

The VHA VOICE

THE VILLAGES HOMEOWNERS ADVOCATES: KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE

November 2021 • Vol. 27 No. 11



THE VHA QUARTERLY TOWN HALL REPORT: YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

The VHA wants to thank the following people for providing answers to questions from VHA members and The Villages residents for The VHA Town Hall meeting on October 19, 2021: Dr. Gary Lester – Vice President Community Relations; Carrie Duckett – Assistant District Manager; Lt. Robert Siemer – District Lieutenant from the Sumter County Sheriff's Department; and Bradley Arnold – Sumter County Administrator.

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

(Questions related to The Villages landscaping, multi-modal paths, etc. can be submitted at any time to the appropriate department via the District website. Go to www.districtgov.org and on the Home page lower left click on "Submit Feedback, Inquiry, or Concern.")

1. When will work begin on the site of the former Hacienda Hills Country Club?

Dr. Lester: We are still awaiting final plans with the City of Lady Lake, which might impact the development of Hacienda Hills.

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2. Questions related to town squares movie theaters include:

a. Could movies be added to Barnstorm Theater in Brownwood as they are at Old Mill Playhouse in Sumter Landing?

b. Are there plans to open the Rialto and Barnstorm theaters in ways similar to the Old Mill Playhouse?

Dr. Lester: As more movies become available post-COVID, we will certainly have more options to consider. For now, we are still monitoring the fast-changing landscape in the movie business.

3. Would you please explain why championship golf fees are so high compared to surrounding courses?



Dr. Lester: Thanks for the opportunity to correct the misinformation in this question. In fact, golf fees at our Championship courses are not "so high." A quick survey shows that we are quite comparable, and, in most cases, less than neighboring courses. For example, while our championship courses range from \$36 to \$45, Mission Inn is \$50 - \$70, Harbor Hills is \$37, Country Club of Mt Dora is \$50, Arlington Ridge is \$34 and Deer Island is \$40 to \$50. And don't forget, you cannot reach any of those courses in your golf cart.

4. When will The Villages Public Safety Department begin emergency ambulance service?

Carrie Duckett: Sumter County has an existing contract with American Medical Response (AMR) which is the current ambulance transport provider in

Sumter County. The contract with AMR is not due to expire until September 30, 2022. During this period, The Villages Public Safety Department (VPSD) is developing a plan of action to provide ambulance transport within the VPSD service area inclusive of personnel, apparatus and equipment.

Concurrent to this, the District is pursuing the establishment of an Independent Special Fire Control District that will provide the self-governance and autonomy which supports the growth and financial sustainability of the services to The Villages and surrounding areas.

The District will be hosting a series of public workshops to ensure public input as the District service levels and parameters are established.

a. How much will it cost to have an independent fire department?

Carrie Duckett: It is too early to tell.

Note: When The Villages independent fire department is formed, fees for fire service will be provided to the Independent Fire Control District rather than to the county.

b. Will an ambulance come from Lake or Marion for those sections of the Villages?

Carrie Duckett: There will be an inter-local agreement to provide services to all areas of The Villages, similar to what is currently in place.

5. What are the leash laws for Silver Lake? Dogs are often seen running loose.

Lt. Siemer: The leash laws are the same in Lake County as in Sumter County. Call the sheriff's office if this is a one-time occurrence. If this occurs often, Animal Control steps in to observe and may issue citations.

6. Will the District consider the possibility of putting our Villages ID card on our cell phones?

Dr. Lester: Yes, we are actually working on that.

7. Questions related to scanning guest cards include:

a. Would you please respond to the rumor that guest passes can be purchased for \$80?

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The VHA President's Message



I hear two words everywhere I go. "It's Cooler". I have to admit that I am enjoying our weather. I ask the question, as I anticipate going North to visit for the upcoming holidays, "What's the weather going to be like?" I can only guess that while it will be cooler here than the past few months, it will be colder there, for sure.

We want to express again our thanks for the way the residents of The Villages showed their support for our Public Safety Department. The Sumter County Board of Commissioners heard from residents who spoke at Commissioners' meetings and "Boy, did you show up at their meeting". The VHA was at work expressing the importance of having our excellent, local VPSD serving OUR community. It was your support that resulted in the Commissioners voting unanimously to retain the VPSD.

