

# The Villages®

## Community Development Districts

February  
2023

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

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 enhances and sustains our community.

*In the Spotlight.....2*

**Did You Know.....3**

**Birthdays.....4**

**Anniversaries.....5-7**

*Recognizing Our Core Values.....8-9*

*Finance.....9*

**Recreation & Parks.....10-11**

**Public Safety.....11**

**Risk Management.....12**

*Safety Committee.....13*

*Education.....14*

**Information.....15**

**Training & Tell Us What You Think.....16**

**Employee Perks.....17**

## HOSPITALITY

We all know February is famous for National Heart Healthy month, and Valentine's Day, but it is also National Hospitality Workers Appreciation Day - February 23, 2023.

Hospitality is one of The District's core values and should be exhibited every day. **Merriam Webster's Dictionary** defines hospitality as "generous and friendly treatment of visitors and guests".

This applies not only to residents and guests but to your team members as well. Always be prompt, responsive, and specific with feedback. Always be clear in your message by telling the customer what you're going to do, what you're doing while you're doing it, and then tell the end result. Keeping customers informed can reduce frustrations and lets the customer know you are listening. Always add a touch of personalization and let your hospitality shine.

**NATIONAL  
HOSPITALITY WORKERS  
APPRECIATION DAY**



IN THE  
spotlight

Jessi Evans  
Property Management  
Landscape Supervisor



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S



Vacation  
Anywhere with sand, sun and water

Food  
Ribeye Steaks

Restaurant  
Los Magueyes Mexican Restaurant



**Where were you born & raised and went to school?**

I was born in Hollywood, Florida. Two short years after my parents made the decision to buy a large lot of land in Citra, Florida and that is where I stayed for the next 16 years. I attended Ft. McCoy elementary and middle, and finished my high school years at North Marion High.

**What was special about where you are from?**

Citra is a very small town, everybody knows everybody. My two neighbors on either side were both my uncles. All together we owned 45 acres, which was my playground. We grew our own food, raised our own animals, and learned to live off of the land.

**Tell us about your family, people in your life (including pets!)**

Growing up in the country was a blast. My parents provided swamp buggy's, mud trucks, four wheelers, dirt bikes, and all the animals my brother and I could ask for. Our version of family time was spending the weekend at Hog Waller or Iron Horse. On closed weekends we enjoyed a mom and pop breakfast stop, The Iron Skillet, and a day at the flea market. I unfortunately lost my dad at the age of 21 from brain cancer. My brother and I do our best to look after my mom, who remains on the same property we grew up on. I now have my own little family, my lovely girlfriend of 5 years, Elizabeth, and her wonderful daughter, Mckayla. We currently have 5 fur babies, two dogs (Tater and Groot), two cats (Princess and Mittens), and a hamster (Turbo).

**Hobbies? Favorite activities?**

Video games are a huge part of my life. Call of Duty, Assassins Creed, and Red Dead Redemption are my favorite. When I'm not gaming you can find me next to a body of water, fishing, kayaking, or swimming. Nature is my favorite hobby of all. I think that's why I love working in the landscape field so much.

**Who has been the most influential person in your life and why?**

My dad has been my idol. He taught me at a very young age to be independent and a problem solver. My dad was a roofer for 25 plus years, showing me what hard work and dedication truly was. He was always pushing me to go out and learn new things. I owe my career to him and I hope I am making him happy up there.

**What's the best advice you have ever received?**

Your word is everything.

**What is the career & training path that led you to the District?**

In 2016 I got my first job out towards The Villages working at a local plant nursery. That is where I learned my plant knowledge. A year later I branched off into the irrigation world, officially putting my boot down on Village soil. I met a few of the District Property Managers shortly after and I instantly knew I had to get that job. I set a five-year goal to become a District employee and right after my five-year anniversary the door opened. I made it.

**Can you tell us about your day-to-day responsibilities?**

My day to day consists of enforcing The Villages landscape contract on multiple properties with multiple vendors. Communicating with both landscape vendors and residents daily to ensure we have the beautiful Villages look everywhere you go.

**What is your favorite aspect of working for the District?**

My favorite part of working for the District is definitely the growth opportunity. I've always been an over achiever and I finally found a place that allows me to grow and always have new things to learn.

**What is the most interesting thing you have ever seen?**

The growth of The Villages. When I first started here District 8 was still being built. Today, I am currently attending turnovers in District 14. It's incredible to watch.

