

The VHA VOICE

THE VILLAGES HOMEOWNERS ADVOCATES: KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE

May 2022 • Vol. 28 No. 5



VHA TOWN HALL MEETING REPORT FOR APRIL 2022: YOUR QUESTIONS, ANSWERED



Town Hall VHA Officers Discussion

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, Brittany Wilson – Assistant District Manager, Deborah Synder – Director of Public Works, Sumter 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. In the plans for the new buildings south in The Villages, will there be an indoor gymnasium, or access to one, for Villages to use for basketball, volleyball, soccer, running/walking track, etc.

Dr. Lester: We have been announcing new recreational amenities on a regular basis and will be rolling out more in the coming months in the Daily Sun and, potentially, at the upcoming VHA’s “Evening With the Developer.”

2. Are there plans for building a multi-modal path for the residents in Fenney and McClure Villages to access the bridges to get to Brownwood and Lake Deaton? Now we have to drive to the Water Lily Bridge to cross over to Brownwood or Lake Deaton.



Dr. Lester: Residents are currently enjoying the multi-modal trails leading to the Water Lily Bridge from where they can access Brownwood and Lake Deaton. There are no plans to add an additional trail.

3. Are there plans to build another playground for grandchildren similar to or larger than the one in Lake Sumter Landing?

Dr. Lester: Yes, at least one more.

4. Are there plans to close off access to the construction road which runs through Reader Preserve? Residents living on Pheil Path deal with construction traffic in addition to regular traffic.

Dr. Lester: Yes, expect that construction route to close by the end of the month.

5. When driving by on Warm Springs Avenue there is no indication of where the Village of

Hammock at Fenney is located. Are there plans to add the Village of Hammock at Fenney to the sign at the entrance to Fenney Village?

Dr. Lester: There is no plan to add additional signage.

6. When will more parking be added at the Post Office on La Grande Blvd?

Dr. Lester: There is no additional parking planned.

7. Many residents are having roof gutters installed around their new homes. Would you please explain why gutters have been installed only partially around rooftops?

Dr. Lester: Customer feedback drives that long-standing practice. Some residents do choose to add additional gutters later.

8. When will a Farmers Market return to Spanish Springs?

Dr. Lester: The Farmers Market is not scheduled at this time for Spanish Springs. Each of the Town Centers has a unique schedule. For instance, only Spanish Springs hosts the Classic Car Show.

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**THE VHA PRESENTS:
AN EVENING
WITH THE
DEVELOPER**

**WEDNESDAY,
MAY 18 @ 7:00 P.M.**

**At the Sharon Morse
Performing Arts Center
See Pages 2 & 3
For More Details**

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**The VHA President's
Message**



Hello everyone

The VHA had plenty of activities and educational programs in the Month of April. Leaders, Area Vice Presidents and neighborhood representatives organized and brought programs to The Villages residents in the following ways:

Positive Dialogue

Residents from the Historic Side of the Villages have shared their ideas on the Paradise Recreation Center Remodeling with District Government.

The quarterly Town Hall meeting had questions asked of our partners that were concerns of our residents and are answered in this issue of The Voice

Educational Programs

North and Far South Areas had the Villages Government present “Where Does Your Money Go”. (Go to the District website www.districtgov.org and look for it on the home page to view the presentation on-line).

Chief Cain of The Villages Public Safety gave a report on The Villages Independent Fire Control and Rescue District.

US Congressman Daniel Webster spoke at our general meeting and covered issues facing Florida and the U.S.

The City of Wildwood Mayor and City Manager spoke about the city government, where taxes go, and current/future projects.

Philanthropic Efforts

- The VHA Foundation Committee met and discussed ideas on helping charities within The Villages..
- The VHA Helping Hands program continues to offer durable medical equipment on a free loan basis to meet your emergency needs. Locate the information on our website www.thevha.net.

Social Events

- VHA Bingo is up and running! For the next seven months Bingo is scheduled at various recreation centers from LaHacienda in the north to Ezell in the Far South.
- Keep watching future issues of The Voice for other upcoming just-for-fun events.