After much discussion, we have made the decision to CANCEL the VHA Country Western Hoedown which was postponed and rescheduled for January 2022. The Hoedown was a celebration of Florida's early days with cowboy stew competitions, music, games and unique exhibitions and vendors. It was a one-of-kind event that residents around central Florida enjoyed. Hundreds of volunteers worked hard to put on this event and I believe they had fun doing so. I THANK YOU VERY MUCH. The decision to cancel was a hard one to make.

Many of those involved, including myself, were passionate about this event. It was a major fundraiser that

helped support The VHA's community philanthropic efforts, educational programs, Golf Cart Safety Classes and our Helping Hands program. We will be looking at other fundraiser ideas to help maintain our efforts. If you have experience in this area or have ideas, share them with us. Contact me.

We know that most of our members and residents are interested in what is happening at the Villages® Hospital. We will have the new Chief Operating Officer, Heather Long, as our guest speaker at the December General Meeting at Lake Miona. See our Upcoming Events and Mark Your Calendar info on page 3 of The Voice for more information.



Villagers are traveling more today to visit family and friends, and families and friends are visiting our community. It's great to see and enjoy their company. Thanksgiving Day is coming soon, a day to enjoy good food and company, but also a reminder that we can be THANKFUL EVERYDAY for the blessing we have in our family and friends.

*Enjoy the Holiday,
Phil Walker
President, The VHA*



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For contact information go to
www.thevha.net

Or email us at:
vha.helpinghands.officemail@gmail.com

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

Upcoming EVENTS

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2021

NEW RESIDENT NIGHT: TUESDAYS:

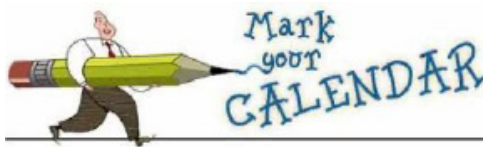
November 9 and December 14
at 7:00 p.m. at
COLONY COTTAGE REGIONAL
RECREATION CENTER,
510 Colony Blvd.

GOLF CART SAFETY CLINIC: WEDNESDAYS:

November 17 and December 15
at 9:00 a.m. at
COLONY REGIONAL
RECREATION CENTER,
510 Colony Blvd. Note:

No Pre-Registration is Required.

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



THE VHA QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING:

December 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at
Lake Miona Regional Recreation Center,
1526 Buena Vista Blvd, The Villages,
FL 32162. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
**MEMBERS ONLY EVENT WITH AN
OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN AT THE DOOR.**



GUEST SPEAKER:
Heather Long, Senior Vice
President and UF Health
Central Florida Chief
Operations Officer

**NOTE: THE VHA COUNTRY WESTERN
HOEDOWN HAS BEEN CANCELLED
FOR JANUARY 29, 2022.**



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

or

VHA deposit boxes are available
at every Postal Station.

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

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

Name: *(All in Household)*

Street Address:

Zip:

Name of Village/Villa:

Mailing Address: (if different than The Villages)

Phone:

Email:

- ☐ I would like to volunteer

WELCOME BACK SNOWBIRDS!



If you are a snowbird reading this, The VHA wants to welcome you and invite you to explore not only The Villages lifestyle, but also the programs we offer to better acquaint you with this wonderful place we call home. Our New Resident Night is a great way to educate yourself on what to expect if you decide to take the plunge

and move here, and our popular Golf Cart Safety Clinic is a good idea for anyone operating a golf cart here to attend. Both programs are free and open to our seasonal guests. Enjoy your time here where The VHA works hard "Keeping the Dream Alive" for Villages residents, visitors, and guests.

The VHA News & Notes

NORTH AREA

North of 466

Jan Palmer – Editor of The Voice



Did you know that if you have a question or suggestion for any of the departments listed on the District website you can simply click on the Quick Link shown below, then fill out the form that pops up, hit “submit”, and you will receive a reply?



