

Keep an eye on irrigation when temperatures drop

BY DAVE BURGESS

Happy New Year and greetings to all! Let me take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Dave Burgess and I am the assistant director of District Property Management.

I was born in New York City and raised in Massachusetts ... please don't hold any of that against me. Some of the folks in my office consider me a move-in, but I know I'm a Floridian now!

I retired from the U.S. Air Force in the late 1990s in Utah and have been working around the District since 1999. My family and I moved to central Florida so we could enjoy the Florida sun and white, sandy beaches on both coasts leaving behind the white, fluffy snow. Brrrrrr...

Although it isn't as cold as up North, here in Florida it still makes good sense to keep an eye on the temperatures when it comes to your exterior irrigation pipes and landscaping.

When the temperature does drop to the freezing mark or below, and especially when the weather forecaster says the words "hard freeze," it is a great idea to make sure your irrigation doesn't run. The side effects could be an icy walkway or driveway which could cause injury due to a fall.

Our department works

closely with our landscape contractors during the cold weather to ensure the District-maintained irrigation is turned off as well. Also, if you have pets, please make sure to keep them safe from the cold as well.

You may have noticed some changes going on throughout The Villages over the past couple of months. District Property Management recently had new stop bars and stop decals installed at numerous tunnel locations which intersect with the multimodal transportation paths. These are an attempt to catch the attention of golf cart drivers and make sure they stop before proceeding into the intersection.

District Property Management is also using a new and improved bollard throughout The Villages. It is made of rubber, which doesn't have a memory and springs back when bumped by a golf cart.

While the old-style bollards needed to be changed out weekly in some high-traffic areas, this new bollard has been installed for more than four months at certain locations. As the inventory of the old bollards runs out, you will begin seeing this new style throughout the community. This is our core value of stewardship at work for you!

District Property Management has been busy implementing an aggressive capital project plan that was

adopted by the Amenity Authority Committee for certain amenity facilities north of County Road 466. The current projects include the reconstruction projects of the Tierra Del Sol Recreation Center and El Santiago Recreation center, Gate Connectivity, and the final phase of Paradise Park.

You can stay up to date with the ongoing projects and grand opening dates by visiting our website at districtgov.org.

In closing, we would like to thank all of the residents who assist us in making sure that this community is maintained to the highest level. We appreciate receiving calls about immediate maintenance issues and concerns so that we can have them addressed.

The community now spans more than 40 square miles, so this truly is cooperative effort. If you notice anything in need of repair or a safety concern, please contact the District Customer Service Center at 753-4508 to advise them of the issue or concern.

As always, thanks for being a part of Florida's Friendliest Hometown and we'll see you here again next week, at Our Place!

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