## Current Job Openings

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

### Community Watch

Gate Attendants \$12.00 / Hour

- Regular & Substitutes
- Seasonal/Sunset Pointe, Blue & Red 1200-1800
- Santiago, Red, 1200-1800
- Hadley, Blue, 1800-2400
- Hadley, Blue, 0600-1200
- Hillsborough, Red, 0600-1200
- Hillsborough, Red, 1200-1800
- Richmond, Blue 1800-2400
- Pinellas, Red, 0600-1200
- Sanibel, Blue, 1200-1800
- DeLuna, Red, 1200-1800

Gate Operations Attendant & Substitutes \$12.00 / Hour  
Patrol Drivers \$12.34 / Hour

- Regular & Substitutes
- Region 6, Red, 0000-0800
- Region 6, Red, 0800-1600
- Region 5, Red, 0000-0800
- Region 5, Blue, 0000-0800
- Region 15, Blue, 0000-0800
- Region 5, Red, 1600-2400
- Region 11, Red, 0000-0800
- Region 4, Red, 0000-0800

### Finance

Staff Accountant-General Ledger \$51,573.41 / Annual  
Senior Accountant \$57,378.50 / Annual  
Billing & Collection Technician \$15.30 / Hour

### Public Safety

Firefighter EMT \$15.00 / Hour  
Firefighter Paramedic \$19.29 / Hour  
Public Education Technician \$12.00 / Hour

### Purchasing

Manager \$57,378.50 / Annual

Keep an eye out for emails from Gina Carlin, HR Administrator/  
Recruiting, for future openings within the District.

Or use our internal link to apply for internal positions:

<https://www2.appone.com/Search/Search.aspx?>

[Internal=yes&ServerVar=villagescentercommunitydevelopment.appone.com](https://www2.appone.com/Search/Search.aspx?Internal=yes&ServerVar=villagescentercommunitydevelopment.appone.com)

If you have questions on job openings or how to apply, please call Gina at 352-674-1905 or email [Gina.Carlin@DistrictGov.org](mailto:Gina.Carlin@DistrictGov.org)

**SPREAD THE WORD**

## Employees On The



### Community Watch

- **Catherine Rivenbark** was promoted from Gate Attendant to Gate Monitor Coordinator.
- **Keith Gordon** was promoted from Dispatcher Substitute to Gate Monitor Coordinator.
- **Terese Smigielski** transferred from Gate Operations Attendant to Gate Attendant.

### Finance

- **James Large** transferred from part time Billing & Collection Technician to full time Billing & Collection Technician.
- **Lory Hatch** transferred from Recreation Administrator to Payroll Liaison/Accounting Technician.

### Public Safety

- **William Turner and Alec Brown** were promoted from Firefighter EMT to Firefighter Paramedic.

### Purchasing

- **Melissa Flores Schaar** was promoted from Purchasing Manager to Purchasing Director.

### Recreation & Parks

- **Karen Babbony** was promoted from Recreation Assistant to Recreation Leader-Fitness.
- **Joel McKenna, Jonathan Stoeckle and Michael Hess** were promoted from Recreation Supervisor to Recreation Area Supervisor.
- **Stephanie Jamros** was promoted from Staff Assistant to Recreation Administrator.

*Welcome to the team*

### Recreation & Parks

Daniel Knudsen  
Alicia Kocher  
Jennifer Azzizzi  
Jeffrey Black  
Nicholas Capozzi  
Dawn Edwards  
Micheline Kramer  
Michael Tyrolt  
Aja Jones  
Melanie Krebs

### Community Watch

Matthew Bedtelyon  
Galey Gates  
George McCollum  
William McHoul

### Property Management

Shoshannah Williams  
Molly Horton

### Customer Service

Lauren Goss  
Katheran Kendig  
David Tossman

### Finance

Tommy Rogers



The District Administration Offices will be closed on **Monday, February 20, 2023**, in observance of Presidents' Day.



## Community Watch

James Cote	23
Harold Shelton	3
Nancy Erich	5
Thomas McGinty	4
Frances Ryan	16
Rosalie Battaglia	6
Gloria Sperazza	26
Barry Brown	7
David Gipp	16
James Hodge	9
Patricia Holbrook	10
Thomas Convery	27
Christina Pittsley	4
Margaret Adler	23
KEVIN Macklen	18
Patrick Ryan	28
Earl Heidlebaugh	7
James Dryer	13
William Hayes	7
James Brown	6
David Oboyski	8
Michael Hunter	13
Frank Truppi	11
Deborah Ogle	19
Sharon Gwin	4

## Customer Service

Michael Noss	28
Elizabeth Clark	16

## Purchasing

Crystal Ford	23
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## Risk Management

Brittany Wilkinson	1
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## Administration

Jennifer Farlow	17
Richard OBrien	14

## Finance

Frederick West	7
Nicole Francik	9
Valerie Brown	19
Mary Ellen Bowgren	16
Barbara Mercer-Poll	5
Mary-ellen Saylor	19

## Public Safety

Jackie Tuggerson	14
Ariel Valladares	11
Jacob Sharp	2
Jonathan Webster	16
Dominic Floran	5
Christopher Kimball	7
Casey Dyer	3
Samantha McEntire	3
Gene Wine	5
Jason Weis	29
Maxwell Cantor	29
Kimble Billingsley	24