Recently, a query appeared on my Next-door forum regarding an incident that happened at one of our local pools. Evidently, a grandchild was told she was not allowed to keep her plastic water bottle on the edge of the pool while she was swimming. The reason given? If the bottle fell into the pool, they would have to empty the pool because it would be contaminated! That did not sound right to me, so I sent an inquiry to the recreation department via the Quick Link button, above, on the home page of www.districtgov.org. I received an immediate response that my inquiry was received, with a case number, and a short time later received the following answer: *All patrons that use the swimming pools are allowed to have unbreakable water bottles on the edge of the pool. Please let me know the pool where this occurred so that we may address staff appropriately. Thank you, have a good day!*

Many of the questions we receive for our quarterly Town Hall meetings can actually be answered quickly using this method. So, if you have questions, there is a multitude of categories to choose from to address questions regarding facilities, roads, sewers, water pressure, deed violations, recreation, sanitation, and more.

With the holidays approaching, I, for one, am thankful for the beauty and sense of pride that surrounds us here. We speak often of “Living the Dream” and we at The VHA hope you take a moment to consider becoming part of our volunteer and leadership teams that work together “Keeping the Dream Alive”. We were recently reminded that leadership needs do not end in retirement. Giving The Villages a few hours a month of your time so we can benefit from your expertise and years of experience is a great investment in the future of our community.

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

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

CENTRAL AREA

Between 466 and 466A

John Dean, Vice President

vhajohndean@gmail.com – 207-557-0371



Greetings,

Well, the topic for this month is probably no surprise to anyone. On September 21st the Sumter County Commissioners voted unanimously to transfer the responsibility of medical transportation to the two fire departments who provide coverage to Sumter County.

Then, on October 12th the Sumter County Commissioners voted to proceed with the process of establishing an independent fire district. This will also require legislative action as well as a county referendum vote in the future.

In my mind, this decision was a no-brainer. Leading up to this decision was a huge waste of time and effort that led to the formation of an ad hoc committee that was given a list of ten options to consider, five of which would have eliminated our Villages Public Safety Department (VPSD) – what most people recognize as **OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT**.

The public outcry was as one might expect, and what I had hoped for and fully supported. While many of us felt very frustrated, disappointed, angered, and perhaps many other adjectives, by this process, the process was not all negative. In fact, the result was positive votes by the commissioners. But even more significant and heartwarming was the support of our community for our fire department.

As a former chief officer in two career fire departments and the chief of a state law enforcement agency, I can tell you the outpouring of support was a morale booster for the department, from the newest member to the chief.

Chief Cane as well as Chief Tucker before him, have developed this (our) department into a well-run organization, achieving an ISO Class 2 rating and are working to become a Class 1 department (which translates into lower insurance costs) as well as working on other professional achievements. But aside from these professional and important recognitions, the department has in place other customer service programs that benefit us all. These include AED and CPR training and program direction, smoke and carbon monoxide detector battery replacement and device replacement. These programs did not begin in response to the threat of the dismantling of the department. They have evolved over the years – as part of the culture or the DNA of the department.

As an example of The Villages Public Safety Department's commitment to customer service, consider this – during one incident while the fire department paramedics were treating and keeping a patient alive during an extensive wait for an ambulance to arrive, Chief Cane (in his white uniform shirt and shiny shoes)

went out and finished mowing the lawn at the home. He did that because that was what the patient was doing when he had his medical emergency, and the chief didn't want the family to have to look out to see the unfinished mowing that would be a reminder of this incident. No wonder we are grateful for and supportive of our fire department!

We look forward to a smooth transition and a higher level of service as the department transitions into taking on this new level of responsibility.

*Stay safe and healthy,
John*

SOUTH AREA

Between 466A and SR44

Mike Dollard, Vice President

mjdollard@hotmail.com – 585-315-8338



As I am writing this, we just had another successful bingo night, the last one for the 2021 calendar year. We are working on the 2022 schedule but we cannot release any details until we get confirmation from Park & Rec on the dates and times we have allocated. A job that I am glad that I don't have: scheduling rooms and events at recreation centers, that is a tough job.

We are back to scheduling events with speakers of interest for Villagers. The New Resident Nights are back up and running – usually at Colony but occasionally at La Hacienda. You do not have to be a member to attend, but we do appreciate it.

Have questions or topics you would like addressed? Feel free to send me an email.

