

# The VHA VOICE

THE VILLAGES HOMEOWNERS ADVOCATES: KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE

July 2022 • Vol. 28 No. 7

The VHA FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

The VHA

The VHA HELPING HANDS



## LIGHTNING SAFETY



A direct lightning strike does not happen very often, but it can cause substantial structural damage with an ensuing fire. The chance that your home will be struck is low, but it is not zero, and is greater than winning the lottery.

Twenty-one homes have been destroyed in The Villages since 2004. In 2020 one home in the Village of Dunedin was struck and heavily damaged. In 2021 there was a close call in the Village of Monarch Grove. The strike put a two-foot hole in the roof but, fortunately, no ensuing fire. Just last month, a home was struck and destroyed in the Village of Amelia. (See the interview with the owner and the picture of her home, right).

Lightning is one of the most underrated severe weather hazards. It ranks as one of the top weather killers. Here in The Villages, we are living in “the lightning capital of the nation.” Florida typically ranks as the number one state in lightning deaths,

injuries, and property damage each year.

While we experience lightning year-round, 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 local weather observers, we typically average about 108 days with thunder and lightning. Remember, lightning is not only dangerous but highly UNPREDICTABLE and does not always strike the tallest object in your area.

**LIGHTNING AWARENESS – PLAN AHEAD:** The National Lightning Safety Council’s awareness campaign is focused on planning ahead to avoid being caught in a dangerous situation.

⚡ Pay attention to the local weather forecast and plan ahead so you can act quickly to get to shelter.

⚡ Consider a cell phone app that gives weather including lightning

⚡ WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS!

Places that are not safe to be around during a thunderstorm include trees, golf courses, fences, dugouts, lakes, swimming pools, picnic areas, pickleball courts, tennis courts, softball fields, open fields, flag poles, picnic shelters, light poles, bleachers, dog parks, nature trails, etc.

A hard topped, all-metal vehicle can qualify as a safe refuge from lightning provided the windows are closed and you are not touching any metal parts in the vehicle. 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 windows, plumbing (including taking a shower during a thunderstorm), electrical equipment, appliances, and corded telephones – unless of course there is an emergency. Cell and portable telephones are not wire-connected so they are fine to use.

**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 25 miles away. In some cases,

*Continued on page 3*

## LIGHTNING DESTROYS A HOME IN THE VILLAGE OF AMELIA



When lightning struck and destroyed her home in the Village of Amelia on June 8th, Joan Gissinger was puttering around in her slippers in the kitchen after baking a birthday cake for her husband, Andy, and finishing up the dishes from dinner.

Even though she knew the lightning and ensuing thunder had been extremely loud and had struck close by, it wasn’t until they went to the garage after losing power that they discovered smoke.

She ran back into the house to dial 911 when a group of golfers from The Villages Realtors, who had been on the course behind her home, came knocking on their door to tell them their house was on fire and they had to “Get out, NOW!” Only then did they realize the seriousness of the situation. Wearing just those comfy slippers, shorts, a t-shirt, and a sweatshirt that she thought to grab on her way out, they waited helplessly for The Villages Public Safety Department to arrive.



From the front, the sturdy and beautiful stucco home the couple had lived in for fifteen years doesn’t look as if the damage was too severe. But from the sides and back, the roof caved in with just charred remains, it is clear the home they loved is a complete loss. While they were able to get their car and two golf carts out of the garage, along with a couple bins of photos that may or may not be salvageable, everything else was destroyed; if not by the fire, then by smoke and water damage.

According to Joan, they “were living the life, loving The Villages” when, in a flash, everything changed.

What did not change was their resolve to rebuild, and the kindness of others. They had no idea who to turn

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VISIT US ONLINE AT [WWW.THEVHA.NET](http://WWW.THEVHA.NET)



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The VHA President's Message



Our Spring and summer days have been hot. The days are moving fast and passing some milestones. June 21st we enjoyed the day with the most daylight. July 4th we were able to enjoy the freedoms of our country. Some enjoyed the day by seeing fireworks, eating food, and relaxing.

Vacations have started. If you have one planned, I hope, with the cost of travel, you still are able to take it.

