

# The VHA VOICE

THE VILLAGES HOMEOWNERS ADVOCATES: KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE

February 2022 • Vol. 28 No. 2



## 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 Villages residents for the VHA Town Hall meeting: Dr. Gary Lester – Vice President Community Relations, Carrie Duckett – Deputy District Manager, Lt. Robert Siemer – District Lieutenant from the Sumter County Sheriff's Department, Bradley Arnold – Sumter County Administrator.

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

**Dr. Lester:** That work is not scheduled yet.

**2. Now that more movies are being released, are plans moving forward on the Rialto and Barnstorm theaters?**

**Dr. Lester:** The movie industry, while somewhat more active, is still in a state of flux. In addition, the movies being shown now at Old Mill Playhouse are more than meeting current demand.

**3. Now that the City of Lady Lake has changed the ruling for apartments in Spanish Springs, would you please give an update?**

**Dr. Lester:** While we are not aware of any ruling change in Lady Lake, we are moving forward with apartments at the Van Patten House as has been reported in the Daily Sun

**4. Would you please explain why the Daily Sun newspaper did not publish the map of Christmas lights locations?**

**Dr. Lester:** I shared this question with the Media Group and they are considering bringing back that feature. Thanks for the feedback.

**5. When will La Grande Blvd be repaved instead of refilling potholes?**

**Dr. Lester:** It is scheduled for repaving the last week of February.

**6. Are there restrictions in place to limit how many adults and children are allowed to reside in a Villages residence whether with an owner or renter?**

**Carrie Duckett:** The only restrictions in place limiting children residing in homes pertain to the Declaration of Restrictions. The Declaration of Restrictions provides that no person under the age of 19 may be a permanent resident of a home and are not able to reside for periods exceeding 30 days total in any calendar year period.



**7. What is the current percentage of Villages homes with one person age 55+ on the deed?**

**Dr. Lester:** Federal Law calls for 80% or more of households in Age Restricted Communities to have at least one occupant over the age of 55 and over. The Villages, historically has always been well above that 80% mark.

**Does the 55 and over person have to be on the deed or just living in the household?** The 55 and over

person has to be an occupant in the household.

**8. Would you please address the rumor the Championship golf course staff has been greatly reduced?**

**Dr. Lester:** There has been no significant reduction in that staff.

**9. Would you please explain how the number of golf courses per household south of SR 44 compares with the number north of SR 44?**

**Dr. Lester:** All golf courses in The Villages are open to all residents so we do not analyze it in terms of north or south of state highways or any other geographical features. We currently have 711 holes of golf in total with several more courses under construction as has been reported in the Daily Sun.

**10. Is there an established standard for the decibel level of sound from the entertainment at the Town Squares?**

**Dr. Lester:** Ninety (90) decibels is the target knowing that can be impacted up or down somewhat by weather conditions.

**11. Would you please explain why The Villages does not have a loud siren Emergency Weather Alert system?**

**Carrie Duckett:** NOAA recommends that with the current technology we have it is best to have a weather alert application on your phone or a weather radio. Check the county you live in as some counties offer a free weather alert system notification on their website that you can sign up for where you can be notified by text message or email of dangerous weather conditions.

Lake County:  
Go to <https://alertlake.com>

Marion County:  
Go to <https://alertmarion.com>

Sumter County:  
Go to <https://sumtercountyfl.gov>  
On the left side menu click on "Alert Sumter – Emergency Alert Program"

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## President's Message



**W**ow!! Is it February already? Seems like yesterday we were talking about Thanksgiving. Time flies when you're having fun. And that's what we do here in The Villages and why our community is so large, including all of our friendly, seasonal residents.

Speaking of which, if you are a new or seasonal resident who has not heard about The VHA Helping Hands, we provide free loans of durable medical equipment (wheelchairs, walkers, canes, etc.) for your short-term needs. In fact, we had over 6400 transactions during 2021.

With that many transactions, and the increasing need for this program, we can use your help. If you'd like to be part of a high performing organization that provides much needed support to **thousands** of Villages' residents, just give us a call or stop by our office in Spanish Springs. Working in the office, driving our van to move equipment to/from a storage unit, or being a telephone coordinator are just three ways you can help for just a few hours a month. We'll provide all the training you need. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact us at 352-973-2284.

A big SHOUT-OUT and THANK YOU to those who have donated to The VHA Helping Hands. Similar to other organizations around The Villages, we operate solely through donations of both money and/or equipment. Thanks to your generosity, we've been able to assist many, many Villagers as Neighbors Helping Neighbors!!

