

The VHA VOICE

THE VILLAGES HOMEOWNERS ADVOCATES: KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE

The VHA FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

The VHA

The VHA HELPING HANDS

October 2022 • Vol. 28 No. 10



A LAST CHANCE OPPORTUNITY TO GET THE FACTS

The Villages Independent Fire Control and Rescue District

YOU ARE INVITED:

OCTOBER 24, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.

Ezell Regional Recreation Center • 769 Marilee Pl.

ALL VILLAGES RESIDENTS WELCOME

The Villages Homeowners Advocates is offering one more opportunity for Villagers, especially in the Far South area, to be informed about the upcoming vote on November 8th regarding the establishment of The Villages Independent Fire Control and Rescue District. Attendees will not only be educated on the process, cost, logistics, and benefits, but will also be able to ask questions, get answers to any concerns they may have, plus be able to find out, on-the-spot, what the estimated difference in cost will be between what they are currently paying as part of Sumter County's fire district as opposed to the cost for the proposed change to an independent fire district model.

A good-sized crowd attended the first General Meeting at Lake Miona on September 14th that was devoted to this topic. The presentation was well-received and the complexities explained in simple but understandable detail. The VHA President, Phil Walker, welcomed attendees, then turned the rest of the evening over to



District Manager, Kenny Blocker (who gave a brief summary of where we are now and thanked residents for their support), Chief Edmund Cain, and Deputy Chief Jim Goodworth. The PowerPoint presentation, narrated by Deputy Chief Goodworth was informative and comprehensive

It began with a little humor, one of the highlights of the presentation, with one-on-one interviews with residents at one of the Fire Station Open Houses. It was clear that, while most residents want to know what the change is going to cost them in the future, very few have no idea what they are currently paying or even where to find it in their paperwork. It was also obvious, as the evening progressed, that there were still concerns, rumors, and misconceptions that needed to be addressed.

The complete presentation, plus the Annual Assessment Rate Calculator can be found on The District website at www.districtgov.org on the Home Page, left hand side in the Quick Links Box by clicking on "The Villages Independent Fire Control and Rescue District".

YOUR VOTE MATTERS BECAUSE WE WANT: "THE BEST CARE POSSIBLE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BECAUSE TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE".

This journey began when the Sumter County Board of County Commissioners was presented with 10 options to improve Fire/EMS services in Sumter County. Five of those options eliminated the Villages fire department through consolidation with Sumter County Fire Rescue. Some other options included EMS services. There was concern about the ambulance services through AMR, which was being publicized and became a significant concern for The Villages residents. This led to the community voicing their support for maintaining the Villages Public Safety Department and to change EMS transport services. The decision by the Sumter BOCC was to maintain the Villages Public Safety Department with it and the Sumter County Fire Department providing EMS transport for their respective areas. As of October 1, 2022, VPSD will begin EMS transport regardless of the outcome of the Independent Fire District.

Currently, the decision to continue to maintain VPSD and at what funding is decided each year by the Sumter BOCC. The Independent Fire District will place the control of fire and EMS services within The Villages



under a governed Board consisting of five members from The Villages. The first five members will be selected by the Governor after reviewing applications. After this first selection, candidates will be chosen during general elections in staggered terms.

The 191 Fire District is only within the boundaries of the Sumter Section of The Villages. Fire protection will still be provided to the Lake sections under contracts as they are now. Marion County is not effected and will continue with its current county coverage.

Each fire station within The Villages will have an ambulance, and each response unit will include a paramedic. There are currently eight fire stations, about every 2 ½-3 miles distance from each other, with two more planned for the South. A total of nine ambulances will be available soon.

The Villages has a unique population with a higher-than-average number of ambulance transports. They estimate they will eventually have about 10,000 transports/year. In addition, it is vital to have a rapid response to fires since every 30 seconds a fire doubles in size. **"QUICK RESPONSE IS EVERYTHING"** for both fire and rescue.

The main focus of the special fire district within The Villages is so that VPSD can continue to provide the services that residents have come to expect over the years while also allowing us to keep pace with the growth of The Villages.

by Jan Palmer, Editor
Chief Edmund Cain advised and contributed to this article. Thank you!

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President's Message



Hello Villagers!!

What a wonderful time of year as summer turns into fall, as the heat turns into milder temperatures, as we prepare for a multitude of holidays and celebrations, and as we begin to welcome back our seasonal residents.

