Neighbor To Neighbor is there to help

Citizens Served By Neighbor To Neighbor Expo Endorsed By The Rotary Club Of The Lady Lake Area And The Villages Districts

The mission of the Neighbor to Neighbor Resident Council is to provide appropriate referrals for Village Seniors who are experiencing difficulty meeting day-to-day needs. The mission was personified today as local citizens and not-for-profit agencies came together providing important information to residents of The Villages regarding their health, well-being and safety. In the first of a number of planned efforts, the EXPO was held today at the Paradise Recreation Center in The Villages. This mission was achieved today when the Neighbor to Neighbor Expo received a grateful turnout with residents able to learn services available in the State and receive answers to questions about their individual lifestyle concerns. Hosted by the Rotary Club of the Lady Lake Area, citizens were able to learn by visiting person-to-person with representatives of agencies to whom they could turn for assistance as laws and the regulations become more complicated. Areas of assistance at the EXPO included changes in the guidelines for senior health services, Medicare and supplemental programs, including prescription coverage, food procurement programs, and veteran’s benefits. Home safety, and personal safety assistance was offered by Lt. O’Hara of the Marion County Sheriff’s Office. Resource directories were handed out aimed at elder affairs.

Organizations like Mid-Florida Senior Services and Crystal Holmes from Elder Options, along with Bill Stewart of the Salvation Army, were able to put their concerns at ease. Because a spouse served in the military and was dealing with Alzheimer’s, Fred Harrop of the Veterans Services Department was able to direct them to aid of which they were not aware. For those needing mobility assistance, VHA Bill Dyer provided a visual of the wheelchair and walkers available to Villagers. Sam and Carolyn Berry of the Angel Food Ministries explained the availability of food and menus. Don Schreiner, Volunteer Lake, gave an explanation of how a neighborhood could come together providing

VHA Healthcare Forum for October General Meeting

The Villages Homeowners Association partnered with the Central Florida Health Alliance and The Villages Regional Hospital to bring the best up-to-the-minute answers to your questions about healthcare reform at the VHA General Meeting, Wednesday, October 14th, 7 p.m., Lake Miona Regional Recreation Center.

From politicians to pundits we’ve heard so much from right to left, and left to right that our heads are spinning with Stimulus, TARP, Bailout, Cash for Clunkers, Cap and Trade, Immigration, Energy Independence, End the War, and Healthcare Reform. But the one program that is become part of our daily discussion is healthcare. We can’t open a newspaper, or turn on radio or TV news without hearing something about healthcare. It’s time we got the straight information without any political spin.

So the VHA Board has planned a special meeting for this month’s General Membership Meeting to help answer some of our senior community’s questions. The keynote speaker will be Emily Friedman, an independent writer, speaker, teacher, and health policy and ethics analyst based in Chicago. Joining Ms. Friedman in a healthcare panel discussion will be Mike Williams and Tim Hawkins. Mr. Williams serves as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Community Hospital Corporation, based in Dallas, Texas. He is a frequent national speaker on the impact of hospital conversions and advisor to hospitals on healthcare issues. Tim Hawkins is the Chief Executive Officer of The Villages Regional Hospital.

The keynote address and panel will be focusing on how proposed/passed healthcare changes will affect our hospital(s), physicians, insurance and our pocketbooks. Some of the key questions include: What will happen to our current healthcare system if 30 to 47 million uninsured/underinsured are added into our roles? Will there be enough doctors to accommodate increased patient loads? Will there be rationing of healthcare and procedures, especially to seniors? Will private insurers survive healthcare reform?

Some of the key variables include: four House committee bills, one Senate bill, the Speaker’s plan, the President’s plan, 500 rejected Republican amendments; the public option, the private coop, universal health; 12 million uninsured, 15 or 20 million uninsured, 27 or 30 million uninsured, 46 or 47 million uninsured; cost of $580B, $890B, $1.7T; cost neutral, zero, a postage stamp; $billions in savings from efficiency, elimination of fraud and abuse, cuts in medicare and medicaid, preventive medicine, wellness programs, tort reform and insurance reform.

The speakers and panel can anticipate many of our questions and concerns. Additional questions will be taken from attendees.
A message from the President of the VHA

A TV crew from WPBT/Channel 2, the PBS Miami affiliate, is working on an 18-month project documenting urban sprawl throughout Florida with a working title “Lost in Suburbia”. WPBT’s thesis is that these hundreds of beautiful developments popping up all over the state offer luxury accommodations and amenities, but very little to bring their new residents together into a lifestyle they might enjoy into their golden years.

The Villages was toward the end of WPBT’s long list of developments. So they had pretty much confirmed their initial hypothesis that all of us old folks were indeed lost in suburbia. However, an afternoon visiting a typical village neighborhood in The Villages last week, viewing activities at a regional recreation center, walking around Sunmer Landing on vendor night, while golf-carting between these various filming sites, they will probably have to make The Villages the antithesis of their theme.

On this typical weekday afternoon, Villagers were just finished with morning golf, softball and pickleball, getting together for afternoon mah jongg, band practice and bowling, and headed for dining, bowling, vendor night and dancing to live entertainment on the Square. The typical afternoon in the regional recreation center had a parapsychology class, poker, and exercise sessions in progress, with pickleball practice winding down, shuffleboard and water volleyball just ending, and set up for a senatorial candidate presentation in the theater. The Lifelong Learning College was signing up students for Fall classes and several individuals were taking advantage of the recreation center’s free WIFI service.

Sunmer Landing was filled with shoppers and diners. Vendors were busy with browsers and buyers. The square seats were filled and the line dancers were enjoying the band’s oldies but goodies. The film crew enjoyed dining and the producer picked up a Welcome Package from the Sales Center, commenting that his wife just might like to take a good look at this. Maybe WPBT’s project should be renamed to “Lost in Suburbia, and Found in The Villages”.

WPBT’s visit points out some of the things that we Villagers might be taking for granted, but that really make a big contrast between The Villages and a typical resort/retirement community in Florida. We’re highlighting some of these features in the design of The Villages in this issue of The Voice.

If you wish to support your VHA’s mission of preserving the value of our homes and enhancing The Villages’ lifestyle, you are invited to join us today. An application form is available in The Voice and on our website www.thevha.net.

Don Hahnfeldt, President of VHA

October Meetings Notice

AAC Meeting
Wednesday, October 7, 1:30 p.m.
Savannah Center, Ashley Wilkes Room

Districts 1-4
Friday, October 9
District 1 - 8:00 a.m.; District 2- 9:30 a.m.
District 3 - 10:00 a.m.; District 4 - 11:00 a.m.
Sunmer Landing District Office
1894 Laurel Manor Drive

Newcomer Orientation
Tuesday, October 13, 7:00 p.m.
Canal Street Recreation Center

VCCD and SLCCD
Thursday, October 15
Sunmer Landing District Office
1894 Laurel Manor Drive
VCCD 8:00 a.m.; SLCCD 9:30 a.m.

Districts 5-10
Friday, October 16
District 5 - 8:00 a.m.; District 6 - 9:30 a.m.
District 7 - 11:00 a.m.; District 8 - 1:00 p.m.
Sunmer Landing District Office
1894 Laurel Manor Drive

Golf Cart Safety Clinic
Wednesday, October 21, 10:00 a.m.
Savannah Recreation Center

Carolyn Willette 352-408-4309
The Villages' Buzz

Golf Cart Speeders
The maximum speed limit for golf carts in 20 mph on Florida roadways. Only registered, licensed and insured, low speed vehicles are authorized to travel over 20 mph. LSV's must also meet other requirements like solid windshield, seat belts and wipers, like an automobile. Fines are high for golf cart speeders and other fines, penalties and points may also apply.

Hurricanes (where are you?)
We are way below the predicted numbers of named storms and major hurricanes of most predictors. Keep those hurricane checklists and kits handy though, since the hurricane season runs to the end of November.

Scam (Weather or Not) Alert
Make sure you know what you’re getting when you buy the emergency radio. Some advertising is falsely claiming NOAA alerts for radio that don’t included NOAA transmission frequencies.

Rain, Rain, Go Away
St. John’s and Southwest Florida Water Management District says that we’re getting caught up from the four-year drought. But we’re not quite there yet. So don’t put your umbrellas away while SWFWMD’s board of governors is still doing a rain dance.

