

## DR. SEUSS IS RIGHT - "SOMETIMES YOU NEVER KNOW THE VALUE OF SOMETHING UNTIL IT BECOMES A MEMORY"

**W**e are a GREAT COMMUNITY! We are PROUD to live here! So are you, like us, tired of hearing about or reading headlines such as: "Villager Who Had Been at Brownwood Jailed After Man Injured in Golf Cart Crash"; or "Villager Arrested On Stalking Charge After Allegedly Harassing Estranged Girlfriend" or how about "Skateboarder Arrested After Violent Attack in Publix Parking Lot in The Villages"?

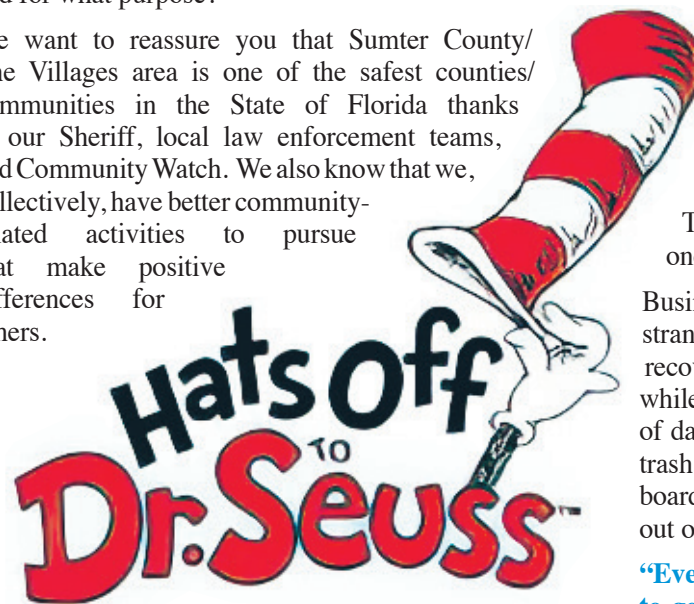
These negatively slanted headlines are a means to drive "clicks" but provide no positive long-term benefits to our Community. They merely shine a brief spotlight on the unfortunate decisions and actions a small percentage of residents/visitors have made.... Is this really news? Or just tabloid gossip?

Have these social media blogs ever contributed anything to building a positive image of our Community or benefitted anyone? Do these headlines and associated articles make you proud of living in Sumter County or The Villages? Do they help "Keep The Dream Alive"?

We do have to admit...these headlines appear to capture a reader's attention and curiosity with their promise of juicy

and salacious "insider" information. But at what cost, and for what purpose?

We want to reassure you that Sumter County/The Villages area is one of the safest counties/communities in the State of Florida thanks to our Sheriff, local law enforcement teams, and Community Watch. We also know that we, collectively, have better community-related activities to pursue that make positive differences for others.



**Sometimes we forget we are a "Community"**- but we are! We tend to stick together if we think of ourselves as a community. We are more likely to donate our time, talents and resources so others receive needed comfort or assistance for a better future. In our community we have 3,000 plus clubs, many who donate their time and talents to make a positive difference...for others.

Have you ever been to the County fair? If not, you should go and pay particular attention to the Animal Auction conducted on the last day to support the kids of 4H. They worked long hours raising their show animal, whether it is a pig, lamb, or steer, to compete for prizes and then sell them at the community-attended auction. You will see individuals or companies bid to buy these animals and then turn around and donate them back to be auctioned off again. Community leaders, businesses, or groups will band together and provide "add ons" to the price per pound for these animals to help the kids get more money per animal auctioned. (They are not buying these animals; they are just helping these kids financially.) These community "buyers" don't do it for any recognition... **they do it because it helps the overall Community.**

There are many local stories about acts of "Community" than can be told in this article. But one disastrous

event that occurred here on February 2, 2007 needs to be mentioned. The Villages and the surrounding area of Lake County was hit by severe weather. Over 1,500 homes were damaged or destroyed, with 530 Villagers needing housing. There were twenty deaths associated with this weather event. **What happened following the disaster?** This community didn't wait for any government help. They just did what friends and neighbors do. Every one pitched in to help each other clean up and recover.

Businesses, subcontractors, clubs, friends, neighbors and strangers volunteered their time and talents to help in the recovery. Construction was halted by The Developer while the subcontractors helped place tarps on the roofs of damaged homes. Crews helped pick up and bulldoze trash and debris, raking piles of glass and insulation, boarding up broken windows and safely moving residents out of their damaged homes.

**"Everybody's "in" here. It's what we are. We want to get our community back together". Rick Murray, Director of Construction for The Villages**

We should all be aware that these are the real norms for The Villages and Sumter County, and these are the headlines we should all be proud to read about day after day.

These positive actions are what maintain the social fabric of this Community and contributed to why you moved here. This is a Community that works because of how it was planned and has been governed. We all need to work together to maintain and improve what we have. We have homes here. We shop here. We have our doctors and specialty care here. We get most of our entertainment and recreation here.

***It is not about the "pieces" but the whole. When groups, individuals or social media start to pick at this community...we, the Community... really need to push back. We don't want to wake up some day discouraged and discover that our Community is broken and our spirit gone. It is more difficult to "rebuild" than to maintain or improve our Community.***

When some say "The new regional roads only benefit The Developer", does this also mean these complainers are ready to vow never to use these roads, or any retail or

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## VHA SENIOR STAFF

<b>Phil Walker</b> , President 4ianeknfl4@gmail.com -----	352-753-8618
<b>John Dean</b> , Central Area Vice President vhajohndean@gmail.com -----	207-557-0371
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<b>Andy Bilardello</b> , Far South Area Vice President andy@bellicus.net -----	561-644-1358
<b>Joan Sullivan</b> , Secretary, joanstrek@aol.com -----	352-430-0755
<b>John Conboy</b> , Treasurer, Treasurer@thevha.net -----	352-750-8039
<b>Mike Burke</b> , Program Director mikeandjaneburke@gmail.com -----	352-205-7031

## ADVISORY BOARD

### PAST PRESIDENT

Fred Briggs -----	717-805-8500
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### REGION 5 DIRECTOR

Nicolas Hemes, hemes@msn.com -----	386-984-7979
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### REGION 6 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Bob Griffin, bochargrif@aol.com -----	352-391-1105
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### REGION 7 ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Roy Thacker, Rthackers@msn.com -----	352-561-4985
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## APPOINTED DIRECTORS

