the providers we use outside of The Villages to "come to us" and be more convenient (golf-cart accessible). Data from the Sumter County Tax Appraiser revealed that the tax base in Sumter County (in this nationwide down economy) is up about \$400 million solely due to the

growth of The Villages, which added about \$450 million to the tax base (the rest of the county was minus about \$50 million).

In this down economy, Mr. Morse recognized that Villagers are concerned about struggling enterprises, especially restaurants. He pointed out that there are 80 restaurants and 11 ice cream or coffee shops currently operating and only four empty storefronts. He announced he just contracted to fill one those empty ones (formerly Main Street Bistro) with Ay! Jalisco Mexican Restaurant. This 95 percent restaurant-success ratio is unmatched in a community of this size. Mr. Morse told VHAers how he selects and supports restaurant operators and added that we can help even more to make them successful by giving direct and immediate feedback to their management staff as appropriate.

Mr. Morse remarked that the developer's vision of "Creating a hometown ... where people's dreams can come true" is closely in line with the VHA's vision ("To maintain The Villages as the premiere 55-plus community in the world ...") and that the VHA has been the community partner that has established a record of many meaningful improvements. He recognized all of the VHA past presidents in attendance and singled out several whom he personally worked with in making possible significant accomplishments. VHA past presidents Sandy Mott, Sy Rosenblatt and Frank Topping partnered with the developer to build the golf-cart bridge over Highway 441/27, establish a need for and build The Villages Regional Hospital, and forge alliances among the complex governmental entities to achieve efficiencies in delivering community services. Mr. Morse also recognized VHA past presidents Doug Tharp, Chico Mir, Herb Gibson, Don Burgess and Roger Kass and current president Don Hahnfeldt for their continued service to the community by serving on various commissions and boards.

On the issue of having a charter school and family housing located in an adult community, Mr. Morse spoke passionately about the ingredients required for creating The Villages as a world-class community. In order to have world-class professionals to provide the services, business and medical care, we must have the best schools and accommodations for their families. That's why The Villages Charter School system and Bison Valley are conveniently located for these professionals, who contribute to The Villages lifestyle. He gave details on plans for the expansion plans for medical services and facilities within The

Villages and the part the residents have in the success of their hospital, as well as the school. The Villages Regional Hospital has more than 500 auxiliary volunteers, and each day outnumber the paid staff of TVRH. Volunteers also contributed more than 6,100 hours of service last year to The Villages Charter School.

Mark Morse gave the VHA a few milestone data points from the recently completed Residents' Survey that included a new high in residents' overall satisfaction (residents who would recommend The Villages to their family and friends): 97 percent! He also reported that 70 percent of those surveyed did indeed come to The Villages on the recommendation of family or friends.

At last year's presentation, Mr. Morse said he would bring his sisters back this year. So, he proudly introduced Jennifer Parr, responsible for The Villages' sales and marketing, and Tracy Matthews, responsible for The Villages' planning and design. Each of them treated the VHA audience with updates on their families and current projects.

Jennifer Parr, who has six children, gave a brief progress report on each of the kids' activities and career plans. She then gave a multimedia presentation demonstrating The Villages' new V-mail project, which is available through thevillages.com and sign-up by e-mail. V-mail has numerous links and timely subject reports. It has 90-second video segments of Villagers involved in current activities throughout The Villages, and interactive, "page-turning" videos of the current and archived editions of The Villages Magazine. A new V-mail comes out each month.

Tracy Matthews beamed that she'll soon be a grandmother for the second time to the applause of the (mostly-grand-already) audience. She gave updates on the Brownwood Center plan to be an old Florida Cracker settlement, complete with cowboys, Indians and cattle. The Brownwood name comes from the old family homestead in Michigan, and the Brownwood Center will have some of the old homestead iconic fixtures like the original honey hut. Mrs. Matthews also told the VHAers about the coming regional recreation centers. The next center is Seabreeze, with all seashore décor. The exciting announcement she made was the naming and theme of the follow-on center to be the Dwight D. Eisenhower Regional Recreation Center, as a tribute to all the military services. While it's still in the concept phase, this new center will undoubtedly be

Morse continued on page 9

VHA Officers and Directors

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 Tom Tolan.....750-5368
 Bob Fountain.....750-0677
 Faye Fountain.....750-0677
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Health Insurance Assistance
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Helping Hands
 Bill Dyer, Chairman.....751-1192
 Belle Aire, Steve Pryor751-1287
 Briar Meadow North, Jim Stone753-7163
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 East Side, John Kelly.....391-5736
 Glenbrook, Al Ely259-3944
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 San Antonio, Hugh & Donna Gracey750-9192
 Santiago, Ken Mathieu259-2704
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 Charles Miner.....750-2426

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Seniors vs. Crime Liaison
 Joyce Fisher750-2491

Military Affairs
 Sterling Wood259-5507

Law Enforcement
 Sterling Wood259-5507

A message from the President of the VHA

Partnering for Success

We can all probably agree that The Villages is unique in many ways, from its grand concept to the quaintness of the sixty plus villages and squares. Of course we all enjoy the quality of homes and facilities and the well-manicured and maintained common areas. We like the many amenities and thousand plus organized clubs and activities from which to choose for our leisure time. The almost-too-many-to-count government type entities that manage and maintain our infrastructure, safety and security, utilities and amenities seem to be working in some sort of harmony. But what is it that enables The Villages to lay claim to being *Florida's Friendliest Hometown*?

The Developer's vision is to create The Villages... a place where people's dreams come true. The VHA's vision is more from a resident's point of view... to maintain The Villages as the premier 55-plus community in the world, featuring the finest amenities, homes, retail and commercial businesses, and medical and professional services; as well as the best educational, cultural, recreational and entertainment opportunities. If there's a secret ingredient to making this (these) vision(s) a reality, it's you... the residents. If there's a secret strategy to making it all work together and creating The Villages' lifestyle we've come here to experience, it's making each of the contributing "partners" successful in their respective roles that contrib-

ute to The Villages community.

The VHA counts among its partners all those that contribute to the various lifestyle areas included in the VHA vision. Therefore, the VHA makes a concerted effort on your behalf to join each of our "partners" to help them to be as successful as possible in their primary function within or for The Villages. The VHA will measure its success by how successful its "partners" are in providing services and satisfaction to you as VHA members and The Villages' residents. A circle of partners is graphically displayed below this column for your review.

The VHA has established a cooperation and working relationship with its partners within The Villages community and is proud of its successes in representing you on issues and matters important to you. The VHA will be periodically recognizing partners that you have made successful in their contribution to The Villages' lifestyle. The first VHA featured partner is The Villages Lifelong Learning College, further acknowledged in this issue of The Voice on page 9.

If you wish to help you in support of the VHA mission and vision, I invite you to join the VHA or renew your membership.



June Meetings

Newcomer Orientation

Tuesday, June 9, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
 Canal Street Recreation Center, Canal Street

VHA Golf Cart Safety Clinic

Wednesday, June 10, 10:00 a.m.
 Savannah Center

VHA Regions 5, 6, 7 and 8 Combined Regional Meeting

"Hurricane Season is Coming! Are you Ready?"
 Monday, June 15, 7:00 p.m.
 Lake Miona Recreation Center

AAC Meeting

Wednesday, June 10, 1:30 p.m.
 Savannah Center

CDD Districts 1 through 4

June 12
 Sumter Landing District Office
 1894 Laurel Manor Drive
 District 1 - 8 a.m., District 2 - 9:30 a.m., District 3 - 11: a.m.,
 District 4 - 1:30 p.m.

VCCDD AND SLCCD

June 18
 Sumter Landing District Office
 1894 Laurel Manor Drive
 VCCDD - 8:00 a.m., SLCCD - 9:30 a.m.

CDD Districts 5 though 10

June 19
 Sumter Landing District Office
 1894 Laurel Manor Drive
 District 5 - 8:00 a.m., District 6 - 9:30 a.m.,
 District 7 - 11:00 a.m.,
 District 8 - 1:00 p.m., District 9 - 1:30 p.m.,
 District 10 - 2:00 p.m.



OUR PARTNERS



AAC passes on single resident guest ID passes

When reviewing the guest ID policy, the AAC decided not to consider special allowances for single resident households in relaxing restrictions for in-area guest access to facilities. On a three-to-two show of hands (against) the AAC decided not to pursue the matter. Many of the 5,980 single resident homeowners are rumored to be petitioning for a reopening of the matter.

Medical support groups given open door from AAC

There are 31 medical support groups meeting regularly in The Villages area. Some petitioned the AAC to meet in recreation centers with non-Villagers in the area who would benefit from the support group activity. The AAC approved up to 10 nonresident attendees per group meeting on a trial basis through the remainder of 2009. Details of the policy may be reviewed on the District Government Web site, districtgov.org.

The Villages' Penny Pincher

Interested in saving 25 percent or more on your energy bill? Try some of these penny savers for big dollar results.

Start saving today with better home energy practices

When you leave a room, turn off the light. Avoid using more light than you need. When you have to replace light bulbs, shift to energy-efficient light bulbs like compact fluorescent lights (CFLs). When compared to a 60-watt incandescent bulb, over its lifetime a CFL will last 10 times longer and save up to \$30 on electric bills.

Eliminate phantom electrical loads. A surprising 75 percent of the energy used by home electronics is consumed when they're turned off. These "phantom" users include: televisions, VCRs, stereos, computers and many kitchen appliances – basically anything that holds a time or other settings. A simple solution? Plug all of these items into power strips, and then get in the habit of turning off the strips between uses.

Moderate the temperature inside by turning the air conditioner or furnace up a few degrees above or below your normal setting. You may need to shed your socks and put on shorts or a tank top, but you will see a significantly smaller electric bill. In the winter, put on a sweater or thicker socks before turning down the heat. You can save 2-3 percent per each degree that you adjust your thermostat.

Use less hot water. Wash clothes with warm or cold water. Only run the dishwasher with a full load, and turn off the "heated dry" cycle; most dishes will dry naturally from the heat remaining inside the dishwasher. Use slightly cooler water in the shower, and shower quickly.

Keep the fridge and freezer full, since food acts as insulation, and lessens the amount of time that the fridge has to run to stay cool.

Use your ceiling fans to keep the air circulating in your home, and your air conditioner won't have to work as hard. Cut down on your air conditioning use by closing curtains

Kids Bowl Free – no way, yes way – all summer

Check it out online at kidsbowlfree.com.

Indoor pool goes for big splash

Watch for The Whole Life Aquatic Centre opening announcements. It will be complete with a full range of indoor pool activities. The Villages Aquatic Swim Team has been lending the startup operation its expertise in organization and planning, but they'll still need swimmers to commit with their kickboards and checkbooks to make sure the venture is successful.

Sumter Landing Community Development District passing?

At the SLCCD June 11 board meeting, the guest ID policy as proposed by the AAC will be reopened for discussion and voted upon. The SLCCD's options are to accept in whole, accept in part, modify, or deny the policy changes.

New regional recreation center salute

Tracy Matthews gave VHA members a glimpse of plans following Seabreeze Regional Recreation Center, and it was a five-star hit, and so was the upcoming Dwight Eisenhower Recreation Center. The regional recreation center will feature all the military services and promises to be very popular with the large retired military community in The Villages.

and blinds on the sunny side of your home.

Other cost-saving practices include:

- Don't put uncovered foods/drinks in the refrigerator.
- Allow foods to cool before putting them in the refrigerator.
- Cook with the lids on.
- Don't preheat the oven unless you have to.
- Use your microwave instead of the oven.
- Change your HVAC filters regularly.
- Lower the temperature on your hot-water heater.
- Wash laundry in cold water, with only full loads.
- Clean your dryer lint trap.
- Clean your refrigerator's coils.
- Use handy energy-saving devices: dimmer switches, attic fan, dryer balls, low-flow showerheads, programmable thermostat, tankless hot-water heater, motion sensors, LED nightlights, and outdoor solar lights.

Sumter Landing two-steps ACC's guest-pass policy changes

The key policy changes that the Amenities Authority Committee (AAC) recommended for the in-area and out-of-area guest ID policy was to cap the use of amenities by each class of guest to 30 days in a rolling 12-month period, and institute stiff penalties for violators of the policy. Additional details are available on the districtgov.org Web site for review.

