



The Villager

Published the first and third weeks of the month and distributed Fridays

Vol. XLVIII No. 38

See The Villager Online: news.thevillagesgcc.com

December 19, 2024

The News this Week

- **Club Board President's Message**
(See article on page 3)
- **Association Board President's Message**
(See article on page 3)
- **Homeowners' President's Message**
(See article on page 3)
- **Proposed Changes to Assoc. Rule 2.25**
(See article on page 23)

Holiday office closures

Villages business offices will be closed Wednesday, December 25 through Friday, December 27 for the Christmas holiday as well as Wednesday, January 1 for New Years Day.

Trips, Classes & Events

See pages 6 & 7

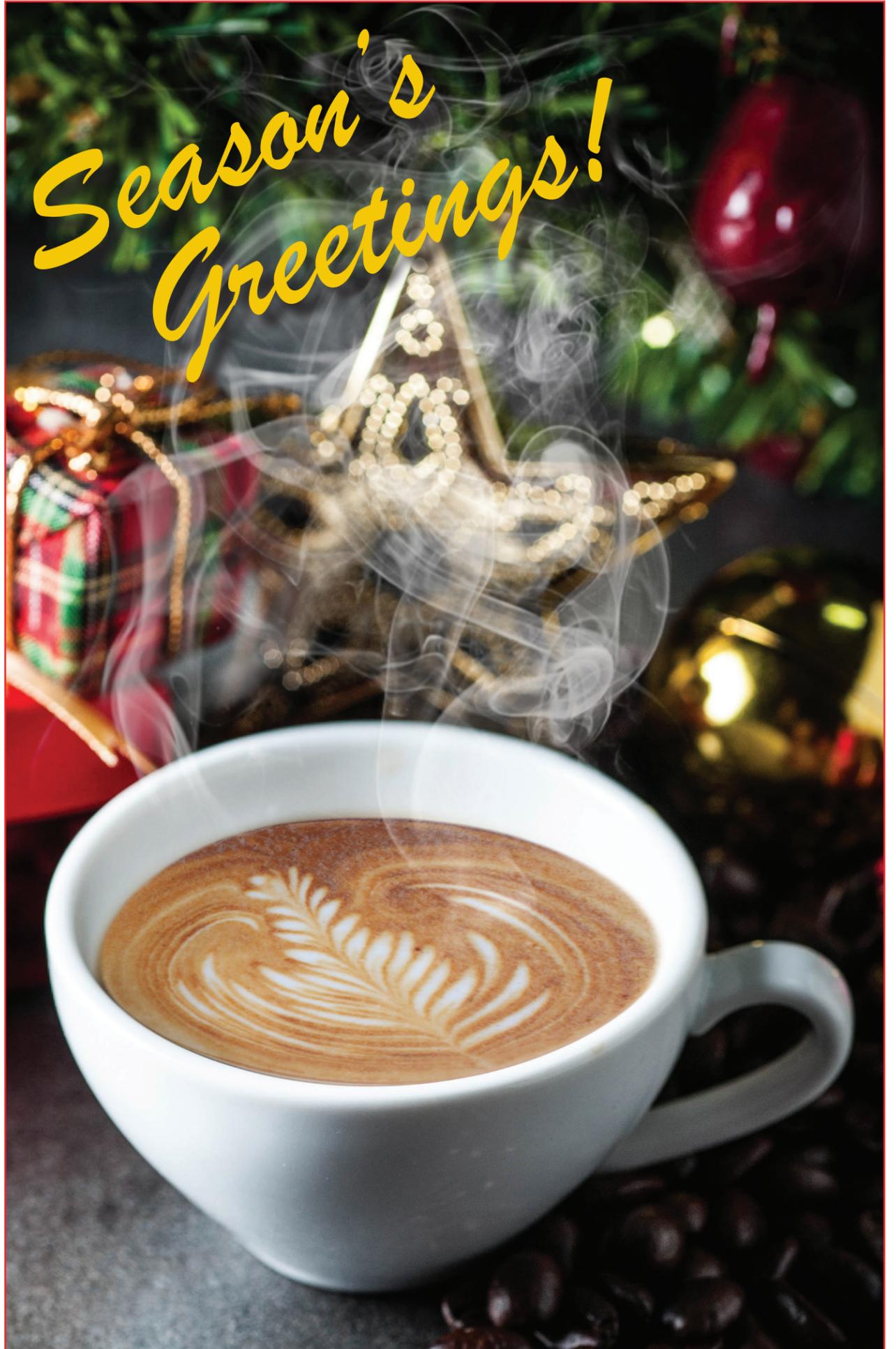


The Villager Online now active; traditional Villager delivered first & third weeks

The Villager Online is available to you 24/7. In tandem with the printed version, The Villager Online is just a click away, while The Villager newspaper is available to you in its traditional format on the **first** and **third Thursdays** of the month. If you haven't seen The Villager Online, please visit: news.thevillagesgcc.com

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COMMUNITY NEWS

PULSE

Dear Readers:

The Villager welcomes everyone's voice sharing ideas, opinions and accounts of life in The Villages in the Pulse column. Please follow the guidelines carefully.

All Pulse letters are posted on The Villager Online. Pulse letters submitted for the print-on-paper Villager are published the first week and the third week of the month. If you have a preference for any specific edition, please submit letter prior to the deadline for that particular edition.

Pulse deadline is 4 p.m. on Thursday of the week prior to publication. Pulse letters will be published in complete or abridged form at the discretion of the Publisher and in accordance with the editorial policies and rules established by the Club Board of Directors. (See VGCC Rule 1.30.) Opinions expressed by Pulse letter authors do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Villager Publisher, staff, boards of directors or management.

All Pulse letters must be 200 words or fewer on a single topic relating to life in the Villages. Letter authors are limited to one published Pulse letter per month. Each letter must also include name, address, phone number, date and number of words.

Letters may be submitted electronically through the Submission Form on The Villager Online: news.thevillagesgcc.com/article-submission-form/, or emailed to Villager Managing Editor S. Hinrichs: shinrichs@the-villages.com.

E-mailed letters must include the text within the body of the email and the subject line must read PULSE LETTER.

Typed or legibly written letters must include your signature and may be hand delivered to The Villager office in Building B or by mailing to the Communications Advisory Committee, 5000 Cribari Lane, San Jose, CA 95135.

2 Pulse letters received this week.
0 Pulse letters not meeting Pulse Letter Requirements.
2 Pulse letters published this week.

Note: Pulse authors are solely responsible for the statements and opinions contained in the Pulse letters. The Villager does not verify the accuracy of any statements.

All Pulse letters that are published are retained by the Communications Advisory Committee (CAC) for a period of 12 months. Pulse letters not meeting Pulse Letter Requirements are not shared with anyone outside the CAC, management or Club Board and staff liaisons for the reason of confidentiality.

In *The Villager* issue dated October 3, 2024 page four there was an article titled "Public Safety, talking about parking rules." It was stated that the rules will soon be scrutinized and more closely enforced throughout The Villages. Rule 2.117.2: All registered vehicles must remain on the owner's property, whether this is your garage, carport or driveway.

I live in The Highland and some of the residents are parking their cars in the street day and night. It has been two months since this article was published, my request to Public Safety is that these parking issues be addressed.

—Bill Drabik

Bella Vista Landscaping is doing a wonderful job. Their work is a vast improvement over the previous landscape service. Kudos to the Board for making this change!

