

Programs available for residents going out of town for holidays

Happy Holidays! Can you believe that Christmas is just one week away? That's right – just six more days of shopping left. As you prepare either to leave The Villages to spend time with your family or welcome them here, I have a couple of suggestions to help make this a wonderful holiday for everyone.

Did you know that Community Watch has several programs available that are designed to assist you when you leave your home unattended for more than seven days?

Both the House Check Program and the Resident Out of Area Programs are available to all residents of The Villages who will be leaving their home for more than seven days. For information on these programs and more, visit districtgov.org or call Community Watch at 753-0550.

If you are staying in The Villages and preparing for the arrival of your friends and family, make sure you obtain guest IDs for them. Stop by the Customer Service Center at 984 Old Mill Run or any regional recreation center to obtain these passes.

You also can request passes online at districtgov.org. There will be no guest ID services available Dec. 25 or Jan. 1.

There are several holiday programs and activities available for both you and your guests this month. Stop by Lake Sumter Landing for a special holiday cruise on Lake Sumter.

These holiday cruises are available Monday and Tuesday throughout the day. Advance tickets are required for this holiday special. Stop by any regional recreation center to purchase tickets or call 751-7110 for information.

Have you had a chance yet to attend Welcome Wednesday? This new program is



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COLUMNIST

held at 8 a.m. each Wednesday at the District office at 984 Old Mill Run in Lake Sumter Landing.

Although it is canceled the week of Christmas and New Year's Day, we invite you to visit our office at 8 a.m. each Wednesday beginning Jan. 7.

During this program, you will have an opportunity to hear about new and ongoing projects throughout The Villages. You also will hear about the latest rumors circulating through the community and learn whether they are fact or fiction.

Speaking of our offices at 984 Old Mill Run – have you stopped by our new location? Those of you who are seasonal residents and just returning to The Villages may not know we have a new and improved location.

With the exception of The Villages Public Safety Department and Community Watch, all District offices now are in one location. This combined location allows us to better serve you – the residents of The Villages.

Stop by our offices to visit the Customer Service Center, turn in your Architectural Review Application, pay your utility or amenity bill, or inquire on renting a room in your nearest recreation center. We are all now in one convenient location at Lake Sumter Landing.

For information on District office locations, call the Customer Service Center at 753-4508 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

As you prepare for the holidays, make sure you also prepare for the

following holiday schedules:

The District Customer Service Center and all District Administration offices will be closed Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1.

All recreation centers will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

Fitness centers will close at 1 p.m. and recreation centers will close at 6 p.m. Wednesday.

There will not be any Resident Lifestyle Volunteer group meetings after 1 p.m. and fitness centers will close at 1 p.m. Dec. 31.

For information on recreation services and hours, stop by or call your nearest regional recreation center. You also can visit districtgov.org for information.

For the Sumter and Marion County portions of The Villages, the following sanitation schedule will occur:

There will be no residential trash collection Dec. 25. If your recyclables normally are collected Thursdays, there will be a special pickup for recyclables only on Dec. 27.

There will be no residential trash collection Jan. 1. If your recyclables are normally collected on Thursday, there will be a special pickup for recyclables only Jan. 3.

If you live in the Lady Lake portion of The Villages, call Waste Management at 787-4416 for your collection information. For the Lake County portion, call Lake County Solid Waste at 343-3776.

All regular services and business hours will resume Jan. 2. For information, call the Customer Service Center at 753-4508.

Well, that's it for this week. From our District Family to yours, we wish you a wonderful holiday season. Please relax, enjoy and stay safe!

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