The AAC members were elected by and represent Districts 1-4, and Lake District – all north of County Road 466. In order for any AAC-recommended policy to become effective, the Sumter Landing Community Development District (representing districts south of CR 466) must also approve it to become effective throughout The Villages. In its May 14 meeting, the SLCCD voted to accept the recommended penalties for guest-pass violators, and tabled the 30-day limits until its June 11 meeting, in order for board members to study the issue further. The SLCCD needed additional time to consider the matter, obviously conscious of their responsibility in representing all residents south of CR466 in this matter.

Note: While a 30-day limit may seem like an arbitrary number and too restrictive to some residents, please recall that each of our covenants and restrictions limit temporary residents (guests) under 19 years of age to a total of 30 days in a calendar year.

Numerous residents spoke passionately for and against the capping issue and abuse issues related to the guest ID policy at both the SLCCD and the earlier Village Center Community Development District meeting. The VHA president pointed out some of the impacts of the proposed policy changes, and expressed strong support of penalties for violators. He stated that no one has spoken against instituting strong penalties, and said that he would encourage The Villages' residents to support Community Watch and the Recreation Department in monitoring and stopping the violators.

The next SLCCD Board meeting is 9:30 a.m. June 11 at the Sumter Landing District Office, 1894 Laurel Manor Drive.

The VHA— Your Voice in The Villages—Join or renew today!

VHA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name (s): _____

Address: _____ Village/Villa: _____

Zip: _____ PHONE: _____ E-mail: _____

NEW MEMBER: \$12.00 per household, 2 Years

RENEWAL: \$12.00 per household, 2 Years

\$60.00 per household, Lifetime

\$60.00 per household, Lifetime

Make checks payable to: The Villages Homeowners Association

Deposit your check and this form, addressed to VHA Membership, in a VHA drop box at any of The Villages postal pick-up stations or send your check by mail to: The Villages Homeowners Association, 1104 Main Street, The Villages, FL 32159

News from VHA Regions

Lake County Region

Joy Anderson, Director, 408-5387

No report at press time.

Sumter North Region

John Land, Director, 751-2535

Fred Dowling, Vice Chairperson (Region 1), 350-6123

Don Simson, Vice Chairperson (Region 2), 259-2338

Geoff Langdon, Vice Chairperson (Old Region 3), 259-1037

Secretary, Jane Bakalis, 259-7369

In the "Land of the Little Wheels," it appears that the summer temperatures have arrived early this year, with near record highs on Mother's Day.

For the newly formed Sumter North region, we have had our first general meeting, and already plans are in place for our next meeting, which will be at 7 p.m. Sept. 10 in the Charlie Chaplin Room of Paradise Recreation Center. Note: Small black moustaches may be worn. The change of location is a temporary one due to the renovation work at La Hacienda Center. We will most likely be in the Paradise Center for our November meeting as well.

Sumter North now has over 60 neighborhood representatives, but there still are areas without any coverage. For example, in District 2 we need reps for Alhambra West and Santo Domingo Villas, and in District 3 for Amelia Villas. If any of our members would like to help in these areas, please contact either myself at 751-2535 or Janie Bakalis, our secretary, at 259-7369.

All seasons are great in The Villages and our beautiful flowerbeds are a definite tribute to spring. It is a pleasure to see how effectively our districts and CDDs manage this part of their operations. Our thanks go to all of them.

I would ask all of you to welcome all newcomers to your area and remind them that at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month, we have a Newcomer Orientation meeting at Canal Street Recreation Center. Please encourage them to attend.

Did you know that we may have around 30,000 golf carts here in The Villages? That's 120,000 little wheels and that number is growing. We are truly living in "The Land of the Little Wheels" – and what fun it is!

Region 4

Art Rowe, Director, 205-7661

Barbara Fielitz, Vice Chairperson, 751-2626

Herb Gantz, Secretary, 751-3976

We have a unique form of government here in The Villages called the Villages Community Development District (VCDD). It is based on Florida law and there are over 600 similar districts in Florida. As a resident, it is important to understand how our system of local government operates. There is a VCDD School at 10 a.m. every Thursday at the Sumter Landing District Offices (by the water tower adjacent to Laurel Manor Recreation Center). In fact, if you haven't attended in some time, it is a good idea to return for a refresher.

Our speaker at the Region 4 quarterly meeting was

Jim Murphy, chairman of the VCDD District 4 Board of Supervisors. He gave a very informative presentation about the board's activities and issues facing their consideration. The public is welcome at the board's monthly meetings.

The Progress Energy transformer located within the Dallas substation just off of Belle Meade Circle adjacent to the recreation trail is still making unacceptable noise. Progress Energy plans to remove the transformer for analysis and repair. A replacement transformer will be installed for the interim until the repairs are complete. A timetable for this activity has not been released as of this writing.

SECO is finishing up the feeder line project in the Springdale area. SECO is completing the connections in the newly constructed manholes.

Remember, the postal stations are not drop-off sites for anything other than aluminum cans in the specially marked Lions Club containers. Old telephone books and other recycling material shall not be left at the postal stations.

Our VHA mission is to preserve and enhance the values of our lifestyles and homes. We as your VHA representatives are ever mindful of that intention and are anxious to help.

Regions 5 & 8

Chuck Wildzunas, Director, 753-3703

Barbara Urbanski, Sec., 753-2663

It's a beautiful day in The Villages. ...

As we experience this warm weather, we also find that our roads are less crowded, the lines at the restaurants are much shorter, and you can find seats in the evening on the squares. All of this is because so many of our friends and neighbors have headed back up North, or to whatever place it is that they choose to escape Florida's summer heat.

Please remember that our community, as a whole, is only as safe as any portion of it may be. What I am getting at here is a reminder for all of us to be alert to activity in our neighborhoods, especially the homes of our seasonal neighbors. Try to ensure that someone has a way to contact those who are away for any period of time and notify them immediately if any unusual activity is noted. If you can't contact them on the first call, don't wait – call the Sheriff's Department and let them check it out. It would be much better for the deputy who responds to determine that the owner was giving (or selling) that TV to a relative of theirs who lives in the area, than to find out later that the home had been burglarized.

Be particularly aware of unfamiliar cars driving continually through the area, persons walking between or behind the houses or anything else that does not look quite right. If everyone in your neighborhood watches out for everyone else, you can find comfort in the fact that someone will certainly be watching your home for you.

We are always looking for residents who have a desire to become a VHA neighborhood representative. Elsewhere in this issue is a listing of those who are there to assist you. They assist by educating themselves and staying informed so as to help verify or dispel rumors, provide help when you need assistance resolving neighborhood issues, and acquainting you with services and benefits available

through the VHA. If you do not see your neighborhood listed, or if it indicates "Needs Representative" and if you think you would like to become one of our neighborhood representatives, give me a call at 753-3703 or e-mail our secretary, Barbara Urbanski, at urban@comcast.net.

Regions 6 & 7

Russ D'Emidio, Chairperson, 750-4486

Laurie Cooper, Vice Chairperson Region 6, 750-9566

Charles Wright, Vice Chairperson Region 7, 205-8072

Ron McMahon, Secretary, 205-4647

Hurricane season is coming! Are you ready? Come join us at our next regional VHA meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, June 15, at Lake Miona Recreation Center. We have the pleasure of having Capt. Gail Lazenby from the Villages Public Safety Department as our guest speaker. Summers in Florida bring severe weather – hurricanes, thunderstorms and lightning. Each resident needs to take preparation seriously. This is a must meeting to attend. It will be a joint meeting for Regions 5, 6, 7 and 8. With so many new residents moving into The Villages, and recognizing the importance of the subjects of our presentations, your Regional Board would like to once again extend a special invite to all residents in our regions to join us even if they aren't VHA members. Try us out – experience the VHA firsthand – and maybe you'll even want to join. Watch for a flier on your region postal bulletin boards.

We had a lot of behind-the-scenes activity in Regions 6 and 7 in May. With a special invite from our VHA President Don Hahnfeldt, your reps met with the VHA Executive Board and other regional reps to discuss the revised VHA mission and vision and begin formulating plans and involvement. We will continue discussions as we focus on the major items and opportunities in our neighborhoods that we want to accomplish this year and going forward.

The revitalized VHA Web site is coming soon. Chris Coene, VHA rep for Rosedale Villas, as well as Region Board members Laurie Cooper, Ron McMahon and Russ D'Emidio, attended an education training session on the new Web site to prepare us for creating content and updates for our region.

Some VHA reps attended District budget workshops, asked questions and provided feedback. The various District boards of supervisors will approve these proposed budgets to set the maximum maintenance assessment for fiscal year 2009/2010 in June meetings. On June 5, District 6 will meet at 9:30 a.m. and District 7 will meet at 11 a.m. at the Sumter Landing District Office. The final budgets will be adopted in September.

Remember, mark Monday, June 15, on your calendar and come to our regional meeting.

We as your VHA representatives continue to be committed to preserve and enhance the value of your lifestyle and homes – we are your advocate. Remember, you can find your VHA rep's contact information on your local postal facility bulletin board along with events in your neighborhoods. There are still neighborhoods in need of reps – check the VHA Rep Contact page in this issue. If you are interested in joining this hardworking group and helping your community, contact Russ D'Emidio, Chairperson Region 6/7.

Members questions to the VHA President

Q: How are the VHA directors and president selected?

Directors are elected at the VHA annual meeting in March from a slate of candidates presented by a nominating committee and candidates nominated by the general membership. Directors are limited to two two-year terms. The VHA president (like the vice president, secretary and treasurer) is a VHA director who is nominated and elected by VHA administrative board members following the VHA March membership meeting. The president is limited to two one-year terms.

Q: Why was the VHA created when there already was a resident association in existence?

The VHA was founded in 1991 by the residents because there was no other organization fulfilling the need for effective resident representation within The Villages community. The VHA founders believed that the mission of home-value preservation and lifestyle enhancement could be best achieved through cooperation and negotiation, rather than lawsuit and verbal assaults.

Q: What is the VHA's relationship with the developer?

The developer is among the VHA's circle of partners and plays one of the most critical roles in making the VHA vision a reality. The VHA has very infrequent need for direct business interaction with the developer, but enjoys access, as is frequently required, to various developer-related entities within The Villages community. This is

the same access that the VHA has with all of its partners because of the VHA's method of conducting business in a personal and professional manner.

Q: Why doesn't the VHA defend itself against ridicule and false charges?

The general policy of the VHA is the same as most other large organizations who are occasionally victims of the tactic of ridicule, and that is to remain respectful of other individuals and organizations within our community. Our membership and the residents deserve better than to have their (VHA) voice reduced to soap-opera entertainment. It would belittle the VHA organization and make it less effective in working toward its mission. Besides, the residents of The Villages are both well educated and politically savvy, and therefore recognize and quickly tire of boorish behavior.

Q: The VHA wasn't involved in the lawsuit against the developer resulting in the creation of the Amenities Authority Committee and \$40M settlement. Why not?

A lawsuit is the admission that you have failed to achieve your objective by more reasonable practices. This lawsuit was costly and divisive, and no reason to be celebrating. The money involved in the settlement included \$6.7 million to the plaintiffs' attorneys, as well as \$50,000 to each of the five plaintiffs bringing suit against the developer. I strongly believe that any application of the settlement funds could have been achieved – includ-

ing Paradise Center renovations, reserve funds, golf-cart path improvement, and more – without a lawsuit. The AAC has introduced a bureaucratic level of management in the policy-making and administration of the use of our amenities. While the AAC involvement so far has used tremendous man hours of AAC members, residents and staff due to time demands of meetings, workshops and research, its effectiveness will eventually be determined by its results as evaluated by residents.

Don Hahnfeldt, VHA President

Did you know?

Bowling is free all summer for kids in The Villages. Check it out online at kidsbowlfree.com.

April 2009

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ray Glessner, Treasurer

VHA - General Operations

Starting Balance		\$36,332.95
Income:		
Dues Received	\$3,222.00	
Other Income	\$28.80	
Total Income		\$3,250.80
Expenses:		
Hospitality	\$31.55	
Banking and Legal	\$361.25	
Office Expense	\$891.05	
Printing	\$2,112.40	
Public Relations	\$113.00	
Services	\$225.00	
Web Site	\$246.91	
Total Expenses		\$3,981.16
Ending Balance		\$35,602.59

VHA - Charitable Foundation

Starting Balance	\$6,526.63	
Income:		
Refund	\$1,000.00	
Total Income		\$1,000.00
Expenses:		
Relay For Life Donation	\$1,000.00	
Banking and Legal	\$61.25	
Total Expenses		\$1,061.25
Ending Balance		\$6,465.38

Sumter County Vote Notes

While it is not a major election year when everything is very busy, now is the time for taking care of business. If you have moved, changed your name, need to update your signature or just get registered, please take the time now to do these things so you are ready for the upcoming elections next year.

