

The VHA VOICE

THE VILLAGES HOMEOWNERS ADVOCATES: KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE

AUGUST 2021 • Vol. 27 No. 8



THE VHA'S JULY QUARTERLY TOWN HALL QUESTIONS/ANSWERS SUMMARY

The VHA wants to thank the following people for providing answers to questions from VHA members and Villages residents for The VHA Town Hall meeting: Dr. Gary Lester – Vice President Community Relations, Carrie Duckett – Assistant District Manager, Lt. Robert Siemer – District Lieutenant from the Sumter County Sheriff's Department, Bradley Arnold – Sumter County Administrator, representative for Lake County.

Note: Some questions sent for this Town Hall meeting were recently asked and answered. The complete Q & A of previous Town Hall Meetings are posted on The VHA website.

1. Would you please give an update for the site of the former Hacienda Hills Country Club?

Dr. Lester: This project involves decisions for the Spanish Springs town square and remains on hold while the situation with Lady Lake and the new second floor apartments is resolved. We are committed to doing all we can to keep Spanish Springs active and healthy, supporting our residents who enjoy going there and the merchants who serve them.

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2. Would you please give an update on the movie theaters?

- a. What is the projected completion date of the Rialto Theater?
- b. Will there be comedy club and other events in the Rialto?
- c. When will Brownwood Theater open?
- d. When will Old Mill Run Theater open 7 days a week?

Dr. Lester: We are monitoring how the movie industry is moving forward post-Covid before making decisions for the Villages movie theaters.

Q. Many people enjoy evening shows. Who makes decisions on movie times? All of the current movie start times are before 6:00 p.m. We prefer evening showings.

A. The movie theaters schedule those times and the suggestion will be passed on.

Editor's Note: Currently only Old Mill is open for movies, with live shows offered by Lazy Mac's restaurant (inside the theater) every night featuring music, comedy, trivia, improv, and blazing pianos. Visit their website at: <https://lazymacs.com/>



3. Are there plans to bring more events to Spanish Springs i.e. food trucks, farmer's market, parades?

Dr. Lester: Activities are rotated through the town squares so that each of them has an equal number of activities including special events and services.

4. Are there plans to build an indoor swimming pool in The Villages?

Carrie Duckett: We are unaware of any current plans for an indoor swimming pool. Please keep reading The Villages Daily Sun "Continuing the Dream" inserts for future construction updates from the Developer.

5. Are there plans to build a venue similar to Katie Belle's where residents can plan large banquets / events?

Dr. Lester: No.

6. What is causing the delay in opening Publix liquor store at Magnolia Plaza?

Dr. Lester: Publix had an internal issue, which has been resolved, and the opening should be soon.

7. Regarding the championship golf courses:

- a. Please explain why fairways and ruff are mowed daily in fall and winter rather than allowing grass to grow in more?

Dr. Lester: The groundskeeper determines frequency of mowing by measuring for the proper height according to the industry standard.

- b. After Southern Oaks is completed, when will the next two championship golf courses be built?

Dr. Lester: There is no schedule yet.

8. Some properties only receive regular lawn maintenance when they are rented. This requires residents to call in frequent complaints regarding overgrown lawns while the properties are vacant. After multiple complaints, please explain why deed restrictions are not enforced.

Carrie Duckett: Community Standards is a complaint driven department. Once a complaint is received, the Deed Compliance Officer visits the property and if a violation is verified, staff will begin its process to bring the property into compliance. The process includes sending up to three letters and then the case would be presented to the Board of Supervisors in a public hearing for final enforcement. If the property is deemed to be in compliance, Community Standards does not monitor it to be sure it stays in compliance. If compliance is not maintained, a new complaint needs to be filed.

The final enforcement, if the owner does not comply, may include authorizing the District to maintain the property twice a month in the summer and once a month in the winter, as needed, and imposing a \$250.00 fine each time the District maintains the

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President's Message



Welcome to the heat of Summer. Heat brings those tropical showers which ARE the summer in Florida.

You should be sure to read the article with the concerns and different options the Ad Hoc Committee will be tackling. Fire, EMS and Transport services are the

key points. All Residents need to be aware of these issues and what option would be best for The Villages and County.

KEY POINTS TO BE AWARE OF:

THERE ARE 10 OPTIONS BEING PRESENTED. 5 OPTIONS WILL NOT HAVE THE VILLAGES FIRE DEPARTMENT CONTINUE TO EXIST. AMR, AMBULANCE TRANSPORTER CO. IS NOT MEETING THEIR OBLIGATION NOW SO ANOTHER TRANSPORT SYSTEM NEEDS TO BE APPROVED. THE VILLAGES FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFERS SUPERIOR RESPONSE TIMES. THEY SHOULD BE IN THE FINAL DECISION.

The VHA supports the local Public Safety Department and Option #9 is their choice. We all need to support and speak out for utilizing the department in the final decision.

Many CDD districts need a representative to serve on their Architectural Review Committee. I served

on this committee at one time. You gain knowledge of the changes to the exterior of the home. If you are into design, landscaping, dabbled in construction, this could be just the place for you. Call Community Standards for information.

I want to thank all who sent Town Hall questions that were answered by Villages Departments and are seen in this month's Voice.

Remember, The Villages is the Friendliest Hometown. Many residents are enjoying the Villages. We all are able to express our opinions. But please use vocal restraint. You are also enjoying the Villages.

*Continue to have a great Summer,
Phil Walker
President
The VHA*

EDITOR'S NOTE: While we try to publish the most accurate information available to us at the time of publication, due to circumstances beyond our control some events may need to be cancelled or postponed. Please confirm with the source of the information provided if there is any doubt about whether or not an event is still being held as planned.



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Or email us at:
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VISION
 Keeping the Dream Alive

MISSION
 The Villages Homeowners Advocates (VHA) is a lifestyle organization whose members are committed to championing the needs of Villagers through:
 • Positive, constructive dialogue • Problem solving • Education • Philanthropic efforts

VALUES
 The VHA is committed to excellence and driven by the following values:
 • Integrity • Honesty • Accountability • Independence

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VHA MAIN PHONE:
 352-753-4650
VHA WEBSITE:
www.thevha.net

Upcoming EVENTS

FOR AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

NEW RESIDENT NIGHT:

TUESDAYS: August 10 and September 14
at 7:00 p.m. at COLONY COTTAGE REGIONAL
RECREATION CENTER, 510 Colony Blvd.

GOLF CART SAFETY CLINIC:

WEDNESDAYS: August 18 and September 15
at 9:00 a.m. at COLONY REGIONAL RECREATION
CENTER, 510 Colony Blvd.

GENERAL MEETING WITH BRADLEY ARNOLD, SUMTER COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR:

WEDNESDAY, September 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
at LAKE MIONA REGIONAL RECREATION
CENTER, 1526 Buena Vista Blvd.