—Felece Wilson

ABOVE & BEYOND

Throughout the year, Joe Hart, a Verano neighbor, has generously put up giant balloons along Via Laguna for display during the holidays. From Easter bunnies and July 4th Uncle Sam to Halloween turkeys and Christmas Santa and Frosty, we were greeted by these cheerful celebrations as we drive on Via Laguna. Thank you, John, for all the joy you brought to us!

—Margaret Lam

In Memoriam and Obituary Notices

In Memoriam notices are run free of charge.

Notices include name of deceased, date of birth and date of passing. Brief notices of memorial gatherings may be included with the notice, providing event is held in a Villages' facility.

Obituary notices may be placed in the Classified Advertising section for a fee.

For more information, please call Kory Tran at 408-754-1341 or email: ktran@the-villages.com, or Scott Hinrichs at 408-223-4655 or email: shinrichs@the-villages.com.

Obituaries are also available online at news.thevillagesgcc.com/in-memoriam

Office closures and holiday deadlines for The Villager

Villages business offices are closed for the Christmas holiday and New Year's Day—**Wednesday, December 25, Thursday, December 26** and **Friday, December 27**.

Offices will close for New Year's Day **Wednesday, January 1**.

Because of these office closures, *The Villager's* editorial deadlines will change:

For the January 2 paper edition of *The Villager* the deadline is **Monday, December 23**. Classified ad deadlines are still on Mondays.

IN MEMORIAM

William J. Hackel, III

October 16, 1940—November 3, 2024

(Please see obituary in the Classified Advertising section)

Marty Hutchinson

January 27, 1938—November 25, 2024

(Please see obituary in the Classified Advertising section)

Sabbar Khalil

Passed away September 28, 2024

Ray Lee Leisy

April 13, 1946—October 17, 2024

There will be a Celebration of Life for Ray Leisy on Friday, January 3 at Cribari Auditorium at 2 p.m.

Obituaries are now also available online at news.thevillagesgcc.com/in-memoriam

DEADLINES

General Copy: All general copy, other than sports, is due by 4:30 p.m. Thursday, seven days prior to publication. For editorial information call 408-754-1341 or 408-223-4655 or email ktran@the-villages.com.

Sports: Sports copy is acceptable after deadline only by permission of the Managing Editor, 408-223-4655.

Classified Ads: Classified ads, renewals, cancellations and changes are due by 4 p.m. on the Monday before publication. Holiday deadlines differ. Please use The Villager Online submission form at: <https://member.thevillagesgcc.com/static/submit-article/> or, e-mail to: ktran@the-villages.com. For more information, please call 408-754-1341 or 408-223-4655.

Display Ads: Display ad rates and placement may be arranged by calling 408-223-4657. Display advertising information is available on The Member Portal at: <https://member.thevillagesgcc.com/static/advertising/>

Delivery: *The Villager* is published the first and third Thursdays of the month and distributed to all residents Friday morning. Extra copies of the latest editions are available in *The Villager* office, in Cribari Center and in the Library. Call 408-223-4655 to report missed deliveries.

POLICIES

Publication of advertising in *The Villager* does not constitute endorsement. Licensed real estate professionals advertising in *The Villager* are required to name themselves as agent or broker, or list the name of the brokerage for whom they work as part of their ad. This is in compliance with Real Estate Law Section 10140.6.

All copy is subject to editing and must be submitted with that understanding. *The Villager* reserves the right to reject or discontinue advertising or articles that are deemed unsuitable.

The Villages Communications Advisory Committee develops operational plans, reviews rules and policies, and advises the General Manager and Club Board on issues pertaining to *The Villager*, including Pulse letters, Channels 26 and 27, FastLane and the website. Residents having relevant concerns may attend meetings or call committee members by phone: Chair Barbara Clurman at 669-234-4180, and Co-Chair Debbie Champion at 408-960-6994.

HOURS

The Villager editorial and classified advertising hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. *The Villager* display advertising office hours are by appointment. Call 408-223-4657 to schedule.

The Villager is the official and legal communication medium for The Villages, a Senior Community. Its mission is to provide residents with timely information about activities, facilities and services at The Villages, and to promote a sense of community by documenting and celebrating those common experiences highlighting life at The Villages.

The Villager is published the first and third Thursdays of the month under policies established by the

Club Board of Directors:

Richard Zahner	President
Judy Owen	Vice President
Andrew Altman	Treasurer
Liz Kung	Secretary
Larry Versaw	Director
Michelle Breslin	Director
Diana Hallock	Director

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Scott Hinrichs	Managing Editor
Kory Tran	Associate Editor
Jerry Marquez	Design Editor
Mia Ahlstrom	Advertising/Customer Service
Mariam Ibrahim	Webmaster

The Villager is published by The Villages Golf and Country Club, 5000 Cribari Lane, San Jose, California 95135. Copyright 2024. All rights reserved. Visit The Villages website at: thevillagesgcc.com

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Association Board President's Message—December 10, 2024

Welcome everyone to the December Association Board of Directors meeting, our last meeting of 2024. Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

These continue to be busy times in The Villages and they appear just to get busier. We have all heard of the recent system and technology breakdowns. Whether it's the front gate, trying to put in a work order or contacting a staff member, it seems that once we decided to upgrade our basic computer systems, everything else fell down like a house of cards. The Board has been updated by management and staff who are diligently working to improve the systems and get us up and running better than ever before. I keep my fingers crossed, expect that will happen and look forward to the end result. It appears we have been limping along for years with outdated technology and we are now bringing the community into this century. I was not here to know how or why this happened but I know this Board is concerned and supports management and staff in getting it upgraded and fixed as quickly as possible.

The insurance committee is hard at work and we recently received some good news. During a meeting with our insurance brokers, our link to the insurance market, they indicated the insurance market has somewhat stabilized and that we can expect a modest, roughly 5% increase in insurance costs this coming year. That is excellent news, at least for the moment. Insurance continues to be an issue to watch carefully and hopefully there are no catastrophic events between now and our renewal date.

We have exciting things happening in Firewise and I will leave that news to Deb Gordon who has been working hard with the volunteers and staff to obtain this designation.

We can all see the beginning projects of our turf reduction program just by driving into The Villages. I know the DACs are busy discussing the projects in their villages and setting priorities as we go into this budgeting cycle and now have some idea of the costs that will be incurred. I was at my Fairways DAC meeting where the projects and options were discussed in detail and votes were taken on each project. It's a long-term project for everyone and it's good to see the vigorous discussions and everyone's involvement. I prefer purple flowers over white ones.

Some DACs are more active than others. It would be nice if every DAC was as active and involved as Valle Vista or Olivas. We could use more volunteers in Cribari and Glen Arden, and I urge residents to get involved. Some positions do not take a lot of time and assignments can be divided up among multiple volunteers lightening the workload if necessary. I know going to the Fairways meetings now and previously having served on the DAC, there is a lot of personal satisfaction serving the community and much appreciation from those who don't have the time or ability to volunteer.

We continue to search for a compliance officer, our first employee to be designated to this position full time. We had one for a few days but he decided to take a job closer to his home. We are still looking and hope to have someone onboard soon. We have rules in place that everyone has received. Board Services will continue to address any reported violations. We will keep you updated and will be getting out an article in The Villager on where the compliance officer's initial focus for enforcement will be directed.

Finally, there have been a number of inquiries about whether or not a menorah can be displayed as part of DAC holiday decorations. There is no ban on a menorah being displayed as a DAC holiday decoration. There is a rumor going around that it is against the rules. It is not. There is a rumor going around that someone was cited for putting up a menorah. That is also not true. The Board simply directs the DACs that if they want to include a menorah in their holiday decorations, that the decision to do so is a decision made by more than just the DAC itself but by a poll of the residents of that village. Try to ask the majority of the residents what they prefer and do what the majority selects.