If you would like for me to come speak at your clubs or any community events, I would be glad to do this for you. With new residents moving in daily, I'm sure we can assist by doing some voter education. And remember, we are always looking for additional poll workers for next year.

As I write today, the legislative regular session will be ending. They will extend it one more week, but for budget purposes only. They had one big election reform bill (SB956) this session that they were working on, but it appears the bill will be killed. It was 87 pages long, addressing 27 different topics. There were a few good changes in it and the rest of the bill was bad. I am sure it will come up again next session, hopefully with a lot of good changes.

In reading over this bill and all of the issues being addressed, I saw no mention of Voter Centers, which I have written to you about in prior articles. Since the 2000 election, Florida has led the country in stringent election reform every year. I am disappointed in a way that while other states are not only holding pilot elections with Voter Centers, some states are adopting laws to go to Voter Centers, Florida has definitely dropped the ball on this one. Other states have recognized the fact that Voter Centers

save millions of dollars while giving the voters good elections. And as the census will be done in 2010 and all of the districts (congressional, state, house and senate, county commission and school board) will have to redraw their district lines, this would be a perfect time to transition into Voter Centers for the 2012 elections. Because all of these lines change, it causes my office to have to redraw most, if not all, of our precincts' lines. Why would we want 46 precincts or more when we could have maybe 5-10? I will continue to press on concerning the Voter Centers.

And as of May 1, we had to have our budgets completed for 2009-2010. It was very nice that the county commissioners and the constitutional officers met together this year and had a discussion on what we all needed to do to provide services while cutting back in these tough economic times. I remember my grandmother saying something about how far she could stretch a dollar. I want you to know we have worked extremely hard to stretch your tax dollars as far as we could and yet be there to provide you the service you deserve.

Quote for the month: "I don't measure America by its achievement, but by its potential." Shirley Chisholm

*Karen S. Krauss,
Supervisor of Elections
Sumter County*

VHA Town Hall Meeting with The Villages and District Government

Topics derived from residents' questions to their VHA representatives are discussed with The Villages and District Government officials quarterly in a town hall meeting format. This is a summary of this quarter's meeting.

Community Watch

Q: Now that Community Watch has been reorganized, what changes can we expect?

Community Watch is now under the leadership of Chief Mike Tucker and the Villages Public Safety Department. CW is reviewing its services and procedures and taking advantage of new technologies available. Disney World security consultants are lending support in the review. While there are no major changes taking place, we'll see drivers more active and out of their vehicles more, assisting residents and other public servants. CW is considered the backup to all other community responders.

Q: Can Community Watch issue "tickets" for violations such as watering inappropriately?

CW has no enforcement authority. CW does have a hot list of violations and does give notices of violations to these offenders.

Deed Restrictions and Covenants

Q: Deed restrictions have been turned over to the CDDs in Districts 1-4. What about Lady Lake deed restriction and compliance?

Turnover has not taken place yet and is subject to pending legislation that will set when and how this turnover from the developer happens. The desire is also to get Lady Lake included in this turnover to District Government.

Q: Deed restrictions seem to be arbitrarily enforced south of County Road 466. Is this by design or due to undermanning?

Community Watch participates in the compliance by passing notice of visible violations to deed compliance officials. However, the greatest input is from residents themselves. Response is largely based upon the severity of the violation.

Maintenance of Grounds and Facilities

Q: Who determines when or which flowerbeds will be reduced or eliminated in a budget crunch?

CDD Boards are responsible in their respective districts. Plants and flowers may vary slightly district to district, but the current rotation is four times annually.

Q: What is the purpose of the various solar panel installations at entrances of villages?

The solar panels are for new lighting along the village walls and signage illumination.

Q: What is Lady Lake or The Villages putting in at the Del Mar gate?

Lady Lake is conducting an engineering review of the intersection to see if it warrants a four-way stop. The intersection is not under ownership of District Government but the District is also studying the intersection for possible ramifications and to give input on any action that may be taken by Lady Lake.

Q: There seems to be an unusual amount of water wasted by misadjusted sprinklers that water the roadways

instead of the landscaping along the roadways.

Sprinkler heads require constant adjustment due to normal wear and tear, as well as, damage from golf carts, autos and lawn equipment.

Q: Why are so many reservoirs empty or nearly empty – from irrigation and drought?

We're in a four-year drought, which is the primary reason that the reservoirs are so low. While irrigation does come from reservoirs under normal conditions, during the drought, most of the golf course irrigation is from reclaimed water and the aquifer.

Q: Belvedere and Churchill plants appear to have been dead since the freeze. What's the plan for their replacement and who pays for the replacement of lost plants?

All numbered districts just received bids on replacing these damaged plants. Approval for all contracts is in progress. Replacements are already in progress. The recent rain has helped tremendously. Some districts are being aggressive in the use of drought-hardy, Florida-friendly plants.

Q: Are we keeping up with AED installation at pools and recreation centers? There seem to be numbers missing in Regions 6 and 7.

AEDs are installed in the regional recreation centers, village recreation centers and sports pools, but not the unmanned neighborhood facilities. There are two AEDs ready for the next opening recreation centers. AEDs were involved in saving six sudden cardiac failures in the last year!

Q: What's the status of Buena Vista and El Camino resurfacing? This is the responsibility of Sumter County, and the information is available on the county Web site sumtercountyfl.gov under the "What's Happening" link.

Development Planning

Q: What commercial development is planned south of County Road 466A and when might that be starting?

Development south of CR 466A will be very similar in content as what is currently north of 466A. Brownwood will have its own theme, but with similar activities and outparcels as Spanish Springs and Lake Sumter Landing. County Road 466A and west toward Wildwood will include a shopping and commercial area like Colony Plaza, with its timing driven by the market and housing growth.

Q: What is the intended purpose of family housing in Bison Valley, which has full golf-cart access to The Villages?

Bison Valley was designed for working families that support the great demand for staffing the medical, professional, commercial and retail businesses within The Villages community, which in turn support The Villages' lifestyle.

Q: What is the schedule of turnover of developer-owned facilities to the residents south of CR 466?

The turnover of facilities south of CR 466 is delayed and undetermined as the financial and bonds markets remain very volatile and uncertain.

Q: What are the current plans for commercial properties to upgrade the Mulberry Grove region along County Road 42?

The completion of the 99,000-square-foot VA clinic

should help the current efforts to bring in more commercial activity. Most large retailers who are generally anchors in these commercial zones are delaying or even pulling back in this economy. The Villages' Commercial Properties division is actively pursuing all of the retailers requested by Villagers.

Q: What are the plans for filling the vacancies in the old Circuit City and Linens 'n' Things? Some suggestions include Costco, Crate and Barrel, Williams-Sonoma, Lord and Taylor, Steinmart, Michaels, A.C. Moore and HomeGoods.

The Target commercial zone that includes these two vacancies is not owned by The Villages, but all of these recommended retailers are among those being pursued by The Villages.

Policy and Performance Venues

Q: Are there any plans to upgrade the Scarlett O'Hara Theater at Savannah Center?

Alternate seating (chair types) is being investigated. District Government will look into the feasibility of improved sound.

Q: Numbers of residents have commented that The Mix is a good feature added to the Daily Sun, but are concerned that it results in some divisiveness between north and south. Comment?

The Mix is a product of the Daily Sun in The Villages Media Group. It is intended to bring an added feature, providing items of interest and exposure closer to the neighborhoods, complete with more pictures and articles.

Postal Stations

Q: Who owns the neighborhood postal stations and is responsible for establishing and enforcing limits on postings such as decals on boxes?

The ownership of the postal stations is either the district or the developer, depending upon the status of turnover within a district. The postal boxes are owned by the postal service (USPS), so the post officer controls the maintenance and restrictions of the boxes. The responsibility for the overall "look" is currently under discussion as it has become a local issue in several districts. The district manager is addressing the matter in her column "Our Place" in the Recreation News.

Q: Is there still a plan to install an ATM at the Hemingway postal station?

Yes, there has been, however, a three- to four-month delay due to an upgrade/change in the protocol being installed in ATMs.

Auto and Golf Cart Traffic

Q: Is there some expectation that the "pathway" along the newly constructed section of CR 466 will eventually bring nonresident golf cart traffic into The Villages from the rapidly growing apartment complexes?

The biking/hiking pathway was a county road project extending from Rolling Acres Road toward The Villages. In order to access The Villages, this pathway would have to cross Cherry Lake Road, another quarter mile of private property and wetlands, which would all be very difficult to do.

VHA Newcomers

ARNOLD, Prudence
 BERNBACH, Michael & Joan
 CLICK, Robert & Jane
 COUCH, Wendell & Marcia
 DANIELS, Robert & D'ALOISIO, Carmela
 FIORITO, Dan & Terry
 FLYNN, David & Maxene
 FOLTZ, Paul & Kathleen
 FREDERICK, Bruce & Joy
 GALLAGHER, Mike & Dee
 GIANNONI, Ronald & Marge
 GORANSON, Gary & Mary
 GRAU, William
 GUDICELLO, Frank & Joan
 HARDESTY, Jo
 HARRIS, Val & Eleanor
 IRWIN, Peggy & JONES, Rick
 JOHNSON, Jerald & Carol
 JONIEC, Chris & Joanne
 KRING, James & ROSKO, Hildegard
 LEMELIN, Roland & Patricia
 LENNON, Jill D.
 LISTANDER, Marie L.
 LOWENBERG, William & KOBES, P.K.
 MCGUINN, Jerry & Helene
 MCPHEE, Bob & Gail
 MICHAUD, Michael & Kathryn
 SHARRY, Robert & Sheryl
 SPALDING, Michael & Mary Ann
 STRAW, Louis & Kathryn
 VAN BUREN, Peter & Bettina
 WALL, Keith & Roxanne
 WOOD, David & YOUNKER, Karen

Q & A continued from page 6

Q: The Belvedere Gate resident side, with two near entry/exit roadways to neighborhoods, is an accident waiting to happen. Is this traffic area still under study for possible changes?

There have been numerous studies and several modifications made at the Belvedere gate area. Sumter County has the responsibility for the gate and has demonstrated a willingness to receive and consider additional recommendations.

Can you provide a Morse Boulevard improvement update?

Information on Phases I and II is available on the districtgov.org Web site, which estimates that the completion date will be in December by Sumter County.



Lady Lake Town Commission

Increased reserve spending

The other commissioners seem to disagree with my position on spending money we don't have.

In a recent commission meeting, the commissioners saw no problem in borrowing from our reserve fund to hire new employees for our library, even though these reserves are meant to be for town emergencies, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, etc. Just months ago the Commission committed to spending \$500,000 of reserve money with a 4-1 vote, to purchase more police vehicles. Our mayor stated, "As we move forward, we will be more frugal." Guess he forgot about that.

Just a reminder; Unemployment has risen to 8.5 percent, with 13 million out of work as of March 2009, and Lady Lake has never laid off a single employee for budgetary reasons as far back as I can remember.

Police audit

On April 9, the Commission was presented with the final audit for our police department by police consultant Dr. Ernest Scott, PhD, a former police officer. Our chief is attempting to expand the department even more as a result of the comparison of demographics with other towns of approximately the same size as Lady Lake. The report states that police staffing is 2.5 officers per 1,000 people. With 32 sworn officers, two more than we have now, Lady Lake would have an increase since 2000 of 11 sworn officers.

But, the recommendation by the auditor is that we hire a maximum of four officers in 2009; Purchase tasers, and high-powered rifles for all sworn officers; and adopt other administrative recommendations. Mr. Scott made a compelling analysis of every nook and cranny in our police department, which has given all a better understanding of our police organization, personnel and equipment. We have been told by our human resources director, Guy Shields, that the Town is now investigating the possibility of tapping the huge retired police resources in The Villages.

This analysis will be extremely helpful in our upcoming budget process.

In this commissioner's opinion, there is no town in Central Florida that has similar demographics as Lady Lake, where more than 80 percent of the taxpaying residents are senior citizens, retired, living in The Villages and – just guessing – the greater percentage are over 65 years old, so comparisons used to substantiate audit accuracy is questionable.

St. Johns River Water Management District

In a letter, the Lake County League of Cities found the requirements of the St. Johns River Water Management District relative to the investment in and development of an alternate water-supply system by 2013 onerous and unrealistic.