MEMBERSHIP IS A GOOD DEAL. And cheap. For just \$25 you get a 2-year membership for your entire household. For \$100 you get a lifetime membership for your household, and we know that in The Villages “lifetime” can be a long time. **And it is EASY – go to www.thevha.net.**

Thanksgiving. Christmas. The time for giving and sharing. Remember, Operation Shoebox prepares gift packages for service members. They do great work. It takes money. Lots. They don't get a break on shipping. Please – write a check payable to Operation Shoebox, and send it to:



Camille Gieck
17481 SE 76th
Flintlock Terrace
The Villages, FL 32162

By the way – interested in getting involved in The VHA? Want to start small? I could use people to check the drop boxes at their mail stations. All you have to do is check one more mailbox at least weekly when you get your own mail.

Mike Dollard

FAR SOUTH AREA

South of SR44

Roger Kass, Interim Vice President

RogerK@KNG-Marketing.com



I want to start by wishing y'all a wonderful Thanksgiving. It seems the CDC and the government have declared it is safe to gather for the holidays, especially if you are fully vaccinated. I hope you will be able to spend your Thanksgiving with family and friends.

I had originally planned a meeting on October 25th that was going to be open to all residents of the Far South Area. After much discussion, I decided to limit the meeting to Neighborhood Representatives and current VHA Members. If you are interested in becoming a VHA member, or to learn more about the role of the Neighborhood Representative, please contact me either by email or phone. I'd love to chat with you.

In January, I am planning to have an open meeting where all residents, both members and non-members, will be invited to learn more about the important role The VHA has played in The Villages over the years. Did you know that The VHA was instrumental in getting Weather Alert Radio coverage to The Villages?

What role would you like to see The VHA play in the future growth of our community? What information would you and your neighbors like to have that might make your life in The Villages smoother and easier? For example, what is the role of The Developer; how are Amenity fees spent; what is PWAC and AAC? You will be surprised to find out the facts, and the important part you can play in the future of this unique community.

Roger Kass

LADY LAKE NEWS

Lynn Davis

Lynna527@aol.com – 352-250-7782

The widening of SR27/441 from four lanes to six is very complex. You must pay attention and watch for detour signs along with lane changes through the area between Fennell Blvd (across from McDonalds) and Water Oaks. The removal of the bridge is a major project. There will be temporary roads constructed to reroute traffic so this can be accomplished. With the residents coming back from the north, this area is going to be very congested so **PLEASE USE CAUTION**. The completion of this whole project is not anticipated until the Fall of 2023.

RETAIL OPENINGS: The long-awaited Earth Fare is opening November 3rd. Yea!!!

A soft opening for the Sportsman's Warehouse located in Lady Lake Crossing, 456 N. SR27/441 is set for October 29th.

UPCOMING EVENTS: The Lady Lake Expo and Car Show will be held on November 17th on the Soccer Fields at the Rolling Acres Sports Complex from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

The Annual Lady Lake Christmas Parade will be held on December 4th starting at 10:00 a.m. The parade will be leaving from the Lady Lake Library and continuing south on Old Dixie Highway.

Light-Up Lady Lake will be held on Friday, December 10th at the Log Cabin/Veterans Park on SR27/441 across from the Ye Olde Thrift Shop starting at 6:15pm.

Lynn Davis



SHINE: COUNSELING AVAILABLE THROUGH DECEMBER 7 MEDICARE ANNUAL ENROLLMENT DEADLINE

SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) will continue to offer additional counseling sessions to assist enrollees during this once-a-year opportunity to make changes to their advantage or prescription drug programs. Volunteers will also be available to assist clients with Medicare-related questions including Medicaid, Medicare, and Medigap plans, financial assistance, and scams. The service is free and unbiased, and reservations are not taken.

Counselors will be at the following locations to assist area residents for one-on-one counseling on the following days:

- **Tuesdays, 9:00-11:30 a.m.:** Lake Miona Regional Recreation Center; Nov 2, 9, 30, Dec 7, 14 and Colony Cottage Regional Recreation Center; Nov 16.
- **Wednesdays, 9:00-11:30 a.m.:** Eisenhower Regional Recreation Center; Nov 3, 10, 17; Dec 1, 15.
- **Wednesdays, 2:00-3:30 p.m.:** Lady Lake Library; Nov 3, 10, 17; Dec 1
- **Fridays, 3:00-5:30 p.m.:** Chula Vista Recreation Center; Nov 5; Dec 3, 17.

