

New Community Watch division chief introduces himself to The Villages

By **BILL ELLIOTT**

COMMUNITY WATCH

Greetings everyone! My name is William Elliott (I prefer Bill) and I am the new division chief for Community Watch. My wife, Kristin, and I are extremely excited about the opportunity to work and live in The Villages.

We have been visiting The Villages since 2000, when my mother moved here from northern Michigan. We have owned a home in The Villages since December 2012, but only recently was the timing right to make the move to The Villages.

I grew up in a very small town called Rogers City, which is on the shores of Lake Huron in the north-eastern part of the Lower Peninsula. While growing up in Rogers City, I participated in numerous sports and had some success as a cross country and track runner.

After graduating high school, I attended Michigan State University in East Lansing where I pursued a bachelor of science degree in parks and recreation administration. While attending MSU, I worked as a park ranger at Hoelt State Park during the summer and I really enjoyed working with the families who were vacationing.

I am a huge MSU Spartan fan and I hope to be an

active member of the MSU Alumni Club here in The Villages. Go Green – Go White – Go State!

After graduating from MSU, I went to work for the Ingham County park system. I served as the park manager for Ingham County Parks for six years. As park manager, I directed the operation of a beach front, picnic areas, a boat launch, playgrounds and concessions. I supervised as many as 30 seasonal employees related to the park operation.

In April 1986, I joined the Michigan Department of State Police as a member of the 100th recruit class. After 18 weeks of intense training, I graduated from the MSP Training Academy and was assigned as a uniform trooper at the Brighton State Police Post in southeast Michigan.

As a trooper with the MSP, I was responsible for both traffic enforcement and criminal investigation. After a few years of patrol duty, I accepted a position as an undercover narcotics and criminal surveillance officer in the East Lansing Criminal Investigation Division.

I then received my first promotion to detective sergeant and was transferred to the criminal intelligence and organized crime units. While working in the organized crime unit, I investigated many complex and sensitive

cases.

In January 1996, I again was promoted to a command level position as a lieutenant in the narcotics division. I also have served as a command officer in the Fire Marshal Division and at three different post operations where I was responsible for the supervision of our uniform troopers and sergeants.

My most recent assignment with the Michigan State Police was as the Region 7 Coordinator in Emergency Management and Homeland Security. I worked as a liaison between the local county emergency managers and the EMHSD staff at headquarters in Lansing, Michigan. I officially will be retired from the Michigan State Police on April 1 after 29 years of service as an enlisted officer.

I believe my background and experience has prepared me well for my new assignment as the division chief of Community Watch. I have been in a position of public service my entire adult life.

I am looking forward to serving the citizens who are living and playing in The Villages. If you have any questions about the services we provide, please contact me to discuss your Community Watch program.

Bill Elliott is the division chief for Community Watch. He can be reached at 750-8201.