The member cities of the Lake County League of Cities have requested that the St. Johns River Water Management District support the local effort to craft fiscally sound and environmentally sensitive solutions to the increasing water shortage problems we are all facing. Before the Water Management District forces cities to the next step, which

will require them to invest even more taxpayer dollars to pursue further studies, engineering or construction of the "approved" list of options (Coquina Coast, Yankee Lake, Lake Yale, 100-mile transmission pipelines, etc.), we appeal to you to support our collective responsibility and to explore other, less expensive options:

- To research and evaluate variously sized stormwater capture systems and watershed development.
- To research and develop newer, greener, more progressive forms of alternative water-system development such as rainwater capture and local conservation measures, including low-water-use landscaping and funding incentives for residential installations on the latest versions of low-flow toilets and/or soil moisture sensors.
- Allow for responsible conversion of agricultural or underutilized commercial wells to either water credits on existing and/or renewed municipal consumptive use permits.
- Allow the cities to craft and enforce water conservation ordinances to better meet local needs. This would permit city ordinances to differ in content from those of the Water Management District as long as the city ordinances are designed to be at least equal to or more stringent than the Water Management District.
- That all water delivered for consumption and use be accounted for and regulated. We are all concerned with the diminishing aquifer.

Commission pay cuts?

At the last regular commission meeting, a town volunteer and Villages resident, Maria Sauerwald, made a request for all the commissioners to take a pay cut of 10 percent to set a good example, which received no reaction from the Commission. Even though two commissioners in e-mails thought it was a good idea, and Mayor Richards had stated, "If we are going to look at everything else, we should lead that way," he was silent at the public meeting. To have the lowest-paid town employees take a cut to set an example – I think there is something wrong with that logic.

Farmers' market

The Commission approved the Parks and Recreation Department and the Chamber of Commerce to hold a weekly farmers' market at the Log Cabin through the summer, to be held 8 a.m.-3 p.m. every Tuesday on McClendon Street (on the north side of Log Cabin Park, 106 S. Highway 441, Lady Lake).

*Paul F. Hannan
Commissioner, Ward 4*

Did you know?

The Villages Homeowners Association accepts no advertising. The VHA is supported 100 percent by member dues.

Help for pulmonary patients arrives at TVRH: Patients will now be able to breathe easier

Pulmonary patients in Central Florida now have an option for oxygen therapy that provides more comfort and convenience throughout the daily routine. The Villages Regional Hospital is one of the first in the state to perform an innovative surgical procedure for treating chronic pulmonary patients who require long-term, continuous oxygen therapy. The surgical procedure—known as the Fast Tract insertion procedure—is combined with transtracheal oxygen (TTO) therapy to improve the quality and length of life for patients with chronic pulmonary disease who previously have found it challenging to use nasal cannulas. Together, the surgical procedure and TTO Therapy provide oxygen exactly where patients need it: directly into their lungs.



Nick Jones has undergone the Fast Tract procedure at The Villages Regional Hospital with much success.

“Until now, patients with chronic pulmonary disorders have relied upon nasal cannulas for prolonged periods of time. Because nasal cannulas often cause soreness, pain and skin irritation around the nose and the ears, nasal blockage, loss of smell and taste, sore throat and hoarseness, patients often limited its usage,” said Tim Hawkins, senior vice president for clinical services for The Central Florida Health Alliance, parent organization for The Villages Regional Hospital. “We are excited to now be able to offer this procedure at The Villages Hospital.”

Ask Nick Jones, who is the first patient to undergo the Fast Tract procedure at the Villages Regional Hospital, how much better he feels. He’s well on his way back to playing golf instead of watching from the sidelines. “Since my procedure, I’ve been able to reduce my oxygen volume by half at rest and during exertion,” says Nick. The day after his overnight hospital stay, he was able to speak to a group of individuals with chronic pulmonary disease about this new procedure.

“My sense of smell and taste is returning and I can now really enjoy my lovely wife’s great cooking,” exclaims Nick.

The transtracheal oxygen therapy has been proved in

clinical use to be safe, more effective, and more efficient than traditional nasal-oxygen therapy. Because it delivers oxygen directly into the lungs where it is needed most, patients with lung disease can now achieve a normal blood-oxygen level 24 hours per day. It improves exercise capacity, reduces the work that a patient must do to breathe, and reduces workload on the heart.

“TTO Therapy is more cosmetically appealing and less of a physical irritant; consequently, patients are more active, and they’re receiving true 24-hour oxygen therapy, which allows them to feel better and enjoy life more. It really is a win-win situation,” said Dr. Roger Sherman, a cardiovascular/thoracic surgeon.

During the procedure, a qualified surgeon inserts a small transtracheal catheter into the windpipe to deliver oxygen, thus eliminating the need for a nasal cannula. The catheter will not affect a patient’s voice or swallowing because it is placed below the vocal cords. An overnight hospital stay is required because the insertion procedure must be conducted in a hospital operating room under anesthesia, and follow-up care is necessary so patients learn how to properly maintain the catheter.

“TTO Therapy is more cosmetically appealing and less of a physical irritant, consequently, patients are more active, and they’re receiving true 24-hour oxygen therapy, which allows them to feel better and enjoy life more.”

“Not every lung patient is a candidate for transtracheal oxygen therapy, however,” remarks Dr. Adrian Finol, cardiovascular/thoracic surgeon. “Patients who have difficulty maintaining their catheters or who have significant medical problems may not be able to use this form of oxygen therapy, so they need to be properly evaluated to see if they are an appropriate candidate.”

To find out if TTO therapy is an appropriate form of oxygen therapy for you or someone you know, call Central Florida Health Alliance Respiratory Services at 352-323-5123.

The Villages by the Numbers

Q: How many honor games (298, 299, 300) were bowled in The Villages last year?

Q: How many 300 games were bowled last year?

Q: How many 800 series were bowled last year?

Q: How many Villages women have ever bowled 300 games in The Villages?

Answers on page 10

Alliance Cancer Program earns commendation by Commission on Cancer

The Cancer Program at the Central Florida Health Alliance has been granted three-year approval with commendation by The Commission on Cancer (CoC) of the American College of Surgeons (ACoS).

The Alliance received the three-year approval with commendation following a rigorous on-site evaluation by a physician surveyor, during which the facility demonstrated a commendation-level of compliance with one or more standards that represent the full scope of the cancer program (cancer committee leadership, cancer data management, clinical services, research, community outreach, and quality improvement).

“We’re very proud to be awarded the three-year approval with commendation from the Commission on Cancer,” says Tim Hawkins, senior vice president of clinical services for the Alliance. “Our team continually strives to provide the highest-quality care for our patients. This award demonstrates the comprehensive scope of our cancer program, and is a tribute to the team of specialized physicians and staff who consistently provide the highest level of cancer care in Central Florida.”



**CENTRAL FLORIDA
HEALTH ALLIANCE**

Leesburg Regional Medical Center
The Villages Regional Hospital

The Commission on Cancer was established in 1922 by The American College of Surgeons as a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to improving survival and quality-of-life for cancer patients through standard setting, prevention, research, education and the monitoring of comprehensive quality care. Its membership includes Fellows of the American College of Surgeons and representatives of 42 national organizations that reflect the full spectrum of cancer care.

About Central Florida Health Alliance

The Central Florida Health Alliance is a not-for-profit health-care system that includes Leesburg Regional Medical Center, The Villages Regional Hospital and urgent care, post acute care, day surgery, wound care and hyperbaric treatment and wellness, primarily serving Lake, Sumter and Marion counties. Leesburg Regional Medical Center is a 309-bed acute-care hospital offering both comprehensive cardiovascular and neurosurgical care and a designated stroke center with the Joint Commission Seal of Approval. The Villages Regional Hospital is a 198-bed acute-care hospital located in the heart of The Villages, a nationally known adult community that has been nationally and regionally recognized for its quality care.

Alliance Announces New Foundation CEO



Central Florida Health Alliance, parent corporation of Leesburg Regional Medical Center and The Villages Regional Hospital, welcomes Ted E. Williams as the new chief executive officer for the Alliance Foundation, formerly Central Florida Health Alliance Foundation.

“We are so pleased to have Ted’s extensive experience

and superb reputation enhance our health-care system’s commitment to excellence,” says Lee Huntley, president and CEO of Central Florida Health Alliance. “His philanthropy credentials are most impressive and his accomplishments are commendable.”

A well-known executive with more than 30 years of experience, Williams was most recently with Cornerstone Hospice for 13 years as the foundation’s executive director, where he managed its operations in seven counties.

“I am committed as the new CEO of the Alliance Foundation to build awareness and enlist support in advancing patient care to a new level in our hospitals,” Williams stated. “As a resident of Lake County for over 35 years, I am passionate about the opportunity to align myself with this not-for-profit hospital organization that prides itself on excellence. I will be working diligently to help meet the health-care needs of our growing community.”

Williams is a certified fundraiser executive from the University of Indiana and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Nebraska.



**CENTRAL FLORIDA
HEALTH ALLIANCE**
Leesburg Regional Medical Center
The Villages Regional Hospital

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The Alliance Foundation’s mission is to create healthier communities through philanthropy, volunteerism and community partnerships. Since 1977, the foundation has supported the hospitals’ programs, services and growing needs.

Did you know?

The VHA’s Helping Hands Program lends durable medical equipment like wheelchairs to residents for free!

VHA Featured Partner – The Villages Lifelong Learning College

The Villages Lifelong Learning College (TVLLC) is a division of The Villages Charter School system. From TVLLC’s humble beginning in 2000 with 23 courses as part of the The Villages Recreation Department, it has grown to about 2,000 total courses per year. Last year, 18,562 students totaled 25,205 attendees in sessions ranging from dance and yoga to foreign languages and computers. The courses of study are open, but 97 to 98 percent of the attendees are residents of The Villages.



TVLLC has four full-time and four part-time employees. The remainder of the staffing consists of 45 volunteers – mostly residents who have enjoyed participating in the programs, which feature the motto “No Grades, No Tests, No Pressure – Just Fun” as a life-enriching complement to The Villages lifestyle. The 187 course instructors range from retired professors to subject experts in the course of study. About 98 percent of the instructors are drawn from the vast talent pool of residents of The Villages. Outside field experts are occasionally contracted to teach specialty courses. For example, best-selling author Robert Perry was brought in to teach a philosophy course in miracles, and Karlyn Holman of Cheap Joe’s (an art distributor) conducted a weeklong art workshop. Since TVLLC does not issue certificates and degrees, accreditation is not required, but certain courses, such as yoga, require certified instructors.

Fees per course vary due to the wide variety of course lengths, space and instructor requirements, and materials involved. Some courses/workshops involve only a day (or evening) or two, or an educational trip, or outside speaker. Additionally, some courses are offered for free

Partner continued on page 16



Morse continued from page 1

among the most popular with the large retired military community within The Villages.

Mr. Morse closed with a few summary remarks. He humorously addressed some frequent rumors that seem to have a life of their own. He said that the developer is not pulling up stakes and leaving town for Texas or Montana

VHA past presidents socialize following the Mark Morse ‘State of The Villages’ presentation. Shown, from left, are Doug Tharp, Herb Gibson, Roger Kass, Chico Mir and Sandy Mott.

– “...we’re in The Villages to stay and well into our third generation. Besides, we need the jobs and no one else would hire us.” The developer (meaning the entire family) is committed to Mr. Schwartz’s vision. Mr. Morse added that the state of The Villages is very strong, with more than 2,000 home sales per year and over 90 percent occupancy of The Villages’ commercial properties. He left with the audience wanting to know even more about the “special real estate coming soon” that is in our future.

Hospital “shadow” shares experiences



The headlines read “Villages group dissatisfied with hospital’s ER.” I would like tell the residents of The Villages and surrounding area what I have found after being appointed to the Community Advisory Group, which held its first meeting in August 2008 with the assignment to tell what we find right or wrong with the facility.

I was able to “shadow” in the ER on Oct. 22, 2008, and what an experience this was! I was assigned to one of the nurses who moved like she was on roller skates – going from one patient’s room to another and administering to their needs. She administered the medications as prescribed by the attending physicians within five minutes’ time, where it used to take an hour or longer before getting the medicines delivered from the pharmacy. The ER was full of patients and they were attended in a priority order. While those who were waiting in the waiting room were not aware of it, the EMS units were bringing in heart attack, stroke and other seriously ill patients that had to have immediate attention or their life was doubtful. Beds were lined up in the corridor at one

time, waiting on a room – but while waiting, the patients were being attended to.

It was very obvious that the seriously ill were being attended to first and those who had less serious injuries or illnesses would benefit greatly by first going to an urgent care facility.