If you have time to ponder a couple of key items, you may wish to do just that:

• Local and County Elections are Happening this Fall. Who are you going to vote for? Listen to what the candidates are saying. Can they really get it done? The candidates are all qualified based on their past work; it is up to you to choose who is best for local and county government.



• The Other Item is Homeowners Insurance and the Coverage You Have on Your Roof. Insurance Companies will tell the Homeowner that they must replace their shingles after a period of time or their roof coverage will expire; typically, it is if the roof is 12-15 years old. New legislation allows for older

roofs to still be covered if they are inspected, at the homeowner's expense, and deemed to have at least five more years of useful life. If you have not been notified by your insurance company on this issue, please inquire.

The growth of the Villages has created a need for help in the area of Marketing for The VHA. If you have an interest in helping The VHA in this area, contact Phil Walker at [freespirit2008@sbcglobal.net](mailto:freespirit2008@sbcglobal.net).

Have a healthy and enjoyable SUMMER,  
Phil



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



☐ NEW MEMBERSHIP    ☐ RENEWAL

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

VILLA/VILLAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER ADDRESS IF ANY: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL TO: THE VHA, 1104 Main St., The Villages, FL 32159  
OR JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE AT: [WWW.THEVHA.NET](http://WWW.THEVHA.NET)

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

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

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

# Upcoming EVENTS JULY / AUGUST 2022

SEE BACK PAGE FOR DETAILS ON MONTHLY VHA PROGRAMS

## POP CULTURE TRIVIA FOR BABY BOOMERS



WITH MR. TRIVIA, TOM GOURLAY

MONDAY, JULY 18, 2022 @ 7:00 P.M.

EVERGLADES RECREATION CENTER



ESTABLISH YOUR OWN TEAMS (4-8 PLAYERS) OR YOU CAN JOIN A GROUP WHEN YOU ARRIVE

\$5 ADMISSION PER PERSON; 50/50; CASH PRIZES FOR WINNING TEAMS

BYO SNACK AND DRINKS

## THE VHA TOWN HALL MEETING • JULY 19, 2022

The VHA's quarterly Town Hall meeting features representatives of The Villages management team, local government, and law enforcement.

NEIGHBORHOOD REPS AND VHA OFFICERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

Questions are asked on your behalf, but must be submitted to us by TODAY JULY 6, 2022.

Note: Questions are chosen based on general interest/concern.

Submit questions to us by:

• Contacting your VHA area representative • Using our website [www.thevha.net](http://www.thevha.net)



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

### M2M: THE VHA-MERCHANTS TO MEMBERS DISCOUNT PROGRAM

Visit our website at [www.thevha.net](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.

**IT'S OFFICIAL!! THE VHA'S NEW FACEBOOK PAGE HAS BEEN UPDATED AND IMPROVED. THE NEW NAME IS:**

**thevha4you**

**JUST TYPE THAT NAME INTO THE "SEARCH" BOX ON FB AND CLICK "LIKE" TO RECEIVE THE LATEST INFORMATION ON OUR PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY NEWS OF INTEREST.**

**YOU CAN ALSO GO TO OUR WEBSITE TO UPDATE YOUR EMAIL/CONTACT INFORMATION AND TO RECEIVE TIME-SENSITIVE EMAIL BLASTS. [www.thevha.net](http://www.thevha.net)**

*LIGHTNING SAFETY cont'd from Page 1*

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."

**LIGHTNING LOVES TECHNOLOGY!** Consider surge protection for your appliances and electronics from indirect lightning strikes. Typically, indirect lightning strikes are more frequent but less severe than a direct lightning strike. A surge protection device installed on your electric meter by your utility or on your electric panel in the garage by a licensed electrician is a good idea. This is generally called Primary Surge Protection. WARNING: This alone is not "whole house" surge protection. You will 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 the lines for your telephone, natural gas or propane, and cable/satellite. Therefore, it is vitally important that telephone and coaxial lines be routed through a surge protector as well.

