

# The VHA VOICE

THE VILLAGES HOMEOWNERS ADVOCATES: KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE

June 2022 • Vol. 28 No. 6

The VHA FOUNDATION  
COMMITTEE

The VHA

The VHA HELPING  
HANDS

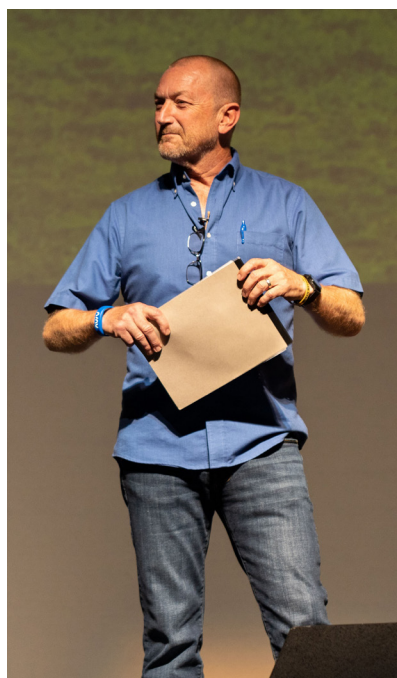
## IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME

### DEVELOPER MARK MORSE PRESENTS THE MODEL FOR “CONTINUING THE DREAM”

With candor, humor, energy, and enthusiasm, along with some emotional and sentimental moments, The Villages Developer Mark Morse chatted with a full house of VHA members and officers for the first time since before the global pandemic impacted our community.

He began by reminding the audience of the vision first put into motion more than thirty years ago by his grandfather, The Villages founder, Harold Schwartz. He emphasized the ongoing commitment of the Morse family to continue to maintain and support that vision, from the historic areas in the north, clear through to the innovative and exciting new developments in the south.

The Villages is THE model for a successful, flourishing master-planned retirement community. Mr. Morse repeatedly touched on that fact, sharing economic indicators and real estate values as proof that “things



have been running pretty well for over thirty years.” And while some may disagree, he believes success in the past is a good indicator of success in the future, and that based on the core values of the Morse family and The Villages District Government, residents will be “in good hands, forever.”

It was clear his intent was not only to give an update on plans in process for the far south area, but to also address concerns he is fully aware of regarding the future of the Spanish Springs area; the squares, movie theater, use of retail space, entertainment options, and proposed apartments. In doing so, he began by stating he is “100% committed to the success” of Spanish Springs, but that a lot has changed over the last three years that has affected

how that success will look. Being the oldest square, it has needed updating and renovations, some of which were begun before the pandemic but were forced to be put on hold.

While acknowledging that residents in that area would like things to be the way they used to be, he very capably explained what has happened to necessitate changes and rethinking the use of what is now empty space. The reopening of the Rialto movie theater was a main example of how circumstances beyond his control is affecting the future of that venue. Movie industry box office sales are down 70%; there has been a 51% downturn in movies being produced; streaming services have multiplied; and the movie industry is not rebounding fast enough from the pandemic to make reopening theaters profitable or even practical. He did ask the audience how they would feel about using The Sharon for movies, and the response was positive. Whatever is decided, he will do what is in “the best interests of residents.”

He then turned to the proposed apartments for the upper floors above retail space that has generated both positive and negative feedback. The success of The

Lofts in Brownwood was cited, along with the need to do something to revitalize the Spanish Springs square area. One of the main objections to the apartments centered on parking. It seems apartments would require 1.5 spots per unit, while businesses require 5. Listening to those concerns, addressing them, and educating residents on the “why, how, where, when, and who to trust” formula, is part of the strategy for success he relies on, and he encouraged residents to seek out trusted sources of information, in particular, The Daily Sun.

He also revealed the recently designed plan for the former site of the Hacienda Hills Country Club. In its place will be a neighborhood with 26 villas, a reconfigured golf pro shop/course starter building, a pool, snack bar, putting green, corn hole, and pickleball, to name just a few upgrades to that site. In addition, there will be a new postal/recreation center, named Cordoba. All of this will add even more amenity options for the surrounding neighborhoods.