## Property Management

Kathleen Godfrey	7
Michael Harris	15
Keven Kinney	6
Justin Sarka	20
Dean Myklejord	8
Lindsey Gonzalez	5

## Executive Golf

Jack Winters	22
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## Recreation & Parks

John Rohan	26
John Ladd	27
Jan Fox	27
Michael Burseson	22
Eugene Graney	17
Robert Wilkerson	26
Richard Toole	26
Janice Collom	21
Thomas Chinske	3
John Hartley	11
Bryan Johnson	15
Douglas Butz	28
Carol Indermuehle	24
Robert Boekholder	11
Wayne Wescoe	16
Barbara Wysocki	14
Bruce Turner	18
Lloyd Williams	4
Rachel Tillotson	19
Carol Donato	2
Edward Lohaus	8
Connie McCormick	26
Charles Carr	9
Joseph Robbins	19
Daniel McConnell	6
Steven Pierce	26
Deborah Fitzpatrick	4
Harwood Rogers	28
Mary Reeser	17
Donald McKechney	15
Paul Rinaldi	22
Elizabeth Jewell	28
Cheri Dunn	20
Pamela Pires	17
Angela Cupp	22
Bradley Eckert	5
Lisa McCarthy	15
George Rodriguez	10
Angela Insalaco	12
Allison Ainsley	26
Scott Long	7
Kevin Crinion	2
Donald Klein	14
Donald Jeffrey	27
Richard Kohler	19
Wendy Losser	13
Tracy Osborne	3
Marc Van Liedekerke	18
Melinda Hallquist	4
Quenton Jones	27
Joseph McKenna	14
Carlos Perrone	17

# HAPPY WORK ANNIVERSARY

## Public Safety

Jason McInturf	02/17/2010	13
Joseph Schenk	02/17/2010	13
Nichole Leonardi	02/01/2012	11
Wesley Roe	02/01/2012	11
Christopher Bradford	02/16/2015	8
David Gomez	02/16/2015	8
Vince Rados	02/16/2015	8
Ryan Rushing	02/16/2015	8
Eduardo Villagomez	02/16/2015	8
Dalton Zink	02/16/2015	8
Anton Dawson	02/26/2018	5
Tanner Gaddy	02/26/2018	5
Joshua Hayes	02/26/2018	5
Derick Pierce	02/26/2018	5
Peter Bratkovich	02/25/2019	4
Jackson Brecklin	02/25/2019	4
Clyde Christian	02/25/2019	4
Robert Rivers	02/25/2019	4
Megan Conatser	02/03/2020	3

## Community Watch

George Tule	02/14/2007	16
Steven Waitzman	02/21/2007	16
Carol Martin	02/04/2013	10
Lawrence Forson	02/29/2016	7
Gregory Simar	02/29/2016	7
Thomas Ladow	02/27/2017	6
Janet Oric	02/27/2017	6
Paula Smith	02/26/2018	5
Robert Doherty	02/25/2019	4
Jack Pike	02/25/2019	4
Joseph Young	02/10/2020	3
Steven Nigro	02/24/2020	3
William Bruno	02/08/2021	2
John Buguliskis	02/08/2021	2
Chester Gould	02/08/2021	2
Earl Heidlebaugh	02/08/2021	2
Eileen Redmon	02/08/2021	2
JulieAnn Stansberry	02/08/2021	2
Charles Burden	08/23/2021	2
Leo Connolly	02/07/2022	1
Thomas Kaeding	02/07/2022	1
Philip Hollister	02/22/2022	1
Reginald Smith	02/22/2022	1
David Wire	02/22/2022	1

## Recreation & Parks

Deborah Hurtt	02/15/2006	17
Robert Wilkerson	02/15/2006	17
Regina Demarco	02/03/2010	13
Gayle Gibson	02/03/2010	13
Carmen Seebald	02/10/2010	13
Dale Hetsko	02/24/2010	13
Donald Jeffrey	02/24/2010	13
Jessie Flynn	02/04/2013	10
John Bellante	02/18/2013	10
Mary Helen Burch	02/15/2016	7
Bradley Eckert	02/15/2016	7
Deborah Fitzpatrick	02/15/2016	7
Mary Leach	02/15/2016	7
Robert Stone	02/15/2016	7
Margaret Twidale	02/15/2016	7
James Dolan	02/29/2016	7
Norman Hager	02/27/2017	6
Robin Santangelo	02/27/2017	6
Gary Margocs	02/26/2018	5
James Morton	02/26/2018	5
Dennis Teasley	02/26/2018	5
Kenneth Toman	02/26/2018	5
Rodney Weaver	02/26/2018	5
Dakotah Garcia	02/25/2019	4
Edward Sobeck	02/25/2019	4
David Souza	02/25/2019	4
Sean Murray	02/10/2020	3
Jeffrey Givens	02/24/2020	3
Michele Keiser	02/24/2020	3
Lisa Harger	02/22/2021	2
Jonathan Stoeckle	02/22/2021	2
Martin David	02/07/2022	1
Kathleen Rufrano	02/07/2022	1
Kenneth Sherfinski	02/07/2022	1
Diane Fitzpatrick	02/22/2022	1
Herbert Sweren	02/22/2022	1
Patricia Bruno	03/29/2022	1

