



By Len Hathaway

Lightning is one of the most underrated severe weather hazards, yet it ranks as one of the top weather killers. Here in The Villages we are living in “the lightning capital of the nation”. To focus attention on lightning safety the National Lightning Safety Council (NLSC) conducts an annual campaign called Lightning Safety Awareness Week. This year the dates are June 20-26, in advance of the summer lightning season across the country.

For The Villages, we can and do experience lightning year-round, but it begins to ramp up in May. The National Weather Service (NWS) data shows that for our area we experience on average 80 thunderstorm days per year. According to a local weather observer

we typically average about 110 days with thunder and lightning.

On September 4, 2017, a 12-year-old boy was struck at the conclusion of a youth soccer tournament at the Polo Fields. Fortunately, he did eventually recover thanks to the action of the tournament coordinator, EMS, and hospital personnel. This event demonstrates the UNPREDICTABILITY of lightning because it had not rained at the Polo Fields. However, it was reported that lightning was experienced two miles north of the Polo Fields.

Lightning Awareness – Plan Ahead

The NLSC’s lightning awareness campaign is focused on planning ahead to avoid being caught in a dangerous situation.

- Listen to the local weather forecast
- Plan ahead and know where to go for shelter
- Consider a cell phone weather app that includes lightning strikes
- Act early so that you can quickly get to shelter
- **WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS!**

Places that are not safe include trees, golf courses, fences, dugouts, lakes, swimming pools, picnic areas, pickleball courts, tennis courts, softball fields, open fields, flag poles, picnic shelters, fishing, light poles, bleachers, dog parks, nature trails, etc. A hard-topped all-metal vehicle also qualifies as safe refuge from lightning provided that the windows are closed, and you are not touching any metal parts in the vehicle.

Remember, lightning is not only dangerous, but highly UNPREDICTABLE and does not always strike the tallest object in your area. Golf carts, motorcycles, convertibles, and bicycles are **NOT** safe during a thunderstorm.

While no place is entirely safe from lightning, you should seek shelter in a substantial building which can be your own home. Even when you are in your home (or substantial building) you are not entirely safe from lightning and should avoid:

- Plumbing (including taking a shower during a thunderstorm)
- Electrical equipment and appliances
- Corded telephones – unless of course there is an emergency - (cell and portable telephones are not wire-connected telephones)
- Windows

After the storm passes

An integral part of the NWS’s awareness campaign, WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS, is to wait 30 minutes after the last sighting of lightning or rumble of thunder. Lightning has been known to strike outside of the rain area from up to ten miles away. In some cases, this has occurred even after the clouds have departed and the sun has come out. This is sometimes referred to as “a strike from the blue.”

Do I need surge protection for my appliances/electronics from indirect lightning strikes?

Consider the level of risk to your valuable appliances and electronics that can be damaged due to a surge even from an indirect lightning strike in your vicinity. You may wish to consider a surge protection device installed on your electric meter by your utility, or on your electric panel in the garage by a licensed electrician. This is generally called Primary Surge Protection. WARNING: This alone is not “whole house” surge protection. You also need Secondary Surge Protection, sometimes called “point-of-use” or “plug ins”, that plug into a 120-volt wall outlet.

Power strips are another type of surge protection for computers and TVs. Surges can also enter your home through other sources such as telephone and cable/satellite lines. Therefore, it is vitally important that telephone and coaxial lines be routed through a surge protector as well.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello fellow VHA members,

Welcome to all the new residents who have chosen The Villages to retire. In April and May The VHA has had hundreds of new residents attend our New Resident Nights to hear from community representatives, government officials, and club representatives who offer volunteer opportunities.

Well over half of the attendees have been from the areas South of Highway 44. The VHA is very glad to bring you the information these many groups offer as you embark on your retirement journey with The Villages community at large. We look forward to working with you as we "Continue the Dream".

The "dream" analogy is often used here in The Villages because it is such a special place. We hope you will join The VHA as we strive to continue our mission

and tradition of "Keeping the Dream Alive".