The VHA Helping Hands durable medical equipment loan program stands ready to assist you. So far this calendar year, we've had the opportunity to loan equipment to over 6000 Villager contacts, which puts us on track to surpass last year's 6200. All of our volunteers enjoy being "neighbors helping neighbors" and take pride in providing this much-needed service. If you are one of our more than 50 volunteers, the Board of Directors wants to sincerely thank you for what you do. You are really making a difference and positively impacting your community!

In case you're new to our service and are wondering what we do and what the process is, it's really very simple: We provide free, temporary loans of durable medical equipment; wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches, transport chairs, and the like (the full list is on our website, <https://www.thevha.net/helping-hands/>). All Villages residents and their guests are eligible to receive this equipment. If you're having a relative or guest visit and they need something, you can request something from us for their short-term visit. And did I mention that this is all *free*?

Just call 352-973-2284 for an equipment reservation.

One of our expert coordinators will discuss your specific needs to make sure you get the correct piece of equipment. Your equipment will then be available for pick-up the next business day (depending upon

the time of day you call; it could be two days later). It will be available for three business days at our office in Spanish Springs at 1104 Main Street, at the back end of the breezeway/walkway next to Kilwins Ice Cream and Fudge. Our office hours are Monday - Friday, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

When you show up to get your equipment, one of our experienced and friendly volunteers will greet you and make sure you get what you ordered. If you're wondering about hygiene safety, all of our equipment, either returns or donations, is fully disinfected before it enters our office. So, the equipment you receive will be safe for you to pick up.

We also accept equipment donations. If you have a serviceable piece of equipment in good condition that you no longer need, and it's one of the items we routinely have in our inventory, we'd be happy to accept a donation. You can see the items we typically carry on our website, or call us to make sure it is something we need. Then, just drop it off during our office hours. **Please do not leave it on the sidewalk after hours.**

Monetary donations to our 501(c)(3) organization are greatly appreciated as we are 100% funded through donations. You can donate via credit card online at our website (<https://www.thevha.net/helping-hands/>), send us a check (made out to Helping Hands and mailed to us at 1104 Main Street, The Villages, FL 32159), or drop off cash at our office.

*Al Arnold
President*



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

VHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Phil Walker, President
Fred Briggs, Past President
Mike Dollard, Treasurer

Karl Arps * Russ D'Emidio
Peter Moeller * Greg Panjian
Vivian Stephens * Chuck Wildzunus

For contact information go to
www.thevha.net

VHA HELPING HANDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mary Inwood * John McDonald
Deborah Hagey * Phil Walker

For contact information go to www.thevha.net Or email
us at: vha.helpinghands.officemail@gmail.com

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.

VHA OFFICE

1104 Main St., Spanish Springs

VHA MAIN PHONE: 352-753-4650

VHA WEBSITE: www.thevha.net

Upcoming EVENTS

OCTOBER
2022

SEE BACK PAGE FOR DETAILS ON MONTHLY VHA PROGRAMS



THE VHA GOLF CART POKER RUN

EVERGLADES REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER

OCTOBER 17 @ 6:00 P.M. (DOORS OPEN AT 5:45 P.M.)

\$5/PERSON 50/50 DRAWING

BIG CASH PRIZES FOR BEST/WORST HANDS

Short Course (All Stops Within 1/2 Mile of Everglades Rec Center)

CONTACT: MikeBurkeVHA@Yahoo.com



THE VILLAGES
HOMEOWNER'S
ADVOCATES

QUARTERLY TOWN HALL MEETING

OCTOBER 18, 2022

The VHA Officers and Neighborhood Representatives will meet with representatives from the Developer, District Government, and local law enforcement to ask questions you submit. The deadline for sending us your questions is TODAY, October 5, 2022. Submit questions to us by: Contacting one of your VHA area representatives listed on Page 2. Using our website email system at www.thevha.net

THE VILLAGES HOMEOWNER'S ADVOCATES

GENERAL MEETING

OCTOBER 24, 7:00 P.M.

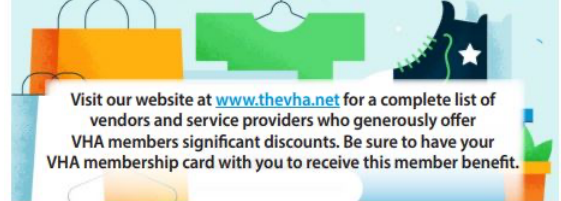
AT EZELL REGIONAL
RECREATION CENTER



Informational meeting regarding the Upcoming Vote to establish The Villages Public Safety Department as an Independent Fire And Rescue District. ALL VILLAGES RESIDENTS ARE INVITED.