Thank you all for being here and as usual, my phone, my email and my door are always open and available for questions or comments.

—Association Board President Michael Schwerin

More BOARDS & COMMITTEES,
MANAGEMENT and COMMUNITY
NOTICES on pages 4, 5 & 23

Club Board President's Message for December 10, 2024

Accomplishments of 2024 and Looking Forward to 2025

Two years ago, the Club Board gave our new General Manager the task of reorganizing the staff and re-energizing our maintenance and project manager systems. The major accomplishments of 2024 are evidence of real progress toward a proactive and effective management team.

This year's accomplishments include:

- Bocce Courts: Renovated two courts and installed a new third court.
- Stables Hay Barn: A new hay barn has been installed.
- Bunker Renovations: Sand traps are being upgraded.
- Fitness Center: New equipment and an improved floor plan.
- Hill and Trail Project: This long-awaited project improves accessibility.
- Turf Reduction: Along Villages Parkway, supports sustainability and efficiency.

Two of the several projects planned for 2025 include:

- Cribari Sound & Audio Upgrades
- Bistro Patio Pergola

Of equal importance, but less visible, is the upgrade of our technology infrastructure. This includes replacing aged and failing servers, computers, telephones, and related hardware. Cobalt the new operational software includes improved financial management and reporting. The new Member Portal will become an essential part of our community and country club experience. The maintenance management system, MaintainX, has improved our planning and work order performance reducing cost and improving response time to Villager requests.

In 2025 the Club Board and management will strive for improvements in organization, operational systems, staffing and amenities, to meet our community's expectations.

Thank you for your support and suggestions.

—Richard Zahner, Villages Golf & Country Club Board President

Homeowners' Corporation Presidents' Message—Thursday, December 19, 2024

Another year is ending and with it our reflection on what 2024 brought us. We saw a lot of changes in The Villages as the three boards and management moved forward with turf and fire reduction projects, facility upgrades and more. We also made a concerted effort to prepare for the future by beginning the development of a strategic plan.

One thing you can say about The Villages, we aren't a stagnant community. We are keeping many of our treasured traditions while introducing new and exciting elements to make our community even better. Change requires patience, but the end result is worth it.

Fortunately for all of us, we have a dedicated team operating The Villages. The team is a mix of long-time committed employees and new team members with fresh ideas and energy. As a board director and a Villager, I am enjoying watching this team in action and seeing how well they support each other for the benefit of all of us. Go team!

Our next quarterly meeting is Thursday, March 20 at Foothill Center. This meeting is a combination business meeting and social. We're holding it from 4 to 6 p.m. hoping that those members who are working, playing golf, bocce, pickleball, etc. will be able to stop by. Come any time between 4 and 6 so that we can have the opportunity to meet you. This is your chance to share your opinions with us as we move forward to 2025.

Hope to see you on March 20.

—Teddy Morse, Homeowners' Corporation President

Missed your Villager?

The Villager newspaper is being printed on the first and third weeks of the month. If you missed delivery of your copy of *The Villager*, please call 408-223-4655 after 11:30 a.m. to report it.

You may pick up a replacement copy of your paper at the newsstand at the entrance of Building B or on the table outside The Villages Post Office in the Cribari Center hallway.



MANAGEMENT

Comcast/Xfinity onsite and virtual appointments available

Deisy Gomez, The Villages Comcast/Xfinity account manager, will be available for virtual appointments every Friday by appointment from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Please go to <https://calendly.com/deisygomez1326/the-villages> to make an appointment



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The Villager Online to be showcased in 2025

Thanks to valuable Villager feedback, we're thrilled to announce The Villager Online's evolution since its July 2024 launch. The Villages Communications team has been listening and making changes to our online publication—some small and many more significant.

Starting in January, the team will be hosting presentations where everyone's invited to join the team in exploring the features and functionality that are at our fingertips—such as The Villager Online's simplified navigation bar, its recent organizational changes, and the addition of convenient buttons and a search function to name a few.

If you've been keeping up with the Tech Corner series in The Villager—in print and online—then these walk-through presentations will be a refresher exercise. To those who missed the tips and quick steps articles, you will enjoy learning something new and we trust that what you discover will provide an improved experience.

What's coming!

- Learn with the Team: Please bring your laptops to follow along with the walk-through sessions.
- Survey Included: Share additional feedback after the session through a member survey.

Can't attend the training? No problem! VMA's Making Friends with Technology program is here to help. Call 408-238-4230 to schedule an in-home visit with an instructor who will guide you through the new features and ensure you're connected to our Villages community in every way.

Stay tuned for updates in early January!



PUBLIC SAFETY

Renew your guest barcodes for the year

As the end of the year approaches, the Public Safety Department reminds residents that the annual renewal of guest barcodes is just around the corner. To ensure uninterrupted access for your guests, please take the necessary steps to confirm the barcodes associated with your account.

Please note, a renewal fee of \$6 per vehicle will be applied to accounts in January. This fee helps maintain the efficiency and security of our barcode system, ensuring smooth access for all authorized guests. For residents without a monthly charge account, a letter will be sent via mail with instructions for submitting payment by check.

Don't delay—confirm your guest barcodes today to ensure continued access for your visitors. For any questions or further assistance, please contact Public Safety at PublicSafety@the-villages.com or stop by Building C during regular business hours.



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SRS Reminder:

Don't forget your IRA RMD

Are you the age who must take a required minimum distribution (RMD) from your traditional IRA? Don't forget, this must be done by December 31.

If you wish, you may send part or all of your RMD directly to a charity rather than to yourself. This avoids income tax on the distribution.

Your RMD for 2024 is calculated based on the fair market value of your IRA account on December 31, 2023 and your age on your birthday in 2024. Your IRA monthly or quarterly statement should show the amount of required distribution and the amount you have taken to date.

More **BOARDS & COMMITTEES,**
and **COMMUNITY NOTICES**
on page 23

GOVERNANCE MEETINGS

THE DACs

Highland DAC to meet January 9

The Highland DAC will meet Thursday, January 9, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Foothill Center.

Deadline for editorial materials is the Thursday before the date of publication. Please email your copy to: ktran@the-villages.com

More COMMUNITY NOTICES

(SRS) SENIOR RESOURCE SERVICES

Get ready for tax season with SRS's Tax Preparer handout

The SRS Tax Preparer handout has been updated for the coming tax preparation season. The list gives contact information for four Enrolled Agents (EA) and two Certified Public Accountants (CPA).

What is the difference between an EA and a CPA?

An Enrolled Agent is a person who is licensed to represent taxpayers before the IRS after passing three proficiency exams in taxation administered by the IRS. EAs are not required to have a college degree or any other specific business-related education. To maintain their license, they must take 72 hours of continuing education every three years.

A Certified Public Accountant is licensed by individual states after passing four national exams administered by the American Institute of CPAs. In California five years of college units are required to be able to take the examinations. To maintain their license, they must take 80 hours of continuing education every two years.

Both EAs and CPAs are trained to do a professional job with tax return preparation. In general, many people believe EAs are best for routine tax preparation and miscellaneous tax filings. CPAs are best for complex advanced tax planning and preparation, especially if the planning and compliance involves related business or trust entities. Choosing one or the other depends on your personal situation.

If you would like the Tax Preparer handout, stop by the SRS office. Or you may call the SRS office at 408-239-5253 and have it emailed to you.

