

Fall season welcomes residents back to updated amenities

While our leaves in Florida display limited colors compared to the cornucopia of colors in the Northern states, there are still many creative ways to substitute the atmosphere of fall.

I make up for it in a variety of ways, but I can't pass up the smell of those cinnamon brooms or pine cones that grace the entryways of the stores this time of year.

I have been accused of buying more than I need to bring the smell of fall into our home, up to the point that my family members can't breathe properly. At that point, my home decor talent typically is redirected back outside and consists of a blow-up jack-o'-lantern.

As fall begins to make its way down to our hometown, it's also the beginning of the arrival of our friends we haven't seen since last year. They will start arriving now and continue to come for the next couple of months.

Knowing old man winter is right around the corner, our resident friends recognize the best place to be this time of year (really anytime of the year) is right here in The Villages. Our hometown will continue to see more residents returning to their community that has been anything but slow during the summer months.

Here is a summary of events and projects that have taken place, and there are more on the horizon happening when they get here. I will need your help to share all the great happenings.

They will see we have received plenty of rain throughout the last couple of months, keeping our community lush and green. We've opened up new neighborhood recreation centers, La Belle and Pine Hills.



**JOHN
ROHAN**
COLUMNIST

Tierra Del Sol Village Recreation Center has been completely redone; a brand new recreation center now sits in the place of the previous smaller one. Numerous improvements and enhancements performed by the property management teams have kept the recreation centers in top-notch condition.

The executive golf courses will uphold top-shape pars (pun intended) for the more than 2 million rounds of golf scheduled to be played this year. The complete renovation of De La Vista is scheduled to be completed in late October.

Three more executive courses – Sarasota, Okeechobee and Escambia – will open Monday. This makes a grand total of 36 executive golf courses.

Our friends will be welcomed back to the newly-opened fourth dog park, Atlas Canine Recreation Park, and our first truly public nature preserve, the Sharon Rose Wiechens Preserve. This public access preserve is more than 600 acres complete with a boardwalk and observation platform for a variety of passive recreation experiences to be enjoyed. Thank you to everyone who came out last Friday for the grand opening of these two beautiful areas.

El Santiago Village Recreation Center had just begun construction last fall, and now it is just about complete. The exterior of the building is substantially

complete and the landscaping is nearing completion.

The interior finishes are being installed, such as cabinets and wallcoverings. This new 9,000-square-foot village recreation center is scheduled to open in late December.

Folks who will be arriving over the next couple of months, as well as residents already here, will continue to see new centers coming on line, continued District property management projects and, most importantly, more lifestyle activities than can be scheduled in a day.

October kicks off our parade and festival season. Come out and celebrate heritage, culture, great food, music and more with Oktoberfest and Italian Fest. When attending these events, please allow additional time to arrive as well as patience while exiting the events. It still amazes me that we have three town squares to enjoy great events year-round!

To view updates and information regarding lifestyle events, visit our District website, districtgov.org, and click on the recreation link which is located in the Departments tab. The Villages Daily Sun and WVVG will also be sharing information about community happenings. The October Lifestyle events calendar is full of opportunities for everyone. You won't be disappointed in these offerings!

In between your busy schedule, remember Welcome Wednesday is every Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the District Administration Office in Lake Sumter Landing, 984 Old Mill Run. It provides a casual environment to meet District Administration and board supervisors, learn about the latest events and services, and discuss

ROHAN, from page 2

any rumors out there.

Also located at our District office, we offer a Community Development District Orientation at 10 a.m. every Thursday. This presentation is an introduction to the operations

of your special purpose local government.

While you're at our office attending these great informational meetings, stop by Customer Service and sign up for Resident Academy, which is a more in-depth program about the District.

Please welcome back our friends from up North and get

geared up for yet another fun-filled season of parades, festivals, special events, 5Ks, entertainment, tournaments, socials and more to continue to keep everyone active and loving the lifestyle.

Just think of all the other communities who envy us for all we have planned, scheduled and organized all day, every day,

right here in our hometown. It is truly fascinating! Enjoy, be safe, be courteous, bring your ID card and plan on having a great experience.

Fall is here in your hometown! Don't forget in between all the fun to take some time to smell the cinnamon broom. That's all for this week. See you soon right here at Our Place.

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