

# The VHA VOICE

THE VILLAGES HOMEOWNERS ADVOCATES: KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE

September 2021 • Vol. 27 No. 9



## THE VHA AND POA UNITED IN SUPPORT OF THE VILLAGES PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

The Ad Hoc Committee for Fire, EMS and Medical Transport has finished its work and formalized its recommendations to the Sumter County Board of Commissioners. They will vote on the recommendations on September 21 after moving that action forward from the initial date of October 12 in response to an overwhelming outcry from The Villages community.

In an unprecedented collaboration, the two leading organizations representing The Villages residents and property owners have come together in support of The Villages Public Safety Department (VPSD).

The Villages Homeowners Advocates (The VHA) president, Phil Walker, and the Property Owners' Association of The Villages (POA) president, Cliff Wiener, have agreed that their organizations believe strongly that VPSD should continue in its role as the lead provider of Fire and EMS services in The Villages.



Walker and Wiener both have expressed the frustration of their members with Sumter County for using the poor service by the private ambulance provider, AMR, to attempt to consolidate the fire departments. "The only issue that needs immediate attention is medical transport," they concur. They also questioned when and why the County Commissioners asked County Administrator Bradley Arnold to provide ten options for consideration. Members have stated this issue was unnecessarily complicated when the most immediate issue to be addressed is ambulance transport. Members of both organizations have pointed out that the County has managed the contract with AMR without imposing penalties for poor performance.

At the Ad Hoc Committee meeting on August 4, the committee voted 3-2 on two motions that will recommend that:

- Sumter County create an ambulance transport service staffed by county employees.
- Sumter County Fire Rescue and The Villages Public Safety Department NOT be consolidated.

The VHA and POA concur with those recommendations, however, they are leaving the door open for VPSD to also manage medical transport for The Villages residents. Members said that residents are proud of, and have confidence in, VPSD, and do not want to see things change.

Over the years, VPSD has had continuously improving ISO ratings\* (used for homeowners to get the best insurance rates), are accredited among the best in the country, and have services not provided by any other departments (such as the AED program and smoke detector battery changing service).

The VHA and POA also pointed to the dramatic differences between the needs of The Villages communities and rural Sumter County when

it comes to fire and rescue. The populations are significantly different, with older residents clearly concentrated in The Villages.

Response times are a matter of life or death. "If anything, residents would prefer that VPSD also handle the transport on scene, rather than waiting for another vehicle to arrive," according to Wiener. Walker agrees that the County should only be concerned about what department can provide superior service. "Clearly, in The Villages, that is VPSD."

**Both organizations are urging their members to continue to be vocal about this issue; to send letters or emails, and to attend meetings, to insist that the Commissioners hear them when they say they do not want VPSD to be consolidated with the Sumter County fire department.**

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\* Virtually all U.S. insurers of homes and business property use ISO's Public Protection Classifications in calculating premiums. Primary measures include emergency communications, fire department capabilities, water supply systems, and community efforts to reduce the risk of fire. Based upon this data, ISO assigns a PPC on a scale of 1 to 10. Class 1 ratings generally represent superior property fire protection and Class 10 ratings indicate a system that does not meet ISO's minimum criteria. In general, the price of fire insurance in a community with a good PPC is substantially lower than in a community with a poor PPC, assuming all other factors are equal. VPSD has an ISO rating of 2. Sumter County's rating, not including The Villages area, is 3/3Y. The 3Y is due to its rural population's further proximity to a fire station and fire hydrants.



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**The VHA President's Message**

**G**ood Day! Weather wise it has been great when we dodged the latest tropical storms. The hurricane season is approaching the half way point so let's hope we keep on dodging all to come.

Our Public Safety Department in the Villages is the most efficient department in response time to emergencies. If any option selected by the Ad Hoc Committee requires that we merge with the County and eliminate The Villages Public Safety Department, we will lose the advantages of having the best coverage and benefits offered by our own well-run fire department. Take the time to contact the Sumter County Commissioners and share your feeling that we have to keep our own department. Emails for each Commissioner:

- **District 1:** [Gary.Search@sumtercountyfl.gov](mailto:Gary.Search@sumtercountyfl.gov)
- **District 2:** [Doug.Gilpin@sumtercountyfl.gov](mailto:Doug.Gilpin@sumtercountyfl.gov)
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- **District 5:** [oren.miller@sumtercountyfl.gov](mailto:oren.miller@sumtercountyfl.gov)

I want to recognize two individuals who have chosen to step aside from their VHA responsibilities to meet other callings:

- **Andy Bilardello, Vice President of the Far South**, is looking to have more time to follow other passions and political interests. The Far South area is the fastest growing area of the Villages, South of 44. Communicating with new residents and sharing with them the

benefits of joining The VHA has been a challenging job and Andy has met that challenge. Join me in wishing Andy the best.

- **William (Bill) Gottschalk, President of The VHA Helping Hands** program, is retiring. He will be missed. Bill is a past President of The VHA, but after he retired from that position, he saw an opportunity in one of the programs of The VHA and became a passionate supporter of Helping Hands by becoming a volunteer, and then President. Since 2018, Bill has worked alongside many volunteers in making Helping Hands a valuable service to The Villages community by offering durable medical equipment available at no charge. Bill has brought passion for the service that Helping Hands offers, and pride for what has been accomplished by this program. Bill will, no doubt, take his passion to whatever lies ahead for him. Join me in wishing Bill the best.

As Andy and Bill step aside, they offer opportunities to VHA members to fill their spots, along with other volunteer needs listed on Page 3. I talk with many of you who want to help, but have hesitated to step up to the plate. Here is your chance. Call me at (352)753-8618, or email me at [4ianeknfl4@gmail.com](mailto:4ianeknfl4@gmail.com) and let's talk about how you can join us in "Keeping the Dream Alive".

*Phil Walker  
President  
The VHA*



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For contact information go to  
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For contact information go to  
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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

**VHA OFFICE**  
1104 Main St., Spanish Springs

**VHA MAIN PHONE:**  
352-753-4650

**VHA WEBSITE:**  
[www.thevha.net](http://www.thevha.net)



# Upcoming EVENTS

## FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

### NEW RESIDENT NIGHT:

**TUESDAYS:** September 14 and  
October 12 at 7:00 p.m. at  
COLONY COTTAGE REGIONAL  
RECREATION CENTER,  
510 Colony Blvd.

### GOLF CART SAFETY CLINIC:

**WEDNESDAYS:** September 15 at  
9:00 a.m. at COLONY REGIONAL  
RECREATION CENTER, 510 Colony Blvd.  
and October 20 at WATER LILY  
RECREATION CENTER,  
4710 Marsh Bend Trail, Wildwood.

**Note: No Pre-Registration is Required.**

### 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.

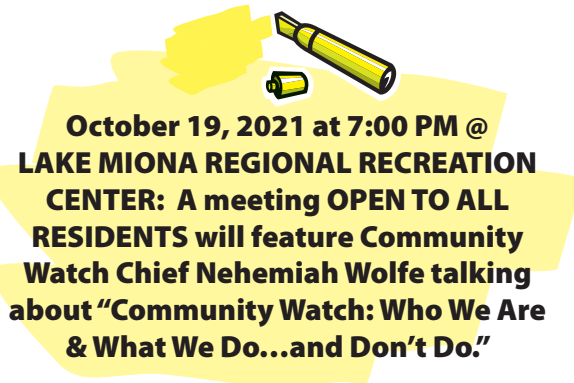
**VHA Members-Only with an  
Opportunity to Join at the Door.**



### CUTTING THE CORD WORKSHOP:

**OCTOBER 11 @ 7:00 p.m.** at COLONY  
COTTAGE REGIONAL RECREATION  
CENTER, 510 Colony Blvd.

**VHA BINGO! OCTOBER 14 @ 6:30 p.m.**  
AT LAKE MIONA REGIONAL RECREATION  
CENTER, 1526 Buena Vista Blvd.



**October 19, 2021 at 7:00 PM @  
LAKE MIONA REGIONAL RECREATION  
CENTER: A meeting OPEN TO ALL  
RESIDENTS will feature Community  
Watch Chief Nehemiah Wolfe talking  
about "Community Watch: Who We Are  
& What We Do...and Don't Do."**

### QUARTERLY TOWN HALL MEETING:

**OCTOBER 19 - Only current officers and  
neighborhood representatives of The  
VHA are invited to attend. Questions  
may be submitted through October 6th.**

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

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

## The VHA GENERAL MEETING WITH SUMTER COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR BRADLEY ARNOLD

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 @ 7:00 P.M.  
LAKE MIONA REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER**

The County Administrator carries out the policies and directives of the Board of County Commissioners and manages the annual operating budget. He is responsible for the supervision of the operations of:

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



**PLEASE JOIN US AS MR. ARNOLD PRESENTS THE PROPOSED SUMTER COUNTY BUDGET FOR 2022, PLANNED PROJECTS, INCLUDING ROAD PROJECTS. A QUESTION AND ANSWER TIME WILL FOLLOW.**

**Doors open at 6:30 p.m. This is a VHA MEMBER-ONLY event. A current VHA membership card must be presented, with an opportunity to join at the door.**



**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

# The VHA News & Notes

## NORTH AREA

### North of 466

Jan Palmer – Editor of The Voice



**D**o you “bristle” often? I have found myself doing exactly that lately, and had to have a good talk with myself and say an earnest prayer for some divine help to stop bristling unnecessarily. It seems with Covid rearing its ugly head again and politics continuing to heat up the landscape, a lot of us are bristling over minor irritations and justifying our lack of patience and forbearance. It is exactly those times when we need reminders to practice patience and let things go that we are tempted to bristle over. So, consider yourself reminded.

Many thanks to those of you who have taken the time to speak up regarding the decisions being made about the future of our public safety here in The Villages. Since the date for the final vote is now set for September 21st, let’s continue to voice our support for our LOCAL

Villages Public Safety Department. We all know they are doing a fine job and committed to our community beyond just providing the basic protections any public safety department is tasked with. If, for some unknown reason, the commissioners vote to eliminate this vital part of our sense of safety and excellent service, I will, for one, be bristling with good cause.



We are still in the midst of hurricane season, and while it is easy to view the ones that have petered out with skepticism when it comes to those that are ahead, it is best to be prepared. It is also good to know we live in a community that bands together when needed. We recently shared a parking lot shuttle with a couple who were here during the tornado of 2007, and they are still singing the praises of the response to that catastrophic event. With all the chaos outside of this bubble we call home, we are indeed blessed.

*On behalf of our great North Area,  
Jan Palmer, Editor*

**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.

## CENTRAL AREA

### Between 466 and 466A

John Dean, Vice President

[vhajohndean@gmail.com](mailto:vhajohndean@gmail.com) – 207-557-0371



Greetings,

**A**s I watch the ever-expanding Villages, I am amazed by the layout of the areas, the designs of the homes and the public buildings such as the recreation centers. I like that each recreation center has a theme that makes it unique. I find the growth to be exciting. The demand

for homes in The Villages provides evidence of a continued interest in living here. For the same reasons we all moved here, others see what we saw and like it.

I am also amazed and pleased to see the commercial development with the new spaces filling almost as soon as they are built. Yes, I still look forward to the day when a Costco and Trader Joe’s come to this area, probably not right in The Villages, but close by.

I have heard many times how businesses don’t locate here because the cost of retail space in The Villages is too high. But after almost nine years of living here and watching multiple branches of the same business occupy spaces in multiple Villages locations, I think that the information I received was incorrect.

A while back the Daily Sun had a very good article that put to rest some of the myths we have all probably heard.

- One myth is that the businesses pay to the developer a percentage of every dollar they take in - NOT TRUE. While some (only about 6%) do pay a percentage of sales, but only after exceeding a certain threshold, this is a common practice in retail leases.
- Another is that The Villages charges higher average market rates for the retail spaces – NOT TRUE. Every business understands the costs and there are no surprises. Also, some other properties not owned by The Villages charge more. I am sure that The Villages review the finances and business plans of all potential businesses who want to locate here and choose those who are likely to succeed. Everyone wants to see businesses succeed. No one wants frequent turnover.

The bottom line is that whatever they are doing is working pretty well since The Villages averages a commercial occupancy rate of 97%. In addition, the national failure rate for restaurants ranges from 26% to 80% closing within their first three years, depending on the information sources. In The



Villages, over 90% of the new restaurants that have opened in recent years are still in business today. Only about 1% of the businesses located in The Villages turn over each year. So, after a review of the facts and busting the myths, I have drawn a few conclusions:

- Don’t believe rumors and gossip.
- Commercial businesses are locating here.
- Retail businesses are doing well here.

While I think the commercial leasing process is handling things well and providing us with a good variety of goods and services, you, the residents should also take credit for the success of these businesses. After all, without the support of customers, businesses cannot succeed. Give yourself a pat on the back.

*Stay safe and healthy,  
John*

## SOUTH AREA

### Between 466A and SR44

Mike Dollard, Vice President

[mjdollard@hotmail.com](mailto:mjdollard@hotmail.com) – 585-315-8338



**O**n Wednesday, Sept. 8 there will be a VHA general meeting at the Lake Miona Regional Recreation Center, starting at 7:00 p.m. The guest speaker will be Bradley Arnold, the Sumter County Administrator. This meeting will be for VHA Members Only.

As long as you are adding things to your calendar – on Oct 11, at 7:00 p.m. at the Colony Regional Recreation



Center, there will be a presentation on “Cutting the Cord”. If you are absolutely thrilled with your cable company you can skip this but if you are tired of an economic mugging, you should stop in. Again, this is a **VHA Members-Only** event.

**BINGO** On Oct. 14, at the Lake Miona Regional Recreation Center, we will be having another night of BINGO with cash prizes. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., games start at 6:30, and there is a 50/50 raffle. The price of admission is \$10 and you get 2 boards. Extra boards are \$1 each. **VHA members** – bring your membership card and get an extra board free with each paid admission.



**MEMBERSHIP IS A GOOD DEAL.** And cheap. For \$25 you get a 2-year membership for your entire household. For \$100 you get a lifetime membership for your household, and we know that in The Villages, "lifetime" can be a long time. **And it is EASY to join – go to [www.TheVHA.net](http://www.TheVHA.net)**

*Mike Dollard*

## FAR SOUTH AREA

South of SR44

**Andrew Bilardello, Vice President**  
[andy@bellicus.net](mailto:andy@bellicus.net) – 561-644-1358



This will be my last monthly article for The Voice. For the past three years I have been honored to be your VP of The VHA Far South region. But the time has come to hand off the baton and allow a new VP to run with it. Starting September 1st Mr. Roger Kass will be the interim VP.

As some of you are aware, in addition to being VP for The VHA, I also serve as a VCDD 12 Supervisor, President of The Villages Republican Club, volunteer with the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Tampa, am a full-time caregiver to my mom, and have recently decided to run for the Sumter County Board of Commissioners. With the election only a year away, I need to dedicate more time to my campaign.

I will continue to organize our food drive for the Wildwood Soup Kitchen and assist the new VP in any way that I can. I will also continue to administer our "Villages District 12&13" Facebook page where I will post pertinent information regarding the VCDD and The VHA. Due to the fact that I am running for the BOCC, I cannot run for the VCDD 12 seat, which will open next year. I encourage anyone who is interested in serving our community to consider running.

Thank you to everyone who has assisted me over the years in making The VHA a better organization. I hope that it continues to grow and continues to make the Far South region a better place to live and play.

*Thank you and stay safe,*  
*Andrew Bilardello*

## LADY LAKE NEWS

Lynn Davis

[Lynna527@aol.com](mailto:Lynna527@aol.com) – 352-250-7782

**OPEN HOUSE:** Join the Lady Lake Parks and Recreation Department and the Chamber of Commerce for a Ribbon Cutting and Open House for the newly remodeled Community Building at 237 W. Guava Street on Saturday, Sept 18th from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Stop by for the open house and stay for fun and refreshments.

**RUMMAGE AND CRAFT SALE:** The Lady Lake Historical Museum, located on Hwy 441/27 across from Ye Olde Thrift Shoppe, is having their semi-annual Yard and Craft Sale on Saturday October 16th from 9:00 a.m. til 2:00 p.m. to help support the Historical Society.

**SHOW YOUR SUPPORT:** Just Dandy Pet Parlour is teaming up with the Lady Lake Animal Control to help take care of cats and/or kittens that need your help. If you have any questions or would like a list of necessary items to purchase, call the Lady Lake Area Chamber at 352-753-6029.

*Lynn Davis*



### SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders)

This free program offers assistance with Medicare and health insurance questions by providing one-on-one counseling and information to seniors. Counselors are available at:

- Lady Lake Library, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.; 2nd & 4th Wednesdays
- 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.



## DISTRICT 14 AND GROWING

*by Richard Baier, District Manager*



District Manager

The District Government now has fourteen residential numbered Districts with the newest District being District 14 within the City of Leesburg, Lake County. District 14 lies entirely within the City of Leesburg and currently comprises 2,499 acres.

As with every District upon formation, there are no residents as of yet, but the initial Board of Supervisors comprised of Landowner Electors have just held their first meeting where several persons were in attendance.

The layout of the District appears to embrace the environmental stewardship displayed within all Districts, especially those Districts lying south of SR 44. The separated walk and nature trails showcasing Florida's natural wetland areas continue into District 14.

The Villages Recreation and Parks Department is extremely excited about the continued growth of the community and additional Recreation Facilities coming online. Residents will experience more Neighborhood, Village, and Regional Recreation offering a variety of indoor and outdoor amenities. We encourage residents to read updates provided in The Villages Continuing the Dream editions which are available at: <https://www.thevillages.com/whatsnew/continuing-the-dream>. The District has also established a link for information on its website at: <https://www.districtgov.org/yourdistrict/front.aspx?district=14>



**The Villages**  
PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT



**THANK YOU** for your support of your local Fire Department!

On September 21, 2021, the Sumter County Board of County Commissioners (SCBOCC) will be discussing and voting on the recommendation presented by the Ad Hoc Fire, EMS and Transport Committee. The current recommendation includes:

- Retain the two separate Fire Departments, The Villages Fire Rescue and Sumter County Fire Rescue with NO consolidation
  - Sumter County provide in-house countywide medical and transport (ambulance) services
- The SCBOCC can adopt, amend, or deny the Committee's recommendation, determining the future delivery of fire and EMS services within The Villages Community. To show your support of The Villages Fire Rescue and oppose the consolidation of the Fire Departments, we urge you to attend the upcoming SCBOCC meeting or email your Sumter County Commissioners.



TO RECEIVE THE VHA EMAIL BLASTS WHICH ARE USED TO INFORM OUR MEMBERS OF IMPORTANT COMMUNICATIONS, INCLUDING CORRECTIONS, CANCELLATIONS, NEWS, AND UPDATES, PLEASE SEND US AN EMAIL WITH YOUR NAME AND EMAIL ADDRESS TO: [yhaoffice@thevha.net](mailto:yhaoffice@thevha.net)

### JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER:

**The VHA Mail Slot at your neighborhood postal station is for VHA mail only.** Every week we find mail intended for other recipients, including VCDD/Utility payments and regular mail. We make sure they get to the proper slot, but it may delay delivery. Please use caution when depositing items in the postal station slots to ensure you use the right one.

**NOTE: The deposit slots at each postal station look slightly different, but are clearly labeled. LOOK BEFORE YOU DEPOSIT!**



### Sumter County Board of County Commissioners Meeting

**Tuesday, September 21, 2021**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Everglades Recreation Complex –  
5497 Marsh Bend Trail in The Villages**

To contact your Sumter County Commissioners:

- [doug.gilpin@sumtercountyfl.gov](mailto:doug.gilpin@sumtercountyfl.gov)
- [garry.search@sumtercountyfl.gov](mailto:garry.search@sumtercountyfl.gov)
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- [craig.estep@sumtercountyfl.gov](mailto:craig.estep@sumtercountyfl.gov)



# Seniors VS. CRIME



## “USED” OR “NEW” CONFUSION LEADS TO SCAMS

Is it used, or new? How about nearly new, acceptable, good, very good, good as new, or like new? Or even open box, used once, gently used, new without tags, pre-owned, or even new to you? You get the picture. These are the myriad of terms used to describe items we buy online.

We’ve become used (pardon the pun) to them. But we also know that not only do these words mean different things to different people, they’re also used to mislead or, in a worst case, to scam buyers. So, what can you do to reduce the risk of being scammed or misled? Here are 5 tips to follow:

**1. Is it new?** This should be the easiest question to ask because it’s the one area where there are legal definitions. You don’t need to be a lawyer. A useful definition to guide you is the one used by eBay -- an item that is **unused, unopened, undamaged in its original packaging** (where packaging is applicable). Beware, however, because “new” has a second meaning in sales -- the latest version of a product. The US Federal Trade Commission says the term can be used within the first six months after a launch

**Watch out for this one. A scammer could actually be selling you a used “new” product!**

**2. Is there a warranty?** In other words: Can you return the item if it’s defective or it doesn’t match the description? If so, what is the time limit window

for returns? Are there any charges such as shipping or restocking fees?

**3. Is there a description?** Sometimes scammers or unscrupulous sellers try to hide the true condition by simply not providing a description. They may simply say that it’s used, or one of the other terms we listed above, leaving you to assume there’s basically nothing wrong with an item by simply not saying. If it has



been used, try to establish by whom and for how long.

Be especially cautious when an item is described as “open box.” There is a big difference between packaging that has been opened so an item can be inspected or shown to a potential customer and one that’s been on display and handled/used in a store for weeks.

**4. Does the seller describe any defects?** Is it in working order? If the seller says it’s “for parts,” it’s not working. And if there are defects, look for or ask for a description, ideally with photographs. If it’s local, try to inspect the item; if the seller makes excuses to avoid this, walk away.

**5. Who is selling?** Check out the reliability of the person or organization you’re buying from. Big marketplaces like Amazon and eBay lay down fairly strict rules on product descriptions, with their own definitions. But private sellers may not follow them. So, if Amazon says an item is “like new” or “very good,” it’s probably fairly accurate. But sellers on its Marketplace forum may not be quite so honest.

Following all this guidance may seem like hard work, but the more an item costs the more you need to be sure you’re getting what you pay for. And don’t forget the old rule: **If it’s sounds too good to be true, it probably is.**

If you feel you’ve been conned, take it up with the seller initially. If that doesn’t work, see if you can follow a disputes procedure, such as via the primary market place (like Amazon or eBay) or via the organization you used to pay -- PayPal or your credit card company for example.

Buying and selling is about more than just whether an item is used or new. As we continue to switch our consumption habits to the Internet, it’s about knowing how to protect yourself. Caveat emptor!

**If you need assistance with this topic or any other concern, contact information for Seniors vs. Crime is available on our website at: <http://www.svcinthevillages.org/>**



## CAMP VILLAGES

by the Bike Friendly Advocacy Council

Your Bike Friendly Community completed its CAMP VILLAGES sessions for Summer 2021. We supported The Villages Recreation Department by presenting Bike Rodeo and Safety Fun classes to your grand kids. This is our fifth year for organizing and teaching the classes. Each year we hold three sessions in which as many as 20 kids participate, though this year we limited attendance to 12 kids because of the COVID CALAMITY.

We teach safety, which means skills, rules of the road, and pre-ride bike maintenance. Each student, and some participating grandparents, receives a fitted helmet, courtesy of the Great State of Florida through



the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and University of Florida (USF) Pedestrian and Bike Safety Program. Not only is the helmet a potential life-saving device, but it is also mandatory for youth under age 16 in Florida. Rose Jordan, a certified FDOT helmet fitter, leads the fitting exercise.

We present a graphic demonstration about how a helmet can save a life. Ron Hetzel, our Dr. Egg Drop, drops a raw egg, which represents a head, onto the ground where it breaks and spills its brains. He follows up by dropping another egg into a padded helmet where it survives. The kids appreciate the gore.

We acquired a trailer full of kids’ bikes and a trailer full of adult bikes that we use exclusively for training from FDOT and USF. We thank the Wildwood Police Department for storing the trailers in its secure impound lot and transporting them when we have classes.

Dave Lawrence mesmerizes the kids with his A-B-C-QuickChek discussion. They get a hands-on opportunity to touch the various parts of a bike and help

Dave prepare it for a ride. Outside, Bob Thompson leads setting up the Figure-8 course. He has done this precision installation and chalk lines at least 25 times for both Camp Villages and The Enrichment Academy. Dave Lawrence leads set-up for the scanning, obstacles, and slow-race. Everyone pitches in to fine tune the course and supervise the riding. The kids receive safety instruction, have fun, and practice skills that can help prevent injuries.

We thank the Recreation Department for the opportunities they give us to make a positive difference in our community.



## SEPTEMBER/WEBINAR SEMINAR OFFERINGS

### Sudden Death: Are You Prepared?

Monday, Sept. 13, 20, 27

10:00 a.m. – Noon

@ Lady Lake Library Library

This 3-part seminar has been structured to guide you through the process of creating your "Survivor Notebook," the repository that will help your loved ones cope after your passing.

### Aging is Cool: Today's Active Older Adult WEBINAR

Wednesday, Sept. 15

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

A modern look at "aging" and ways to improve your quality of life.

### Understanding Advance Directives WEBINAR

Wednesday, Sept. 22

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Learn the details of how Advance Directives work in today's medical world.