Ray Glessner, ray.glessner@gmail.com -----	352-751-0701
Walter Martin, waltermartin41@aol.com -----	352-205-7099
Sandy Mott, mottp@embarqmail.com -----	352-753-7856
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## VHA PROGRAM DIRECTORS

### The Voice

Jan Palmer, mjpalm2@comcast.net -----	352-775-4325
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### Golf Cart Safety Instructors

Stan Heist, stanhjr@yahoo.com -----	352-751-5421
Harlan Thrailkill, harlan10530@gmail.com -----	321-695-8172

### Helping Hands

Bill Gottschalk, wm.gottschalk@gmail.com -----	352-973-2284
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### Membership

Kathy Porter, kathymporter@comcast.net -----	352-259-8196
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### Merchants to Members

Barbara Gudgel, barbarajm1@hotmail.com -----	850 867-7386
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### Communication Director

David Bedard, dbedard007@live.com -----	508-981-8907
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### Charitable Foundation Board

Duane Johnson, duanemjohnson2@gmail.com -----	507-421-5273
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## VHA OFFICE

1104 Main St., Spanish Springs

## VHA MAIN PHONE

352-753-4650

## VHA WEBSITE

www.thevha.net

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: THE VHA-COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



As I was putting my thoughts together for this article, I looked back to pre-Covid activities. A Daily Sun article from November 2019, was discussing the aims of the VHA Community Foundation to create coalitions to meet the needs of Villagers. Since that article was published, we were crippled by the pandemic, resulting in so many ideas and ways to implement them being put on hold.

Today I can say that we are moving forward with creating coalitions, working with sponsors and serving the needs of The Villages residents. To meet the needs of the Helping Hands program the Foundation, along with the VHA, assisted in the purchase of a van for movement and pick up/delivery of durable medical equipment.

In addition, the Foundation presented a check for \$3000 to Operation Homebound (OHB), a mealtime ministry that prepares and delivers hot cooked meals to homebound clients in The Villages. The Foundation also presented a check for \$3000 to the Wildwood Soup Kitchen which provides meals to anyone who is in need of a meal. These organizations will welcome your support as well, and you can contact them directly or use the Foundation to make donations to them.



**BINGO is back!!** We are holding the first Bingo of the year on **April 8, 2021**. The calling will start at 3:00 p.m. Admission is on a "First Come First Serve" basis with doors open at 2:30 p.m. It will be held at Evans Prairie Country Club in the outdoor Breezeway seating area. For complete details see the back page of this issue of The Voice.

Mark your calendar for future VHA-CF Bingo dates as follows:

- **May 27th at the Rohan Regional Recreation Center**
- **July 27th at LaHacienda Regional Recreation Center**
- **October 14th at the Lake Miona Regional Recreation Center.**

We are planning other events for the summer including a Golf Cart Scavenger Hunt(s) and Poker Run(s) with dates to be announced as soon as we have them.

Please call me at 507-421-5273 if you have questions about the VHA Community Foundation. We are always interested in your ideas and service to this great community.

Regards,  
Duane Johnson, President  
The VHA Community Foundation

*P.S. from Terry Carroll of Operation Homebound, a ministry of North Lake Presbyterian Church of Fruitland Park: The VHA Community Foundation has been very generous to Operation Homebound. Each weekday, over 200 fresh, hot-cooked meals are prepared and delivered to homebound adults in The Villages and parts of the surrounding areas. Of those recipients, approximately 30 are on scholarship, where meals are delivered at no charge. Donations from the VHA-CF help offset the costs of those meals. It's a wonderful partnership and one that we are very proud of as it is enabling many people to remain in their homes and age in place.*

## THE VHA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBERS

Duane Johnson, President  
Kathy Houser, Vice President  
Linda McPherson, Secretary  
Fred Oehling, Treasurer

Dick Boyden \* Don Kingsley  
Jim Noce \* Phil Walker

For contact information go to [www.thevha.net](http://www.thevha.net)  
Or email us at: VHACF@THEVHA.NET

## VISION

Keeping the Dream Alive

## MISSION

The Villages Homeowners Advocates (VHA) is a lifestyle organization whose members are committed to championing the needs of Villagers through:  
• Positive, constructive dialogue • Problem solving • Education • Philanthropic efforts

## VALUES

The VHA is committed to excellence and driven by the following values:  
• Integrity • Honesty • Accountability • Independence



Continued from page 1

medical establishments that also open up because of these roads? We doubt that's the case. They will continue to complain, BUT will take full advantage of these offerings regardless.

Are you paying attention to what our elected officials are doing at the District, City or County levels? Some say they are just trying to "protect" the citizens from greedy developers or businesses, but others would counter that we have a system in place that already works really well for everyone.

None of us would be here had it not been for The Developer and local businesses taking the financial risk to pursue a dream and build The Villages. They invested their capital, time, and talents, and, fortunately, for them and us, they have been successful. WE ALL, together as a Community, are here for the long haul to continue protecting our investments and enjoying the fruit of their vision and labor.

Why would we want to change what has worked so well? Certainly, the increasing values of our homes are a positive indicator of a secure future. It's time to push back on the negatives, and be proud of the positives.

**If you are not currently involved in protecting the Lifestyle we are so fortunate to have here, take the time and learn what is going on...for yourself.**

Here are some links that you may want to explore to understand the issues facing us as a Community:

[www.districtgov.org](http://www.districtgov.org) • [sumtercountyfl.gov](http://sumtercountyfl.gov)  
[www.wildwood-fl.gov](http://www.wildwood-fl.gov)

In the end, we all decide for ourselves what we want in our Community. *Let's not let the small vocal minority overshadow the majority of those who really enjoy living in The Villages.* We know what has worked for decades and we can see the proof every day. To reinforce the quote by *Dr Seuss: "Sometimes you never know the value of something until it becomes a memory."* Let's not have The Villages become a memory. Let's continue working together toward "Keeping the Dream Alive".

Visit us at our website, [www.thevha.net](http://www.thevha.net), and consider joining with us in our efforts. Simply click on **VOLUNTEERS** and fill out the form. If you have a question, click on the **CONTACT** tab and ask it. We will answer!