If you or your organization would like to make a donation to Helping Hands, there are a few ways to do so.

1. **USE AMAZON SMILE:** When you order anything from Amazon using this option, they will donate ½ of 1% of everything you order to the charity you choose.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Fred Briggs, Past President**  
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For contact information go to  
[www.thevha.net](http://www.thevha.net)



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**Deborah Hagey \* Phil Walker**

For contact information go to  
[www.thevha.net](http://www.thevha.net)

Or email us at:  
[vha.helpinghands.officemail@gmail.com](mailto:vha.helpinghands.officemail@gmail.com)

Once you're logged in, if you are new to AmazonSmile, the site will allow you to pick the charity you want to support. Search for and click on "VHA Helping Hands". If you are already using Smile Amazon and want to now select VHA Helping Hands, click on the charity you are currently supporting on the left-hand side of the top banner; then click on "Change Charity"; then put "VHA Helping Hands" in the search box; then click search; then click Select on the VHA Helping Hands line. Then shop and donate.

2. **GO TO OUR WEBSITE ([www.thevha.net](http://www.thevha.net)):** Hover over the top line where it says **Donate**. Select Helping Hands for a credit card Donation Form. Simply fill out the form and press Submit.
3. **STOP BY OUR OFFICE:** 1104 Main Street, The Villages, FL 32159 in Spanish Springs, or mail a cash or check donation.
4. **IF YOU'D LIKE TO DONATE DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT:** Just call our office (352-973-2284) to make sure we are taking what you are offering. Then drop it off at our office between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

If you or your organization would like someone from Helping Hands to make a short presentation to your group/social club, just give us a call. We'd be happy to tell our story and provide our information. If you live in the Far South, we are especially interested in getting the word out to new residents in that area.

**NEED DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT?** Just visit our website at [www.thevha.net](http://www.thevha.net) to view our current inventory, then call us at 352-973-2284 to request your equipment for pick-up at our office Monday-Friday between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Or, you can email us at [vha.helpinghands.officemail@gmail.com](mailto:vha.helpinghands.officemail@gmail.com).

Al Arnold  
President  
VHA Helping Hands

**VHA OFFICE**  
1104 Main St., Spanish Springs  
**VHA MAIN PHONE: 352-753-4650**  
**VHA WEBSITE: [www.thevha.net](http://www.thevha.net)**

**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

## FEBRUARY & MARCH 2022

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

**FEBRUARY 8:**  
**EZELL REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER**  
**769 Marilee Place,**  
**The Villages/ Wildwood**

**MARCH 8:**  
**LA HACIENDA REGIONAL**  
**RECREATION CENTER**

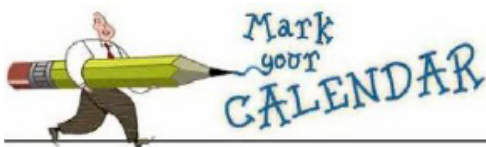
**GOLF CART SAFETY CLINIC:**  
**WEDNESDAYS at 9:00 a.m.**

**FEBRUARY 16:**  
**SAVANNAH RECREATION CENTER**  
**1545 Buena Vista Blvd, The Villages**

**MARCH 16:**  
**COLONY REGIONAL**  
**RECREATION CENTER**

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

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



**JOIN US FOR THE  
VHA ANNUAL  
VOLUNTEER  
AWARDS NIGHT**

**MARCH 9, 2022 @ 7:00 P.M.**  
**LAKE MIONA RECREATION CENTER**

**ALL VILLAGES RESIDENTS INVITED**

**WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS IN THE MARCH EDITION OF THE VOICE**

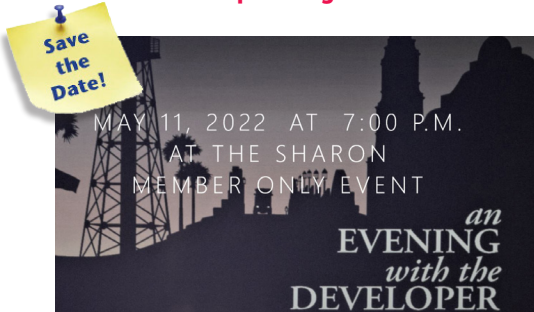


**IS BACK!!!!**

**At 6:30 p.m:**

**March 24 @ Rohan • April 28 @ Eisenhower**

**BINGO WILL BE HELD EVERY MONTH FOR THE  
REMAINDER OF 2022! Featuring 50/50 & NO SPLIT  
POTS! BYOB AND SNACKS! Watch for Date and  
Location Details in Upcoming Editions of The Voice!**