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

M2M: THE VHA-MERCHANTS TO MEMBERS DISCOUNT PROGRAM



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

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

Don't wait!

Join now, and be a part of our growing community!



☐ NEW MEMBERSHIP ☐ RENEWAL

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

VILLA/VILLAGE: _____

OTHER ADDRESS IF ANY: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

MAIL TO: THE VHA, 1104 Main St.,
The Villages, FL 32159
OR JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE AT:
WWW.THEVHA.NET

The VHA News & Notes

NORTH AREA



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

Two thoughts this month:

Thought 1: Returning from a morning round of golf at Palmer Legends, I rounded the bend approaching the Buena Vista/Belle Meade roundabout and came across a Marion County fire truck protecting two golf carts who appeared to have sideswiped one another or something. Nobody was visibly injured, but it reminded me of my driver's ed instructor saying, **"Defensive Driving! Assume the other guy is going to make a mistake."** Defensive driving is even more important in a golf cart than in a car. There is no rollover protection; it has a high center of gravity, and it skids easily. Slow down at curves, corners, and any place where visibility is limited.

Thought 2: My wife told me about her trip to Mangrove Executive Golf Course yesterday, where she again marveled at the pristine living environment we have here. The flowers, the greenery, the indoor and outdoor recreational facilities – all are amazing. On my trip today, I took the usual "tunnel to the tunnel". That is, the tunnel of trees alongside Saddlebrook Executive Golf Course leading to the concrete tunnel under CR 466. It is so peaceful and beautiful through there. Thank you to Harold Schwartz and his heirs for keeping the theme of The Villages alive despite the size of our community. I sometimes find it easy to point out this fault or that desired improvement, but I do find it useful to keep in mind what a wonderful place this is.

Karl Arps

KARL ARPS, NORTH VP AND ELLIE DECKER, CENTRAL VP, ARE CO-HOSTING THE FOLLOWING WORKSHOP:

EVENT DETAILS



- Lake Miona Recreation Center
- Tuesday, October 18, 2022
- 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Tired of paying too much for cable television service? Attend this workshop to learn from experts about the evolving marketplace for entertainment alternatives (Netflix, Amazon Prime Video, Hulu and others). Learn what equipment is needed and television/ antenna options.

Open to all VHA members. A current VHA ID card is required for entry, however, there will be a membership table to join at the door to attend the workshop.

CENTRAL AREA



Between 466 and 466A
Ellie Decker, Vice President
ellenmdecker@gmail.com – 913-530-7439

Hi Neighbors,

One of the neatest things about living in Florida is that there is so much life. The Villages wetlands, preserves, and ponds help to support all life, including ours.

My husband and I, along with our neighbors, learned the hard way that cutting or trimming community areas in Florida can lead to big trouble. When we lived in Southwest Florida one of our neighbors, we are not sure who, cut vegetation near the community dock. This cost the whole community in future red tape for other permits and a big fine. Cutting, trimming, polluting, or altering the wetlands, reserves, mangroves and more in Florida is illegal and may result in criminal actions and fines. Special permits are required to change or move them.

Florida is very close to sea level and gets a lot of rain in the summer. Wetlands and ponds help prevent floods, recharge our aquifer, clean the air, support fish and fauna, and help make up the waterscape that attracts visitors and residents. The Florida Wildlife Commission (FWC), which is a law enforcement entity, states, "rain soaks the Florida landscape each year, recharging our aquifers (the source of 92 percent of our human drinking water) and sustaining the flow of our rivers and springs. The Southwest Florida Water Management



District (SWFWMD) also advises we conserve water. The SWFWMD advice is, "stop the leaks, slow the flow, and use water wisely!"

Florida is a beautiful place to live. But don't forget it is a sub-tropical peninsula close to sea level, and therefore has some unique laws when compared to the rest of the continental United States.

Ellie Decker

ellenmdecker@gmail.com
 (email preferred over calls please)

THE VHA BANNER PHOTOGRAPH OF THE VILLAGES WAS TAKEN AT THE VILLAGES POLO GROUNDS BY RONNIE CLARK.

(TO SEE MORE OF HIS WORK, VISIT HIS FB PAGE) THANK YOU RONNIE!