The Snowbirds Are Coming, The Snowbirds Are Coming
Be prepared for some longer waits while the new restaurants get checked out by our returning Villagers. They’ll be enjoying the recreation facilities and golf courses too, so your waits and tee times may also see some delays. Be especially courteous on the roads, cart paths – and the dreaded roundabouts.

Don’t Tax Me Bro’
Sumter County Commissioners approved a budget to set property taxes at the “roll back” rate. This is the FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR Sumter County has held our taxes at the roll back rate or below, while improving services to the county! The Sumter County School Board set our school taxes just below the roll back rate also! Thanks Sumter County officials.

Secrets of The Villages revealed… daily

Colonel Sanders eleven herbs and spices secret recipe is locked securely in a safe in Louisville, Kentucky. The Villages’ recipe is advertised nationally and on display locally every day. The big difference between these two big secrets is that the Colonel’s chicken can be closely duplicated, and The Villages seems to be without peer.

So what are the secret ingredients of The Villages? Start with a vision: Build a hometown where your dreams come true. Entice retirees to share the vision with the notion of living like a millionaire through their golden years on their pensions. Then make it come true. Sounds good so far, but what are the hard ingredients that you can bite into? The main ingredients can be boiled down to four – the village concept, infrastructure, staff, and media.

The Villages currently consists of 32 villages (and many more neighborhoods), lending itself to the quaintness of a village. As The Villages grows, the amenities and services have grown proportionately (pools, holes of golf, tennis and pickleball courts, etc.) and communities within The Villages have been socially developing naturally through groups within and among villages.

The infrastructure is the second main ingredient. Residents are free to pursue individual interests, community activities, or organized sports – all conveniently accessible by golf cart on the network of streets, cart paths and tunnels connecting residents to all aspects and venues with The Villages. The pleasing architecture and landscaping of The Villages extends from residents’ homes to the town centers and commercial areas, to the recreation centers and ball fields. Residents can participate in the many sports or activities, watch an outdoor polo match or indoor theater production. There are currently 32 recreation centers, 7 regional recreation centers, 52 swimming pools, 9 country clubs, 459 holes of golf, 89 pickleball courts, 9 softball fields, over 70 miles of cart paths, and much more.

The next main ingredient is the staff. The recreation staff of about two dozen full time employees and 300 part timers (and over 1000 volunteers) organizes and coordinates the various clubs and activities that the residents enjoy every day. There are currently over 1500 clubs and activities being managed by the Recreation Department, with several more added every week! The Recreation News is published weekly complete with indoor and outdoor activities, all club schedules and invitations and surveys to new ones. The scope of the program is almost incomprehensible for a non-Villager. For example, if you want to pursue your interest in art, you have to choose among oil paint, acrylics, watercolor, charcoal, sculpture, clay, ceramics, and more. There are as many or more choices in varieties of music, exercise and dance. There are even very specialized activities … pine needle basket weaving anyone? Meeting rooms in the recreation centers are required for most of the 1500+ activities, which still have room to accommodate many special event rentals, entertainment department programs, and Lifelong Learning College courses.

The activities range in size to less than a dozen members to hundreds. Some of the sports programs are the largest in the entire United States. The Villages is the largest golf community in the world, and golf is not even the number one sport here. Bowling is generally accepted to be the biggest sport, with golf, pickleball and softball following in some order. The softball program is probably the largest in the United States, playing year round, on nine ball fields.

The next ingredient is the media, which serves its traditional function, as well as, our fourth ingredient to celebrate the Lifestyle we’ve been enjoying. WVLG radio, VNN television, and The Villages Daily Sun feature residents every day in the news, sports, and just plain enjoying themselves in The Villages. From Villager of the Day, to proud Mom or Grandfather, to a first 300 in bowling, residents are celebrated in the news. Neighborhoods are featured in The Mix weekly, and residents’ activities are highlighted in the monthly magazine and V-Mails.

Finally, invite a few more friends from back home to enhance The Villages’ recipe and add a pinch of your own warmth to The Villages’ famous hospitality. The chicken is really good, Colonel, but the best secrets are the ones you can share.

!! IMPORTANT NOTICE !!
The District #4 Multi-Modal Path Workshop has been changed to Monday, October 19 at 2 p.m. The workshop will still be held at the Savannah Regional Recreation Center in the Ashley-Wilkes Room. All other previously scheduled workshops remain unchanged. The following is a complete listing of all of the scheduled workshops.

Amenity Authority Committee (AAC) for Lady Lake/Lake County
October 15, 2009 at 1:00 pm
Savannah Regional Recreation Center

VCCDD #1
October 14, 2009 at 10:00 am
Savannah Regional Recreation Center

VCCDD #2
October 14, 2009 at 1:00 pm
Savannah Regional Recreation Center

VCCDD #3
October 19, 2009 at 10:00 am
Savannah Regional Recreation Center

VCCDD #4
October 19, 2009 at 2:00 pm
Savannah Regional Recreation Center
Sumter County vote notes

Is anyone thinking about next year’s elections yet? Just in case you haven’t given them a thought yet I want to remind you of a few things that you can do now.

For instance, did you know that you do not have to wait until next year to request an absentee ballot to be sent to you? Florida Law changed a few years ago where you do not need a specific reason to receive one. Now you can request an absentee ballot just because you would like to take your time and fill it out in the convenience of your home. It’s as simple as calling our office, stopping by one of our 3 offices (Village Annex, Wildwood Shopping Center or Bushnell Office) or go to our website at #. Fill it out, print it and mail it in to us (we must have hard copy with original signature). It’s very easy and it will be on file for next year so all you need to do is look for it in the mail.

Now would be a good time also to register or make any changes to your voter registration information. Have you moved and need to update your address? Your new address may have put you into another precinct at a new voting location. Have you recently married and need to change to your new name? Or maybe something has happened and you need to update your signature. Remember that your signature is very important when voting an absentee ballot. The signature on the back of the voted absentee ballot envelope must match the signature that we have on file for you. And every signature on the absentee ballot envelope is verified before it is opened and counted. Also please note that someone else cannot sign for you even if it’s your spouse or family member, it must be your signature. Florida does not accept signatures by a power of attorney or signatures by someone else for you that have been notarized. The signature on the back of the voted absentee ballot envelope must match the signature that we have on file for you. And every signature on the absentee ballot envelope is verified before it is opened and counted. Also please note that someone else cannot sign for you even if it’s your spouse or family member, it must be your signature. Florida does not accept signatures by a power of attorney or signatures by someone else for you that have been notarized.

In the not so good news, the minimum monthly charge will increase in October by $3 a month. If you read the papers you will note that this is considerably less that the increased rates being sought by investor owned companies. One of the reasons for the increase is the bad economy, which has decreased new connections while costs have risen. In addition the bad market has caused loss of homes and businesses and the courts when allocating funds normally leave very little or nothing for utilities. Consequently, SECO has had to write off considerable funds ($82,000 on average for each of the last 18 months). The increase will also be used to pay down debt and reduce credit usage for capital projects.

However, the above is miniscule compared to what will occur if the Cap and Trade Bill (Carbon Tax) that passed the House should pass the Senate. If it passes, it will increase electricity costs by an estimated $50 a month on residential property here and even more for businesses. It particularly hits Florida hard as it in effect taxes carbon emissions. Florida has no natural resources of its own – particularly since offshore drilling is prohibited. Most of the electricity in Florida comes from coal-fired plants that will be particularly subjected to the tax. People in states with hydropower will have no problems in that area. They will in other areas as it is estimated that gasoline prices will increase by 58%. It will increase costs dramatically on products made in the US which means jobs (2 million) will be lost to other countries. India and China have said that they will not match US environmental goals so guess where jobs will end up? Perhaps to sum it up, a study by MIT indicates that the bill will cost the average American $3900 a year.

Another kindly note in the above act provides that all states must adopt the California Building Code. This applies not only to new housing, but if you go to sell your existing home, inspectors will come and tell you what you have to do to bring your house up to the new standard. That also applies if you add on to your home. It can even be invoked if you change the name on your account. Green is good, but is it that good? You may want to talk to your Senators about this – particularly Senator Nelson who has indicated that he is for the bill. I know nothing about our new Senator who was just appointed by the Governor, but it would be appropriate to give him your opinion.