SRS also sponsors an AARP Volunteer Tax-Aide Program site. Free tax preparation will be offered by appointment at Foothill Center on Thursday mornings during tax season. Volunteers are Villagers trained and tested according to IRS standards. The coordinator is Alan Waltho, 408-238-3435. The appointment process will be announced in January.

Remember, this list is offered solely as a convenience for you. SRS makes no recommendation regarding any of these resources.

Note: The Senior Resource Services (SRS) office hours for drop-in assistance are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to noon. The SRS office is in the Cribari Center across from the Post Office. You may also leave a message at 408-239-5253. The purpose of SRS is to provide education and general business and financial information. All assistance is free and confidential. You should ask your professional advisor about your individual situation.

SRS precaution:

Be aware of jury-related scams

Are you worried about scams? Most of us are. Scammers can seem so realistic with their stories that many people get caught in their web of lies.

The Santa Clara County Superior Court recently issued a public advisory on jury-related scams. These scammers present themselves claiming to be court officials or law enforcement officers. They may even provide fake badge numbers and use photoshopped images to create the illusion that you have missed a court appearance and owe money as a result.

Don't be fooled! If you are contacted, watch out for these key points:

1. Verification of Identity: Do not provide any personal or financial information to individuals claiming to be court officials or law enforcement officers over the phone. Official court personnel will never request sensitive information this way.

2. Immediate Action: If you receive any communication requesting personal information, you should either email sjpd.org/reporting-crime/forgery-fraud-id-theft and click on the ONLINE CRIME/INCIDENT REPORT link or call (408) 277-8900 between noon and 4pm. Additionally, you may reach out to the jury office of your local court to report the incident and seek guidance.

3. Official Contact: While official court personnel may contact you by telephone, they will never ask for personal information. If in doubt, hang up and independently verify the legitimacy of the call by contacting the court directly.

Stay informed and share this information with friends and family to prevent further incidents.

BOARD MEETINGS

Association

• The Villages Association Board of Directors Monthly Board hybrid meeting is **Tuesday, January 28 at 9:30 a.m.** in Foothill Center and on Zoom.

Meeting ID: 917 8108 3392; Passcode: 223468; Dial: 1-669-900-6833

Club

• The Villages Golf & Country Club Board of Directors Regular Meeting is **Tuesday, January 28 at 1:30 p.m.** in Foothill Center and on Zoom.

Meeting ID: 961 5036 4740; Passcode: 260616; Dial: 1-669-900-6833

Homeowners

• The Villages Homeowners' Corporation Board of Directors FY 24/25 Quarterly Business Meeting Schedule is as follows:

Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 4 p.m.

Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 9 a.m.

Shape the Future: Join the Leadership Development Committee!

The Club Board is launching a Leadership Development Committee (LDC) program designed to prepare and inspire members interested in serving as future Board Directors and Committee members. Members will gain valuable insights into the Villages' governance structure, roles, and responsibilities of directors on all three Boards. Topics to be covered include strategic planning, the role of Board members in non-profit governance, budgeting and financial oversight.

As part of this program, members will also collaborate on a purposeful project, culminating in a recommendation to the appropriate Board for consideration. The program runs from January through October, with monthly two-hour educational sessions.

If you are passionate about leadership and community involvement, this is your opportunity to make a difference.

To express your interest in this exciting initiative, please contact Club Board President Richard Zahner at rrzcbod@gmail.com by Friday, December 20.

We look forward to your participation in shaping the future leadership of The Villages!



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RECREATION

The following events are sponsored by The Villages. Please call 408-223-4643 for additional information.

Explore Classic Cars and Cultural Treasures: Sign up for trip to Blackhawk Museum!



Step into a world of history, culture and artistry **Friday, January 17**, with an exciting trip to the renowned Blackhawk Museum! Known for its stunning variety of exhibits, the museum offers something for everyone, from its collection of rare and vintage automobiles to captivating displays like The Spirit of the Old West and Into China.

Start the day with a docent-led tour of the museum's world-class collection of classic cars, featuring some of the rarest and most iconic vehicles in history. Following the guided portion, you'll have

time to independently explore other exhibits, such as The Spirit of the Old West, which highlights the stories of Native Americans and American pioneers and Into China, an awe-inspiring showcase of ancient Chinese treasures and cultural artifacts. Whether you're a history buff, an art lover or simply curious, these exhibits are designed to fascinate visitors of all ages.

After soaking in the museum's wonders, the group will enjoy lunch at the Blackhawk Grille, located in the picturesque Blackhawk Plaza. Choose from menu options such as an old-fashioned cheeseburger, Southwest beyond burger, grilled chicken sandwich or fish sandwich—perfect for recharging after a morning of exploration.

The trip cost per person is **\$136** and includes entrance to the museum, lunch, trip escort and round-trip transportation. Gratuity for the driver is already included in the price. Additional tipping is at your discretion.

We will depart from Cribari East Parking Lot at 8 a.m. with an estimated return time of 5 p.m. The activity level is moderate.

Registration for this trip is open now in Building B. The deadline for signing up is **Thursday, January 2**, or sooner if seats sell out.



Building B business hours

The Recreation Services office in Building B is open Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. – noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Sign up for QiGong class and find your balance!

Qigong, an ancient Chinese practice combining gentle movement, breathing techniques and meditation, offers a holistic approach to wellness anyone can enjoy.

This centuries-old practice harmonizes physical movement with mindful breathing to improve energy flow, reduce stress and promote overall well-being. Whether you're seeking physical fitness, mental clarity, or a peaceful escape from daily stress, Qigong offers something for everyone.

This session runs on **Wednesdays, January 15 to March 5 from 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.** in the Cribari Center Auditorium. The session price includes eight classes and is **\$105** per person.

Don't wait to find your flow! Registration for this class is open now. Register by **Monday, January 6** and take the first step toward a healthier, more balanced you.



From Stars to Tacos: Explore Chabot Space & Science Center and lunch at NIDO's Backyard!

On **Thursday, February 28**, start an exhilarating journey to the Chabot Space & Science Center. Dive into the wonders of the universe as you explore interactive exhibits, gaze at the stars in the modern planetarium and marvel at historic telescopes. This hands-on adventure will ignite your curiosity and leave you in awe of humanity's quest to unravel the mysteries of the cosmos.

From planets and stars to galaxies far beyond, the Chabot Space & Science Center offers a fascinating look at our universe and the science behind it. Whether you're captivated by celestial bodies or inspired by the innovation of space exploration, this trip promises a day full of discovery and wonder.

After exploring the stars, we'll head to NIDO's Backyard for a vibrant Mexican-inspired lunch buffet. Savor delicious offerings like chicken or carnitas tacos, arroz mexicano, frijoles pintos, housemade tortillas, fresh guacamole and more. With its lively atmosphere and fresh, locally sourced ingredients, NIDO's Backyard delivers a delightful culinary experience and the perfect setting to



reflect on the day's adventures with fellow travelers.

The trip cost per person is **\$145** and includes entrance to the museum, lunch, trip escort and round-trip transportation. Gratuity for the driver is already included in the price. Additional tipping is at your discretion.

We will depart from Cribari East Parking Lot at 8 a.m. with an estimated return time of 4:30 p.m. Activity level is moderate.

Registration for this trip is open, register in Building B. The deadline for signing up is **Thursday, January 2**, or sooner if seats sell out.

Join Zumba Gold—a fitness class for everyone!