One of the key factors for on-going success which Mr. Morse then addressed is the need to compete for quality employees. In addition to the visionary amenities on the horizon, he stressed the need to proactively work on attracting employees who are committed to this community for the long haul and who care about The Villages and its core values to build, maintain, and serve. As they did their research on how to do that, it became obvious that education for the children of those employees was a key factor to consider. With the success of The Villages Charter School on 466, a second campus is being added in the southern area, in a new area called Middleton, a community specifically designed to meet the needs of the families that serve and care for The Villages community.

Mark Morse is the third generation of developers of The Villages, and as he shifted to focus on updates in the far south area, he made it clear that he takes great pride in loosening the reins for the next generation of younger team members to flex their creativity muscles and design new approaches that still provide similar amenities and services for an equally new generation of residents. At the same time, he highly values those members of his team who have been around since The

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President's Message

Hello Villagers!!

I'm happy to tell you that the VHA Helping Hands Program is alive and well. To date, we've had almost 4000 contacts so far this year, surpassing where we were last year. It's encouraging to know that our program is assisting so many Villagers.

If you know someone who needs durable medical equipment or has a friend/relative visiting that will need some equipment, please tell them about us. It's surprising that when we ask folks if they've heard about our program, many folks say no. So please tell everyone about us just in case, in the future, they know we're here to help with durable medical equipment.

What is durable medical equipment you ask? Well, it includes things such as wheelchairs, rollators, walkers, shower chairs, crutches, etc. The full list of what we provide is on our website: <https://www.thevha.net/helping-hands/>. And we offer free temporary loans to all Villages residents.

We recently identified some durable medical equipment we no longer could use. To repurpose this equipment, we found an organization that accepts this type of equipment. It's called FAME (Fellowship of Associates of Medical Evangelism). They were very happy to pick up our excess equipment. Their primary focus is medical mission work. They send medical supplies to the developing world. If you're interested

in this organization, more information can be obtained at the New Life Christian Church in Wildwood at 4701 County Road 462 or at [www.fameworld.org](http://www.fameworld.org).

I mentioned in the April Voice that we were looking for a volunteer to coordinate donating this excess equipment. We still need that special person. This will not entail a lot of time because this situation happens infrequently. If you're interested, please call us at 352-973-2284 or stop by our office in Spanish Springs Monday – Friday between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Of course, we're always looking for other volunteers as well. Only a couple hours per month and you would be part of an organization that helps thousands of Villagers each year. None of the positions are very demanding. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact us at 352-973-2284 to find out more.

If you or your organization would like someone from Helping Hands to make a short presentation to your group/social club, just give us a call. We'd be happy to tell our story and provide our information.

As we always say, we're neighbors helping neighbors!

*Al Arnold*  
 President, VHA Helping Hands

TO SUPPORT HELPING HANDS

Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/>

Click on "Get Started"



amazon smile  
 You shop. Amazon gives.

Choose "VHA Helping Hands" and Amazon will donate a small percentage of your order to us.

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



☐ NEW MEMBERSHIP ☐ RENEWAL

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

VILLA/VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER ADDRESS IF ANY: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: THE VHA, 1104 Main St., The Villages, FL 32159  
 OR JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE AT: [WWW.THEVHA.NET](http://WWW.THEVHA.NET)

Membership:  
 \$25 for 2 years, or  
 \$100 for lifetime

Don't wait!  
 Join now, and be a part of  
 our growing community!

VHA OFFICE

1104 Main St., Spanish Springs

VHA MAIN PHONE: 352-753-4650

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

# Upcoming EVENTS

## JUNE/JULY 2022

SEE BACK PAGE FOR DETAILS ON MONTHLY VHA PROGRAMS



# The VHA BINGO

**THURSDAY, JUNE 21 @ 6:30 P.M.**

**DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 P.M.**

**EZELL REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER**

**769 Marilee Pl, The Villages**

**\$10 for 2 Boards (VHA Members/3 Boards)**

**\$1/Extra Boards; NO SPLIT POTS .50/50**

**BYOB and Snacks.**

**NEXT MONTH'S BINGO: JULY 26 @ LA HACIENDA**

## DEED COMPLIANCE, CUSTOMER CARE, AND COMMUNITY WATCH

June 27th at 7:00 p.m.

**Ezell Regional Recreation Center**  
**769 Marilee Place**

Find out what the special deed restrictions are that may apply to your home. Get acquainted with the Community Watch program, including the services they provide and how homeowners can have their concerns reported and addressed. Seating is limited to 144 and doors open at 6:30 p.m.