## Upcoming EVENTS

### FOR APRIL AND MAY

#### VHA-CF BINGO:

**THURSDAY, APRIL 8 at 3:00 p.m.**

**EVANS PRAIRIE**

**COUNTRY CLUB BREEZEWAY**

**Future BINGO Dates:**

**May 27, July 27, October 14**

#### NEW RESIDENT NIGHT:

**TUESDAY, APRIL 13 & MAY 11 at 7:00 p.m.**

**COLONY COTTAGE REGIONAL  
RECREATION CENTER**

#### THE VHA QUARTERLY TOWN HALL MEETING:

**APRIL 20th with question  
deadline of APRIL 14th**

#### GOLF CART SAFETY CLINIC:

**APRIL 21st AND MAY 19TH at 9:00 a.m.**

**COLONY COTTAGE REGIONAL  
RECREATION CENTER**

**WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS IN THIS AND  
UPCOMING ISSUES OF THE VHA VOICE**

## The VHA GOLF CART SAFETY CLINIC

**APRIL 21 @ 9:00 A.M. • COLONY REGIONAL 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](http://WWW.THEVHA.NET) FOR MORE DETAILS**

## PICKLES

by Brian Crane



### THE VHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBERS

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

Karl Arps \* Russ D'Emidio  
 Peter Moeller \* Steve Printz  
 Peter Russell \* Diane Spencer  
 Vivian Stephens \* Chuck Wildzunas

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

### THE VHA HELPING HANDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Gottschalk, President  
 Len Olen, Vice President  
 Jeff Rattner, Secretary/Treasurer

John McDonald \* Phil Walker

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

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



## CONTACT FORM

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

- ☐ **Membership:** ☐ New ☐ 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

TOWNHALL QUESTION OR AREA YOU  
WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER IN:

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

**Don't wait!**  
Join now, and be a part of  
our growing community!

**Opportunities**

- GOLF CART SAFETY CLINIC**  
Every month the VHA presents this popular clinic for the benefit of all Villagers, full-time residents, snowbirds, and even guests, to make our golf cart community safer and educate cart drivers of all ages.
- CUTTING THE CORD**  
A workshop to explain from A to Z the process and information you will need to effectively cut your ties to the cable and satellite companies through the effective use of internet providers and streaming services.
- BICYCLE SAFETY**  
The Bike Friendly Community has a way for you to refresh your bike skills and knowledge of the rules of the road, plus learn you keep your bike in shape. We offer the classes several times throughout the year.
- NEIGHBORHOOD "SOCIALS"**  
Our neighborhood socials provide an opportunity to get to know your neighbors and to discuss local issues, as well as just have a good time with other members from your community. Currently on hold due to COVID-19.

**VIEW CALENDAR**

**DIRECTORIES**  
VIEW DIRECTORIES

**MEDIA GALLERY**  
VIEW GALLERY

**CONTENT CREATORS**  
Do you have a story to share?

**M2M Merchant to Members**  
The M2M program is our way of saying "Thank you" to our members for their support of The VHA.

**May 15th, 2021**



**MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS  
REWARDS...JOIN TODAY**



## NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM:



### SUMMARY OF NEW COVID GUIDELINES AS OF APRIL 1:

#### INDOOR FACILITIES: Monday-Sunday; Facility Hours: 7:00 am - 9:00 pm

- The maximum capacity per group will be based on activity and type of setup at 50%, the capacity to be maintained by the group leader or based on room size
- Please remember to follow social distancing guidelines (keeping 6 feet away from others). If the distance is less than 6 feet, face masks are requested.
- Village residents/ club members shall have priority. Valid Villages ID cards or guest ID cards with photo. ID are required. When residents are waiting, guest use may be restricted due to space available to accommodate resident demand.
- Coffee pots, water, ice will be available. Kitchens may be used on a limited basis. All serving dishes, plates, cups, utensils must be disposable.
- Fitness Clubs resume normal operations. Sanitation Stations will be provided; PLEASE clean equipment before & after each use.

#### OUTDOOR COURTS & SWIMMING POOLS: Hours of Operation: Courts & Sports Pools, 7:00 a.m. - Dusk, Daily; Family & Adult Pools, 7:30 a.m. - Dusk, Daily

- All courts and swimming pools will open up to 100% capacity.
- The Hilltop, Southside, Paradise, and Chula Vista swimming pools will resume normal hours closing at 11:00 p.m. (Hot Tubs remain closed).
- Please bring your own water bottle for use at water fountains. Water coolers will also be available. *To view a complete list of the activities and facilities, as well as the guidelines and restrictions for use, please click on the following link on the district website: [Recreation & Parks Publication](#)*

**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. (listed on the website). If you do not know which department to contact, please call the District Customer Service Center at 352-753-4508.

**Sumter County Solid Waste is hosting a Household Electronics & Hazardous Waste Mobile Collection - Amnesty Day on Saturday April 10, 2021 from 8**

**AM to 2 PM at Lake Okahumpka Park, 6085 E. SR 44, Wildwood 34785. For more information, visit their website at <https://sumtercountyfl.gov/1236/Household-Electronics-Hazardous-Waste-Mo>**

#### Architectural Review Committee Accepting Applications for Alternate Committee Members for Districts 6, 7, 8

The mission of the Architectural Review Committee is to maintain the high quality and consistency of the aesthetics and design of the residences and home sites found throughout The Villages. The Architectural Review process is purely administrative in nature. The issuance of permits or variances is through the appropriate city or county building department.

Village Community Development District Nos. 6, 7 and 8 are seeking volunteers to serve as *alternate* committee members for the Architectural Review Committee (ARC). The applicants must be full time residents of the Village Community Development District for which they are applying, and have lived in The Villages for at least one year. Committee members are recommended to have education and/or experience in any of the following areas: architecture, ability to read site plans, residential/commercial construction, building management, deed restricted communities, landscaping, county code enforcement, etc; however, this is not required. The Committee meets weekly on Wednesdays for approximately 3 hours (8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.).

The required attendance for the alternate is to attend an ARC meeting each week for four (4) weeks and then monthly thereafter.

Section 112.3145(7)(g), Florida Statutes requires that Architectural Review Committee members must complete and submit a Statement of Financial Interests (Form 1) at the time they are appointed to the Architectural Review Committee.

If you are interested in becoming an *alternate* representative for the Village Community Development District 6, 7, or 8, the application is available on our website, or please contact the Community Standards Department at 352-751-3912.