QUARTERLY TOWN HALL MEETING: OCTOBER 19

**VHA BINGO! OCTOBER 14 @ LAKE MIONA
REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER**

**THE VHA COUNTRY WESTERN HOEDOWN:
JANUARY 29, 2022**

**AN EVENING WITH THE DEVELOPER
AT THE SHARON: MAY 11, 2022**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR EVENT HIGHLIGHT

THE VHA GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, September 8, at 7:00 p.m.
Lake Miona Regional Recreation Center
Doors Open at 6:30 p.m.

All Villages Residents Are Invited

The VHA will be hosting a presentation featuring the Sumter County Administrator, Bradley Arnold. He will present a summary of the upcoming budget and planned projects, including road projects. A question and answer time will follow.

The County Administrator serves as the Chief Administrative Officer through an appointment by the Board of County Commissioners.

His responsibilities include:

- o Administrative Services
- o Development Services
- o Economic Development
- o Emergency Management
- o Employee Services
- o Fire and EMS
- o Office of Management and Budget
- o Public Works
- o Purchasing

It is also the duty of the County Administrator to carry out the policies and directives of the Board of County Commissioners and manage the annual operating budget.



A VILLAGER'S VIEW: THE BEST PUBLIC SAFETY OPTION GOING FORWARD



I retired from a career in all aspects of public safety having worked in fire, EMS, and law enforcement for over 40 years. As you can imagine, the issue of medical transport in The Villages certainly caught my attention. I have led local, state, and national public safety organizations.

After reviewing the issues including the ten options and the presentations, it is clear to me that some options can, and should be easily ruled out. I should add that I have personally been involved in communities that have used most of the options listed. Some I worked in, and some were what was provided in the communities I have lived in.

When looking at this problem, the most obvious thing to note is that the component of the system that is working well is The Villages Public Safety Department (VPSD) and more commonly recognized by the public as The Villages Fire Department. They have been providing excellent response times and care that would be the envy of most communities in the country. In addition, VPSD provides many other programs and services that demonstrate their commitment to the health and safety of our community.

While the "nurse navigator" option may have some merits in some circumstances, emergency medical services (the 911 call) is best served by experienced EMD (emergency medical dispatchers), and responders who have "field experience". By that I mean someone who has been "in the field" treating victims of the trauma of an assault, a fire, a gunshot wound, an overturned car, cardiac arrest, or anything you might imagine that happens outside of the hospital.

I have responded to EMS calls where hospital-based personnel were present, and they did not know what to do. No fault to them, but hospital-based care is vastly different from the "down and dirty" street medical care.

As the AED coordinator for my neighborhood, I have worked closely with VPSD on responses, training, supplies, updates, and coordination. Our combined efforts have resulted in a cardiac arrest survival rate that is better than any place I have ever heard of. If you have a cardiac arrest here in The Villages your chance of survival is 40% as opposed to the national average of 10%. I have never seen such results in all my career. And, in the past I was a first aid and CPR instructor.

In my mind, ruling out all options that do not include VPSD is an easy choice. I realize this is a Sumter County decision and that other sections of Sumter County have a much different demographic profile. However, The Villages comprises the bulk of the responses, and our age demographic

is more likely to require EMS services, and we have the highest population density. As they say, "all politics is local" and this is a local issue for us.

Perhaps another option to be considered is to make The Villages an independent fire protection district. This is done, very effectively, in many parts of the country. This model was recently suggested for consideration by Chief Edmund Cain as an alternative to the ten official options under review.

An independent fire protection district would allow for services that relate to the demographics of our community and provide for local control of resources including budgets and policies. Also, keep in mind that, in addition to emergency medical response, VPSD provides fire prevention and response to us. The VPSD has an ISO (Insurance Services Office) Class 2 rating. As a former career fire chief in two communities, I can tell you this is a big deal and very few communities have a Class 2 rating. This rating has a direct effect on your homeowner's insurance and if you are a business owner, it has an even bigger effect.

Becoming a fire protection district would obviously require a funding mechanism that would supplement or replace the current fire assessment BUT it would also result in a reduction in the county tax that currently supports the VPSD and the "for-profit ambulance company". So, our county taxes would be lowered.

Aside from the fire protection district option, Option 9 is my choice. Option 9 is Sumter County Fire and VPSD providing fire, EMS, quick response vehicle (QRV), operations, including call taking and EMD (emergency medical dispatching), and ambulances for medical transportation.

The advantages are obvious to me. It preserves and enhances what we have; it provides for local control; and it serves the inhabitants of the response area being served. It is all about customer service!

In conclusion, while I respect others' opinions, as a VHA Vice President, a member of The Villages community since 2012, and as someone with over 40 years of experience in public safety response, I think that Option 9 OR an independent fire protection district is the best choice for those of us who live in The Villages.

If other parts of Sumter are satisfied with a different level of services, that is fine, but those of us who live in The Villages want and expect the level of services that are provided by VPSD, and that being the case, Option 9 or the independent fire protection district I have suggested for The Villages is the best choice for dispatching, fire protection, emergency medical service, customer service, and emergency medical transport.

John Dean

AMBULANCE WAIT TIME PROBLEM EXPLAINED IN LAYMAN'S TERMS



by Jan Palmer

I have been diligently trying to figure out the problem regarding unacceptable ambulance wait times for transport to a hospital after first responders have arrived on scene. I've read lengthy and detailed articles and attended presentations and discussed it at length with people who are in the know and much more knowledgeable than I am, and was still having trouble understanding all the pieces involved and the options being proposed. So, I have done some homework, and this is my attempt, on behalf of The VHA, to summarize the problem, explain where the delay is happening, what is being done, who is addressing the problem to come up with an acceptable solution, what is at stake, and how to influence the final decision.

WHO IS AFFECTED: Residents of The Villages, specifically, plus, all of Sumter County.

WHAT EXACTLY IS THE PROBLEM: It is first responders having to wait on the scene for an ambulance to arrive to transport someone to the hospital for further treatment. The time it takes to respond to a call by the Villages Public Safety Department (more commonly known as the fire department) or Sumter County is satisfactory, so that part of the equation does not need to be "fixed". First responders from VPSD and Sumter County are arriving quickly, and are assessing the situation and beginning treatment in a timely manner, but the wait time for an ambulance to arrive for transport to a hospital is not acceptable.

- The current wait times for an ambulance to arrive on scene has in some cases been over an hour or more.
- The quality of AMR, the company contracted to provide our ambulance services, is what is in question since they are responsible for all aspects of Sumter County's ambulance services: Taking 911 calls, prioritizing calls, dispatching ambulances, staffing, and managing the fleet, including acquiring vehicles and their maintenance.
- AMR has stated they are unable to keep up with necessary demand due to staffing issues and a lack of ambulances on the road.
- AMR is a for-profit business contracted through Sumter County. The Sumter County Commissioner has the power to end the contract. Their contract is due to expire within the next year.
- It is unclear why Sumter County is not fining AMR for not meeting their contract requirements of enough ambulances being on the road with Paramedics for ALS (Advanced Life Support) care.