**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.

None of the homes that sustained considerable damage or were a total loss had a lightning protection system (LPS), commonly known as "lightning rods." Lightning rods do work if they are designed, installed, and maintained to meet the national standard and are installed by firms that are listed by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and employ personnel that have qualified as Master Installer by examination by the Lightning Protection Institute (LPI). Door-to-door solicitors will not meet these criteria; therefore, BUYER BEWARE!

You may have noted that The Villages has installed lightning protection on all waste-water treatment facilities, pumping stations, nearly all buildings at Sumter Landing, fire headquarters and adjacent Emergency Operations Center, the Savannah Center, the Sharon Morse Performing Arts Center among others. Most of the larger churches and hotels are also protected.

*Len Hathaway is a retired fire protection consultant who has authored articles and has been giving free non-commercial educational presentations about lightning for over a decade. His colleague, Frank Criste, is a retired electrical engineer, a member of the Lightning Protection Institute, and certified LPS designer/inspector.*

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



# The VHA News & Notes

## NORTH AREA



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

**H**ere are some events in or near the North Area in the coming weeks:

**Tuesday, July 12: VHA New Resident Night** returns to La Hacienda Regional Recreation Center near Spanish Springs. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with presentations by agencies and organizations beginning at 7:00 p.m. If you are new to The Villages, or even if you have been here a while but never attended one of our New Resident Nights, this is for you. It is open to all Villages residents at no charge.

**Wednesday, July 18: Resident Academy**, presented by District Government, will be held at the Savannah Center on the corner of Buena Vista Boulevard and El Camino



Real. It runs from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and provides everything you need to know about your District Government and how it serves you. This program requires advance sign-up, either by

visiting your nearest regional recreation center's service desk or by going online at: <https://districtgov.org/ResidentAcademy.aspx>

**Tuesday, July 26: VHA Bingo** also visits the North Area again at La Hacienda Regional Recreation Center. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., and Bingo begins at 6:30. VHA Bingo pots are paid out at 100% (not split) for all winners. \$10 gets you 2 boards, and extra boards are \$1 each. VHA members automatically get 3 boards for their \$10, so remember to bring your membership card. If you're not a member, you can sign up at the door.

**Future Events** (look for upcoming announcements):

- **On October 18**, the North and Central Areas of The VHA are joining forces to present **Cutting the Cord**, a program to help residents looking to discontinue cable or satellite TV service. This program is free, but only open to VHA members. Memberships can be purchased at the door.
- This Fall (date TBD), The VHA North will be presenting **Safe and Secure in Your Home**, an event for residents to get information about protecting yourself so you can live in your own home for a long time. It will be held at the brand-new First Responders Recreation Center to honor many of our presenters. This program is designed to support The Villages' "America's Healthiest Hometown" initiative. Presenters from a variety of safety and health fields will be available to talk with you, hand out useful information, and make brief presentations about securing your home and yours.

*Karl Arps*

## CENTRAL AREA

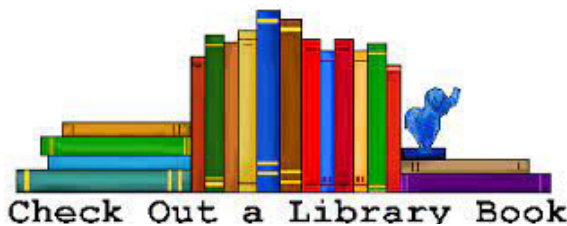


**Between 466 and 466A**  
**Ellie Decker, Vice President**  
[ellenmdecker@gmail.com](mailto:ellenmdecker@gmail.com) - 913-530-7439

**H**i Neighbors,  
This month I am writing about things to do indoors that are either physical or mental exercise. In the summer, we can take some of our activity indoors. Sure, we still go to the pool, shop, and golf, but we adjust our time a little. We can go indoors for Shuffleboard, Billiards, and Ping Pong. And there is volunteer led Exercise, Martial Arts, and Dance classes, to get physical activity in.

For a fee, you could join the Fitness Clubs that have the big exercise equipment. They are located inside some of the recreation centers. As of this writing, they are having a three-month membership sale that began in June and ends August 31 that will give you three consecutive months from the time you sign up and pay. So, even if you wait until Aug 31 to do so, you can use the facilities in Sept, Oct, & Nov. There are 7 locations. They are Mulberry Grove, Laurel Manor, Sea Breeze, Colony Cottage, Rohan, Fenney, and Ezell.