**THIS EVENT IS FOR VHA MEMBERS ONLY.  
TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE BOX OFFICES  
ON THE DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED IN THE APRIL  
EDITION OF THE VOICE.**

### VHA BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

#### Advisory Board:

**February 9, 1:00 p.m. @ Laurel Manor**

#### Executive Committee:

**February, 9 3:00 @ Laurel Manor**

#### Board Of Directors:

**February 24, 1:00 p.m. @ Lake Miona**

#### Regions 5-8:

**February 28, 7:00 p.m @ Sea Breeze**



**Contact Us**  
**To become a member**  
**or renew, simply go to**  
**[www.thevha.net](http://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

## SHINE OFFERS MEDICARE HELP

SHINE provides free, unbiased Medicare counseling services year-round, not just during the fall annual enrollment period. **January 1 – March 31, Medicare enrollees have the option of changing their advance health plan, or going back to Original Medicare.** Also, during this period, if they missed signing up for part B, they can do so.

Counselors are scheduled at the following locations to assist area residents for one-on-one counseling on the indicated days:

- Eisenhower Recreation Center,  
9:00 - 11:30 a.m. 1st & 3rd Wednesdays.
- Lake Miona Recreation Center,  
9:00 - 11:30 a.m. - 2nd & 4th Tuesdays.
- Chula Vista Recreation Center,  
3:00 - 5:30 p.m. 1st & 3rd Fridays.
- Lady Lake Library,  
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm - 2nd & 4th Wednesdays.

Also, "Understanding Medicare", a group presentation geared toward those turning 65, will be made at 1:00 on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, at the Aviary Recreation Center. **For more information, call 800-963-5337.**



# The VHA News & Notes

## NORTH AREA



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

It's February, the month of Valentine's Day and Cupid – in other words, LOVE. This got me to thinking about everything I love about life here in The Villages.

- **I Love** the ability to go everywhere in my golf cart, if I feel like it, OR in my car, if I feel like it.
- **I Love** that I can show off the landscaping of the boulevards to my visitors.
- **I Love** the fact that pedestrians wave thanks when I clearly signal a lane change early and get out around them.
- **I Love** seeing how The Villages learned as it grew (e.g., the multimodal paths and tunnels get bigger the farther south you go).
- **I Love** how we are members of every country club just because we live here – no exorbitant initiation fee needed. (Also love golfing the executive courses for free.)
- **I Love** that we are served by a District Government with elected supervisors, that is regulated by state law, which protects us from some of the HOA abuses seen on YouTube.
- **I Love** being able to take my guests to the squares for free music and entertainment.
- **I Love** the huge number of flagpoles in folks' front yards, and the extra lawn flags for patriotic holidays.
- **I Love** the mature trees and rolling terrain in my neighborhood, but I also love the palm trees and



wide-open spaces in the southern villages.

- **I Love** the commitment to the environment and preservation of large wetlands and wildlife sanctuaries and the wise use of retention ponds to not only control flooding, but also to feed birds, alligators, and even some fish.
- **Finally**, as a transplanted Wisconsinite, **I Love** the fact that we live in Florida and can complain about 60°F being cold. It beats shoveling snow.

*Have a Happy Valentine's Day  
and a great February,  
Karl Arps*

## CENTRAL AREA



**Between 466 and 466A**  
**John Dean, Vice President**  
[vhajohndean@gmail.com](mailto:vhajohndean@gmail.com) – 207-557-0371

Greetings from the Central Area,

Well, here we are already in the second month of 2022. When I used to think of February, I would

groan about being sick and tired of winter. But that was when I lived up north. The Florida winters produce far fewer moans and groans about weather.

But the romantic in us thinks of LOVE when February comes around. Valentine's Day (really Saint Valentine's Day) provides us with a wonderful opportunity to recognize those we LOVE. Generally, giving cards, flowers, and chocolates are great ways to show LOVE.

But there are distinct kinds of LOVE. Certainly, the LOVE we have for our closest family members is different than the LOVE we have for our friends and neighbors.

We in The VHA leadership LOVE the folks who assist us in so many ways in various positions.

This month I am happy to report that we have three new Neighborhood Representatives in the Central Area. This is the kind of news that I LOVE to report.

- Judy Holleran is the new Neighborhood Representative for the Village of Bonnybrook. Judy can be reached at [judy.hollaran@gmail.com](mailto:judy.hollaran@gmail.com) or 323-363-3468.
- Louise Goodman is the new Neighborhood Representative for the Village of Buttonwood. Louise can be reached at [goodmanlouise222@gmail.com](mailto:goodmanlouise222@gmail.com) or 630-842-9926.
- Paul Verciglio is the new Neighborhood Representative for the Village of Lynnhaven. Paul can be reached at [paul.verciglio@gmail.com](mailto:paul.verciglio@gmail.com) or 716-533-9227.