I have been receiving calls lately about residents who are not safely sharing the multi-modal paths and roadways. Bicyclists, walkers and joggers are complaining about being cut off or crowded as they enjoy using the paths. The last call I received told of a car flying through a villa stop sign and coming way too close to a walker and bike rider. Please, be considerate of your fellow residents as we ALL are trying to enjoy the lifestyle of the Villages.

The VHA is expanding its social events and educational programs and we need volunteers to help out. If you would like to help organize or simply staff a social event (perhaps something new and different) let us know. We could sure use some fresh ideas and new faces. Contact me through our website at www.thevha.net.

Enjoy the Summer.
Phil Walker

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.



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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.officemail@gmail.com

VISION

Keeping the Dream Alive

MISSION

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

VALUES

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

VHA OFFICE

1104 Main St., Spanish Springs

VHA MAIN PHONE:

352-753-4650

VHA WEBSITE:

www.thevha.net

The VHA News & Notes

NEW RESIDENT NIGHT JUNE 8 AT COLONY REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER AT 7:00 P.M.

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

- Honorable Paul Militello, Sumter County Judge
- Sumter County Sheriff's Office & other local law enforcement
- Sumter County Property Appraiser
- Sumter County Tax Collector
- Sumter County Clerk
- District Government
- Serving Health Ins. Needs of Elders (SHINE)
- 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

PLEASE NOTE THAT ON JULY 13, NEW RESIDENT NIGHT WILL BE HELD AT LA HACIENDA REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER.

Upcoming EVENTS

FOR JUNE AND JULY

NEW RESIDENT NIGHT:

TUESDAYS: JUNE 8 at 7:00 p.m.
at COLONY COTTAGE REGIONAL
RECREATION CENTER AND JULY 13
at LA HACIENDA REGIONAL
RECREATION CENTER

GOLF CART SAFETY CLINIC:

WEDNESDAYS: JUNE 16 at 9:00 a.m.
at WATER LILY RECREATION CENTER
and July 21 at 9:00 a.m. at COLONY
REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER.



BRADLEY ARNOLD,
SUMTER COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR:
JULY 12 at 7:00 p.m. at COLONY
REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER

"COMMUNITY WATCH: WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO...AND DON'T DO":

July 19 at 7:00 p.m. at
Everglades Recreation Center

THE VHA VOLUNTEER SOCIAL:

JULY 21 at 1:00 p.m. at
LA HACIENDA REGIONAL
RECREATION CENTER

THE NEXT VHA QUARTERLY TOWN HALL MEETING:

JULY 20th with question
deadline of JULY 14th

VHA-CF BINGO:

TUESDAY, JULY 27 at 6:30 p.m.
at LA HACIENDA REGIONAL
RECREATION CENTER.

THE VHA
COUNTRY WESTERN HOEDOWN:
JANUARY 29, 2022

AN EVENING WITH THE
DEVELOPER AT THE SHARON:
MAY 11, 2022



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

or

VHA deposit boxes are available
at every Postal Station.

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

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

Name: *(All in Household)*

Street Address:

Zip:

Name of Village/Villa:

Mailing Address: (if different than The Villages)

Phone:

Email:

- ☐ I would like to volunteer

AREA AND REGION NEWS

NORTH AREA

North of 466

Jan Palmer – Editor of The Voice



Every month The VHA advisory board meets with an agenda and goals in mind. Each program director and vice president gives a report, and upcoming events and ideas are discussed. This past month I noted for the first time how many invitations for our New Resident Night were being sent out... over 500!

I helped out with New Resident Night in May and enjoyed meeting and greeting our guests as they arrived. At one point we asked for a show of hands for who was from each area of The Villages, and hands went up for North, Central, South, and Far South. As I looked around the room, I was reminded once again of the value of The VHA in acclimating new residents to our community.

The Villages demographic is diverse and constantly changing. There are always new, younger residents who are ready and raring to enjoy the active lifestyle here. The older, established members of our community are often the ones who have become involved in volunteering and giving back. Still others are dealing with aging in place (with a variety of options that meet their needs). Plus, there is always real estate turnover when residents either upgrade to a new home, (the average Villager moves three times!), move to be closer to family again, or pass away.