SOUTH AREA



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

Do you have an Apple I Phone? At the start screen (where you put in your password) did you ever notice there is the word "Emergency"? It will be in the lower left part of the screen.

If you tap that, you can put in your name and lots of information that would be great for 1) First Responders, or 2) If you lose your phone. Whoever has it can't get past that point, but if someone finds it, or if you cannot answer in an emergency, it can be extremely important. Go, take a minute, and fill it out. Have an Android phone? I am clueless, but it probably has a similar feature.

On the topic of cell phones, a great app to get is the Sumter County Sheriffs. It is free – go to the App store on your phone, type in Sumter County Sheriffs, and download the app. There is lots of info on various current scams (computer, phone etc.) that are going on in the area. And, just in case you have not seen an old friend for a while, they list all the jail inmates with booking photos. The county jail must be great because that is a busy place. Me – I will stick to Aruba.

November 5 at the Eisenhower Recreation Center is Government Day from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. This is a superb chance to meet with government leaders.

Do you ever read the blogs for the The Villages area? While there is plenty of information, much of it is less than reliable. Recently, someone posted they heard there was a 700% increase in car thefts. Strange, because at the CDD meeting the sheriff's representative (Lt. Siemers) brought up car thefts for the last quarter. There was ONE car stolen in The Villages. One. I just don't think that is 700%. By the way, the car that was stolen was left a) outside, b) unlocked, and c) with the keys in it. That does not take much of a thief.

Ahh, election season is here he said reaching for the aspirin. OK, really, I do like politics, but only if you stick to the facts. Before the primaries, and now for a state level seat, there was/is a candidate who promises to 'roll back' the 25% tax hike of a few years ago by increasing highway impact fees. I have written about this before – that is illegal. If you raise a special purpose tax it must be kept in trust for that purpose and that purpose only. In Sumter County the road impact tax is what is in T

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

153 if you want to look at the county financials on the internet. If you plan to cut my general property taxes by using a restricted trust fund, then you are someone that has no idea of the real world and should just stay home and watch television.

Courtesy of a Don Wiley flyover I learned that there is a new newsletter for villagers called ResidentReport.com. It is a weekly email newsletter, and you can subscribe at that address note that the word Resident is singular.

Mike Dollard

Thank you to mike for continuing to contribute his column in addition to his duties as our new treasurer. We hope to find a qualified replacement for him as the south area vice president soon. Please contact him if you are interested in serving the villages community in that capacity.

FAR SOUTH AREA



South of SR44
Dave Fountaine, Vice President
dfountaine7205@gmail.com
- 716-241-1460

We were fortunate to receive a great presentation from the District government about landscaping in the Villages recently. Many of us are from other areas of the country and are unfamiliar with the specific landscaping needs that our lawns and gardens have here in Florida. If you are having any problems with your yard, you might consider attending one of the free plant clinics that occur twice a week in The Villages (every Monday and Friday). Contact The Villages Florida Native Plant Society for more information at

www.thevillages.fnpschapters.org

Our neighborhood representatives continue to grow and engage with their neighbors here in the Far South area! We now have 21 neighborhood representatives for our area. These wonderful volunteers are available to help find the right people/departments for questions/concerns their neighbors have.

John Kerrigan is a great representative for those of you living in Hammock at Fenny. John administers a Facebook page for his fellow village residents and is often seen at the many local garage parties including ones he has hosted at his house to meet and greet his neighbors and engage with them. Hats off to John for being so proactive in spreading the word about The VHA and offering assistance to his neighbors! If you're unsure who your VHA Neighborhood representative is, please visit The VHA website and find your local representative under the Member tab <https://www.thevha.net/neighborhood-rep-lookup/>

As we continue to prepare for an important vote regarding the formation of an Independent Fire and Rescue District, I hope you'll seek out whatever information you need to help you decide how you'll vote. You have another great

opportunity to obtain factual information by attending our October 24th program which will be held at Ezell Recreation Center. Homeowners will be able to obtain an estimated financial impact on their residence from 6:00 -7:00 p.m. An informational program will then be held from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Homeowners are then welcomed to continue to seek individual financial information after the conclusion of the informational presentation. The financial information program will be held in a separate room to minimize any distraction from the informational program. Please consider attending if you're still seeking information regarding this important topic.

Dave Fountaine

LADY LAKE



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

NOT TOO SCARY HALLOWEEN PARTY

The Town of Lady Lake will again host their annual "Not Too Scary Halloween Party" on Saturday October 22nd from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Guava Street Athletic Complex on the junior field next to the Lady Lake Library. **This is a free event.** There will be food and games and a good time to be had for grandparents, parents, children and grandchildren.