WHAT IS BEING DONE: An Ad Hoc Fire, EMS and Transport committee, made up of one resident representative from each of the five Sumter County Districts, was established in June and has been presented, by Sumter County, with ten possible options to address the problem. They are meeting regularly, and the public is invited to attend those meetings. Of the ten options being considered, please note the following observations:

- Five would eliminate The Villages Public Safety Department altogether, transferring that oversight to either Sumter County, UF Health (which is proposing the use of a nurse navigator to triage calls to determine

if they actually require 911 emergency, on-site services, or if an alternate treatment plan, such as waiting to see their doctor or utilizing an urgent care facility, is advisable), or a combination of both private and county-only oversight.

- VPSD is not part of the problem, so it is the opinion of The VHA and the majority of leadership within The Villages to only entertain the two options, #'s 7 and 9, that preserve VPSD.
- In addition to continuing to receive the excellent service already provided by VPSD, the quality that is expected and provided to The Villages community would be retained, as well as the continuation of adjunct programs VPSD offers such as the Smoke Detector program, AED program, CPR classes, Car Seat Installation and other Public Safety programs.
- The Villages Public Safety Department itself, per Chief Cain, has recommended that Option 9 would be the most effective and beneficial of the the ten options being considered. It would have both the VPSD and Sumter County fire departments provide ambulance transport within The Villages and Sumter County, eliminating the source of the problem; AMR.
- In addition, he has recently suggested a completely independent VPSD; an option that is not being considered by the Ad Hoc committee, but which is also recommended by John Dean in "A Villager's View" on Page 3.
- Per Chief Cain: The Villages Fire Rescue has 7 QRVs already in service out of nine stations. Those 7 would be replaced with transport ambulances in addition to the ten vehicles already staffed and certified by the State as Paramedic response vehicles which would remain in service. Additional ambulances would be added to the other stations. There would be additional staff hired as needed.
- If any of the other options, involving mergers or takeover of first responder services, were to be adopted, the Villages Public Safety Department would be abolished and the level of care and response times would suffer.
- The Villages Public Safety Department runs more calls in Sumter County than the county itself does, and is more cost effective.

In effect, eliminating the VPSD would be like throwing the baby out with the bath water. It is our position that the part of the problem that needs to be fixed, should be fixed, without trying to "fix what ain't broke".

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD: Below are meeting dates that residents can attend. Take note and if you think this matter, which often is a matter of life and death, is important, and you want to be heard, speak up. In addition to attending meetings, write letters to your elected officials, listed below, plus to The Villages Daily Sun letters@thevillagesmedia.com and/or The Villages News <https://www.villages-news.com/submit-letters-editor/>

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Ad Hoc Fire, EMS and Transport Committee: Meetings are held at the Wildwood Community Center on Powell Road starting at 7:00 pm. on dates below:

- **August 4, 2021** Committee will discuss Options

- **August 18, 2021** Proposal will be selected
- **Sept. 1, 2021** Review of draft report for Sumter County Board of Commissioners
- **Sept. 15, 2021** Final Ad Hoc committee meeting

AD HOC COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

District 1 – Richard Kleindienst Sr.; District 2 – Hughlett "Leland" Greek; District 3 – Gail Lazenby; District 4 – Jeffrey Bogue; District 5 – Dave Bussone (Chairman)

The Sumter Board of County Commissioners: Meets at the Everglades Recreation Center on Marsh Bend Trail in The Villages on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

ELECTED COMMISSIONERS FOR SUMTER COUNTY:

- District 1: Gary.Search@sumtercountyfl.gov
- District 2: Doug.Gilpin@sumtercountyfl.gov
- District 3: Craig.Estep@sumtercountyfl.gov
- District 4: Garry.Breeden@sumtercountyfl.gov
- District 5: oren.miller@sumtercountyfl.gov

COMING TO TERMS WITH TERMINOLOGY AND ACRONYMS:

ISO RATING: Insurance Services Office - an independent, for-profit organization which scores fire departments on a scale of 1-10 (1 being the highest) to determine property insurance costs. The VPSD's rating is 2, in the top 10% nationwide.

AMR: American Medical Response, Inc. is a medical transportation company in the United States that provides and manages community-based medical transportation services. They currently are under contract to provide those services for Sumter County. **It was just announced the County will take over their role for logistics and communications beginning on October 1, 2021. They will, however, continue to provide ambulance transportation services.**

QRV: Quick Response Vehicles. The VPSD currently has four dedicated to medical emergencies that are non-transport vehicles.

EMT VS. PARAMEDIC: The basic difference between EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians) and paramedics lies in their level of education and the kind of procedures they are allowed to perform. While EMTs can administer CPR, glucose, and oxygen, paramedics can perform more complex procedures such as inserting IV lines, administering drugs, and applying pacemakers.

FIRST RESPONDERS: In The Villages, first responders are trained to evaluate and administer immediate care; usually an EMT or paramedic from one of the nine local fire stations.

AED An AED, or automated external defibrillator, is used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. AEDs are located in residential neighborhoods throughout The Villages with residents trained to use them. They can be first on the scene if they are notified of a possible cardiac event in their neighborhood.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ALL ASPECTS OF VPSD, THE VILLAGES PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT, VISIT: <https://www.districtgov.org/departments/public-safety/public-safety.aspx>

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property. Depending on the circumstances of the case, if the fines reach \$1,500, the Board may authorize the case be turned over to District Counsel to seek all available legal remedies, which may include; initiating a lawsuit, seeking an injunction against the owner, and placing a lien on the property. If the property comes into compliance prior to the public hearing then the case would be closed, and in accordance with the District's adopted rule, staff would again need to receive another complaint to re-visit the property.

9. Would you please explain The Villages policy for displaying political signs and flags?

Carrie Duckett: Depending on the District in which you reside, the Declaration of Restrictions provides different regulations on the placement and content of signage. Residents should contact Community Standards at 352-751-3912 for information specific to their District / Unit.

The content of flags is not regulated by the District. While flag poles must be approved by the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) prior to installation, the content on the flag is not regulated or addressed by Community Standards.

10. Can an aero fountain be placed in the retention pond off Rio Grande near the 9th hole of the golf course near Vista Court?

Carrie Duckett: A fountain cannot be placed in the retention pond as this is an irrigation pond with fluctuating water levels.

11. Are there plans to provide bus transportation within The Villages to allow residents who do not drive to access the town squares, recreation centers and medical centers?

Carrie Duckett: The counties provide Paratransit service for those customers that meet the need-based criteria. There is, of course, private carriers such as Uber, Lyft, taxis, etc., and The Villages are designed as a golf cart community. In Sumter County, the ridership was so very low (less than a half dozen passengers a day) that the fixed route transit service was discontinued. The existing golf cart infrastructure to shops, services, and facilities, along with the formal and informal neighbor-to-neighbor assistance, plus the suburban nature of The Villages offer ample opportunity for travel, thereby making traditional urban fixed- route transit rarely utilized.