**DISTRICT WEEKLY BULLETIN:** Do you want to stay up to date on what is happening in the various departments within the District? On the District website's Home Page, on the left-hand 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.

**All District Government Committee Meetings (CCD, PWAC, Amenity Authority, Architectural Review, etc.) with dates, times, and locations, are available on the website.**

### Meeting Calendar

April

▼

2021

▼

April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 (2)	8 (4)	9 (4)	10
11	12 (2)	13	14	15 (4)	16 (3)	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

### 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.



# AREA AND REGION NEWS

## NORTH AREA

North of 466

Jan Palmer – Editor of The Voice



I really appreciated the article “Better Together” in last month’s issue of The Voice. Although I’ve been covering the North Area lately, my husband and I are happy to travel the whole of The Villages, from north to far south.

Our regular stomping ground for recreational activities is the central area, and we love to sit and look out over Lake Sumter, especially at sunset time. But exploring the whole of this community is a pleasure.

We regularly head north for shopping, eating out, and entertainment, and make a habit of visiting all the town squares when special activities are going on and to take advantage of each one’s unique shops. When we have visitors, we try to hit all three town squares plus show off the beautiful regional recreation centers.

It’s been fun lately to head to the far south to see the progress there, watch the construction crews at work, and check out the new bridges. We plan on taking our golf cart down soon to ride across at least a couple of them, and are looking forward to trying out the Pitch and Putt golf course.

This week we volunteered with The VHA to help with the Golf Cart Poker Run in the far south area at the stunning Everglades Regional Recreation Center. We had a blast! And so did the participants, most of them from the far south area. I think this program will catch on, along with other new events that are being planned thanks to our program director, Mike Burke.

The VHA is coming back, and taking off! New Resident Night returns this month, the Community Foundation’s Bingo is back, Golf Cart Safety is going strong, and more activities to enjoy, volunteer for, and look forward to are on the horizon.

If you want to be part of the future of The VHA, especially if you live in the north area and would like to represent your neighborhood or sit on the advisory board as a district representative, please contact me at [mjpalmer2@comcast.net](mailto:mjpalmer2@comcast.net).

*When we all pitch in, we are, indeed, “Better Together”*

Jan Palmer  
Editor, The VHA Voice

## CENTRAL AREA

Between 466 and 466A

John Dean, Vice President

[vhajohndean@gmail.com](mailto:vhajohndean@gmail.com) – 207-557-0371



While I am not a golfer, I am happy that others enjoy the sport and may have been drawn, at least in part, by the opportunity to play golf in The Villages on a regular basis. And I also just like to look over the golf courses as I am travelling around The Villages. Golf courses add a green space and a feeling of openness that makes me feel good.

I also do not play poker, though over the years I have been asked to play, I think mostly to just fatten the pot as I don’t know what beats what. And, in fact, I have played, but mostly for the enjoyment of the social interaction rather than any thought of winning.

Despite my lack of interest or experience in golf or poker, I was pleased that the VHA was offering events in both.

The VHA held a poker run on March 16 in the newly golf-cart-connected Far South Area of The Villages. I was pleased to help out with this event in a capacity that didn’t rely on any real poker knowledge. It was fun and provided folks with an opportunity to compete, have a good time, and get to know more of their fellow Villagers.

The VHA is also extending the Golf Scramble originally planned just for March, into April. This will provide another opportunity to compete in a sport enjoyed by so many and, like the poker run, provides a fund-raising opportunity to support the various VHA programs.

Once you get your COVID-19 vaccinations and begin to feel more comfortable venturing out, you will notice that The VHA is beginning to offer more of programs such as these, and I hope to be able to see many of you again after so many months of confinement.

If you want to take a little drive and see a world class operation, take a ride to Ocala, and visit the World Equestrian Center. According to their web site [www.worldequestriancenter.com](http://www.worldequestriancenter.com) “This world-class facility will be the largest equestrian complex in the United States situated on nearly 378 acres of state-of-the-art arenas and luxury accommodations and an additional 300 acres set aside for future expansion”.

My wife and I recently stopped by to look and found this to be a facility beyond anything I expected. It is an exceptionally large event center, with four indoor arenas seating 1500 each, a Grand Outdoor Arena seating 2500, and a Center Stadium seating 7500. It has seven restaurants and many equestrian-related shops and services.

The grounds are impeccable (reminds me of The Villages), and the Grand Outdoor Arena has great shade for spectators and two large screens that follow the action in the arena. Parking and admission are free, and they even have a nice chapel on site. There are events scheduled almost constantly and a list can be found on their web site. This is truly a world-class operation that will be attracting riders from all over the world. It is fun to just sit and watch the riders and horses, even if you are not a “horse person”.

*Stay safe and healthy!*

John

## SOUTH AREA

Between 466A and SR44

Mike Dollard, Vice President

[mjdollard@hotmail.com](mailto:mjdollard@hotmail.com) – 585-315-8338



Due to the Covid shutdown this past year, the district was unable to have its regular sessions on CDD orientation. They have created an alternative video class, actually several videos, that is available at the [www.DistrictGov.org](http://www.DistrictGov.org) site. Once on the site the connection to the videos is in a story that is the third one down titled “District Orientation” (at

least as of this writing). They are interesting videos and presentations – simply reading the presentation version is extremely informative. You can read or watch the videos one at a time, all in one sitting, or over a longer period of time. It is self-paced.



The first block in the district orientation series covers the numerous districts that we have. It carefully explains what each one does and how the alphabet soup of CDD to PWAC is all tied together.

Anyone interested in Highway Impact fees? If you go to the Sumter county site: <https://sumtercountyfl.gov/672/Road-Impact-Fees> you can see all of the types of construction that are charged a fee. Caution – this is the schedule that went into effect as of October 2020; it is not the one that was just adopted. To convert





# AREA AND REGION NEWS

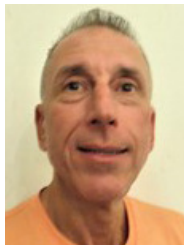
the amount of a fee multiply by 2.5 and then by .7. Example: To build a golf course the current fee is \$9,323 per hole at 40% of the maximum. Multiply that by 2.5 to get the maximum and then take .7 (70%) of that to get the new rate. In this example, a golf course will cost \$16,315 per hole to build.

