

# The Villages®

## Community Development Districts

**OUR CORE VALUES***Hospitality**Stewardship**Creativity & Innovation**Hard Work***In this Issue...**

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**Staying Positive During Tough Times**

This past month I have been fortunate to have so many friends, and relatives encouraging me and pointing out the benefits of engaging in the power of positive thinking. I had heretofore always thought of myself as a positive person. But I had engaged with so many people and viewed so many videos that I decided to try to let my mind set the tone for my body's actions. I know - it sounds like blah, blah, blah. But, for me, the exercises helped me both before and after my medical episodes. It is a note that I offer to each of you as you move through life given your own trials and tribulations.

To all of you that kept me in your intentions, encouraging me, and offering your positive thinking experiences - thank you. You truly will never know how much your actions/efforts benefited me and how I hold you in deep regard.

*Richard Baier, P.E. LEED AP*  
*District Manager*

**Meeting the needs of  
The Villages  
community  
Residents Is our  
primary objective.**

**PURPOSE**

To provide and preserve  
the lifestyle of Florida's  
Friendliest Hometown.

**VISION**

To be respected as the  
most responsive  
and responsible  
Community Development  
District.

**MISSION**

To provide responsible  
and accountable  
public service that en-  
hances and sustains  
our community.

Finding yourself unexpectedly in the middle of a health crisis can be a shock. Life after D-Day (diagnosis day) often looks very different than the life you enjoyed before getting sick. Life doesn't have to be gloomy while you reclaim your health, though. Here are **4 tips for finding your way to positive thinking through a health crisis:**

- **Write it out.** Beyond the actual fear of what your diagnosis means for your future, there are other factors you need to process, like how your perception of yourself changes when you go from a healthy person to someone who is ill. Journaling can be a great way to work through these feelings and help you come to terms with your current situation. It can also be a great tool for tracking your symptoms. You don't need to write a daily list of every ache or pain, but if something new pops up it doesn't hurt to record it so you can give your doctor an accurate timeline of what you're experiencing. As an added bonus, your journal doesn't ask stupid questions or try to fix you: it just listens and understands.
- **Sweat it out.** Even if the last thing you want to do is exercise, working out (with your doctor's blessing) can be a huge mood booster. Get the blood pumping and the endorphins running through your veins. Exercise is an excellent way to work off stress and tension and is a positive change to make toward leading a healthier life. It can also help you see yourself as healthy and vital instead of sick and frail.
- **Love yourself.** Don't skimp on the self-care. You will be touched and poked and prodded by all kinds of medical professionals in sterile environments. Taking care of your emotional health is important, too. Schedule a spa day whenever you feel like the medical stuff is getting a bit too intense. The gentle, calming touch of a massage or facial can soothe your weary nerves. Be kind to yourself and recognize that being sick is hard work and you deserve a little pampering.
- **Connect with your inner hippie.** You don't have to dance naked under the light of a full moon but developing a mindfulness practice can bring comfort during a chaotic time. Keeping your mind in the present without worrying about the future is tremendously difficult when you're faced with a serious illness. Try meditation (there are lots of great apps out there to guide you through it if you're a beginner) or join a yoga studio. Or dance naked under the light of a full moon. There's no judgment here.

<https://www.happier.com/blog/4-ways-to-find-your-happy-while-living-through-a-health-crisis/>



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT...



### Nanaki Delerme ~ Finance ~ Senior Accountant



**Where were you born & raised and went to school?** I was born in Puerto Rico, and raised in Miami FL. I graduated from Coral Gables High School and attended Rasmussen College where I obtained a BS in Accounting.

**What was special about where you were from?** Puerto Rico has beautiful beaches, great food, tropical weather, and warm people.

**Tell us about your family, people (including pets!)** I am married with two kids, and have a little kitty cat named Marley (she is really not that little). My daughter is a third grader at The Villages Charter School, and my son will be graduating this year from the Bellevue High School Cambridge AICE program.

**Hobbies? Favorite activities?** I enjoy spending time with my family, travelling, and doing arts and crafts with my daughter.

**Who has been the most influential person in your life and why?** The most influential person in my life is my mom. She is always putting everyone else's needs before her own, and she always has a positive outlook.

**What's the best advice you have ever received?** The pandemic has showed many of us to take time to slow down and enjoy the little things.

**What is the career & training path that led you to the District?** Before coming to the District I worked for NBC Universal Latin America where I handled accounting for various networks including SyFy, E! Entertainment, Telemundo, and Universal Pictures.

**Can you tell us about your day-to-day responsibilities?** I was recently promoted to Sr. Accountant where some of my duties include supervising and finalizing monthly financial statements, reviewing and approving bank reconciliations, and ensuring internal control policies. Our team handles NSCUDD, BCDD, Districts 12 and 13, and also Special Assessments.

**What is your favorite aspect of working for the District?** I work with a great team of people and I also enjoy the benefits.