12. Residents south of SR 44 can rent golf carts to play Executive golf. Is there a way for residents north of SR 44 to rent golf carts to play on the Executive golf courses?

Carrie Duckett: You may rent golf carts from the Country Club Golf Shops that are associated with the Executive Golf Courses. This information can be found at www.golfthevillages.com. Click on



Executive Golf, scroll to the bottom of the page and under Executive Golf Trail Information you will see Golf Car Rentals for use on the Executive Golf Trail.

13. Is fiber optic cable planned throughout The Villages?

Carrie Duckett: The District Government has no plans to compete with private sector and construct fiber optic within The Villages.

14. Are there plans on keeping flowers in the common areas?

Carrie Duckett: The District maintains the planting regime per existing construction plan as to when the District Government assumed control of the infrastructure. One District had a discussion as to a decrease in the number of flowers planted within its medians and entranceways. The decision was to remain status quo as to the planting of flowers as it keeps the environment the same as when residents purchased their homes.

15. Questions related to the solid waste management system include:

a. Can you please explain why the solid waste management system has increased costs?

Carrie Duckett: The cost of sanitation services increased due to:

- Long term solid waste plan introduced a single stream disposal to the waste-to-energy plant instead of utilizing the less expensive land fill disposal. In an effort to reduce the long haul transport to Georgia and be cognizant of the environment, a different disposal method was selected.
- As part of the plan, bond covenants had to be addressed to ensure NSCUDD was meeting all required debt coverages for their bonds.
- The same amount of tons of waste is still being picked up from customers and there is still transport to the waste-to-energy plant.

b. What is the current production of electricity?

Carrie Duckett: According to Covanta, the facility in Lake County produced 14 megawatts of electricity 24/7; enough to power 8,100 homes a year.

c. Is the process still pollutant free?

Carrie Duckett: According to Covanta, the facility in Lake County operates up to 99% below federal emissions standards.

16. Are more restaurants planned for the areas south of SR 44?

Dr. Lester: Yes, since our last meeting, several restaurants have opened and several more have been announced. Willie Jewells BBQ and the China Buffet have both opened in Magnolia Plaza. The Reveille Cafe, McGrady's Restaurant and Pub and McDonalds have all been announced. Stay tuned to the Daily Sun for openings and

future announcements.

17. Why are Atomic cars that are advertised to go 33 mph allowed on the multi-modal paths and golf cart lanes?

Lt. Siemer: The issue is that the vehicles cannot be functionally operated above Florida Statute regulations for a golf cart. These Atomic cars function as golf carts and must be operated under these same statutes. Unfortunately, some golf carts are illegally operated above the statutory 20 mph limit and that is the real safety and operational issue.

18. There is a car regularly parked facing the wrong way on Yankee Clipper Run.

a. What is the policy of cars parked facing the wrong way?

Lt. Siemer: It is against the law to park facing the wrong direction on the street.

b. What can be done to resolve this issue?

Lt. Siemer: Contact the Sheriff's Department to report this issue.

19. What are the vehicular laws for golf cart drivers who are:

a. talking on their cell phone while driving?

Lt. Siemer: Talking on a cell phone while driving is legal. It must be hands-free when in school zones or construction zones. It is a traffic violation if texting.

b. passing other golf carts on Morse Blvd north of CR 466 by driving out into the traffic lane?

Lt. Siemer: Golf carts are allowed on roadways posted at 30 mph or less.

20. Many cars are seen speeding on Pinellas Place entering and exiting the resident gate by Pinellas Plaza. Would the Sheriff's Department please provide a presence in this area to help control this issue?

Lt. Siemer: As soon as this question was received, a deputy was assigned to monitor this area.

21. Residents are concerned about residential and commercial vehicles exceeding the speed limits by 10-20+ mph especially on Morse Blvd. and Buena Vista Blvd.

a. Would you please explain what is being done to address this issue?

Lt. Siemer: There are 5 zone units in The Villages that work traffic and 2 additional traffic units. We put up electronic speed signs and place unmanned patrol cars in the area. We move patrol cars every week to different locations to try to slow traffic down. Many citations are issued with the majority given to passenger cars.

b. Would you explain how residents can help?

Lt. Siemer: People may contact the Sheriff's department to report problems in specific locations.

22. Is the Sheriff's Department still providing a

Continued on page 10

The VHA News & Notes

NORTH AREA

North of 466

Jan Palmer – Editor of The Voice



Although I have lived in The Villages for four years now, and visited for at least six years prior to that for a month each year, it never ceases to amaze me how much I don't know about how well this place is managed and operates. It is only when I am forced to look deeper into issues or how things are done that I finally begin to grasp one piece of the bigger picture that makes this place so special.

This month I attended the presentation The VHA made available to all residents that highlighted the way our public safety department system for medical emergencies currently functions. It was an informative and thorough presentation, and yet I still had to do some homework because I'm a bit dense sometimes, so what I discovered is on Page 4.

I also attended The VHA presentation about Community Watch. That was an eye-opener for me. I had no idea how vital it is to the sense of security and peace of mind we take for granted.

In the public safety presentation, moderated by our district manager, along with Chief Cain of The Villages Public Safety Dept., Richard Baier stressed that people who move here are not just buying a home; they are investing in a lifestyle; including all the services and amenities that are in place to support that lifestyle. I would like to encourage you to get involved at some level in maintaining what we have and "Keeping the Dream Alive". It is up to each one of us to preserve the beauty and excellence that defines The Villages.



Jan Palmer
Editor, The VHA Voice

CENTRAL AREA

Between 466 and 466A

John Dean, Vice President

vhajohndean@gmail.com – 207-557-0371



Greetings,

With about 3000 lifestyle groups here in The Villages, there are certainly plenty of choices of how to occupy your time. However, in a state that is so geographically diverse as Florida, I cannot help wanting to explore from the Pan-

handle to the Keys. We made one such trip during the week of July 4th. My nephew, Christian, and his family, rented a house on a canal in Marathon, which is about half-way down the Keys. They invited us to join them as it was a graduation trip for their oldest son. We had never been to the Keys even though we have lived here almost nine years. We packed up and headed south for the 6.5-hour drive. We timed our travel to avoid the rush hours of Orlando, Fort Lauderdale, and Miami and the trip was quite enjoyable, especially when we started to see water.

Well, the whole adventure was wonderful. We saw family, I got to do some cooking for them, and the boys fished for hours off the back of the house in the canal. We chartered a deep-sea fishing boat for a day out of Islamorada and caught nine Mahi-Mahi. We brought the filets to a local restaurant, and they cooked them for us four different ways and I have even more in my freezer to enjoy another day.