I was also privileged to “shadow” in the cardiac unit (which takes a back seat to none and will soon be on line to handle all heart cases), and a third time of “shadowing” was to follow a nurse while she was attending patients on the fourth floor. She exemplified what most nurses feel they do best – dedication to attending to those who are their patients. I spoke with one gentleman who was being discharged, and he told me that there was nothing but the highest praises for the staff on his floor.

I have found that The Villages Regional Hospital is being run very efficiently and the patients (one of which I have been) are treated with the utmost attention and respect. My hat is off to all who are employees and volunteers at our hospital.

Joyce Fisher

Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches



The Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches has been helping the children of Florida since 1957. Over the years, we have provided services to more than 106,000 boys and girls and their families. Through the commitment of the sheriffs, our generous donors and our caring staff, we have been able to mend the lives and heal the hearts of so many in need. We hope to ensure that these children will

grow up and become strong, resilient adults in the years to come.

Who can say that better than one of our very own children? When asked the question “How is your stay at the Ranch a gift?” one Boys Ranch resident answered with the following essay:

How my stay at the Ranch has been a gift

No, not all gifts have to be something that we can physically touch or use. I have learned the hard way that life and waking up every morning is the greatest gift of all.

Since I have been at the Ranch I have accomplished many things that honestly I do not think I could have accomplished if it was not for the Ranch. I think the Ranch has made me a different and better person. I have noticed this because people are treating me like I am actually cared about, and not always like, “Oh, he is not worth the trouble to be hanging out with.” I have also never really said “Thank you” to those who took the care and pride to better my life.

I am proud to say that the Ranch is the best thing that has happened to me in my life. All my teachers helped me to get good grades. My cottage parents have helped me become a person that people will say good things about. If I had to pick a favorite gift, it would be to have just one day to show everyone who has helped me how much I appreciate them.

I know that every night I have a bed to sleep in, a roof over my head, and three meals daily. These are gifts that were given to me when I did not deserve to have them. I am very thankful to the Ranch and all Ranch staff. Well, there are people out there in the real world who don’t have the things many of us have. I think everybody should stop complaining about what they don’t have, and look at what they do have. There are people out there that would love to have even a bar of soap. I hope that people take what I have said for consideration.

Well, the only thing I have left to say is that I am not writing this for a prize, I am writing my honest feelings and this essay should open some people’s eyes and I hope they will understand what I have said.

~ Scott D. (Eighth Grade)

With your help, we can meet the needs of boys like Scott and many others. For more information on how you can help, please contact Frank Kenny, Donor Relations Officer, at 800-765-3797 or visit us at youthranches.org.

Frank Kenny

The Villages by the Numbers from page 8

A: Spanish Springs, 31; Fiesta Bowl, 27

A: Spanish Springs, 17; Fiesta Bowl, 19

A: Spanish Springs, 7; Fiesta Bowl, 8

A: Two: Donna Carroll and Carol Teel.
Congratulations!

Have a plan: Prepare for a hurricane

For those of you entering your first hurricane season, welcome to Florida. It is a fact that the fear of the unknown is the biggest fear many of us can ever experience. Typically, once we go through an experience we come out the other side better, and stronger. The same is true where hurricanes are concerned.

The No. 1 thing you can do to be prepared for hurricane season is to be informed with facts instead of myths. The reality is that hurricanes are not very common in Florida. While it is true that we sort of hang out here in the middle of the ocean as a peninsula, the fact is that many of the storms actually swing to the north and impact other parts of the country instead (South Carolina gets hit more than Florida). I have spent most of my life since 1977 in Florida and I did not experience my first hurricane until 1992 (Andrew). In addition, it was not until 2004 that I experienced the rest. Typically, we experience tropical storms and tropical depressions. And as many of you are learning, it is these tropical storms and depressions that keep our portion of the country from burning.

[Emergency shelters are] like camping with a few hundred people you don’t know, and possibly don’t want to know.

One of the biggest questions I get asked is what to do for evacuation of your home and to what shelter should someone evacuate. The reality is that if your home was built after 1992 it can withstand winds approaching 120 mph. This was a direct result of Hurricane Andrew. This community’s experience with the tornado of Feb. 2, 2007, demonstrated that these homes could withstand a significant amount of wind. While many homes were damaged, and a number were destroyed, these structures did not come apart. In addition, we only transported 10 people to the hospital, and none of them were critical. If you have never experienced life in an emergency shelter, let me go on record as saying that shelters are not like the local hotel. They are much more in line with camping, but it’s more like camping with a few hundred people you don’t know, and possibly don’t want to know.

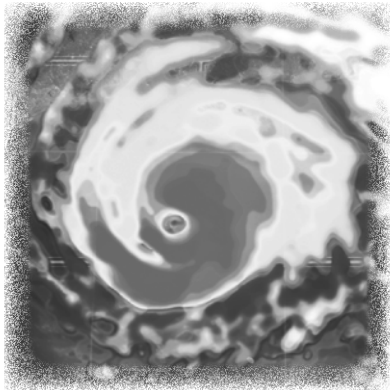
Lake, Sumter and Marion counties are designated as “host” counties for hurricane evacuations. As a host county, we will be inundated with evacuees from the coastal regions. The reality is that we cannot build enough shelters to house everyone in the event of a hurricane. The best thing to do (if you live in a site-built home) is to shelter in place. Again, today’s homes can withstand a significant amount of wind and will serve you well for protection. Become informed as to what your actions should be in the event of a hurricane. This can be done by visiting the Web site floridadisaster.org and opening the “Get a Family Plan” connection.

As always, BE SAFE!

Hurricane season is blowing in

OK, you just finished competing in your first Senior Games, watched the last polo match of the season and are ready to settle in to your routine of summer golf, pickleball and dancing on the square. Wait a minute, it's also June and you're in Central Florida. You better be thinking about . . . hurricane season – and it will last from now through Nov. 30.

The 2008 Atlantic hurricane season was a very active hurricane season, which included 16 named storms, eight of them hurricanes and five of those major hurricanes. It was the third most costly on record, behind only the 2004 and 2005 seasons, with over \$41 billion in damage. It was the fourth busiest year since 1944 and the only year on record in which a major hurricane existed in every month from July through November in the North Atlantic.



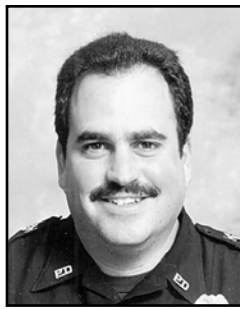
Bertha became the longest-lived July tropical cyclone on record for the basin, the first of several long-lived systems during 2008. The season was devastating for Haiti, where more than 800 people were killed by four consecutive tropical cyclones (Fay, Gustav, Hanna and Ike) in August and September. Hurricane Ike was the most destructive storm of the season, as well as the strongest, devastating Cuba as a major hurricane and later making landfall near Galveston, Texas, as a Category 2 (nearly Category 3) hurricane in intensity.

What's in store for us this year? NOAA predicts a fairly average hurricane season, with 10 to 14 named storms, four to seven becoming hurricanes and one to three achieving major (Category 3) hurricane status (110 mph or greater).

The VHA contributed \$50,000 for an emergency warning transmitter in 2007 and worked with its partners in Sumter County to have the warning tower ready for the 2008 hurricane season. The warning tower filled a transmission void area identified in the review of the devastating tornado that went through The Villages in February 2007. Last year, the VHA teamed with the Public Safety Department to bring Weatherbug, a real-time weather reporting and sophisticated alerting system, right into The Villages in support of The Villages Public Safety Department's needs for emergency tracking and responding.

We each need to do our own part to "safe up" now. Even if you missed the Hurricane Expo on April 30, most of the essential information is readily available online, and throughout The Villages at grocery and hardware stores, home-improvement stores like Lowe's and Home Depot, and also the Sheriff's Department and Annex. Key resources for getting prepared are a hurricane checklist and hurricane kit. Weather radios are available for about \$30 and any fire station can help you program your radio for this region.

All done? See you at the square.



summary of the rules.

Ask the Chief — Watering restrictions

Effective March 8, St. Johns River Water Management District (District Rule 40C-2.042, FAC) made changes to watering restrictions. The following information has been summarized and is intended to help you understand the rules of watering restrictions. Here is a brief

- Irrigation is prohibited between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- During daylight-saving time, irrigation is limited to no more than two days per week on scheduled days.
- Residential irrigation at odd-numbered addresses or unnumbered addresses is allowed on Wednesday and Saturday.
- Residential irrigation at even-numbered addresses is allowed on Thursday and Sunday.
- Nonresidential irrigation is allowed on Tuesday and Friday.
- During Eastern daylight time, irrigation is limited to no more than one day per week on scheduled days.
- Residential irrigation at odd-numbered addresses or unnumbered addresses is allowed on Saturday.
- Residential irrigation at even-numbered addresses is allowed on Sunday.
- Nonresidential irrigation is allowed on Tuesday.
- Irrigation is limited to no more than ¾-inch of water per zone per irrigation day.
- Irrigation is limited to no more than one hour per irrigation zone per irrigation day.
- Irrigation is limited to only that amount necessary to meet landscape needs.
- When reclaimed water is available for irrigation use, the use of private irrigation wells is not authorized.
- Irrigation limitations apply to water withdrawn from ground or surface water, from a private well or pump, or from a public or private utility.
- Irrigation limitations apply to all landscape irrigation not currently regulated by a consumptive-use permit. Typically, this includes residential, commercial and industrial establishments.
- Persons irrigating with an automatic lawn-irrigation system installed after May 1991 shall install, maintain and operate a rain-sensor device or switch that overrides the system when adequate rainfall has occurred.

Exceptions to the restrictions include:

- Irrigation using a micro-spray, micro-jet, drip or bubbler irrigation system is allowed anytime.
- Irrigation of new landscape is allowed at any time of day on any day for the initial 30 days and every other day for the next 30 days for a total of one 60-day period, provided that the irrigation is limited to the minimum amount necessary for establishment.
- Watering in of chemicals, including insecticides, pesticides, fertilizers, fungicides and herbicides when required by law, the manufacturer, or best management practices, is allowed anytime within 24 hours of application. Watering in of chemicals may not exceed ¼ inch of water per application except as otherwise required by law, the manufacturer or best management practices.
- Irrigation systems may be operated anytime for maintenance and repair purposes, not to exceed 20 minutes per hour per zone.

• Irrigation using a handheld hose equipped with a spray nozzle that can be adjusted so water flows only as needed is allowed anytime.

• Discharge of water from a water-to-air air-conditioning unit or other water-dependent cooling system is not limited.

• The use of water from a reclaimed water system is allowed anytime. A reclaimed water system includes systems in which the primary source is reclaimed water, which may or may not be supplemented from another source during peak demand periods.

• The use of recycled water from wet detention treatment ponds for irrigation is allowed anytime provided the ponds are not augmented from any ground or off-site surface water, or public supply sources.

Violation of any provision of this District Rule 40C-2.042, FAC, shall be subject to the following penalties: a written warning for the first violation, \$50 for the second violation, and a fine not to exceed \$500 for subsequent violations.

Remember: Each day in violation of this District Rule 40C-2.042, FAC, shall constitute a separate offense. Enforcement officials shall provide violators with no more than one written warning. In addition to the civil sanctions contained herein, the Town of Lady Lake may take any other appropriate legal action, including, but not limited to, injunctive action to enforce the provisions of this article.

Please note that time changes and power outages need to be considered so that automatic timers are checked and programmed correctly. For more information about watering restrictions, call the St. Johns River Water Management District at 800-232-0904 or log on to sjrwmd.com/waterinrestrictions.

Remember, our goal is voluntary compliance. Together we can make a positive difference!

Until next time – let's be safe out there!

Chief Ed Nathanson
Lady Lake Police Department
423 Fennell Blvd.
Lady Lake, Florida 32159
Phone: 751-1560
Fax: 751-1566

E-mail: enathanson@ladylakepd.org

Please note: Under Florida law, e-mail addresses are public records. If you do not want your e-mail address released in response to a public-records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact this office by phone or in writing.

Did you know?

Help the VHA help you. Join the VHA today! The cost is \$12 per household for a two-year membership.

VHA Member Benefits*

A current VHA membership card needed for benefits. *One benefit offer per family membership.

24 Hr. CART CLUB, INC.

352-330-1911

www.24hrcartclub.com

\$10 Off Premium Membership

\$5 Off Basic Membership

Valid on initial sign-up only.

AAA AUTO CLUB SOUTH

1107 West North Blvd. Suite M, Leesburg

352-787-5140

Free dinner/lunch cruise tickets with all new memberships and renewals.