**THIS PROGRAM IS OPEN TO  
ALL HOMEOWNERS**

*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.*



## THE VHA TOWN HALL MEETING July 19, 2022

The VHA's quarterly Town Hall meeting features representatives of The Villages management team, local government, and law enforcement. Questions are asked on your behalf, but must be submitted to us by JULY 6, 2022. Note: Questions are chosen based on general interest/concern.

**Submit questions to us by:**

- Contacting your VHA area representative
- Using our website [www.thevha.net](http://www.thevha.net)
- Or sending a letter directly to our office:

**The VHA, 1104 Main Street  
The Villages, FL 32159.**

*CONTINUING THE DREAM cont'd from Page 1*  
Villages' humble beginnings.

He went on to recognize and welcome the new District Manager, Kenny Blocker, and gave kudos to the improvements and changes being made by the District. (Editor's note: Watch for future articles here in The Voice as we work to put together a comprehensive and yet clear picture of the chain of command, the various committees that govern The Villages, who's who, and who is responsible for what).

Members of his team who capably presented the exciting and innovative offerings in the Far South included: Tim Harding; Sales and Marketing; Ryan McCabe, Executive Vice President of Operations; John Rohan, Director of Recreation and Parks for over 29 years; and Devon Wiechens, Vice President of Commercial Design.

Their overview of the latest and greatest in the Far South expansion, Sawgrass Grove and Eastport, unveiled areas designed with uniquely different restaurant and shopping hubs, and completely new amenities in addition to more familiar ones. Currently under construction, together they will feature:

- Central Lake - with water activities and sports
- Indoor pickleball, basketball, volleyball and badminton
- Rock Climbing Wall
- Fit Club
- Outdoor, covered entertainment areas
- Indoor vendors in a food court type setting
- Parking-free roads and alleys
- Plus, the usual golf, swimming, and much, much more

The plans and information showcased were met with approval and applause in abundance, including a standing ovation at the end of the evening.

The Daily Sun did an excellent job of going into more detail about these new offerings. That article can be read online at [www.thevillagesdailysun.com](http://www.thevillagesdailysun.com) under Top Stories.

There was, and is, so much more from the evening that we do not have space to cover. It was clear we will have new places to explore, and can feel pride in this community as a whole as we witness the continuation of the Schwartz/Morse family's historic and unprecedented vision.

For future developments in your own area, we recommend you utilize the District website at [www.districtgov.org](http://www.districtgov.org) as well as [www.thevillages.com](http://www.thevillages.com) which features videos on "all things Villages", including construction drone footage, maps, and real estate.

*It was our privilege to once again host Mark Morse for The VHA's "An Evening with the Developer." We thank him for graciously taking the time to share his vision and passion for this place with us. We look forward to him Continuing the Dream for newcomers to The Villages, and maintaining the quality and excellence that is seen throughout America's Friendliest Home Town.*

# The VHA News & Notes

## NORTH AREA



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

**I'm Ready for a Real Bubble:** It's getting hot and sweaty. Again. This keeps happening year after year as summer approaches. By now, Elon Musk

should have solved this problem. Can't we get a real bubble over The Villages and a Tesla central air conditioning unit to make our outdoor activities a little more enjoyable? That's not too much to ask, is it? Imagine being happy to schedule a 3:00 p.m. tee time knowing that we'll neither be rained out nor dead from heat stroke. Well, a guy can dream, can't he?

**The VHA's An Evening with The Developer:** The Wednesday, May 18 tour de force by Mark Morse and other key managers of The Villages was the first time I have been able to attend this phenomenal event. Because the pandemic forced us to forego "Evening" for the past two years, there was a lot of information to catch up on. And because of how fast The Villages, the District Government, and we as residents have pulled out of those dark days, there is a lot of growth, activity, and planning to cover as well. We were treated to highlights of Sawgrass Grove, First Responders Recreation, Spanish Springs development, La Hacienda villas, Middleton Support community, the new Charter School campus, and Okahumpka Recreation. I'm probably missing something because there was so much to take in.

In addition to all the great VHA members, officers, and volunteers in the audience, I got to sit right behind Jerry and Linda, The "Villages Newcomers", YouTube stars who do so much to inform potential and existing



**JERRY AND LINDA - THE VILLAGES NEWCOMERS**

residents about our little piece of paradise. I was too shy to ask for their autographs. On the other hand, they didn't ask for mine, either.