As an organization, The VHA is multi-faceted as we work to meet the needs of this dynamic community. We welcome new residents, focusing on valuable information they need, safety, and ways to get involved. We offer durable medical equipment on loan, free of charge, provide a variety of volunteer opportunities, put together educational workshops and hold fun social events, and much more. We have developed a partner network within The Villages to benefit not only our members, but all residents. And we do it all with goodwill, not animosity. That matters to me, and hopefully it matters to you.

It is one thing to be a resource; quite another to be a part of that resource. I can honestly say that being involved with The VHA has enriched my life here. I so appreciate the behind-the-scenes people who have created and maintain the lifestyle we enjoy here and the volunteers who donate countless hours to organizations and lifestyle clubs for the simple good of humanity.

My husband and I are celebrating our 50th Anniversary in June, and one of the lessons marriage taught me is that things don't "just happen". As a child growing up, my needs were always met and I took my parents for granted. Becoming the wife who had to run a household and raising five children who took me for granted was quite an eye opener. Thankfully, we took on the challenges involved and became responsible adults. I feel that way about The Villages; we often take

for granted that the lifestyle we enjoy here will simply continue to "happen". It will if we take responsibility for "Keeping the Dream Alive".

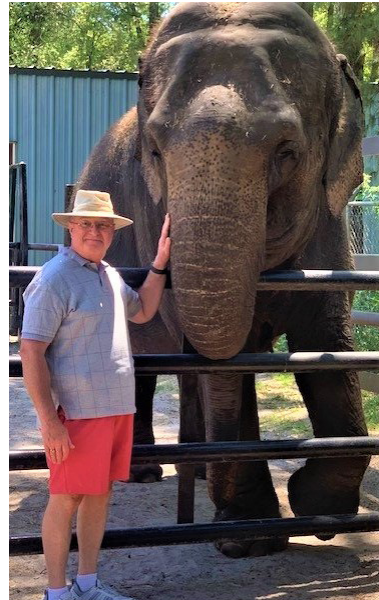
*Jan Palmer
Editor, The VHA Voice*

CENTRAL AREA

Between 466 and 466A

John Dean, Vice President

vhajohn dean@gmail.com – 207-557-0371



Greetings

Neighbors and VHA members often ask me about things to do and places to see when they have family and friends visiting. Everyone knows about the big attractions, but they often ask about other things that are close-by that are interesting and at a reasonable cost. I have mentioned a couple in the past, but this month I offer a new one that is educational and fun.

On Mother's Day I took my wife,

Carol, and some neighbors to the Two Tails Farm in Williston. This is primarily an elephant educational facility, but they also have a camel, a zebra, lemurs, ostrich, and tortoise.

This is not a fancy place but the educational component and the up-close encounter with these animals is something that people of all ages would enjoy. The family who owns this facility have been animal handlers for nine generations and it is obvious that they provide exceptionally good care for their animals. Some of their elephants have lived into their 80's or 90's. One of them even paints. And this is not something he was trained to do. He learned it by playing with the owner's children when they were all young.

The admission is \$20 and there are extra fees for pictures, feeding, and riding. Everyone in my group did the ride (very safe for all ages) and I was the designated photographer. This is a guided tour of 1.5 to 2 hours and it includes a lecture about the facility and the animals as well as a great opportunity to ask any questions. Their web site is www.allaboutelephants.com and their phone number is 352-528-6585.

Everyone in our group enjoyed this experience. So, here is another idea of what you can do with visitors. I am finding that there is a whole lot to see and do in Florida. Get out and enjoy.

*Stay safe and healthy!
John*

SOUTH AREA

Between 466A and SR44

Mike Dollard, Vice President

mjdollard@hotmail.com – 585-315-8338



First, a bit of housekeeping: In the South district (between 466A and 44) I could use a few volunteers to help with some regular but simple tasks. One would be checking The VHA mail drop boxes at a few neighborhood postal stations and delivering anything deposited there to its proper location.