"Understanding Medicare": This group presentation, geared toward those turning 65, will be held on **Wednesdays, 1:00-3:00 p.m.** at the **Aviary Recreation Center** on Nov 10; Dec 8

For more information, call 800-963-5337.



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

Holiday Decoration Policy:



The District Boards have adopted a Holiday Decoration Policy to allow Gate Houses and Village / Villa entry sign walls to be decorated by resident groups. This excludes postal stations. Prior to installation, residents must submit a design to District Property Management at 1071 Canal Street, The Villages and sign the Activity Release of Liability document for the Holiday Decoration Policy and the Activity Release of Liability available on the District website. You may also contact District Property Management at (352) 753-4022 for additional information.

Continued from page 1

Carrie Duckett: Guest IDs are only issued to those guests who reside outside of Lake, Sumter and Marion Counties. They must be requested by a resident, and there is no charge for a Guest ID. The District does due diligence in issuance of Guest ID cards to ensure only those eligible have use of the amenity facilities by verifying addresses on state issued ID cards, among other things.

An In-Area guest pass can be issued to children and grandchildren of a Villages resident living in Sumter, Marion, or Lake County outside The Villages. However, the homeowner must be with the In-Area guest when using The Villages amenities.

b. Are there plans to increase staff schedules for checking guest passes and resident IDs due to the increased building of apartments adjacent to The Villages?

Carrie Duckett: Not at this time as we currently are checking on a regular basis, nor have we experienced any significant increase in non-residents using facilities. We will certainly evaluate as we do with all programs and services under our purview

8. When will the installation of Handicap Door Openers be completed at the entrance to recreation centers? (e.g., Fenney Recreation Center).

Dr. Lester: All recreation centers are scheduled for this installation by the end of November.

Q. What about placing a handicap opener at the entrance to the bowling alleys?

A. Those are private businesses, which we do not own.

9. When will construction be completed on the First Responders Recreation Center in order for work to begin on Paradise Recreation Center?

Carrie Duckett: Construction of the First Responders Recreation Center is well underway. The project is scheduled to be completed by June 2022 with a Grand Opening in July 2022. The project is on schedule and on budget. You can track the progress by navigating to the www.districtgov.org and then click on the First Responders Recreation Center link on the left-hand side of the page. This page is updated bi-weekly with the latest construction status, drone overflight videos and construction photographs of the recreation center and the many recreation amenities, including the 18-hole putt n' play.

10. Can all tree lightings occur on the same night to help reduce crowding at each Town Square?

Dr. Lester: No. The Entertainment Department does not have the resources to make this happen. Also, having tree lightings on different nights gives residents more options.

11. Please give an update on the Lake Miona walking trail.

Carrie Duckett: The Project Wide Advisory Committee approved the construction of the Lake Miona Walking Trail. The project has been designed and submitted for permit approval, which is the final step

Continued on page 6

Seniors VS. CRIME



In this age of robocalls and phone scammers constantly bothering and harassing residents, we thought we would change things up a bit and provide you with some tips to reduce the chances of you becoming a victim of telephone fraud.

Rule #1 – If you don't recognize the number on your caller ID, **DO NOT ANSWER**. Let your answering machine do its job!

Rule #2 – **NEVER, NEVER, NEVER** give out any personal or financial information to anyone on an **UNSOLICITED** phone call.

Rule #3 – If someone calls you and says he/she is your grandchild and is in trouble, **ASK WHICH GRAND-CHILD ARE YOU?** If you start throwing out names of your grandchildren, you have fallen right into the scammer's hands.

Rule #4 – **NOBODY**, repeat **NOBODY** can monitor the speed of your computer from a remote location unless you let them. Not Microsoft, not the NSA, **NOBODY!** If someone calls you from Microsoft or some other computer company and says your computer is infected or running too slow and they can fix it, **IT IS A SCAM!** Hang up!

