

Spring is here, time for AC check, phone books and community courtesy



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Ah, spring is here, with the cool nights and the sound of the birds chirping as the sun rises. With summer just around the corner and highs in the upper 80s already, now is the time for some preventative maintenance.

Your air conditioner should have an annual service and cleaning. Check the rain sensor for your irrigation system. The wafer discs in the sensor expand when they get wet and break the circuit, so the irrigation won't run. Over time the wafer discs may harden and won't expand, which results in irrigation running when it isn't necessary.

I am going to touch on many subjects today, so let's get started.

1. April showers bring ... phone books! Yes, it's that lovely time of year when new phone books come out and the old ones end up abandoned at the postal facilities. PLEASE, dispose of or recycle your old phone books at your home!

2. I also would like to address leaving other items at the postal facilities that should not be left or deposited there. If you are a pet owner, please be responsible for your pet. Every blade of grass, tree and shrub is owned by a homeowner, community development district or commercial entity. Please be respectful of other's property.

Extra! Extra!

Welcome Wednesday was created as a way to give residents the opportunity to learn about ongoing projects, address rumors and have their questions answered by District staff. Now that the program has been in existence for a few months, improvements have been identified based on resident feedback. Beginning in May, Welcome Wednesday will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesdays at the District office, 984 Old Mill Run. Attend for the opportunity to hear first-hand about the latest rumors and meet District Board supervisors from your CDD and others. For information, call the Customer Service Center at 753-4508. If you are unable to attend, weekly updates are posted on districtgov.org for your convenience.

You can help by controlling where your pet goes and by picking up and taking home what your pet discards. With the hot weather just weeks away, the trash receptacles will become very fragrant if folks keep using them to discard pet waste. Also, keep in mind that there is a limit to how much pet urine a parcel of land can tolerate before it smells, let alone kills the landscaping.

3. Please continue to be mindful of others and use courtesy and respect when traversing the community on the multimodal paths. The paths are designed for many different uses that include golf carts, bicyclists and pedestrians. Remember to Share the Paths!

It already has been a busy year for construction and renovation. Tierra Del Sol Village Recreation Center is scheduled to open in May. We have started the construction of the new El Santiago Village Recreation Center. The second phase of Paradise Park is open with exercise stations, additions to the walking trail system, benches, picnic tables and an open grass area for recreational activities. The horseshoe and

shuffleboard complex at Paradise Recreation Center also has been renovated.

My last discussion has to do with wildlife and preserves throughout The Villages. I would like to remind everyone ... please, DON'T FEED THE WILDLIFE. Taking some bread and feeding the ducks and egrets is cute for visiting guests, but when dozens of people do it in the same location, the wildlife become accustomed to it and more will congregate waiting to be fed. This has caused some areas to be littered with bird droppings.

The District has numerous nature preserves, conservation areas and wetlands. All of the areas are permitted through state agencies such as the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Southwest Florida Water Management District and Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

The public has no right to enter these areas. The District has the areas maintained per the requirements of the permit issued for the area by the

governing agency.

Unfortunately, an unauthorized and illegal incident occurred in the Village of Bridgeport at Lake Miona.

The conservation area along Lake Miona had large oak trees and other vegetation cut down without permission.

SWFWMD required the District to remove the debris and vegetation, replant it, and have it monitored and reported on annually.

This case was turned over to the Sumter County Sheriff's Office for investigation. If you have any information on this incident, please contact the Sumter County Sheriff's Office or you can contact CrimeLine and remain anonymous at 800-423-TIPS (8477).

The community now spans more than 40 square miles, so maintaining it truly is a cooperative effort. If you notice anything in need of repair or a safety concern, please call the District Customer Service Center at 753-4508 to advise them of the issue or concern.

We look forward to seeing you again next week, here at Our Place.

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