Some of you may have received a flyer from “Federal Energy Savings”. It talks about a Federal Act and how you can save between 33-51% on your electric bill. Essentially it involves the sale of an $8000 solar water heater. If you want to buy one that is up to you, but some of the salesmen have indicated SECO endorsed this product. That is not true. In addition, it should be understood that SECO does not give a credit for installing a solar hot water heater.

I hope that you all have a good Labor Day weekend! Enjoy yourselves!

Barry R. Evans
SECO Trustee
District 3.

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SECO Trustee report
September 2009

I have been told that it is always good to start out with the good news, so I will.

Monday the Board of Trustees authorized $1.4 million to be returned to SECO members.

Your amount will show up in your November bill and will be dependent on how much you pay and how long you have been a member. Obviously for most of us, it will not be a huge amount, but since members are the “stockholders” the dividends go back to you rather than some stranger who owns stock.

In the not so good news, the minimum monthly charge will increase in October by $3 a month. If you read the papers you will note that this is considerably less that the increased rates being sought by investor owned companies. One of the reasons for the increase is the bad economy, which has decreased new connections while costs have risen. In addition the bad market has caused loss of homes and businesses and the courts when allocating funds normally leave very little or nothing for utilities. Consequently, SECO has had to write off considerable funds ($82,000 on average for each of the last 18 months). The increase will also be used to pay down debt and reduce credit usage for capital projects.

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SECO Trustee
District 3.

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August 2009

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News from VHA Regions

Lake County Region

Joy Anderson, Director, 408-5387

Fifteen representatives and five Lake County Members were the grateful guests of Sumter North regions #1, #2, #3 on September 10, 2009. John Land and his great board were wonderful hosts to a delightful meeting. Carl Bell, the Vice Chairman of the A.A.C. brought us up to date on the Dog Park, the Golf Management System, and the Guest ID Policy. He explained the new traffic test at the Belle Aire gate, called the “loop.” The “loop” will open and close every three seconds and will be use in conjunction with a high-speed camera. The AAC will also be working on new ID cards that are difficult to duplicate.

Janet Tutt, our district manager, was the main speaker. She explained her desire was that every Villager have a basic understanding of their government. She is hopeful that the new six-week Resident Academy course that is being offered will accomplish that goal. Than Janet took us through a power point program explaining Chapter 190, the statute that shows how our Community Development District is formed, it duties and restrictions. There are 120 full time employees and 600 part time employees that ably manage our 36 square miles of our wonderful community called the Villages. Then we greeted our neighbors over coffee and cookies. All had a great time.

Set aside Thursday, October 15, for our next Lake County Representatives meeting. We will be welcoming five new representatives to our group. We have many topics to cover. They include the impact of the new signs on the Del Mar gate area, update on the Life Long Learning College, new fishing policy, and the multi-modal Golf cart paths in Lake County. Please bring a copy of your deed restrictions. They will vary from village to village. A lot to cover and we need input from everyone.

Sumter North Region

John Land, Director, 751-2535
Fred Dowling, Vice Chairperson (Region 1), 350-6123
Don Simson, Vice Chairperson (Region 2), 259-2338
Geoff Langdon, Vice Chairperson (Old Region 3), 259-1037
Secretary, Jane Bakalis, 259-7369

In the “Land of the Little Wheels” the fall season has arrived and with that comes lower temperatures and our Snowbirds start to come back to the Villages. I always feel this is a great time of the year, a wonderful time to be here in the Villages. So much to do and even in retirement cannot find enough time to do all we want to do.

Our September General Meeting was a great success, with good attendance and two fine speakers. Janet Tutt our District Manager was the keynote speaker and with the aid of a power-point presentation gave a detailed explanation of how all the various CDDs work together to make the Villages so great. Carl Bell the Vice Chair of the AAC brought us up to date with the various issues being addressed by the AAC. I can also report the Sumter North Board members all appeared with black bowler hats and small black moustaches, our meeting was in the Charlie Chaplin Room at the Paradise Rec Center, hence the look alike program!

We can now look forward to our next meeting on November 12 our speakers will be VHA President Don Hahndfeldt, a representative from the Golf Administration and Carl Bell. The meeting will probably be in the Charlie Chaplin Room, but there is a slight chance we could be back in the La Hacienda Rec Center we will keep you posted on this.

At our Annual General Meeting in February 2010 we will be looking to elect 2 new members to our Board, these will be to fill the positions of Secretary and that of Chairperson. To facilitate these changes we have in place a Nominating Committee that at our November meeting will present a slate of candidates for these vacant positions. These will be voted on at our February meeting, if any of our members are interested in these positions please contact one of our Board Members.

Region 4

Art Rowe, Director, 205-7661
Barbara Fieltz, Vice Chairperson, 751-2626
Herb Gantz, Secretary, 751-3976

The VHA Region 4 quarterly meeting was held on Thursday, September 24th. The notes from that meeting were distributed by email to all Neighborhood Representatives and are available on the VHA website at www.theVHA.net.

The VHA quarterly General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 14th at the Lake Miona Recreation Center at 7 PM. This will be a Medical Benefits Forum and will be very interesting and timely.

Take time to read this entire issue of the Villages Voice. Many innovative changes have been made to the format and presentation which makes it easier to read and more responsive to the community.

If you are unfamiliar with the form of government we have in The Villages, there is a Community Development District “school” weekly on Thursdays (10 AM to noon) at the District offices at 3201 Wedgewood Lane. These are informative sessions and an annual refresher attendance is a good idea.

I receive many calls about common area items that need repair or attention. Don’t forget you can call the Villages Customer Service Office at 753-4508 directly. My experience is they are very helpful and the response is excellent.

As your VHA representatives, we are always mindful of the VHA mission to preserve and enhance the values of our lifestyles and homes. If you are not a VHA member or your membership has lapsed, please join. Be part of a positive, community-oriented group.

Regions 6 & 7

Russ D’Emidio, Chairperson, 750-4486
Laurie Cooper, Vice Chairperson Region 6, 750-9566
Charles Wright, Vice Chairperson Region 7, 205-8072
Ron McMahon, Secretary, 205-4647

Our highlight for the month was our Regional General Meeting on September 21. Our guest speaker was Captain Gail Lazenby of the Villages Department of Public Safety who provided an update on the transformation of Community Watch. Under the leadership of Mike Tucker, the Villages Public Safety Director, Community Watch is moving toward a more proactive, customer-oriented, disciplined, consistent and factual based organizational model. Their new mission statement is “To provide a safe community for Village residents by keeping a watchful eye around the clock.” Neighborhood patrols are expected to help individuals who they encounter that need assistance. If it is something beyond their control, they should maintain a physical presence until the appropriate authority arrives.

Below are some of the items they have recently undertaken:
- Instituted patrols on foot particularly surrounding town squares
- Trucks have been repainted with recognizable Community Watch logo
- Community Watch personnel wear identifiable shirts and jackets
- Patrol trucks now have direct radio communications with sheriff and police departments. They no longer have to go through an intermediary dispatch center. Remember, however, that Community Watch personnel do not have law enforcement rights.

Some of the improvements that are in the planning and analysis phase:
- Providing consistency and improvements in gate operations including upgrading technology for cameras, possible self-serve kiosks at gate entry to obtain information. Note that the Amenity Authority Committee is looking at different procedural options for opening and closure of gates and residents are encouraged to attend their meetings.
- Changing the image of Community Watch and better publicizing what they do. For example their Adult Watch Program is a great benefit but only a few take advantage of it.

For more information go to thevha.net.

Also at the meeting, Chairperson Russ D’Emidio introduced the attendees to the new VHA Web site and explained the wealth of information it contains. Residents are encouraged to register so they can obtain information about their specific region at thevha.net. It will be a valuable way to communicate with residents and non-residents, giving them access to the facts and important issues.

Regrettably, two representatives announced their resignations this month: Charles Wright, Vice Chairperson Region 7, and Janet Koptis in Holly Hill Villas. We would like to thank them for their insight.
Ask the Chief- Defining “burglary”

Say the word “burglary” to most people, and they will immediately imagine a pried window, an image of a burglar sneaking through their home while they sleep, stealing jewelry, maybe electronics and other valuables and treasured items. This image invokes fear and revulsion and has led to a prevalence of home alarm systems and heightened security awareness.

