

Cooler weather means more residents, need for patience

Can someone please tell me how Labor Day already has passed us by? It seems as though each year goes by more quickly. Spring and summer have flown right by and fall is knocking at the door. Hopefully, when we open the door, there will be a cool breeze waiting for us.

Something even more exciting than cooler weather is that football season is back! To those dedicated to football, it doesn't matter if it's high school (Go Buffalo), college (Go Gators) or the NFL (Da Bears) as long as a game is on.

You know you live in a great country when you can dedicate your entire weekend to cheering on your favorite teams, if your significant other will let you get away with it.

As everyone knows, the cooler weather means that our seasonal residents are returning to the community. The Villages will be hustling and bustling even more than it is now, if that's possible.

It's also the time of the year when it's important to remind everyone that courtesy and patience are extremely important as you travel along the roadways or multimodal paths with the increased traffic.

While we're all familiar with the area, new residents and guests may not be as familiar with our roundabouts and winding roads as they attempt to find their way around this beautiful place. I find that a smile and a deep breath seem to work and are definitely more in keeping with the core values of our community.

The Districts are finishing up what our budget director, Barbara Kays, refers to annually



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as "Budget Bliss." While she is about the only one of us who refers to the budget process as "bliss," the budget crunch is officially coming to an end – woo hoo!

The VCDD Nos. 5-8 boards adopted their 2014-15 fiscal year budgets Sept. 5; Village Center and VCDD No. 11 adopted their budgets Sept. 10; Sumter Landing, Brownwood and VCDD Nos. 9 and 10 boards will adopt their budgets during their board meetings held today; and VCDD Nos. 1-4 boards will adopt their budgets at their regularly scheduled meetings Friday.

You might be asking, "How do the district budget adoptions affect me?" Well, if you live in VCDD Nos. 1-10, the non-ad valorem maintenance assessment you pay on your yearly tax bill funds the landscaping and infrastructure maintenance within your district.

The Village Center and Sumter Landing community development district budgets include the Amenities Division Funds, which are comprised of the monthly amenity fees each of the residents pay for the continued maintenance and upkeep of the recreational facilities, pools and common areas such as postal facilities.

Additionally, the Village Center CDD provides for the common area maintenance in the Lady Lake/Lake County

portion of The Villages.

All of the long hours that have gone into the budget process will ensure the community each of you fell in love with when you moved here remains just as beautiful and active.

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Election time will be here soon. While you won't see television commercials for your local district and Amenity Authority Committee candidates, you most likely will begin seeing an increased presence of candidates around your neighborhood.

If you reside in Districts 1 and 8, there are two contested seats on these boards, and in Districts 5, 6 and 7 there is one contested seat on each of the boards. Residents within these districts will have the ability to vote for the candidate of their choice on the general election ballot.

Additionally, if you reside north of County Road 466, there are contested races for the AAC representative in the Lady Lake/Lake County portion of The Villages and Districts 1 and 2.

Because the AAC is a committee of the Village Center Community Development District board, a landowner election will be held to provide the residents in these geographical areas the ability to vote for their representative.

In a landowner election, each parcel of property (residence) receives one vote. This means that if you and your significant other don't agree on which candidate should be the representative for your area, you will want to make sure you

vote early because the person who appears at the polling location first with the proper identification casts the vote for your property address.

If you won't be in town Nov. 4, there is no need to worry. Beginning Sept. 29 you can complete an absentee ballot application so you can vote for your AAC representative. If you'd like additional information about the landowner elections or the process to obtain an absentee

ballot, call me at 751-3939.

If you would like to learn more about your local District government and how we operate, I suggest you attend CDD Orientation. Sessions are held at 10 a.m. every Thursday at our District Office. 984 Old Mill Run, and no sign-ups

are required.

You also can call our Customer Service Department at 753-4508 or visit our website, districtgov.org, for information about Resident Academy. You might be surprised at how much goes on around you on a daily basis to ensure the sustainability of the

lifestyle here in The Villages.

Have a wonderful week and I hope you'll come back again next week to Our Place.

Jennifer McQueary is the district clerk for the Village Community Development District. She can be reached at jennifer.mcqueary@districtgov.org or 751-6700.