Another indoor, and important, thing to do, is the great mental exercise of attending our government meetings. Find out which District you live in and go to your Board of Supervisors' meetings. They are usually held during the day at a recreation center. The board members are elected. You will see some of them on your Ballot in November. The meeting schedule is available on the District Website home page, [www.districtgov.org](http://www.districtgov.org), under the heading "Meeting Calendar."



A visit to one of the libraries is a wonderful thing. The libraries closest to The Villages are the Mark Twain at Paradise Recreation Center, the Sumter County Public libraries at Belvedere and at Pinellas Plaza, the Fruitland Park Library, the Lady Lake Library, and the Leesburg Library. They offer books, magazines, meeting rooms, and more. The Sumter County Public Library website offers two ways to read electronically from home. One way is called Hoopla and the other way is called Axis 360. A county employee buys the New York Times best seller books, and books that trend and get good reviews on Amazon. So, be sure to support your favorite authors.

I like the summer in The Villages. It is a little quieter, the traffic is a little bit lighter, and there is still plenty to do, indoors.

*Until next month,  
Ellie Decker*

## SOUTH AREA



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

**I**f you live in CDD 9, some good news – the preliminary budget that was adopted (it can't go up from here) calls for a 10% cut in the

assessment for maintenance costs that is billed on your tax bill. Remember, last year we had a 25% cut so we are heading in the right direction. That said, someday I might have to start out with an announcement that fees (taxes) are going in the other direction. Just not now.

Allow me to wander off in a slightly different way, but still on the topic of taxes that so many hold dear to their hearts.

I was reading someone's missive on (highway) impact fees and how they caused a 25% tax hike a few years ago. That is an absolute falsehood.



Highway impact fees **MUST, BY STATE LAW**, be kept in a separate trust account and used for two things – new road construction, or road reconstruction (not paving or routine maintenance but tearing it out and starting over). In Sumter County that is the account named T153; you can go online and see their financials. And no, the county does not build the developer's roads. Read the independent audit reports. Their discussion of general fixed assets touches on that.

If someone tells you that hiking highway impact fees will lower your taxes, they are incorrect. If they tell you that the county needs to spend \$50 million in the next ten years (some politicians did that) tell them that in the last decade the tax, at the current level, raised \$69 million, with two low years in there. No tax hike is ever for your good. Slowing business growth and increasing the cost of housing isn't a good thing.

Want a real eye opener? Go to <https://www.sumtercountyfl.gov/672/Road-Impact-Fees>.

Here is a list of all the fees that the county charges, such as: Building a church? You pay an extra \$1,246 per 1000 square feet. A golf course is \$9,323 per hole (think the developer will build the 45 champion holes that are planned for south of 44?) That also means executive, pitch and putt and putt & play are gone. A public park costs an added \$187 per acre so good bye walking areas. An average McDonalds will pay an extra \$113,500 in



just this fee. A Costco will pay about \$2 million for this fee. A Publix – over \$300,000 extra.

No, you won't pay the tax today. But you will when you buy groceries, go to a restaurant, buy gas, go the doctor, go to a movie.... and the list goes on. It is NEVER the "other" guy that gets taxed.

Does anyone really think jacking up this fee, which there is no financial reason to hike, is a good idea?

Mike Dollard

## FAR SOUTH AREA



**South of SR44**  
**Dave Fountaine, Vice President**  
[dfountaine4760@gmail.com](mailto:dfountaine4760@gmail.com)  
 – 716-816-8500

I am very excited to have one of our Citrus Grove neighborhood representatives, Jim DeCastro, leading our efforts to increase our communications efforts with a new and improved Facebook page. Thank you, Jim! If you haven't had an opportunity to visit our new Facebook page, please do so. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/TheVHA4You> and Like and Share it! Look for VHA events, a link to The VHA website, and membership benefits. Watch soon for helpful articles to help you enjoy this wonderful community of ours.