According to the Florida State Statutes 810.02 burglary means entering or remaining in a dwelling, a structure, or a conveyance with the intent to commit an offense therein and is a felony.

Like wise, according to the Florida State Statutes 810.11 under definitions—As used in this chapter:

1. “Structure” means a building of any kind, either temporary or permanent, which has a roof over it, together with the curtilage thereof. However, during the time of a state of emergency declared by executive order or proclamation of the Governor under chapter 252 and within the area covered by such executive order or proclamation and for purposes of ss. 810.02 and 810.08 only, the term means a building of any kind or such portions or remnants thereof as exist at the original site, regardless of absence of a wall or roof.

2. “Dwelling” means a building or conveyance of any kind, including any attached porch, whether such building or conveyance is temporary or permanent, mobile or immobile, which has a roof over it and is designed to be occupied by people lodging therein at night, together with the curtilage thereof. However, during the time of a state of emergency declared by executive order or proclamation of the Governor under chapter 252 and within the area covered by such executive order or proclamation and for purposes of ss. 810.02 and 810.08 only, the term “conveyance” means a motor vehicle, ship, vessel, railroad vehicle or car, trailer, aircraft, or sleeping car; and to enter a conveyance includes taking apart any portion of the conveyance. However, during the time of a state of emergency declared by executive order or proclamation of the Governor under chapter 252 and within the area covered by such executive order or proclamation and for purposes of ss. 810.02 and 810.08 only, the term “conveyance” means a motor vehicle, ship, vessel, railroad vehicle or car, trailer, aircraft, or sleeping car or such portions thereof as exist.

While residential burglaries are a problem, and security precautions are good, another target exists for criminals and that is vehicles!

Vehicle burglaries are increasingly common and very costly affairs. Many people do not quite realize the ease for a criminal to steal in-dash stereo equipment, GPS systems, petty cash funds, credit cards, cell phones, wallets purses and other valuables that are left unattended and unsecured in your vehicle. While a home burglary may take anywhere from 5 minutes to several hours, the average vehicle burglary is much quicker. There is far less area to search and valuable components are almost always in the same general areas.

Even better for burglars are two simple facts: they can inspect their entire target from the outside before striking, and many cars are left unlocked. With dozens of area wide vehicle burglaries in the last couple of months, the vast majority has been to vehicles left wide open. No alarm set, no doors locked, sometimes windows left cracked or down which all provide the ability for the burglar to take advantage of that opportunity.

Recently, we have taught several criminals an interesting lesson in which they learned the hard way (by being arrested) that there is no difference between the burglary of an unoccupied residence and that of an unoccupied vehicle. They are both felonies and carry the same penalties.

The affect of a vehicular burglary are devastating for many victims. Beyond the material loss is the sense of violation, anger, and frustration. Protect yourselves and your hard-earned assets from casual, lazy thieves. LOCK your vehicle doors and if you have a vehicle alarm, set it. Park in a well lit areas and hide your valuables out of plain site.

Don’t make the criminals life easier while they try to ruin yours.

Always remember that together we can make a positive difference!

Until next time - let’s be safe out there!

Chief Ed Nathanson
Lady Lake Police Department
423 Fennell Blvd.
Lady Lake, Florida 32159
(352)751-1560
(352)751-1566 Fax
enathanson@ladylakepd.org

Please note: Under Florida law (Florida State Statute 668.6076 - effective 07-01-06), e-mail addresses are public records. If you do not want your e-mail address released in response to a public-records request, do not send electronic mail to this entity. Instead, contact this office by phone or in writing.

Regions 6 & 7 continued from page 5

and participation and wish them much success in their other activities.

We as your VHA representatives continue to be committed to preserve and enhance the value of your lifestyle and homes – we are your advocate. Remember, you can find your VHA rep’s contact information on your local postal facility bulletin board along with events in your neighborhood. There are still neighborhoods in need of reps – check pages 14-15 in this issue. If you are interested in joining this hard-working group and be of assistance to your community, contact Russ D’Emidio, chairperson Regions 6 and 7.

All VHA officers and directors are unpaid volunteer residents of The Villages.

A VHA membership application is in this issue of The Voice, and available on the VHA website: www.thevha.net
October irrigation information

Autumn is a wonderful time of year in Florida, some say the best. The weather starts to get cooler and spending time outdoors becomes much more pleasant. Autumn is also the time of year when the frequency of afternoon thunderstorms diminishes, and lawn and landscapes will probably begin to need supplemental irrigation. There are important guidelines to remember regarding when and how to irrigate. Following the guidelines will help develop a more drought-tolerant and healthy lawn and landscape.

- Don’t irrigate just because it is your scheduled day. Irrigation systems should only be operated when the lawn begins to show signs of stress. This will encourage deeper root growth, which will help to develop more drought-tolerant lawns and landscaping. It will also save water, which protects our water resources and provides savings on water bills. Signs of stress, include:
  - lingering footprints or mower tracks
  - grass blades or leaf blades closing lengthwise — the top few inches of soil feeling dry
- The amount of irrigation varies depending on the time of year, rainfall and soil conditions. Please refer to the WaterWise Irrigation Guide below for guidelines to follow.
- Evaporation loss can be 60 percent or higher during the day, so watering must be done before 8 a.m. or after 6 p.m. on your scheduled day, to comply with the current restrictions put in place by the water management district.
- Lawns will generally need water before landscape plants (excluding flowers). Therefore, if the lawn is being irrigated when it shows signs of stress, the landscape plants will be adequately irrigated.
- Flower beds should be hand watered with a hose using an automatic shut off nozzle. Also, if the lawn has dry spots, use a hose with an automatic shutoff nozzle to apply water where it’s needed, instead of watering the entire lawn.

For more tips and information, please visit the Water Wisdom Website at: thevillageswaterwisdom.com/

Water Wise Irrigation Guide Recommended Zone Run Times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Irrigation Zone Type</th>
<th>Winter Dec – Feb</th>
<th>Spring &amp; Summer Mar – Sept</th>
<th>Fall Oct – Nov</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Run Time</td>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>Run Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plants</td>
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<td>OFF</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turf by Rotors</td>
<td>30 min</td>
<td>1/week</td>
<td>40 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turf by Sprays</td>
<td>15 min</td>
<td>1/week</td>
<td>25 min</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Recommended Zone Run Times are based on normal rainfall conditions.
- During times of drought, you may need to supplement your irrigation system by hand watering using a hose with an automatic shut off nozzle.
- During times of rainfall, you may be able to turn your irrigation system off for an extended period of time.

The Water Management District may impose additional watering restrictions as part of a water shortage order that must be complied with.

The Villages Penny Pincher – Saving on auto insurance

If you are driving in Florida you need auto insurance. But some of us with the same driving history and insurance coverage are paying very different rates. Progressive Insurance says high to low premiums for the same driver can be a $586 difference – for six months! Here are a few suggestions that could save you a bundle.

Shop Around. Compare in-house insurers, company agents, and, independent brokers. Each has advantages. But for best comparison, make sure you compare the same services and limits for a true comparison. Caution: Don’t let price alone be a selection criteria over the service and reputation of the company.

Get All Available Discounts:
- They are many and varied including:
  - Combination Discounts - You can often knock off 10% to 20% from your premiums if you insure both your home and your car with the same company, or by insuring more than one car with the same company.
  - Defensive-Driving Classes - This can often merit a 10% discount on premiums.
  - Retirement and low mileage Discounts - Be sure to let your insurer know when you retire, particularly if you retire at a relatively young age.
  - Association & Group Discounts may be available for affiliation with all sorts of associations: your alma mater, a military group, a professional organization or employer, to name a few.
  - Safety Discounts - Drivers must be rewarded for having safety features on their car, as antilock brakes, airbags and automatic seat belts, as well as antitheft devices.
  - Loyalty Discounts - Stick with the same company for more than one year, and you could earn a break of 10% or more on your premiums.
  - Increase Your Deductible - It applies to your collision and comprehensive coverage (not your liability) and is the insurance that specifically covers your car. In general, increasing your deductible from $200 to $500 could reduce your premium by 15% to 30%.
  - Drop Some Coverage. If you have an older car, you may want to consider dropping collision and comprehensive coverage altogether. Collision and comprehensive can account for 40% or more of the cost of your premium and covers only the car’s replacement value.
  - Clean Up Your Credit Report - Like it or not, your credit report can affect whether a company is willing to insure you — and at what rate. Somebody who is extremely poor in their payment habits could pay 30% to 40% more than someone without those problems.
  - Get (Keep) the Right Car - If you’re in the market for a new car or selling your second car, keep in mind those who have the highest theft rates and repair costs will cost more to insure. So if you’re debating between two models, it may be worthwhile to give your insurance agent a call to see if there is a notable difference in the insurance costs.