While most deposits are intended for The VHA, sometimes people put their utility payments and other communiques in there by accident and it needs to be redirected to the correct recipient. Another area that we could use volunteers for is people who would be willing to help at meetings and community events periodically. If you are interested in getting more involved in the community but don't want to jump in with both feet, try dipping a toe in the water and contact me.

As some of you know, I am on the CDD 9 Board of Supervisors. We are entering the budget season and I would like to keep you informed on what is happening with the annual budget and the resultant maintenance assessments. CDD 9 (roughly the area below 466A and above Hillsborough, plus a few non-connected areas like Mission Hills) is projecting a drop in the annual billings for assessment fees & bond payments that are on the annual tax bill.

There are two reasons for this: The first is that the district refinanced one of its large bond packages at a lower interest rate. The result is a savings of slightly over \$1 million dollars that needs to be raised in assessments on your tax bill. Obviously, if you have paid off your bond this does not impact you as you do not have a bond assessment.

The second reason is that since December of 2020 we have been discussing our level of reserves and the level of working capital. I campaigned for office on these topics and am glad that the board agrees with certain budget changes. The outcome of this is that the maintenance assessments, as of the initial budget so far, is set to be lowered by 20%.

Why are we still working on getting balances to the best levels? When a CDD initially starts, the board is made up of members appointed by the property owner, which on Day One is the developer. As houses are sold and the property owners are residents, not the developer, the board becomes populated by residents and time starts telling you what the actual operating costs are versus just estimates. CDD 9 is now about five years old and we are getting a better handle on the economic realities of the district.

Mike Dollard

AREA AND REGION NEWS

FAR SOUTH AREA

South of SR44

Andrew Bilardello, Vice President
andy@bellicus.net – 561-644-1358



What an honor it was to attend the Town Hall meeting and then have lunch at City Fire in Brownwood with Governor Ron DeSantis last month. It's always nice to have a sitting Governor visit our little piece of heaven here in The Villages.

Under DeSantis' leadership, Florida added half a billion

dollars for teacher raises, spent more than \$600 million on the environment to preserve land and protect water, and he secured \$9 billion to expand and improve roads. Even the governor's biggest critics applaud his funding a \$23 million increase for mental health services. He is truly an amazing Governor and we should be proud and happy to have him.

Now some of you are asking yourselves, "What does this have to do with The VHA?" Great question, as many people don't believe that The VHA should be involved in politics or promoting one politician over another. I happen to disagree; politicians control our lives. They decide how much we pay in income taxes as well as fuel, property and a myriad of other taxes. They decide what our children are taught in schools and if biological boys will compete with and against girls in sports. They can close down our businesses, force us to wear masks and keep us from visiting our elderly parents in health care facilities.

So why shouldn't we get involved in politics to make certain that our voices are heard? Why wouldn't we want to promote politicians that have our best interests at heart? Since its inception, The VHA has been politically neutral. That was a decision made by its founders many years ago. I believe that it's time to change that; we need to pick a side.

As an organization, we certainly don't want to alienate any of our members who may have different political viewpoints. This is still America and you are certainly free to vote for whomever you wish. Just remember that you moved here for more than great weather, golf, and pickle ball. You fled states that were taxing and regulating you out of your homes. You came here for the lower property taxes, no State income tax, and less government overreach. Why wouldn't you want to keep that? The simple answer is, "You can". Simply support and vote for the people that want to keep Florida, Sumter County and The Villages affordable, attractive and an amazing place to live and play.

Andrew Bilardello
 VHA VP Far South

LADY LAKE NEWS

Lynn Davis

Lynna527@aol.com – 352-250-7782

The following new businesses have recently opened in Lady Lake:

- **Farmshed** (where TooJays was located in Spanish Springs)
- **Diamond Nail Spa**, 664 Hwy 27/441 (near Target)
- **S.I. Nails & Spa**, 1100 Bichara Blvd.
- **T-Palace Nail & Spa**, 645 N. Hwy 27/441
- **Ultrex Printing**, 302 Oak St.
- **Fertigator Lawn Care**, 306 Oak St.
- **Mark Anthony, Inc.** (Air Conditioning & Heating) 352-504-0522



New Business coming this summer to Lady Lake:

- **Earth Fare** (near Goodwill in the Lady Lake Commons Shopping Center)

As of June 1st, the Lady Lake Library will be resuming its normal hours of Monday 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. and Tuesday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

They have a number of programs and workshops planned, such as the popular Geek Squad's technology classes starting in June on the 2nd Friday of each month. For more information on this or other programs/workshops call the library at 352-753-2957.