The Villages  
 Community Development Districts  
 Recreation & Parks

We had a very informative and educational program about our world-class recreation department presented by Mr. John Rohan. It was interesting to hear about the many programs and improvements that are ongoing and planned for our community over the next year. Mr. Rohan also reenforced his commitment to updating current recreational facilities in addition to building new ones. Improvements to older facilities north of SR 44 are as much a focus for the department as are the newer facilities being built south of 44. Another key point he made was his suggestion that Villagers reach out to the recreation department whenever they have concerns and/or ideas for recreation. He provided examples of numerous programs, activities, and facilities we now enjoy that are a result of suggestions made by residents.

We continue to have members volunteer to become neighborhood representatives which helps greatly to share information and identify issues and concerns for their respective communities. I am happy to introduce you to one new representative for the Village of DeSoto, Mr. Larry Donnelly.

Larry served as an Aviation Officer in the Navy and then got into computer science. He eventually started a computer hardware and software company that he operated for 27 years before retiring. Larry continued his desire to serve in his last community by serving in a variety of town government positions including serving a term as Mayor. He and his wife, Wanda, have been married 41 years and have two boys; Michael and Sean. Larry is originally from Missouri and likes to tinker with electronics and work on gardening and landscape ideas.

Here's what Larry had to say regarding the VHA and

why he joined: "I decided to join the VHA to learn more about our new community and to get a more in-depth understanding of what The Villages has to offer and how it works. When I read in The VHA newsletter that they needed a Village of DeSoto Representative, I thought maybe my background in local government would be useful and I could be of some help. I think it would be great to be involved in this community to help maintain this wonderful concept in this chapter of our lives." What a great rep to have for DeSoto – thank you Larry!

If you're not already a member, I hope you will join. If you are a member, we are still looking for neighborhood representatives for the following Villages in the Far South Areas: Chitty Chatty, DeLuna (both CDD 12 & 13), St. Johns, Marsh Bend, McClure, and Monarch Grove. Please contact me if you're interested in learning more about being a neighborhood representative. You can reach me at [dfountaine7205@gmail.com](mailto:dfountaine7205@gmail.com) or 716-241-1460.

Dave Fountaine

## LADY LAKE



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

**Classes Being Held at the Lady Lake Public Library:**

**July 8th at 9:30 a.m.** - iPad/iPhone given by Best Buy

**July 14th at 2:00 p.m.** - Live Your Best Life (part 2)

**July 20th at 2:00 p.m.** - Author's Round Table

**July 21st at 2:00 p.m.** - Let's Talk Books with Nancy

**July 29th at 9:30 a.m.** - iMac given by Best Buy

For information about any of the classes call 352-753-2957.

**Newcomers to Lady Lake may not know we have a Museum.** It is located in the train cars, across the street from the Ye Olde Thrift Shoppe on Hwy 441/27. Those interested in the Vietnam War Era will be impressed by the Vietnam War Exhibit that is now being displayed.



Hurricane Season in Florida is from June 1st to November 30th. **BE PREPARED!** Make sure that you have enough food and water; one gallon of water per day per person for up to 7 days, personal items, household items such as a battery powered radio and flashlights, plus medicine and health-related products. Also have a list of emergency contact numbers.

The members of the Lady Lake Police department continue to stress the importance of remaining aware when traveling through the construction zones on Hwy 27/441. The traffic patterns and speed limits in these zones will vary creating hazardous driving conditions. Give yourself enough time to reach your destination safely.

Lynn Davis



**Sumter County Sheriff's Office**

SHERIFF WILLIAM O. FARMER, JR.

## SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING



The "See Something, Say Something" program is an important tool you can use to keep our community safe. You can play an active role in community safety by reporting suspicious or illegal activities to law enforcement. See Something, Say Something helps us ensure that you continue to live in one of the safest counties in the State of Florida.

Last year, a business owner in Bushnell saw one of his employees looking at his phone which appeared to depict child pornography. Thanks to his swift actions reporting to Law Enforcement, we were able to make an arrest and prevent the suspect from further exploiting children.

