

The VHA VOICE

THE VILLAGES HOMEOWNERS ADVOCATES: KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE



MISSION

The Villages Homeowners Advocates (The VHA) is a lifestyle organization committed to championing the needs of Villagers through:

- Positive, constructive dialogue
- Problem solving • Education
- Philanthropic efforts

VALUES

- Integrity • Honesty • Accountability
- Independence

WHERE YOUR VOICE MATTERS.

QUARTERLY TOWN HALL REPORT SUMMARY

TO READ THE ENTIRE REPORT ON THE ISSUES SUMMARIZED BELOW, and answered by the Town Hall Panel of Dr. Gary Lester – Vice President Community Relations; Carrie Duckett – Assistant District Manager; Lt. Robert Siemer – District Lieutenant from the Sumter County Sheriff’s Department; Fred Schneider – Assistant County Manager Lake County, GO TO OUR WEBSITE: WWW.THEVHA.NET HOME PAGE. To see past Town Hall reports, hover over “The Voice”, select “Monthly Columns”, then scroll down and click on “Town Hall”.

- Updates on retail and non-ethanol gas south of 44
- Updates on the mail kiosks and villa construction at La Hacienda Hills
- Info for residents south of 44 on when Meggison Road will be open to the public; how to get your mail where no postal station is available; why some villages have a pool and others do not; garbage pick-up scheduling;
- Various questions and concerns regarding multi-modal paths.
- DeLuna gate card reader to be improved; Village of Newell entrance info.
- Eastport Hospital timetable.
- Development and its impact on the Floridan Aquifer.
- Anonymous complaints vs. Non-anonymous ones: Where and an explanation of the processes involved.
- Rental properties/AirBnBs: Are they allowed, and what are the rules regarding rentals?
- Complaint processes for unkempt property and underage children living in a home long-term.
- Reasons why homes can and are sold to people under 55.
- Entrance gate replacement costs: Percentage of recoveries and losses explained.
- Belle Glade road repair schedule.
- Gate cards: Will they work when the new system is up and running?
- Will Villages ID cards be going digital?
- Traffic Concerns: Marsh Bend will see increased Wildwood police presence; Buena Vista and Morse snowbird season issues.
- CR 466A final four-lane segment in Fruitland Park is anticipated to be bid for construction in April 2023 and completed in late 2024.
- Roofing issues in Antrim Dells to be investigated by Fred Briggs with Gary Lester.

Note: The complete Q & A of this and all previous Town Hall Meetings are posted on The VHA website www.thevha.net SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW TO GO DIRECTLY TO THE WEBSITE.



The next VHA Town Hall Meeting will be in April.

Questions may be sent to the VHA at any time at www.thevha.net.

To send feedback to the District Government, go to www.districtgov.org and click on “Submit Feedback, Inquiry, or Concern.”

To send feedback to the Developer, go to www.thevillages.com. Scroll down to “Get in Touch” and click on “Provide Feedback.”

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE VHA ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.
 @ Lake Miona Regional Recreation Center
 1526 Buena Vista Blvd. at Odell Circle
ALL RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGES® COMMUNITY WELCOME!

The VHA will once again be honoring individuals and organizations who have had a positive impact on our community at our Annual Awards Night. We want to, on behalf of all Villages residents, thank them for giving of themselves to worthy causes and/or impacting the quality of life we have here through their commitment to excellence and service. Come out and support them and enjoy an evening of fun and inspiration plus a bonus presentation by Drew Craven of The Villages Grown.

THE VHA ANNUAL VOLUNTEER AWARD

This award is given to an organization/group within The Villages that has volunteered their time to benefit our community in an impactful way. This year’s award goes to: **THE VHA BINGO VOLUNTEER TEAM**

If you have enjoyed attending The VHA’s monthly BINGO GAMES, you will appreciate that we will be recognizing this team of volunteers who make those games happen!

THE VHA ANNUAL PARTNER AWARD

This award is presented to one of The VHA’s community partners that has been pro-active in working for the benefit of Villages residents in “Keeping the Dream Alive” in terms of the quality lifestyle we enjoy. This year’s recipient is: **THE VILLAGES RECREATION AND PARKS** for their work in partnership with Best Buddies in creating the STAR program that offers activities for the adult special needs community.