We also chartered another boat to go snorkeling on a protected reef. It was a beautiful experience. While the fish provided a colorful explosion of color and variety, I was surprised how much I enjoyed all the varieties of coral. We also spent one day in Key West and really enjoyed the Conch Train tour. This visit certainly primed our interest in going back for another longer visit.

The bottom line for us is that we are happy to have all the opportunities we have in The Villages, but we also appreciate having an infinite variety of things to see and do in Florida. Whatever your interests – get out and enjoy!

Stay safe and healthy,
John

SOUTH AREA

Between 466A and SR44

Mike Dollard, Vice President

mjdollard@hotmail.com – 585-315-8338



While The VHA is a local nonprofit that raises its own operating funds, I want to pitch for another charity in The Villages that also needs funds. Operation Shoebox prepares gift boxes for service members year-round and does a lot to prepare and send packages to them during the fast-approaching, holiday season. It takes

effort and money to ship these packages and they need help from generous Villagers.



I will ask you to donate with a check payable to Operation Shoebox, and send it to:

Camille Gieck

17481 SE 76th Flintlock Terrace

The Villages, FL 32162

It takes a while for the packages to get there so the shipping season has to start early – please send a check ASAP. Or go do it now; I'll wait.

Ever feel like you don't know what is going on in The Villages? Go to www.districtgov.org, click on "How Do I?" at the top of the page. The fourth choice is "Sign Up for Email Notifications". Select what email notifications you are interested in, but I highly recommend, under the 'Other' option, that you choose to receive the District Weekly Bulletin, a choice near the bottom. After that, the choices are up to you, but that bulletin is important.

Mike Dollard

FAR SOUTH AREA

South of SR44

Andrew Bilardello, Vice President

andy@bellicus.net – 561-644-1358

I want to thank everyone in our area who has donated food items for the Wildwood Soup Kitchen. Over the past few months, we have collected and donated several hundred pounds of groceries, which were generously collected through the weekly Publix "Buy One, Get One" program; or as I like to call it, "Buy One, Give One". Please consider helping the needy by continuing to support this worthwhile program.

I want to personally thank our volunteers who have graciously allowed their homes to be used as donation drop off locations; Peggy Sickel in Hawkins, Lisa Romig in McClure, Margaret Rath in Fenney and Linda Sagar in Marsh Bend. If anyone in Chitty Chatty or Bradford would also like to help, please contact me directly and start spreading the word to your friends and neighbors that you will be collecting the items. I will then pick them up from your house and make the delivery to the Soup Kitchen. Depending on the amount of items donated, I usually do this once a week or every other week.

The VHA hosted Chief Nehemiah Wolfe of The Villages Community Watch on July 19 at the Everglades Rec Center. Chief Wolfe spoke to the residents in attendance about the Community Watch program in



Nehemiah Wolfe, Community Watch Department Chief, and Michael Miller, Field Operations Manager

detail. It was a very informative presentation, which I would suggest everyone attend the next time that it is offered. He went over all aspects of the program, with emphasis on exactly what the Community Watch does and does not do. I would recommend that you visit their website at: <https://districtgov.org/departments/Community-Watch/intro.aspx> to learn more.

When you read this article, we will be heading into prime hurricane season. Start stocking up on supplies now and avoid the rush later. Please visit: <https://beprepared.com/blogs/articles/20-must-have-supplies-for-a-hurricane> for more information.

*Thank you and stay safe,
Andrew Bilardello*

LADY LAKE NEWS

Lynn Davis
Lynna527@aol.com – 352-250-7782

Earth Fare in the Lady Lake Commons Shopping Center on Hwy 27/441 located near Goodwill is planning to open in August.

Taco Bell / Kentucky Fried Chicken on Hwy 441/27 is being remodeled. When it is finished only Taco Bell will be at that location.

Ye Old Thrift Shoppe across from the Log Cabin is scheduled to open late July or early August. All proceeds benefit The Villages Hospital Auxiliary Foundation.

Lady Lake Historical Society is looking for volunteers to join their board of directors. Meetings are once a month. Help keep local history alive! For information contact Suzanne at 352-259-4359.

Hurricane Season in Florida is from June 1st to November 30th. If by chance the traffic lights are out then the intersections become 4-way stops.

Also be observant of possible hazardous conditions, due to the stormy weather, particularly when driving through the construction on Hwy 27/441.

SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders)

is back at the Lady Lake Library. It is a free program offered to assist with Medicare and health insurance questions by providing one-on-one counseling and information to seniors. Counselors are available at the library the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays every month from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.



Additional SHINE counseling locations and times are:

- Eisenhower Recreation Center, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. 1st & 3rd Wednesdays.
- Chula Vista Recreation Center, 3:00 - 5:30 p.m. 1st & 3rd Fridays.
- Lake Miona Recreation Center, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. 2nd & 4th Tuesdays.

Also, **“Understanding Medicare”**, a group presentation geared toward those turning 65, will be made at 1:00 on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, at the Manatee Recreation Center. For more information, call 800-963-5337.

*Have a safe rest of the summer,
Lynn Davis*

S ee,
H ear,
A ct politely &
R esponsibly to
E njoy!

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

Our Multi-Modal Paths are for everyone's enjoyment — so be safe and share the path!



AUGUST SEMINAR OFFERINGS

Combating the Growing Problem of Elder Fraud

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

10:00 a.m. - Noon

A comprehensive look at this growing threat to Seniors, featuring speakers from law enforcement, banking, and state government.

New to Medicare - 2021 Edition

Thursday, August 26, 2021

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Our annual review of Medicare for those either aging into eligibility or just needing a refresher on options. Our experts will cover Medicare's structure, rules, and regulations.

Check the AMAC Foundation website (www.AmacFoundation.org) for details, and contact the Foundation office at 888-750-2622 or via email at info@amacfoundation.org to register.



Contact Us
To become a member
or renew, simply go to

www.thevha.net

or

VHA deposit boxes are available
at every Postal Station.

Our mailing address:
The VHA, 1104 Main Street
The Villages, FL 32159

- New Membership
- Renewal
- \$25/Household for 2 years
- \$100/Household for Lifetime

Name: *(All in Household)*

Street Address:

Zip:

Name of Village/Villa:

Mailing Address: *(if different than The Villages)*

Phone:

Email:

- I would like to volunteer

VILLAGES PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT AND COMMUNITY WATCH: WORKING HAND IN HAND TO KEEP THE VILLAGES SAFE

Two of the most easily recognized departments within The Villages are Community Watch and The Villages Fire Department. Both of these departments work hand in hand to make sure our community is safe at all times.

Both departments provide 24-hour coverage, 365 days a year. The Community Watch Department and your Villages Public Safety Department work in unison during instances such as structure fires, traffic accidents, severe weather, and special events. An example of this would be the last Presidential visit where not only crowd control was needed but also Fire Rescue to deal with any potential emergencies. These agencies also coordinate with County, State, and Federal agencies on a multitude of incidents.