*Suffice to say, it was a great evening,*  
*Karl Arps*

## CENTRAL AREA



**Between 466 and 466A**  
**Ellie Decker, Vice President**  
[ellenmdecker@gmail.com](mailto:ellenmdecker@gmail.com) - 913-530-7439

I am the new Vice President for The VHA Central Area. I would like to thank my predecessor, John Dean, for his work for The VHA and wish him the best of luck in his continuing dedication to Honor Flight as they take veterans to Washington D.C. to see their war memorials.

Most people ask my husband and I, "Where are you from?" I say, "We lived the longest in Kansas." That is where the song of my people, the tornado sirens, can be heard once a month every Spring. For Florida, I recommend a weather radio. We originally retired to Englewood, FL where, thanks to my cousin, we became reverse snowbirds to The Villages. We now live here year-round. The next question we are asked is either, "Do you have kids?", "Yes, three grown", or sometimes, "What did you do for a living?" "Mostly accounting". My degree is in Business Administration and I owned a few businesses.

I have always felt protective of those who are vulnerable; that includes the disabled, children, and the elderly. When I was growing up, I babysat my next-door neighbor boy who had Cerebral Palsy. Both his parents, and my parents, instilled in me a sense of service, and patriotism, too. I have been a Guardian ad Litem, a Den Mom ("Do Your Best" and "Be Prepared"), in addition to a variety of other volunteer positions.

To me, Senior Citizens are top tier. They have paid taxes for their whole working lives. In addition, a high percentage of seniors served in the military or in another capacity. And many seniors are still doing volunteer work. Most seniors have children, and sometimes grandchildren, who are now paying taxes and serving. After years of paying their dues, seniors deserve a nice retirement. I think The Villages gives them that.

I look forward to being of service to you, my neighbors in the Central Area, as well as to The Villages as a whole.

*Ellie Decker*



## SOUTH AREA



**Between 466A and SR44**  
**Mike Dollard, Vice President**  
[mjdollard@hotmail.com](mailto:mjdollard@hotmail.com) - 585-315-8338

I still read the New York Post, but now I do it on line. Old habits. So, they did a story about New Jersey legalizing marijuana and posted a picture of people lined up at

the counter for the first day of sales of legal weed. You would have thought it was a bar hut at one of the squares - it was all white-haired seniors just like us. Oh, thank God the sixties are still alive.

Deed restrictions don't allow (fill in the blank). I see this a lot on the various blogs around here. There are two rule sets here. And most people seem oblivious to the second set of rules until they get tripped up.

The first set of rules deals with deed restrictions, and they are a lot simpler than you might think; you can't add on to your house without permission, you can't have a yard filled with junk cars, you have to cut the grass, and so forth. There is nothing there that is really punishing. You can find your restrictions (your lot and unit number are on your Villages ID) at: <https://www.districtgov.org/departments/community-standards/download.aspx>

If you don't want to type in the whole link above, just go to [www.districtgov.org](http://www.districtgov.org), click on Departments, then Community Standards, and then click on Download Your Declaration of Restrictions. In fact, go to the District website and just cruise around. It is a very valuable website.

### Quick Links

- Community Standards Home
- Department Staff
- Forms & Publications
- District Adopted Rules
- Architectural Review Committee
- Architectural Review Manuals
- Deed Compliance
- Download Your Declaration of Restrictions

### Download Your Declaration of Restrictions

To obtain your Declaration of Restrictions:

- Select the County in which you live
- Select the District in which you live
- Select the Unit in which you live

If you are unsure of your unit number, it is located on your Villages ID card. The U/L number is the first letter of the county in which you live, the unit number and the lot number.

The second set of rules concerns things that are specific to your CDD. This one is harder to find. Again, go to [www.districtgov.org](http://www.districtgov.org), (Yes, I love that site) pick the header Departments, select Community Standards, then click on District Adopted Rules. This is where the regulations are that seem to trip up people the most. Painting your house is probably the number one sticking point. Let's put it this way, the rules on painting "differ" CDD to CDD. This is a page that all should be familiar with.

Going back to deed restrictions for a moment. There has been much debate over making anonymous complaints. My 2 cents: My deed restrictions say that property owners have the right to file complaints (section 5). Owners are defined in the restrictions (section 1). So, if it is an anonymous complaint, how do you know it was made by a property owner? The deed restriction is the legal document that we all signed on to and this is a point I have a hard time with.

*Mike Dollard*

The VHA FACEBOOK PAGE is being UPDATED AND IMPROVED TO BRING YOU THE LATEST INFORMATION ON OUR PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY NEWS OF INTEREST, SO STAY TUNED. YOU CAN ALSO GO TO OUR WEBSITE TO UPDATE YOUR EMAIL/CONTACT INFORMATION TO RECEIVE TIME-SENSITIVE EMAIL BLASTS. [www.thevha.net](http://www.thevha.net)

## FAR SOUTH AREA



**South of SR44**  
**Dave Fountaine, Vice President**  
[dfountaine4760@gmail.com](mailto:dfountaine4760@gmail.com)  
 - 716-816-8500

New homes continue to pop up fast and furious in the Far South! It's exciting to see so many new homes and amenities taking shape. The signage for the Village of Richmond is now visible from the multimodal path and the Pitch and Putt course can be seen as you cross the Water Lily bridge.

I'd like to thank Wildwood City Manager Jason McHugh and Wildwood City Commissioner Joe Elliott for attending our April program where they shared all the great things happening and planned for the City. Mr. McHugh provided a wealth of information about the services provided and reviewed future plans for the fast-growing city. It was great to hear about the continued focus on improving the downtown area of Wildwood. It was interesting to hear how the City partners



with Sumter County and District Government to use a "bucket" approach to providing services to keep costs to a minimum by not duplicating services provided by one of the other government entities. For more information about the city, you may wish to visit the city website <https://www.wildwood-fl.gov/>.

As part of my monthly column, I always include an introduction to one of our neighborhood representatives. These homeowners are really the strength of The VHA as they give generously of their time to try to identify issues and concerns and share that information with our partners and their neighbors. To find out who your neighborhood rep is, please go to The VHA website at [www.thevha.net](http://www.thevha.net) and look under the "Members" tab to find your neighborhood rep.

For those of you who live in the Village of Hammock at Fenny, Iris and Bernie Burgman have volunteered as neighborhood representatives. This wonderful couple can be reached via email [isbern6@gmail.com](mailto:isbern6@gmail.com) or telephone at 352-347-7350.

**Our June Far South program will be held on June 27th at 7:00 p.m. at Ezell Recreation Center. The topic will be "Deed Compliance, Customer Care, and Community Watch." We will explore how to be knowledgeable about the special deed restrictions that may apply to your home. An overview of the Community Watch program, including the services they provide and how homeowners can have their concerns reported and addressed, will be discussed. The program is open to all homeowners. Seating is limited to 144 and doors open at 6:30 p.m.**

Dave Fountaine

## LADY LAKE



**Lynn Davis**  
[Lynna527@aol.com](mailto:Lynna527@aol.com) - 352-250-7782

**Congratulations** to the 25 winning Lady Lake residents who each won \$200 of tree and shrubs from Fairfield Farms Nursery. Thanks to all who participated, and to Fairfield Farms for their donation to make this raffle a success.

**Fresh Produce:** At the corner of CR466 and Rolling Acres Road a family-owned fruit and vegetable stand will be opening at 9:00 a.m. on the weekends thru August 16th.

**Martial Arts classes** are available every Monday from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. and every Wednesday from 5:30 until 8:30 p.m. at the Lady Lake Community Building, 237 W. Guava Street (next to the Lady Lake Library). Call 352-430-0451 for more information.

### Classes/Programs offered by the Lady Lake Library

**June 10** at 9:30 a.m. - Best Buy iPad/Phone Class

**June 15** at 2:00 p.m. - Author's Round Table

**June 20** at 2:00 p.m. - Living Your Best Life (Part 1)

**June 21** at 10:00 a.m. - Water Painting with Marsha. Sign up is required - Supplies are provided.

**June 24** at 9:30 a.m. - Best Buy iMac Class

**June 24** at 1:00 p.m. - Exploring Old Florida Attractions with Doug Alderson

**For information on any of the classes call 352-753-2957**

**Reminder by the Lady Lake Police Department: BE CAREFUL in the construction zones on US Hwy 27/441.** The traffic patterns and speed limits will vary creating hazardous driving conditions. Give yourself enough time to reach your destination safely.



## A Villager's View



Change and rumors seem to go hand-in-hand. Even though change is the most constant and prevalent thing in the world, we often find it hard to accept.