Lady Lake Library: Back by popular demand: The Lady Lake Library and Coping with Dementia LLC are offering free "ABC's of Dementia" workshops in room 204 at 225 W. Guava Street, Lady Lake Library on Wednesday, Oct 19th; Monday, Nov 7th; Monday, Nov 28th; and Friday, Dec 16th from 10 a.m - noon.

This workshop explains Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia in plain language, suggests techniques for becoming a better care partner, and provides useful resources to families living with dementia members. Everyone is welcome, including persons with dementia. While the workshops are free, reservations are encouraged. For more information or to reserve seats for any of the workshops, call 352-422-3663 or email deb@coping.today.

Have a Happy Fall!
Lynn Davis



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

The VHA Foundation Committee News



The VHA Foundation Committee recently presented a grant of \$1,000 to Andy Hendricks, a resident of the Village of Poinciana, for the benefit of the Shared Harvest Community Gardens in nearby Lady Lake. This 100% volunteer garden located off Rolling Acres Rd. will use the grant to purchase pressure-treated lumber to replace the frames on their 20+ years-old raised beds used to grow seedlings.

Presenting the check are: Peter Russell, Executive Vice President of the Villages Homeowners Advocates (VHA), Gary Frigiola, VHA Foundation Committee member and Far South Assistant Vice President, Peggy Fiore, Chair, VHA Foundation Committee, Andy Hendricks of Shared Harvest Gardens, and Carol Duggan, VHA Foundation Committee member.

SHINE Offers Medicare Help



SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) is increasing its counseling sites considerably during the **Medicare Open Enrollment Period, October 15 - December 7** so that enrollees can be assisted with 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:

- Lake Miona Recreation Center, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. every Tuesday Oct 11 through Dec 13 including Nov 22.
- Eisenhower rec center, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. every Wednesday Oct 5 through Dec 14 except Nov 23.
- Chula Vista rec center, 3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. every Friday Oct 7 through Dec 16 except Nov 25
- Lady Lake Library, 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Wednesdays Oct 12, 19, 26, Nov 2, 9, 16, 30 and Dec 14.

"Understanding Medicare", a group presentation geared toward those turning 65, will be made from 1:00 -3:00 p.m. at Aviary Recreation Center on Wednesdays, Oct 12, Nov 9, and Dec 14.

For more information, sign onto floridashine.org or call 800-963-5337.



GOLF CART LANES

One of the many benefits of living in The Villages is the hundreds of miles of golf cart lanes and multi-modal paths. This enables our golf carts to become a major form of transportation. We can use them to go to the bank, grocery shopping, out to dinner, or even go to the doctor's office.

Many of the roadways in The Villages are divided into a vehicular lane and a golf cart lane, similar to a 4-lane highway. As with lanes on a multi-lane highway, golf cart lanes merge into vehicular lanes and split from vehicular lanes. Additionally, there are turn lanes placed at some intersections.

When driving your golf cart, you will have to sometimes merge into the vehicular lane of traffic when the golf cart lane is ending or you need to make a left turn. Doing this safely is very similar to changing lanes in your car. Use your turn signals to indicate your intention, check your mirrors for other vehicles behind you, and turn your head to check any blind spots. Additionally, when in

your golf cart, it is recommended to use hand signals and if possible, make eye contact with approaching drivers.

Like a standard highway, when the golf cart lane is ending, you can move into the vehicular lane when it is safe to do so. You do not have to wait until the lane ends to merge. When making a left turn, make sure you merge into the vehicular lane before the intersection and then make the left turn from the vehicular lane. **Do not make a left turn from the golf cart lane.** You can, however make a right turn from the golf cart lane. Remember to always watch for automobiles turning right and crossing the golf cart lane. When driving your golf cart, always stay alert and drive defensively.

You can learn more about golf cart safety at the monthly clinic sponsored by The VHA. They are held at 9:00 a.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. Go to the VHA website (<https://www.thevha.net/>) or send an email to cartsafe@cullipher.us for more information.

by Mike Cullipher,
The VHA Golf Cart Safety Instructor

UTILITY SCAMS



You are pretty sure you paid that bill but the caller is adamant – your account is overdue and if you don't pay immediately, your power (or your gas) is going to be shut off! That's the last thing you need, right? That's exactly how the scammers want you to think!