Community Watch patrols all thirteen Districts at least twice per day. Also, they serve as our security service for 2 billion dollars of infrastructure as they patrol all recreation centers, swimming pools, utilities, and District-owned buildings daily. Community Watch utilizes two-way communication to remain in constant contact with their Dispatch Center in the event of an emergency which requires medical or law enforcement coordination. On June 23, 2021, Community Watch became the first (non-PSAP) Public Safety Answering Point, to receive accreditation through the Florida Telecommunications Accreditation Committee (FLATAC).

On the other hand, the Villages Fire Department has nine strategically located Fire Stations throughout The Villages and daily staffing of fifty personnel responding with an apparatus of aerial trucks, engine companies, and rescue/non-transport quick response vehicles as well as a total of fifteen units staffed with paramedics to respond to all types of emergencies. Augmenting this fleet, Community Watch has seventeen patrol vehicles equipped with an Automated External Defibril-



Richard Baier, right, shares the podium with Chief Cain, head of VPSD, to present information on Sumter County public safety options at the General Meeting hosted by The VHA.

lator (AEDs) to assist in cardiac emergencies and routinely patrols thirteen Districts and three Town Squares. The Community Watch drivers also patrol the town squares at night with the AED units to provide immediate assistance if needed.

The Villages Fire Department provides a Smoke Detector program. This program alone assists over 6,000 residents a year. Residents may call the Fire Department to have their smoke detector batteries changed or defective units changed out when they purchase the replacement units and/or batteries. Also, the Fire Department provides CPR/AED classes to both residents and employees of the District. The Neighbors Helping Neighbors AED program has a task force of 5,000 trained individuals in the use of AEDs in sudden cardiac arrest situations. This contributes to the cardiac arrest survival rate of 40% which is well above the national average.

Together these departments are focused on providing a safe neighborhood and reassuring presence to those who come into contact with them. The numerous services they provide in addition to the emergency services make The Villages a most desirable place to live, work, and recreate.

Richard Baier, District Manager



**Membership has its rewards...
Join today at thevha.net**



AUXILIARY FOUNDATION



Michael Pape, PLA: Have you ever wondered who plans and lays out the roadways, neighborhoods, town centers, recreation centers and parks, or who designs all the beautiful pedestrian spaces and landscaping that grace The Villages? For the past 35 years, our newest board member, Michael Pape, and his organization, Michael Pape and Associates, has had a primary role in big picture planning, designing and creating the exterior environment that delights residents of The Villages. Throughout his 44 years as a landscape architect, land planner and arboriculturist, Michael has focused on the spirit and creativity that goes into designing places that are an essential part of the community where people come together to live, work, play, and enjoy each other and their lifestyle.

Along with his wife, Trish—also a landscape architect who specializes in land planning--

Welcome New Board Members

Michael’s focus has ranged from site planning and landscape design to “hardscape” design; that is, the man-made elements such as pedestrian paths, plazas, walls, signage, and water features which are an integral element of landscape architecture. Other projects in which their company has been involved include the planning and design of the UF Health The Villages® Regional Hospital campus, UF Health The Villages® Freestanding ER, the Sharon Morse Celebration Brick Garden, planning the areas around the future UF Health Medical City south of the turnpike, and recently, the construction of the Foundation’s new thrift store, Ye Olde Thrift Shoppe.

Michael and Trish recently began a transition into retirement, and have transferred their interest in Michael Pape and Associates; however, the firm will continue to have a strong presence in the planning and design of The Villages. They love the outdoors and enjoy hiking, cycling, or sailing and their greatest new joy is their first grandchild, Edie Claire Rodgers, born on Valentine’s Day!”



Dr. Angel Tafur: Dr Tafur specializes in Family Medicine in The Villages and is affiliated with UF Health The Villages® Hospital and UF Health Leesburg Hospital. He believes in implementing a full

continuum of care for his patients including rounding on them when they are in the hospital, rehabilitation, nursing home, assisted living, or memory care facilities. He also serves as the President of the Florida Medical Directors Association (FMDA) with headquarters in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Having grown up in Peru, South America, Dr. Tafur speaks fluent Spanish. He graduated from Federico Villarreal University of Medicine in Lima, Peru. After that, Dr. Tafur became a “Saluki”, which is the mascot of Southern Illinois University where he participated in the Family Practice Residency Program. During his tenure at Southern Illinois, he learned to speak fluent English.

When asked what attracted him to the Auxiliary Foundation board of directors, Dr. Tafur said, “I would love to be involved in ways to help promote the hospital throughout our community.” Being a devoted husband and father, he was inspired by the “family” atmosphere shared by the board, staff, donors and community partners. What also impressed him was the level of trust and transparency he has seen within the organization.

Dr. Tafur and his wife, Lauren, who is his nurse practitioner, have three children, Vanessa, Connor and Andrea and a cat named Moza. In his free time, Dr. Tafur enjoys kayaking, surfing, and bicycling with his family.

WELCOME NEW VHA MEMBERS

ABRAMS, Natalie & Les	BEGHLY, Karen	FARRIS, Chip & Becky	KAVANAUGH, Ann P.	MAHONEY, Thad & Marilyn	SHEPARD, Steve & Melissa
ADAMS, Shelli & PHIL	BILEZIKIAN, Timothy & Patricia	FENNELL, Sandra	KENNEY, Patricia P. & Michael A.	McCOMAS, Janet & Ken	SHOWS, Jane
AGUIAR, Ron & Nancy	BOLLARO, Diana & Tom	FENNEMA, Curt & Judith	KINGSBURY, Lorie Franse & WILLMORE, Perry	MELCHIONNO, Rick	STOFFEL Kris & WALLACE, Candi
ANDRADEZ, Ralph & JoAnn	BROOKS, Sue A.	FERRARO, David & Cathy	KRETOVICH, Frank & Gerry	MITCHELL, Mark & Karen	SUDER, Deborah
ARRUDA, Anthony & McHUGH, Margaret	BROWN, Stephen J. & Tamara M.	FILONE, Lorraine	LaFUZE, Mike	MUNOZ, Richard & Shirley	SULLIVAN, Elaine & John
ATCHISON, Mary Ann & Vincent	BUNN, Mary & Dennis	FINDLEY, Mary Lou	LARSON, Maryann	NEUMAN, Fran & Jeff	THOMPSON, Gary & Cheryl
AVENI, Frank & Kathleen	BURROUGHS, Robert & Donna	FORCE, Linda R.	LAWITZKE, Thomas & Bonnie	NUSSBAUM, Mike & Joyce (Rosalind)	TREMBLAY, Charles & Susan
AVERY, Steve	CHAMBERLAIN, Peter & Bonnie	FRIGIOLA, Gary & Linda	LEE, Rhonda & SALYER, Robert	OGLE, Barbara & KETTREN, Susan	TYREE, Gail
BARKOFSKI, Stephen Z. & Mary Jo	CHRISTIAN, Bernard & Sandra	GANIO, Peter & Jeanette	LEININGER, Evelyn	PADILLA, Peter & Lynne	VELAZQUEZ, Ramon & Noella
BARR, James & Linda	COSTABILE, Maryann & John	GARIE, Victoria & Jodi	LEWIS, Earl & CREEL, Carolyn Michele	PILKINGTON, Fredricka	WAAGE, Diane
BARRETT, Arthur Kendall & Jimmie	CRISCIONE, Theresa Jane (Terry)	GARTH, Jim, Kathleen & Julie	LOMBARDI, Frank & Debbie	PIORETTA, John & Janice	WILL, Dick & Dana
BEAUDET, Andrea	CRUICKSHANK, James P. & Denise	GORMLEY, Sean & Kay	LOMBELINO, Kurt S. & Barbara	PLATTI, Bill & Angela	WILSON, Sam & Margaret
BEAVERSON, Nancy	DUBER, Greg & Katie	HALL, William & Lori	LONGINETTI, Karen & Bill	ROER, Marc	WOLFE, Bryan
BECKLER, Larry E. & WALLER, Marlene (Laney)	FANSLER, Danny & Terry	HITCHINGS, Dennis & Nancy	LYNCH, Philip & Rosemarie	SCHMERSCHNEIDER, Jim & Darlene	YOUNG, Frederick & Karen
		HORNER, Maury & Karen	MACK, Brenda	SAUTER, Gene & Joanne	ZIAREKI, Larry
		HULL, Rick & Linda		SHEER, Hank & Georgia	