The VHA also strives to bring you up-to-date information on important issues. In November you will have the opportunity to cast your vote for the **Independent Special Fire Control District**. The new Fire District will offer transparency and oversight by a governing board of Villages residents. **VOTE YES.**

The VHA's Evening with the Developer Night is scheduled for May 18th at 7:00 p.m. at the Sharon Morse Performing Arts Center in Spanish Springs. This popular event is for VHA Members only. Free tickets are available as of May 4 at Entertainment Box Offices ONLY by showing your VHA membership card. Limit 2 tickets per member household.

The Sharon only holds 1000 people and tickets will go very fast. See you there.



*Phil Walker
President*

WELCOME

The VHA'S Two New Area Vice Presidents



Central Area Vice President Ellen “Ellie” Decker: Ellie and her husband, Richard, live in the Village of Hadley year-round now after being reverse snowbirds coming up from Manasota Key in the summer to escape hurricane season. They also spent many years in the suburbs

of Kansas City, on the Kansas side of the State Line.

Ms. Decker holds a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from the University of Kansas in addition to credits towards a Master’s degree from both Baker University in Kansas and the University of Missouri. She has owned a few small businesses over the years and also did contract accounting work.

Her husband is a retired M.D. who served in the Air Force. Both her father and grandfather served in the Navy, with other branches of the military represented throughout her family tree, including a branch back to the Revolutionary War. Consequently, she is a member of the DAR and gives presentations about their museum.

According to Ellie: “I feel a strong calling to serve. After being actively involved and serving in both Kansas and Florida, I began serving in The Villages. I am an alternate member on the Architectural Review Board, and am on the Sumter County Library Board. I have been a Den Mom, a Guardian ad Litem, a member of CERT, and on a few other Boards”.



Far South Area Vice President David Fontaine: Dave and his wife Cyndi live in the Village of Hawkins. They moved here from Buffalo, NY and also had a home in Bradenton, Florida for seven years. They gave up both to be full

time residents for the wonderful lifestyle of The Villages.

Dave had a varied career with 23 years of active/reserve duty as a U.S. Army Officer. After leaving active duty, Dave spent a significant amount time as a municipal manager in New York. A second career developed as a performance improvement consultant after he obtained his PhD in training and performance improvement.

In addition to helping organizations achieve success, Dave served as a Senior Examiner for the Malcolm Baldrige Quality Award program. This is a presidential award administered by the Department of Commerce and is the highest level of recognition for performance excellence that a U.S. organization can receive.

Dave is an online professor teaching a variety of organizational leadership and human resource management courses for master’s level students. He is also active as the co-coordinator for the Village of Hawkins AED program.

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VHA WEBSITE: www.thevha.net

Upcoming EVENTS MAY/JUNE 2022

NEW RESIDENT NIGHT TUESDAYS at 7:00 p.m.

MAY 10:
COLONY COTTAGE REGIONAL
RECREATION CENTER
510 Colony Blvd. at Morse and 466
NEXT MONTH: June 14 @ COLONY

GOLF CART SAFETY CLINIC

WEDNESDAYS at 9:00 a.m.

MAY 18:
COLONY COTTAGE REGIONAL
RECREATION CENTER
510 Colony Blvd. at Morse and 466A
NEXT MONTH: JUNE 15 @ WATER LILY
Note: No Pre-Registration is Required.

See Back Page for More Details on These
and Other Regular VHA Programs.



HOW TO BENEFIT FROM YOUR RECREATION DEPARTMENT

MAY 23RD AT 7:00 P.M.
**EZELL REGIONAL
RECREATION CENTER**

769 Marilee Pl, The Villages

Join us for a presentation by The Villages
Recreation and Parks Department on how
to get the most out of the wide variety of
recreational opportunities available.

AN EVENING WITH THE DEVELOPER.



IT HAS BEEN THREE YEARS
SINCE THE VHA WAS LAST
ABLE TO HOST THIS EVENT.
JOIN US AS WE WELCOME
MARK MORSE AND MEMBERS
OF HIS FAMILY AND TEAM AS
THEY REFLECT ON THE PROGRESS MADE
SINCE WE LAST MET, AND THE LATEST
ON WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR THE
VILLAGES.

The VHA BINGO

THURSDAY, MAY 26 @ 6:30 P.M.
DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 P.M.
ROHAN REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER
850 Kristine Way, Wildwood/The Villages
\$10 for 2 Boards (VHA Members/3 Boards)
\$1/Extra Boards; NO SPLIT POTS .50/50
BYOB and Snacks.



