

# Districts wrapping up approval of proposed budgets this week

Well, another school year has come and gone and summer officially is in full swing! This will be my son's last official summer off from school, as he will be a senior next year at The Villages High School.

I have to say, it stings a little bit. Part of me wants to hold on to my son forever, and the other part is looking forward to him figuring out who he is and finding his place in life.

On the other hand, my daughter, who will be a sophomore, probably is just looking forward to her big brother moving out. Can't you just feel the love?

As my kids get older, their schedules get more and more hectic and everything is moving in a hundred different directions. I find their regimes very closely resemble the lifestyle of our Villages residents.

One of the most challenging aspects of my job is scheduling a meeting or workshop around our elected officials' very active schedules. I guess that's why my office really is my home away from home.

One of the greatest assets our residents can enjoy, and rely on, is the sustainability of this beautiful community through the Village Community Development Districts. As our budget director Barbara Kays advised in her Our Place article a couple of weeks ago, the Districts are in the midst of approving their proposed budgets for fiscal year 2015-16 this month.

The approval of the proposed budgets sets the maximum level of maintenance assessments for the upcoming fiscal year. The maintenance assessments are included on your annual tax bill and are not associated with your monthly amenity fee.

Just as a reminder, the Village



JENNIFER  
**MCQUEARY**  
COLUMNIST

Center Community Development District and Sumter Landing Community Development District boards are the elected bodies that are responsible for the approval of the proposed budgets for the Amenities Division Funds.

These are the amenity fees that all residents pay monthly that provide for the recreational activities and maintenance of the recreational facilities, common areas such as postal facilities, and Community Watch, just to name a few.

The meeting schedules for many of our boards have changed this month in order to meet the June 15 deadline to approve their proposed budgets. Districts 5-8 met last Friday and the Sumter Landing Community Development District, Brownwood Community Development District and the District 9 and 10 boards will meet today in the District Office's Large Conference Room located in Lake Sumter Landing.

The meeting dates remained the same for the Amenity Authority Committee, Village Center Community Development District and District 11, which met yesterday. Districts 1-4 will meet on their regularly scheduled meeting date Friday at Savannah Center. As you can tell, it's been a very, busy couple of weeks!

As a dependent district, the North Sumter County Utility Dependent District must submit its proposed budget to Sumter County by July 15, so the board will meet on its regularly scheduled date of June 18 at 8:30 a.m. in

the District Office's Large Conference Room.

As a resident of The Villages, you can take comfort in knowing that all of the district boards expend a great amount of time and effort to ensure the districts' ongoing financial and structural stability, which is not something all communities can brag about!

Just as the boards expend a large amount of time and effort, so do the District employees. Each of us takes a great amount of pride in our efforts for this community.

If you hear or read something that you're not sure is completely accurate, please call Customer Service at 753-4508 to receive clarification. With approximately 105,000 residents in The Villages and only 200-plus full-time employees, it can be difficult to dispel every rumor or address every inaccuracy we find in print.

We encourage you to sign up to receive e-notifications, attend Welcome Wednesday at the District Office every Wednesday at 11 a.m., or sign up for a Resident Academy to stay up to date with what's happening.

The State of Florida puts a very high priority on the public's right to access information from its governmental bodies through the Sunshine and Public Records laws, which the Districts' strictly adhere to. These laws provide our residents with the added benefit of true transparency. The Villages is unlike anywhere else and that holds true for your local government, too.

I hope each of you have an enjoyable week, stay cool and join us again next week at Our Place.

*Jennifer McQueary is the district clerk for the Village Community Development District. She can be reached at [jennifer.mcqueary@districtgov.org](mailto:jennifer.mcqueary@districtgov.org) or 751-6700.*