- Finally, consult with your current insurance company and let them know that you’ve been shopping. The agent should be an expert in discounts available and how else you might save by staying with your current policy. How about that loyalty discount?

Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches

The children at the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches have begun a new school year. Students are settling down into their routines of school, after school activities, work and home responsibilities.

At the Youth Ranches, we try to give our kids all the opportunities other children have. Our boys and girls attend academic classes and vocational training. They have after school jobs either on campus or in their local communities. When there’s time, many of our kids participate in after school sports, music or other activities. They also have daily chores to do in their own cottages.

Their days are very structured, but staying busy keeps kids focused. We all know that too much idle time can lead to bad behavior and troublesome activities. Thanks to our donors, the Youth Ranches can provide this structure through a stable home and caring staff. We can offer boys and girls the encouragement and stability to help them make the right choices in life.

You can help us provide for the children in our care. Please enable us keep our kids on the right track by making a generous donation. If you would like more information, please contact Frank Kenny, Donor Relations Officer at 1-800-765-3797.

The Villages by the Numbers
Answers on page 10

1. How many softball seasons and leagues are in The Villages?
2. How many softball teams are in The Villages?
3. How many softball games were played last year in The Villages?
4. How many full time Recreation Department staff run The Villages softball program?
Doug Woessner and Gary Hecht are typical softball players in The Villages program. They moved to The Villages after visiting on the recommendation of friends and relatives. Doug moved here six years ago by way of Queens, New York and North Carolina. Gary is a Cardinal fan from St. Louis, who moved to The Villages two years ago. Both moved starting getting active in the various programs and activities, but were drawn to the team competition of softball that they had experienced about 35 years earlier.

Gary is still a first-year player, settling into the routines of practice and competitive play that goes year-round through three softball seasons. Gary plays for the Steelers. He is one of over 2400 players playing this season. Doug plays for the Colts and has been playing longer. He pulls additional volunteer assignments umpiring. Two umpires are required for each game. So there are dozens of umpires, all volunteers.

There are 9 softball fields in The Villages, with games played six days each week. Saddlebrook and Buffalo Glen complexes each have four fields, concession stand and announcing booths. The scoreboard on each field clicks off seven innings, while the pitch.

The new park, called The Mulberry Dog Park, will be built in Marion County adjacent the walking trail and Lopez golf course. The one-acre park will have south of CR466, with a goal of building another dog park for the benefit of dogs and owners further south.

The Villages softball program is Tops in the US

Doug and Gary are in Division (level) 3, the largest grouping of the five skill levels. Doug says that levels one and two are very competitive and are comprised mostly of the young players (in their fifties). The program is growing along with The Villages and about 400 new players are evaluated each year by the couple dozen volunteer evaluators. New players account for the addition of about eleven more teams each year.

The only age-group play involved is generally in the Recreation and Traveling groups. Doug and Gary are in Division (level) 3, the largest grouping of the five skill levels. Doug says that levels one and two are very competitive and are comprised mostly of the young players (in their fifties). The program is growing along with The Villages and about 400 new players are evaluated each year by the couple dozen volunteer evaluators. New players account for the addition of about eleven more teams each year.

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In addition to playing within a competitive skill level, players also select to play in recreation, neighborhood or traveling leagues. There are 16 different leagues, each playing through the three softball seasons. Neighborhood and traveling teams play 12 to 14 games per season, while the recreation teams play 24 to 28 games.

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The Joy of Golf Cars

They are fun, cute, and friendly. Some are functional – some are fabulous – some will blow your mind. They take you to the golf course, the pool, the restaurants, or any of a thousand other places to visit in The Villages' friendliest hometown.

They are personalized with team colors, flags, and license plates from back home. You search for gadgets, goodies, and gee gaws to make them different, unique; truly one of a kind – just like their owners.

Thousands of them snaked through town to set the Guinness Book of world records golf car parade – a record that will only be broken if the Villages organizes another such event. And most every holiday many get dressed up to celebrate and parade through town square bringing smiles to the faces of all in attendance.

Dogs love them as much as people – maybe more so! Dogs and humans alike love the wide open freedom, the breeze in your face, the sunshine, the sights and sounds, and smells of our little piece of paradise.

The little cuties have become the symbol of The Villages – an icon of our lifestyle. At the golf car store we share your fun and excitement as you choose what is so much more than transportation. Like kids in the toy store, new villagers come in to buy their first and long timers come in to see what’s new.

Men usually ask, how fast do they go and how far do they go. Women usually ask, what colors and fabrics are available. Sometime the roles are reversed but everything about the golf car is important – it is an extension of your personality and makes a statement about you.

Lot’s of our customers and neighbors bring their visiting family and friends on a tour of our stores. Like so many things in The Villages there is nothing like it back home and has to be seen to be believed - and we enjoy being a part of it.

It is funny how a combination of inanimate parts brought together in a small package can bring so much joy to so many. At The Villages golf cars we share this joy every day when folks take their golf cars home for the first time. We also share in your disappointment if problems arise and we work hard to rectify all challenges. We truly love being a part of what makes living in The Villages so special to so many.

Until next time. Ernie

Pickelball in The Villages — How they play, where they play at O’Dell

The worse thing about playing pickleball at O’Dell is wonderful. I went there multiple times to make sure I hadn’t just gotten lucky the first few times I was there and every time was the same…. great. I’ve never run into players that enjoyed Pickleball and each other with such joy. What surprised me the most is there is a “tribe” of them out there every morning. It’s like kicking over a fire ant hill when they open the gate early in the morning, all of a sudden pickleball players seem to come out of the ground and they’re all over the place. Even in the summer, the courts are loaded, the waiting area is stacked up with happy people and the benches are snug tight with resting players that are still keeping their place in line. Even the parking lot has a herd of players forming up to join the crowd. Great fun is what brings them back every day.

O’Dell has more of something few other courts have and that’s NEW people. NEW to the Villages. NEW to the game. NEW to retirement. When I say “NEW”, I mean NEW as in “young” and every single one of them is full of energy and enthusiasm for a game they’d never heard of until they moved here.

However, there is one thing missing at O’Dell. There isn’t the first whiff of Ben-gay in the air. They all looked under dressed without the usual Spandex, Latex, Gortex, Playtex, Tex-mex and elastix covering them from head to toe. Ya know why? They’re all NEW. Not the first one looked over 60. I thought I was playing with my grandkids. Players there called me “sir” or “gramps”.

Each morning I arrived the courts where already full and the O’ dell staff was on the job with their laser guns zapping ID cards and players that didn’t behave. When the regulars realized a new guy was lined up with them they gave their smiles of approval and explained how they thought he might play made my heart patter.

O’Dell is a happy place to play Pickleball. A comfortable place for the beginner as well as the experienced player looking for a relaxing morning on some of the newest courts in The Villages. You gotta try O’Dell. You just gotta.

C U on D Courts…… George Brewer

By the Numbers Answers

1. Three seasons about 15 weeks long; 16 leagues

2. 502 teams, adding about 11 additional each year

3. Best estimate – about 5,200

4. One (and five part time maintenance crewmen)
The history of The VHA Charitable Foundation

In 2000, the VHA Board of Directors passed a resolution to establish the Charitable Foundation to respond to organizations or individuals with emergencies or special needs.

In the early years the main resource for funds was the annual spaghetti dinners and the 50/50’s at the VHA meetings. A special golf tournament was held and funds were donated to The Villages Regional Hospital for the chapel and furniture for the lobby. After hurricane Katrina in 2005 and the ground hog day tornado in 2007 special events provided funds.

