

Upcoming time change a reminder to change smoke detector batteries

As I sat outside on my porch over the weekend, I enjoyed listening to the birds and other wildlife and appreciated the drop in temperature here in Florida. This is one of the many indicators that our winter residents have started to return.

It also brings to mind some safety tips for our present and returning residents.

As stated in Janet Tutt's article last week, daylight saving time begins Nov. 2. At 2 a.m., clocks should be turned back an hour.

The National Fire Institute always has suggested that the public change the batteries in their smoke detectors when the time change occurs. We at The Villages Public Safety Department strongly encourage this and are very proactive about it.

To this end, we provide this service to the residents of The Villages year-round. If you would like assistance with your home smoke detectors, call 205-8280 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

We'll ask a few questions, including if you have batteries to replace all of the smoke detectors in your home. Depending on the call volume at the time you contact us, we will dispatch a non-emergency unit to your home to replace the batteries.

Residents who have homes more than 10 years of age may want to seriously consider changing out the smoke detectors altogether as suggested by Underwriter's Laboratories, as these detectors are reaching the end-of-life use.

The newer units have had refinement in technology regarding detection and now have batteries with a 10-year operating life.

Please also remember if you are having issues with your smoke detector outside of our



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normal administrative operating hours (for example, the alarms are sounding), do not hesitate to dial 9-1-1.

The next item on your home checklist should be your heating systems. When the temperatures drop and the heat is turned on for the first time in many months, we tend to see a large increase in reports of the smell of something burning in the residence.

The majority of the time, this occurrence is tracked back to the accumulation of dust on the heating elements. This issue can be avoided by calling a certified air-conditioning technician to come and provide a preventative maintenance check on your system.

As in the above mentioned case with the smoke detectors, please do not hesitate to call 9-1-1 if you think that you may have an issue going on at home.



I would like to take this opportunity to invite all of you to attend the upcoming Government Day sponsored by the Village Community Development Districts. Join us Nov. 1 for the 19th Annual Government Day and see your local governments in action.

The 2014 Government Day will be held from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Eisenhower Recreation Center, 3560 Buena Vista Boulevard. During this event, you will have the opportunity to learn all about your local, state and federal government agencies and

have your questions answered by the experts.

We look forward to seeing you there. For information, call the Customer Service Center at 753-4508.

Election Day in The Villages also is approaching. In addition to the general election that is operated by the Supervisor of Elections Office for your respective county, on Nov. 4 the District will hold landowner elections to select a representative to serve the following areas on the Amenity Authority Committee at the locations indicated:

- The Lady Lake/Lake County portion of The Villages, Paradise Recreation Center
- District 1, La Hacienda Recreation Center
- District 2, Savannah Center

The Landowner Elections will be held from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. at the locations referenced above. If you are not able to vote in person on Nov. 4, you can obtain an application for an absentee ballot by visiting districtgov.org, visiting our office at 984 Old Mill Run in Lake Sumter Landing, or calling the District Clerk at 751-3939.

We are still in need of volunteers at two locations. If you are interested in volunteering at La Hacienda or Paradise recreation centers during the landowner election, please contact the district clerk.

In summary, we at The Villages Department of Public Safety are more than willing to provide any assistance when needed, so please call. Stay safe, enjoy the cooler weather and welcome back! I look forward to meeting you again, here, at Our Place.

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