Scammers will time their calls during peak seasons – the middle of winter or when it's really hot outside which means from May to at least October in Florida.

A fake utility worker might also seek payment up front to repair or replace a meter or other device, or solicit personal information in the name of signing you up for some government program that will reduce your utility bills.

Other cons include calling and saying you "overpaid" and they need your bank account information or credit card number to make a "refund." Or, showing up and saying they are there to do an "energy audit" when in fact, they are going to try to get your personal information to commit identity theft.

Warning Signs you should be aware of:

- Any unscheduled or unsolicited call or visit from someone claiming to represent your power company or water utility –
- Threats to cut off your service unless an overdue bill or maintenance cost is paid immediately.
- A demand for payment by wire transfer, bitcoin or prepaid gift cards. (NOTE: Any demand for payment using a gift card is automatically a SCAM and there are no exceptions to this rule.)
- Any payment showing on a credit card or bank statements for utility accounts you did not open.

Some Do's:

- Do call the utility at the customer service number

noted on your bill or off the utility's website – do not use any number provided to you by the caller.

- Do know that the utilities will not ask for your personal or financial information over the phone and they do not cut off your service without considerable advance notice.
- Do ask questions of anyone calling you or coming to your door on supposed utility business such as their employee identification number, or the date and the amount of your most recent payment.
- Do notify the utility you have been approached by an imposter and warn your friends and neighbors.

Some DON'TS:

- Don't provide personal or financial information to any caller or visitor you don't know.
- Don't let a supposed utility employee in your home unless you have scheduled an appointment or reported a problem – even then, check their identification.
- Don't click on any links in a utility-related email or text message unless you are certain it is from your utility.

Need assistance?

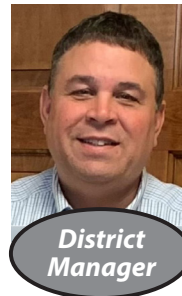
Seniors vs. Crime is here to help you.

- **Sumter Office – Open Mon. - Thurs.;**
10 a.m.-2 p.m. @ 352-689-4600 X 4606
- **Wildwood Office – Open Tue. – Thur.;**
10 a.m. – 1 p.m. @ 352-753-0727
- **Marion Office – Open Tue.;**
10 a.m.-2 p.m. @ 352-753-7775
- **Fruitland Park Office – Open Wed.;**
10 a.m.-2 p.m. @ 352-674-1882

File an online complaint at
www.seniorsvscrime.com

The Villages
Community Development Districts

DISTRICT INFORMATION



District
Manager

by Kenny Blocker, District Manager

Thank you to everyone who has reached out to learn more about The Villages Independent Fire Control & Rescue District.

You can now access the Fire District Assessment Rate Calculator by going to the Districtgov.org website and under Quick Links, click on The Villages Independent Fire Control and Rescue District. Located under the photo of **You Decide on Nov. 8th**, click on the Fire District Assessment Rate Calculator and follow the instructions. This simple search will provide the estimated amount, based on the best available data, you will be paying on your tax bill if the Independent Fire District is approved by the voters on November 8, 2022. If you have any questions, please call the District Office at 352-753-4508.

Also, we are excited to announce that we will be having Government Day this year.

After two years of not gathering for this exciting annual event, I am pleased to invite you to celebrate our 25th Annual Government Day! In keeping with our theme of **Local Government in Action...Working to Serve Your Hometown**, your local government agencies will provide information about the services they provide to the community in Lake, Marion, and Sumter Counties. With this being our first Government Day in two years and celebrating 25 amazing events, I know your local government agencies are excited to see you again!

While we look forward to your attendance, please note that this event is not intended to be used for political campaigning. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring this is a positive experience for everyone!



This year, Government Day will be held on Saturday, November 5, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Eisenhower Regional Recreation Complex located at 3560 Buena Vista Boulevard in The Villages. Eisenhower is located just north of SR44, making it the perfect location for Government Day.

I hope we can count on you to take part in this great event and celebration of 25 years!

A TIMELY REMINDER FROM THE DISTRICT WEBSITE:

POLITICAL SIGNS RULES

For information on displaying signage at your residence, please refer to your Declaration of Restrictions or contact Community Standards at 352-751-3912.

Signs may not be placed on, against, implanted, or affixed to the interior or exterior of District property. Signs placed on District property will be removed and the District is not liable for the return of removed signs.

No political campaign signs, flyers or related documents are to be posted on District bulletin boards and, if discovered, will be removed immediately.

Signs may be held by Candidates or their supporters. Signs may be affixed to golf carts or Low-Speed Vehicles.



WEEDING AND READING: BOOKS ON THE MOVE

The Friends of The Villages Library, Inc. (FOVL) is an All-Volunteer 501(c)(3) Florida NOT-FOR-PROFIT with nearly 170 Volunteers at the Belvedere and Pinellas Branches of The Villages Public Library. Since 2003, we have returned over \$600,000 to our Sumter County Community, selling used books - \$1 for Hardcover, 50c for Softcovers. Just imagine how many books we saved from being destroyed or buried in landfills!

According to Sumter County Library Policy, weeded library materials from their collection, judged to have resale value, shall be given to the Friends of the Villages Library. Material which is deemed unsuitable for sale shall be recycled or discarded.

PROMOTE LITERACY
& RECYCLE BOOKS
We find new homes for
your old friends.

Donations to the library by the Public are not automatically added to the library's collection. The County only accepts donations with the understanding that they may handle them in whatever way best suits the purpose or goals of the County, and may dispose of them at any time according to the guidelines set forth in the County weeding policy.

All Material given to the FOVL is reevaluated by Volunteers for resale. Poor quality or damaged materials are recycled or discarded. Non-Fiction books are scanned by volunteers and high value books offered for sale online. Volunteers shelve the remaining material in our Bookrooms for Sale. Slow-moving materials are included in our bi-monthly FOVL Overstock Sales. Remainders from Overstock Sales are offered to other non-profit organizations or discarded per County policy.

In addition to our work with books, in the past three years alone we have given over \$50,000 to local elementary schools for reading programs, over \$70,000 in college scholarships to graduating high school students, and nearly \$100,000 to the Sumter County Library for online children's eBooks plus virtual & in-library programs. We Save Books & Change Lives by Helping Kids Read to Succeed.

NEXT BOOK SALE:

Pinellas Library, 7375 Powell Rd. at 466A

October 15 from
9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
\$1 Hardcover, 50c Softcover,
\$1 Single CDs & DVDs)

October 17 from
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
\$3 you fill our bag,
\$4 pick & fill a box.

Marilyn Ivison, President
Friends of The Villages Library
www.FriendsVillagesLibrary.com



Wednesday, October 26, 2022; 10:00 a.m. - Noon

How To Choose the Best Assisted Living

The issue of selecting an assisted living facility for yourself or someone you care for is an extremely important topic. Our public seminar series is providing a session focused totally on tips and techniques to consider when facing this task.

The session will be conducted by Rhonda Hardy, author of "How to Choose the Best Assisted Living".

There is no fee. Please register by Monday, October 24th by contacting the AMAC Foundation office via email at info@AmacFoundation.org

GETTING TO KNOW OUR LEADERS

BIKE • FRIENDLY • COMMUNITY • CORNER

Diana Mirkin is the Chairperson of the Bicycle Friendly Advocacy Council. She was born in Singapore

where her father, a famous British scientist, was a professor at Raffles University. Her mother, brother, and Diana were evacuated when the Japanese invaded. They forced her father into slave labor where he died along with many others. Diana's mother raised the two children in Southern California. Diana attended Vassar University and earned a master's degree. She is an architect who was instrumental in the design of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge across the Potomac. She is a chef and author. She hosted a radio program with her husband, Dr. Gabe Mirkin. They have been tandem bicyclists for decades. They were leaders in the DC cycling community and remain active in their Villages retirement. Both Diana and Gabe are Certified League Cycling Instructors.

Bob Thompson retired from an executive career in manufacturing and moved to Weston, FL in 1995. Bob and Jan decided that maintaining two single bicycles was more trouble than riding a tandem. Bob was Secretary and Touring Director of South Broward Wheelers Bicycle Club; President of Broward County Bicycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, which received the Florida DOT award as best BPAC in Florida; Vice President of The Village Bicycle Club in 2007, and; Founding member and President of the PANTHERS Tandem Club, Inc. in 2009. He is a League Cycling Instructor. He and Jan have enjoyed many years touring France, Vermont, Key West, Shenandoah Valley, Vail Pass and Grand Lake in Colorado. They enjoy riding with many tandem friends in The Villages. Bob invented the first carbon fiber belt drive for a tandem using a Gates belt to replace the timing chain in 2003. His most recent hobby is converting pedal bikes to e-bikes

Dave Lawrence ended one story and began another in The Villages. After 28 years of state service, Dave retired as Rhode Island Deputy Treasurer. He and his wife, Deni, purchased a home in the Village of Largo, closing on February 2, 2007...Yup, Groundhog and Tornado day.