THE DON HAHNFELDT SERVICE AWARD



Don Hanfeldt was a past president of The VHA who also served on the Sumter County Board of Commissioners and as the Republican member of the Florida House of Representatives for District 33. This award was established in his name to honor an individual, like himself, who served The Villages community in an exemplary way.

This year’s recipient is: **FRED BRIGGS**, who served as the President of The VHA from 2015 until 2019 and who continues to serve on the Board of Directors, actively continuing his legacy of being a pro-active and committed member of our organization on behalf of all Villages residents.

Upcoming EVENTS

NEW RESIDENT NIGHT

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023
7:00 p.m.
EZELL REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER
 769 MARILEE PLACE/THE VILLAGES 32163
 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 Health The Villages Regional Hospital Auxiliary
- SECO
- Bicycle Friendly Advocacy Council
- 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: MARCH 14 AT LA HACIENDA REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER

GOLF CART SAFETY CLINIC

February 15, 2023 - 9:00 A.M.
COLONY COTTAGE REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER
NO PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Clinic Topics Include:

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

VISIT www.thevha.net for more details
GOLF CART SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH:
Buckle in your furry friends! And your grandkids!
NEXT MONTH: MARCH 15 @ COLONY COTTAGE

DEED RESTRICTIONS AND COMMUNITY STANDARDS

February 27, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.
Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
Ezell Regional Recreation Center
 769 Marilee Place, The Villages

This program will present a review of what the different deed restrictions are for the CDDs, and how to find out what restrictions are applicable to the individual homeowner. There will also be an explanation of how to obtain architectural review board approval if and when it is required. This event will be live-streamed on The VHA’s Facebook page.

This event is a VHA Members-Only Event, with an Opportunity to Join at the Door

The VHA BINGO

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023
6:30 p.m.
 Doors Open at 6:00 p.m.
EZELL REGIONAL RECREATION CENTER
 769 MARILEE PLACE/THE VILLAGES 32163
\$10 for 2 Boards (VHA Members/3 Boards)
\$1/Extra Boards; NO SPLIT POTS
50/50 + Buy a LAST GAME Sheet with a \$100 Pot BYOB and Snacks
NEXT MONTH: MARCH 23 @ ROHAN
 For a Complete List of Dates and Locations Visit: www.thevha.net

M2M: THE VHA MERCHANTS TO MEMBERS DISCOUNT PROGRAM

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

VOLUNTEER DRIVER NEEDED: The VHA Helping Hands program assisted over 8400 Villagers during 2022. So, it continues to be a vital program for Villages’ residents. This happens by way of our very gracious volunteers.

Currently, we are in need of a shuttle driver for Wednesdays. A shuttle driver moves equipment between the office facility and storage facility using our Helping Hands van and adjusts physical inventory. Normally a shuttle driver works 2 days per month, a few hours per day. **If you would like to volunteer, please call 352-973-2284 and let the volunteer answering the phone know that you’re interested in a shuttle position.**

THE VHA’S NEW FACEBOOK PAGE HAS LAUNCHED!

In 2022, The Villages Homeowners Advocates (The VHA) relaunched their Facebook page, now appropriately called: **thevha4you**. The previous page – which still comes up in a Facebook search – was decommissioned in 2021. The new page integrates with The VHA website and has VHA news, events (some exclusive to VHA members), podcast links, and more.

In January 2023, The VHA posted its first Facebook live-streamed presentation on “Where Does Your Money Go??” about the allocation of amenity and maintenance fees. More of these will be broadcast for members in the future, with information posted ahead of time so you can “tune in”.

Follow and Like us so you can be notified about what is going on with The VHA – and The Villages.

The VHA is here for you!
thevha4you

DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM

Visit our website at www.thevha.net to view our current inventory, then call us at 352-973-2284.

We will schedule your pick-up from:
THE VHA OFFICE
 1104 Main St.
 Spanish Springs/The Villages
 Monday – Friday: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.