Save on New Membership with AAA Auto Club – Primary Member

saves \$5.00 when joining. Save when adding new family member to membership.

All new family members are 50% off regular price. Only \$15.00 each for Classic and \$26.00 each for Plus membership!!

A&C EXTERIORS

116 N. Old Dixie Hwy, Lady Lake

352-753-3322

Landscaping, Pavers, Lawn Service and House Pressure Washing

10% Off any Service.

ALL ANIMAL TRAPPING SVC. INC.

"FLORIDA WILDLIFE COMMISSION PERMITTED"

352-245-0193 Office

352-299-5675 Cell

15% Discount

10% Discount For All Follow-Up Service.

ALL CUSTOM CONCRETE & CURBS, INC.

352-671-1514

allcustomcurbs@aol.com

10% Off Concrete Landscape Curbing

& Decorative Concrete Overlays

Call for free estimates.

ALL THINGS FINE

1171 Main Street – Spanish Springs

352-259-7384

10% Discount on Tuesdays

Excludes sale items and not valid with any other offer.

ARDEN'S FINE JEWELRY

1060 Canal Street – Lake Sumter Landing

352-751-6613

50% Off Jewelry Appraisal on One Item

Offer limited to one item per household.

A SPECIAL DAY GIFT SHOP

3535 Wedgewood Lane – Southern Trace

352-259-7270

10% Off Your Purchase

Excludes Pandora Jewelry.

BABY BUNDLES ON THE GO

352-406-4754

babybundlesonthego@embarqmail.com

10% Discount on Crib Rental

BEAD BAR

1039 Canal Street – Lake Sumter Landing

Mondays only, VHA members receive 5% off all purchases (excluding any classes).

BONNE CHIMIE – CUSTOM SKIN CARE

990 Alvarez Avenue – Spanish Springs

352-391-9600

20% Discount

Not to be combined with any other offer.

BOULEVARD TIRE CENTER

418 S. Hwy. 27/441, Lady Lake

352-430-2380

10% Discount on any Brake Service over \$100.

BRAVO PIZZA

1080 Lake Sumter Landing

352-430-2394, 2395, 2396

10% Off Dine In & Take Out Whole Meal

Not valid with any other offer.

BRUSTER'S REAL ICE CREAM

8699 SE 165th Mulberry Lane – Mulberry Grove

352-205-8987

Buy a Fresh-Made Waffle Cone

Get a Waffle Cone of Equal or Lesser Value Free

One benefit offer per family membership.

CAPTAIN MIKE'S LAZY RIVER CRUISES

On the Withlacoochee River

Southwest of Ocala on Hwy. 200 just in

Back of Stumpknocker's Restaurant

Call for Reservations, 352-637-2726

www.lazyrivercruises.com

\$2 Off Any Person, 2-Hour Tour Only

CARIBONGO

1041 Canal Street – Lake Sumter Landing

352-750-6147

Free Color-Changing Tote Bag with the purchase of \$30 or more (Retail Value of \$9.99). Offer not valid with any other offer or promotion.

Limit: one Tote Bag per family. Sale items excluded from this offer.

caribongo@aol.com

CHICK-FIL-A OF THE VILLAGES

7330 U.S. Hwy. 441 – Rolling Acres Plaza

352-430-0223

Buy A Value Size Combo and get an

Original Chick-Fil-A Sandwich Free.

COMFORT SUITES

1202 Avenida Central

352-259-6578

Special Rates: \$71 May 1-Oct. 31, 2009; \$99 from Nov. 1, 2009-Apr 1, 2010

Not valid Leesburg Race Weekend. All reservations based on availability.

Must call hotel directly in advance for reservations.

COZCO HANDCRAFTS

1121 Main Street – Spanish Springs

352-430-0386

10% Off – Excludes Sale Items.

D'LITES EMPORIUM

4056 Wedgewood Lane – Buffalo Ridge

352-259-6246

10% Discount on Any Ice Cream

Not to be combined with any additional

special or other discounts.

EDIBLE ARRANGEMENTS

11962 County Road 101 – Palm Ridge Plaza

352-391-1334

\$4.00 Off Purchases Valid on orders over \$25.00.

FIREHOUSE SUBS

13757 U.S. Hwy. 441 – Lady Lake

352-430-3870

Free Cookie with Purchase of Medium or Large Sub

Not valid with any other offer. One benefit per member.

FORT KNOX SELF STORAGE & TRUCK RENTAL

13634 U.S. Hwy. 441 – Lady Lake

352-750-4647

Rent a 5x5x10 Standard Unit,

Get the Second Month for \$1.00

Valid on new contracts only.

GOLF USA

Southern Trace – 3503 Wedgewood Lane

352-751-7177

FREE Small Range Basket to be used at

Tree Tops Golf

with the purchase of \$25 or more.

GOLF USA

Free small range basket to be used at Tree Tops Golf with

purchase of \$25 or more.

Golf USA Baylee Plaza, U.S. 441 Summerfield

352-347-6450

GOLF USA

972 Old Mill Run – Lake Sumter Landing

352-753-3373

1162 Main Street – Spanish Springs

352-753-4847

FREE Small Range Basket to be used at

Tree Tops Golf with the purchase of \$25 or more.

GOLF USA

Lighted Driving Range & Miniature Golf

698 W. Lady Lake Blvd. – Lady Lake

352-259-2313

Mondays: \$1.00 Off 18-Hole Round

of Miniature Golf

Fridays: \$1.00 Off Large Range Basket (120 Balls)

See our special offer in the

Tree Tops Golf Shop and Golf USA listings.

GOTTA GET YOUR NAME ON!

Custom Embroidery and Monogramming

5% off Club Shirts, Logos and Monogramming

Karen D. Andrews

352-391-9333 Phone and Fax

HEARING AIDS FROM DIGITAL HEARING SYSTEMS

347 Colony Blvd. – The Villages

352-259-8824

420 Corley Rd. Leesburg, FL

352-315-9960

BUY ONE (1) package premium batteries,

get 2nd one free-per visit.

HAAGEN DAZS

1001 Lake Shore Drive – Lake Sumter Landing

352-751-0261

10% Discount

H & R BLOCK

208 S. Hwy. 27/441 – Lady Lake, 352-750-3669

17860 SE 109th Ave. – Summerfield, 352-347-6736

4085 Wedgewood Lane – The Villages,

352-205-8340

\$25 Off Tax Preparation. Valid at these offices only.

ISLAND IMAGES

1112 Main Street – Spanish Springs

352-259-7623

10% Discount on Mondays. Excludes sales items.

VHA Member Benefits*

A current VHA membership card needed for benefits. *One benefit offer per family membership.

JOHNNY ROCKETS

976 Old Mill Run – Lake Sumter Landing
352-259-0051
10% Off Meal

KILWIN'S CHOCOLATE AND ICE CREAM

1108 Main Street – Spanish Springs
352-430-3600
Buy One, Get One Half Off Any
Ice Cream Menu Item
One offer per family membership.

THE KINGS GALLERY

1110 Main Street – Spanish Springs
352-259-6998
25% Off Framing on Wednesdays
Does not apply to sale prices.

LAKE COUNTY'S PREMIER BOAT TOURS

Dora Canal, Rivers & Lakes on "Captain Doolittle"
Historic Lakeside Inn-Mt. Dora OR
Heritage & Blue Heron Nature Cruises on "Sea Haven"
All 15% discount.
Both are on U.S. Hwy 441 South in Tavares.
Please call for reservations.
352-343-0200 or toll free 866-269-6584
or 352-434-8040.

LUCKY DOG OBEDIENCE SCHOOL

38042 Lake Rd, Fruitland Park, FL 34731
352-874-5552

Free dog toy with 7-week in-home basic obedience course.

MOE'S SOUTHWEST GRILL

U.S. Hwy. 441 South – Rolling Acres Plaza
352-430-3610

Buy one entree - get one free with purchase of
two beverages every Saturday.
Not valid with any other offer.
One benefit offer per family membership.

MULBERRY GEMS AND JEWELRY

8736 SE 165th Mulberry Lane – Mulberry Grove
352-430-3060

15% off in-store items EXCLUDING
Pandora and Pickleball Paddles

NANTUCKET BAY

1008 Canal Street – Lake Sumter Landing
352-753-4161

10% Off Every Wednesday

PANDA EXPRESS

869 North Hwy. 27/441 – Home Depot Plaza
352-751-2507

10% Off - Not valid with other coupons or specials.

PARTY TYME, INC

11962 County Road 101 Suite 301
Phone: 352-391-1661

10% off purchase over \$20.00

Not valid with any other coupons or offers.

PAULY'S PIZZERIAS

986 Alvarez Avenue – Spanish Springs - 352-750-6296
Mulberry Grove Plaza – Route 42 - 352-259-6296
11974 CR 101-Suite 105 - 352-391-5570
Large one-topping pizza and garlic knots for \$12.25
Must show VHA Membership Card.

PAWS FOR A MOMENT

11962 County Road 101- Palm Ridge Plaza
352-259-7616
10% Off any Regular-Priced Item
Not valid on sale or food items.

PLAZA JEWELERS

16770 S. U.S. Hwy. 441, Summerfield
352-307-3846
20 to 40% Savings Off the Already Low Retail Price
& All Watch Batteries \$4.00.

PUT A CORK IN IT

Buy two (2) glasses of wine from the "Buy the Glass" bar and receive a FREE
appetizer special. Good for May and June 2009.
Must show VHA membership card.

QUIZNOS SUB

3509 Wedgewood Lane – Southern Trace
352-751-5698

\$2.00 Off Any Toasty Combo Meal
Includes sub or entree salad, side item,
and a 20 oz. fountain drink.

REASONABLE ELEGANCE, LLC

11962 County Road 101 Suite 104
Phone: 352-205-8355
10% off total order.

SCENTSATIONAL CANDLES AND GIFTS

994 Alvarez Avenue – Spanish Springs
352-753-1604

20% Off Any One Non-Sale Item.

SCHWAN'S HOME SERVICE, INC.

www.schwans.com
352-245-2480

Free Half-gallon of Ice Cream with
Your First Order.

SHERWIN WILLIAMS STORE

10936 Highway 301
Oxford, FL 34484

Phone: 352-748-3352

15% off all regular prices (Not including sale prices)
Proof of VHA membership required.

SIAM ORCHID THAI CUISINE

1561 Bella Cruz – Spanish Plaines Center
352-391-5272 - 352-391-5277 Fax

10% Off

SONIC DRIVE-IN

11211 SE 178 Pl. – Wal-Mart Shopping Center
352-347-2860

Tuesday Nights: 5 Single Patty Burgers for \$5
after 5 p.m. Add-ons at extra charge.
Wednesday Nights: 1/2 Price Single Patty Burgers
99¢ Single Topping Sundaes
Valid at the Summerfield location only.

SOUTHERN IMAGE PHOTOGRAPHY

97 Del Mar Drive – Spanish Springs
352-430-2056

10% Off The Special of the Month.

SUNSHINE CENTRAL VACUUM SYSTEMS, INC.

13624 S. U.S. Hwy. 441 Summerfield
352-307-6581

\$300 OFF a new system with VHA Membership.

SWEET CREAMS

1000 Bichara Blvd. – La Plaza Grande Center
352-750-0010
10% Discount on all Purchases.

THE RED DOOR

207 S. Main St. (Hwy 301)
Wildwood, FL 34788
352-748-2044
10% Off Iron Benches.

THE SOLAR GUYS

"Solatube" - Tubular Skylight
352-307-7077 - Call for free estimate
10% OFF regular price with VHA Membership.

TRI COUNTY POOL & SPA

2468 Hwy. 441/27 Fruitland Park
352-326-0600
10% off all Pool & Spa Chemicals
\$200 Discount on any new Cal Spa Hot Tubs

TUSCANY DAY SPA

1082 Canal St. - Sumter Landing
352-350-2401
10% OFF Any Service with VHA Membership.

UNDERGLASS 3M PRESTIGE & ULTRA WINDOW FILMS

330 Hwy. 441/27 Lady Lake.
352-753-5267
Free Windshield Strip-3M or 10% OFF any 3M Film-Home or Auto.

VIC'S EMBERS

7940 Hwy. 441, Leesburg
352-728-8989

Complimentary after-dinner cocktail or dessert for each
person in the party.

Not valid when transportation is provided by Vic's Bus.
Must present VHA Member card.

VICTORIA'S ESTATE JEWELRY

1106 Main Street – Spanish Springs
352-751-3386

50% Off Jewelry Appraisal on One Item
Offer limited to one item per household.

