

Spring is one of the most hectic times in The Villages

It's another busy (but fun) week in The Villages! Between celebrations for St. Patrick's Day, visitors here for spring break and preparing and finalizing your brackets for NCAA March Madness, there is always a lot going on around here. However, I must admit March Madness has a much different meaning for District staff.

Spring in The Villages is one of the most beautiful and hectic times. While our residents are going to and from activities at the amazing recreation centers or dining, dancing and shopping at the town squares, District staff is in full speed keeping up with the residents we serve.

District staff has entered our period of "Budget Bliss," as defined by Barbara Kays, our budget director. We all are busily preparing our budgets for submission.

March will have staff participating in 10 budget workshops and 14 board meetings in a two-week period – nothing like a little quality time with our 77 elected officials and committee members.

If there are items you would like your District board to address during the upcoming budget process, don't worry – you haven't missed your chance. You can contact any of your District board supervisors or contact Kays at Barbara. kays@districtgov.org. She will be more than happy to pass along your thoughts to the board.

In looking at many of the local publications, you may be aware that there have been



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some recent burglaries in The Villages. Local law enforcement has asked that we remind all residents to be aware of your surroundings.

If you notice someone you haven't seen before walking through the neighborhood, behind homes or in between homes, contact the sheriff's office.

We continue to hear from residents that they don't want to "bother" law enforcement, but the sheriff's office has assured us that if you see something out of the ordinary it is not a bother, so please contact them.

Many of us can become somewhat complacent living in our beautiful surroundings, but we do have to remember to keep safety in mind and be careful. By no means is The Villages unsafe, but it's always better to be safe than sorry. If you ever are in doubt, please pick up the phone and dial 911.

Just as a reminder, as residents of The Villages already know, spring break equals an increased amount of traffic and an increased number of guests traveling throughout The Villages.

Whether you are traveling along the roadways and roundabouts or along the multimodal paths, you inevitably will come across those who may not

know exactly where they are, or how to find the road for which they are looking. Please remember to be courteous and provide whatever assistance you can. After all, The Villages is Florida's Friendliest Hometown!

It's that time of the year again – the 2015 Villages Resident Survey is available to residents until midnight April 5. To access your survey, visit thevillages.net or click on the Resident Survey Information link at districtgov.org.

The survey consists of two sections: one relating to the Developer and the other pertaining to your District Government. By completing this survey each year, residents have the opportunity to provide feedback that can be used to improve operations and services in your community.

Letters have been mailed to each resident with a unique access code and instructions on completing the survey. If you have not received your letter, call the District Customer Service Center at 753-4508 and someone will be happy to assist you.

Were you aware that you can learn more about your District Government by attending Community Development District Orientation? CDD Orientation is held at 10 a.m. every Thursday at the District Office in Lake Sumter Landing (our entrance is in the breezeway across from Starbucks).

We also are providing an evening opportunity for those of you who are not able to

attend on Thursday mornings. The District will hold the first evening CDD Orientation at 6 p.m. April 22 at Lake Miona

Recreation Center.

Finally, if you are craving even more knowledge about your District Government, you can contact Customer Service and attend an upcoming Resident Academy, which provides an in-depth overview of District

operations and gives residents a true understanding of what really happens in The Villages.

I try to remind residents that just because you hear a rumor at the pool or on the golf course does not mean it really has or will happen. You also

can attend Welcome Wednesday at 8 a.m. every Wednesday at the District Office to receive the latest and most accurate information about what is happening in the Districts.

Take care and we'll see you next time at 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.