

Everyone's cooperation is needed to make our hometown great

Over the past 12 to 18 months, some outstanding capital improvement projects to various recreational facilities and amenities have been completed. This is in addition to the numerous other projects that also have been completed throughout the community.

With the opening of Chula Vista Recreation Center this past Friday, our District team has been very busy. Can you believe another center has been renovated in such a short period of time, with more to come?

It would be easy to take the magnitude and scope of these projects for granted, but that would be a disservice to all of the residents, board members, volunteers, staff and contractors who make it all come together.

Looking back, we started with the complete renovation of Southside Recreation Center. While that building was being completed, work began on a massive remodel at La Hacienda Sports Pool.

When these two facilities were opened, work was progressing on Silver Lake Recreation Center and Chula Vista Recreation Center.

Wait, I'm not done – we recently demolished Tierra Del Sol Recreation Center and have begun the ground-work for construction of a new village recreation center.

Did I mention the completion of Paradise Park Area A and that Paradise Park Area B currently is under construction?

Those of you who have experience in any of these areas understand the magnitude of these projects, both behind the scenes and in the



**JOHN
ROHAN**
COLUMNIST

front of the house. We have a great team and support structure in place so that all of the projects will come together with great results.

Now that Chula Vista Recreation Center is open, we have a few months to prepare for the Tierra Del Sol Village Recreation Center completion, followed by the construction of the new El Santiago Village Recreation Center. The transition time is perfect as we migrate from opening facilities to scheduling these facilities for seven-day-a-week lifestyle activities and services.

These major capital projects, along with new facilities opening, equate to sustainable long-term amenities for your use and enjoyment for years to come. Part of the District mission pertains to sustainability and perpetuity of the lifestyle here in The Villages.

This lifestyle is one of the many reasons residents call this community home. It is a huge undertaking, but we love the challenge and opportunity to keep our hometown vibrant through our great facilities.

As the population increases with residents returning from their summer homes and new residents joining our family, we need help from everyone to make visiting the centers and participating in activities a positive and enjoyable experience for all.

I would like to share a few simple ways to keep our core values and community expectations in place.

Bring your Villages Resident ID cards with you when visiting any of the facilities. Guests also should have guest IDs. Wear proper attire suitable for the activity you will be enjoying.

Participate in the appropriate skill level you are most capable of playing. We have skill levels and lessons available for all activities. Definitions and availability are posted for all related activities. Don't overdo at the risk of injuring yourself or others.

With hundreds of scheduled activities and 100,000 available participants, we must have an organized system to let residents know what time activities begin and end. It is important that we allow ample transition time between activities to assure a safe egress and ingress into the activity.

Also, we need to allow the volunteers time to set up for their activity, and staff needs time to check ID cards and ensure the room is set up and ready to go. Letting in participants too early or starting an activity before the advertised start time creates confusion for everyone.

The success of our volunteers and staff is directly attributed to everyone's cooperation and understanding when it comes to how we operate our centers. We have to have some structure in place so activities can take place in a safe, warm and friendly atmosphere.

All of our non-paid

volunteers are residents. The majority of our staff are residents and the other dedicated team members all

have the same mission in mind – to provide residents with a great experience at the facilities.

Most importantly, with all there is to experience, remember to have fun! All of you have committed

countless hours of your life to get to this remarkable place to cherish, savor and make new friends. I encourage you to try new activities, live, laugh, compete and relax.

We are glad you decided

to call The Villages your home and we are thrilled to be able to offer so many facilities to fulfill your lifestyle needs. If you have time in your busy schedules, go take a tour of the facilities I mentioned that recently

have been renovated.

That's all for this week! See you out and about somewhere in our hometown.

John Rohan is director of recreation. He can be reached at john.rohan@districtgov.org.