Rule #5 – The IRS, the US Marshals, the FBI or any other government agency **WILL NOT** call you and threaten any legal action – **NEVER!**

SAFETY ON THE TELEPHONE



Rule #6 – If anyone calls you and says that you must pay (for whatever reason) using any kind of **gift card or prepaid credit card, IT IS A SCAM!** There are **NO EXCEPTIONS** to this rule.

Rule #7 – If you answer a call that turns out to be a robocall, you have alerted the computer that is making the calls that a human answered the phone at that particular time, on a particular day of the week. That information then gets passed on to other robocallers and you will likely continue to get robocalls.

Rule #8 – If you go back and reread Rule #1, you won't have anything to worry about.

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

Continued from page 5

before it is put out for construction bid. We anticipate that it will be ready for bids in late October or early November. The Lake Miona Walking Trail will be a ~3500' Length X 6' Width Premier Recreation Amenity featuring a trail that may be used for hiking, walking, nature trips and birding through the wetland environment surrounding Black Lake Preserve & Lake Miona, which will highlight wildlife viewing opportunities. The trail surface will be Flexi-Pave with concrete ribbon curbing. Flexi-Pave is the premier surface type for lower impact walking trails, ideal for wet environments. It is slip resistant, ADA Compliant, resistant to freeze and thaw and resistant to chemicals.

12. For safety reasons, can signage at the entrance to walking trails include guidelines for pedestrian traffic?

Carrie Duckett: The Engineer of record examined the Florida standard for all such trails during the development phase. There are no plans to alter the design and due to liability, we will not be advising persons on the use of walking trails.

13. What are the results from the weeklong "crackdown on speeding?" Will this be repeated since speeding is a recurring issue?

Lt. Siemer: This initiative called "Operation Southern Shield" included Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee joining forces for a weeklong high visibility enforcement and awareness campaign to reduce fatalities and get motorists to obey speed limits. In The Villages we had: 29 speeding citations; 3 aggressive driving related citations; 6 safety belt citations; 3 DUI arrests; 9 other traffic related arrests.

14. What are plans to increase sheriff officers as the population increases?

Lt. Siemer: We watch all year to evaluate the need to increase officers while also watching for ways to save money. Our response time in The Villages averages six (6) minutes to answer a call and under four (4) minutes when a serious incident is reported.

15. Traffic has become heavy at the Morse Blvd and SR 44 intersection and more vehicles are waiting for the light to change. Would it be possible to install a southbound right turn lane on Morse Blvd?

Bradley Arnold: At this time, there is no indication of a need based on our current traffic information. We perform annual traffic counts and this location will be reviewed. We will monitor if the data shows a need in the future and address it at that time.

16. At the intersections of Morse and Buena Vista Blvd with CR 466, CR 466A and SR 44 a consistent pile of debris forms. What is the sweeping schedule at these intersections? Can maintenance be improved?

Bradley Arnold: Sumter County contracts annually with a firm to provide street sweeping and the firm does so on a schedule. Staff will monitor the demand for the frequency at these intersections and adjust the contract as required.

17. Meggison Road seems narrower and will be carrying a lot of traffic in the future. Was the road purposely designed narrower to slow traffic speed?

Bradley Arnold: The design of new roads uses 11-foot lanes rather than 12-foot lanes as it reduces the costs for construction and long-term maintenance as well as a smaller environmental impact for storm water management. For the speeds posted, this design also promotes lower speeds as not all drivers adhere to the posted speed limits.



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

HEART AND VASCULAR PROGRAM: USHERING IN A NEW ERA IN HEART CARE



AUXILIARY FOUNDATION

Today, we celebrate the achievement of yet another milestone with the current expansion of a new state-of-the-art heart and vascular program at the hospital. This milestone demonstrates the hospital's ongoing commitment to fighting heart disease, which remains the nation's leading cause of death for men and women.

"The new heart and vascular program will introduce a comprehensive cardiovascular initiative, combining the expertise of our talented physicians and clinical team to provide a full spectrum of cardiovascular medicine,"

On February 14, 2008, the cardiac catheterization lab at The Villages® Hospital opened, marking a new era in the hospital's history.

reports Heather B. Long, MSN, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, UF Health Central Florida Health. She continues, "This includes electrophysiology, interventional cardiology, vascular surgery and cardiac rehabilitation all under one roof, close to home."