**My favorites...Movie:** Dirty Dancing and Coming to America...**Television Show:** The Walking Dead, Ozark, and The Crown

**Sports Team:** Miami Heat...**Vacation Spot:** Cruises to the Caribbean

**Food:** Pizza and Sushi...**Dessert:** Anything with chocolate

### Megan Conatser ~ Public Safety ~ Administrative Assistant

**Where were you born & raised and went to school?** I was born in West Berlin, Germany; went to elementary school in Boeblingen, Germany; attended high school in Vicenza, Italy; and received a B.A. in International Studies from DePaul University in Chicago, IL. I am still procrastinating on starting a Master's program.

**What was special about where you were from?** Cultural immersion and language acquisition; ancient architecture.

**Tell us about your family, people (including pets!)** My favorite part of my life is being a mama to my beautiful 3 year old daughter. My parents, grandmother, godparents, and brother all live in Central Florida. This is the first time in decades we're all in the same place at the same time.

**Hobbies? Favorite activities?** Reading, writing, languages, anthropology, archaeology, architecture, history, foreign film, philosophy, quantum physics, working out, yoga, education.

**Who has been the most influential person in your life and why?** Anyone that has served, defended, and sacrificed for the rights and freedoms we all enjoy and my daughter, Ellenora.

**What's the best advice you have ever received?** I lifted it from a movie, but have found it very helpful: "Worrying means you suffer twice." – Newt Scamander, Incredibe Beasts



**What is the career & training path that led you to the District?** After college I wanted to work for the State Department's Foreign Service program, but I fell in love and married instead. Life will lead you to where you need to be, and now three generations of women get to watch the fourth grow big and strong!

**Can you tell us about your day-to-day responsibilities?** I have the privilege of working with the people that keep our community safe and thriving, and I look forward to doing what I can to help make peoples' days - and jobs - easier (hopefully!).

**What is your favorite aspect of working for the District?** Aside from working with the best and brightest, I would say the planning, design, and infrastructure aspects of The Villages fascinates me.

**What is the most interesting thing you have ever seen?** Literally everything I saw/experienced while studying in West Africa and Morocco.

**My favorites...Movie:** Marie Antoinette...**Television Show:** Catastrophe, Dark

**Sports Team:** Juventus...**Vacation Spot:** anywhere in Europe

**Restaurant:** Duck Walk, Charlie Trotters (RIP)...**Food:** Thai, German...**Dessert:** Candy!!

### **Immediate Job Openings**

Are you looking for a career change, or know someone who is seeking employment? Our current job openings include:

#### **Finance**

Accounting Technician-Revenue Specialist \$14.50 per hour

#### **Recreation**

Facility Specialist	\$11.07 per hour
Fitness Assistant	\$9.93 per hour
Recreation Assistant	\$9.93 per hour
Recreation Service Representative (FT&PT)	\$11.07 per hour
Recreation Supervisor-Lifestyle Events	\$39,464.80 annually

#### **Human Resources**

HR Administrator-Benefits	\$43,931.30 annually
HR Technician	\$15.30 per hour

Keep an eye out for emails from Terianne Carroll, HR Administrator, for future openings within the District. If you have questions on job openings or how to apply, please feel free to call Terianne at 352-674-1905 or email [terianne.carroll@districtgov.org](mailto:terianne.carroll@districtgov.org).

### **EMPLOYEES ON THE MOVE**



#### **Community Watch**

- **David Showers, Eileen Redmon and Gregory Sherman** transferred from Gate Attendant Substitute to Gate Attendant.
- **Charles Putnam, Paul Brake, Freddie Wilson and Charles Corraro** transferred from Patrol Driver Substitute to Patrol Driver.

#### **Customer Service**

- **Angela Carrozzella** transferred from Human Resources Technician to Customer & Administrative Support Representative.

#### **Property Management**

- **David Van Vleet** transferred from Supervisor-Landscape to Supervisor-Water Resources.
- **Joella LeDonne** was promoted from Financial Coordinator to Financial Manager.
- **Herschel Wiley** was promoted from Manager-Facilities to Assistant Director.

#### **Public Safety**

- **Don Neibling** was promoted from Lieutenant to Division Chief of Administration.
- **Phillip Roberts** was promoted from Firefighter Paramedic to Lieutenant.
- **Jorge Molina** was promoted from Firefighter Paramedic to Firefighter Paramedic Driver Engineer.

#### **Recreation**

- **Pamela Gulla** was promoted from Fitness Assistant to Facility Specialist-Fitness.



#### **Community Watch**

William Hayes  
Mark Pinder

#### **Property Management**

Carlton Smith  
Salvador Martinez Aviles

#### **Recreation**

Jeffrey Meier  
Gary Smith  
Richard Parker  
Merle Woodard



**On your District Anniversary.  
Thank you for your service!**

### **10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**Nadia Whittaker  
Recreation Area Manager**



**Jack Kondor  
Patrol Driver**

**Not Pictured: Gregory Correale, Patrol Driver**

### **PROVE IT CHALLENGE**

The District wants to know...are you reading your employee newsletter? If so, here's your chance to prove it. Read your employee newsletter and find the typo, or two. It might be in the beginning, middle or end. Who knows? Enjoy the challenge!

Email your editorial observations to:

[HumanResources@Districtgov.org](mailto:HumanResources@Districtgov.org)  
First correct answer received wins a surprise!

### **Recreation & Parks**



Recently Recreation & Parks held their "Spring Virtual 5K" for residents and guests. Everyone enjoyed the ability to pick their own location and set their pace whether a beginner or an experienced distance runner. An excellent start to a healthy spring!

### **Property Management**

Property Management would like to recognize the entire Infrastructure team for their steadfastness and commitment in providing thorough capital improvement plans for budgeting purposes. In particular, **Eric Kellum, Supervisor**, took it upon himself to research Lady Lake's historical documents and create a fully complete CIP for that area. In the past, information regarding these assets was not available for inclusion, and now, future fiscal requirements are accurately calculated. This exemplary embodiment of our core values is what we strive for each day.



# May



# May



Eileen Redmon	1	Community Watch	William Wong	17	Community Watch
Jean Wells	1	Recreation	Lisa Babbitt	17	Customer Service
William Elliott	1	Community Watch	Darren Tomasello	17	Community Watch
Sandra Tarter	1	Community Watch	Connor Cerase	17	Public Safety
Raymond Cavanaugh	1	Recreation	Diane Nunn	18	Recreation
Lawrence Forson	2	Community Watch	Linda Johnson	19	Recreation
Charleen Darlington	2	Community Watch	Cynthia Moorman	19	Community Watch
Robert Doherty	2	Community Watch	Corey McCaulley	19	Public Safety
James Schnitker	2	Public Safety	Ronald St Pierre	20	Community Watch
Sam Crowell	3	Community Watch	Gary Margocs	20	Recreation
Joseph Haremza	3	Community Watch	James Basile	21	Community Watch
Linda Dick	3	Recreation	Mabel Haddock	21	Finance
Edward Carter	4	Recreation	Paul Hertz	22	Community Watch
Arthur Michaels	4	Recreation	Burton Israel	22	Community Watch
Larry Terracino	4	Recreation	Virginia Scott	22	Recreation
Robert McClure	4	Recreation	Angela Tutino	22	Public Safety
William Pent	4	Public Safety	Martina Smith	22	Administration
Joseph Young	5	Community Watch	Angel Ferrer	22	Public Safety
Brian Hilty	5	Public Safety	Paul Radzik	23	Community Watch
Dustin Foster	5	Public Safety	Joann Tucker	24	Community Watch
Tamara Hyder	6	Administration	Richard Parker	24	Recreation
Susan Rodriguez Belon	6	Community Standards	Robert Bogdonoff	24	Recreation
Wendy Galiardi	7	Recreation	Brent Munson	24	Recreation
Charles Steffani	7	Property Management	Steven Stein	24	Community Watch
Charles Marchiano	8	Recreation	Dawn Geiger	24	Recreation
MaryAnn Esposito	8	Recreation	James Holly	24	Public Safety
Richard Vogt	9	Recreation	Louise Wells	25	Recreation
Sean Garvey	9	Recreation	Seth Canter	25	Recreation
Joseph St John	9	Community Watch	Sharon Owens	26	Finance
William Neale	10	Recreation	Gerald Van Blarcom	27	Community Watch
Doyle Graf	10	Property Management	Randy Ward	27	Recreation
Tyler Graham	10	Recreation	Marcial Santiago	27	Public Safety
Mary Morris	11	Community Watch	Daniel Marsinelli	28	Recreation
Terry Gibbons	11	Recreation	Michael Distefano	28	Public Safety
Robert Walker	11	Community Watch	Darius Burwell	28	Recreation
Christine Wergin	12	Recreation	Ronald Argast	29	Community Watch
Richard Baier	13	Administration	Richard Silverston	29	Community Watch
Ryan Keller	13	Public Safety	Larry Marlow	29	Recreation
Donald Morris	13	Property Management	John Ferdinand	29	Community Watch
Armando Norat	14	Community Watch	Hugh Austin	29	Recreation
Don Neebling	14	Public Safety	Cathy Norris	29	Recreation
Matthew Armstrong	15	Recreation	Edward Raulerson	29	Public Safety
Jose Ruiz	15	Public Safety	Vasima Stagl	29	Recreation
Therese Green	16	Recreation	Brian Konnerth	30	Public Safety
Thomas Tritt	16	Property Management	Janet Talbot	31	Recreation
Patricia Verber	16	Recreation	James Morton	31	Recreation
Jennifer Newton	16	Finance	Richard Titus	31	Recreation
Dalton Zink	16	Public Safety			

## Happy May Anniversary! Thank You For Your Service!

Edmund Cain	Public Safety	05/22/2002	19	Angela Carrozzella	Customer Service	05/22/2017	4
Laura Agosto	Recreation	05/17/2004	17	Delbert Houghton	Community Watch	05/22/2017	4
Michael Woomer	Community Watch	05/23/2005	16	Denise Naasz	Recreation	05/22/2017	4
Michael Vasilko	Community Watch	05/25/2005	16	Charles Phelps	Recreation	05/22/2017	4
Robert Montalbano	Community Watch	05/02/2007	14	Richard Underwood	Recreation	05/22/2017	4
Daniel Famularo	Recreation	05/09/2007	14	Nancy Gerrity	Recreation	05/22/2017	4
Louise Wells	Recreation	05/21/2008	13	Joseph Natoli	Recreation	05/22/2017	4
Gregory Correale	Community Watch	05/25/2011	10	Thomas Rafuse	Community Watch	05/21/2018	3
Nadia Whittaker	Recreation	05/25/2011	10	Colin St Germain	Recreation	05/21/2018	3
Jarod Falck	Public Safety	05/14/2012	9	Tamara Rolle	Executive Golf	05/21/2018	3
Albert Page	Community Watch	05/14/2012	9	Celeste Peloquin	Finance	05/06/2019	2
Dennis McNeil	Community Watch	05/14/2012	9	Taylor Ratliff	Recreation	05/06/2019	2
Bruce Greenberger	Community Watch	05/14/2012	9	James Mosier	Community Watch	05/20/2019	2
Judy Odom	Finance	05/29/2013	8	Mary Klein	Recreation	05/20/2019	2
Elly Gorman	Recreation	05/12/2014	7	Edward Miklosey	Recreation	05/20/2019	2
Darlene Stevens	Recreation	05/11/2015	6	Elizabeth Lesser	Recreation	05/20/2019	2
Robert Fisher	Recreation	05/11/2015	6	Wendy Galiardi	Recreation	05/20/2019	2
Susan Shanks	Community Watch	05/09/2016	5	Mitchell Leininger	Executive Golf	05/28/2019	2
Anthony Colica	Community Watch	05/09/2016	5	Angela Pattillo	Human Resources	05/29/2019	2
William Creelman	Community Watch	05/09/2016	5	Stanley Davis Jr	Property Management	05/18/2020	1
George Bodlak	Recreation	05/23/2016	5	Jaime Denton	Property Management	05/18/2020	1
Virginia Griffin	Recreation	05/23/2016	5	Joseph McKenna	Recreation	05/26/2020	1
Josephine Romero	Recreation	05/23/2016	5	Dawn Geiger	Recreation	05/26/2020	1
Nehemiah Wolfe	Community Watch	05/22/2017	4	Juergen Meusel	Recreation	05/26/2020	1
Yovany Hogeland	Public Safety	05/22/2017	4	Vickie Colpitts	Recreation	05/26/2020	1
Steven Kendrick	Recreation	05/22/2017	4				

## Recognizing Our Core Values In Action!

**Anthony Valadez, Landscape Supervisor** received a compliment from a resident. The resident stated that Anthony helped her out and did a really great job!

**Dan Lucin, Road/Infrastructure Manager** was thanked by a resident for a speedy resolution to an issue.



**Don Fitzpatrick, Patrol Driver** (pictured left) and **Dave Wilkinson, Patrol Supervisor** assisted on a call by sweeping up asphalt debris that created a hazard for a resident. The resident stated that Don and Dave went above and beyond and cited professionalism, great customer service and dedication.

**Bill Thompson, Infrastructure Supervisor** received a call of appreciation from a resident for assistance and follow up. The resident was very happy.

**Herschel Wiley, Assistant Director of Property Management** received a call about the drinking fountains. The resident said "thank you for listening, I'm happy to see they are starting to re-open."

**Melinda Hallquist, Recreation Service Representative** (pictured right) received several compliments while filling in at Recreation Administration. Her assigned center is Fenney. "We just wanted to tell you Melinda has been an exemplary employee filling in for Customer Service. She was knowledgeable, helpful to the residents on the phone and in person directing them to the correct locations. I know everyone here is sad she can't work with us every afternoon and we're looking forward to when she comes back for a couple of days. She was professional, polite, and personable to the residents as well as all the staff members in the building. Thanks for sharing her with us!"



**Sean Murray, Recreation Supervisor** (pictured left) received an email from a resident. "We are writing to say how impressed we were with Sean, who ran our Intermediate Pickle Ball league. He is a positive, organized, personable individual who is truly an asset to the Recreation & Parks Department."

**Dan Kenny, Facilities Supervisor** received a thank you from a resident. "Wanted to thank you for re-paving the sidewalk around the postal station in Lake Deaton."

**Kevin Kane, Gate Attendant** received a compliment from a resident. The resident commented on Kevin for an outstanding job he did aiding her in a time of need during a medical issue. Kevin saw the resident, called for help, and asked that someone check up on the resident when he was not able to. The resident stated Kevin "went above & beyond his duties as a gate attendant" and is very grateful & feeling better.

**Cindy Bennett, Staff Assistant-The Enrichment Academy** received a compliment. "She is great, patient, and has such a nice demeanor; always so helpful. She's always available to answer all our questions. We also like the smaller classes and personal attention we receive from the instructors. Well priced, especially for us since we take so many courses."



**Rob Priest, Landscape Supervisor & Dalton Parker, Executive Golf Supervisor** were thanked. "A huge thank you for a job well done! We are so impressed with the great work done so quickly to clean up the pond on Chula Vista golf course and also the area that runs along the multi-modal path off Del Mar Drive. We drove through the area this morning on our way to Spanish Springs and we were so surprised to see all the debris and trash completely gone!"

**Tom Convery, Gate Attendant and Charlie Aquilina, Substitute Gate Attendant** were praised for their quick response during an emergency situation which included an accident at Morse Blvd. and 466. A resident stated she had never realized how important the gate attendant duties are. She said that they were doing an outstanding job of managing traffic so that it didn't backup into the Morse Blvd./466 intersection. She could see some people getting a little impatient with the way the gate attendants were moving the cars through as quickly as they could in a safe manner. It was the first time after living in The Villages for over 10 years that she actually understood the importance of the gate attendants.



**MaryAnn Esposito, Recreation Service Representative** was commended for her assistance from a Villages club. "I just want to drop you a little note commanding MaryAnn at the La Hacienda recreation center. I'm in charge of a club and she has been the easiest person to work with as we go through the COVID pandemic. She's always flexible, friendly, and very accommodating with all the changes we've had to make in our schedule. The experience with her is always very positive because whenever I call, she is always ready to help, and point me in a direction to solve my situation."

**Tanika Clayton-Henry, Human Resources Administrator** was complimented by a fellow employee. "She did a great job at built do last training. I saw the importance of what we do here and how to be a better employee."

**Justin Sarka, Landscape Supervisor** received a thank you from two residents. "Thank you for your quick response this morning in regard to my concerns." And Justin's response time was wonderful, he came within 10 minutes of the call from the resident. The contractor came twice to complete the job and the resident is very happy and wanted to make sure Justin was recognized for his hard work.

***Hospitality ~ Creativity & Innovation ~ Stewardship ~ Hard Work***

## Heat Illness Prevention

As summer approaches and the temperatures rise, Risk Management would like to go over five types of heat related illnesses, how to recognize them and ways to protect yourself from the Florida heat. Five types of Heat-related Illnesses include **Heat Stroke, Heat Exhaustion, Heat Syncope, Heat Cramps, and Heat Rash.**



**Heat stroke** is the most serious heat related illness. Signs and symptoms of heat stroke include extremely high body temperature (above 103°F); Red, hot, and dry skin (no sweating), rapid strong pulse, throbbing headache, dizziness and nausea. Heat stroke occurs when the body becomes unable to control its temperature. Heat stroke can cause death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not provided.

- Call 911 for emergency medical care.
- Stay with person until emergency medical services arrive.
- Move the person to a shaded, cool area and remove outer clothing.
- Cool the person quickly with a cold water or ice bath if possible, wet the skin, place cold wet cloths on skin, or soak clothing with cool water.



**Heat exhaustion** Symptoms include: heavy sweating, paleness, muscle cramps, tiredness, weakness, dizziness, headache, nausea or vomiting, fainting. Skin may be cool and moist. Pulse rate may be fast and weak. Breathing may be fast and shallow.

- Take person to a clinic or emergency room for medical evaluation and treatment.
- If medical care is unavailable, call 911.
- Remove person from hot area and give liquids to drink.
- Remove unnecessary clothing, including shoes and socks.
- Cool the person with cold compresses or have the person wash head, face, and neck with cold water.

- Encourage frequent sips of cool water.

**Heat syncope** Symptoms are fainting or dizziness that usually occurs with prolonged standing or sudden rising from a sitting or lying position.

- Sit or lie down in a cool place.
- Slowly drink water, clear juice, or a sports drink.

**Heat cramps** Symptoms are muscle pain or spasms usually in the abdomen, arms, or legs usually caused by low salt levels in muscles or dehydration.

- Drink water and have a snack and/or carbohydrate-electrolyte replacement liquid (e.g., sports drinks) every 15 to 20 minutes.
- Avoid salt tablets.
- Get medical help if the person has heart problems, is on a low sodium diet, or if cramps do not subside within 1 hour.

**Heat rash** Symptoms include red cluster of pimples or small blisters; it is more likely to occur on the neck and upper chest, in the groin, under the breasts, and in elbow creases.

- When possible, a cooler, less humid work environment is best treatment.
- Keep rash area dry.
- Powder may be applied to increase comfort.
- Ointments and creams should not be used.

## Tips to protect yourself from heat related stress and illness:

- Drink cool, nonalcoholic beverages (avoid extremely cold liquids because they can cause cramps).
- Rest.
- Take a cool shower, bath, or sponge bath.
- Seek an air-conditioned environment.
- Wear lightweight clothing; remain indoors during heat of the day; do not engage in strenuous activities.



## What you can do for someone with heat stress:

- Call for immediate medical attention.
- Get the person to a shady area.
- Cool the person as best as you can: spray the person with cool water, sponge the person with cool water, if humidity is low wrap the person in a cool wet towel and fan him or her vigorously while monitoring their body temp until body temperature drops to 102°.
- If emergency personnel are delayed call the hospital emergency room for further instruction.

## Health & Wellness

**COVID-19 has been tough for all to endure (and that might be an understatement). With May being National Pet Month, the District thought it would be wonderful to share some happy stories about your pets because it's almost certain they have been there for you during this trying time. Enjoy!**



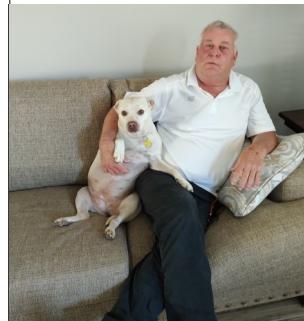
**William Shelly, Recreation Assistant.**

"Bogey is a 10 month old Golden Doodle. We have had him 2 months. Our Golden-doodle, Noodle, passed a year and a half ago. We looked at dogs quite a few times and did not find the right one. Late in February, while on our way to Maryland, our daughter in Ohio called and asked if we wanted a Goldendoodle. Sight unseen, we of course said yes. Her long time veterinarian treated a doodle after the dog had swallowed a sock and the owners were told that an operation was necessary, the owners said no, and asked the Vet to euthanize him. Long story short, the Vet called our daughter and asked if she wanted another Doodle. She said no, one was enough, however, my parents would love to have it. He went ahead and operated and our daughters (in Ohio) met us in Morgantown, WV on a snowy Monday and we now have 9 month old Bogey."



**John Bellante, Recreation Assistant.**

"Bella is our Golden Retriever who we adopted at 8 weeks old. She was a year old on April 6th. She is a handful, likes a lot of exercise and loves to go to the Village dog parks. Bella is our 4th dog and 3rd puppy that we have had in 51 years of marriage. We become close to our pets and they are always part of the family!"



**Dan Walker, Gate Attendant Substitute.**

This is Dan's lovely dog, Lily. She is a rescue from Virginia. Dan rescued her in New Hampshire. Lily is everyone's love when people come to visit. She likes to jump into bed with everyone. Lily is a real joy!



**Regina DeMarco, Recreation Service Representative.** "Bluto our Boxer will be 9 years old on May 25th. He is an 82 pound lap dog! He loves to fly, run on the beach, swim in the pool and go boating. He takes his job as a protector very seriously and loves his humans. Millie is a 5 year old Llewellyn Setter and just the sweetest dog ever although I suspect she has ADHD! She loves fire for some reason and runs faster than a greyhound. She also loves the water and flying with her Uncle Bluto."



**Dakotah Garcia, Recreation Area Supervisor.**

"I got Paisley when I was a senior at Florida Gulf Coast University. It was October of 2016 and coming up on exam week. After a whole week of classes and studying, my roommate and I decided to get out of the apartment and go to the puppy store to play with puppies and relax for a bit. While there Paisley caught my eye because she was in a gated area all by herself. Whenever a stranger walked up she cowered in her kennel, but she was always excited when the owner of the shop walked by. Once I was able to pick her, the owner told me that she was free to a good home because she could not get bought due to her social issues. Once I heard that, I was done for. She came home with me that day and hasn't left my side since, even though it took her about 3 days of living with me to gain her confidence back. Her social issues stem from a couple of things. At 4 months old she was dropped by an 8 year old boy. So she doesn't do well with children. She was bought with her sister shortly after her first incident. However, she was brought back about a month later by the family. The store owner thinks she might have been abused there. Possibly because the family who bought her had children and when she reacted badly towards them she was disciplined harshly. To this day she does not do well with any strangers and only has a handful of people she loves unconditionally; including myself, my sister, my parents, and my husband. She does well with other dogs and loved living with my parents for a short while because they have dogs as well. Some of her favorite things; Lay in bed all day. Lay on the back of the couch and stare out the window Play hide and seek While outside, if she sees a critter move she wants to chase. Her favorites are birds If you have a blanket, she wants to be under it with you When I come home, no matter how long I've been gone

**Kathy Ernst, Community Watch Training Coordinator.**

Beaky, Odie, and Misty. "I fell in love at first sight with a baby African Grey Parrot at a bird show and when I held him I knew he had to go home with me. That was 22 years ago. He showers with me & tries to feed me to show what a good mate he would make. Besides him we have 2 dogs that came from a shelter in Tavares. Six years ago they were given up together so we adopted them together. One male & one female they are now around 10 years old & inseparable. All are "mommy's animals". Poor papa is as good as gold but they all follow mama and the dogs can be very protective."



**Robbie Ratafia, Gate Attendant.** "I'm

a resident of the Villages and I am also a gate attendant for the last 4 years. I adopted my "Borkies" (their mother is a Beagle and their father is a Yorkie). They were adopted previously but were mistreated. The owner took them back and one of my co-workers asked me if I would take them! They will be 14 years old on March 31st. I love them dearly!"

*"I wouldn't go so far as to call us soul mates, but anyone who saw us would!"*

- Max from *Secret Life of Pets* Movie

**Naomi Drouillard, Recreation Service Representative.** "Roxie was my baby, I saved my money and purchased her from my friend's mom who was a breeder. She helped me through a really hard time after losing our daughter to cancer. Roxie ended up with diabetes, Cushing disease and an enlarged heart and we had to put her down on February 12. I miss her greatly. She was 9 yrs old. Lucie is the mostly black one with white on her chest. She is a rescue Pom/Chi mix. When I got Roxie she needed a friend and so we adopted Lucie. Lucie got really sick a few days after we got her and we thought we were going to lose her but she made it. She suffers from seizures which were very scary in the beginning but now we have them under control with medication. She is a great friendly dog. She is 9 yrs old. Pearl is a Chihuahua. We rescued her from a garage. Our neighbor in Michigan called and she had gone to pick up a puppy and there were 2 left and she wanted to get them out of there and wanted to know if I knew of anyone that wanted one. I said, sure. Pearl was covered in fleas and fit in the palm of my hand when we got her. She is now the "mean" one of the pack, she wants to be the leader but Roxie was the leader so she was 2<sup>nd</sup> in command. She is 6 yrs old. Diamond is a Chihuahua we rescued from a friend's friend. She was to be a friend to Pearl. She is the timid one of the family. Pearl and Diamond still run around like crazy from time to time chasing each other. She is 6 yrs old."



**Jan Collom, Recreation Service Representative.** "I would like to introduce you to my best buddy, Augie. He's a 5 yr old phantom colored Maltese/Toy Poodle mix. Loves to look for people walking while sitting atop the sofa and of course has to let them know

he knows they're in front of his house even though his owner doesn't seem to appreciate his observations! He loves to chase his toys but is still working on the "drop it" command. Don't know how I ever got along without him!"



**Madison Tucker, Recreation Leader.** "Percy, Chiweenie, 4 years old. On January 11, 2017, Percy was born into this world, so I was there from the get go. I remember this day well because I was a sophomore at Lake Sumter State College and my lab day was cancelled and Percy just happened to be born right when I went to go check on his mom. At first Percy wasn't going to be mine but his two sisters were adopted into great families and he was left alone. I had to convince my father to let me keep Percy, and at first he was not too keen on the idea.

But now my whole family loves my dog just as much as I do. Some of Percy's favorite things include: adventures (hiking, boating, and lots of walks), sleeping (because who doesn't), lots of playing (tug of war and fetch), ripping apart his stuffed toys, just about any food (especially fruits and veggies), and last but not least my family.



**Lynn Flanagan, Dispatcher.** "These are our Belgian Malinois.

Fallon who is 15 years old and Zeus who is 8"



**Julie Stephens, Staff Assistant-TEA.**

"Apples is a 5 year old Yellow-Naped Amazon. My husband and I rescued her at the age of 9 months. She had been abused by a male owner and to this day will not go near any men but she does love the ladies. When I first met Apples, she climbed up on me and would not get off. Needless to say, she is still attached at the hip. Apples is very vocal, she speaks her mind and even tells me when she has to go potty. She can sing several songs and will sing with the radio. Her favorite activities are listening to music, singing, electronics, talking and going outside."



**Nehemiah Wolfe, Director of Community Watch (left)**

"Please meet Mollie, the "Boss Lady" of my house."



**Jon Wilkinson, Public Education Technician (right).**

"This is my best guy Fred. He is a two year old male CavaPoo."

**Thank you to those that shared their pets!**

On Friday, April 16th, Public Safety held a ceremony at Laurel Manor to welcome six new members to its ranks. The six new Firefighter/EMTs are from left to right **Armani Floran, Jose Finol, Jordan Kays, Christian Moreno, Jose Santiago Ayala and Jackson Vasey**.



In addition, the department also honored four members on their promotions. **Don Neebling was promoted to Division Chief of Administration, Austin Roberts was promoted to a Lieutenant and Jorge Molina and Eduardo Villagomez were both promoted to a Driver Engineer rank.** Eduardo Villagomez was unable to attend the ceremony.