Judy takes over the position that has been held by Ray and Pat Adams. Louise takes over the position that has been held by Bill Danner. Paul's is a new position as we did not have a Neighborhood Representative in Lynnhaven.

We have LOVED having Ray, Pat, and Bill as part of The VHA leadership. They have given us years of faithful service and for that we extend our thanks and best wishes for their future.

**We would LOVE to have additional Neighborhood Representatives. There are benefits to being a Neighborhood Representative.**

- Neighborhood Reps can attend The VHA Town Hall meetings.
- Neighborhood Reps receive 1-2 tickets to the "Evening With the Developer" before they are available to our general membership at the box offices.
- Neighborhood Reps can take pride in their involvement

in a positive, constructive homeowner's group that advocates for VHA members and The Villages residents.

We would LOVE to hear from you about being a Neighborhood Representative. If you are interested, just visit [www.thevha.net](http://www.thevha.net) and fill out the form in the Volunteers pull-down menu.

*Stay safe and healthy,  
John*

## SOUTH AREA



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

A resident took the time to contact us and tell us of a mishap they had. A large glass mirror, which came with the house, suddenly fell from the bathroom wall that it was

glued to. Obviously, it shattered and they were left with a mess. His warning was that others may want to invest in some mirror clips, available at any hardware store, to ensure that they do not have the same calamity. Sounds like a reasonable precaution.

**BINGO IS ABOUT TO START UP AGAIN:** The first event for 2022 will be Thursday, March 24 at the Rohan Recreation Center. We will be having bingo every month between March and November for 2022.

**Another topic worth mentioning – Drivers and tempers.** I was playing golf at Evans Prairie with one of the groups I am in, and of course we were talking



about anything but golf (of course, it is something other than golf because most golfers hate the soul-crushing game, but they keep trying, but so did Sisyphus, and he never got the rock up the hill either). So, the topic at that moment was road

rage and a story in the media about another person who was arrested for taking road rage too far. With great timing, there was a driver out on Buena Vista blowing the horn at another driver for some perceived grievous fault. Not just a toot, but a 25 second blast.

A few days later I was in my golf cart after leaving a meeting, wondering if this topic would make a good article. I stopped to cross a street at a gate when I heard the unmistakable call of another enraged driver. Yup – only two cars in a traffic circle and one of them has to let the world know they are offended. I understand that you can be ticked at another driver, I've muttered words myself that are not used in church, but we all have to accept that it happens and you have to just let it go. They are not going to stop and apologize. Shoot you maybe, but not apologize. And no, it isn't seasonal.

**Highway Impact Fee - My 2 cents:** This is categorized as a Special Revenue in government accounting and is kept in a trust account (in Sumter it is T 153 if you read their financial reports). I see the real problem being the restrictions that the enabling law created when it was written back in the 1970's. The funds can only be used for new construction



or reconstruction of county roads. Repaving doesn't count. Roads in TV are built by the developer and then they become county roads. The best solution would be to change the law so that the county can use it for more types of road projects, which will cut taxes.

Mike Dollard

## FAR SOUTH AREA



South of SR44

**Roger Kass, Interim Vice President**  
[RogerK@KNG-Marketing.com](mailto:RogerK@KNG-Marketing.com)

I hope you are doing better than I am in keeping my New Year's Resolutions. It's almost Valentine's Day, which is a great time to reflect on those we love. "Life is good, but the best is yet to be" is the motto my wife and I try to live by every day. Remember to tell your spouse how much you appreciate them, not just on Valentine's Day.

The New Year is well underway and your VHA is off to a great start. The VHA's January New Resident Night event at Ezell Recreation was a success. In fact, the room was filled to capacity with close to 300 people in attendance.

This month's New Resident Night is again going to be held at Ezell on February 8th. Come early and don't be disappointed. This is a great opportunity to learn from the folks who know – The VHA's partners. Representatives will be there from many important agencies and service providers, including the Hospital, the District Government, the County Government, SHINE (find out what SHINE is and how it can help YOU) and many more. It is a unique opportunity, to get the answers to your questions, not just somebody's opinion. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. to talk with the various presenters, with the actual program starting at 7:00 p.m.

