

# COME OUT AND MEET ME ON MONDAYS

**W**ow! What a start to spring 2011. Some much needed rain, cool nights and beautiful days. It doesn't get much better. Well, yes it does in The Villages.

It is actually a pleasure to go to work in the morning and have the opportunity to see so many residents walking, golf carting to activities, biking, golfing and sitting on benches watching the sun coming up.

Over the last couple of months, going to work on Monday has been a new experience each week. As many of you are aware, I have been visiting a different recreation center 8-9:30 a.m. every Monday.

I have met some very nice residents who have had questions, suggestions, concerns and compliments.

The visits also have provided an opportunity to tour the facilities, meet the outstanding Recreation Department staff members who keep everything moving so smoothly, and spend time with some of our elected officials who also have participated in these meetings.

The morning is very informal and I welcome the opportunity to meet with you. A schedule of locations is available at [districtgov.org](http://districtgov.org) or call Customer Service at 753-4508.

It has been about three and a half years since the Customer Service Center

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opened on Wedgewood Lane. The Customer Service staff has done an outstanding job responding to resident requests and issuing gate cards and new ID cards.

To help improve our "One Stop Shop" concept, there will be some dust flying over the next couple of months. We will be relocating recreation administration, room reservations, Community Watch and human resources to better facilitate your needs.

They all will be located in a building on Wedgewood Lane, directly west of the current Property Management building. This move also will provide additional room for the finance and property management departments and hopefully will be completed at the beginning of this summer.

I have been asked by residents to raise a couple of issues in this column. The first issue is a reminder that golf carts need to obey traffic signs and signalization.

During recent board meetings, information was provided by Lt. Nehemiah Wolfe of the Sumter County Sheriff's Office which showed there were 15

citations issued to golf cart drivers. Included in the citations were a number of carts that did not adhere to stop signs.

Your safety and the safety of others is so very important to allow everyone to continue experiencing The Villages' wonderful quality of life.

It has been quite a few months since there has been any new information regarding the Internal Revenue Service review of the Village Center Community Development District bond issues related to the purchase of amenity fee revenues.

If you are not familiar with this issue, you can review past articles and information on our website.

However, there has been recent communication with the IRS on this issue. In January 2010, the District requested what is called technical advice from the IRS.

The purpose of requesting the technical advice was to have the IRS send the issues to the IRS legal counsel to review the facts and legal conclusions the District believes should resolve the question of whether it is a legal issuer of tax-exempt bonds.

The request for technical advice and all supporting documents are on the District website for your information.

The next step was for a statement of facts to be compiled by the IRS. The statement of facts then is sent to the District for review and corrections as needed.

After review by the District, it then is sent back to the IRS for review and if the IRS and District disagree, a meeting is held to work through the facts.

On March 16, the District received the statement of facts from the IRS. After taking 14 months to prepare the document and more than three years to review the District's operations and bond related documents and activities, the statement of facts we received needed substantial corrections.

In addition, critical factual information about the District was missing and facts not critical to the issues were added, which have no bearing on the District being a political subdivision within the meaning of the income tax regulation.

The District has responded to the statement of facts and advised the IRS that we believe they have a clear and

deep misunderstanding of the nature, creation, development and governance of the Center District.

In addition, we have corrected the facts provided and have sent a revised document to them.

After the IRS took 14 months to prepare the statement of facts, the District was provided two weeks to respond and we did so within the time frame on April 4.

There is no time frame requirement the IRS must follow in response to our letter and restatement of facts.

After 39 months, I am hopeful that once the IRS finally does understand how the District operates that they will close the examination.

Well, that's it for this week. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

And while I hope to meet some of you at my Monday morning meetings, I understand that there are many great activities that take up your time.

However, even if you can't join me, please make sure to meet with us next week, here at Our Place.

*Janet Tutt can be reached at*