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

MAY 18, 2022 @ 7:00 P.M.
**SHARON MORSE PERFORMING ARTS
CENTER**
TICKETS FOR THIS POPULAR VHA-SPONSORED EVENT
ARE NOW AVAILABLE ONLY AT THE VILLAGES
ENTERTAINMENT BOX OFFICES. VHA MEMBERS
MAY GET UP TO TWO FREE TICKETS WITH A CURRENT,
VALID VHA MEMBERSHIP CARD.
TICKETS ARE LIMITED.
FIRST COME/FIRST SERVED
*an
EVENING
with the
DEVELOPER*



Contact Us
To become a member
or renew, simply go to
www.thevha.net

Or mail to:
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

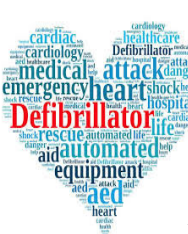
NORTH AREA



North of 466
Karl Arps, Vice President
karl.arps@gmail.com - (920) 285-1382

America's Healthiest Hometown: Recently, the Daily Sun has been publishing articles on this topic, and it is also a new major thrust by The Villages developer. New hospital and clinic construction, change of ownership of our regional hospital, and relocation of the ShandsCair helicopter are highly visible. But there are additional, less visible, steps on the road to "healthiest".

Neighborhood AED Teams: The VHA has gifted some automatic external defibrillators (AED's) in recreation centers. But several groups of Villages volunteers have also worked to establish AEDs in their own residential neighborhoods.



AED's may be useful in cases of cardiac arrest where the heart has stopped pumping but there is still a detectable electrical signal. Although the AED automates signal detection and provides the shock, CPR chest compression is needed until the volunteer arrives with the unit.

Time is critical, and even a fast paramedic response of 5 to 8 minutes may be too late. So, in this plan, several AEDs are located within a small neighborhood and a team of 20 or so volunteers is trained to use the unit AND to give CPR chest compression.

Following a 911 call, a volunteer nearest to the closest AED grabs the unit, while a volunteer nearest the patient begins chest compression. When the paramedics arrive, they take over.

The North Woodbury AED Group is working to establish three AEDs in Unit 51 in the Village of Woodbury. Roughly speaking, Unit 51 is bounded by Belle Meade Circle, Ashley Meadows Golf Course, Phillips Villas, and Argyle Street. Although still in the planning stages, the group has met with The Villages Fire/Rescue Department who have provided advice and initial instruction on organizing an AED group.

By the time this article appears, they will have hosted a Unit 51-wide potluck dinner at Mulberry Grove Rec Center with a neighborhood AED presentation. Assuming enough support was indicated, they will sign up the AED/CPR volunteers and complete gathering donations to fund the AED installations and maintenance.

If you live in Woodbury Unit 51, want to participate but didn't know about this effort, please contact me by email, and I will put you in touch with the group's treasurer. If you don't live in that unit but want to explore the idea in your neighborhood, please contact The Villages Public Safety Department at (352) 205-8280.

"Life is short, enjoy it!"
Karl Arps

CENTRAL AREA



Between 466 and 466A
John Dean, Vice President
vhajohndean@gmail.com - 207-557-0371

Greetings,

Well, it is Spring and moving ever closer to Summer and with the change of seasons and weather comes other changes.

This will be my last article for The VHA Voice. I am stepping down as the VP for the Central Area after about three years. Increasing responsibilities in Honor Flight and other organizations have resulted in scheduling conflicts and increasing time demands that I simply find myself being stretched too thin. Also, I am finding that I have less time at home and really being "retired" and unable to do much travel.

It is time for someone else to get the opportunity to bring in ideas and take a turn at serving their community, and The VHA leadership has found a great replacement for me. Ellen "Ellie" Decker has been named the new VP for the Central Area. Ellie has an impressive background in business ownership and management; professional accounting and consulting; organizational board membership; and community improvement board service that ranges from Scouting leadership to library board, and medical associations.