On January 18th the Far South Region of The VHA arranged to have a presentation entitled, "Where Does Your Money Go?" by The Village Center Community Development District. The presentation was well received. Almost 200 attendees heard lots of great information and asked many good questions and got straight forward answers. Common misconceptions and false noodle-news was addressed. We hope to offer this program again in the future. Meanwhile, consider attending CDD Orientation. Go to [www.districtgov.org](http://www.districtgov.org).

### CDD Orientation

This valuable program is held on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 10:00 AM in the District office located at 984 Old Mill Run in Lake Sumter Landing. For additional information, please contact the District Customer Service Center at 352-753-4508.

Dave Fountaine, the Far South Assistant VP, took the time recently to introduce himself at the District satellite office and explained the concerns we have heard regarding excessive waste from construction sites that go beyond the small amount of debris that may fall off trucks. There now appears to be some improvement with this issue.

To support these programs, consider renewing your membership or joining The VHA - The Villages

Homeowners Advocates - whose mission continues to be "Keeping the Dream Alive". Your membership is vital to achieving that goal. Meanwhile, if you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Roger Kass

## LADY LAKE NEWS

Lynn Davis

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

### UPCOMING LADY LAKE LIBRARY EVENTS:

**"Our ABC of Dementia" Workshop**  
 10:00 a.m. to Noon

**Monday February 21, Friday March 18  
 and Friday April 22**



The Lady Lake Library and Coping with Dementia LLC are offering this free program in room 204 at the Guava Street library. This workshop explains Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia in plain language. It suggests techniques for becoming a better and less-stressed care partner, and provides useful resources to families living with dementia. Everyone is welcome. The workshops are free but reservations are encouraged. Call (352) 422-3663 or email [deb@copings.today](mailto:deb@copings.today).

**AARP Tax-Aide** will be at the Lady Lake Library Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. by APPOINTMENT ONLY. These appointments can ONLY be made at [www.villagestaxaide.com](http://www.villagestaxaide.com).

Just a reminder of the caution needed while driving on 441 both north and south while the construction is continuing.

Lynn Davis

## A VILLAGER'S VIEW: WAITING FOR THE PROCESS TO PLAY OUT

I will make this short and sweet: The controversy surrounding the allegations against two of the Sumter County Commissioners for perjury should not be taken lightly, nor is it wise to take sides one way or the other at this point. It is obvious that investigations took place based on complaints that were made and which should be taken seriously due to the concerns of both those making the complaints and the serious nature of the allegations.

To be dogmatic and take sides at this point in time is both foolish and futile; first of all because the investigation is already taking place, so the horse is out of the barn so to speak, and secondly, because so many who are making judgment calls are doing so based on personal biases and perceptions and have no personal involvement to know if the charges are, or are not, true. In either case, what we should all be hoping for is for the truth to be abundantly clear and justice to be served, not based on personal prejudices or suspicions, but on facts and the need to support the laws that govern our state. Those transparency laws have solid reasons behind them, and require public officials

to act in accordance with them when conducting official business. We all should want transparency and integrity from our governing officials. Period!

If the parties who are involved knowingly broke the law, either by violating the Sunshine Law or by lying about it afterward, they were doing so not behind any individual or organization's back, but behind the backs of VOTERS who put them in office with the understanding they would act in accordance with the law. What they are accused of is precisely the kind of dealings and behavior that the Sunshine Law was designed to prevent. To not address this type of violation opens the door for corruption, fraud, personal gain, and bribery, just to name a few related governmental abuses. It may seem like minor offenses to some, but the law is clear, and small offenses, if not addressed, lead to bigger ones. So let the process play out. If they are innocent or guilty, either way, the facts will, and should, determine the outcome.

Jan Palmer, Editor



### SOCIAL SECURITY UPDATE FOR 2022

**Thursday, March 3, 2022: 10:00 a.m. – Noon**

Lady Lake Library,

225 West Guava Street, Lady Lake, FL 32159

We are again presenting an update in a public setting where seminar attendees can get the facts straight from our staff of National Social Security Advisors. We'll cover the basic rules everybody needs to know, as well as many of the special aspects of this critical program.

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



**Villages TAX-AIDE**  
 Serving The Villages, Fruitland Park, Lady Lake,  
 Wildwood & Sumter County

**AARP has canceled all in-person Driver Safety activities until further notice. However, their tax aide program will still be operating during tax season through April 15.**

Open sites this season will be at **Colony, Mulberry, La Hacienda and Paradise Recreation Centers in The Villages, along with Fruitland Park Library, Lady Lake Library and Panasoffkee Community Library**. Refer to the "List of Sites and Hours" tab on the website <https://villagestaxaide.com> for more information and to make an appointment.





