

# 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



## A NEWCOMER'S "IN A NUTSHELL" GUIDE TO CENTRAL FLORIDA'S SUMMER WEATHER



Ron Clark



**TORNADOS:** The greatest number of Florida tornadoes occur in June, July and August. They are usually associated with the high winds created by hurricanes and thunderstorms. The Villages rarely sees these, although one did some major damage in February of 2007. About 1,000 homes in The Villages were damaged with Poinciana, Caroline, Mallory Square and Sabal Chase absorbing the brunt of the "Groundhog Day Tornado's" punishment. Ultimately, it was responsible for eight deaths in the Lady Lake area. It struck at 3:00 a.m., so be sure to keep up-to-date on weather conditions 24/7 and know where to seek shelter either in an interior room in your own home, or at a public facility that has been designated for that purpose.



**LIGHTNING:** Len Hathaway, who has written on the topic of lightning safety for The VHA, offers these insights:

- Twenty-one homes have been destroyed in The Villages by lightning since 2004. It is one of the most underrated severe weather hazards and 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.

- 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 with their frequency ramping up in May.

- An integral part of the National Weather Service's awareness campaign, **WHEN THUNDER ROARS, GO INDOORS**, is to wait 30 minutes after the last sighting of lightning or rumble of thunder to consider yourself safe. Lightning has been known to strike outside of the rain area from up to 25 miles away.

In conclusion, it will rain here during the summer months; often every day, and sometimes it will be raining cats and dogs where you are, and the sun will be shining a block away, or even on the other side of the street. Weather watching is a good hobby to take up, just for fun, but also because it's a good way to stay safe and dry. One last tip: While it may be hot and humid outside, restaurants and stores seem to keep their AC cranked up to just below freezing, so in addition to keeping an umbrella with you, keep a sweater handy as well.

by Jan Palmer

Every area of our country has unique weather patterns and features that define what the locals wear, what they expect, and how they prepare for regional weather emergencies. Central Florida is no exception, and our summer weather is typically a grab bag of heat, humidity, rain, severe lightning, and the threat of hurricanes and tornados. Most of the time "at least you don't have to shovel it" rings true, and being centrally located provides land mass protection from the most extreme weather events, but it is important if you are new to The Villages area to bone up on what to expect and how to be prepared "just in case".

**HURRICANES:** NOAA's outlook for the 2023 Atlantic hurricane season, which goes from June 1 to November 30, predicts a 40% chance of a near-normal season, a 30% chance of an above-normal season and a 30% chance of a below-normal season. NOAA is forecasting a range of 12 to 17 total named storms (winds of 39 mph or higher). To be prepared, have plenty of essentials on hand, watch the forecasts closely (being aware that predicting the exact path of a hurricane is rarely an exact science), then watch for ways to help those who are impacted the most; usually along the coastal regions.

Although it is wise to prepare for the worst with ice, water, food, toilet paper, and secure our homes and bring in objects that can become projectiles in high winds, the aftermath in our area is usually manageable and cleanup is done within days.

## JUNE EVENTS FLAG DAY IS JUNE 14

### Igniting Energy in Retirement: Secrets to an Exhilarating Life

#### EVENT DETAILS

- Seabreeze Recreation Center, 2384 Buena Vista Blvd., The Villages 32162
- June 5, 2023, Monday, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

**Dan Kapellen**, a renowned motivational speaker, and fellow resident of The Villages, will be giving this exciting presentation that promises to redefine our perspectives on retirement. With a compelling vision, Dan presents retirement as a golden opportunity, teeming with possibilities for rediscovering energy and embracing newfound passions.