Dave joined the Sumter Landing Bicycle Club and became "Safety Officer." Florida State law, the Florida Bicycle Association, and the League of American Bicyclists proved rich sources of law, data, and history, which helped him as President of the SLBC. Dave is a League Cycling Instructor who teaches cycling skills and safety to adults and children. He is the Safety Director for the Villages Bicycle Friendly Advisory Council. He is coordinator for the Sumter County Sheriff's Annual Bicycle Campaign which donates nearly 400 bikes to local kids each Christmas.



THE FOLLOWING SMART DRIVER
"IN PERSON" CLASSES WILL BE
AVAILABLE OCTOBER 2022.
PLEASE CONTACT THE NUMBER
LISTED.



| OCTOBER 2022 | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|----------|-----|----------|------|----------------|
| October | | | | | | | October |
| Paul Scannell | 352-399-6414 | 9:00 - 12:00 | 10/04/22 | Tue | 10/05/22 | Wed | Colony Cottage |
| Jack Haughn | 352-603-1420 | 9:00 - 12:00 | 10/11/22 | Tue | 10/14/22 | Fri | Laurel Manor |
| Jack Haughn | 352-603-1420 | 9:00 - 12:00 | 10/15/22 | Sat | 10/22/22 | Sat | Paradise |
| Don Walker | 352-430-0610 | 9:00 - 12:00 | 10/17/22 | Mon | 10/20/22 | Thur | Savannah |
| Jack Haughn | 352-603-1420 | 9:00 - 12:00 | 10/25/22 | Tue | 10/26/22 | Wed | Rohan |

AARP Smart DriverTEK - Girls Night Out Workshop

Wed., October 19th at 7:00 p.m.

Registration link: <https://events.aarp.org/YX1qBY>

Zoom link and password will be sent by email

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



Members ▾ The Voice ▾ Events Volunteers

HELPING HANDS



NEW RESIDENT NIGHT

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022 • 7:00 p.m.

COLONY COTTAGE REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER
510 Colony Blvd/466A @ Morse Blvd.

PRESENTERS MAY INCLUDE, AND INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM:

- **Honorable Paul Militello,
Sumter County Judge**
- **Sumter County Sheriff's Office
& other local law enforcement**
- **Sumter County Property Appraiser**
- **Sumter County Tax Collector**
- **Sumter County Clerk**
- **District Government**
- **Serving Health Ins.
Needs of Elders (SHINE)**
- **Veteran Services**
- **Seniors vs. Crime**
- **UF HealthThe Villages
Regional Hospital Auxiliary**
- **SECO**
- **Sumter Landing Bicycle Club**
- **Community Emergency
Response Team (CERT)**
- **Friends of the Library**
- **The Enrichment Academy**
- **Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches**
- **The VHA – The Villages
Homeowners Advocates**
- **The VHA Helping Hands**

**NEXT NEW RESIDENT NIGHT WILL BE:
NOVEMBER 8 AT EZELL REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER**

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.



GOLF CART SAFETY CLINIC

OCTOBER 19 @ 9:00 A.M.
WATER LILY
RECREATION CENTER
 4710 Marsh Bend Trail, The
 Villages/Wildwood

CLINIC TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Not a Toy • Golf Cars & LSV • Golf Cars vs. Others • Tunnels
- Intersections • Passing & Road Crossings • Bridges • Turns • Circles (Roundabouts) • Parallel Parking
- Pulling into a Parking Space
- Sharing Parking with Cars • No Parking Zones • Insurance • Legal concerns • Maintenance •

No pre-registration required

VISIT WWW.THEVHA.NET FOR MORE DETAILS

GOLF CART SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH: TIRE PRESSURE CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN YOUR CART'S PERFORMANCE. CHECK IT REGULARLY.

NEXT MONTH: NOVEMBER 16 @ COLONY COTTAGE



DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM

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

352-973-2284

**WE WILL THEN SCHEDULE YOUR PICK-UP FROM:
THE VHA OFFICE
1104 MAIN ST.
SPANISH SPRINGS
MONDAY THRU FRIDAY BETWEEN
11:00 A.M. AND 1:00 P.M.**