## NEW ADVENTURE COMING SOON!



by Kenny Blocker,  
District Manager

The New Year has begun and we are so fortunate to live in Central Florida with the great weather. The Villages offers so many outdoor activities and I'm excited to announce a new amenity; "The Lake Miona Walking Trail" will soon be available to residents of The Villages.

District Property Management is overseeing this project which will provide a ~3700' length X 6' width premier recreation amenity to The Villages. The new path features an American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant 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 project, which was approved by the Project Wide Advisory Committee and Sumter Landing Community Development District, will be put out for competitive bid shortly, with construction and ribbon cutting expected in the spring of 2022. Design features will include a "Flexi-Pave" rubberized trail surface and a 110' elevated wooden boardwalk.

Flexi-Pave is a heavy-duty porous pavement made from recycled passenger tires. It is environmentally friendly, extremely porous, and is the premier surface type for lower impact walking trails and ideal for wet environments. It is slip-resistant, ADA compliant, and resistant to freezing temperatures. Six inches of concrete ribbon curbing will be installed on each side, along with a gravel base for added stability and longevity. Pervious pavement systems are recognized as a best management practice by the Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Florida, providing excellent longevity.

This new amenity will commence at the Lake Miona Recreation Complex and will continue in a northerly direction for nearly 3,700 feet, or 1.4 miles round trip. There is ample parking available for cars and golf cars as well at the Lake Miona Recreation Complex. For future updates on this project visit the District website at [www.districtgov.org](http://www.districtgov.org).

### The Villages Country Club Pools

The Villages Country Club Pools are for the exclusive use of Villages Country Club Priority Members and their guest(s). Priority Pool Membership Enhancements are available to all Villages residents.

For more information on these memberships, please contact the Tee Time/Membership office at 750-4558.

All country club pools are family pools. If you wish a quieter pool setting, you may want to use one of the neighborhood pools.

Country Club Pools / Hours:

- **Cane Garden** Pool / open 9am – sunset
- **Evans Prairie** Pool / open 9am – sunset
- **Glenview Champions** Pool & Jacuzzi / open 9am – 9pm
- **Havana** Pool / open 9am – sunset
- **Mallory Hill** Pool / open 9am – sunset
- **Nancy Lopez Legacy** Pool & Pool Bar / open 9am – sunset
- **Orange Blossom Hills** Pool & Jacuzzi / open 9am – 9pm

Join us for our  
16<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
*Hearts for Our Hospital*  
GALA

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**Register in 3 easy steps at**  
[www.tvhfoundationgala.com/auction-info/](http://www.tvhfoundationgala.com/auction-info/)

**1. Register your device    2. Receive your confirmation text    3. Sign in using your PIN**

**Bidding opens Wednesday at 9:00 AM, and will remain open until 9:00 PM Saturday, Feb 12.**

Check out our event website to preview more items!

**Online Auction Sponsor**  
Florida Blue Medicare

**For more details visit: [www.tvhfoundationgala.com](http://www.tvhfoundationgala.com)**  
or you may want to show your support by mailing a check to UF Health The Villages® Hospital Auxiliary Foundation at 1501 North U.S. Highway 441, Suite 1829, The Villages, FL 32159

UF Health The Villages-Hospital Auxiliary Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization, supporting the programs and services of UF Health The Villages® Hospital. The Villages® is a federally registered trademark of Holding Company of The Villages, Inc., and is used under license. UF Health The Villages® Hospital is a part of University of Florida Health.

### Merchants to Members Spotlight: KILWINS CHOCOLATE FUDGE AND ICE CREAM STORE



Villagers LOVE to bring their grandkids to Kilwins for ice cream when they come to visit. It seems that music on the square and ice cream is a must-do activity for the kids when visiting. Plus, the outdoor seating is always busy with regulars and visitors who can't seem to stay away from indulging their sweet tooth.

Chad Uptegraft, the eldest son of Dale and Gary Uptegraft, is being trained by his parents to manage the Kilwins Chocolate Fudge and Ice Cream store at 1108 Main Street in Spanish Springs. He will continue to carry on the Kilwins tradition, with its long history of quality and deliciousness.

The Kilwins promise is the same today as when Don and Katy Kilwin opened their first store in 1947 in Petoskey, MI: "We promise to make the best possible Chocolates, Fudge & Ice Cream". They still follow the original recipes, using quality ingredients like fresh cream from American dairy farms, and the highest quality chocolate and cocoa beans from around the world. Kilwins "Hand-Made Chocolates", famous "Mackinac Island Fudge", and made-in-store products like "The Perfect Caramel Apple", Nut Brittle and Caramel Corn, and "Original Recipe Ice Cream" continues the Kilwins tradition of being a feast for the senses, so what was true in the past remains true today, that Kilwins is "Sweet in Every Sense Since 1947!"