## Community Standards

Donna Schultz	02/01/2016	7
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## Finance

Jaime Cooper-Rodriguez	02/13/2017	6
Jennifer Cole	02/27/2017	6
Valerie Brown	02/22/2022	1



# CONGRATULATIONS

## Thank you for your years of service!

# 10



***Carol Martin***  
***Gate Attendant***



***John Bellante***  
***Recreation Assistant***



***Jessie Flynn***  
***Recreation Assistant***

# 5

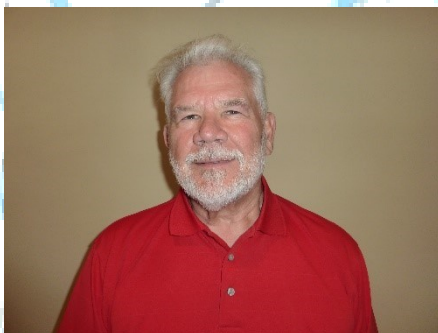


***Gary Margocs***  
***Recreation Assistant***

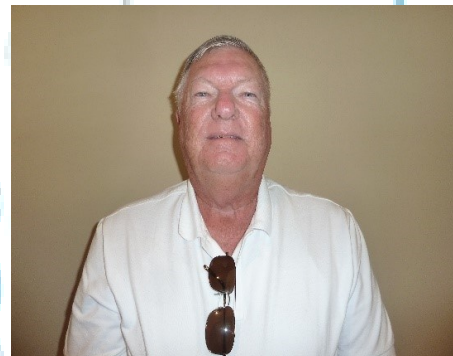


***Rodney Weaver***  
***Recreation Assistant***

# 5



***Dennis Teasley***  
***Recreation Assistant***



***James Morton***  
***Recreation Assistant***

# CONGRATULATIONS

## Thank you for your years of service!



***Kenneth Toman***  
***Recreation Assistant***

5

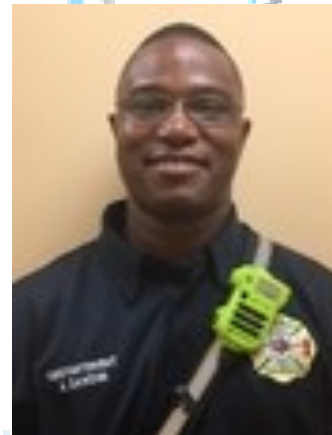


***Derick Pierce***  
***Firefighter Paramedic***



***Paula Smith***  
***Gate Attendant***

5

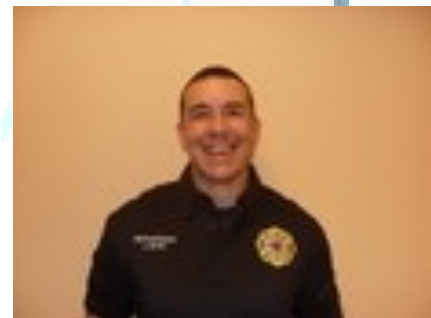


***Anton Dawson***  
***Firefighter EMT***



***Tanner Gaddy***  
***Firefighter Paramedic***

5



***Joshua Hayes***  
***Firefighter Paramedic***  
***Driver Engineer***

## Recognizing Our Core Values In Action!

### Community Watch

#### Gate Operations Team

Over the holiday season, many Adult Watch participants sent thank you gifts of food to Gate Operations personnel.



#### Shannon Martin Dispatcher

"My purse fell out of my golf cart Wednesday afternoon. I received a phone call from wildwood Police that it was turned in by Shannon of Community Watch. I am unsure how she received it. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to her for her actions. Nothing was missing. My license and credit cards and cash were all accounted for. Thank you and God Bless you."

#### Community Watch

"I am so impressed with Community Watch. I did not know how wonderful their services were until yesterday. My husband was away for a week and he is the one that normally picks up the newspaper and reads it. I didn't leave the house Friday or Saturday and then went to Orlando to pick him up at the airport. We stayed overnight to see the car auction. On Sunday morning, my ring camera picked up motion and my neighbor texted me that the police were at my house. Apparently, there were 3 days of newspapers on my driveway and Community Watch asked the police to visit for a wellness check. What a wonderful service. I didn't know that would happen. I apologize for putting them and the police of their way and will be sure to pick up the paper from now on. Thank you for taking care of your residents."