**Don Neebling**, pictured left with Chief Edmund Cain.



**Austin Roberts**, pictured right with family and Chief Edmund Cain.



**Jorge Molina**, pictured left with Chief Edmund Cain.



**The Villages®**  
Community Development Districts



### **Firefighter/EMT Cadet Scholarship Recipient Named**

The **Firefighter/EMT Cadet Scholarship** program was developed and offered through the combined efforts of the Villages Professional Firefighters Local 4770, the Village Center Community Development District/Villages Public Safety department, and in partnership with The Villages High School. The scholarship award will cover the cost to attend the Firefighter/EMT program at Marion Technical College. The combined Firefighting and EMT program provides the necessary training required for students to become certified Firefighters, as well as licensed Emergency Medical Technicians. The Firefighter portion follows the curriculum provided by the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training. The EMT component of this combined program prepares students for certification as EMT's in accordance with Chap.64J of the Florida Administrative Code. The selection process included the submittal of an essay and meeting with the Scholarship Selection Committee, comprised of representatives from the Villages Professional Firefighters Local 4770, the Village Center Community Development District Human Resources department and the Villages Public Safety department. On April 13, 2021 the first **Firefighter/EMT Cadet Scholarship** was awarded to Glenndy Sierra. Mr. Sierra is currently a senior at The Villages High School and resides in Oxford, Florida. Mr. Sierra will begin the Firefighter/EMT program at Marion Technical College after graduation from The Villages High School on May, 29, 2021. As part of the scholarship requirements, Mr. Sierra will also be assigned a firefighter mentor from The Villages Public Safety Department who will meet with him once per week. In addition, he will ride as a volunteer with the department for a minimum of 10 hours per month and be required to meet all physical requirements of the position. In receiving this scholarship, Mr. Sierra will be assisted in achieving his desired goal of becoming a Firefighter/EMT and providing public service to the community within which he lives upon joining the Villages Public Safety Department.



**We wish Mr. Sierra much success in his new endeavors.**

**Division Chief of EMS Kara Watts and the crew of Station 40, Eric McFarland, Lieutenant, Michael Birch, Firefighter Paramedic, and Clyde Christian, Firefighter EMT attended the Kindergarten Safety Fair at the Villages Charter Primary Center on April 22nd. The Children learned about Fire Safety and got a chance to learn about the firetruck.**





**DISTRICT UNIVERSITY**  
**Training & Development Programs: May 2021**  
All professional development training workshops are open to all District Staff members.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**



Class Title	Instructor	Class Info	Relevant to	Date	Time	Location
New Hire Orientation	Varied District Staff	Welcome to the Team! This class provides new team members with a wide range of topics to help you navigate your first 60 days as a member of the team. Topics covered include District Core Values, Mission Statement, policy & procedures, diversity & inclusion, and safety practices.	NEW HIRES	May 3rd & 17th	8:00am To 12:30pm	Colony Cottage 510 Colony Blvd.
CDD Orientation	Varied District Staff	What is a “Community Development District” & how does it operate? Attendees will gain a better understanding of this Special Purpose form of government entity, along with important community information regarding the people, services & supporting entities that help make up “The Villages”.	All New Hires <i>Mandatory within 30 days of employment</i>	TBD at this time	10:00am To 12:00pm	District Offices 984 Old Mill Run
Built to Last	Deborah Franklin Director, HR & Strategic Planning ~ Tanika Clayton-Henry HR Administrator	What separates “good” organizations from “great” ones? Based on the concepts from the book “Built To Last”, this class takes reinforces how our District Core Values serve as a compass to guide each of us, regardless of position, in providing responsive, responsible customer service that separates us as a great organization .	All New Hires <i>Mandatory within 60 days of employment</i>	May 26th	9:00am To 11:00am	Laurel Manor Recreation Center 1985 Laurel Manor Drive
Public Records & Ethics	Brionez & Brionez	Each of us, as members of the District, are responsible in our positions to be aware of and fully understand what information is protected under Public Records Law, how long to retain certain records, how to handle public records requests and Government Sunshine Laws.	<i>Mandatory for all District Staff. Attendees will be assigned by their department.</i>	May 11th	9:00am To 12:00pm	Webinar

Department Directors should determine which staff members should attend mandatory workshops & notify those individuals so that they can register. Staff members interested in attending a workshop should request from their Department Director or immediate Supervisor permission to attend a workshop.

To Register:

- All Community Watch staff:  
Contact **Sharon Gwin (352-750-8203)**
- All Finance staff:  
Contact **Linda Sojourn (753-0421)**
- All Recreation staff:  
Contact **Lory Hatch (352-674-1800)**
- All other District staff:  
Contact **Human Resources [Angela.Pattillo@DistrictGov.org](mailto:Angela.Pattillo@DistrictGov.org)**

# The Villages®

Community Development Districts

**It is the responsibility of each of us to take good care of ourselves, each other and our guests. Please keep to the following:**



As always, if you have a health concern, check with your healthcare provider prior to returning to work.



If you are sick, or have symptoms of fever, cough, shortness of breath or recently exposed to COVID-19 please do not come to work until you have doctor clearance. Contact your supervisor or HR.



Stay at least 6 ft away from others (social distancing), always keeping this minimum space between yourself and others.



Wear a mask and appropriate attire for the activity.



Wash your hands with soap and water frequently (20 seconds or longer).



Bring your own water bottle.



Consider bringing your own Hand Sanitizer and disinfectant wipes.



Cover coughs and sneezes with them then throw them in trash.



Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.



Clean & disinfect frequently touched objects & surfaces.



Bring your own equipment/supplies conducive to the activity.

For the public health and safety of others, The District reserves the right to restrict access to use of facility and activities. Site specific facility operations, attendance numbers, services, and functions are subject to change and/or be restricted, closed or limited. All information is subject to change as additional information is received by the CDC and the Florida Department of Health.

For more information contact your supervisor, or Human Resources,  
[HumanResources@DistrictGov.org](mailto:HumanResources@DistrictGov.org)

**Hospitality | Stewardship | Creativity & Innovation | Hard Work**