Mike Dollard

## FAR SOUTH AREA

### South of SR44

**Andrew Bilardello, Vice President**  
[andy@bellicus.net](mailto:andy@bellicus.net) – 561-644-1358



Greeting's fellow Far Souther's!

The very first VHA Golf Cart Poker Run was held in the Far South, departing from the Everglades Regional Recreation Center on March 16th. Participants received clues to figure out four locations they had go to in order to pick each card for their poker hand. Upon finding the

four locations and picking each card from the deck offered and then recorded by our volunteers, they returned to Everglades where they picked their last (5th) card and got to enjoy some ice cream while the best hand was determined. Once all the hands were tallied a winner was determined. One lucky resident had FOUR aces. She walked away with \$150. Prizes were also awarded for the second-best hand for \$50, and the worst hand for \$50. I want to thank everyone who participated and made this a fun event. Pictured below are The VHA volunteers, (minus Mike and Jane Burke, Mike Dollard, and Mark Palmer), who helped with the event. L to R: Corda and Fred Oehling, Jan Palmer, Kathy Houser, Duane Johnson, John Dean, and myself. For more photos of the winners and event, see the recap on Page 8.



The VHA is also happy to announce that we are once again hosting New Resident Night. This popular program has not been held in over a year due to COVID. Geared to be an informative and fun evening for new residents to become familiar with the ins and outs of The Villages, it features representatives from

government, law enforcement, lifestyle and volunteer groups, with a 50/50 raffle and goodie bags. For more info, see page 8 and the back page and plan to join us on April 13 at Colony Recreation center at 7:00 p.m.

I also want to address the recent notice that we all received regarding the increase in non-Ad Valorem Fire Assessment. The notice was somewhat vague in its wording, so I contacted our County Administrator, Mr. Bradley Arnold, to see if we could clarify the issue. The following is his response:

*I will not know what the increase will be for 2021 tax bills until we formulate the budget and the Board provides a decision in July. The public hearing on April 13 is for the Board to consider adjusting the maximum value (cap) of the non-Ad Valorem Fire Assessment. If you have been attending the meetings on the topic of road impact fees, you may know that the road impact fee study used "legally defensible" methodology and established the maximum rate (cap=100%), but the Board set the actual rate at 40% of that maximum value. In a similar process, the non-Ad Valorem Fire Assessment has a legally defensible methodology that is the same used to establish the maximum rate of \$125 in 2007. Using the same methodology, but applying it to the current budget of the Villages Public Safety Department and Sumter County Fire operations yields a new maximum rate of \$360, as noted in the legally-required first-class notice to property owners when considering changing the maximum rate.*

*In July, the Board will consider if any change to the current \$124 annual assessment will be necessary to shift costs from the Ad Valorem to non-Ad Valorem portion of the County's levy in the 2021 tax bill.*

The VHA President, Mr. Phil Walker, also spoke with Mr. Arnold. President Walker explained it to me this way: "On the Date of April 13 at the County Commissioners Meeting, they will introduce the new higher maximum rate. The current rate was set in 2007. A new assessment rate will be set in July as part of the budget process. The current assessment is \$124. Because the maximum rate is \$125, the rate has no room to go up. So, you can see, the decision to raise the 'maximum allowable cap' will take place in April, but the actual determination for an increase applied to the tax bill will not occur until July. They are only discussing raising the 'Maximum Allowable' cap from \$125 to \$360 at the April 13 public hearing. *The decision to actually raise the fee will take place in July during the budget process. The Board can decide to raise the fee to the maximum allowable, raise it in small increments over several years or not raise it at all.* Mr. Walker and I will continue to monitor this issue as well as all issues that affect our lifestyle.

Andrew Bilardello

## LADY LAKE NEWS

Lynn Davis

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

The Lake County Clerk's Office has resumed operations at The Village Green, located at 902 Avenida Central, Lady Lake, The Villages. It is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (closed from noon to 1:00 p.m.) to process passports and marriages licenses. For marriage license processing you do not need an appointment. Passports will be processed by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, visit:

[www.LakeCountyClerk.org/Administrative\\_Services/Passports.aspx](http://www.LakeCountyClerk.org/Administrative_Services/Passports.aspx).



BJ's is coming to our area. It will be located on North US Hwy 441/27 behind WAWA, near Lowe's. If you are not familiar with BJ's, it is an American membership-only warehouse club chain based in Westborough, Massachusetts, operating

on the East Coast of the United States and the states of Ohio and Michigan. For more info visit: <https://www.bjs.com/>

The Lady Lake Farmer's Market previously held in front of the Log Cabin South US Hwy 441/27 on Tuesdays has moved to the soccer fields on Rolling Acres Road.

The Farmshed restaurant will be replacing Too Jays in Spanish Springs. Plans are still on track to open this spring/summer for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Don't forget to be very careful driving through the construction for the widening of Hwy 441/27 through Lady Lake. With all the orange cones it is sometimes hard to know where the lanes change and some of the usual left turns are blocked.

Submitted by,  
Lynn Davis





# The VHA News & Notes



## NEW RESIDENT NIGHT RESUMES APRIL 13, 2021:

After a year of not being able to host this popular program dedicated to welcoming and educating newcomers to our community on the ins and outs of living in The Villages, we are finally able to once again offer this fun and informative evening. In addition to various agencies and groups introducing themselves and being available to answer questions and guide new residents in learning the ropes here, it is an opportunity to meet community leaders and enjoy a Villages staple: a 50/50 drawing. We cordially invite you to join us at Colony Recreation Center at 7:00 p.m. Presentations include:

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



The Villages Homeowners Advocates is extending the time frame for its first-ever Four-Person Golf Scramble. The event was originally planned to be held during the entire month of March, but in order to allow more teams to schedule tee times we are extending it through the month of April.

- Competition will consist of four-person teams in the following categories: Women's, Men's Over 70, and Men's Under 70. Teams must play one Level Three and one Level Four Executive courses in The Villages.
- The event will use a scramble format and teams must play and complete a scorecard for each of the rounds they play.
- Winners will be determined by score-to-par. Score to par is a statistic that shows the average score to par for all holes included in the calculation. It is calculated by adding up all the scores for the included holes, and subtracting from that the total sum of the pars for those holes and dividing the result by the total number of holes. Thus: Your Score MINUS the pars for all holes played for a particular course, DIVIDED by the number of holes played.