Congratulations to the 25 Lady Lake residents who won the gift certificates from Fairfield Farm Nurseries in Oxford.

Submitted by,
 Lynn Davis



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

The Villages
 Community Development Districts

AAC & PWAC BUDGET FOR THE FUTURE



District Manager

This past week the AAC (Amenity Authority Committee) and the PWAC (Project Wide Advisory Committee) had their second review of the proposed Fiscal Year 21/22 Budgets. The total proposed 2021-22 operating budget presented for AAC is \$42,019,980 and for PWAC \$76,830,081.

Both committees have their respective role in shaping the capital projects and ongoing maintenance/operations of all District-owned amenities -Executive Golf, Recreation Centers, Pools, and Sport Courts. The PWAC is also charged with providing recommendations for "common infrastructure" existing between County Road 466 and County Road 466A. The amenity type features south of SR 44 are still owned and funded in entirety by the "Developer".

Over the summer, the Committee work will continue until they each recommend a final budget to their respective Boards. This work of staff and the committees is arduous. Community involvement and input are encouraged as the public meetings have multiple periods of public involvement. All of the materials associated with the committees and their respective work can be located on the www.Districtgov.org website under the toolbar heading of "Committees". I urge you to take a look at the project listings as well as maintenance/operations as these projects shape the look and feel of The Villages. We encourage your feedback.

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

The AAC is a committee of the Village Center Community Development District (VCCDD). The AAC is responsible for amenity services north of C.R. 466 which involves recommending budgets, developing policy and the operation of amenity facilities and services. The facilities under their purview include recreation centers, executive golf courses, gate houses and postal facilities.

The PWAC was established by Resolution 13-05 of the Sumter Landing Community Development District (SLCDD) and is comprised of a Board Supervisor from Village Community Development District No's 5-11. The establishing resolution provides the PWAC will provide input, explore issues and provide advice and recommendations to the SLCDD on issues related to the maintenance of Project Wide Improvements.

Resolution 17-11 was subsequently adopted by the SLCDD on May 18, 2017 to expand the duties and responsibilities of the PWAC to provide input, explore issues and provide recommendations on issues related to SLCDD owned Amenity facilities.

Continued from page 1

REMEMBER: Lightning Loves Technology!

Do I need lightning rods for my home?

You are the only one who can answer that question based on your personal risk tolerance for a direct lightning strike to your home. The chance of your home being struck is very low, but you also need to weigh the potential severity that can be very high to include the possible destruction of your home, damage to possessions, and a threat to your family and pets. Lightning rods do work if they are designed, installed, and maintained to meet the national standard on lightning and installed by firms that are listed by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and employ personnel that have qualified as a Master Installer by examination by the Lightning Protection Institute (LPI). Door-to-door solicitors will not meet these criteria; therefore, BUYER BEWARE!

Pets and Thunderstorms

Pets may be particularly sensitive to loud sounds

like thunder as well as changes in barometric pressure and even static electricity. There are many sites on the internet discussing this issue and the need for safe spaces, thunder jackets, and alternative background noise among other suggestions. You may also wish to consult with your veterinarian.

What state is the Lighting Capital of the Nation?

Recent news releases by Vaisala (the vendor operating the US National Detection Network) shows that over the last five years Oklahoma edged out Florida as having the most lightning strikes.

Oklahoma 83.4 strikes per square kilometer

Florida 82.8 strikes per square kilometer

However, in 2020 Florida topped all states:

Florida 75.1 strikes per square kilometer

Oklahoma 69.7 strikes per square kilometer

This author continues to consider Florida as the Lightning Capital of the Nation.