From prevention and wellness to laboratory testing, diagnostics, and the most comprehensive treatment available in the region, the heart and vascular program will combine top-notch expertise care, research and education to continue to deliver upon our mission to improve the health and quality of life of the individuals and communities we serve.

We need your help to continue to provide leading-

edge cardiac care to The Villages community. Gifts from people like you empower us to fulfill this mission. By making a gift to the cardiovascular initiative, you can help us to provide our patients with the most advanced and compassionate cardiac care.

The Foundation's efforts to raise funds for the project got a boost when donors John and Beth Bondurant expressed that they would like to make \$75,000 available for the purpose of matching donations from first-time givers to the Foundation.

To learn more or to make a donation, visit www.tvrhfoundation.org and select DONATE now. Please designate your gift to the new heart and vascular program.



JANUARY SEMINAR OFFERINGS

Sudden Death: Are You Prepared?

Wednesdays, January 12, 19, 26 from 10:00 a.m. – Noon
Lady Lake Library, 225 West Guava Street, Lady Lake

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

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



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

"Due to the continued spread of COVID-19, with the new variant, and its impact on the vast majority of our upcoming courses, we have made the very difficult decision to extend our nationwide in-person event closure until January 1, 2022."

Kyle Rakow, AARP Vice President and National Director

BIKE • FRIENDLY • COMMUNITY • CORNER

PLEASE, FOLLOW THE RULES OF THE ROAD



Be Predictable: When riding a bike, make your intentions clear to everyone on the road. Don't do any sudden maneuvers. Always signal your

intent by using proper and correct hand gestures. If another vehicle is near, get the attention of the driver so that the two of you can have a mind meld.

Be Conspicuous: Ride where people can see you. Wear bright clothing. Use lights front and rear. Have a loud horn.

Think Ahead: Some people call thinking ahead "Situational Awareness". Others call it "Mindfulness." Whatever term you choose, anticipate what drivers, pedestrians, and other people on bikes will do next. Scan. Think defensively.

Be Ride Ready: Make sure your equip-

ment is ready before you ride. Check the air in your bike tires, make sure the brakes work, and satisfy yourself that chain, cranks/pedals, cables, cassette, and chain rings are in good repair.

Follow the Law: Your safety and the perception of bicyclists depend on you. To follow the law, first you must know the law. Most people do not. But we can teach you the law, maintenance, and skills. Take our class on Bike Safety through The Enrichment Academy. You can find our classes under the "SPORTS" category in the Learn and Grow Course Catalogue. Alternatively, look us up on the website: www.TheEnrichmentAcademy@DistrictGov.org.

by Diana Mirkin, Chair Person,
Bicycle Friendly Advocacy Council



DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 BUDGET

by Richard Baier, P.E., LEED AP, District Manager



District Manager

In September, The Villages Community Development Districts completed the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget process with the approvals of the Final Budget. The Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget consists of 57 Funds with a combined total Budget of approximately \$400 million! This budget includes costs for the operations and maintenance, debt service, and capital costs.

Approvals of budgets and final maintenance assessments must be completed by September 15th of each year under accordance with State Statutes. The District Fiscal Year runs from October 1 through September 30. With the diligent work of the elected supervisors of 17 Boards, the Amenity Authority Committee, Project Wide Advisory Committee, residents and staff, the budget provides the resources to maintain high-quality services while moving forward with efforts that ensure a positive sustainable future.

This budget is the culmination of numerous meetings and workshops with elected officials, committee members, staff and residents. It represents the continuation of the "momentum" as we continue forward with strategic initiatives such as an emphasis on greater communications, transparency, customer service, and analytical decision-making systems. We are committed to continually improving as we consistently review our operations for better methods to provide enhanced service. The Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget includes a Communications Coordinator to assist with the District's communication strategy, a website platform upgrade, a reorganization to expand staffing, and provide a more centralized Customer Service department along with other initiatives to more effectively and efficiently meet the needs of the District and community in a cost-effective manner.

You may view the District line-item budgets, maintenance assessment schedules, balanced scorecard, and other District information at www.districtgov.org. Select "Departments", then "Budget".