OPEN TO ALL VILLAGES RESIDENTS

### Mr. Trivia

#### EVENT DETAILS

- Ezell Recreation Center, 769 Marilee Pl., Wildwood/The Villages, FL 32163
- June 12, 2023, Monday, 7:00 PM (Doors open at 6:30 PM)

Join us for a fun evening with The Villages' own Mr. Trivia, Tom Gourlay. Admission will be \$5 per person and the doors will open at 6:30. The event is BYO snacks and drinks, and teams of 4-8 will compete for valuable prizes in several categories of Pop Culture Trivia. There will also be a 50-50 raffle. **The event, sponsored by Charter Research, will be hosted by VHA Social Program Chairperson Mike Burke. Don't miss your opportunity for a fun, mentally challenging, social, and competitive activity.**

## The VHA BINGO

#### EVENT DETAILS

- Ezell Recreation Center, 769 Marilee Pl., Wildwood/The Villages, FL 32163
- June 20, 2023, Tuesday, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

\$10 for 2 Boards (VHA Members/3 Boards with membership card) \$1/Extra Boards; **NO SPLIT POTS;** 50/50 + Buy a LAST GAME Sheet with a \$100 Pot. **Doors open at 6:00 p.m.**

BYOB and Snacks

### Golf Cart Safety Clinic

#### EVENT DETAILS

- Colony Cottage Regional Recreation Center, 510 Colony Blvd. The Villages 32162 Corner of 466A and Morse Blvd.
- June 21, 2023, Wednesday, 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Open To All Villages Residents. TOP-

ICS INCLUDE: \*Not a Toy \*Golf Cars & LSV \*Golf Cars vs. Others \*Tunnels \*Intersections \*Passing & Road Crossings \*Bridges \*Turns \*Roundabouts \*Parallel Parking \*Pulling into a Parking Space \*Sharing Parking with Cars \*No Parking Zones \*Insurance \*Legal concerns \*Maintenance.

### An Overview of Community Watch

#### EVENT DETAILS

- Ezell Regional Recreation Center, 769 Marilee Pl., Wildwood/The Villages 32163
- June 26, 2023, Monday, 6:00 PM

You will leave this popular presentation feeling confident in the knowledge that the Community Watch team is on the job 24/7 to help keep us all safe! **\*\*Doors open at 5:30 p.m.\*\***

To Pre-register go to our website, click on EVENTS, scroll down to this event information, and click on **HERE** as shown below:  
Please register **HERE** to reserve your spot for this informational presentation.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS: [www.thevha.net](http://www.thevha.net)

# The VHA News & Notes

## NORTH AREA

NORTH OF 466

Karl Arps, Vice President • [karl.arps@gmail.com](mailto:karl.arps@gmail.com)

#### Neighborhood Representatives: New Faces

Our efforts to enlist VHA Neighborhood Representatives are beginning to pay off. The VHA North Area welcomes the following Representatives who have joined us in the past year:

- Village of Piedmont: Char Potochar, a VHA member since 2018, Representative since April.
- Village of Santo Domingo: Mel and Cherie Paisley, VHA members since 2014, Representatives as of this month.
- Morningview Villas and Villas of Merryoak in Calumet Grove: Bob Geckler, VHA member since 2022, and Representative since last fall.

If you want to speak to your Neighborhood Representative, look her/him up at <https://www.thevha.net/neighborhood-rep-lookup/>. Have your Villages Resident ID handy to enter the name of your Village and your Unit (both are required).

On Wednesday, June 28 at 9:00 AM, the North Area Neighborhood Reps will gather at La Hacienda Recreation Center near Spanish Springs for our quarterly communication and coordination meeting. This quarter, CERT will be telling us about their program in support of health and safety in the event of community emergencies. If you think you might like to be active and useful in your community, I would be happy to invite you as my guest to see what our group of volunteer "ambassadors" is all about. Just email [karl.arps@gmail.com](mailto:karl.arps@gmail.com).

## CENTRAL AREA

BETWEEN 466 AND SR44

Tweet Coleman, Vice President • [VHA@TweetColeman@gmail.com](mailto:VHA@TweetColeman@gmail.com)

#### Igniting Energy in Retirement

We are thrilled to announce a unique event that we believe will truly inspire and enlighten you. On Monday, June 5th at 7 pm, we have the pleasure of hosting Dan Kapellen, a renowned motivational speaker, and fellow resident of The Villages, at the Seabreeze Recreation Center.