Seniors VS. CRIME



CBD, the non-psychoactive element of marijuana and legal extract of hemp, is being hailed by many as the wonder drug of the 21st century. But there's either limited or no evidence of its effectiveness for a wide range of disorders including insomnia and pain relief. Some sellers also outrageously claim it can be used in the treatment of cancer, AIDS, and multiple sclerosis. There's not a shred of proof for this.

CBD, though legal in some forms throughout the US, is not approved for treatment by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), except for the seizure control drug Epidiolex. But that hasn't stopped scammers from making outrageous cure claims, which has led the agency to issue warnings to several product makers and sellers.

Furthermore, the spread of legalization of the psychoactive extract THC -- the compound that makes users 'high' -- is likely to lead to even more shocking claims about effectiveness.

The biggest worry about the CBD scam is that the claims usually have the greatest appeal to people with chronic medical issues; precisely those who can least afford to gamble with their health. Using CBD -- full name cannabidiol -- as an alternative remedy could mean that a patient is not taking the medication



they should be or it could complicate or defeat the effectiveness of prescribed medication.

The drug is usually sold as either a CBD tincture or edible product. In other cases, it may be mixed with other chemicals or herbs. That may be legal, but it's the claims some sellers are making that put them on the wrong side of the law. In one case, a seller allegedly made unsubstantiated claims that its product was "medically proven" and safe for all users and that it treated pain better than prescription products.

Now the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has stepped in with a crackdown in a campaign it has labeled "CBDeceit."

If you're considering taking CBD or a product containing it, use the following steps to avoid a scam:

- Take any claims that a CBD-based product is scientifically proven to cure or treat your symptoms with a pinch of salt.

- Always talk to your doctor or health specialist about any alternative remedies you are considering using.
- Don't stop taking any existing meds without checking with your health professional.
- Don't fall for ads that claim their product is "guaranteed" to treat your condition or illness.
- Learn and understand more about the FDA's concerns and the current legal position on drug approval.

"Companies that represent expressly or by implication that what they sell can prevent, treat, or cure serious medical conditions will be held to the highest substantiation standards," FTC says, "and marketers can expect careful scrutiny of those promises."

Even so, the FDA acknowledges "the potential therapeutic opportunities that cannabis or cannabis-derived compounds could offer" and that there is "significant interest in these possibilities."

Investigations and research of CBD are ongoing, spearheaded in the US by the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER). CDER remains concerned that consumers may put off getting important medical care, such as proper diagnosis, treatment, and supportive care due to unsubstantiated claims associated with CBD products. For that reason, it's important that consumers talk to a health care professional about treatment options scientifically proven to be effective.

If you need assistance with understanding any aspects of CBD 'Cure' Claims, contact us via our website at: <http://www.svcinthevillages.org/>



In April, Governor De Santis signed into law the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Bill which went into effect on July 1, 2021.

Here is a summary of the important provisions:

Motorists MUST obey the 3 feet passing law: If a motorist cannot give 3 feet when passing, then the motorist must stay behind the cyclist until passing with at least 3 feet is possible.



Motorists MAY cross the center lane in a no-passing zone to safely pass a cyclist: The law makes it legal for a motorist to *briefly and safely cross the center lane* in a no-passing zone, in order to pass a cyclist by 3 feet.

Motorists MAY NOT turn right in front of a cyclist within 20 feet of any intersection: This is a designed safety provision to prevent "right hook" crashes by cyclists.

Bicyclists SHOULD use the left lane before making a left turn: The law clarifies that bicyclists should use the left lane for motor vehicle traffic before attempting to make a left turn at an intersection.

Group riders should cross intersections with stop signs in groups of 10 or less: After coming to a complete stop, bicyclists can proceed through the intersection in a group of 10 or less at a time. Vehicles must allow the group of 10 or less to get through the intersection before proceeding.

Excerpted from the Florida Bicycle Association

Continued from page 5

security walk-through to help residents learn how to keep their homes safe?

Lt. Siemer: This program was suspended due to Covid-19. The suspension is still on hold as cases continue to occur. The Sheriff's department is looking forward to resuming this program at an appropriate time.

23. Why has Stillwater Trail between Morse Blvd and Buena Vista Blvd had only one lane resealed?

Bradley Arnold: Stillwater Trail between Morse Boulevard and Buena Vista Boulevard did not have the same reconstruction and resurfacing requirements (not resealing); therefore, it was not included in the current fiscal year and will be part of the road re-evaluated in 2022.

24. When will the streets Aloha Way and Vermont Avenue in the historic side be repaved?


Lake County representative: The county rates the roads 1-10. These two streets are rated 6. Generally, streets and roads are not scheduled for resurfacing until they deteriorate to a 4. Inspection of streets and roads is done once a year. Neither of these streets is scheduled for resurfacing this fiscal year.

2021 Sumter Schools Supply Drive

9am - Noon

WEDNESDAY - AUG. 4TH - LAKE MIONA PICNIC PAVILION
THURSDAY - AUG. 5TH - EISENHOWER PICNIC PAVILION
FRIDAY - AUG. 6TH - EVERGLADES PICNIC PAVILION

Help Support our Students from..



Wildwood Elementary - Bushnell Elementary
 Webster Elementary - Lake Panasoffkee Elementary
 South Sumter Middle School
 Wildwood Middle High School - South Sumter High School
 Sumter Prep Academy

NEW ITEMS ONLY PLEASE

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Sticky Notes - Lined Notebook paper
- Composition Notebooks - Index Cards
- Highlighters - Colored Pens & Pencils
- Black Pens - Pencils - Pink Erasures
- Crayons - Scissors - Glue Sticks
- Colored Paper - Graph Paper
- 3-Ring Binders (2", 2 1/2", 3")
- Tab Subject Dividers - Sheet Protectors

WISH LIST:

- Headphones - Earbuds - Styluses
- Card Stock - Small Whiteboards
- Band Aids - Individual Tissues packages
- Quart & Gallon Size Ziplock Bags
- Disinfectant Wipes

Monetary Donations Welcomed
 Checks Payable to: Sumter Schools Enhancement Foundation
 Memo Line: School Supply Drive
 Mail to: Sumter County School District
 2680 West CR 476
 Bushnell, FL 33513

Sally Moss, Vice Chair
 Sumter County School Board
 sally.moss@sumter.k12.fl.us
 (352) 445-4120

The Students in Sumter County Appreciate Your Generosity!

GET SMART ABOUT NEW VEHICLE TECHNOLOGY

FORWARD COLLISION WARNINGS 	ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL 	REVERSE SAFETY TECHNOLOGIES 
BLIND SPOT WARNINGS 	LANE DEPARTURE WARNINGS 	DROWSY DRIVER ALERTS 
FEATURED TECHNOLOGIES 	ADDITIONAL TECHNOLOGIES 	FUTURE OF TRANSPORTATION 

Staying in the know just got easier.
 Register now for the free AARP Smart DriverTEK® virtual workshop.

Technology is changing the way we drive. Now, you can explore how new auto safety features make driving safer and easier with the AARP Smart DriverTEK interactive virtual workshop. This free, 90-minute workshop will cover the latest high-tech safety features on the market, so you can learn all about important auto advances like:

- Forward collision warnings
- Autonomous vehicles
- Blind-spot warnings systems
- Smart headlights
- And so much more!

Plus, the workshop takes place online via Zoom, so you can virtually join peers and learn from the comfort of home!

UPCOMING FREE TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP:

HOST: AARP (FL) Zone 19 Driver Safety Volunteers

Thursday August 19, 2021, 10:00 am
Thursday August 26, 2021, 10:00 am

Space is limited. Register now:

August 19th, 10:00 am - <https://aarp.cvent.com/d/mqj70/4W>
 August 26th, 10:00 am - <https://aarp.cvent.com/d/hmqj70/4W>



Smart DriverTEK is developed jointly by AARP Driver Safety and The Hartford.



We Urgently need VOLUNTEERS in our area.

BECOME AN AARP DRIVER SAFETY VOLUNTEER







You can make a difference right here in THE VILLAGES, FL

Become part of the safe-driving solution in your community. Join AARP Driver Safety as a volunteer to help organize and teach classroom courses in your local community centers, libraries, hospitals, senior centers and other venues near you! Many opportunities are available depending on your interests: course instructor, volunteer leader, marketing & recruitment specialist, data manager or tech advisor. You'll feel good about helping others while making your community safer.

Join almost 5,000 AARP Driver Safety volunteers nationwide!

Volunteer today:
aarp.org/adsvolunteer
¡Necesitamos voluntarios bilingües que hablan español!

All AARP Driver Safety volunteer positions are unpaid. However, volunteers are reimbursed for approved, program-related, out-of-pocket expenses, such as mileage, postage, etc.



THE ON-LINE REFRESHER COURSE CONTINUES TO BE OFFERED:

For information and to register, go to:
<https://www.aarpdriversafety.org/>
LIVE CLASSES WILL RESUME IN SEPTEMBER:
Two-Day Class 9-12 p.m. \$20.00 Member / \$25.00 Non-Member

September							September
Jack Haughn	352-603-1420		09/14/21	Tue	09/17/21	Fri	Laurel Manor
Art Donnelly	631-792-2203		9/18/21	Sat	09/25/21	Sat	Paradise
Paul Scannell	352-399-6414		9/28/21	Tue	09/29/21	Wed	Rohan

To register, call the individual instructor.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE THEVHA.NET FOR INFO, MEMBERSHIP, HELPFUL LINKS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, AND MORE

Home Join/Renew About Donate Contact



Members News Events Volunteers Merchants

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

HELPING HANDS

The VHA NEW RESIDENT NIGHT

AUGUST 19 AT 7:00 P.M.

COLONY COTTAGE REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER

PRESENTERS MAY INCLUDE, AND INFORMATION/HANDOUTS WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM:

- Honorable Paul Militello, Sumter County Judge
- Sumter County Sheriff's Office & other local law enforcement
- Sumter County Property Appraiser
- Sumter County Tax Collector
- Sumter County Clerk
- District Government
- Serving Health Ins. Needs of Elders (SHINE)
- Veteran Services
- Seniors vs. Crime
- UF HealthThe Villages Regional Hospital Auxiliary
- SECO
- Sumter Landing Bicycle Club
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- Friends of the Library
- The Enrichment Academy
- Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches
- The VHA – The Villages Homeowners Advocates

NEXT NEW RESIDENT NIGHT WILL BE SEPTEMBER 14 AT COLONY COTTAGE REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER 510 COLONY BLVD. NEAR MORSE/466A



GOLF CART SAFETY CLINIC



**AUGUST 18 @ 9:00 A.M.
COLONY COTTAGE REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER, 510 COLONY BLVD.**

CLINIC TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Not a Toy • Golf Cars & LSV • Golf Cars vs. Others • Tunnels
- Intersections • Passing & Road Crossings • Bridges • Turns
- Circles (Roundabouts) • Parallel Parking • Pulling into a Parking Space • Sharing Parking with Cars • No Parking Zones • Insurance
- Legal concerns • Maintenance

NEXT MONTH: SEPTEMBER 15 @ COLONY COTTAGE REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER

HELPING



HANDS

**DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
LOAN PROGRAM**

VISIT WWW.THEVHA.NET TO VIEW OUR CURRENT INVENTORY, THEN CALL:

352-973-2284

OR EMAIL US AT:

VHA.HELPINGHANDS.OFFICEMAIL@GMAIL.COM

WE WILL THEN SCHEDULE YOUR PICK-UP FROM:
**THE VHA OFFICE
1104 MAIN ST.
SPANISH SPRINGS
MONDAY THRU FRIDAY BETWEEN
11:00 A.M. AND 1:00 P.M.**

M2M: THE VHA MERCHANTS TO MEMBERS DISCOUNT PROGRAM



Visit our website at www.thevha.net for a complete list of vendors and service providers who generously offer VHA members significant discounts. Be sure to have your VHA membership card with you to receive this member benefit.

**AUTOMOBILE SERVICES FOR YOU
EATS AND SWEETS
IMPROVING YOUR HOME
IMPROVING YOUR LOOK
LODGING AND RELAXATION
SERVICES FOR YOU
THINGS TO DO**