Another case from last year took place at a phone store where an employee noticed a man showing up with different young girls in his company. The suspect purchased phones and accounts for the young girls. Upon assisting the suspect with a phone issue he noticed material that was concerning and reported it to law enforcement. Thanks to his actions, the suspect was arrested with multiple counts of lewd & lascivious behavior amongst other charges.

I am asking you to do your part to keep Sumter County a safe place to live, work, and play. My deputies are actively patrolling and looking to stop or prevent criminal activity but your assistance can make all the difference. If you are aware of illegal or suspicious activity in your neighborhood please contact our non-emergency number at 352-793-2621, or, to remain anonymous, contact Crimeline at 1-800-423-TIPS(8477) or report it to Crimeline through the Sumter County Sheriff's Office app (available in the App Store or on Google Play).

Sheriff Bill Farmer

## IMPORTANT INFO FOUND ON THE DISTRICT WEBSITE AT:

[WWW.DISTRICTGOV.ORG](http://WWW.DISTRICTGOV.ORG)

**Pet Information and Pet Adoptions:** The Recreation Department in conjunction with the YOUR Humane Society SPCA will be hosting local pet information and adoptions days the 3rd Friday of each month at various recreation center pavilions. Please call Paradise Recreation Center at 352-753-0637 for specific dates & locations.

**Pet Owners:** Please be considerate of others and all properties. Dog owners are responsible for picking up after their pets. Please take all waste home for disposal. Do not use storm drains, postal or recreation facilities for disposing of solid waste or plastic bags. In addition, please follow all county ordinances including all dogs are required to be on a leash. For additional information, please go to [www.districtgov.org](http://www.districtgov.org)



INDEPENDENCE DAY

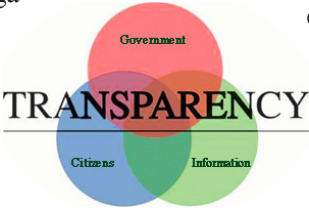


District Manager

As we all celebrated Independence Day on the Fourth of July with cookouts, swimming pool parties, beach time, parades, and fireworks, I hope you took a moment to reflect on how lucky we are to live in a free country.

In a free society, transparency is the government’s obligation to share information with its citizens. Transparency allows for good and just governance.

The District Government is committed to transparency, and disseminates information daily, minute-by-minute,



and hour-by-hour, to keep you up-to-date on the latest issues in your community. You can always rely on the District Government office to relay factual information.

Never rely on hearsay; always check the facts. That can easily be accomplished by logging onto our website at [www.Districtgov.org](http://www.Districtgov.org) where you can find the most current information. You can read the District Weekly Bulletin, and the Districts Board Meeting dates and notes, plus you are welcome to call 352-753-4508 and speak with a District team member. We are here to serve the residents of The Villages.

Kenny Blocker

LIGHTNING DESTROYS cont’d from Page 1

to; it’s not a weather event that one can plan ahead for to be prepared. But there were “helpers.” She could not say enough about the wonderful firemen and their genuine condolences and caring attitude. Neighbors also stepped up to provide shelter for the first couple of nights. And then Cynthia, a wonderful woman whom they did not even know, offered them her empty house, at no charge, for a month.

Joan, who considers herself a “designer type of woman” had a closet full of clothes and purses, including the one she was currently using with her credit cards and driver’s license in it. She asked one of the firemen if he could get it for her, and he initially said it would be impossible. But, after the fire was out, he approached her and asked where exactly it was in the house and he retrieved it for her. The purse was destroyed, but her cards and license were safe. It wasn’t much, but it was something to be grateful. She is also grateful to The Villages Fire Department, The Villages Realtors golfers, and her daughter Amy and granddaughter Adriana who flew out from Texas to lend a hand.

They have a long road ahead of them before they can return to a newly constructed home to take the place of the one they loved. And it’s all new territory to navigate. They will be dealing with their insurance company, restoration services, demolishing what is left of their home, finding a general contractor for construction services, and the chore of replacing every big and small item they need to reestablish their lifestyle and a sense of “home.” It may take as long as a year to get back into their own home again, and they are feeling the stress.

