

# Be courteous and safe during increased traffic of the season

Fall is my favorite time of year! I love to decorate the inside and outside of my home using my fall items such as pumpkins, hay, flowers with the colors of fall and all of the other decorations that I have.

I began my decorating a month ago in hopes that it might help the cooler weather to arrive. Somehow I think I must have missed a weather report that said we would skip the cooler weather of the fall months this year. It has been unseasonably warm for this time of year and as a Florida native, I am ready for the cooler weather to arrive.

And while we await the arrival of cooler weather we also know that it's the time of year when our seasonal friends arrive to escape the anticipated cold weather of the North. As we welcome our friends back home for the next few months and we enter the holiday season, there are several housekeeping items I would like to discuss.

One of the most important items to remember with the upcoming holidays and the return of our seasonal friends is safety. There is an increase of traffic on the neighborhood streets, highways and multimodal paths. Please slow down! This is a retirement community and I often wonder why everyone is in such a hurry.

Take the time to notice the surroundings, come to a complete stop at stop signs and be courteous. After all, this is Florida's Friendliest Hometown! Please be safety conscious! We want everyone to have a happy and safe holiday season!

As the population increases over the next few months, it is also important to keep our community both environmentally safe and aesthetically beautiful. I would like to remind everyone that the community development districts



**DIANE  
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COLUMNIST

are required by the Clean Water Act to comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit program.

This program is administered by the State of Florida and its goal is to reduce the amount of pollution that enters storm drain systems. We also have a District policy that prohibits unauthorized discharges of any kind and prohibits illicit connections to the storm drain system.

An illicit connection is any connection that allows any non-storm water discharge to enter the storm drain system. An example of an illicit connection is pumping pool water into the storm drain. When draining your swimming pool, the water should be discharged without impacting your neighbor's property and over a vegetated surface so that some level of filtration can occur.

As described in the Districts' policy, pollutants include, but are not limited to: paints, varnishes, and solvents; oil and other automotive fluid; nonhazardous liquid and solid waste; yard waste; refuse, rubbish, garbage, litter, or other discarded or abandoned objects; pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers; hazardous substances and waste; sewage; animal waste; waste and residue that result from constructing a building or structure. Basically, a pollutant is almost anything that isn't water that enters the storm drain.

For additional information on how to keep our community environmentally safe, go to [districtgov.org](http://districtgov.org) and click on The

Villages Water Wisdom site.

Keeping our community both environmentally safe and aesthetically beautiful is a team effort. In addition to District staff, the team consists of our commercial entities, our contractors, visitors, and of course our residents.

Two key members of our team are our contractors that provide sanitation pickup services. For residents in the Lady Lake/Lake County section of The Villages, the sanitation services are provided by Waste Management Inc. For residents in Marion and Sumter County, and the Fruitland Park area of The Villages, the sanitation services are provided by Sumter Sanitation.

Sumter Sanitation is owned by the North Sumter County Utility Dependent District and the sanitation services are contracted out and provided by CH2MHill. As our contractor and a vital member of our team, the staff members of CH2MHill work diligently each day to provide sanitation services to residential and commercial customers.

There are some interesting facts I would like to share with you regarding the amount of household trash, recycled items and yard waste that is collected by CH2MHill.

Now servicing nearly 43,000 commercial and residential customers here in The Villages, CH2MHill collected approximately 15,300 TONS of household trash from October 2014 through September 2015.

In addition, during this same period, they collected approximately 6,700 tons of recyclable material and approximately 4,700 tons of yard brush. Remember, these numbers are in tons – this is a lot of trash, recycled items and yard waste.

CH2MHill, along with all our other contractors, provides a great service and performs its part to keep our community beautiful.

One of the key elements for maintaining the daily beauty of our community is the requirement within your restrictive covenants that all household garbage is to be placed in clear or black plastic bags and not in garbage cans. This requirement allows the sanitation

workers to pick up the garbage and not have a garbage can left at the end of your driveway to be possibly carried into the street or a neighbor's yard by the wind.

Next week is Thanksgiving and there will be no trash or recycle pickup on Thanksgiving Day. However if you reside in Marion or Sumter county, or the Fruitland Park portion of The Villages and are scheduled for Thursday household trash or recycle pickup, your service day will be Nov. 28 for this week only.

Please have your trash or recycle bags out no later than 6 a.m. on Saturday for pickup.

As a reminder, the trash bins located at the postal stations are not recycling bins or dog waste disposal containers. Place your recycling items in clear bags curbside for pickup on your scheduled recycling day.

And please, take your dog waste bags and dispose it in your household garbage; not in the storm drains or postal station trash bins. It is the legal,

courteous and right thing to do.

If you have questions regarding your scheduled trash pickup day, you can contact CH2MHill Customer Service at 748-0109 or visit the Sanitation Services Quick Link on the District website at [districtgov.org](http://districtgov.org).

As Thanksgiving is next week, I would like to say that I am thankful for my wonderful family, my District co-workers that make up the greatest team that I have had the pleasure of working with in my 38-plus years

in government, an outstanding group of friends and having the opportunity to serve the residents of Florida's Friendliest Hometown!

Until next time here at Our Place!

*Diane Tucker is the administrative operations manager for the district. She can be reached at [diane.tucker@districtgov.org](mailto:diane.tucker@districtgov.org).*