- Entry fee for the event is \$10 for VHA members and \$20 for non-members. All entry fees must be received prior to playing either round. Sixty percent of all entry fees will be returned as prize money for the winning teams. The number and amount of prizes will be determined by the number of teams entered.
- Women will play from the green tees and men from the gold tees for this.
- In the Over 70 event, all team players must be over 70. Players over 70 MAY play in the Under 70 event.
- Teams can play the tournament on any day or days in the months of either March or April.

Questions? Contact Mike Burke at  
[MikeBurkeVHA@Yahoo.com](mailto:MikeBurkeVHA@Yahoo.com), 352-205-7031.

## The VHA GOLF SCRAMBLE 2021 ENTRY FORM

CATEGORY: WOMEN'S \_\_\_\_\_ MEN'S OVER 70 \_\_\_\_\_ MEN'S UNDER 70 \_\_\_\_\_

TEAM MEMBERS: \_\_\_\_\_ VHA MEMBER: Please indicate Yes/No

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE INCLUDE THE PHONE NUMBER FOR THE TEAM CONTACT PERSON, (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ AND ENTRY FEES:**

VHA MEMBER \$10; NON-VHA MEMBER \$20

Mail prepaid entry form and completed scorecards to:

**Mike Burke, VHA Program Director**  
**2192 Crawford Ct. The Villages, FL 32162**

## THE VHA GOLF CART POKER RUN WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!



The VHA Golf Cart Poker Run from the Everglades Recreation Center on Tuesday, March 16th was a lot of fun for everyone involved. We hope to sponsor more of these types of activities in the future. A special thanks for heading up this event goes out to our program director, Mike Burke, and his wife Jane.



**POKER RUN WINNERS** L TO R: Worst Hand – Sara Henderson \$50; Best Hand \$150 and 50/50 \$40 – Jennifer Granger; Second Best Hand \$50 – Tom Melovitz. CONGRATULATIONS!



## THE VHA VOLUNTEER AWARDS NIGHT RECOGNIZED EXEMPLARY SERVICE BY RECIPIENTS TO THE VILLAGES COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

It is our privilege every year to recognize groups and individuals who make significant, positive contributions to The Villages community. As advocates for "Keeping the Dream Alive" we appreciate those who have the same vision and dedicate themselves to fulfilling it in a variety of ways.



**AWARD PRESENTATIONS:** Top left: John Dean presents one of two Volunteer Service Awards to Theresa Ierardi, President of the Quilting Guild of The Villages; Top right: Nicholas Hemes presents the other award to Betty Rohan, Hometown Civitan. Greg Parady, center, was the recipient of the Don Hahnfeldt Service Award, presented by Sandy Mott and VHA President Phil Walker.

## MEMBERS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE GROUPS ARE PICTURED BELOW.



## GENERAL NEWS REGARDING THE VHA PROGRAMS AND EVENTS:

As our programs begin to reopen, please note that as of April 1, 2021, The Villages Recreation has determined that masks will be requested at functions and programs, but not required. Social distancing and the number of people participating will still be at less than full capacity, so plan accordingly.

Due to the uncertainty of the times we are living in, two of our most popular annual events had to be cancelled for the year; namely, the Country Western Hoedown and An Evening with the Developer. Stay tuned for more information as we hope to reschedule them in the upcoming future.

## WORK FROM HOME OFFICE HELP:

The VHA Helping Hands is looking for someone who is interested in volunteering one day a week answering phones and recording requests for durable medical equipment on a computer. This position requires the following skills:

- General knowledge of the equipment we have and its intended use.
- Be available on your specific day between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (it is not the intent to stand by the phone all hours. You are able to carry on most daily activities and respond to messages prior to 4:00 p.m.)
- Generate a report between 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. and send it to the respective drivers so they can have equipment available at the office the following morning.
- Have a good understanding of Excel and Chrome to produce reports at the end of your work day.
- Have good telephone skills and be a good listener to guide residents to the proper equipment choice.

Helping Hands provides the computer and phone needed. In return, you will receive a lot of satisfaction in your ability to help residents during a stressful time in their lives. If interested, please call 352-973-2284.

## EDITORIAL ASSISTANT FOR THE VOICE:

This position is a back-up for the editor and would involve learning the ropes, helping with graphics and content, some reporting, and proofreading. Contact: Jan Palmer at [mjpalmer2@comcast.net](mailto:mjpalmer2@comcast.net)

## NEW RESIDENT NIGHT COORDINATOR:

The ideal volunteer for this program would be responsible for set up, contacting presenters, refreshments, and overseeing all aspects of this fun, monthly meeting. Contact: Kathy Porter at [kathymporter@comcast.net](mailto:kathymporter@comcast.net)

**ASSISTANT MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:** This position would involve assisting the Membership Chairman with recruitment, record keeping, handling dues, and retention of members as well as routine mailings and staffing the membership table at events. Contact: Kathy Porter at [kathymporter@comcast.net](mailto:kathymporter@comcast.net)

## THE ON-LINE REFRESHER COURSE CONTINUES TO BE OFFERED:



The AARP Smart Driver course is recognized as an approved accident prevention course for drivers age 55 and older by the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. Insured drivers, age 55 and older, may be eligible for an appropriate reduction in automobile insurance premium charges good for three years after completing this course. Please check with your insurance company or agent for any additional requirements for eligibility.

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



## MANAGING ALLERGIES: SOME HELPFUL HINTS

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021**  
**10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

This time of the year brings with it quite a bit of respiratory discomfort for many of us. As we know, with Spring comes beautiful weather, beautiful flowers and, unfortunately, a heap of not-so-beautiful allergic reactions. So, with this in mind, we've arranged for a discussion that will help seniors "Spring into Action" and learn more about allergies, COPD, and lung health. In this seminar, you will discover some healthy ways to manage your allergies, overall respiratory system health, and diseases such as COPD.

Our speakers for this discussion will be Chris Shepherd and Gloria Puerto-Ebey from Vitas Healthcare, and we'll be presenting this topic as a virtual (Zoom) webinar. In keeping with our practice for online events, we'll record the session and make it available for on-demand viewing via the AMAC Foundation website.

To register for the event, please contact the Foundation office at 888-750-2622 or via email at [info@AmacFoundation.org](mailto:info@AmacFoundation.org).