Recently, there has been some very vocal "wishing" for a return of Katie Baelles to the Spanish Springs square

As such, there was a presentation made by those favoring its return to the Amenity Authority Committee asking that they, the AAC, consider reopening and operating Katie Belles. Or, as an alternative to that request, to subsidize the operation of the establishment to make it profitable.

However, state laws that govern entities such as the AAC, prohibit it from any participation in the operation of a commercial business, which Katie Belle's was, and would be. So, while AAC members understand the residents' desire to "turn back the clock," they must abide by the law.

Rumors are a part of life in The Villages, but how they get started is often a mystery. The latest rumor going around concerns the Paradise Recreation Center. It's no secret that there are plans being made to renovate Paradise, but this is an ongoing project. Since there has been no new "news" lately on this project, the rumor mill went into action.

The latest current rumor, that "Paradise Recreation Center is going to be demolished and the developer wants to build apartments there," is completely false. Is Paradise going to undergo renovation? Yes. When? The exact date cannot be set at this time. Will there be a "new and improved" Paradise Recreation Center? Absolutely. In its present location? Certainly. It will also retain all the amenities currently there, including the Mark Twain library.

Hopefully, this rumor will now disappear into wherever "old rumors" go to die. But don't worry - there will always be another one. That's life in The Villages.

### ANCIENT RUMORS FROM THE VHA ARCHIVES:

Oct. 1993 - **"We heard** - that the developer is planning to build low-income housing in Sumter County."

**"False.** There is to be a new type of villa called a Patio Villa in Sumter County. There will be 112 of these villas priced from \$49,995 through \$62,995." **What are those original owners able to sell their villas for today?**

Dec. 1993 - **"We heard** - that people driving over the golf cart bridge no longer have valid insurance on their golf carts." **Seems a bit silly in hindsight, doesn't it.**

May 1994 - **"We heard** - That some of our Villages residents who live in Sumter County believe they cannot use the facilities of The Villages that are in Lake County."

**"FALSE** - ALL the facilities in The Villages are open to all Villages residents (and still are). Also, all the various activities scheduled by the Recreation Department are for everyone who are residents of The Villages. **We are one community.**



The Villages  
Community Development Districts

HomeYour District ▼Committees ▼



District Manager

Maintaining a high level of communication between the District and our residents is essential — we strive to serve as an accurate source of information for our residents so that they're knowledgeable and informed on topics that matter to them. With the wide variety of services we provide and the many functions we serve, it's integral that we have proper systems in place to disperse that information to the community.

The District is always looking for new ways to connect with residents and enhance our methods of communication. From participating in speaking engagements, podcast episodes, radio segments, and newspaper articles, we are committed to providing important information across multiple platforms. The District's primary method of communication is our website at [DistrictGov.org](http://DistrictGov.org) — where you can locate accurate resources at your fingertips. In an effort to improve and enhance the way we interact with residents and disperse information online, we are working to develop an enhanced District website for residents and members of the public alike to enjoy. We encourage

## TECHNOLOGY DRIVEN COMMUNICATION

residents to get involved in their local government and the District website is a valuable online resource that residents can rely on for accurate, up-to-date, and accessible information.

Currently, the website provides access to the District Weekly Bulletin, Community Standards Deed Compliance, E-Billing, E-notifications, Resident Academy, CDD Orientation, District Board meetings, as well as government resources and information regarding community events. Recently added to the website is the ability to pay for your Executive Trail Passes online, or from your mobile device, as this will offer more flexibility and more options for Villagers. With these digital advancements, we look to adapt and evolve in a way that prioritizes both the needs of our residents and the needs of our growing community.

As technology is constantly changing, the District is continuously monitoring how we can provide a better data resource product to The Villages Community. If you need assistance navigating our website, please contact us at 352-753-4508.

Kenny Blocker

## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM PROVIDES ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

Established in 2015, the Scholarship Program at UF Health The Villages®



Hospital Auxiliary Foundation has been a highlight for

the community. Since its inception, the program has awarded over \$713,000 to benefit 68 high school seniors and 106 hospital team members pursuing or advancing their careers in medically-related studies. The high schools participating in the program are South Sumter, Wildwood and The Villages.

**In 2016, Project S.O.S. (Support Our Soldiers) joined forces with the Foundation to provide a scholarship to a student who has a family member that served honorably in the United States Military.** “Many of our military families in Florida and throughout the Nation often live at or below the poverty level, and the cost of sending their children to college is just a dream. Each year the Foundation, in conjunction with Project SOS, provides at least one Military Scholarship to a deserving family in order to make that dream come true,” said Gary Kadow, Founder and President of Project SOS, and Chairman of the Auxiliary Foundation’s Scholarship Committee.