While I am stepping down from my position, I am not stepping down or away from my commitment to the ideals and goals of The Villages Homeowners Advocates, The VHA. "Keeping the Dream Alive" may mean different things to different people but to me it means making sure that the reasons that drew us to live here in the first place continue. Not that everything is frozen in time, because change is certain, but we want to guarantee that the beauty, the opportunities available, and the neighborhood "villages" feeling continues.

As the name implies, The VHA provides advocacy services to all members. And they do that in ways that do not involve headline splashes, threats of lawsuits, and courtroom drama. Rather, The VHA seeks to quietly resolve issues by working with our "Circle of Partners." These partners include local government, law enforcement, public safety, district government, the developer, the recreation and parks department, UF Health Central Florida, the Daily Sun, and the counties. The VHA also contributes to the betterment of our community through The VHA Helping Hands program and The VHA Foundation.

I have the highest regard for the leadership of The VHA, both past and current. In fact, that is the original reason I agreed to serve. I may be stepping aside, but I am not stepping out.

Stay safe and healthy,
John

SOUTH AREA



Between 466A and SR44
Mike Dollard, Vice President
mjdollard@hotmail.com - 585-315-8338

One form of identity theft that can cause a lot of grief is when thieves get hold of your Social Security number and file a phony tax return with your SS number. If a scammer files before you do, any refund will be held up until the issue is resolved. There is a simple fix for this, before it happens, and it is free. Get an Identity Protection PIN from the IRS (<https://www.irs.gov/identity-theft-fraud-scams/get-an-identity-protection-pin>) or just type in [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) and search for "Identity Pin". Each year in December the IRS will send you a 6-digit number. When you file your taxes, you add this



number to the tax form (paper or electronic) and any bogus return without this is rejected. You can get this PIN right now if you want.

Last month I wrote about CDD 9 doing a refinance on one of their bonds, the bond payments that you are billed for on your annual property tax bill. Some called and asked how to get that tax break - you do not have to do anything.

By making the cost of the bond lower, the amount you are taxed for that payment will be lower. For most units the savings for this will be in the neighborhood of 18% of the bill for bonds (not for the overall tax bill or any other charge).

Is everyone aware that they can pay off their bond for just the remaining principal? And save a lot of interest costs? Go to www.districtgov.org and click on How Do I? and on the drop-down menu click "Obtain Residential Bond Assessment". From there you can find what is left to pay, or call 352-751-3900 and they can tell you what your balance is and how to pay it off.

Miscellaneous: A few nights ago, I think I scared a golf cart driver in a newer Yamaha when I hit my car brakes hard as I started to pass. That Yamaha is the kind with turn signals, but instead of using it, he stuck out his arm to signal a left turn, and pulled out in front of me. P.S. In case he is reading this: You were wearing a black jacket. Black doesn't show up well at night in poorly lit areas. Try using the turn signals.

Mike Dollard

FAR SOUTH AREA



South of SR44
Dave Fontaine, Vice President
dfontaine4760@gmail.com
 - 716-816-8500

Our growth continues in the Far South as Magnolia Plaza matures along with the Sawgrass entertainment area. If you haven't had an opportunity to visit the new dog park at Ezell recreation area, I hope you'll take some time to do so.

We are hosting numerous presentations in the Far South this year to help inform and educate our many newer homeowners. **Our May program is titled "How To Benefit From Your Recreation Department" and will be held on May 23rd at 7:00 p.m. at Ezell Recreation Center. Representatives from the Recreation Department will discuss how to obtain to enjoy the robust recreational opportunities available to you.**

The Villages of Hawkins and St Catherine are hard at work developing AED programs for both villages. AEDs have been ordered and volunteers have stepped forward to be trained as responders. A special thanks to the Villages Public Safety Department and Sumter County for their assistance is helping get these programs off the ground.

It was impressive to see the proactive approach taken by The Developer to address a flooding issue that occurred along the walking path in the Village of Hawkins. The walking path has been fully restored and

is now again being enjoyed daily by the many walkers, joggers and bicyclists who use the path.

In addition to our Far South VHA membership base growing daily, we are fortunate to have a number of homeowners volunteer to be neighborhood representatives. We currently have 15 neighborhood representatives in our area. If you'd like to see who your neighborhood representative is, please go to The VHA website www.thevha.net, click on the "Members" tab then click on "Neighborhood Rep Lookup". Select your Village to see if you have a rep and their contact info... No rep? Consider volunteering! These wonderful folks are available to help with any specific concerns or question you may have.

Meet one of our new neighborhood reps; Jim DeCastro. Jim and his wife, Susan, moved to Citrus Grove with their son Matt and two Yorkies in January from Long Island. Jim has always been a volunteer, including as a Little League coach, Cubmaster and an elder at his church. Jim's passion is singing. He sang the National Anthem at both the NY State Fair and a Long



Island Ducks semi-pro baseball game. He has been in choirs that sang at Carnegie Hall, the Rockefeller Christmas Tree Lighting and Madison Square Garden. He recently joined The Villages Pop Chorus and North Lake Presbyterian Church. We thank Jim for joining The VHA and helping us out with our FB page and as a Neighborhood Rep!

Dave Fontaine

LADY LAKE NEWS

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



Cinco de Mayo Celebration:
 The Spanish Springs Town Square in the Villages will be hosting the annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration on May 5th from 5pm-9pm. There will be plenty of food to enjoy as well as live music and dancers performing for you throughout this FREE event.

Annual Tree Raffle for Lady Lake Residents ONLY. Twenty-five residents will each win a \$200 gift certificate from Fairfield Farms Nursery, 12472 N Hwy 301, Oxford, FL. Each winner will pick out their own trees and or shrubs from the large selection at the nursery. Winners are responsible for picking up and planting their own selections. Limit of one entry per household. Entry forms are available at the Town Hall or online at <https://www.ladylake.org/news/2022-arbor-day-tree-raffle/> and must be dropped off at the Town Hall by 6:00 p.m. Monday, May 9th at the Lady Lake Town Hall at 409 Fennell Blvd. Winners will be drawn at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 16th. For more information, please contact Parks and Recreation Director Mike Burke at [352-430-0451](tel:352-430-0451) or parks@ladylake.org.

Accepting Applications for Volunteer Library Advisory Board: The Town of Lady Lake is accepting applications for a vacancy on the Library Advisory Board. NOTE: Applicants must be residents living within the Town of Lady Lake limits.

Lynn Davis

E-mail!

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: vhaoffice@thevha.net

MERCHANTS TO MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT:

Edible Arrangements at the Southern Trace Plaza off 466 (in the Publix shopping center) is much more than just an edible bouquet and basket store. Yes, they have many one-of-a-kind fresh fruit baskets and bouquets for the perfect healthy delicious gift, but they now have flower bouquets. Can't decide which one to send someone? Why not send both!! It truly is the one-stop-shop for either something beautiful, or something delicious.



Edible
 ARRANGEMENTS

Need something for a driveway party? Stop by and get brownies, cupcakes, cheesecake, gourmet popcorn or gourmet nuts. Everyone loves a good cookie, and theirs are always baked fresh with real, honest ingredients just like the ones baked at home, but with no fuss, and no mess!

P.S. If you need a cool drink while you are out and about doing errands, stop by for a delicious fruit smoothie

Same day delivery is available for a nominal fee.
 Call ahead and your order will be ready to go.

VHA MEMBERS GET \$3 OFF A PURCHASE OF \$25 OR MORE!

HELPING HANDS SHUTTLE DRIVERS NEEDED



- CLEAN DRIVING RECORD,
- VALID LICENSE
- ABLE TO LIFT UP TO 30 LBS.
- 2-3 HOUR SHIFTS WEEKLY OR BIWEEKLY

CONTACT: AL ARNOLD
@ 703-470-3886 • aeaiii@aol.com



THE VILLAGES FLOWER SHOW

While recently driving around The Villages entertaining out-of-town guests, they commented on the beautiful flowers and landscaping. I enjoyed discussing how much pride we take in our community and how the beauty of The Villages is like no other. I explained that in The Villages, District Property Management's landscape division oversees the installation, maintenance, and removal of more than 1.6 million annuals each year. The District currently has 5 contractors that provide this service throughout The Villages.

The flowers are changed out quarterly. The change-outs occur in January, April, July, and October. Winter annuals are installed in January and are picked based on their ability to withstand freeze and frost damage. The spring and fall selections are usually the most colorful due to mild temperatures, and the summer selections are picked based on their ability to withstand the harsh temperatures and wet soils that come along with seasonal rainfall.

The District landscape contractors choose the flower varieties from an approved list of species that have proven to work well in Central Florida and The Villages. The selections must be decided at least 3 months before the change-out occurs. Some of the flowers selected take longer to germinate than others. All of the flowers start in a humidity/temperature-controlled unit. The time in this unit depends on the type of flower, but some of these flowers will need to be in this unit for up to seven weeks. The 2nd unit they will enter is not temperature-controlled but still has protection from the elements. They will remain in this unit for up to three

weeks or until they are healthy enough to be transferred to 4" pots. Once transferred to a 4" pot they are put into a 3rd unit to continue growing. Once the flowers have reached an appropriate size they are moved outside and placed under a simple mesh netting. The flowers will have spent between 2.5 to 3 months at the nursery before being picked up by the contractor.



The landscape division requires that all annual beds be maintained in a fashion to allow for a full, colorful appearance at all times throughout the year. Beds must be kept free of spent flowers, weeds, and debris. Shrubs and turf surrounding the color beds must be trimmed to keep from encroachment on the color beds since

not maintaining the surrounding material would reduce the size of the annual beds over time. All of The Villages' annual beds have an as-built that lets our contractors know how many flowers should be planted in the bed, the irrigation zone that controls the flower bed, and the type of plant material in the surrounding area.

Frequently, I am asked why are the flowers different in all areas of The Villages? The Villages design intent is to have different types of annuals as you travel throughout the community. As you travel around the 77 square miles of The Villages be sure to marvel at the magnificent colors and enjoy the flower show.

*Kenny Blocker
District Manager*

STOP FALLING FOR ONLINE SCAMS



In a recent article on the website, Korin Miller outlined how people fall for online scams. Miller said, "No matter how tech savvy you are, online scams and phishing schemes are out there just waiting to trick you and plenty of others into giving away your personal information.

Unfortunately, some of these scams are pretty good — the Federal

Trade Commission (FTC) says they often appear to be coming from companies and businesses you trust. They also happen a lot. The FTC received more than 2.1 million fraud reports from people in 2020 alone, with online scams being the most common type of fraud they saw.

Of course, you are not doomed to fall for online scams and there are certain things you can do to protect yourself. Here's what you need to know — and do — to stay safe online.

What do online scams look like? It depends. Online scams can come in many forms, including phishing emails and websites that aren't what they claim to be. The FTC says online scams can look like the following:

- **Emails that seem like they're from a company you know or trust.**
- **Messages that tell a story to trick you into clicking a link or opening an attachment**

When they're in the form of an email, these messages may say they have noticed suspicious activity or login attempts, claim there is some kind of issue with your account or payment information, ask you to confirm personal information, say you are eligible to register for a government refund, or offer a coupon for free stuff. Again, they often request that you follow a link or open an attachment to "fix" the situation. IT IS A TEMPTATION TO TAKE THE BAIT! REMEMBER: IF IT'S TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT MAY BE A PHISHING SCAM DESIGNED TO GET YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION.

Why do so many people fall for online scams? Experts say it's because the scams are pretty good. "People generally find themselves falling for online scams because the initial communication tends to look like it came from a trusted source such as an organization, a bank, an actual social network, or a group of friends," Tom Kelly, president and chief executive officer of the consumer privacy platform IDX, tells Yahoo Life. "Scammers are getting more creative with their approach to victims — using your social media to get to know your likes, dislikes, etc. and using your contacts, friend lists, etc. to send fake emails posing as someone you know."

Continued on page 7



AMAC Foundation
Supporting & Educating America's Seniors

EXPLORING SUICIDE IN THE U.S. ARMY

Monday May 16, 2022 • 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

This live webinar, featuring General Mike Garrett, Commanding General, United States Army Forces Command, is presented by One More Day Inc., a Veteran-Operated nonprofit VSO/MSO dedicated to ending the loss of our nation's cherished Veterans at the hands of suicide. The AMAC Foundation is partnering with One More Day as part of the AMAC Veterans 2021 Project. To register for this webinar, contact the One More Day organization at 208-992-6178.

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



ON-LINE DRIVER SAFETY COURSES CONTINUE TO BE OFFERED. FOR COMPLETE INFO GO TO: <https://www.aarpdriversafety.org/>

Other online driver safety courses listed below are available on multiple dates. For more info go to: <https://local.aarp.org/the-villages-fl/>

- **Smart DriverTEK Virtual Workshop: Discover the Safety Benefits of New Car Technology (classroom format). 1 ½ hours long.**
- **CarFit Virtual Workshop: Let's Talk – Vehicle Safety and Comfort**

To Register: Phone: 866-732-4213 • Contact: AARP Driver Safety • email: drive@aarp.org

TOWN HALL cont'd from Page 1

9. Is it possible to add hanging devices to the existing border in the art rooms for display for art shows? i.e Everglades and Ezell Recreation Centers.

Brittany Wilson: We currently have hanging units at both locations that were installed during the design of the facility. Reach out to the Recreation and Parks Department for follow up related to this or other recreation centers.

10. When driving south on Morse Blvd to turn left into Colony Plaza, the bushes seem too tall to see oncoming traffic. Would it be possible to lower the height of these bushes?

Brittany Wilson: This has been a recurring issue at this location and we are currently working with our contractor to replace the bushes with plantings that will improve line-of-sight visibility. The work for this location should be completed soon.

11. Large shrubbery and other vegetation often restrict sightline of oncoming traffic. How can this situation be remedied?

Brittany Wilson: Please contact the District Property Management Department at 352-753-4022, with any line-of-sight concerns. You can also call Customer Service at 352-753-4508.

Q. What if the shrub or tree is on private property?

A. Residents are still encouraged to contact the District Office to investigate. It could be in a right-of-way or a deed compliance issue.

12. Is it possible to get resident input regarding the renovation of Mira Mesa Executive golf course from the residents who live on this course?

Brittany Wilson: Certainly. Please contact the Executive Golf Department at 352-674-1885, or by email at Executivegolfmaintenance@Districtgov.org. Stay tuned to the Districtgov.org website for future updates on the renovation.

Q. When is this golf course scheduled to be closed?

A. The Mira Mesa Executive Golf Course is anticipated to be closed beginning in May of 2022 through late fall 2022. Please stay tuned to DistrictGov.org and the District Weekly bulletin for specific project dates.

13. Who is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the walls surrounding villa areas?

Brittany Wilson: The Declaration of Restrictions for each unit determines who is responsible for the maintenance (including painting) of the villa walls. For guidance, refer to your specific

Declaration of Restrictions on DistrictGov.org or contact Community Standards at 352-751-3912 for assistance.

Q. Who is responsible for the cul-de-sacs?

A. The District Government maintains many of the cul-de-sacs throughout the community. If you have a specific area of concern, please contact District Property Management at 352-753-4022.

14. When will Villages residents learn the cost for the Villages to have an independent fire department?

Brittany Wilson: The FAQ for the Independent Fire District, which is located on the District's homepage at www.Districtgov.org, has a chart that gives examples of a variety of parcels and how the assessment will be applied to parcels within the Fire District. The funding methodology that would be in front of the voters in November will address the funding formula as the two-tier system. One tier being \$124 per parcel and the second tier being \$0.75/\$1,000 of improved value based on the Property Appraiser improved value. Lastly, the Board would have an option of raising funds when needed by 1 mil of assessed property value.

The District Government encourages feedback regarding information that is posted on the District website. Use the "Submit Feedback, Inquiry, or Concern" link on the lower left side of the Home page at www.districtgov.org to ask questions or report issues.

15. Would you please explain why Community Watch and other Villages vehicles have yellow license plate tags?

Brittany Wilson: The State of Florida governs the issuance of license plates for vehicles owned or exclusively operated by the state or by any county, municipality, or any other governmental entity. Chapter 320.0655 of Florida State Statutes requires that all license plates issued to government vehicles be a distinctive color, aside from any other plates issued; these tags are currently yellow throughout the State of Florida. As such, all vehicles owned or operated by the District Government have yellow tags. This applies to vehicles utilized by Recreation and Parks, District Property Management, Utilities, Executive Golf Maintenance, Couriers, Community Watch, Community Standards, and The Villages Public Safety Department.

16. When will the line markings on CR 466 between Buena Vista and Hwy 301 be redone? In some spots, there are almost no markings.