**MAILBOX COORDINATOR:** Every neighborhood postal station has a VHA mailbox, and volunteers currently check them regularly. This position would be the "go-to" person for those volunteers and be available to troubleshoot any problems that might arise with misplaced mail being accidentally deposited in our boxes, or other necessary maintenance and coordination. Contact Phil Walker at [4ianeknfl4@gmail.com](mailto:4ianeknfl4@gmail.com).

**MISCELLANEOUS:** If you are interested in just getting your toes wet, so to speak, and would like to volunteer for one of our events, or to help out as needed with any of our programs, use the contact form on Page 4 or visit our website at [www.thevha.net](http://www.thevha.net) and let us know your availability and interests. We appreciate our volunteers, and need them.



## TECH SUPPORT CALLING? NOT SO FAST!

**Seniors  
VS.  
CRIME**



With so much attention focused on COVID-19 scams and stimulus payment scams, it's easy to lose sight of some scams that just never go away. One perennial favorite of scammers is tech support. This scam often earns the criminal the ability to load malicious software onto your device to harvest your information.

### How It Works

You get an unsolicited phone call or email from a big tech company like Microsoft or Apple, or you see a pop-up message on your screen warning that a virus or other malicious program has infected your device, and you need to call the number on the screen right away.

- A “technician” asks for remote access to your device, and, once in, shows you some files that “prove” you have a major problem.
- The “technician” says they can fix your problem, for a fee, and then may offer you a monthly subscription to keep your device safe.

### Warning Signs

- Big tech companies like Microsoft or Apple say they don't call customers out of the blue to warn them



of problems on their devices. The troublesome files the “technician” may show you on your device are completely benign.

- The scammer may ask you to pay by purchasing a gift card and providing the account number and PIN — a sure sign that it's a scam, as is a request for payment by wire transfer.
- The scammer may call back months later and offer you a refund for some phony reason, asking for your bank account information to deposit the money. This is a ruse.

### What You Should Do

- Screen incoming calls with an answering machine or voicemail, and once you listen to the message, decide if it warrants a callback.
- If the caller claims you have a problem with your computer or the software on your computer, it is a scam, so don't engage or return the call.
- If you get a pop-up that freezes your screen, shut down your computer and restart it.
- Keep your security software, browser and operating system up-to-date.
- If you think your device is infected, get it checked out by a reputable local source.
- If you realize you've fallen victim to this scam, and you've paid by credit card, contact your financial institution to dispute the charge and to cancel any monthly fees you may have agreed to.
- Report scams to the Federal Trade Commission at [www.ftc.gov/complaint](http://www.ftc.gov/complaint).

When it comes to fraud, vigilance is our number one weapon. You have the power to protect yourself and your loved ones from scams. Please share this alert with friends and family.

If you need assistance with understanding any aspects of tech support scams, 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 Face Book. Hablamos Español. Por favor pregunte por Yolanda. Martes a Viernes: 10:00 A.M. a 2:00 P.M., (352) 689 4606.

## Lights, Cameras...Consequences

### BIKE • FRIENDLY • COMMUNITY • CORNER

by Dave Lawrence

The last few years have seen an explosion of small mobile video cameras. GoPro, Garmin, Sony and now Cycliq have created the “action camera”. This modern technology has given cyclists a new safety tool. Front and back light/camera combinations record sound and video in high definition and provide crystal clear recordings of the traffic around the cyclist.

They also serve as powerful front and back lights that blink in several patterns and intensities lasting from two to six hours. The front camera records what you see while driving your bike; the back one records what follows or overtakes you. Used together, these recordings provide a record of what is happening around you including the make, model, color, license plate, road position and sometimes the driver's face. Having used several light/camera combinations over the past few years, I know how powerful a tool they can be.

Why would a bicyclist need a bicycle camera? Many cyclists share their rides online. However, if you spend

much time driving your bicycle on public roads and multi-modal trails, think about its other uses to record their surroundings; inattentive driving, road rage, harassment and the big one... not following the rules of the road.

Before you run out and purchase this equipment for your bike, however, know that your action camera will video exactly what happened. If you didn't stop or properly yield entering an intersection or roundabout, your camera's video will prove you are at least partially at fault for any collision that occurred. Upon impact, the camera locks previous files and executes a recording of events after the collision. A timestamp can be displayed as well.



As a tip, how you present your report or questions to a police officer may influence the cooperation you receive. When requesting assistance, beginning with “Can you please assist me with this dangerous driver?” can be an effective way of presenting your plea for help.

For the past decade I have reminded Villagers that their actions when driving either a car or a bike have consequences. State law regarding the movement of all types of vehicles and pedestrians must be followed to help keep every motorist, cyclist and pedestrian as safe as possible.

Keeping this advice brief, I offer a recent web article that answers many of the questions raised when comparing bicycle cameras. Personally, I have chosen the Cycliq Fly12ce (front) and Fly 6 gen3 (rear) light/camera combinations. They check all the boxes for me: stable video, crisp audio, timestamp, long battery life, bright lights with several blink patterns and a sturdy mounting design for bicycle use.

The site that reviews many more cameras is: [Thegeekycyclist](http://Thegeekycyclist)

David Lawrence is the SLBC Director of Safety





## A LETTER FROM OUR CHAIRMAN



As the chairman of the Auxiliary Foundation Board, it is my pleasure to inform you about the amazing work being done in our community and at our hospital thanks to our dedicated staff and board members. This past year of course has been even more challenging with so many of us not able to be out in the public as much as we would have liked. I am so very thankful to my fellow board members for adapting to and embracing new technology that would allow us to continue working seamlessly.

Together we have been able to accomplish so much:

- Our fund raising continues to grow every year. The virtual gala this year raised over \$299,000 which is much more than anyone would have dreamed possible considering the Pandemic. This is especially true considering so many foundations have ceased to exist. Kudos to all of our staff for daring to try something new and believing in us and making this technologically groundbreaking event a tremendous success.
- We are near completion of a major renovation of our thrift shop which is anticipated to double the amount of revenue of the existing facility.
- Through a joint effort with our hospital, we have turned around the public perception of The Foundation and our hospital. Two years ago, it seemed

like daily we were receiving complaints from the community and now the patient stories and testimonials throughout the community are very positive.