**VHA Members: Show your VHA  
Membership card for a 10% Discount**

Continued from page 1



### Should homeowners purchase a weather radio?

We recommend using both. The weather radio can be programmed at any one of The Villages Fire Stations if someone is available. However, someone is always available at Fire Station 44 located at 3035 S. Morse Blvd., The Villages, FL 32163.

### 12. GATE CARD QUESTIONS answered by Carrie Duckett: What information is stored on the gate card?

The gate cards are assigned to a property that includes address and name of owner. The information is stored in a database not on the card.

### Are gate cards deactivated after a house is sold?

Yes, they are deactivated. Note: There is a \$15 charge if the card is not turned in.

**Can a chip from the gate card be inserted in a mirror to open the gate?** The District does not sell or provide cards that can be inserted into a mirror. We do not recommend it or recommend purchasing cards that have not been issued by the District. The card number is turned off when the house is sold.

### 13. Villages residents are often told that everyone pays the same amenity fees. Would you please explain why many residents pay different amounts?

**Carrie Duckett:** When a resident purchases a home (new or pre-owned), their amenity fee is determined based on the prevailing rate at the time of purchase (currently \$179.00). Per the Declaration of Restrictions, the amenity fee is adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). As the CPI may vary monthly, the amount the amenity fee is adjusted will also vary.

### 14. Would you please explain why the Villages Fitness Centers:

**Do not accept any insurance plans?**

**Carrie Duckett:** The Fit Clubs, located inside the Regional Recreation Center Complexes throughout The Villages, have had inquiries in regard to the "Silver Sneakers Program". This program would require us to allow non-residents access and use of the Fit Clubs. Also, we do not hire recreation staff to track and process insurance paperwork.

### Only accept cash as payment:

The Fit Clubs accept cash, check, or credit cards.

### 15. Could you please post the phone number for Community Watch on all the Villages postal station bulletin boards?

Continued on next page



Continued from previous page

**Carrie Duckett:** We have several posts on the bulletin boards with District information – we will add the Community Watch Dispatch phone number to this information.

#### 16. Would you please explain the guidelines for RV parking on the street?

**Carrie Duckett:** In home units, the Declaration of Restrictions provide that RV parking is not permitted on the street. In the majority of villa units, parking in the street is not addressed. If there is a safety issue preventing emergency services getting through a call needs to be made to local law enforcement.

#### Is there a 72-hour limit for RV parking in the driveway?

A 72-hour period is allowed for an RV if parked in the driveway.

#### 17. Not all streets have signs regarding U-turns. If a driver is turning right from a side street to a main road and a vehicle is making a U-turn on the main road, who has the right-of-way?

**Lt. Siemer:** Whoever is on the main road has the right-of-way unless there is a sign at the intersection indicating something different.

#### 18. Why is the right turn given the right-of-way heading east on CR 466?

**Lt. Siemer:** The left turn signal turns green (to south on Morse Blvd) the same time the right turn green arrow for north bound traffic can turn right onto CR 466. According to the County Engineer, it is common practice for the traffic making a U-turn to yield.

#### 19. When traveling north on Warm Springs Ave, many residents have complained about poor sightlines to the roundabout at the intersection with Marsh Bend Trail. What can be done to increase visibility to this roundabout?

**Bradley Arnold:** We have been monitoring this intersection and have recorded most of the accidents have occurred by intoxicated or reckless drivers. We continue to monitor this area. Follow posted speed signs for your safety upon entering the roundabout.

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

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

**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.

## BIKE • FRIENDLY • COMMUNITY • CORNER

### Using a Bike Mounted Camera for Safety While Riding



"Smile, Please"

The Bicycle Friendly Advocacy Council (BFAC) is a group of officers from The Villages three bike clubs, Recreation and Parks Department, and local law enforcement. The BFAC goals are safe and fun cycling in The Villages. This article contains observations from BFAC members as well as our friend, Jim Dodson, a bicycle safety advocate, and experienced bicycle accident lawyer. Download Jim's free Florida Bicycle Accident Handbook, at [www.jimdodsonlaw.com](http://www.jimdodsonlaw.com)

We live in an increasingly risky, crazy age where road rage happens much too often. Some impatient drivers will pass too closely to bicycle riders, groups, or individuals, yelling, or gesturing. One bicyclist described a driver who stopped his car, exited, and pointed a firearm at a group of riders. Another driver battered a rider, causing an injury that required hospitalization. Another screamed, "I hope you get hit!"