For Katrina victims, a joint fundraiser was held by the VHA and The Villages Entertainment Department with matching funds provided by the developer. A large donation was made to the town of Ocean Springs, Mississippi to help rebuild their senior center that was totally destroyed.

For the tornado in 2007, funds were made available through trips to Sea World provided by Anheuser Busch and other donations. This provided an all terrain vehicle for The Villages Public Safety Department and funds to install an additional weather alert radio transmitter as well as donations to the Lady Lake and Wildwood food banks.

Softball continued from page 8

Recreation Center office and one of the ball fields. But don’t waste time looking for his assistants. There aren’t any. Travis runs the entire program — probably the largest in the United States — all by himself, with a host of volunteers and five part time maintenance crewmen.

Travis is very proud of the softball program success, especially the level of professionalism among the various players, including managers, advisory members, umpires and evaluators. Safety is a major factor in The Villages’ age group and keeping players within their competitive skill levels is key to enjoyable play and staying safe. The women play in two skill levels (men in five). Only levels one and two of the men slide, and there are two first base bags and two home plates to minimize the chance of collision.

Travis says that the level of competition is very high also by The Villages’ team in state and national tournament play by both men and women. The Villages’ teams such as Bricks and Sticks, The Golden Gals, and Walnut Streeters are perennially ranked tops in the state and top seeds in national events like the Senior Games.

After a 35-year layoff from the game, it’s not like the old saying for bike riding. But for Doug and Gary and about 2500 players on 502 softball teams, The Villages’ softball is not just the biggest in the United States, it’s world class great to be playing again!

Landscaper advice from Seniors vs Crime

Seniors Vs Crime, a special project of the Florida Attorney General’s Office, warns Villagers to take special care when hiring a Landscaper to spruce up your property. Seniors Vs Crime is dedicated to assisting senior Floridians in avoiding or resolving problems involving any business, including landscapers.

Many of us are considering upgrading our property by a landscaping project. When planning your landscaping project, there are a few things you should be aware of to ensure a smooth and successful project.

For most landscaping projects, contractors are not required to have a state license. The exception is for those landscapers who apply fertilizers or pesticides to your yard, they must have a license issued by the Department of Agriculture. Any landscaper should have insurance to cover their workers and should be willing to provide proof of insurance to you.

To avoid scams as well as simple misunderstandings, there are a few simple things you can do to avoid or minimize problems.

First, to insure everyone understands what is to be done, be sure you have a clear definition of the task IN WRITING, including diagrams, pictures if possible, and a complete description of what you expect from the contractor. This is called a Written Contract.

Next inquire about the guarantee or warranty. Ask for it in writing, but know that many guarantees are only as good as the contractor who stands behind it.

Check with the local Better Business Bureau and with Seniors Vs Crime before signing a contract, note any recent changes in company ownership as this could be a red flag.

Avoid paying in advance, even a little bit. Often the contractor will explain that he needs the money to buy supplies or equipment. Reliable contractors usually have existing lines of credit with suppliers, and do not need advance payments. Small or newer businesses may not have such lines of credit, and may not be financially stable enough to buy supplies on credit. If you must pay in advance, ask to pay the supplier not the contractor, and have the contractor pick up the material when the job is begun. Then if the contractor “goes south”, you will at least have the material, and not a lien on your property.

If the work is protracted, it is reasonable to pay progress payments. A representative payment schedule might look something like this.

10% up front deposit at contract signing
15% the day the work starts
25% after all new plants are put in ground
25% after mulch / gravel is put in place
25% final payment after all cleanup, your “punch list” is corrected, and you are satisfied.

Be sure to get receipts for all payments. Make checks payable to the company (not the individual – this is a red flag).

In summary, be smart, be aware and be wary. If you have any doubts, or need other assistance, call either of our Seniors vs. Crime offices in The Villages at (352) 753-7775 or (352) 753-2799, Extension 4253.

The Villages Homeowners Association Voice, October 009, Page 11
VHA Member Benefits*

All offers require VHA membership card presented at time of sale. — NO REFUNDS AFTER SALE — *One benefit per family membership.

**24 Hr. Cart Club, Inc.**
352-330-1911
www.24hrcartclub.com
Get 10% Off Premium Membership with AAA Auto Club Primary Member saves $5.00 when joining. Save when adding new family member to membership. Only $15.00 each for Classic and $26.00 each for Plus membership!!

**AAA Auto Club South**
1107 West North Blvd., Suite M, Leesburg
352-787-5140
Free dinner/lunch cruise tickets with all new memberships and renewals. Save on New Membership with AAA Auto Club — Primary Member saves $5.00 when joining. Save when adding new family member to membership. All new family members are 50% off regular price. Only $15.00 each for Classic and $26.00 each for Plus membership!!

**A&C Exteriors**
116 N. Old Dixie Hwy, Lady Lake
352-753-3322
Landscaping, Pavers, Lawn Service and House Pressure Washing. 10% Off Any Service.

**All Animal Trapping Svc., Inc.**
“Florida Wildlife Commission Permitted”
352-245-0193 Office
352-299-5675 Cell
15% Discount
10% Discount For All Follow-Up Service.

**All Custom Concrete & Curbs, Inc.**
352-671-1514
allcustomcurbs@aol.com
10% Off Concrete Landscape Curbing & Decorative Concrete Overlays. Call for free estimates.

**All Things Fine**
1171 Main Street — Spanish Springs
352-259-7384
10% Discount on Tuesdays
Excludes sale items and not valid with any other offer.

**Arden’s Fine Jewelry**
1060 Canal Street — Lake Sumter Landing
352-751-6613
50% Off Jewelry Appraisal on One Item
Offer limited to one item per household.

**A Special Day Gift Shop**
3535 Wedgewood Lane — Southern Trace
352-259-7270
10% Off Your Purchase Excludes Pandora Jewelry.

**Baby Bundles On The Go**
352-406-4754
babybundlesonthego@embarqmail.com
10% Discount on Cribs and Rental

**Bonne Chime — Custom Skin Care**
990 Alvarez Avenue — Spanish Springs
352-391-9600
20% Discount. Not to be combined with any other offer.

**Boulevard Tire Center**
418 S. Hwy. 27/441, Lady Lake
352-430-2380
10% Discount on any Brake Service over $100.

**Bravo Pizza**
1080 Lake Sumter Landing
352-430-2394, 2395, 2396
10% Off Dine In & Take Out Whole Meal
Not valid with any other offer.

**Bruster’s Real Ice Cream**
8699 SE 165th Mulberry Lane — Mulberry Grove
352-205-8987
Buy a Fresh-Made Waffle Cone
Get a Waffle Cone of Equal or Lesser Value Free
One benefit offer per family membership.

**Captain Mike’s Lazy River Cruises**
On the Withlacoochee River
Southwest of Ocala on Hwy. 200 just in Back of Stumpknocker’s Restaurant
Call for Reservations, 352-637-2726
www.lazyrivercruises.com
$2 Off Any Person, 2-Hour Tour Only

**Caribongo**
1041 Canal Street — Lake Sumter Landing
352-750-6147
Free Color-Changing Tote Bag with the purchase of $30 or more (Retail Value of $9.99). Offer not valid with any other offer or promotion. Limit: one Tote Bag per family. Sale items excluded from this offer. caribongo@aol.com

**Chick-Fil-A of The Villages**
7330 U.S. Hwy. 441 — Rolling Acres Plaza
352-430-0223
Buy A Value Size Combo and get an Original Chick-Fil-A Sandwich Free.

**Cici’s Pizza**
243 Colony Boulevard
The Villages
Phone 352-259-5508
FREE nonalcoholic drink with purchase of pizza buffet.
Must show VHA ID card to get offer.

**Comfort Suites**
1202 Avenida Central
352-259-6578
Special Rates: $71 May 1-Oct. 31, 2009;
$99 from Nov. 1, 2009-April 1, 2010
Not valid Leesburg Race Weekend. All reservations based on availability.
Must call hotel directly in advance for reservations.

**Cozco Handcrafts**
352-430-0836
10% Off – Excludes Sale Items.

**D’Lite’s Emporium**
4056 Wedgewood Lane — Buffalo Ridge
352-259-6246
10% Discount on Any Ice Cream
Not to be combined with any additional special or other discounts.