Register now for Zumba Gold, a class tailored to meet the needs of participants with different fitness levels and abilities, offering easy-to-follow choreography that improves cardiovascular health, flexibility, balance and coordination. Whether you're a seasoned dancer or a total beginner, Zumba Gold welcomes everyone.

Designed for active older adults or anyone seeking a lower-impact version of the classic Zumba workout, Zumba Gold blends dynamic Latin-inspired dance moves with a pace that's just right for you.

This session runs on **Mondays, January 6 to February 24 or Wednesdays, January 8 to February 26** from 5 to 6 p.m. in the Cribari Center Conference Room. You can register for either day or both! The session price includes eight classes and is **\$105** per person.

Don't wait to find your rhythm! Registration for this class is open now. Register by **Monday, December 30** and take the first step toward a healthier, more balanced you.



RESIDENT EXCURSION PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

Recreation Services office offers a wide variety of activities for the enjoyment of the Villages residents. *Please check your personal calendars prior to committing to an event, class or trip. Once registered for an activity, you are responsible for*

the cost of the activity. All sales are final.

Registration is limited to residents only for the first two weeks.

Management assumes residents and guests are able to participate in our sponsored

activities independently. We reserve the right to evaluate the participant's ability to participate based on each individual's physical abilities and/or demonstrated behaviors. You may always take a caregiver with you to help with your needs.

Employees are not permitted to provide physical assistance to participants. If personal assistance or a wheelchair is needed, the participant must arrange for a caregiver with paid reservation to accompany him/her.

Employees, residents and their guests represent the Villages Golf and Country Club off site. It is expected that all participants will conduct themselves in a dignified, cooperative and congenial manner.

Behind the Curtain & Under the Claw: Enjoy Legion of Honor and New England Lobster Boil!

On **Wednesday, January 29**, join us for an inspiring day trip to San Francisco's Legion of Honor Museum for a captivating cultural experience featuring The Art of Theatrical Design exhibit. This outing pairs a celebration of creativity with a delicious New England dining experience.



The Legion of Honor's newest exhibit, The Art of Theatrical Design, pulls back the curtain on the behind-the-scenes magic of live theater. From intricate costumes to breathtaking stage sets and design sketches from legendary productions, this showcase offers a fascinating look at the creative minds and artistry that bring stories to life. It's a rare opportunity to dive into the world of theatrical design and appreciate the mastery behind the scenes.

After the museum visit, participants will enjoy a mouth-watering New England-style lobster boil at The New England

Lobster Market & Eatery. This delectable meal includes a 1.25 lb. fresh lobster, shrimp, sausage, artichokes, corn on the cob, potatoes, onions, garlic and sourdough baguettes. It's the perfect way to relax and savor an authentic seafood feast with fellow art and food lovers.

The trip cost per person is **\$239** and includes entrance to the museum, lunch, trip escort and round-trip transportation. Gratuity for the driver is already included in the price. Additional tipping is at your discretion.

We will depart from Cribari East Parking Lot at 8 a.m. with an estimated return time of 4 p.m. The activity level is moderate.

Registration for this trip is now open in Building B. The deadline for signing up is **Thursday, January 2**, or sooner if seats sell out.

Experience the thrill of time travel: join us for 'Back to the Future: The Musical' and lunch at Max's Opera Café!

On **Thursday, February 13**, join fellow fans for an afternoon filled with fantastic food, entertainment, and the timeless magic of this beloved story brought to life in a whole new way! Don't miss this exciting day trip to see "Back to the Future: The Musical" live onstage in San Francisco.

Prepare to be amazed as the iconic adventures of Marty McFly and Doc Brown leap from screen to stage in this high-energy musical adaptation. Featuring show-stopping performances, dynamic special effects and toe-tapping songs, this production reimagines the classic film with a blend of nostalgia and fresh surprises. Whether you're a lifelong fan or new to the time-traveling tale, this show offers something for everyone.

Before the curtain rises, enjoy a delightful lunch at Max's Opera Café, where you can choose from many delicious dishes, including BBQ beef brisket, grilled salmon salad, roasted beet salad, Grandma's honey-roasted chicken or jambalaya fettuccine. For dessert, select from cheesecake, ultimate chocolate cake, Niagara Falls cake, or ice cream to complete your meal.



The trip cost per person is **\$237** and includes musical tickets, lunch, trip escort and round-trip transportation.

Gratuity for the driver is already included in the price. Additional tipping is at your discretion.

We will depart from Cribari East Parking Lot at 9 a.m. with an estimated return time of 5 p.m. The activity level is moderate.

Registration for this trip is open now in Building B. The deadline for signing up is **Thursday, January 2** or sooner if seats sell out.

Blend Yoga and Pilates with Nirvana® Fitness!

Nirvana® fitness classes blend Yoga and Pilates movements with mood-enhancing music. This unique combination provides the ideal rhythm for breathing throughout the entire session.



The result is an enhanced mind-body connection. In these classes, you'll do movements both standing and on the floor. You need to get down to and up from the floor on your own. This class requires you to bring your own yoga mat. Kneepads are also recommended.

Barbara Bitonti is a certified FWHA Wellness Health Coach, a Nirvana® fitness instructor and an immunologist. With a solid medical background, she stays updated on health and wellness best practices. Barbara advocates for holistic well-being and invites you to explore the benefits of this cutting-edge exercise technique.

This session runs on Mondays, from **9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. from Jan. 13 to March 10**, in the Cribari Center Conference Room. There will be no class Monday, Feb. 17. The session price includes eight classes and is **\$90** per person. Don't wait to find your strength! Registration for this class is open now in Building B. Register by Monday, Jan. 6 and take the first step toward a healthier you.

Improve balance and flexibility with Yoga!



Discover the transformative power of yoga in our class designed for all levels! This session combines easy moves that enhance body awareness, flexibility and range of motion.

You'll strengthen your muscles and improve balance through standing poses, along with seated, prone (lying face down), and supine (lying face up) postures on the mat.

With options for both beginners and those seeking a more advanced challenge, our slow and mindful movements let you connect deeply with your body and breath. Participants should be able to get up and down from the mat.

This session runs **Wednesdays, January 15 to March 5** from **10 a.m. to 11 a.m.** in the Cribari Center Auditorium. The session price includes eight classes and is **\$105** per person.

Don't wait to find your flow! Registration for this class is open now in Building B. Register by **Monday, January 6** and take the first step toward a healthier, more balanced you.

Check out new equipment at Fitness Center

The Village's Fitness Center, behind Cribari Center, just received delivery of some new modern equipment and we're inviting the community to come see it for themselves! Whether you're a seasoned gym goer or just beginning your wellness journey, there's something for everyone. The new additions include a recumbent bike, rower, heavy punching bag, chest press, shoulder press and more. Designed with your health in mind, the equipment offers smoother motion, customizable settings, and interactive features to keep you motivated and challenged.

As a reminder, if you are a new Fitness Center user you will need to go to a Fitness Center orientation session first to gain access. You can register for an orientation session online through the Calendar of Events on the Member Portal or by contacting Recreation Services staff in Building B during regular business hours. The orientation sessions are held **every Thursday evening starting at 7 p.m.** and also the **second Saturday of each month starting at 9:30 a.m.**

We can't wait to see you all using and enjoying the new equipment!

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When it's someone you love.



THE CLUBHOUSE

For Information:
408-223-4687

2800 The Villages Fairway Drive, San Jose CA 95135

All Clubhouse & Bistro menus can be found at thevillagesgcc.com

**To order
Curbside
Grab and Go,
call
408-370-8553**

Soup of the Day



For the week of 12/23 to 12/29

Monday, December 23

Cream of Cauliflower with Chives and Corn

Tuesday, December 24

Pork Cabbage Roll Soup

Wednesday, December 25

CLOSED

Thursday, December 26

Chicken Gumbo

Friday, December 27

Clam Chowder

Saturday, December 28

Chef's Choice

Sunday, December 29

Chef's Choice

CLUBHOUSE RESTAURANT, THE BISTRO & BAR GRAB & GO ORDERS AVAILABLE

The following details will be in effect at the Clubhouse:

Restaurant Main Dining Room: Reservations are strongly suggested by emailing, calling or making an online reservation.

Email: theclubhouse@the-villages.com, Phone: 408-223-4687, Online: clubhouserreservation.com

- **Patio Dining** reservations for the patio are for 6 or more persons.
- **The Bistro alcove** can be reserved for parties of 8 to 10 people.
- **The kitchen will still close at 8 p.m.**, last seating at the Bistro, Patio, curbside takeout and Restaurant main dining room is 7:30 p.m.
- **Bistro Bar closes at 9 p.m. Last call is at 8:30 p.m.**
- Dress code for the main dining room will be enforced. During summer months, dress shorts and dress sandals will be allowed.
- Credit cards and house charges will be accepted.
- Cash will not be accepted for payment but can be left as a tip.

How does Curbside Grab-and-Go work?

First, call in your order at 408-370-8553. Call us again when you get to the Clubhouse curbside and we will bring it out to your vehicle. **A 15 percent Service Charge and Tax will be added to the price.**

Notice for our Curbside customers: Due to the increased volume of orders at dinnertime, we are recommending that you call and place your order between the times of 3 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. We will take your order and coordinate a pick-up time later that evening. While this is not required, it should help alleviate any wait times during the peak dinnertime hours of 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

ATTENTION CURBSIDE CUSTOMERS: New legislation prohibits "Take-out service" from providing any single-use foodware accessories or standard condiments to customers unless they are requested. This is in effect now. Our staff will ask if customers need condiments such as ketchup, etc. or plastic utensils such as forks, etc. when taking orders.

We want your opinion!

Have you seen the comment cards in the Bistro and Clubhouse? They are available in the main entrance or in your bill folder. The Food and Beverage staff use them to recognize excellence in their employees, to make adjustments to the menu, and to help patrons when things aren't perfect.

Thanks for taking the time to let us know what you think!

Please deposit comments directly to the locked comment card box at the Clubhouse foyer.

The Villages Golf & Country Club

Dear Customer—As of March 2024, a 3% service charge will be applied to all credit card purchases.* This surcharge helps The Villages manage costs associated with credit card transactions more responsibly and fairly.

You may avoid this extra fee by paying with check or using your house account.

* Only debit cards with the Visa or Mastercard symbol can be accepted.

Scan the QR code to see Clubhouse Menus

To access all Clubhouse menus, hours of operation, reservation information, specials and special offers, please scan this QR code with your phone



Take your cell phone, press the camera icon and frame the QR code to access the Clubhouse web pages.

**See all menus on The Villager Online:
news.thevillagesgcc.com/menus**

Weekly Specials

For the week of 12/23 to 12/29

Breakfast Special:

Tuesday 12/24 to Sunday 12/29

Cowboy Skillet: Smoked Brisket with Onions, Mushrooms, Bell Peppers, Yukon Potatoes, 2 Fred Eggs and a Side of Baked Beans \$16

Lunch Specials:

Monday 12/23 to Sunday 12/29—11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Chimichanga: with Pork Carnitas, Black Beans, Flour Tortilla, Tomatoes, Shredded Lettuce, Guacamole and Sour Cream with a side of Chips and Salsa \$17

Vermicelli Salad with Grilled Pork: Rice Noodles, Shredded Lettuce, Sliced Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Peanuts, Cilantro, Mint, Basil and Bean Sprouts with Nuoc Nam Sauce \$18

Dinner Specials:

Thursday 12/26 to Sunday 12/29—5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Mediterranean Grilled Lamb Plate: with Yellow Rice, Tomato, Cucumber salad, Falafel, Tzatziki Sauce and Grilled Pita Bread \$32

Chicken Parmesan: with Linguini, Marinara Sauce and Seasonal Vegetables \$28

Clubhouse Indoor, Patio Dining and Curbside Hours of Operation

Monday

Lunch:
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Bistro Menu
2 p.m. to 8 p.m. *

Tuesday to Friday

Breakfast:
8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Lunch:
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Bistro Menu:
2 p.m. to 8 p.m. *
Dinner Menu:
5 p.m. to 8 p.m. *

Saturday and Sunday

Saturday Breakfast:
7 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Sunday Breakfast:
7 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Lunch:
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Bistro Menu:
2 p.m. to 8 p.m. *
Dinner Menu:
5 p.m. to 8 p.m. *

* Last seating at 7:30 p.m.

Main phone line: 408-223-4687

Reservation: Press #1, Curbside Order and Pick-up: Press #2

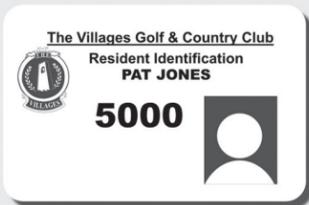
Manager on duty: Press #4, Events and Catering: Press #5

Online

Reservation or Curbside Order: Clubhouserreservation.com

Email: theclubhouse@the-villages.com

Please remember to bring your Villages ID Card with you whenever ordering services at the Clubhouse or Curbside Services. This will help us serve you faster and eliminate inaccurate charges. Thank you.




Whole Rotisserie Chicken

Order between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. For pickup between 5 and 7:30 p.m.

New Price \$9.95 plus Service Charge & Tax

408.223.4687 opt 2 or online at clubhouserreservation.com



Christmas Eve Curbside
Tuesday, December 24

12 p.m. Pickup Time

Salad

Clubhouse Baby Mix Salad with Ranch and Balsamic Dressing
Rolls & Butter

Duo Entrée Plate

Honey Baked Ham with Mustard Grain and Honey Glaze
Sliced Roasted N.Y. Strip with Red Wine Demi
Mashed Potatoes
Steamed Seasonal Vegetables

Dessert

Chocolate Peppermint Cheesecake with Wild Berry Compote

\$35 per order plus 18% Service Charge & Taxes

For Reservations

Call 408-754-1337 or email theclubhouse@the-villages.com
Information needed: Full name / Member number / Phone number / Number of meals

Final order deadline is Thursday, December 19 by noon.

Clubhouse Special Offers

No corkage will be charged Wednesdays & Thursdays—Dinner service only.



Bring your favorite bottle of wine* and your friends any and every Wednesday or Thursday at the Clubhouse and enjoy our no-corkage fee offer.

* No corkage will be charged with purchase from the Dinner Menu, Lighter Side, and Entrée items. One-bottle limit per two guests. Standard sized bottles only. This special offer is every Wednesday and Thursday.

Single Diners' Night

Let's dine together every Wednesday at 6 p.m.



Shared table. Every Wednesday at 6 p.m. when you come as a single with your favorite bottle of wine and share your table with another single dining member, the corkage fee is on the house!* Please see restrictions below.

Free corkage will be applied with purchase from the Lighter Side and Dinner Entrées from the Dinner Menu.

Please make reservations and note: "Single Diners' Reservation"



Buy One Appetizer*, Get One Half-Off!

Appetizer Special in effect 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday - Friday

* Item must be of equal or lesser value.

Service charge and taxes still applied to all items.

For dine-in customers only.

5 5 5 Bistro Happy Hour

2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Sunday, All Day on Monday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.



\$5 House Cocktails

\$5 House Wines

\$5 Draft Beers 16 oz.

Price subject to service charge and tax

Online Meal Ordering

A fast and convenient way to order meals from the Clubhouse—Phone/Tablet/Desktop



To help streamline the process of ordering, the Clubhouse now has, in addition to phone orders, an online meal ordering system. The system will be a fast and easy way for guests to choose meals and pickup times for their orders. This will also be a great way for golfers to order a meal from their phones while still on the course.



Happy holidays, neighbors.

Bob Fillhouer, Agent
Insurance Lic#: 0786250
2899 The Villages Parkway
San Jose, CA 95135
Bus: 408-558-7771

I wish all my neighbors a safe and happy holiday season and the very best in the New Year. It's a true joy to be part of such a wonderful community.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

State Farm
Bloomington, IL
2006051



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, December 20

8:30 a.m. Jazzercise A
 9 a.m. Catholic Mass CR
 9 a.m. Chinese Morning Exercise P
 9 a.m. Game Day RED
 10 a.m. Art&Craft Member Studio AR
 10 a.m. Line Dance Club-Advanced A
 10 a.m. Quilters PR
 12:30 p.m. Bridge Club RED
 2 p.m. Art Open Studio AR
 5 p.m. Mont. Christmas Party CH
 6 p.m. Holiday Lights Walk VC
 6:30 p.m. Mexican Train Dominoes MC

Saturday, December 21

10 a.m. Quilters PR
 10 a.m. Ukulele Sing Along SEQ

Sunday, December 22

7:30 a.m. Catholic Choir CR
 8:15 a.m. Catholic Mass A
 9 a.m. Community Chapel Choir SEQ
 9 a.m. Episcopal Church Service MC
 10 a.m. Community Chapel A
 10 a.m. Quilters PR
 5 p.m. Korean Club Event CH

Monday, December 23

8:30 a.m. Jazzercise A
 9 a.m. Chinese Morning Exercise P
 9 a.m. Game Day RED
 10 a.m. Art&Craft Member Studio AR
 10 a.m. VGC Six Clubs VR
 1 p.m. Stitchery PR
 2 p.m. Art Open Studio AR
 5:30 p.m. Village Dancers 1 A
 7 p.m. Duplicate Bridge RED

Tuesday, December 24

3:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass CR

Wednesday, December 25

No events

Thursday, December 26

9 a.m. Game Day RED
 10 a.m. Art Class AR
 10 a.m. Line Dance Club CR
 11:30 a.m. 18-H Women's Golf Lunch CH
 1 p.m. Chapel Bible Small Group SEQ
 2 p.m. Art Open Studio AR
 3 p.m. Community Chapel Choir CR

Friday, December 27

8:30 a.m. Jazzercise A
 9 a.m. Chinese Morning Exercise P
 9 a.m. Game Day RED
 10 a.m. Art&Craft Member Studio AR
 10 a.m. Line Dance Club-Advanced A
 10 a.m. Quilters PR
 12:30 p.m. Bridge Club RED
 2 p.m. Art Open Studio AR
 6:30 p.m. Mexican Train Dominoes MC

Saturday, December 28

10 a.m. Quilters PR
 10 a.m. Ukulele Sing Along SEQ
 4:45 p.m. Movie Group SEQ

Sunday, December 29

7:30 a.m. Catholic Choir CR
 8:15 a.m. Catholic Mass A
 9 a.m. Community Chapel Choir SEQ
 10 a.m. Community Chapel A
 10 a.m. Quilters PR
 4 p.m. Hanukkah FC

Monday, December 30

8:30 a.m. Jazzercise A
 9 a.m. Game Day RED
 10 a.m. Art&Craft Member Studio AR
 1 p.m. Stitchery PR
 2 p.m. Art Open Studio AR
 5:30 p.m. Village Dancers 1 A
 7 p.m. Duplicate Bridge RED

Tuesday, December 31

10 a.m. Art Class AR
 2 p.m. Art Open Studio AR
 6 p.m. Cribari NYE Dinner Dance A
 7 p.m. Desi Club NYE Celebration FC

Wednesday, January 1

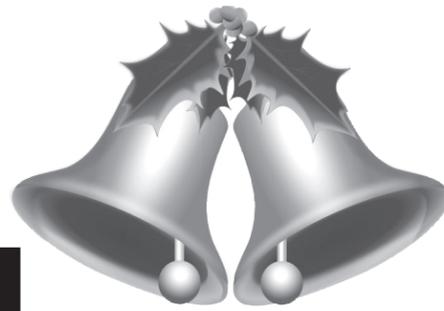
8:30 a.m. New Year's Hill Hike FC
 9 a.m. Chinese Morning Exercise P
 9 a.m. Game Day RED
 6:30 p.m. Mexican Train Dominoes MC

Thursday, January 2

9 a.m. Game Day RED
 10 a.m. Line Dance Club A
 11:30 a.m. LSAL Fitness A
 12:30 p.m. 18-H Women's Golf Lunch CH
 1 p.m. Chapel Bible Small Group SEQ
 1:30 p.m. Ukulele Club VC
 2 p.m. Art Open Studio AR
 3 p.m. Community Chapel Choir CR

Friday, January 3

8:30 a.m. Jazzercise A
 8:30 a.m. Tai Chi FC
 9 a.m. Catholic Mass CR
 9 a.m. Chinese Morning Exercise P
 9 a.m. Game Day RED
 10 a.m. Line Dance Club-Advanced A
 10 a.m. Villages Quilters PR
 10:15 a.m. Art Open Studio AR
 12:30 p.m. Duplicate Bridge RED
 2 p.m. Art Open Studio AR
 6:30 p.m. Mexican Train Dominoes MC



N. Jeanette Campa
 JABEZ Realty
 Broker Owner
 Realtor Notary Public Villager
 jeanette@jabez-realty.com
 408-661-0203
DRE 01327014

Calendar Highlights

Villages Chapel Choir sings The Songs of Christmas
Sunday, December 22 at 10 a.m. in Cribari Auditorium

Victorian Carolers at the Clubhouse Restaurant

Saturday, December 21 at the Clubhouse Restaurant from **4 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

Hiking Club Holiday Lights Walk

Friday, December 20 meet at Vineyard Center at **6 p.m.**

Hike to the top on New Year's Day

Celebrate New Year's Day in the hill lands with the Hiking Club at the top of the trail on **Wednesday, January 1**. Meet the hikers at **9 a.m.** at Foothill Center and hike up the trail for an **11 a.m.** gathering at the top.



Network: Villages Public
 Password: villages

EVENT LOCATIONS

- A** Auditorium—Cribari
- AR** Art Room—Cribari
- BC** Bocce Courts
- CER** Ceramics—Cribari
- CH** Clubhouse
- CR** Conference Room—Cribari
- F** Forum Room—Cribari
- FC** Foothill Center
- FHP** Foothill Pool
- GP** Gazebo
- L** Lobby—Cribari
- MC** Montgomery Center
- P** Patio—Cribari
- PC** Pickleball Courts
- PR** Patio Room—Cribari
- RED** Redwood Room—Cribari
- SEQ** Sequoia Room—Cribari
- TR** Terrace Room—Cribari
- TS** Tennis Stand
- TTC** Table Tennis Center—Mont.
- VC** Vineyard Center
- VR** Voyage Room—Mont.