VILLAGES CAR WASH AND LUBE

Bichara Blvd. – La Plaza Grande Center
352-753-1306

\$1.00 Off the Regular Price of a Silver or
Gold Wash Package.

VILLAGE BOWLING LLC

FIESTA BOWL

890 Avenida Central – 352-753-2747

SPANISH SPRINGS LANES

997 Alvarez Avenue – 352-750-9440

From May 18 until August 31, 2009: Offering 1st line FREE bowling
(8 lanes only) for children on Mondays, 9-11 a.m. with FREE coffee,
doughnuts, shoes and instruction.

Alternating between Fiesta Bowl and Spanish Springs
Coordinator needed for sign-ups

VILLAGES FOOD.COM

10% Off Entire Food Order Delivered
Mention Coupon No. 89151 when ordering.
352-307-4424

VHA Representatives by village. How does your VHA representative help you?

VHA representatives educate themselves and stay informed to help verify or dispel rumors, provide help when you need assistance resolving neighborhood issues and acquaint you with services and benefits available through the VHA.

Lake County Region		Village of Palo Alto		Villa de la Ramona		Village of Chatham		Edgefield Villas	
Country Club Hills		Robert Landers ----- 753-0310	Jerry Coomans ----- 259-3540	Fred Driller ----- 259-0915		Marty Wilber ----- 751-5048		Julie Ayotte ----- 350-2087	
Ray Leggiero ----- 751-0221		Tierra Grande Villas		Villa Santo Domingo		Bromley Villas		Mount Vernon Villas	
Orange Blossom Gardens		Jerry & Jean Keliher ----- 750-0892		-Needs Representative-		Allan Wadman ----- 259-0908		-Needs Representative-	
Richard & Nancy St. Amant ----- 259-7931		Villa La Paloma		Old Region 3		Sherwood East Villas		Village of Lynnhaven	
Silver Lake		Stephen Beaulieu ----- 753-9181				-Needs Representative-		Barbara Urbanski ----- 753-2663	
-Needs Representative-		Delores Staub ----- 259-1097				Sherwood West Villas		Rod South ----- 751-7547	
Village of Del Mar		Tierra del Sol - North				Judy Wilber ----- 751-5048		Collington Villas	
Ruth Truttschel ----- 753-3671		Robert Eisenhauer ----- 259-1485				Village of Piedmont		Terry Walsh ----- 205-8400	
Hacienda Villas		Tierra del Sol - South				Irwin & Charlotte Newman ----- 753-4684		Southern Oaks Villas	
Dennis Williams ----- 750-0063		Louis & Mary Guiliano ----- 753-7306				Ray & Kay Glessner ----- 751-0701		-Needs Representative-	
Chula Vista Villas		Village of Rio Grande				Chadwick Villas		Swainwood Villas	
Judy Glasel ----- 430-9707		-Needs Representative-				Waverly Villas		-Needs Representative-	
Myra Reff ----- 750-1650		Rio Grande No. 1				Village of Springdale		Village of Poinciana	
Courtyard Villas		Bob & Faye Fountain ----- 750-0677				Bob Thatcher ----- 259-2083		Philip & Davida Seindenberg ----- 750-3152	
-Needs Representative-		Rio Grande No. 2				Sunnyside Villas		Lawrence & Sherry Recla ----- 430-1114	
Village of El Cortez		Nick & Joan Martucci ----- 753-7516				Charles Melia ----- 259-7668		Bailey Ridge Villas	
Peggy Harrison ----- 750-0186		Clyde Kemper ----- 750-0537				Fairlawn Villas		-Needs Representative-	
Village of La Reynalda		De Laguna Villas				Pinecrest Villas		Lime Grove Villas	
Joy Anderson ----- 408-5387		Bob Wagner ----- 750-1646				-Needs Representative-		Thom & Betty Anne Horning ----- 751-7034	
Judy Mix ----- 751-0610		Beverly Ament ----- 750-3080				Royal Oak at Springdale		Mount Pleasant Villas	
Alice Burnette ----- 750-0186		De La Mesa Villas				Carolyn Willette ----- 408-0390		Vera Fuchs ----- 751-0155	
Village of La Zamora		Sandi Andrews ----- 750-6570				Village of Woodbury		Sullivan Villas	
Mario & Lillian Campagnola ----- 751-0512		Rio Grande Villas				Bill & Betty Dyer ----- 751-1192		Thomas Davis ----- 612-201-2240	
Village of Mira Mesa		Milly Adams ----- 753-5608				Jim Murphy ----- 259-1581		Village of Sunset Pointe	
-Needs Representative-		San Pedro Villas				Ivystone Villas		William & Maria Satterfield ----- 430-2301	
Village of Valle Verde		Edward Fischer ----- 259-4912				-Needs Representative-		Hickory Grove Villas	
Al & Marge Hayes ----- 750-1563		Village of Rio Ponderosa				Village of Summerhill		Joan Sullivan ----- 430-0755	
Vista Sonoma Villas		Charlie & Kathy Porter ----- 259-8196				Ray Schwartz ----- 751-3048		Village of Winifred	
Otto and Voettiner ----- 753-4278		Patio Villas				Ron Kershner ----- 753-9629		Chuck & Nancy Wildzunas ----- 753-3703	
		Carl Bell ----- 750-1251				Amelia Villas		Latrobe Villas	
		Village of Rio Rancho				George & Barbara Rogers ----- 751-4159		Thomas & Judy Schuler ----- 751-4440	
		Howard Keppler ----- 750-4742				Fernandina Villas		Region 6	
		Carey Scully ----- 753-1434				-Needs Representative-		Village of Virginia Trace	
		Rhea & Harold Feinberg ----- 259-5966				Bellamy Villas		Russ D'Emidio, Chairperson ----- 750-4486	
Sumter North Region		Valdez Villas				Ruth Ferguson ----- 205-7128		Len Chapple ----- 259-7222	
Old Region 1		Old Region 2				Sandy Adams ----- 751-5462		Gail Hood ----- 750-1578	
Hickory Hammock		Village of Alhambra				Walter & Janice Martin ----- 205-7099		Virginia Vine Villas	
Vincent & Blanche DiRito ----- 753-2310		-Needs Representative-				Felice Maurer ----- 259-7647		Lee Radford ----- 430-1499	
Ed Echerd ----- 753-5441		Alhambra - East				Phyllis Kravitz ----- 750-1878		Ralph & Elsie Pasquino ----- 259-3976	
Village de La Vista		Art & Alice Terrill ----- 259-1691				Jerry & Carol Knoll ----- 391-5002		Gary Rosenhouse ----- 430-1959	
De La Vista - East		Alhambra - West				Belmont Villas		Village of Tall Trees	
Dwight Brockway ----- 259-7341		-Needs Representative-				Helen Xenos ----- 750-0146		Sylvia Mongolier ----- 430-0070	
Elsa Goyma ----- 750-4842		Villa De Leon				Cherry Hill Villas		Larry Peterson ----- 751-3979	
De La Vista - North		John & Judy Trongon ----- 750-0954				-Needs Representative-		Cherry Vale Villas	
Earl Cherubini ----- 753-3123		Villa Del Canto				Hialeah Villas		Oak Bend Villas	
Leonard Koss ----- 753-0886		Ed & Rae Nowe ----- 259-1488				Dean & Joan Barner ----- 751-5725		-Needs Representative-	
De La Vista - West		Village of Harmeswood of Belle Aire				Village of Bonnybrook		Village of Bridgeport at Lake Sumter	
Paul & Jeanne Greene ----- 750-5095		Barry & Ginny Evans ----- 259-2271				Gail Burgess ----- 750-1371		Bill Hawkins ----- 350-2598	
Ray Owens ----- 753-5725		Village of Palo Alto				Broyhill Villas		Village of Bridgeport at Miona Shores	
De La Vista Villas - North		William Waldron ----- 259-0895				-Needs Representative-		Irv Markley ----- 259-4684	
Joy Tolan ----- 750-5368		Village of Santiago				Clifton Villas		Frank Fitzpatrick ----- 703-598-0873	
De La Vista Villas - South		Ken & Dotty Mathieu ----- 259-2704				Ezell Villas		Village of Caroline	
Joy Tolan ----- 750-5368		Larry & Ann Marsillo ----- 750-2270				Ray & Pat Adams ----- 751-6966		Renee Coster ----- 430-1965	
De Allende		Jo Pfent ----- 259-4512				Heritage Villas		Linda Grant ----- 753-3794	
Jim & Tawna Kelly ----- 259-3130		Paul & Patricia Bennett ----- 430-0754				Inglewood Villas		Roger & Judith Curth ----- 753-9704	
San Antonio Villas		Escandido Villas				-Needs Representative-		Katherine Villas	
Al & Cathy Sherman ----- 750-3795		Henry & Dotty Cole ----- 759-9065				Village of Bridgeport at Lake Miona		-Needs Representative-	
San Miguel Villas		Wayne Speicher ----- 259-9934				Village of Liberty Park		Kaylee Villas	
Joyce Fisher ----- 750-2491		La Crescenta Villas				Thomas Simone ----- 205-8155		Audrey & Mort Solitare ----- 753-2387	
Village of Hacienda Hills		Barbara Welter ----- 259-9531				James & Bettye Murphree ----- 753-0751		Village of Mallory Square	
-Needs Representative-		San Leandro Villas				Eagle Ridge Villas		Ron McMahon, Secretary ----- 205-4647	
Hacienda - East		Donald & Lu Bowen ----- 259-2155				Dorothy Bree ----- 753-5429		Natalie Villas	
George Bentz ----- 750-9117		Village of Santo Domingo				Karen Grasso ----- 750-6724		Harvey Blakely ----- 350-2052	
Hacienda - North		Lois Guntle ----- 753-9014						Emmalee Villas	
Elmer Starrett ----- 750-4141		John & Elaine Blum ----- 259-3592						Mike Kassin ----- 446-8444	
Richard O'Malley ----- 750-5398		Lee & Peggy Ray ----- 259-3391							
Hacienda - South		John & Anita Land ----- 751-2535							
Juliette Testa ----- 753-3350		Vera Cruz Villas							
Hacienda - West		Vince O'Brien ----- 259-6037							
Ed Martin ----- 753-8523									

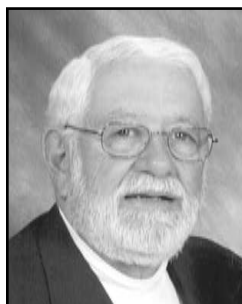
Alexa Villas	
Bill & Margaret Gottschalk-----	350-2405
Madison Villas	
Barbara Garnett-----	205-4362
Phyllis Grasso-----	391-9417
Janeann Villas	
-Needs Representative-	
Village of Amelia	
Steve Cook-----	753-5699
Emily Emigh-----	391-1695
Linda Grzesik-----	751-1761
Audrey Villas	
-Needs Representative-	
Village of Sabal Chase	
Lois Byers-----	350-7125
Gary Hendricks, Sr.-----	259-2139

Carlton Villas	
-Needs Representative-	
Tanglewood Villas	
Laurie Cooper, Vice Chairperson 6---	750-9566
Hampton Villas	
Donna Thompson-----	753-1778
Oleander Villas	
Jim Neilson-----	753-9812
Village of Largo	
Peter Havighorst-----	391-1288
Newport Villas	
Douglas Owen-----	753-5722
Region 7	
Village of Duval	
Russ Bond-----	753-9164

Rosedale Villas	
John & Chris Coene-----	446-9597
Allandale Villas	
Pat Kennedy-----	391-5291
Crestwood	
-Needs Representative-	
Double Palms	
-Needs Representative-	
Holly Hill	
Janet Koptis-----	751-0842
Sandhill Villas	
-Needs Representative-	
Village of Bonita	
Bill & Janice Gibbons-----	751-4436
Bonita Villas	
Pat Rand-----	391-1388
Kenya Villas	
Sheryl Cohen-----	751-4448

Village of Hadley	
Jim Hipple-----	674-9376
Mary Fleming-----	350-7750
Hillcrest Villas	
Groewood Villas	
Joan Puleo-----	259-8007
Keystone Villas	
Bainbridge Villas	
-Needs Representative-	
Village of Hemingway	
Charles Wright, Vice Chairperson 7 -	205-8072
Susan Bieberfeld-----	391-5066
Seneca Villas	
Pete DeLair-----	321-288-5618
Adriana Villas	
-Needs Representative-	
Margaux Villas	
Gerry & Meryle Bedard-----	750-4133

Mariel Villas	
-Needs Representative-	
Region 8	
Hallandale Villas	
Debbie Starling-----	704-301-5507
Villages of St. Charles	
-Needs Representative-	
Hallandale Villas	
-Needs Representative-	
Hortensia Villas	
-Needs Representative-	
Hydrangea Villas	
-Needs Representative-	
Oviedo Villas	
-Needs Representative-	



Veterans Corner - Florida National Cemetery at Bushnell

I know that picking out a cemetery is not your everyday subject at dinner-time. But remember: None of us is going to get out this mess alive. While you are still alive is the time to decide where

you and your spouse are going to be buried. Put it in your will so that this is one decision made.