**Edible Arrangements**
11962 County Road 101 — Palm Ridge Plaza
352-391-1334
$4.00 Off Purchases Valid on orders over $25.00.

**Firehouse Subs**
13757 U.S. Hwy. 441 — Lady Lake
352-430-3870
Free Cookie with Purchase of Medium or Large Sub
Not valid with any other offer. One benefit per member.

**Fort Knox Self Storage & Truck Rental**
13634 U.S. Hwy. 441 — Lady Lake
352-750-4647
Rent a 5x5x10 Standard Unit,
Get the Second Month for $1.00
Valid on new contracts only.

**Golf USA**
1162 Main Street — Spanish Springs
The Villages, FL 32162
Phone: 753-4847

**Golf USA**
Lighted Driving Range & Miniature Golf
6984 N. Lady Lake Blvd. — Lady Lake
352-259-2313
Fridays: $1.00 Off 18-Hole Round of Miniature Golf
243 Colony Boulevard
The Villages, FL 32162
Phone: 753-4847

**Haagen Dazs**
4056 Wedgewood Lane – The Villages,
352-430-0386
Buy One, Get One Half Off Any Ice Cream Menu Item

**H & R Block**
208 S. Hwy. 27/441 — Lady Lake, 352-750-3669
17860 SE 109th Ave. — Summerfield, 352-347-6736
4085 Wedgewood Lane — The Villages, 352-205-8340
$25 Off Tax Preparation. Valid at these offices only.

**Hearing Aids from Digital Hearing Systems**
347 Colony Blvd. — The Villages
352-259-8824
420 Corley Rd. Leesburg, FL
352-315-9960
BUY ONE (1) package premium batteries, get 2nd one free—per visit.

**Hunting Dazs**
1001 Lake Shore Drive — Lake Sumter Landing
352-751-0261
10% Discount

**H & R Block**
352-259-2313

**Island Images**
1112 Main Street — Spanish Springs
352-259-7623
10% Discount on Mondays. Excludes sales items.

**Johnny Rockett’s**
976 Old Mill Run — Lake Sumter Landing
352-259-0051
10% Off Meal

**Kilwin’s Chocolate and Ice Cream**
1108 Main Street — Spanish Springs
352-430-3600
Buy One, Get One Half Off Any Ice Cream Menu Item
One offer per family membership.

**The Kings Gallery**
1110 Main Street — Spanish Springs
352-259-6998
25% Off Framing on Wednesdays
Does not apply to sale prices.

The Partners Committee reviews and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors as to the suitability for partnering with commercial enterprises.
Spend $50 on wine accessories and receive a red/black insulated double wine cooler carrier for $9.99. Must show VHA member card.

Leadership and Reflection of the Social Committee

The Partners Committee is presently soliciting new members. If you have a business to recommend, contact Mary Nowak at 750-5313 or mnowak@embarqmail.com.
The VHA Vision: To maintain The Villages as the premier 55-plus community in the world, featuring the finest amenities, homes, retail and commercial businesses, and medical and professional services; as well as the best educational, cultural, recreational and entertainment opportunities.

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

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

Lake County Region
Country Club Hills
Ray Leggiero  751-0221
Steve Macejak  751-3023
Orange Blossom Gardens
Richard & Nancy St. Amant  259-7931
Silver Lake
Larry and Anita Trounser  561-3630
Neil and Mary Kastor  561-4522
Village of Del Mar
Ruth Truttschel  753-3671
Hacienda Villas
Dennis Williams  750-0063
Chula Vista Villas
Judy Glasel  430-9707
Myra Reff  750-1650
Courtyard Villas
Peggy Harrington  750-0186
Village of La Reyna
Joy Anderson  408-5387
Judith mix  751-0610
Alice Burnette  430-0691
Village of La Zamora
Mario & Lillian Campagnola  751-0512
Village of Mira Mesa
Village of Spanish Springs
Sid Kingry  586-7941
Villa de Vale Verde
Al & Marge Hayes  750-1563
Vista Sonoma Villas
Otto and Janet Voetinher  753-4278

Sunmer North Region
Hickory Hammock
Vincent & Blanche DiRito  753-2310
Ed Ercher  753-5441
Village of La Vista
Village of La Vista - East
Dwight Brockway  259-7341
Elsa Goyma  750-4842
De La Vista - North
Earl Cherubini  753-3123
Leonard Koss  753-0886
De La Vista - West
Paul & Jeanne Greene  750-5995
Ray Owens  753-5725
De La Vista Villas - North
Joy Tolcan  750-5368
De La Vista Villas - South
Joy Tolcan  750-5368
De Allende
Jim & Tawna Kelly  259-3130
San Antonio Villas
Al & Cathy Sherman  750-3795
San Miguel Villas
Joyce Fisher  750-2491
Village of Hacienda Hills
Village of Hacienda Hills - Needs Representative - Hacienda - East
Bill Calabrese  259-8308

Region 4
Hacienda - North
Elmer Starrett  750-4141
Richard O'Malley  750-5398
Hacienda - South
Juliette Terta  753-3350
Ed Martin  753-8523
Hacienda - West
Robert Landers  753-0310
Jerry Coombs  259-3540
Tierra Grande Villas
Jerry & Jean Keliber  750-0892
La Paloma
Stephen Beaulieu  753-9181
Delores Staub  259-1097
Tierra del Sol - North
Robert Eisenhauser  259-1485
Delores Staub  259-1097
Tierra del Sol - South
Louis & Mary Guiliano  753-7306
Villa of Rio Grande
Bob & Faye Fountain  750-0677
Rio Grande No. 2
Nick & Joan Martucci  753-7516
Clyde Kemper  750-0537
De Laguna Villas
Bob Wagner  750-1646
Beverly Ament  750-3080
De La Mesa Villas
Sandi Andrews  750-6570
Rio Grande Villas
Milly Adams  753-5608
San Pedro Villas
Edward Fischer  259-4912
Village of Rio Ponderosa
Charlie & Kathy Porter  259-8196
Patio Villas
Carl Bell  750-1251
Villa of Rio Ranchero
Howard Keppler  750-4742
Carey Scully  753-1434
Valdez Villas
Rhea & Harold Feinberg  259-5966
Village of Alhambra
Art & Alice Terrill  259-1691
Alhambra - West
John & Kathy Tynon  750-0954
Villa De Leon
Villa Del Canto
Ed & Rae Nowe  259-1488
Village of Hamnesswood of Belle Aire
Bryan & Ginny Evans  259-2271
Village of Polo Alto
William Waldron  259-0895
Village of Santiago
Ken & Dotty Mathieu  259-2704
Larry & Ann Marsillo  750-2270
Jo Pfenrn  259-4512
Paul & Patricia Bennett  1430-0754
Escamido Villas
Henry & Dotty Cole  759-9065
Wayne Speicher  759-9934
La Crescenta Villas
Barbara Welter  759-9531
San Leandro Villas
Donald & Lu Bowen  259-2155
Village of Santo Domingo
Lois Guntle  753-9014
John & Elaine Blum  259-3592
Lee & Peggy Ray  259-3391
John & Anita Land  751-2535
Vera Cruz Villas
Vince O'Brien  259-6037
Villa de la Ramona
Fred Driller  259-0915
Villa Santo Domingo
Village of Belle Aire
Alexandra Villas
Tom and Berta Crawford  259-6104
Cottages of Summerchase
-Needs Representative - St. Simon Villas
Doug & Nancy McKerman  753-9086
Elien Salter  753-0630
Valdosta Villas
David Dingee  259-4364
Glenbrook-East
Sumbury of Glenbrook
-Needs Representative - Village of Polo Ridge
Doug & Claudette Tharp  750-1760
John Sullivan  750-6175
Villa Berea
Gail Donofrio  259-7435
Natchez Villas
-Needs Representative - Village of Sunnismill
Ray Schwartz  751-3048
Ron Kerschner  753-9629
Amelia Villas
George & Barbara Rogers  753-4159
Fernandina Villas
-Needs Representative -