Auxiliary
Foundation

YE OLDE THRIFT SHOPPE: HELP NEEDED



shop to be reminiscent of the days when huge department stores actively engaged their audiences by injecting life and creativity into the shopping experience,” stated Nancy. “These are great windows that can tell the story about who we are and the marvelous items we have to offer.”

Nancy is currently seeking creative volunteers with a flair for fashion and retail. The window dressers will work four hours each Monday morning to create and maintain a beautiful window scape. As merchandise is purchased each day, volunteer floor staff will re-stage the windows as needed. The shop, which is located at 110 W. Lady Lake Blvd. in Lady Lake, has remained open during the construction of the new building. Store hours are 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. A grand opening will be scheduled in the summer. To learn more about how you can help in any of the store’s positions, call Nancy Cummings at 352-460-2098.

For decades, stores like Saks Fifth Avenue, Bloomingdale’s and Lord & Taylor have delighted and amazed passers-by with their whimsical, festive and often over-the-top displays of artistry. Do you have a creative flair? If so, volunteering as a window dresser at the new Ye Olde Thrift Shoppe may be right for you.

Nancy Cummings is the shop’s volunteer who is coordinating the window design “We want our



THE ON-LINE REFRESHER COURSE CONTINUES TO BE OFFERED:

The AARP SmartDriver 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/>



AMAC Foundation

Supporting & Educating America’s Seniors

AGING AND DEMENTIA SERIES

This three-session program will be presented free of charge as online webinars and will also be recorded and posted on the AMAC Foundation website for on-demand access. **These sessions are being offered in partnership with the Alzheimer’s Association.**

*June 3, 2021, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

UNDERSTANDING ALZHEIMER’S AND DEMENTIA

June 10, 2021, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

DEMENTIA AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

June 17, 2021, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

UNDERSTANDING & RESPONDING TO DEMENTIA-RELATED BEHAVIOR

Check the AMAC Foundation website

www.AmacFoundation.org for further details.

**The first program on June 3rd was prior to our publication date. It is available on the website www.AmacFoundation.org to view on-demand. Upcoming seminars for live viewing, above, will also be available to view on-demand.*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - SUDDEN DEATH: ARE YOU PREPARED?

Mondays - July 12, July 19, & July 26, 2021
10:00 a.m. to Noon

IN PERSON AT: The Villages Public Library
at Pinellas Plaza

Attendance is limited; you must register to attend.

NOTICE – REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED STARTING THURSDAY JULY 1

TO REGISTER FOR ALL AMAC EVENTS:

Contact the Foundation office at 888-750-2622 or
via email at info@amacfoundation.org.



THE NEXT VHA TOWN HALL WILL BE IN JULY

Send your questions to The VHA any time using The VHA Contact Form in The Voice on Page 3 or contact us via our website at: www.thevha.net

TO CONTACT DISTRICT OFFICIALS: www.districtgov.org

CUSTOMER SERVICE: 352-753-4508

Seniors vs. CRIME



Scam phone calls -- anyone who tells you they've never had one probably doesn't have a phone! The truth is that no one is safe. Scammers make millions of calls every day -- most of them automated and all of them trying to get their hands on your money.

The most common include imposter scams (pretending to be someone they're not), debt relief tricks, business and investment scams, fake charity calls, overpriced and often useless extended car warranties, free trials that trap victims into recurring payments, loan scams, timeshares and, of course, fake prize and lottery scams.

Many security-conscious people probably think they'd never fall for a phone-based phishing scam, but if your response to such a scam involves anything other than hanging up and calling back the entity that claims to be calling; you may be in for a rude awakening.

Sadly, many people fail to follow this simple advice!

How to Recognize a Phone Scam: The first thing to know about scam phone calls is that you can't rely on caller ID to tell you who's really calling. Crooks use computers and devices called "Spoofers" to trick home and cell phone systems into announcing whatever information the scammers want.

The second thing to know is that just because your name and number are on the Do Not Call Registry, that must mean an incoming call is legitimate... NOT. Scammers don't care about the registry or the fact that most robocalls (with automatic recorded messages) are illegal. They're crooks after all. The law means nothing to them.