Uncivil and even criminal behaviors have increased in our current stress-filled times. What can bicyclists do to help protect themselves? The BFAC suggests a video camera to document incidents. One enraged driver left his vehicle, approached a group of riders in a threatening way, but stopped when he realized the bike cameras were photographing his actions.

Cameras on bikes can be valuable to identify drivers who initiate or commit acts of violence against cyclists. We are especially concerned about hit-and-run drivers who leave the scene of an accident without rendering aid or even notifying authorities. The camera becomes a deterrent to potentially harmful acts when would-be perpetrators know they can be held accountable if pictures are taken of them, their vehicles, and their license plates. While not a guarantee of protection, a camera can be a useful tool for riding safety.

Cameras document events occurring in a crash, particularly where the rider may have fallen and lost consciousness and is unable to recall or describe what happened leading up to the collision. Cameras can identify drivers who buzz riders, pass too closely, and generally menace cyclists on the road. Obtaining the tags and vehicle information from a hit-and-run driver not only holds the driver accountable but may prevent other crashes from occurring.

The Bike Friendly Advocacy Council of The Villages strongly encourages using bike cameras to promote safety.

**Seniors vs. CRIME**



## AVOID BUYING FAKE COVID TESTS ONLINE

According to a recent article written by Colleen Tressler of the FTC's Division of Consumer Business Education, the news is filled with images of long lines at in-person COVID testing sites and reports of limited supplies of at-home test kits. It is no surprise that, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, fake and unauthorized at-home testing kits are popping up online as opportunistic scammers take advantage of the spike in demand.

Tressler warns that using these fake products isn't just a waste of money, it increases your risk of unknowingly spreading COVID-19 or not getting appropriate treatment. So, if you're shopping online for COVID test kits and related items:

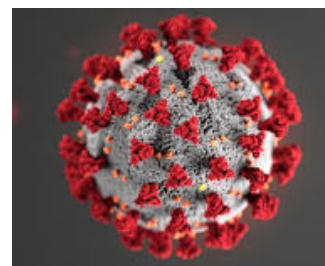
1. **Make sure the test** you are buying is authorized by the FDA. Check the FDA's list of antigen diagnostic tests (<https://fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-disease-2019>) before you buy to find the tests authorized for home use.
2. **Check out the seller** before you buy, especially if you're buying from a site you don't know. Search online for the website, company, seller's name, plus words like "scam", "complaint", "review".
3. **Compare online reviews** from a wide variety of

websites. You can get a good idea about the company, product, or service from reading user reviews on various retail or shopping comparison sites. Think about the source of the review. Ask yourself: Where is this review coming from? Is it from an expert organization or individual customers?

4. **Pay by credit card.** If you're charged for an order you never got, or for a product that is not as advertised, contact your credit card company and **dispute the charge**.

If you suspect a scam seller or bogus test, Tressler encourages you to report it at <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov>. Recently, a Florida man reported to police that he was offered a fake COVID test by someone posing as staff at a legitimate testing site. Police are warning people about potential scammers providing online links asking for personal information.

If you need help with this topic or any other concern, phone numbers and days of operation for Seniors vs. Crime offices in The Villages can be found on our website at <https://seniorsvscrime.com>. You can also check out our Facebook page by searching for Seniors vs. Crime Region 4.



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

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# NEW RESIDENT NIGHT

**FEBRUARY 8 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**EZELL REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER**  
**769 MARILEE PLACE, WILDWOOD/THE VILLAGES**


**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**  
**MARCH 9, 2022**  
**AT LA HACIENDA REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER**

# GOLF CART SAFETY CLINIC



**FEBRUARY 16 @ 9:00 A.M.**  
**@ THE SAVANNAH CENTER**  
1545 BUENA VISTA BLVD, THE VILLAGES, FL 32162

**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: MARCH 16 @ COLONY REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER**

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**M2M: THE VHA MERCHANTS TO MEMBERS DISCOUNT PROGRAM**

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**DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM**

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

**352-973-2284**

OR EMAIL US AT: [VHA.HELPINGHANDS.OFFICEMAIL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:VHA.HELPINGHANDS.OFFICEMAIL@GMAIL.COM)

**WE WILL THEN SCHEDULE YOUR PICK-UP FROM:**

**THE VHA OFFICE**  
**1104 MAIN ST.**  
**SPANISH SPRINGS**  
**MONDAY THRU FRIDAY BETWEEN**  
**11:00 A.M. AND 1:00 P.M.**