Many veterans choose a private cemetery in their hometown or in a family plot near loved ones, but this is changing as more national cemeteries become available to veterans. There are 126 national cemeteries within the states and more are on the way. There are seven located in Florida: Bay Pines, Bushnell, Jacksonville, Lake Worth, Pensacola, Sarasota and St. Augustine. If you need more general information on national cemeteries, go online to cem.va.gov. I had originally chosen Arlington, but went over to Bushnell just to see if I had made the right choice. I was so impressed that when I got back I changed my will so that Bushnell will be my resting place.

The Florida National Cemetery located at Bushnell is one of the most beautiful and serene cemeteries I have ever visited. As you enter the grounds, you are struck by the simplicity of the surroundings, provided with great attention to both practical and aesthetic detail. There is no doubt about the underlying respect for those who have served our country so valiantly. The staff is exceptionally helpful and friendly and it is easy to get any information you need, either to visit a gravesite or to plan your own future resting place.

The grounds have been organized by types of headstones. If you are brought to the cemetery in a casket, you will get a uniform, upright headstone. If you are brought in an urn, you will go to the field, where all the markers are the same size, and your stone will be placed lying flat on the ground. They have 8,000 columbaria niches for cremation remains if this is what you want. All of the headstones are of the same design. In order to maintain control over flowers, they have certain rules. Fresh-cut flowers may be placed on the grave at any time. Artificial flowers are permitted from Dec. 1 through Jan. 31.

The Florida Cemetery at Bushnell has all the same requirements as any national cemetery. You must be a veteran, having met the minimum service requirement and

having been discharged under honorable conditions. DD 214 is the most widely accepted document for establishing eligibility. Your spouse is also eligible for the same burial service.

At the Florida National Cemetery, the Veterans Administration provides at no charge the following:

- A burial site;
- Opening and closing the gravesite;
- Grave liners (however, the vaults or other outer casket receptacles at private expense are allowed);
- Supplying a suitable upright or flat granite marker;
- Perpetual care of the interment site.

Driving directions from The Villages to the cemetery are as follows: Take County Road 466 or County Road 42 west to U.S. Highway 301. Turn left and go to Wildwood. At the intersection of Highway 301 and County Road 44 (Eckerd's Drugs is on the right), turn right and go west. Then turn left, going south on I-75. Go to the fourth exit, which is exit 309 (old 62) and turn right on County Road 476. Go about a half-mile and turn left at the entrance to the national cemetery.

Remember, you have to go somewhere, and if your plans have not already been locked in concrete, go spend a morning and see this cemetery.

More

If you need to contact U.S. Congresswoman Ginny Brown-Waite, her address has changed to 16224 Spring Hill Dr., Brooksville, FL 34604. Her phone number is the same: 352-799-8354.

For additional veteran's information, visit the Veterans Corner on the VHA Web site at thevillagesvoice.com. Hope to see you at our next VHA meeting.

*Sterling A. Wood, U.S. Army, Ret.
Chairman, VHA Military Affairs Committee
352-259-5507 or vhavet3@aol.com*

Dates to remember:

- June 14: Flag Day ----- Veterans' Memorial Park
- June 27: Korean War Armistice ----- Veterans' Memorial Park
- June 14: Flag Day ----- Veterans' Memorial Park

Florida-friendly Landscaping

In order to protect Florida's natural resources, the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) Program encourages homeowners to follow the nine major principles of Florida-friendly landscaping.

- ✓ Right Plant, Right Place — Plants selected to suit a specific site will require minimal amounts of water, fertilizer and pesticides.
- ✓ Water Efficiently — Irrigate only when your lawn and landscape need water. Efficient watering is the key to a healthy yard and conservation of resources.
- ✓ Fertilize Appropriately — Less is often best. Over-utilization of fertilizers can be hazardous to your yard and the environment.
- ✓ Mulch — Maintaining a 3-inch layer of mulch will help retain soil moisture, prevent erosion and suppress weeds.
- ✓ Attract Wildlife — Plants in your yard that provide food, water and shelter can benefit Florida's diverse wildlife.
- ✓ Control Yard Pest Responsibly — Unwise use of pesticides can harm people, pets, beneficial organisms and the environment.
- ✓ Recycle — Grass clippings, leaves and yard trimmings recycled on-site provide nutrients to the soil and reduce waste disposal.
- ✓ Reduce Stormwater Runoff — Water running off your yard can carry pollutants such as soil, debris, fertilizer and pesticides that can adversely impact water quality. Reduction of this runoff will help prevent pollution.
- ✓ Protect the Waterfront — Waterfront property, whether on a bay, river, stream, pond or beach, is very fragile and should be carefully protected to maintain ecosystems.

Information provided from FYN's Florida-Friendly Landscaping publication. For additional information, please visit FYN's Web site at <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/fyn/>.

Summertime brings thunder and LIGHTNING

The authors are volunteers and members of the study group on lightning. Len Hathaway is a retired fire-protection consultant and Bob Freeman is a retired electrical engineer. They are not affiliated with any firm or organization that designs, installs or markets any product or service for the lightning industry.

The 1958 hit song sung by The Jamies, "Summertime, Summertime," is an upbeat song about the good times to be had in the summer months. The songwriter, Sherm Feller, was best known as the public-address announcer for the Boston Red Sox at Fenway Park.

Here in Central Florida, it is also a reminder that our wonderful weather can sometimes change quickly for the worse, with the typical afternoon or evening thunderstorm. We experience about 80 thunderstorm days each year.

Thunderstorms bring on dazzling displays of spectacular lightning – but lightning can also be deadly and destructive. The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has declared the week of June 21-27 as the eighth annual Lightning Safety Awareness Week to focus attention on the need to play it safe when it comes to lightning.

So this is a good time to review your personal and residential lightning safety.

The Villages Library on Belvedere Boulevard has the latest book written on lightning and many of the subjects discussed in this article. The book "The Art and Science of Lightning Protection," published in 2008, was authored by the University of Florida's distinguished Prof. Martin A. Uman. The book is recommended reading.

Personal lightning safety

Nationally, there are about 85 lightning-related fatalities each year. That ranks second to flood deaths (135) and surprisingly is ahead of the No. 3 cause of weather-related deaths – tornadoes (73). However, here in Florida, lightning ranks No. 1 when it comes to weather-related fatalities.

When a flash of lightning is seen off in the distance and a rumble of thunder is heard at the pool, golf course, tennis courts, pickleball courts, softball fields, or wherever you are enjoying The Villages lifestyle, lightning safety becomes paramount. Remember the "30-30 Rule" by counting the seconds between seeing lightning and hearing thunder. If it is less than 30 seconds, it is time to seek shelter. Obviously, trees and golf carts are not a good refuge from a thunderstorm. Once you are under shelter, you may still be in harm's way if you do not avoid corded telephones, electrical appliances, windows, and plumbing fixtures like showers, bathtubs, faucets and sinks. After hearing the last thunder, wait 30 minutes before resuming outdoor activities.

Lightning safety for your home

There are three ways your home and furnishings are vulnerable to damage by lightning. Therefore, you need to assess your risk for all three. Only you the homeowner can make a determination of what is the best level of protection for your home and family.

1. A direct lightning strike with ensuing fire is the worst-case scenario as it has the potential for destroying your home and all of your possessions. Fortunately, the likelihood of this happening is low, but it has happened five times in the last five lightning seasons here in The Villages. Homeowner insurance is an obvious line of defense to transfer the financial burden of such an event.

If you have a low threshold for risk, then you should consider the benefits of a time-tested fire-prevention tool

– a lightning protection system (LPS). An LPS (i.e., lightning rods) have been successfully used for 257 years. An LPS serves two related functions: first, to intercept a lightning discharge before it can strike your home; and second, discharge the lightning current harmlessly to earth.

The University of Florida operates a 100-acre lightning test facility at Camp Blanding. Tests are conducted by sending small rockets into thunderclouds with a trailing thin copper wire to induce a lightning strike connected to the equipment on the ground under test. In one series of tests, a house equipped with lightning rods was struck on multiple occasions with no damage to the house.

Three Villages homeowners with lightning rods have reported that their homes have been struck by lightning. In all three cases, the LPS functioned as designed and there was no damage.

If you do decide to protect your home with an LPS, you need to select an installer who will adhere to the national standard on lightning known as the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)-780, Standard for the Installation of Lightning Protection Systems. You should select an installer that is listed on the Underwriters Laboratories Web site and/or the Lightning Protection Institute's Web site.

2. A more frequent but less severe way that lightning could impact your home is a surge through your electric, telephone or cable utilities. To avoid an electrical surge impacting your air conditioning system, furnace, dishwasher, electric dryer and garbage disposal, consider the benefits of surge protection offered by your electric

utility or a device installed on your electrical panel by a licensed electrician.

The above is sometimes referred to as "wholehouse surge protection." This is a misnomer, as even the most reliable surge-protection equipment will let lower-level surges reach your sensitive electronic equipment like computers, TVs, entertainment systems, telephones, microwave ovens, garage-door operators, irrigation system controllers. The Insurance Information Institute's most recent statistical data shows that claims for lightning damage to electronic equipment has risen by 101 percent in the last four years.

To protect against these lower-level surges, you need secondary surge protection for the electronic equipment discussed above in the form of plug-in devices. The cable/satellite connections for TVs should also be connected through a special plug in device with an in and out co-ax port. Computers need similar special protection. Better yet, an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) gives the dual benefit of surge protection and the ability to safely shut down if there is an interruption to the electric service.

If you do not have the protection as described above, it is good practice to disconnect the computer power and telephone/cable connections – and any other valuable piece of electronic equipment – during a thunderstorm or when leaving the home for extended periods of time.

These lightning safety tips will contribute to a safe summertime, summertime.

Six-second time-lapse photo of rocket-to-wire induced lightning strike during research at Camp Blanding. Photo is from the University of Florida Web site.



Partner continued from page 9

as a community service, such as GED, Social Security and Medicare benefits. Detailed information is available in any Villages regional recreation center and online at TheVillagesLifelongCollege.com.

TVLLC has offices, a large activity room, and computer lab in a wing of The Villages Charter School. TVLLC uses many classrooms in the Charter High School and two classrooms in the Charter Middle School. Classroom space is supplemented by renting 11 time slots in rooms in various recreation centers on a per-head-fee paid to the Recreation Department. Last year, TVLLC paid over \$20,000 for room rent. Class fees are set to cover the course and operating expenses in order to keep TVLLC self-sustaining. Since its inception, TVLLC has been operating efficiently and in the black so that it has been a positive account in The Charter School System's books.

Michelle Johnson is the director of TVLLC and has been with the program since its inception at The Villages Recreation Department about nine years ago. When The Lifelong Learning College became part of The Villages Charter School, she became TVLLC director, working under the Charter School Superintendent Dr. Randy McDaniel. She takes special pride in developing a catalog of courses, each having been requested and vetted by residents. Before a class is approved and booked, sufficient interest and participation is solicited to guarantee its success. Specialty classes range from three to six students, while large classes, such as ballroom dancing, number from 100 to 150 students. Michelle says that TVLLC has served students of all ages – her oldest at 98 has taken at



Villages Lifelong Learning College volunteers Lucia Skerl of the Village of Summerhill (left) and Linda Papineau (center) of the Village of Glenbrook review the Personal Enrichment Class schedule with Director Michelle Johnson.

least five courses, including computers and history.

The Villages Lifelong Learning College was a concept of the developer intended to be positive contribution to The Villages lifestyle experience. TVLLC is indeed unique, as it is the only college of its type in the nation, with no outside funding, or affiliation with another college or university. Judging by the ever-expanding curriculum, professional operation, academic excellence, and the positive feedback of more than 18,000 residents last year, the concept has become reality. The Villages Homeowners Association is pleased to salute the success of its first VHA Featured Partner – The Villages Lifelong Learning College!