Knowing that, you should be wary about any incoming call. In fact, some people prefer to never answer calls

but have their answering service pick it. They can then review whether they want to return the call.

Here are some of the other tactics crooks use that signals a likely scam phone call.

- You've been "selected" for some sort of special offer or won a prize. You haven't.
- You'll be arrested or jailed for some alleged crime to do with debts, taxes, fines, drugs, etc. if you don't pay up. That's always a scam.
- You must decide now to take advantage of some type of offer.



- You have to pay by wiring money or buying gift cards. No legitimate organization operates that way. Period.
- You're asked to confirm sensitive or confidential information, like account numbers and passwords. No legitimate organization would ask you to do this on an unsolicited call.

Stop the Scam Phone Calls: "Even if it's not a scammer calling, if a company is calling you illegally, it's not a company you want to do business with," says the US Federal Trade Commission.

The simplest action you can take is to hang up. If you think the call might have been genuine, still hang up, look up the number of the organization that's supposed to have called, and then call back.

There are also call-blocking services and devices that can eliminate or reduce the incidence of scam phone calls. Some of these are available from phone service providers, but you can also buy call blockers for about \$100 or less that attach to your phone.

No doubt crooks will continue the scam phone call onslaught but some common sense and the use of call blocking services and devices will stop most of them in their tracks.

If you need assistance with understanding any aspects of scam phone calls, 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.

BIKE • FRIENDLY • COMMUNITY • CORNER

CAMP VILLAGES BIKE RODEOS

Camp Villages is the Recreation Department's activity program to keep your grandkids occupied whilst they visit. This means they will be out-of-your-hair for a few hours. They will be happily entertained by volunteers who love them almost as much as you do. They will laugh and have fun doing what kids are supposed to do as they play, plus we add another dimension by teaching them safety and skills on a bicycle. Yes, they learn something that just might prolong their lives, and your legacy, while they have fun at the Camp Villages Bike Rodeo.

Everyone rides a bike at some time in their lives. We have three active bike clubs with nearly 1,500 dues-paying members, plus another 60,000 or so casual bicyclists. We define "casual bicyclist" as someone who has a couple of bikes in the garage that have been gathering dust since moving here from Ohio or some other northern clime.

The bike clubs and Bike Friendly Advocacy Council will sponsor three Camp Villages Bike Rodeos this year. The dates are: July 9, July 23, and August 6. The time is 10:00 a.m. - Noon. The location is Rohan



Regional Recreation Center. The cost is \$10.00 per child.

We provide the bikes for the children, or they can use their own bikes if desired. We give each child a new, fitted helmet, courtesy of the Florida Department of Transportation and University of Florida Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Program. We even have

several "balance bikes" with no pedals that newer riders can use to scoot along and participate. The Recreation Department provides light snacks for the participants.

Our program consists of a short indoor interaction with the kids about safety, plus helmet fitting. We move outdoors to the roped-off parking lot that has been configured with riding patterns for skills learning. Before the children begin riding, an instructor leads them through the course. Volunteers are throughout the course to assist and assure safety.

We start with straight line riding, signaling, and scanning. A serpentine and figure-8 layout follow to emphasize scanning, slowing, signaling, and yielding to traffic. Last is a "Slow Race" for balance in which the winner is the last to cross the finish line.

Bring your grandkids to our class, but hurry to sign up at The Enrichment Academy website, www.theenrichmentacademy.org because we only have twelve slots per session.

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

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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ▾

HELPING HANDS

NEW RESIDENT NIGHT
TUESDAY, JUNE 8 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 3.

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

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

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.
LEARN MORE

May 15th, 2021

The VHA
GOLF CART SAFETY CLINIC



JUNE 16 @ 9:00 A.M.
WATER LILY 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

NEXT MONTH: JULY 21 @ COLONY REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER

HELPING HANDS

DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM

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

352-973-2284

OR EMAIL US AT:

VHA.HELPINGHANDS.OFFICEMAIL@GMAIL.COM

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