Dan's presentation, "Igniting Energy in Retirement: The Secrets to an Exhilarating Life," promises to redefine our perspectives on retirement. With a compelling vision, Dan presents retirement as a golden opportunity, teeming with possibilities for rediscovering energy and embracing newfound passions.

This presentation is a part of our continued dedication at The VHA to empower our members with useful, timely, and impactful information. We encourage you to seize this opportunity to gain fresh insights and learn practical strategies for embracing your Golden Years with zest and vitality.

Everyone, including non-VHA members, is cordially invited. For more details, please visit [www.TheVHA.net/events](http://www.TheVHA.net/events).

## SOUTH AREA

SOUTH OF SR44

Dave Fontaine, Vice President • [dfontaine4760@gmail.com](mailto:dfontaine4760@gmail.com)

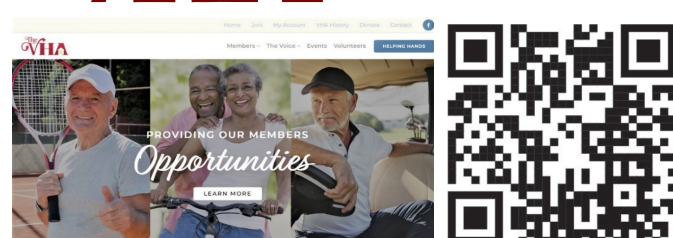
**Growth continues here in the south area of The VHA!** They are now selling homes in the Village of Dabney which is south of the Village of Newell. The Villages is now past Sumter County and is in Lake County and the City of Leesburg.

Even though it's summertime and many of the snowbirds have left, The VHA continues to offer monthly educational programs.

- In May we had Sumter County Deputy Administrator Steven Kennedy provide a wealth of information on the wonderful services and volunteer opportunities available at the Sumter County Animal Center. You can adopt an animal for free! They are always looking for volunteers, including fostering, and provide a variety of options which can meet almost everyone's intent. The VHA members who attended the event generously donated many items to the center, and we also raised \$100 that was donated to the Sumter County ASCPA. For complete information, please visit their website at [hssPCA.org/](http://hssPCA.org/).
- We also heard from Sumter County Undersheriff Pat Breeden and Villages District Supervisor Cpt. Robert Siemer. It is amazing how citizen-service oriented the Sheriff's department is! While the department does a great job of law enforcement, they go far above and beyond with so many other public safety services. They explained their Vial of Life, Human Scent, Peace of Mind, and Home Security inspection programs, to name a few. All programs are FREE to county residents. I urge you to contact the Sheriff's Office for more information or visit their website.

**OUR VHA SOUTH AREA PROGRAMS CONTINUE IN JUNE WITH ONE OF OUR MOST POPULAR EVENTS** An overview of the Community Watch department will be held at Ezell Recreation Center on June 26. You'll be amazed at the depth and breadth of services the Community Watch organization provides. You'll leave feeling confident in the knowledge that the Community Watch team is on the job 24/7 to help keep us all safe! The meeting begins at 6pm at Ezell Recreation Center. VHA members can pre-register for the event by going to the VHA website, [www.thevha.net](http://www.thevha.net), and registering under the EVENTS tab.

## The VHA WAYS OF KEEPING IN TOUCH



SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE TO GO TO OUR WEBSITE: [www.thevha.net](http://www.thevha.net)  
On it you will find Member Benefits, Events, Ways to Volunteer and Donate, Current News, Leadership Bios, and more.

**PROVIDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS:** The VHA uses email for important communications, including corrections, cancellations, news, and updates. Simply send us an email with your name and email address to: [vhaoffice@thevha.net](mailto:vhaoffice@thevha.net)

**"LIKE" OUR NEW FACEBOOK PAGE:** Simply type [thevha4you](https://www.facebook.com/thevha4you) in the "Search" box on your FB home page and click on the "like" option.