Deborah Synder: The schedule to do this is late April or early May.

17. Will a right turn lane at the intersection of Buena Vista Blvd and CR 466 be considered? The turn lane may relieve traffic congestion from the grocery store being constructed on that corner.

Deborah Synder: The County is currently reviewing this location for upgrades. Unfortunately, at this time we do not have sufficient right-of-way to construct a right turn lane. We will continue to evaluate traffic flow.

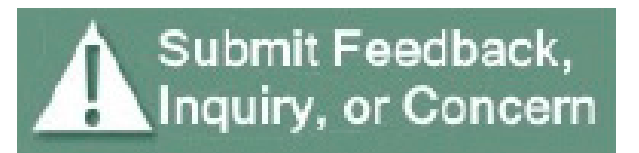
18. Questions related to street signs include the following:

a. When will faded street signs be replaced?

b. Street signs located at intersections within The Villages were first made with each street name parallel with each other. Names were not easy to read. The north portion of The Villages had the street signs on the post realigned so the signs are off-set from each other. Street signs in the south areas of The Villages have not been changed and new ones are not installed correctly. When will street signs be realigned for easier reading?

Deborah Synder: The County will slowly continue to replace street signs that are faded and those that need to be realigned.

PLEASE NOTE: General questions related to Villages landscaping, multi-modal paths, etc. can be submitted at any time to the appropriate department. Go to www.districtgov.org. On the Home page, lower left, click on "Submit Feedback, Inquiry, or Concern."



The next VHA Town Hall Meeting will be in July. Questions may be sent to the VHA at any time at www.thevha.net

SENIORS VS. CRIME cont'd from Page 6

According to tech and cybersecurity expert Chuck Brooks, president of Brooks Consulting International, online scams "can be sophisticated in both the appeal and graphics" and are usually "designed with personalization derived from social engineering."

Many scams also target older people, who may be more trusting of what they see and read online, he says. "Phishing is the most common way to get them hooked," Brooks says. "All it takes is opening a malware-infected email or clicking on a link."

THE LONG AND SHORT OF THIS IS:

- **ALWAYS be suspicious** of any email that tells you there is a problem with your credit account, your computer, your bank account, or your payment information.
- **ALWAYS go directly to the source** – look up the contact information for your bank, your credit card, etc.
- **NEVER click on any link that is provided in the email.** That needs to be your hard and fast Number 1 Rule!
- **NEVER provide your personal or financial information to anyone requesting it in an unsolicited email.**

If you need assistance with this or any other scam related topic, contact your nearest Seniors vs. Crime office. Our office information, phone numbers and hours of operation can be found on our website, www.seniorsvscrime.com.

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



Members ▾ The Voice ▾ Events ▾ Volunteers

HELPING HANDS

The VHA
NEW RESIDENT NIGHT
TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2022
7:00 p.m.
COLONY COTTAGE REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER
510 Colony Blvd/466A @ Morse Blvd.
PRESENTERS MAY INCLUDE, AND INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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• The VHA Helping Hands
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**NEXT NEW RESIDENT NIGHT WILL BE:
JUNE 14 AT COLONY COTTAGE REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER**

The VHA
GOLF CART SAFETY CLINIC



MAY 18 @ 9:00 A.M.
COLONY COTTAGE REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER
510 COLONY BLVD @ MORSE BLVD/466A

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 • **No pre-registration required**

VISIT WWW.THEVHA.NET FOR MORE DETAILS

GOLF CART SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH: We often see golf carts turning left onto side streets and into parking lots from the multi-modal lanes that run along some of our major roads. Instead, gradually merge left into the regular traffic lane, using your turn signal and hand signal to indicate your intention, and then make your left hand turn from the regular traffic lane.

NEXT MONTH'S CLINIC: JUNE 15 @ WATER LILY

GRAB YOUR VHA MEMBERSHIP CARD AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR M2M DISCOUNT PROGRAM BENEFIT:

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.

The VHA HELPING HANDS



DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM

Visit our website at www.thevha.net to view our current inventory, then call us at 352-973-2284.

We will schedule your pick-up from:

THE VHA OFFICE
1104 Main St.
Spanish Springs/The Villages

Monday – Friday: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.