So, what advice does Joan have for her fellow Villagers? Of course, first of all, it could happen to you. Despite knowing the dangers of lightning strikes here, she never imagined they would be the victim of one. She also wishes she had taken more photos of her home as an inventory for insurance purposes.

*We hope you will take the time to read Len Hathaway’s article on Lightning Safety and heed his advice as well. Nature is beautiful and we love watching her in all her glory, even during thunderstorms, but she can also be dangerous and destructive. Stay safe!*

by Jan Palmer



**AMAC Foundation**

Supporting & Educating America's Seniors

Attention Veterans! Learn How to Combine and Access Your Healthcare Records Into a Single Easy-to-Use App!

Wednesday, July 20, 2022, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.



DrOwl Health Technologies and The AMAC Foundation will host a webinar to help you understand how to access, share, and understand your healthcare records. This webinar will explain how to:

- Connect to the VA, Medicare, and thousands of medical providers to access your health records and have them all in one convenient place.
- Receive a personalized Patient Portal of your conditions, medications, and allergies.

- Save up to 80% off of your prescriptions.
- See your medical records in easy-to-understand language with trusted physician-curated content.
- Find errors in your health records and discuss them with your doctor.

Go to [www.DrOwl.com/AMAC](http://www.DrOwl.com/AMAC) or call 1-888-693-7695 for more information. There is no cost to attend this webinar, and the APP is free. To register, contact the AMAC Foundation office at 888-750-2622 or via email at [info@AmacFoundation.org](mailto:info@AmacFoundation.org).



THE FOLLOWING SMART DRIVER “IN PERSON” CLASSES WILL BE AVAILABLE IN JUNE 2022. PLEASE CONTACT THE NUMBER LISTED.

Paul Scannell	352-399-6414	07/05/22	Tues	07/06/22	Wed	Colony Cottage
Jack Haughn	352-603-1420	07/12/22	Tue	07/15/22	Fri	Laurel Manor
Jack Haughn	352-603-1420	07/16/22	Sat	07/23/22	Sat	Paradise
Chet Kowalski	352-430-1833	07/18/22	Mon	07/21/22	Thur	Savannah
Chet Kowalski	352-430-1833	07/26/22	Tue	07/27/22	Wed	Rohan

Other online driver safety courses listed below are available on multiple dates.  
For more info go to: <https://local.aarp.org/the-villages-fl/>

- Smart DriverTEK Virtual Workshop:  
Discover the Safety Benefits of New Car Technology (classroom format). 1 ½ hours long.
- CarFit Virtual Workshop: Let’s Talk –Vehicle Safety and Comfort

To Register: Phone: 866-732-4213 • Contact: AARP Driver Safety • Email: [drive@aarp.org](mailto:drive@aarp.org)



2022 Sumter Public Schools Supply Drive

9am - 1pm

WEDNESDAY - JULY 27TH - LAKE MIONA PICNIC PAVILION

THURSDAY - JULY 28TH - EISENHOWER PICNIC PAVILION

FRIDAY - JULY 29TH - EVERGLADES PICNIC PAVILION

Helping Our Students from:

WILDWOOD ELEMENTARY - BUSHNELL ELEMENTARY

WEBSTER ELEMENTARY - LAKE PANASOFFKEE ELEMENTARY

SOUTH SUMTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

WILDWOOD MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL - SOUTH SUMTER HIGH SCHOOL

SUMTER PREP ACADEMY

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

Sticky Notes - Lined Notebook paper

Spiral Notebooks - Index Cards

Highlighters - Colored Pens & Pencils

Black Pens - Pencils - Pink Erasures

Crayons - Scissors - Glue Sticks

Colored Paper - Graph Paper

3-Ring Binders (2", 2 1/2", 3")

Tab Subject Dividers - Sheet Protectors

3- Hole Pencil Pouch

Over the Head Headphones

Ear buds - Styluses

SPECIAL ITEMS NEEDED:

BAND AIDS - INDIVIDUAL TISSUES PACKAGES

QUART & GALLON SIZE ZIPLOCK BAGS

DISINFECTANT WIPES - BABY WIPES

FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS (PADS)

M/W DEODORANT (TRAVEL SIZE)

REFILLABLE WATER BOTTLE

BACKPACKS

Monetary Donations Welcomed

Checks Payable to: Sumter Schools Enhancement Foundation

Memo Line: Supply Drive

Mail to: Sumter County School District

2680 West CR 476

Bushnell, FL 33513

SALLY MOSS, CHAIRMAN

SUMTER COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

SALLY.MOSS@SUMTER.K12.FL.US

(352) 445-4120

The Students in Sumter County Appreciate Your Generosity!