"I am writing to express my sincerest gratitude to Community Watch personnel. You may already know that on the night of December 31, 2022 (New Year's Eve), police were called for a vehicle crash involving a golf cart with severe injuries. All officers were assisting preparing for a possible traffic homicide investigation. Your personnel were extremely helpful with setting up traffic cones and blocking off the area so that we could conduct this investigation and also respond to other calls. You know New Year's Eve can be a busy night for law enforcement! Please thank your staff on behalf of the members of the Lady Lake Police Department. We appreciate their willingness to assist us when we need it."

### Property Management

#### Jaime Denton Special Projects Manager

"I trust I am contacting the correct managers overseeing the responsibilities of Jaime Denton, Special Projects Manager, District Property Management. Please know I had originally reached out to Jaime regarding observations about tunnel painting. Not only was Jaime very responsive regarding tunnel painting, she was doubly responsive and provided exemplary service when I asked about the new golf cart path speed bumps near Lake Miona Recreation Center. Please know we appreciate Jaime's quick and thorough response. Jaime was professional in every aspect of her response and is a shining example of the type of service Villages' residents should expect. Thank you for having outstanding staff serving our friends and neighbors. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and yours!"

"I want to commend your team, especially Jaime Denton, for the great service you all provided our neighborhood in Springdale East. The hole that opened on the street was a huge inconvenience to everyone. Each issue we had, you addressed quickly and satisfactorily. I want to thank you for your prompt and efficient service. I also wish you and yours a most Merry Christmas and a blessed, healthy New Year."

#### Landscape Division

"Please extend my appreciation to the crew that did the recent shrubbery trimming at the Springdale Gate curve along the MMP at the brick wall. Walking that part of the multi modal path today allowed me to actually see oncoming carts. And they could see me, if they were watching. I did call Property Management this morning and left a message with Tammy to share my appreciation. Just covering all the bases."

#### Infrastructure Division

A resident sent kudos to the entire infrastructure team on what a wonderful job they are doing with the tunnel painting. The resident said it has made a world of difference and wanted to make sure they all got recognized.

#### Ryan Plute Facilities Assistant Manager

A resident called in wanting to speak to Ryan to personally thank him. The resident mentioned that Ryan listened to what they had to say and took the time to get the areas of concern taken care of and also adding in some pine straw.

#### Troy Liukkonen Landscape Supervisor

A resident called to express her gratitude with Troy on all the wonderful work he did to get her cul-de-sac up to date. She said everything is very beautiful and wanted to make sure Troy got recognized.

#### Greg Vannatter Landscape Supervisor

A resident called in to give Greg kudos for removing a plant that was blocking sight of a road. The resident said, "You have no idea how much of a difference it has made."



# Recognizing Our Core Values In Action!

## Recreation & Parks



**Stacey Saunders  
Recreation Assistant**

“Recreation Assistant Stacey Saunders went above and beyond to help out a Recreation Lifestyles Villages Group! She quickly jumped into action when the group's decorator didn't attend their Christmas party. Stacey decorated tables with items she found around the recreation center (table clothes, fresh poinsettias & candy canes). The group loved her festive decorations and everyone had a great time!”

**Suzanne Metelsky  
Recreation Supervisor  
Customer Service**

“We are writing this email to tell you how much we appreciate working with Suzanne Metelsky at La Hacienda Recreation Center. My husband and I run several clubs in The Villages. We have worked with Suzanne for a couple of years now. She has consistently been a delight to work with due to her "can do" attitude, delightful personality, mastery of all the rules and regulations, and efficiency. It's always a pleasure to work with Suzanne!”



**Debbie LoMonaco  
Recreation Assistant**

“Hi, and Happy New Year! I want to let you know that Debbie did a stellar job setting up our meeting space for last night! It was perfect when we first walked in, as if it had been that way all along, and she did it all by herself! Thanks to Debbie and your entire staff at Canal Street!”



**Everglades Recreation Center Staff**

“I reserve the pickleball courts at Everglades Recreation Center for my mixed play on Monday. I have had the courts for going on my third year and have always had a great experience with your people in the center, especially Daria. If we are out of balls we let them know and they get us some right away. After the hurricane, some of the wind screens had come down. We let them know and they immediately came out and tied them up for us so we could safely play. This Monday was an exception, one of our players had a heart attack on the court. Immediately some players started chest compression and others called the center to get the heart machine. As I was holding his feet up within minutes I see the staff from Everglades running as fast as they could to get us the machine. Once they arrived they quickly did their job and we had to zap him 3 times. I was right in the middle of it all watching him not breathing, not moving and no pulse and I truly believe that if it was not for a few players with medical experience and your staff that he would not be with us. I am betting the only time you hear from people is to resolve an issue but I thought you just might like to hear how great your staff is at Everglades and we both know it starts with great leadership. So from myself and our player, thank you.