Last year, the program expanded to include naming opportunities. David and Cindy Taylor and Dr. Erika Jasper established scholarship awards in their names. If you are interested in funding a scholarship or learning more about the program, contact the Foundation office at 352-751-8871.



Raven Muse

“Throughout my life, caring about others and being generous gave me a true sense of joy,” says Raven Muse. Being the UF Health The Villages® Hospital Auxiliary Foundation scholarship recipient made her decision to pursue a healthcare career an easy one.

**AMAC Foundation**  
Supporting & Educating America's Seniors

**SUDDEN DEATH:  
ARE YOU PREPARED?**

**Wednesdays – July 6, 13, 20 • 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. @ The Lady Lake Library  
225 West Guava Street, Lady Lake, FL 32159**

If you passed away tomorrow, would your loved ones know what to do? Will they know where your financial information, tax records, insurance records, and investment documents are stored? Will they be able to locate your most current will, health care directives, and documented funeral wishes? Can they locate important household documents, like deeds, car titles, and pension statements?

Conducted in three two-hour sessions, this seminar helps you create a “Survivor Notebook” to help loved ones cope after your passing. **There is no cost for this workshop series, but you must register in advance.** Light refreshments will be served at each session. Notebook materials will be provided.

To register contact the AMAC Foundation @ 888-750-2622 or by email at: [info@amacfoundation.org](mailto:info@amacfoundation.org).

**AARP DRIVER SAFETY**

**THE FOLLOWING SMART DRIVER “IN PERSON” CLASSES WILL BE AVAILABLE IN JUNE 2022. PLEASE CONTACT THE NUMBER LISTED.**

Jack Haughn	352-603-1420		06/14/22	Tue	06/17/22	Fri	Laurel Manor
Art Donnelly	631-792-2203		06/18/22	Sat	06/25/22	Sat	Paradise
Jack Haughn	352-603-1420		06/20/22	Mon	06/23/22	Thur	Savannah
Paul Scannell	352-399-6414		06/28/22	Tue	6/29/22*	Wed	Rohan

**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](mailto:drive@aarp.org)**

**The VHA is your voice in The Villages. Join The VHA today and help The VHA help you.**

## HAVING WORK DONE AT YOUR HOME? HERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU NEED TO DO!



Day after day, Village residents file complaints against unscrupulous vendors who have promised them their dreams will be fulfilled, only to end up with a nightmare because the homeowner didn't do sufficient research before signing on the dotted line. To reduce your chances of experiencing one of those nightmares, here are some commonsense steps you can take:

- 1. Check First.** Before you decide on which business to go with, contact a Seniors vs. Crime office to see how many complaints have been filed against that business. We are not able to give you any particulars on the complaints but knowing that the business has been in existence for 1 year and already had 10 complaints is what law enforcement refers to as a "clue".
- 2. Licensed and Insured?** Almost every business that provides services to homeowners will say they are licensed and insured. Often, that refers to their pickup truck which has a license plate on the back and insurance papers in the glovebox. Don't be lulled into complacency by the words "Licensed and Insured". Ask the guy to see his "license" and his "insurance". If he can't produce them, stay away!
- 3. Avoid Large Down Payments.** If your guy says he needs half down, tell him "No"! Why would someone need 50% down? What guarantee do you have that he'll even come back and start after getting half the money up front? If he says he needs it to buy supplies or materials, it might mean his credit is so bad he can't

get supplies without paying cash up front. Negotiate your payment schedule and **ALWAYS** hold a good chunk of money back with the understanding that the last payment will be made when the job is completed to your satisfaction.

- 4. Read The Contract Before You Sign.** Be sure the contract protects you and speaks to everything you want done. Get a STARTING date and a COMPLETION date put in the contract and stick to it. There will always be delays due to unforeseen conditions (storms, sick workers, supply chain issues) but most legitimate, experienced contractors will usually be able to work around those issues or they will tell you up front that there may be a problem.
  - 5. Licensed Contractors? – Check Their License.** If your job requires the services of a building contractor, electrician, plumber, roofer, pool installer, or other skilled trade, they most likely require a professional license in Florida and you should always check the status of their license. The Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) licenses those building trades and their website is [www.myfloridalicense.com](http://www.myfloridalicense.com).  
If you run into any problem with the work done around your home, Seniors vs. Crime is here to assist you. Our services are free and any money we get back goes right back to you. Remember, Call Us First.
- Sumter Office – (352) 689-4600, Ext. 4606.  
Mon. - Thurs. 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
8035 E. CR 466 (Sheriff's Annex) corner of Morse Blvd.