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



## THE ON-LINE REFRESHER COURSE CONTINUES TO BE OFFERED:

For information and to register, go to:  
<https://www.aarpdriversafety.org/>

**"Due to the continued spread of COVID-19, with the new variant, and its impact on the vast majority of our upcoming courses, we have made the very difficult decision to extend our nationwide in-person event closure until October 1, 2021."**

**[Kyle Rakow, AARP Vice President and National Director](#)**



**DO YOU HAVE TIME ON YOUR HANDS? A DESIRE TO DO SOMETHING OF VALUE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY?**

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN TO FILL KEY ROLES IN THE VHA:**

#### ASSISTANT TO THE VOICE EDITOR:

Assist the editor with reporting and producing the monthly publication as needed.

#### GOLF CART SAFETY CLASS INSTRUCTOR:

Facilitate the monthly class using a video featuring vital information and tips on how to safely operate a golf cart within The Villages community.

#### VICE PRESIDENT OF THE FAR SOUTH REGION:

Communicate and engage with VHA Neighborhood representatives and promote The VHA to residents who live south of SR44.

#### VICE PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH REGION:

Communicate and engage with VHA Neighborhood representatives and promote The VHA to residents who live North of 466.

#### VHA HOEDOWN COORDINATOR:

Communicate with vendors, recruit volunteers from the membership to help in different areas, and oversee marketing and promotion.

#### VHA HOEDOWN KID ZONE ORGANIZER:

Oversee the set-up of equipment by contractors and supervise the Kid Zone on the day of the Hoedown, January 29, 2022.



## SAVE THE DATE!

6th Annual Hearts for Our Hospital

**BIG BIKE WEEKEND!**

La Hacienda Recreation Center

**November 12-13, 2021**

#### Friday, November 12th

##### BICYCLE EXPO & HEALTH FAIR

- Cycling / health related vendors
- Demo bikes (with eBikes!)
- Free health screenings
- And more

#### Saturday, November 13th

##### BICYCLE CHALLENGE

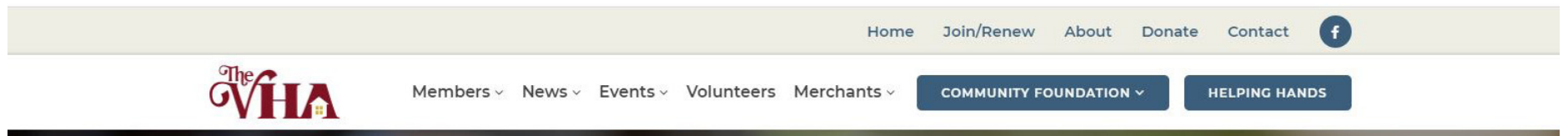
- 5 route options (10, 20, 32, 64, 100miles)
- Well stocked rest stops
- SAG support
- Lunch & Door prizes!
- Biergarten with DJ

**Go to the website for more details and bicycle challenge registration:**

[www.H4HBikeWeekend.com](http://www.H4HBikeWeekend.com)



# VISIT OUR WEBSITE [THEVHA.NET](http://THEVHA.NET) FOR INFO, MEMBERSHIP, HELPFUL LINKS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, AND MORE



**The VHA**  
**NEW RESIDENT NIGHT**  
**SEPTEMBER 14 AT 7:00 P.M.**  
**COLONY COTTAGE REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER**  
**510 COLONY BLVD. NEAR MORSE BLVD/466A**  
**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 OCTOBER 12 AT COLONY COTTAGE REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER 510 COLONY BLVD. NEAR MORSE BLVD/466A**

**The VHA**  
**GOLF CART SAFETY CLINIC**



**SEPTEMBER 15 @ 9:00 A.M.**  
**COLONY COTTAGE REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER, 510 COLONY BLVD.**  
**No Pre-Registration Required**

**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: OCTOBER 20 @ WATER LILY RECREATION CENTER**

**HELPING HANDS**



**DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM**  
VISIT [WWW.THEVHA.NET](http://WWW.THEVHA.NET) TO VIEW OUR CURRENT INVENTORY, THEN CALL:  
**352-973-2284**  
OR EMAIL US AT:  
[VHA.HELPINGHANDS.OFFICEMAIL@GMAIL.COM](mailto: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](http://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**