**Softball Staff**

“I want to extend my appreciation to your staff for the great job they did all season long at Everglades Softball Complex. Jerry, Glen & Austin were very supportive though the whole season. I conduct ceremonies at the end of season with the Fall and Winter Seasons much are more elaborate due to the number to teams. Steve Denby, Jack Doty and Steve Stagner were great in working with me on a variety of occasions. Again, thanks to all your staff for providing great customer service!”



Pictured: **Jerry Meusel, Recreation Assistant, Jack Doty, Recreation Supervisor, Steve Stagner, Recreation Assistant, & Steve Denby, Recreation Supervisor (not pictured Glen Phillips, Recreation Assistant).**

## Finance

### Resident Sweepstakes

Our Utilities Billing Division works with Invoice Cloud. Invoice Cloud is their third party processor for all credit/debit card payments for invoices. They also process for the autopay and send all of the paperless billing. Finance went live with them on June 22, 2022. Invoice Cloud held a sweepstakes for residents taking part in the autopay and paperless subscriptions. It was successful in obtaining more autopay and paperless subscribers. Recently a resident won a stylish new golf bag during the sweepstakes held between November 1, 2022-December 31, 2022. Invoice Cloud plans to hold another sweepstakes in Spring, 2023. Stay tuned!



## Employee Assistance Program

Rely on the support, guidance and resources of your Employee Assistance Program (EAP). Our EAP is a helping hand when you need it. There are times in life when you might need a little help coping or figuring out what to do. Take advantage of the EAP which includes WorkLife Services and is available to you and your family in connection with your group insurance from Standard Insurance Company. The program is confidential and information will only be released with your permission or as required by law. You, your dependents (including children to age 26) and all household members can contact the program's master's-level counselors 24/7. Reach out through the mobile EAP app, by phone, 888-293-6948 online, [www.healthadvocate.com/standard3](http://www.healthadvocate.com/standard3). You can get referrals to support groups, a network counselor, community resources or your health plan. If necessary, you'll be connected to emergency services. Our program includes up to three counseling sessions per issue. Sessions can be done in person, on the phone, by video or text. Questions, please call HR, 352-674-1905.

*Congratulations!*



**Dan O'Moore, Recreation Supervisor** recently graduated from University of Florida with a BS in Tourism, Recreation and Events Management. Dan joined The Recreation and Parks team in May 2022 as a Recreation Intern and soon after became a Recreation Leader. He was recently promoted to Recreation Supervisor in November of 2022 at the Aviary Recreation Center.

**Recreation & Parks**

Recreation & Parks, along with the following agencies, and The Villages residents come together each year to assist those in need during the holiday season:

- Angels of The Villages
- For over 26 years, The Villages Recreation & Parks Department has partnered with Lake Sumter Families Foster Parent Association to sponsor Angels of The Villages. This program helps to provide Happy Holidays for foster children throughout Lake and Sumter Counties.
- Silver Trefoil Girl Scout Alumnae's Pajama & Book Drive
- For over 20 years, former Villages Girl Scouts have collected new pajamas and books for homeless children. This year over 6,800 pairs of pajamas and 3,500 books were collected.
- Lake Sumter Children's Advocacy Center
- The mission of the Lake Sumter Children's Advocacy Center is to provide a child-friendly, community-based facility where a child victim can be safely interviewed, provided with crisis counseling, and receive medical exams and long-term specialized therapy when needed. We work with agency representatives to provide child abuse victims with all necessary services in a single location. Numerous toys and other items were collected.
- Toys for Tots
- The Villages chapter of the Marine Corps League placed collection boxes at all recreation centers to help provide toys to community children and over 3,000 families served in Lake and Sumter Counties.



**Homestead Recreation - FRPA's Facility Showcase**

Each year, The Florida Recreation & Park Association Journal features newly designed or renovated park or recreation facility spaces that serve the community. This feature is not only a chance to show a glimpse of the hard work that went into the project, but it also serves as a yearbook of the achievements made throughout the state. Over the last ten years, 13 new Villages recreation facilities have been selected for publication in the FRPA Journal. Once again, Recreation & Parks had a facility selected for 2022, Homestead Recreation Center! This facility offers a resort-style family pool and 22 courts for six outdoor sports (tennis, pickleball, bocce, shuffleboard, horseshoes, and corn toss). In addition, residents can get in touch with nature by following the secluded boardwalk path through the surrounding wetlands or enjoy star gazing at the astronomy pad. The facility also has a canine park where residents and their dogs can socialize.



**Camp Villages Holiday Week**

Recreation & Parks offered **36 activities to over 900 participants** during December's two-week Camp Villages program! The department received lots of positive feedback regarding the various activities and appreciated all the staff and volunteers that helped make it all possible.



## Recreation & Parks

### Event On The Square - Twirling

The January Event On the Square was Twirling. One hundred twenty-two residents and guests came out to learn more about baton twirling, including basic skills lessons and a parade routine around the pavilion at Lake Sumter Market Square.



### Running of The Squares, 5K

Over 700 entrants braved the cold weather for the second leg of the Running of The Squares at Lake Sumter Landing Market Square. The overall winner crossed the finish line in 17 minutes and 21 seconds. The next and final leg is on April 8 in Spanish Springs Town Square.



## Public Safety

# Congratulations

### Fire Chief Pinning Ceremony

On Monday, January 23, 2023, **Brian Twiss** was sworn in and pinned as the new Fire Chief of Public Safety. Brian has been a first responder since 1989. He joined The Villages Public Safety department in 2009 as a Firefighter EMT. Brian then rose through the ranks holding positions as Firefighter Paramedic, Lieutenant, Battalion Chief and Deputy Chief of Operations. He is looking forward to his new role as Chief, "Coming up through the ranks, I was always taking the next rank to try to better the department and better myself. When I found out Chief Cain was retiring, I felt like I could bring the leadership that was needed to bring the department to the next level with the amount of growth and everything that we have going on." Brian was presented with a new pen set from the union and his wife, Misty, pinned him.



**Brian Twiss, Fire Chief**

## Risk Management

**February is a time people can focus on their cardiovascular health.** According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) heart disease is the leading cause of death in woman and men in the United States. One person dies every 34 seconds in the United States from cardiovascular disease. February is American Heart Health Month, a time to raise awareness about the dangers of heart disease and help people work to reduce their risk of heart attack, stroke and other related complications.

### Risk Factors You Can't Control

- ⇒ Age
- ⇒ Gender
- ⇒ Heredity (family health history)
- ⇒ Race
- ⇒ Previous stroke or heart attack



### There are risk factors that can be managed



You can control or treat these risk factors with lifestyle changes and your healthcare provider's help:

- By living a healthy lifestyle, you can help keep your blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar levels normal and lower your risk for heart disease and heart attack.
- Start by choosing healthy habits. **Choose healthy meals and snacks** to prevent heart disease. Eat plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables and fewer processed foods.
- Eating lots of foods high in saturated fat and trans fat may contribute to heart disease.
- Eating food high in fiber and low in saturated fats, trans fats, and cholesterol can help prevent high cholesterol.
- Limit salt (sodium) to lower your blood pressure and sugar to lower your blood sugar level to help prevent or control diabetes. Do not drink too much alcohol, it raises your blood pressure.

### **Keep a Healthy Weight.**

People with overweight or obesity have a higher risk for heart disease. Carrying extra weight can put extra stress on the heart and blood vessels.

### **Don't Smoke.**

Cigarette smoking greatly increases your risk for heart disease. If you don't smoke, don't start. If you do smoke, quitting will lower your risk for heart disease. Your doctor can suggest ways to help you quit.

### **Take Charge of Your Medical Conditions.**

Check your cholesterol, blood pressure, manage diabetes, take your medications as directed. You and your health care team can work together to prevent or treat the medical conditions that lead to heart disease. Discuss your treatment plan regularly, and bring a list of questions to your appointments. Talk with your health care team about how heart disease and mental health disorders are related.

### **Get Regular Physical Activity.**

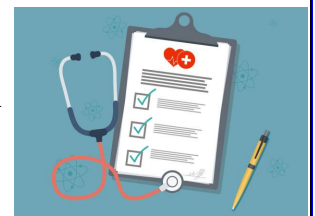
Physical activity can help you maintain a healthy weight and lower your blood pressure, blood cholesterol, and blood sugar levels. For adults, the Surgeon General recommends 2 hours and 30 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise, like brisk walking or bicycling, every week.

### **Manage Stress.**

Negative psychological health / mental health is associated with an increased risk of heart disease and stroke. But positive psychological health is associated with a lower risk of heart disease and death. Exercise regularly, make time for friends and family, get enough sleep, Practice relaxation.

### **Don't Ignore Symptoms**

Seek medical attention if you experience pain in your chest, tightness, shortness of breath. Ignoring symptoms can be fatal.



Together we can prevent heart disease and live happier, healthier lives.

Sources:

<https://www.goredforwomen.org/en/know-your-risk/risk-factors>

<https://www.heart.org/en/healthy-living/healthy-lifestyle/stress-management/stress-and-heart-health>

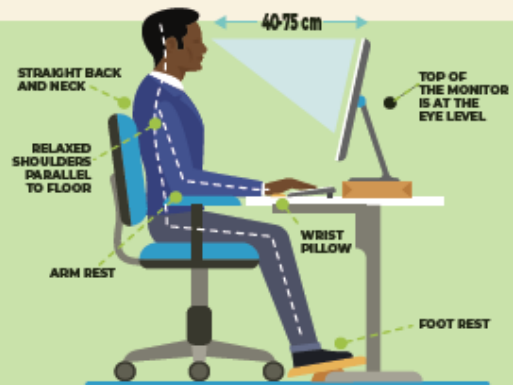
The Villages®  
Community Development Districts  
Safety Committee

# OFFICE ERGONOMICS

## PROPER SITTING AT A DESK



INCORRECT POSTURE



CORRECT POSTURE

## PROPER STANDING AT A DESK



YOU SHOULD KEEP YOUR SHOULDERS BACK NOT ROUNDED FORWARD.