Drive-by Drop-off.

Healing Hearts - One Beat at a Time

The new heart and vascular program at UF Health The Villages® Hospital will introduce comprehensive cardiovascular services, combining the expertise of our talented physicians and clinical team to provide a full spectrum of cardiovascular medicine - including electrophysiology, interventional cardiology, cardiac and vascular surgery and cardiac rehabilitation - all under one roof, close to home.

Hearts for Our Hospital

UF Health The Villages® Hospital Auxiliary Foundation is grateful for the generous support we have received so far. When you make a gift toward this initiative, you are investing in your community. The life you save could be your own. To watch the videos with cardiologists, hospital staff and grateful patients visit our website at <https://www.tvrhfoundation.org>



UFHealth

THE VILLAGES® HOSPITAL

Auxiliary Foundation

Making a difference in the lives of the individuals and communities we serve

UF Health The Villages® Hospital Auxiliary Foundation

1501 N. US Highway 44, Suite 1829 | The Villages, FL | 32159

[www.facebook.com/ufvillageshospitalfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/ufvillageshospitalfoundation) | 352.751.8871

Be Like Earl...If You See It,  
Pick It Up...



Don't Be A Litterbug!



DID YOU NOTICE ANYTHING  
NEW ON THE FRONT PAGE OF  
THIS EDITION OF THE VHA  
VOICE?

IF NOT, LOOK AGAIN.

WE WILL BE FEATURING THE  
BEAUTIFUL PHOTOGRAPHY OF  
THE VILLAGES TAKEN BY  
RONNIE CLARK ON THE VHA  
BANNER. (To see more of his work,  
visit his FB Page.) THANK YOU  
RONNIE!



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



[Members](#) ▾ [The Voice](#) ▾ [Events](#) [Volunteers](#)

## HELPING HANDS

# The VHA NEW RESIDENT NIGHT

**TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2022**

**7:00 p.m.**

# LA HACIENDA REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER

**510 Colony Blvd/466A @ Morse Blvd.**

**PRESENTERS MAY INCLUDE, AND INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM:**

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

**NEXT NEW RESIDENT NIGHT WILL BE:**  
?

# The VHA GOLF CART SAFETY CLINIC



**WEDNESDAY, JULY 20 @ 9:00 A.M.**  
**COLONY COTTAGE REGIONAL RECREATION**  
**CENTER**

**510 Colony Blvd/466A @ Morse Blvd.**

**CLINIC TOPICS INCLUDE:**

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

**VISIT [WWW.THEVHA.NET](http://WWW.THEVHA.NET) FOR MORE DETAILS**

**GOLF CART SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH: BUCKLE UP!  
SEAT BELTS SAVE LIVES, EVEN IN A GOLF CART!**

**NEXT MONTH'S CLINIC: AUGUST 17 @ WATER LILY**



## DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM

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

**352-973-2284**

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

## THE VHA OFFICE

## SPANISH SPRINGS

**MONDAY THRU FRIDAY BETWEEN  
11:00 A.M. AND 1:00 P.M.**

# The VHA BINGO

**TUESDAY, JULY 26 @ 6:30 P.M.**

**DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 P.M.**

# LA HACIENDA REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER

## 1200 Avenida Central, The Villages/Lady Lake

**\$10 for 2 Boards (VHA Members/3 Boards)**

**\$1/Extra Boards; NO SPLIT POTS .50/50**

## BYOB and Snacks.

**NEXT MONTH'S BINGO: TUESDAY, AUGUST 16 @  
LAUREL MANOR REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER**