

# YOU ARE INVITED!

FEBRUARY 13, 2021@6:30 P.M.



VIRTUAL LIVE STREAM
WITH ONLINE SILENT
AUCTION, REMOTE
HOUSE PARTIES,
EXPERT SPEAKERS,
PANEL DISCUSSIONS
AND LIVE
ENTERTAINMENT.



MORE DETAILS ON THE BACK PAGE!

DON'T MISS THIS FUN EVENT!

# The VHA Quarterly Town Hall Meeting Report for January 2021

The VHA wants to thank the following people for providing answers to questions from our members and Villages residents for The VHA Quarterly Town Hall meeting: Dr. Gary Lester – Vice President Community Relations, and Richard Baier – The Villages District Manager. Please note: The VHA welcomes your questions for community leaders to address. The next VHA Town Hall Meeting will be held in April. Questions may be sent to The VHA at any time at <a href="https://www.thevha.net">www.thevha.net</a> or use the Contact Form in this issue of The Voice and either mail it to us, or deposit it in The VHA mailbox which is available at all neighborhood postal stations.

1. VHA members and Villages residents sent in many questions for the January VHA Town Hall related to the distribution of the Covid-19 vaccine. Answers were provided ahead of The VHA Town Hall in the Wednesday January 13, 2021 issue of The Villages Daily Sun.



"Sign up for a vaccine at sumterfl.saferestart.net. Do not add www to the URL, as it can result in a security warning. Though you will not be charged, the form will ask for insurance information and Social Security numbers, which the company needs for its own reimbursement purposes and to verify identity ahead of time. Anyone who does not feel comfortable entering the SSN can type in all 0s and give the information when they get to the site.

The process to get an appointment is two steps. After registering, people should watch for an email from GMR (Global Medical Response) that will have a code to make the appointment. Going back to the website for scheduling is required to get an official appointment.

Continued on page 3

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he Power of the Sun. Oh, it feels so good on these cold winter mornings. It brightens our days and makes things grow. It gets us out and enjoying all that we have here in The Villages.

That is not the sun I wish to start my article about today. I wish to thank The Villages Daily Sun, our local newspaper. I am speaking about an article featuring one

of our Helping Hands volunteers, Laura Lindsey, and reported by Andrea Davis, a Daily Sun staff writer, back in January. During a time when many of us poke fun and sometimes disgust at different types of media, that article captured what The VHA Helping Hands does better than I have ever done. Thank you, Laura, all the volunteers of Helping Hands, and yes, thank you Daily Sun for all that you do in "Keeping the Dream Alive".

Helping Hands ended 2020 having completed just shy of 5,000 transactions in our effort to loan Durable Medical Equipment (DME) at no cost to The Villages residents and their guests. We currently have over 900 pieces of equipment sanitized and available for residents thanks to financial and equipment donations by our residents. The VHA website gives a list of equipment available at www. theyha.net We offer the following based on the needs of our residents:

• For our residents, the phone line remains open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday. The equipment request line is (352) 973-2284. Please leave a message if we fail to answer. We will return your call.

• We now have an email address for those wishing to use email rather than call in your request: vha.helpinghands.officemail@gmail.com.

When using the email service, please include your name, phone number, and what equipment you are requesting. We will respond to your request by phone within 24 hours.

- Requested or returning equipment can be picked up or dropped off at our office Monday thru Friday between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
- All residents and staff will have their temperature checked and must wear masks while conducting transactions.
- All returned equipment must remain outside until it is sanitized by our office staff. If possible, please have your ticket number or copy of your receipt when returning equipment to expedite the return process.
- Our location is 1104 Main Street, just half a block from the Spanish Springs Town Square in the breezeway next to Kilwin's Ice Cream, Fudge and Chocolates.

I believe these simple procedures will keep both the residents and volunteers safe and our program open.

We can always use more volunteers. If you are interested in joining our team contact us at (352) 973-2284 or vha.helpinghands.officemail@gmail.com.

VHA Helping Hands is a not-for-profit corporation (501 c3) recognized by the laws of the state of Florida.

> God Bless, stay safe, and thanks for the opportunity to serve, Bill Gottschalk President The VHA Helping Hands, Inc.

#### THE VHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS **MEMBERS**

Phil Walker, President Fred Briggs, Past President John Conboy, Treasurer

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For contact information go to www.thevha.net

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

Continued from page 1

GMR will schedule appointments as it gets more vaccines, so anyone who signed up and hasn't received an email yet about scheduling shouldn't worry..."

Additional information from GRM is provided at <a href="mailto:sumtercovid19@gmr.net">sumtercovid19@gmr.net</a>

- 2. Members and residents are asking the following questions related to changes by the Board of Supervisors in CDD 7 and the impact on the other Districts:
- a. Who will pay for the attorney hired by CDD 7?

**Richard Baier:** VCCD 7's attorney fees as selected/ negotiated by the Board of Supervisors is paid for out of VCCD 7 funds.

b. If CDD 7 leaves PWAC and an event such as a sinkhole occurs in CDD 7, who is responsible for the cost of the repairs?

**Richard Baier:** The benefits of Project Wide fund (PWAC Membership) are many and include all Districts sharing in the maintenance and in repair costs associated with natural disasters to common infrastructure such as geographic anomalies etc. A District that is not a part of Project Wide is responsible for their own costs for operation and maintenance of infrastructure.

c. If CDD 7 leaves PWAC, will CDD 5, 6, 8-13+ have to contribute more?

**Richard Baier:** The analysis is yet to be completed as VCCD 7 is still a part of Project Wide per the agreement approved in August of 2019.

- **3.** The new trash collection program has generated the following questions:
- a. Why has the cost of trash collections increased after removing the extra pickup for yard waste and the elimination of transport to recycling plant?

**Richard Baier:** The cost of sanitation services increased due to:

\*Long term solid waste plan introduced a single stream disposal to the waste to energy plant instead of utilizing the less expensive land fill disposal. In an effort to reduce the long-haul transport to Georgia and be cognizant of the environment, a different disposal method was selected.

\*As part of the plan, bond covenants had to be addressed to ensure NSCUDD was meeting all required debt coverages for their bonds.

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

\*The same amount of waste is still being picked up from customers and there is still transport to the waste to energy plant.

# b. What are the results of impact from the new trash program?

**Richard Baier:** The impact of the new sanitation program has been very positive and more predictable for cost as opposed to the previous recycling program which fluctuated with market conditions.

**c.** There is a rumor that a cardboard recycling plant may open near Tampa. If built, would recycling of cardboard be added to trash collections?

**Richard Baier:** Cardboard would continue to be incorporated in our current plan as it would not be advantageous to carve out one line to recycle. Waste Management, our previous recycling provider, would not agree to any carve outs. Independent of that, the current program is recycling the cardboard and all recyclables into electricity.

3. Please explain the absence of a concrete ribbon on the sides of the multi-modal paths south of SR 44. In addition to the aesthetic value, they create a safety feature, especially at night.

**Dr. Lester:** As the new neighborhoods have a more rural country look, the current path design is a better fit aesthetically.

4. Can trash cans be placed along multi-modal paths for pet walkers who must carry fecal waste bags long distances?

Richard Baier: Trash receptacle placement is not designed to facilitate the disposal of pet waste. The District Janitorial Contracts do not include provisions for disposal of biological waste in District trash receptacles. Further, depositing pet waste into trash receptacles are one of the most common occurrences of drawing rats to the waste receptacles. Pet owners are responsible for proper handling and disposal of pet waste within their home trash receptacles.

5. Can the cleaning schedule for Paradise Park and the multi-modal bridge over Hwy 441/27 be increased?

**Richard Baier:** Changes to the cleaning schedules would require modifications to current contract frequencies resulting in increased annual costs for those services. Changes to the contract would need to be at the direction of the appropriate District Board. To date there has been no indication of a need for increased service for this bridge or Paradise Park.





All Villages Residents are Invited to attend. Watch next month's edition of the voice for more details.



# IN THE WORKS FOR MARCH FOR THE FAR SOUTH AREA:

A POKER RUN AT FENNEY open to VHA members and non-members. Watch next month's issue of The Voice for details.

A VIRTUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE which would occur over a 30-day period, played on a specific executive golf course from specified tee boxes. You do not have to be a VHA member to participate, but entry fees differ for members and non-members It is easy to join (see Page 5 of this edition of The Voice).

Score cards will be accepted based on the honor system.

Contact: mikeburkevha@yahoo.com with questions, or to volunteer to help with these events.

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR MORE VHA EVENTS TO RESUME IN 2021:

COUNTRY WESTERN HOEDOWN • EVENING WITH THE DEVELOPER • BINGO

# THE VHA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

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For contact information go to <a href="https://www.thevha.net">www.thevha.net</a>
Or email us at: VHACF@THEVHA.NET



All AARP sponsored in-person events and activities are CANCELLED at this time, including AARP Driver Safety

classes. On-line classes are available.

Smart Driver On-Line Course Advantages: Not only is our course simple and hassle-free, it also offers many advantages.

- A self-paced format for flexible learning
- Unlimited 24/7 course access learn when and where you want
- Customized to your state's traffic laws

For information and to register, go to:

https://www.aarpdriversafety.org/



#### <u>NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNINGS – SELF-CARE TIME</u> February 17, 2021 @ 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

We all faced many difficult challenges in 2020, and we all entered 2021 looking forward to a New Year and what it might bring. While we're still early in the year, we're providing a seminar that will provide tools to assist in your personal journey as 2021 unfolds. The material presented will focus on the theme of "taking better care of yourself so that you can take care of business."

We're pleased to once again welcome our friends at VITAS Health Care, who will share an exciting array of thoughts and ideas to help you improve your outlook for the months ahead! This program will be presented free of charge as an online webinar; to register. simply call the AMAC Foundation office at 888-750-2622 or email us at <a href="mailto:info@AmacFoundation.org">info@AmacFoundation.org</a> and we'll sign you up!

## **HEART HEALTH**

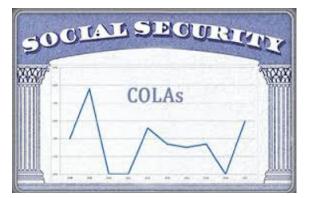
## February 24, 2021 @ 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

In February we celebrate love.... especially for the motor inside of you. February also is celebrated as American Heart Month, so as we wrap up the month, we'd like to leave you with some helpful information that can pave the way for better heart health going forward. This fun and interactive seminar will give you a better understanding of how to care for your heart, and will cover common heart diseases and healthy routines that will help you keep your heart stronger for yourself and the ones you love!

The seminar will focus on a variety of heart-related topics, including discussions on congestive heart failure, dealing with hypertension, and managing cholesterol. The overall theme will explore several ways to keep your heart healthy both physically and emotionally.

We're pleased to once again welcome our friends at VITAS Health Care, who will share their enormous knowledge and expertise in this critical area. This program will be presented free of charge as an online webinar; to register. simply call the AMAC Foundation office at 888-750-2622 or email us at <a href="mailto:info@AmacFoundation.org">info@AmacFoundation.org</a> and we'll sign you up!

# Social Security's COLA Provision — What Does the Future Look Like?



anuary 2021 brought Seniors a Social Security benefit increase of 1.3%, a drop of about 18% from 2020 and only about a third of the average increase since the COLA process began in 1975. In terms of dollars, the 1.3% translated to an average monthly increase of about \$20, an amount that is pared down for many folks by their Medicare Part B premium increase

Social Security's COLA uses the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical

Workers (CPI-W), measuring changes in the pricing of consumer goods and services purchased by households. CPI-W is referred to in some quarters as a "blue-collar measure," since it measures spending patterns of urban households that derive more than one-half of the household's income from clerical or wage occupations.

While the increase was certainly welcomed, it once again triggers concerns about COLA's inability to keep benefits from losing ground to inflation. It's generally felt that the COLA process does not sufficiently weigh the costs most important to seniors; predominantly, housing and medical expenses.

Given the disconnect between COLA's current math and the economic realities facing Seniors, many eyes are turned to the use of a revised measurement, CPI-E, where "E" stands for elderly. Under CPI-E, spending areas more common to Seniors are given more weight. In fact, the Biden presidential campaign platform advocated for CPI-E, and it may be likely that the issue will be a factor in Social Security reform discussions in the 117th Congress.

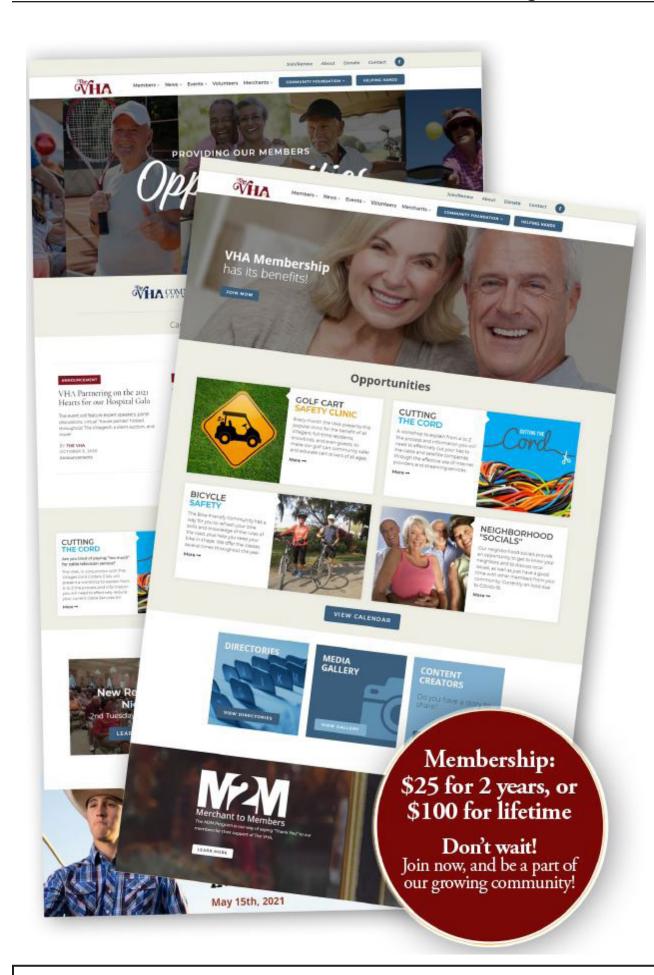
The AMAC Social Security Guarantee will potentially play a role in shaping the future of COLAs, advocating a tiered approach in which annual adjustments are certain and are tied to household earnings in a structure that guarantees annual benefits for all while solving the Social Security solvency problem. Check out AMAC's plan at <a href="https://www.AMAC.us/social-security">www.AMAC.us/social-security</a>.



By Gerry Hafer AMAC Inc. Senior Contributing Writer

PICKLES by Brian Crane







Please use the form below to contact us. Mail it to:

The VHA, 1104 Main St., The Villages, FL 32159 Or use the VHA Deposit Box available at every postal station.



For Membership:

Make checks payable to

The Villages Homeowners Advocates.

You may also renew online by credit card via our website www.thevha.net

- $\square$  **Membership:**  $\square$  New  $\square$  Renewal
  - ☐ \$25/Household for 2 years
  - □ \$100/Household for Lifetime
- **☐ Town Hall Question**
- ☐ I Would Like to Volunteer
- **□** Other

NAME/NAMES OF ALL IN HOUSEHOLD:\_\_

ADDRESS:

NAME OF VILLAGE/VILLA:\_

E-MAIL:

PHONE: \_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS

(IF DIFFERENT THAN THE VILLAGES):\_

QUESTION/COMMENT

(ATTACH TO ADDITIONAL PAPER IF NEEDED):



MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS REWARDS...JOIN TODAY



#### **NORTH AREA**

#### North of 466 Jan Palmer – Editor of The Voice



The North Area is where we usually head if we are going out for an evening of fun or shopping. The main attraction for us, besides several of our favorite restaurants at the Square and along 441, is the bowling alleys. Nowhere else in The Villages are there opportunities for us to bowl, and it is our favorite physical activity. Despite the pandemic, it seems bowlers are

a hardy bunch, because leagues are still up and running, and we have returned to fist bumping and high fives. There are a variety of leagues for all levels of skill; from sanctioned leagues where bowling over 200 is a regular occurrence, to "Bad Bowlers" leagues where they use ninepin no-tap for strikes. Open bowling specials, including features such as pizza, hotdogs, and rent-by-the-hour alleys, make it an inexpensive and fun way to spend time with the grandkids, too.

We are looking forward to the opening of the movie theaters, and especially the Rialto at Spanish Springs. We were able to see the new Liam Neeson movie, "Marksman" last week, because the AMAC theater in Leesburg at the mall is open. And believe me, social distancing was not a problem. We were with four other people in the whole theater, but it sure was nice to be able to go out for a movie.

NEW RESIDENT TIP: When we first moved here, we appreciated The VHA's New Resident Night and Golf Cart Safety Clinic. But we still had a lot to learn and many questions that needed answers. So we were happy when we discovered this great website for all things "Villages"; Talk of The Villages. It has info about The Villages in general, demographics, what to



### www.TalkOfTheVillages.com

consider when relocating, forums for polite discussions, Classifieds, all you need to know about golf, ratings for businesses and contractors, up-to-date Entertainment Schedules, and much more. It is a good resource, and goes beyond what the District website offers. BTW: If you want to know more about the "Historic District" vs. the Spanish Springs area, there's a forum thread explaining that distinction, including some history and why some areas in the North Area are so desirable. Have fun exploring!

Jan Palmer Editor, The VHA Voice

#### **CENTRAL AREA**

Between 466 and 466A John Dean, Vice President vhajohndean@gmail.com — 207-557-0371



Greetings!

As I was beginning to put together this month's article, the January Voice arrived. Inside was a great piece written by our Past President, Fred Briggs. If you have not read it, you should. However, he unknowingly hijacked what I was going to write about this month. In a portion of Fred's

piece, he wrote about our Value Proposition. These items are opportunities that add value to being a member. They are worth repeating:

- Communication Opportunities Providing civil discourse on community issues.
- Social Opportunities Enjoying time together.
- Educational Opportunities Learning new ideas and skills
- Volunteer Opportunities Enhancing the wellbeing of the community.
- Philanthropic Opportunities Helping those in need.

When you look at these, I think many of you will see that they may look like those of other professional and/or fraternal organizations many of us belonged to during our working careers. As a former active Rotary International member, I recognize these as the same opportunities that our members valued and, in turn, these opportunities translated directly into the betterment of our communities. It is easy to see how these opportunities are as good for the individual member as they are for the whole community.

Many of the VHA programs provide overlapping opportunities. Think about the VHA Hoedown. What a great setting that provides social, educational, volunteer, and philanthropic opportunities.

While 2020 curtailed our ability to get together as we would like, we hope that 2021 will provide more opportunities.

Every Rotarian can quickly recite the Four-Way Test of the things we think, say, or do. In a similar way I plan to make these opportunities a part of my everyday vocabulary and work these into all my dealings with The VHA.

If you are reading this and are not a VHA member, please consider joining. But even beyond joining, volunteer with The VHA. I am always amazed by the talents and experiences that people bring when they move to The Villages. If you have an interest in marketing, IT/technical, teaching, assisting with administrative duties (much of which can be done from home) or helping with greeting and assisting at educational programs, we have opportunities for you. Contact me or any VHA officer.

Stay healthy and safe! John

#### **SOUTH AREA**

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



o lead off this month — For the 2020 tax year the stimulus payments could impact your tax return. If you received the full amount no further action is needed, the stimulus payments are not taxable and are not reported on your return. The IRS did/will send a form Notice 1444 for the first payment and a Notice 1444 B for the second payment. Just keep the

forms with your other tax papers.



If you got less than the full payment, you may be eligible to claim the Recovery Rebate Credit on your tax year 2020 federal income tax. There will be a worksheet in the instructions for form 1040 or 1040 SR that will guide you. Without having seen their worksheet the guidance given seems to say this – If you received \$1,000 instead of \$1,200 you get a \$200 tax credit that increases your refund or lowers your payment due.

One last thing – the IRS says they did mail the Notice 1444 and will mail the Notice 1444 B. In a limited survey I don't know anyone that got either form yet and they are not yet available on electronic accounts. Imagine that.

On several blogs I see questions about the various clubs and groups that we have here in The Villages. On the web site <a href="www.districtgov.org">www.districtgov.org</a> go to the tab labeled Departments and Recreation. If you click on it another menu pops up on the left side. Click on Resident Lifestyle Clubs & Contacts and they all pop up.

Beyond the various clubs and organizations, you can find the answer to almost anything that concerns life in The Villages: Where can you fish, how do you rent a room or a pool, answers to questions about budgets, and what are my deed restrictions? Most of the questions you have are answered, and any information you need is on the website as well.

Ever have questions on your home's bond? One source of info is, again, the Districts's website. Once you get to the home page, click on the pulldown for "How Do I?" One of the choices is Obtain Residential Bond

# AREA AND REGION NEWS

Assessment Information. It will give you a wealth of information including the amortization schedule for your particular bond.

If you are looking to sign up for COVID-19 vaccinations via the county – go to <a href="https://sumterfl.saferestart.net">https://sumterfl.saferestart.net</a>.

Mike Dollard

#### **FAR SOUTH AREA**

South of SR44
Andrew Bilardello, Vice President
andv@bellicus.net – 561-644-1358

ay back on Jan. 12 (yesterday for me.... I feel like I'm a time traveler when I write these!) The Board of County Commissioners held a meeting to discuss raising Impact Fees in the county. The meeting was very well attended by a wide cross section of county residents and business owners.

The vast majority of the attendees were adamantly against the proposal. By definition, an impact fee is: a fee that is imposed by a local government on a new or proposed development project to pay for all or a portion of the costs of providing public services to the new development.

While several of the Commissioners believe that the increase will only affect the developer, empirical studies show that developers rarely pay the cost of the fees; it is passed along to the consumer. This means higher home sale prices and higher rent in the commercial areas. It's the latter that will affect us the most, although both are important to consider.

Here's an example: I want to open a restaurant, "Andy's House of Southern Soul Food" (I just made that up). My restaurant needs to be 4,500 square feet. Under the current fees, the builder of the commercial real estate would pay the County \$28,394 in impact fees for that 4,500 sq.ft. Several of our Commissioners want to raise that to \$70,984, an increase of \$42,590. The builder isn't going to just eat that cost; they're going to increase the rent in order to cover that added expense, which means I have to increase the cost of my menu items to cover the increased cost of my rent. Now,



with my higher prices, some people may not be able to afford to eat at my most excellent 5-star. (I just made that up also) restaurant as often as they and I would like, which means I have less money coming in, which means my wait staff also earns less and the vendors from which I purchase my food and supplies earn less. All told, that means Andy's House of Southern Soul Food is going belly up and closing its doors.

The ramifications of increasing the impact fees are endless. Hospitals, big box stores, and future businesses will all go just over the County lines to Lake, Marion or Citrus counties. The convenience of accessing those places by golf carts will be non-existent. Building in Sumter will come to a screeching halt and our economy will stagnate and implode. Given our current economic situation (COVID-19 restrictions) this is not the time to consider raising fees, which will slow down the tremendous economic growth that we are currently experiencing.

The decision was made to table the discussion until the July meeting. As your VHA VP and VCDD 12 Supervisor, I will again attend the meeting to have my voice heard, as I think anyone reading this should do also. Whether you're for or against the proposal, come out and have your voice heard! See your local government in action. It's the American way.

Andrew Bilardello

### LADY LAKE NEWS

**Lynn Davis** 

<u>Lynna527@aol.com</u> – 352-250-7782

n Lady Lake construction continues for the widening of Rt441/27. Please be very careful when traveling this area since the cone placement seems to change daily.



The decision to convert certain offices in the Town Square into apartments is still on hold.

The only other news is the continuing work on the corner of Rt441/27, diagonally across from Perkins. The previous gas station is being converted into a new convenience store, gas station and car wash.

Submitted by, Lynn Davis

# NOTES AND NEWS

WE KEEP SAYING THIS:



But, like many things right now, we have to take the current situation with COVID-19 into consideration on a month-to-month basis when making plans, and while we had hoped to resume our New Resident Night program in February, it has been postponed again. If you are a new resident to The Villages, we welcome you, and once we can hold this popular program safely, we will let you know. What does The VHA put together for you? Presentations by:

- 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
- Community Improvement Council

- Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches
- The Villages Regional Hospital Auxiliary
- Seniors vs. Crime
- SECO
- Sumter Landing Bicycle Club
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- Sumter County Master Gardeners
- Friends of the Library
- The Enrichment Academy

We usually have some pretty impressive goodies from our presenters, a 50/50

raffle, and cookies. Plus, you will receive one of our snazzy new decals:

We hope once we are back up and running, we will see you there for an evening dedicated to YOU.



# THE VHA GOLF CART SAFETY CLINIC

# FEBRUARY 17 @ 9:00 A.M. SAVANNAH RECREATION CENTER

**CAPACITY IS 50% SO GET THERE EARLY** 



#### **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

## VISIT WWW.THEVHA.NET FOR MORE DETAILS



TThe VHA HAS OVER 16,000 MEMBERS, BUT THE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES WE OFFER REQUIRE VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE WILLING TO DEVOTE A FEW HOURS OF THEIR TIME, ALONG WITH THEIR EXPERTISE AND TALENTS.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN OUR RANKS, CALL US AT 352-753-4650, OR CONTACT US THROUGH OUR WEBSITE AT: WWW.THEVHA.NET

# M2M-THE VHA MERCHANTS TO MEMBERS DISCOUNT PROGRAM

Visit our website at <a href="www.thevha.net">www.thevha.net</a> 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.

# A VILLAGER'S VIEW: RANDOM FEBRUARY THOUGHTS

ebruary is a busy month, which is good news, and good medicine for the soul in light of what we have all been dealing with this past year. Between Covid-19 and politics, it will be a nice break to have some holidays and events this month to celebrate without fear or rancor.

First off is the Super Bowl. Even if you are not a regular football fan, or your favorite team is not playing, it's a good excuse to have some friends over to watch the game and indulge in some great snacks.

Next up is Valentine's Day.
We are never too old to celebrate
matters of the heart. No matter your age, romance
has a way of creeping into our thoughts this time

of year; whether it's reminiscing about past loves, celebrating enduring relationships, or imagining new and exciting romantic adventures, our hearts never seem to stop needing a special love that warms us from the inside out.

Then it's Presidents'
Day, which was initiated to meld Washington's and Lincoln's birthdays (which we had as two separate days off when we were kids) into one day off, on a Monday, to celebrate whatever president we want to. In the spirit of neutrality, I will keep my preference to myself, but anyone who knows me knows......

And last, but not least, it is:



- Wear RED on February 5th to raise awareness of women's heart health.
- Make heart-healthy choices by watching what you eat, exercising, and following doctor's orders when it comes to cholesterol and blood pressure.
- Visit <a href="https://www.heart.org/">https://www.heart.org/</a> for all things related to physical heart health.
- Guard your "heart" by making wise decisions who you let into yours.

by Jan Palmer

# THE IMPORTANCE OF AN AUDIT REPORT - CHECKS AND BALANCES!

# The Villages Community Development Districts



he District is currently undergoing an independent third-party audit of the financial results for the year ending September 30, 2020, for each of the 17 Districts.

The District has engaged Purvis, Gray & Company, CPA's, an audit firm with expertise in the government-industry, to perform these audit services. The audit team spent two weeks in July on-site and again the full months of Decem-

ber and January to conclude their audit procedures. After the conclusion of the audit, the District will receive 17 audit reports that include an Independent Auditor Report, Management Discussion and Analysis, the Basic Financial Statements with Notes to the Financial Statements, and Supplemental Reports.

The audit team performs sufficient procedures to express an opinion on the fair presentation of the financial statements in all material respects as outlined in the Auditor's Report. The Management Discussion and Analysis section introduces the basic financial statements, and highlights an analytical overview of the government's financial activities authored by District management. Lastly, the Basic Financial Statements and note disclosure(s) are required for fair presentation in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP); a common set of accounting principles that helps to govern the world of accounting and is meant to ensure the financial

Four supplemental reports include an Independent Report on Internal Controls, Management Letter, Independent Accountant Report, and Management's Response letter if deemed necessary. These findings are an integral part of the audit report. Again this year, the District expects no material weaknesses to be identified in the Report on Internal Controls. Lastly, while the entire audit report is presented to the respective Boards, the Management Letter is a communication tool to provide Supervisors with any rec-

statements are complete, consistent, and comparable.

#### Meeting Calendar February 2021 ~ February 2021 Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed 3 10(2) 11(4) 12(4) 13 18 (5) 19 (3) 20 16 17 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

28

ommendations to improve financial management, and which the leadership will gratefully accept.

The Partners at the audit firm of Purvis, Gray & Company, CPA's will present their findings to the Supervisors at each District board meeting in February, and once approved, these audit reports will be available on the <a href="https://www.districtgov.org">www.districtgov.org</a> website. All previous audit reports are also available on the District website.

The District Finance Team takes its stewardship role very seriously and is proud that the overall health of the District's financial management is excellent.

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

Editor's Note: Please go the District website and click on the Meeting Calendar on the home page, shown above, to find out when each District Board Meeting will be held in February.

# NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM:

The Villages

Community Development Districts

Home

Your District -

Committees •

www.districtgov.org

# DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICES CONTINUE TO BE CLOSED FOR WALK-INS.

Offices will continue to be open on an appointment-only basis until further notice. Appointments can be made by emailing or contacting the appropriate District Department.

- Administration- 352-751-3939 or <u>CustomerService@districtgov.org</u>
- Bonds- 352-751-3900 or Bonds@districtgov.org
- Community Standards- 352-751-3912 or <u>DeedCompliance@districtgov.org</u>
- Customer Service- 352-753-4508 or <u>CustomerService@districtgov.org</u>
- Human Resources- 352-674-1905 or <u>HumanResources@districtgov.org</u>
- Recreation- 352-674-1800 or RecreationDepartment@districtgov.org

- Risk Management

   — 352-674-1828 or RiskManagement@districtgov.org
- Utilities- 352-750-0000 or Utilities@districtgov.org

If you do not know which department to contact, please call the District Customer Service Center at 352-753-4508.

**LOST AND FOUND:** Depending on where items are found, inexpensive items will be held



for one month at La Hacienda, Laurel Manor, Eisenhower and Everglades Regional Recreation Complexes. Valuables will be turned over to the Lady Lake Police Department, Sumter County Sheriff's Office or Marion County Sheriff's

Office within 72 hours. At the end of each month, unclaimed items will be donated to local charities. The Recreation and Parks Department is not responsible for lost items. For more details, visit www.districtgov.org.

**DISTRICT WEEKLY BULLETIN:** Do you want to stay up to date on what is happening in the various departments within the District? On the Home Page on the lefthand side is a menu with District Weekly Bulletin as an option. Current, valuable, and pertinent information is available weekly, including closures for maintenance, frequently asked questions and answers, committee vacancies and applications, and much more.



Are you interested in learning information about The Village Community Development Districts?

Help alleviate the confusion, questions and misinformation that exist regarding the responsibilities and functions of the Districts.

The Resident Academy provides an opportunity for all residents to learn more about the District Departments working together to make this a premier community! Participants will hear presentations from The Villages Fire Rescue, District Property Management, Community Watch, Recreation & Parks, Finance, Utilities and will even have the chance to tour the North Sumter Utility Plant!

FULL: April 21, 2021 at the Eisenhower Recreation Center - 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

Sessions fill up quickly, so register now, online, or call the District Customer Service Center at (352) 753-4508 for the dates below:

July 19, 2021 at the Savannah Recreation Center - 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

October 18, 2021 at the Rohan Recreation Center - 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

November 15, 2021 at the Rohan Recreation Center - 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

# STIMULUS PAYMENTS ARE FOR PEOPLE, NOT NURSING HOMES

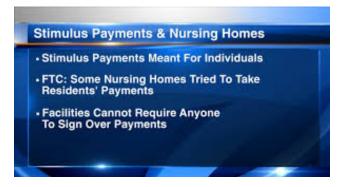


The newly approved COVID-19 stimulus payments have already started arriving — typically \$600 per person.

Lois C. Greisman, an Elder Justice Coordinator at the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), advises that if you, or someone you care about, lives in an assisted living facility or nursing home, you may want to ensure that they get their stimulus money – not some medical or care provider. Because the bill funding the second round of Economic Impact Payments (EIPs) has now been signed into law. the money — right now, \$600 per person who qualifies — is being sent out. And, like last time, the money is meant for the PERSON, not the place where they might live.

In the first round, which she calls EIP 1.0, we know that some nursing facilities tried to take the stimulus payments intended for their residents, particularly those on Medicaid. Which wasn't, shall we say, legal, and kept some attorneys general busy recovering those funds for people.

Now, with EIP 2.0, we would hope those facilities have learned their lesson. But, just in case, let's be clear: If you qualify for a payment, it's yours to keep. If a loved one qualifies and lives in a nursing home or assisted living facility, it's theirs to keep. The facility may not put their hands on it, or require somebody to sign it over to them. Even if that somebody is on Medicaid.



It would be worth a quick chat with management of the facility in question, just to remind them that the rules are the same this time through. And if you hear about a nursing home or assisted living facility being grabby about Economic Impact Payments, tell your state attorney general right away. And then tell the FTC at **www.ReportFraud.ftc.gov**.

If you need assistance with understanding any aspects of the latest stimulus payments, contact the nearest Seniors Vs. Crime office in The Villages for advice or assistance. Seniors Vs. Crime also has a Speakers Bureau that will gladly come to your club, church, or group to speak about scams. To schedule a presentation, contact any of the offices. There is never a charge for their services. Seniors Vs. Crime can be reached at:

- The Fruitland Park Police Department Annex in the Moyer Recreation Center in The Villages – (352) 674-1882
- The Marion County Sheriff's Office in The Villages (352) 753-7775
- The Sumter County Sheriff's Office in The Villages (352) 689-4600, Extension 4606
- The Wildwood Police Department Annex at Brownwood in The Villages – (352) 753-0727

During this pandemic, our offices are closed for walk-in complaints. Please call before you come to our offices. Hours may vary or may require appointments. You can also file online, or by calling 1-(800)-203-3099. Our staff will call you back and you can file your complaint over the phone.

Volunteers at all four offices are ready, willing and able to assist you. To keep up with the latest scams, LIKE 'Seniors vs. Crime Region 4' on Facebook. Hablamos Español. Por favor pregunte por Yolanda. Martes a Viernes: 10:00 A.M. a 2:00 P.M., (352) 689 4606.

# **Communicating Your Intentions**



ommunicating your intentions clearly and to the correct people is important, whether you are making a lane change while riding a bicycle or designating someone to speak on your behalf.

Studies have shown that 55% of our communication comes from non-verbal cues (visual) and 38% comes from the tone we choose (vocal), while only 7% comes from the actual words we choose (verbal). Yet, much of what we communicate is through only written words. This is of particular importance when we are communicating our final intentions. So, make sure that you have taken the time to record your intentions with proper legal documents written by an attorney. Additionally, both share and discuss these important documents with everyone involved.

**HEALTH CARE SURROGATE:** This document designates the person that is both willing and able to make tough decisions about your medical care when you are unable. Make sure this person knows you and

your intentions and make sure they know something about your medical situation before they must act.

**LIVING WILL:** This document defines how you want to be treated in very specific medical situations. If you do not want extreme measures taken to keep you alive, you need this document.

**POWER OF ATTORNEY:** This document defines who can act on your behalf in financial matters. It is important to note that you do not have to be incapacitated for them to act under this power, so be careful whom you choose. They can buy/sell property, write checks,

representative (Executor) must be a Florida resident – unless it is a family member. If you have an older and/ or out of state document, have it reviewed by a Florida attorney to be sure it will serve your needs.

TRUST: This document holds property and designates how your affairs are to be managed. While a will

estate distributed. As a Florida resident, your personal

how your affairs are to be managed. While a will gives instructions for after you are gone, a trust works both while you are alive and after you have passed. Trusts afford a wide latitude of options for the legal instructions you want undertaken on your behalf. It is this flexibility that is important in situations that involve

incapacity or other special circumstances.

To be sure your wishes are properly communicated, seek proper legal advice. Also, make sure your documents are accessible by those that are named: do not leave originals in a safe deposit box where no one has access to them. If you have questions, or would like a referral to a qualified attorney, please reach me at glachnicht@sabaltrust.com.

By Gerry Lachnicht Managing Principal, Sabal Trust

Gerry is a member of the Sumter Landing Bike Club, a League of American Bicyclists Certified Instructor, and Principal at Sabal Trust.



withdraw funds, close accounts, etc. This needs to be someone you trust and the designation should be shared with those that may receive instructions from the designated power holder.

WILL: This document states how you want your

MERCHANTS TO MEMBERS: THE M2M program is our way of saying "Thank You" to our members for their support of The VHA in "Keeping the Dream Alive." We hope you enjoy these savings and offers from a variety of merchants that serve The Villages community.

#### **AUTOMOBILE SERVICES**

AAA Auto Club Group

1107 West North Blvd.
Suite M, Leesburg
Save on \$5.00 on New Membership with AAA
Auto Club group. New family members are 50%
off regular price. Free Atlas to new members
only on transfer of membership.
Must contact Tami Lyons only for offer at:
352-787-8800 or 352-217-6687

#### Auto Glass Assist Toll Free 855-522-2349 Email: AAAAutoglassinc@ clubassist.com

Providing Auto Glass Replacement and Windshield Chip Repair services at your home or work. 10% off Auto Glass replacements. Does not apply to insurance replacements.

**Boulevard Tire Center** 418 S. Hwy. 27/441, Lady Lake **352-430-2380** 

10% discount on any Brake Service over \$100

# Tire Choice Total Car Care www.thetirechoice.com

VILLAGES LOCATIONS:
45 LaGrande Blvd. - **352-391-6488**\$19.99 Oil Change, Filter, 4 Tire Rotation,
10% off any service
43949 Wedgewood Ln. - **352-391-1001**\$19.99 Oil Change, Filter, 4 Tire Rotation,
10% off any service
280 Colony Blvd. - **352-430-0043**\$19.99 Oil Change, Filter, 4 Tire Rotation,
10% off any service

#### Underglass 3M Prestige and Ultra Window Films 334 S.Hwy. 441/27, Lady Lake

**352-753-5267** 10% OFF any 3M Film, Home or Auto

**Villages Car Wash and Lube**Bichara Blvd. — La Plaza Grande Ctr. **352-753-1306** 

\$1.00 Discount off regular price of any car wash package

#### **EATS AND SWEETS**

#### Amelia's Restaurant and Lake Shore Lounge

The Waterfront Inn, 1105 Lake Shore Dr, Lake Sumter Landing, The Villages www.waterfrontinnvillages. com/amelias-restaurant 352-753-7535

15% discount Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner, not including taxes or alcoholic beverages. Not offered on Holidays.

#### **Bamboo Bistro – Asian Fusion** 700 N.US Hwy 441, Lady Lake **352-750-9998**

Free Chef's Special -Appetizer Sampler. \$6.00 value with \$25.00 purchase. Dine-in only.

#### **Edible Arrangements**

3509 Wedgewood Lane, The Villages **352-391-1334** 

\$3.00 Off Purchases. Valid on orders over \$25.00

#### **Firehouse Subs**

13757 U.S. Hwy. 441, Lady Lake, FL **352-430-3870** 

\$2.00 off purchase of a combo meal with medium size sub

#### **Haagen Dazs**

10% Discount

1001 Lake Shore Drive Lake Sumter Landing, The Villages **352-751-0261** 

Honey Baked Ham Co. and Cafe

524 N Hwy. 441/27, Best Buy Shopping Center, Lady Lake 352-259-3900

Buy One Sandwich or Boxed Lunch - Get 2nd 50% off (equal or lesser value) with purchase of 2 beverages

#### **Kilwin's Of Spanish Springs** 1108 Main Street, Spanish Springs **352-630-4704**

10% discount on All items — Except daily Specials.

#### Ollie's Frozen Custard

10% Discount on all purchases 1572 Bella Cruz Drive, The Villages 352-259-3568 www.olliesusa.com

#### **Panda Express**

10% Off - Not valid with other coupons or specials. 869 North Hwy. 27/441, Home Depot Plaza, Lady Lake **352-751-2507** 

#### **Peachwave Frozen Yogurt**

10% off any order 249 Colony Blvd, The Villages, 32162 **352-750-2500** 

#### The Spice and Tea Exchange

10% off any purchase over \$25 338 Kiessel Road, Brownwood Paddock Square, The Villages 352-633-4780 www.spiceandtea.com

**The Original Brooklyn Water Bagel Co.** 514 N 27/441,

Best Buy Shopping Center, Lady Lake

**352-674-9000** 10% off total bill

#### **IMPROVING YOUR HOME**

#### A & C Exteriors

10% Off any Service
120 N. US Highway 27/441,
Lady Lake - **352-753-3322**Landscaping, Pavers, Lawn Service
and House Pressure Washing

#### Coral's Casual Patio & Fireplace

10% off any wall art 528 N. Hwy. 27/441 Best Buy Plaza, Lady Lake **352-430-2159** 

Sherwin Williams Store 10936 Highway 301, Oxford, FL 352-748-3352

15% off all regular prices (Not including sale prices)

#### The Kings Gallery

20% Off all Artwork every Wednesday Spanish Springs Town Square, Lady Lake - **352-259-6998** Now featuring Kameleon Jewelry. FREE compact case with \$100 purchase.

#### The Red Door

10% Off iron Benches 207 S. Main St. (Hwy 301), Wildwood - **352-748-2044** 

#### The Solar Guys "Solatube"-Tubular Skylight www.TheSolarGuys.com 352-307-7077

\$100 off solar tubes and solar fans; 10% off attic insulation and garage door insulation; 10% off home window tinting

#### **IMPROVING YOUR LOOK**

#### Bags, Belts and Bling

10% discount off any regular priced Boutique items
13940 Hwy 441 – Suite 502,
The Villages
352-658-1442 / 352-259-1470

#### Bella Tan

13940 Hwy 441 — Suite 502, The Villages **352-658-1442 / 352-259-1470** 10% discount off any tanning package, spray tan or lotions.

#### Cosmera Hair Studio

10 % discount for New Clients 576 N. 27/441 Best Buy Plaza, Lady Lake, FL - **352-750-2222 Islands of Beauty** \$5.00 discount any Chemical Treatment 10889 N.US Hwy 301, Oxford, FL **352-748-2251** 

#### **Plaza Jewelers**

16770 S. U.S. Hwy. 441, Summerfield **352-307-3846** 

20 to 40% Savings Off the Already Low Retail Price & All Watch Batteries for \$4.00.

#### **LODGING AND RELAXATION**

#### **Comfort Suites**

1202 Avenida Central, The Villages, FL **352-259-6578** 

10% Room discount. Not valid on Leesburg Bike Week. Call in Advance for reservations.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

# **Custom Apparel and Gifts** 3451 Wedgewood Lane, The Villages **352-750-1600**

10% off screen print and embroidery orders for VHA apparel only

#### Gotta Get Your Name On! Karen D. Andrews

124 Bichara Blvd. - **352-391-9333** 5% off Club Shirts, Logos and Monogramming

#### **Sheriffs Ranches Thrift Store**

25% discount 27900 Hwy 27, Leesburg Hours: Mon.-Sat. — 9am-5pm **352-787-0633** 

#### Tervis

10% off your total purchase 1109 Main St, Spanish Springs, Spanish Springs - **352-750-0035** 

#### Plantation Flower Designs & Gifts

3535 Wedgewood Lane, Southern Trace Plaza, The Villages **352-751-6825** 

# $www. plantation flower designs. com \\plantation flower edesigns@gmail.com$

10% discount on purchases over \$50.00. Offer not valid with any other offer or on Wire Outs.

# **The Villages Florist, Inc** 930 Bichara Blvd., LaPlaza Grande,

The Villages - **352-753-4222 www.thevillagesflorist.com** 10% Off all merchandise (not applicable on wire orders)

#### Whole Earth Pet Supply 1556 Bella Cruz Dr., Lady Lake 352-391-5806

10% off total purchase (not including discounted items)

#### Dave's World Cycle

739 S Main St, US-301, Wildwood, FL 34785-**352-399-2983** \$10 discount on a bicycle tune-up

#### **SERVICES FOR YOU**

#### 24 Hr. Cart Club, Inc. 352-330-1911 www.24hrcartclub.com

\$10 Off Premium Membership \$5 Off Basic Membership. Valid on initial sign-up only

#### 44 Self Storage 5688 E SR 44, Wildwood 352-399-2438

First Month Free call manager for details

# **Broward Factory Services** 15980 S. US Highway 441,

Summerfield - 352-307-5100
www.browardfactory.com

\$10 off first year of contract Free microwave coverage (\$65 value) First year total \$244 Silver plan First year total \$514 Gold plan (total appliance replacement)

#### **Clear View Optix**

15% Discount on any complete set of glasses 8481 SE 165th Mulberry Ln, Mulberry Prof. Plaza, The Villages 352-259-6789 clearviewoptix.com Email: ron@clearviewoptix.com

#### **Compass Self Storage**

First Month Free 4417 E. County Rd. 466, Oxford, FL 352-399-6893 www.compassselfstorage.com

#### **Dry Clean City**

13745 Highway 441, Lady Lake **352-259-3369** \$5.00 discount off \$30 dry Cleaning or Laundry with VHA Membership Card.

# **Florida Medical Hearing Center** 8732 S.E. 165th Mulberry Lane,

The Villages, FL - **352-205-7804 floridamedicalhearing.com/main** *FREE Hearing Evaluation; Buy one package of batteries, get one FREE.* 

#### Foxy Interiors, Inc

Home Staging. Styling and Photos for your Home Listing 10% off any service

407-314-5076

h ttp://www.foxyinteriors.com marie@foxyinteriors.com

#### Lint Factor LLC

11962 CR 101, The Villages **352-301-8368** 

### www.LintFactor.com

Dryer Vent Inspection & Cleaning. Air Duct Cleaning 20% Discount

#### Rolling Acres Self Storage

175 S Rolling Acres Rd, Lady Lake 352-775-4566 First Month Free -

#### The UPS Store

call manager for details

1576 Bella Cruz Dr., The Villages **352-753-8000** 

2518 Burnsed Blvd. The Villages **352-399-5697** 

5% discount UPS shipping. 15% discount on purchase of boxes and packaging.

#### THINGS TO DO

#### Fletcher Music

1560 Bella Cruz Dr, The Villages, FL **352-751-4971** 

6 Weeks of Keyboard lessons for \$20 (Includes book). First Lesson Free.

#### TreeTops Mini Golf/Batting Cages

175 S Rolling Acres Rd, Lady Lake **352-259-2313** 

Miniature golf game, member only - \$1.00 off a game We encourage social groups and parties! \$1.00 per person off (available for up to 72 people in total playing groups of 4, please call to book) Softball batting cages -Buy 10 tokens, get 5 tokens free





# Join us for our 15th Annual Hearts for our Hospital Gala

Saturday Feb. 13, 2021 | 6:30pm - Live Stream



# Make a difference, one bid at a time.

Our online auction is fast, easy, and fun!

# Register in 3 easy steps at

www.tvhfoundationgala.com/auction-info/

1. Register your device 2. Receive your confirmation text 3. Sign in using your PIN Bidding opens Thursday, Feb. 11 at 9:00AM and will remain open until Saturday, Feb. 13 at 9:00PM







**Auxiliary Foundation** 



**Production Sponsor** 



**Beverage Sponsor** Total 🔊 Wine

## For more details visit: www.tvrhfoundation.org/believe

@ufvillageshospitalfoundation

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



For more details visit: www.tvrhfoundation.org/believe