Region 5
Village of Ashland
Robert & Janice Blakeley  750-2917
Sue Martin  753-0972
Bellamy Villas
Ruth Ferguson  205-7128
Clayton Villas
Sandy Adams  751-5462
Jasper Villas
Walter & Janice Martin  205-7099
Rainey Villas
-Needs Representative - Village of Belvedere
Felice Maurer  750-5271
Phylis Kravitz  750-1878
Arlington Villas
Jerry & Carol Kroll  391-5002
Belmont Villas
Helen Xenos  750-0146
Cherry Hill Villas
Dean & Joan Barner  751-5725
Village of Bonnybrook
Gail Burgess  750-1371
Broyhill Villas
-Needs Representative - Clifton Villas
Donald Aker  751-0955
Shephard East Villas
-Needs Representative - Sherwood West Villas
Allan Wadman  259-0908

Region 6
Village of Virginia Trace
Russ D’Emidio, Chairperson  750-4486
Len Chappell  259-7222
Gail Gould  750-1578
Virginia Vine Villas
-Needs Representative - Stillwater Villas
Ralph & Elvis Pasquino  259-3976
Richmond Villas
Gary Rosenhouse  430-1959
Village of Tall Trees
Sylvia Mongiulli  430-0770
Larry Peterson  753-1979
Cheery Vale Villas
Oak Bend Villas
-Needs Representative - Village of Bridgeport at Lake Sumter
Bill Hawkins  350-2598
Bridgeport at Miona Shores
Irv Markley  259-4684
Veterans Corner - Army Emergency Relief

A few weeks ago I received a packet form the Garrison Commander at Fort Stewart, GA. The subject was Army Emergency Relief. I had a few minutes so I read the whole packet. When you are away from your service, you begin to forget all the services they do for the soldiers and their dependents. The Army Emergency Relief (AER) is one of these services. It is a non-profit organization incorporated to provide emergency financial assistance to soldiers and their families: any active duty soldiers and their family members, soldiers retired from active duty for longevity or physical disability, Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers on continuous active duty for more than 30 days, Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers retired from active duty for longevity or physical disability, Army Emergency Relief. They will provide grants or interest free loans depending on each particular circumstance. Army Emergency Relief is a non-profit organization to provide emergency financial assistance to soldiers and their families: any active duty soldiers and their family members, soldiers retired from active duty for longevity or physical disability, Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers on continuous active duty for more than 30 days, Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers retired from active duty for longevity or physical disability.

What can AER do for the service member? Here are a few services that they provide. They can help with emergency financial needs for food, rent, utilities, vehicle repair, funeral expenses and the list goes on and on. They will provide grants or interest free loans depending on each particular circumstance. We all know that the pay of lower grade soldiers is not enough to sometimes cover the unexpected problems that we are often presented with in life.

Each year the Army conducts a fundraising campaign in support of Army Emergency Relief. As our country continues to commit soldiers to meet worldwide operational requirements, there is an increased need for the resources provided by AER. Last year alone, AER provided 85 million dollars in assistance to 70 thousand soldiers and their families. That is an enormous service and undoubtedly has literally saved a great numbers of loyal Americans from disastrous economic conditions. These soldiers and their families make great personal sacrifices in order to protect our freedoms and assist in important missions worldwide. How wonderful that there is an organization like AER to be there for them when needed. As you can see from the following list, AER has counterpart organizations in other branches of the military. If you want to help, you can send your check to:

Department of the Army
United States Army Garrison
954 William H. Wilson Ave.
Fort Stewart, GA 31314

Air Force Aid Society, Inc
National Headquarters
241 18th Street Suite 202
Arlington, VA 22202

Navy-Marine Corps
Relief Society
P.O. Box 96172
Washington DC 20090

MORE: If you have a cell phone that you do not need or is broken, drop it off at any Recreation Center in The Villages. Each cell phone (in any condition) is forwarded to a recycling plant in Colorado. The cell phones are then “blasted” twice to remove all residual information. The phones are either refurbished or used for spare parts. For each and every cell phone received, the recycling company issues a check to the Marine Corp. League, which then purchases phone cards worth 250 minutes each for distribution to troops of all our armed forces branches in Iraq and Afghanistan.

MORE: The VA announced that our new clinic has a name. It will be called,” The Villages Outpatient Clinic.” The Lake City office of the VA (Lake City is the regional HQ of all VA activities in Central and North Florida) invited our VHA President Don Hahnfeldt and myself to accompany U.S. Rep Cliff Stearns on an inspection tour of the new clinic. We the veterans of Central Florida are going to get a state-of-the-art facility. The target date of spring of 2010 is still a go.

MORE: The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has declared that ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), also known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease, is now considered a presumptive service connected condition for any veteran who served a minimum of 90 days on active duty. This also applies to unremarried widows of a veteran who died of ALS and met the service requirements.

For additional veteran’s information, visit the Veterans Corner on the VHA Web site at www.thevha.net.

Hope to see you at our next VHA meeting.

Sterling A. Wood, U.S. Army (Ret)
Chairman VHA Military Affairs Committee
352.259.5507 vhav3@aol.com
Joint replacement tours offered at The Villages Regional Hospital

The Alliance Bone & Joint Center at The Villages Regional Hospital has been performing total joint replacements since August 3rd including both hip and knee procedures.

If you or someone you know is contemplating joint replacement surgery, a special behind-the-scenes tour is being offered. The tour starts in the operating room where you will be able to learn what takes place during joint replacement surgery and view the special Laminar Air Flow System which significantly reduces the possibility of infection. The tools and equipment used during the surgery will be on display and give you an opportunity to see what happens.

The tour then moves to the hospital’s fifth floor for a look at the 10-bed orthopedic unit - 8 private and 2 semi-private rooms. A dedicated orthopedic nursing resource specialist along with physical therapists will personally explain what to expect throughout a patient’s stay in the hospital as well as after discharge.

Managing District lands is a balance between preservation and public access

Among its many duties managing the water resources, the Southwest Florida Water Management District helps protect more than 436,000 acres of land through acquisitions and conservation easements.

The District purchases land and conservation easements for several reasons, including flood control, water storage, aquifer recharge and ultimately to protect our water resources. District lands include natural floodplains, areas that replenish the aquifer and areas around lakes, rivers, wetlands and estuaries that naturally filter out pollutants before they reach the nearest water body.

Most of the District’s public lands are managed and maintained by the District but some are managed by partners, such as counties and cities.

While these lands play a vital role in protecting our water resources, the majority of these lands are also available for public use and recreation. In fact, more than 343,000 acres is open for public recreation.

One of the District’s goals is to maintain a balance between preservation and public access. That means determining which outdoor activities are compatible with the District’s efforts to protect water resources. Some of these activities include hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, fishing, kayaking, camping, picnicking and nature study. Most of the lands are very natural, which means mostly unpaved trails and portable restrooms. However, some have facilities that are accessible for the mobility-impaired.

Each year about 2.5 million people visit District lands and several of these properties are in your own backyard. Properties located in Marion and Sumter counties available for the public to explore include Half-Moon Gum Slough, the Hálpata Tastanaki Preserve, Lake Panasoffkee, the Panasoffkee Outlet and Wysong Park.

This September the District is also launching its Get Outside! campaign to raise the public’s awareness about District lands. This campaign coincides with the release of the District’s new Recreation Guide and National Public Lands Day, which is Sept. 26. The District’s updated Recreation Guide provides detailed information and maps for more than 50 properties owned by the District. This 2009 edition features several new properties, physical addresses and more detailed property information. To order a free recreation guide or to find out more about District lands visit the District’s web site www.WaterMatters.org/recreation.

In addition to providing recreational opportunities for the public, managing District lands also involves maintenance like controlled burns, exotic plant and animal control, natural systems restoration and other maintenance like cutting down trees that are at risk of falling and keeping facilities like the restrooms in good working order.

The “up close and personal” tour is being provided to potential patients to educate them about the advances in joint replacement surgery and to understand exactly what occurs before, during and afterwards. The more you know, the better prepared you are.

Space is limited on the tour, so please reserve your spot by calling 751-8585.

At the Alliance Bone & Joint Center, our team is comprised of the area’s most respected, board certified joint replacement surgeons and is designed to improve the outcomes of orthopedic patients throughout Central Florida. All of the components of the program are critical elements and exist for one purpose - to create the best possible healing environment for your completed and rapid recovery.

For more information or to schedule your tour, call 751-8585.

THE VHA VISION
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