YOUR HEAD SHOULD BE BACK OVER YOUR SPINE.

WHEN STANDING CHANGE POSITIONS AND/OR USE LEG REST TO PROP ONE FOOT. SHIFT YOUR WEIGHT REGULARLY.

## OFFICE STRETCHING



**ANKLE STRETCH**  
Lift your ankle clear of the floor. Alternately flex and extend your ankle in a pumping action. Repeat 10 times with each ankle.



**TORSO STRETCH**  
Lace your fingers together in front of you, with your palms out. Take a deep breath and stretch your arms up as high as you can. As you exhale, open your arms, sweeping them back down. Repeat 2-3 times.



**LOWER BACK STRETCH**  
Sit straight with your feet together. Put the palms of your hands into the small of your back. Lean back over your hands, feeling your lower back stretch out. Hold for 10 seconds. Repeat 2-3 times.



**LOWER BACK ROTATIONS**  
While seated, cross your arms over your chest. Grab your shoulders. Rotate your upper body from the waist, turning gently from left to right as far as you can. Hold for 5 seconds, then relax. Repeat 2-3 times.



**NECK ROTATIONS**  
Keep your head upright. Gently turn your head from side to side. As you turn your head, try to move it past your shoulder. Hold for 5 seconds, then relax. Repeat 2-3 times on each side.



# Use your tuition assistance benefit.

**Expand your possibilities.**

Your tuition assistance benefit is a powerful and cost-effective way to learn new things and build new skills. Workforce Edge is the all-in-one online platform that makes it easy and more affordable.

**Workforce Edge: Making it easier to grow your skills.**



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Sign up to create an account



Connect with an Advisor, find your program



Confirm eligibility and enroll



Submit proof of completion and receive payment



Complete coursework



Request initial funding

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*Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.*

# TL:DR – Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)

Don't have time to read the full guide just yet? No problem!

In the handy graphic below, you'll find all the key points about Public Service Loan Forgiveness, including eligibility requirements, qualifying loans, employers, payment plans, and the PSLF application process.



## What is Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)?

A program designed to forgive the student loans of graduates who work for government or non-profit organizations.



### What Are the Eligibility Requirements for PSLF?

To be eligible, you must:



### Qualifying Federal Student Loans

Direct Subsidized and/or Unsubsidized Loans  
Direct Graduate PLUS Loans  
Direct Consolidation Loans

### Qualifying Repayment Plans

Pay as You Earn (PAYE)  
Revised Pay as You Earn (REPAYE)  
Income-Based Repayment (IBR)  
Income-Contingent Repayment (ICR)

### Qualifying Employers

Government Organizations (local, state, federal, or tribal)  
Some non-profit organizations—especially 501(c)(3) organizations

### Qualifying Payments

On-time (no more than 15 days past due date)  
Made while in repayment status  
Full monthly amount due  
Do not need to be consecutive

### How to Apply for PSLF



## Training ~ February 2023

All professional development training workshops are open to all District Staff members.

### New Hire Orientation

**Instructor:** Varied District Staff

**For:** All New Team Members

**Class Info:** 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.

**Dates:** February 6 & 20

**Time:** 8am-12:30pm

**Location:** Colony Cottage Recreation Center, 510 Colony Blvd.



### Public Records & Ethics

**Instructor:** Computer Based Learning

**For:** All District Staff

**Class Info:** 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.

**Dates:** Attendees will be assigned via the training department

**Time:** Will be assigned via the training department

**Location:** Online

**Community Watch Contact:** Contact Sharon Gwin (352-750-8203)

**Finance Contact:** Linda Sojourn (352-753-0421)

**Recreation Contact:** Jennifer Schuler (352-674-1800)

**Remaining District Staff Contact:** Angela Pattillo ([Angela.Pattillo@DistrictGov.org](mailto:Angela.Pattillo@DistrictGov.org))



*Has a co-worker helped you out?*

*Did someone do something extra special for you that meant a lot?*

*Do you really like your work team?*

*Does your co-worker/supervisor/director  
have a positive attitude all the time?*

*Do you really like working at The District?*

The District wants to hear about it!

Send your kudos, praise, and positive comments to  
Terianne Carroll ([Terianne.Carroll@DistrictGov.org](mailto:Terianne.Carroll@DistrictGov.org))  
for the next newsletter.

Lets celebrate one another and the hard work  
we do every day!



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