- We have continued to develop our board to include new members who have diverse backgrounds and are rich in business and/or medical experience.
- We have updated internal systems to increase our efficiency, increase profitability of our thrift shop, gift shop and our cafe, and have also substantially enhanced our social media presence.
- Our auxiliary volunteers continued to serve our hospital through this horrible pandemic. So many thanks go out to our volunteers and chaplains who have comforted so many.
- We have had a wonderful beginning with our becoming a member of the UF Health family and look forward to so many exciting things in the near future to improve health care in our community.

The future is bright for our Foundation. We are looking forward to all that UF Health brings to us including a new hospital, and world class medicine. I am passing the torch effective July 1, 2021 to a very talented and energetic person. Welcome my friend Andre Nacaxe, Vice President of United Southern Bank. The Foundation could not be in better hands.

Finally, a giant thank you to our donors and supporters who have never left our side. You are truly appreciated.

*Sincerely,  
Scott Sander*

## WELCOME New Members

ASTOR, Jeffrey &  
MILLER-ASTOR, Alison  
AUTRY, Steve  
BAUER, Walter & Pamela  
BELEW, Michael  
& POLING, Patricia  
BERKAW, Molly & David  
BLUTH, Steven & Maureen  
BOCK, Ronald & Judy  
BREITENBACH, Carla &  
HILLARD, Robert  
BURTON, Brad & Deb  
CAMERON, Don &  
HENDERSON, Cheryl  
CHOJNACKI, Raymond  
& Lucretia  
CLOESMEYER, Ronald & Marie  
COHEY, Mary R.

DeWEES, Christine  
ERLINGER, Richard & Mary  
FOUNTAIN, David, Cynthia &  
Howard  
GARINGER, Debbie  
GARRISON, Linda & John  
GATES, Elizabeth  
GAVAN, Rosemary &  
MILLER, Howard  
GORZKA, Joseph F. Sr.,  
Margaret R. & Madeline R.  
GUDGEL, Barbara & Neil  
HABERFELD, Vivian & Fred  
HAGADORN, John & Patricia  
HOLLOWAY, Elizabeth &  
Anthony  
HOPKINS, Mark S. &  
Jennifer R.

KEIL, Tracy & Richard  
KORY, Edward & Roseanne  
LaFOREST, Anne & Bob  
LAWLESS, John & Susie  
LUCYNSKI, John & Beate  
MARAVILLA, Frederic (Don) &  
Susan  
MARKS, Charles & Teri  
MAY, Cynthia K. & James F.  
McLEAN, Michael &  
Gwendolyn  
MIKELS, Steven & Susan  
MOE, Janet & Douglas  
MUELLER, Christian S. &  
Cherilyn S.  
NAPOLITANO, Ann & Vincent  
PAC, Tim & Teresa  
PEARLMAN, Robert & Mona  
PLESNIARSKI, Denise  
RATCLIFFE, Clay & Debi  
REGAN, Maureen &  
SINGER, Mike  
RITCHEY, Paul & Linda

RUBICK, Ed & POIRIER, Rebella  
RYBURN, Glenn & Barbara  
SKOJEC, Linda  
SMYTH, Tom & SHIPLEY, Susan  
ST. JOHN, Christie  
STONE, Harvey & Carol  
TAPKEN, Hank  
TARSHUS, Daniel & Kathleen  
TRETOLA, Loretta &  
BEULKE, Dave  
TUPINO, Esther & WICKES,  
Robert  
TYNES, Karen & Gordon  
UHLER, Carole Legg  
WILDE, John & Karleen  
WILSON, Gerald R. & Betty M.  
WILT, Roy W. & Sonya (Sunny)  
WOOL, Martin & BOURN, Sue  
YAEGER, Patty & Mark  
YARBROUGH, Terry P.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### THE VHA WELCOMES THE NEW MERCHANTS TO MEMBERS DIRECTOR: BARBARA GUDGEL



Barbara became a Villager in 2019 and has lived in Florida since 1982. Relocating to Florida upon graduation from Indiana University, Bloomington, she worked for Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Department for a year and then went on to the private sector working as a sales representative for a swimming pool filtration company.

Barbara had found her niche in sales and in the swimming pool business. For 28 years she traveled the State of Florida, as well as other states, selling chemicals and equipment for American and Australian manufacturers. In 2005 Barbara sold her sales rep agency and she and her husband now split their time each year between Florida and Idaho.

With her experience educating businesses on products and why they should sell them, she is hoping to do the same with M2M by convincing businesses of the value of participating in The VHA program, and, in the process, offering more value for VHA members.

When they are in The Villages, Barbara and Neil play pickleball, participate in classes, bike ride, golf, swim and just enjoy everything The Villages has to offer. They are truly "Living the Dream" here in The Villages!

## M2M: THE VHA MERCHANTS TO MEMBERS DISCOUNT PROGRAM



Visit our website at [www.thevha.net](http://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.



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

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[COMMUNITY FOUNDATION](#) ▾

[HELPING HANDS](#)

# WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY

## NEW RESIDENT NIGHT

**TUESDAY, APRIL 13 AT 7:00 P.M.  
AT COLONY REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER**

**JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF  
GETTING TO KNOW THE VILLAGES,  
INSIDE AND OUT.  
SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 8**

# The VHA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OUTDOOR BINGO

**Thursday, April 8, 2021  
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Doors open at 2:30 p.m.  
Evans Prairie Country Club Patio  
*First come, First served***

COVID Compliant—Disposable Bingo Cards/Personal Marker Provided  
Drinks/Food can be purchased—NO BYOB or snacks permitted  
\$10 for first 2 bingo cards \$1 each for extras.

**50/50 Drawing**

Sponsor: **Florida Blue**

**MEDICARE**

## APRIL 2021 VHA TOWN HALL MEETING INFORMATION

The VHA will hold its quarterly Town Hall meeting on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 with representatives of The Villages management team and local law enforcement. Questions will be asked on your behalf which are submitted to us beforehand. Answers will be published in the May edition of The Voice. The deadline for us to receive questions is April 14th.

**Submit questions to us by:**

- **Contacting your VHA area representative**
- **Using the contact form in The Voice and depositing it in the VHA slot at your postal station**
- **Using our website email system**
- **Or sending a letter directly to:  
The VHA, 1104 Main Street, The Villages, FL 32159.**

## THE VHA HOSTS ITS FIRST EXTENDED

# Golf Scramble

**INTO THE MONTH OF APRIL  
SEE DETAILS AND  
ENTRY FORM ON PAGE 8**