- Wildwood Office – (352) 753-0727.  
Tues. - Thurs. 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
2722 Brownwood Blvd. –  
Wildwood Police Annex next to theater.
- Marion Office – (352) 753-0727.  
Tues. 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
8230 SE 165th Mulberry Ln. (Sheriff's Annex)
- Fruitland Park Office – (352) 674-1882.  
Wed. 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Moyer Rec. Center, 3000 Moyer Loop,  
Fruitland Park Police Substation.

## BIKE • FRIENDLY • COMMUNITY • CORNER

### "STAYIN' ALIVE"



Try this little quiz about bicycle and traffic knowledge that can keep you "Stayin' Alive". Whether you are on a bike, or any other type of vehicle, it's good to know what the rules for safety are. Good Luck!

#### 1. What State are we in?

- **Florida.** This might seem obvious, but many of us travel across state lines so it is important to know that because the traffic rules for each state can be different. We follow the rules of the Great State of Florida.

#### 2. Is a bicycle considered a toy, vehicle, recreational vehicle, or nuisance?

- A bicycle is legally a **vehicle**. A bicycle has all the same privileges and responsibilities as a motor vehicle.

#### 3. Which side of the road must a bicyclist ride on?

- In the direction of traffic and as close as practicable (safe) to the right side.

#### 4. When motorists pass a bicycle what is the minimum legal separation?

- **Three (3) feet.** A motorized vehicle may cross the double-yellow line temporarily to pass a bicyclist safely.

#### 5. When must a bicyclist display front/rear lights?

- **From Sunset to Sunrise** a bicyclist must display a white light visible at 500 feet as well as a red light and reflector visible at 600 feet.

#### 6. Are bike helmets required when riding?

- **Bike helmets are mandatory** by law for people under the age of 16. Helmets are required by policy for The Villages bike club rides, Camp Villages, and The Enrichment Academy.

#### 7. Is it legal for bicyclists to ride two abreast?

- Bicyclists may ride two abreast when **not impeding traffic**. Otherwise, it is single file. The Villages bike clubs' policy is single file for club rides.

#### 8. Who has the right-of-way at an intersection or roundabout?

- **Intersection** - First Come-First Served. If Simultaneous arrival, then the right most vehicle. Roundabout – Traffic inside the roundabout.

#### 9. What is the legal speed limit for golf carts? Bicycles?

- Golf carts – 20 MPH. Street Legal Golf Carts – 25 MPH with stiff fines. Bicycles (Pedal Only) – Posted Speed Limit. E-Bikes – 28 MPH with pedal assist, throttle, and motor less than 750 watts.

#### 10. What is the legal age for driving a golf cart?

- **Age 14**, although a driver license is not required. (Take heed grandparents.)

**HOW DID YOU DO?**  
**HOPEFULLY 100%. STAY ALIVE!**

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



Members ▾ The Voice ▾ Events Volunteers

## HELPING HANDS

# The VHA NEW RESIDENT NIGHT

# JUNE 14, 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:**

- **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**
- **The VHA Helping Hands**

**NEXT NEW RESIDENT NIGHT WILL BE:  
JULY 12 AT LA HACIENDA REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER**

**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](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.

## The VHA GOLF CART SAFETY CLINIC



**JUNE 15 @ 9:00 A.M.**

## WATER LILY RECREATION CENTER

**4710 Marsh Bend Trail, The Villages/Wildwood**

**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](http://WWW.THEVHA.NET) FOR MORE DETAILS**

**GOLF CART SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH: USE YOUR TURN SIGNALS; BUT REMEMBER TO TURN THEM OFF, TOO.**

**NEXT MONTH'S CLINIC: July 20 @ COLONY COTTAGE**



## DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM

**VISIT [WWW.THEVHA.NET](http://WWW.THEVHA.NET) TO VIEW OUR CURRENT INVENTORY. THEN CALL:**

**352-973-2284**

**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.**