Quick Links

- [Budget Home](#)
- [Department Staff](#)
- [Budget Process](#)
- [FY21-22 Budget Calendar](#)
- [Annual Budget Archives](#)
- [Capital Improvement Plans](#)

If a street light is obstructed by vegetation, residents can call the District to report it at: 352-689-4400.

If a street light is out or is always on, then it should be reported to SECO in this way:

Visit www.SECOenergy.com

- Go to **StormCenter** and choose Lightfinder

- Enter the pole number or closest address in the search bar in the upper left.

- Each light is represented by a lightbulb icon:

○ **GREEN** – light is working

○ **RED** – light has already been reported.


○ **ORANGE** – light has been repaired in the last 24 hours.

- Complete the short reporting form and submit your email address for updates about the light's repair status.

MOST LIGHTS ARE REPAIRED IN 24 HOURS.



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



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The Voice

Events

Volunteers

Helping Hands

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



NEW RESIDENT NIGHT

NOVEMBER 9 AT 7:00 P.M.

COLONY COTTAGE REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER

510 COLONY BLVD. NEAR MORSE BLVD/466A

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

• Honorable Paul Militello,
Sumter County Judge

• Sumter County Sheriff’s Office
& other local law enforcement

• Sumter County Property Appraiser

• Sumter County Tax Collector

• Sumter County Clerk

• District Government

• Serving Health Ins.
Needs of Elders (SHINE)

• Veteran Services

• Seniors vs. Crime

• UF HealthThe Villages
Regional Hospital Auxiliary

• SECO

• Sumter Landing Bicycle Club

• Community Emergency
Response Team (CERT)

• Friends of the Library

• The Enrichment Academy

• Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches

• The VHA – The Villages
Homeowners Advocates

• The VHA Helping Hands

NEXT NEW RESIDENT NIGHT WILL BE DECEMBER 14 AT

COLONY COTTAGE REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER

510 COLONY BLVD. NEAR MORSE BLVD/466A



GOLF CART SAFETY CLINIC



NOVEMBER 17 @ 9:00 A.M.

COLONY COTTAGE REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER

510 Colony Blvd. near Morse/466A

No Pre-Registration Required

CLINIC TOPICS INCLUDE:

• Not a Toy

• Golf Cars & LSV

• Golf Cars vs. Others

• Tunnels

• Intersections

• Passing & Road Crossings

• Bridges

• Turns

• Circles (Roundabouts)

• Parallel Parking

• Pulling into a Parking Space

• Sharing Parking with Cars

• No Parking Zones

• Insurance

• Legal concerns

• Maintenance

NEXT MONTH: DECEMBER 15 @ COLONY REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER

HELPING



HANDS

DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

LOAN PROGRAM

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

352-973-2284

OR EMAIL US AT:

VHA.HELPINGHANDS.OFFICEMAIL@GMAILCOM

WE WILL THEN SCHEDULE YOUR PICK-UP FROM:

THE VHA OFFICE

1104 MAIN ST.

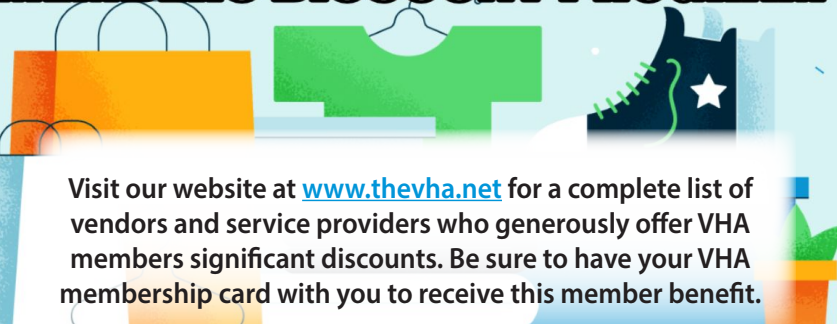
SPANISH SPRINGS

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY BETWEEN

11:00 A.M. AND 1:00 P.M.

M2M: THE VHA MERCHANTS TO

MEMBERS DISCOUNT PROGRAM



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

AUTOMOBILE SERVICES FOR YOU

EATS AND SWEETS

IMPROVING YOUR HOME

IMPROVING YOUR LOOK

LODGING AND RELAXATION

SERVICES FOR YOU

THINGS TO DO