Villages Medical Auxiliary - Since 1976

Office: 408-238-4230

Hours: Monday to Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Service Coordinator: 408-238-4029



Register online at: vmavillages.vgcc.club or call: 408-238-4029

January Programs

Grief Support Café—Dr. Kiem Le, PhD, chaplain and counselor at With Grace Hospice will provide a specialized session on grief management during the holidays, **Tuesday, January 7** at **10:30 a.m.** in the Sequoia Room. The session is limited to 15. Light refreshments provided. Register online at vmavillages.vgcc.club or call 408-238-4029.

Dementia and Caregiving—Maria Nicolacoudis, Executive Director of Hearts and Minds Activity Center will provide an overview of Alzheimer's and signs of dementia. She also will discuss the importance of activities and social interactions in maintaining your loved one's abilities for a longer period of time. **Thursday, January 16** from **1 to 2 p.m.** in Vineyard Center. Register online at vmavillages.vgcc.club or call 408-238-4029.

Support Groups

Grief Support Group: Chaplain Dale Poland, M.Div, BCC - from Hospice of the Valley-Sutter Health meets with those facing loss in their lives. The group will meet **Tuesday, January 7** from **10:30 to 11:30 a.m.** in the Sequoia Room. Please call 408-238-4029 with any questions.

CLUBS & EVENTS

Celebrate the New Year on Top of our Hill

The Hiking Club will once again celebrate New Year's Day on **Wednesday, January 1** at the top of the Villages' tallest hill at 2,330 feet. The Long Hikers will start from Foothill Center leaving at **9 a.m.** and will meet up at the picnic tables at the top of Rawhide. It will take about 90 minutes to make it to the top. The celebration there will aim to start at about **11 a.m.** The hike to the top of the hill is 4-5 miles total round-trip distance and includes a 1,500-ft. elevation gain depending on which trails are taken. For a more leisurely pace and a slightly shorter distance, hikers can also start at the upper garden parking lot. Time your start to make it to the top by 11 a.m.—perhaps starting between 9 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

The Rambler Hikers will hike on the lower hill trails to the picnic tables at the intersection of Sky and Ohlone, and will meet at the cul-de-sac at the top of Valle Vista at 9:45 a.m.

For all hikes, please bring snacks and suitable libations to share with friends and fellow hikers. In the event of rain, the Foothill Center will be open to hikers to enjoy their snacks and suitable libations. No RSVP required. Members, prospective members and non-members are welcome!



Arts and Crafts to hang new Pete Mills exhibit in January

On **Tuesday, January 14**, Arts and Crafts will be hanging a new art exhibit in the Cribari Conference room. We hope you enjoyed our extended exhibit featuring the artwork of Barbara Gottesman.



We will be hanging acrylic paintings by Pete Mills. His work leans towards landscapes which takes on the best representation of photographs he has taken of his travels. Realism without trying to have exact preciseness is the goal. We may include a couple of his photographs next to his art to show how close that realism is.

Pete is a self-described relatively new painter. During his early school years, he enjoyed art but had very little exposure to it. About 40 years ago Pete attended a one-day watercolor class at Hartnell Junior College in Salinas. He was determined then to continue painting. That determination had to wait another 25 years though, as life preceded that quest. Then, after retirement, Pete

enrolled in a watercolor class at the Salinas adult school. As luck would have it, that school closed two years later.

Not deterred, Pete joined some of his fellow artists once a week to meet and paint at a Mobile Park Clubhouse. They shared their expertise and knowledge to help critique his work. Five years later, his exclusive work with watercolor changed to acrylics. Others were using different mediums, and he chose the acrylic path. Now this is his niche.

Extensive travels via his motor home with his wife in the U.S. and Canada, has netted Pete with a plethora of photos to examine and then choose from so he can let his acrylic work do the rest to achieve a close depiction of that photo. Do take the time from **January 14 through April 8** to see Pete's work.



VMA tax write-off reminder

It's not too late to make a donation to the VMA and receive a 2024 tax write-off receipt! Become a Sustainable Donor or donate a car or golf cart before December 31, 2024 to take advantage of the tax write-off. The donation form is located on the website at vmavillages.vgcc.club/donate. Please download the form, fill it out and return to the VMA office located at Cribari Center. All donations fund the many services that are provided free of charge to all Villagers.



Happy Holidays from the VMA!

Join Hiking Club for Holiday Lights Walk

Join the Hiking Club on **Friday, December 20** at **6 p.m.** for this year's Holiday Lights Walk to view and enjoy the festive holiday decorations throughout The Villages. We will meet at Vineyard Center. After the walk we will gather for coffee, tea, and hot chocolate.

Participants are asked to bring cookies and/or an appetizer to share. All Villagers are welcome. Please dress warmly and bring a flashlight.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Arbaugh at 408-789-7657.



Senior Academy's Annual Meeting is open to all

Senior Academy is delighted to invite all Villagers to its Annual Meeting on **Tuesday, January 14** at **4 p.m.** in the Fairway Room at the Clubhouse. We will introduce you to our Board members, update you on the "state of the club" and share with you what great presentations await you in 2025. We'll also offer a no-host bar with light refreshments.

This is a free event open to everyone in the hopes that if you are not already a member, you will choose to become one of us. We are one of the largest organizations in The Villages with the goal of presenting a diversified menu of lectures and courses to inform you, entertain you, and expand your horizons, delivered by experts in their respective fields.

Pre-registration is essential. Please contact Diane Taylor at 408-912-5594 or visit our website at VillagesSA.org

RSVP for Republican Club's Inauguration 'Ball'

Join the Villages Republican Club for the Inauguration "Ball" on **January 20, 2025** at **5 p.m.** at Foothill Center. Non-members also welcome.

Sign up online at <https://forms.gle/RwBHBqEo3TMe3BTA>

Bring your own drinks; water will be provided.

Dance to the music of DJ Ed Knott. The dress code is whatever you would like to wear.

Savory appetizers and desserts are needed from all attendees. Contact Gisele Barber at pjgsbarbers@gmail.com or 408-892-7454 to let her know of your food contribution.

Plates, cutlery, cups, and napkins provided.



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Bailamos! Get ready for fun Latin dance steps

By B. Brown

Born in Madrid, Spain; Enrique Iglesias is the December featured artist of the Monday Night dance group. And yes; he is the son of Julio Iglesias, who famously sang "To All The Girls I've Loved Before."

"Bailamos" (In English: "We Dance") is a single by Enrique Iglesias sung in English with some lines in Spanish. The song was released in 1999 as part of the soundtrack to the film Wild Wild West. Fun fact: Enrique performed on the "Donny & Marie show" in 1998!

Let's dance our way through the month of December with easy-to-move-to Latin dance steps. The choreography will include Salsa, Bachata, Merengue, Cha-Cha-Cha and Samba. This is going to be awesome!

Dance, socialize and exercise with us **every Monday night at 5:30 p.m.** in Cribari Auditorium. No partner needed. All are welcome. Each month brings a new dance theme, loads of fun and even a few new friends!

Bernice Toy is the Club President and choreographer of The VMS Village Dancers. She can be reached at vms.dancers@gmail.com Please see the Music Society website: <https://villagesmusicsociety.org/about-us-3>. The Village Dancers charge an annual \$20 membership fee to participants. All monies go towards support of the club. While there is no fee to join the Monday dance sessions; donations are welcome.



Learn about 'The History of Modern Israel'

By Judy Rogers

The Villages Study Groups Club is offering a course on "The History of Modern Israel." This course will explore the fascinating and complex history behind the reestablishment of the State of Israel. It will detail the key events from the first Zionist Congress in 1897 to the official founding of the state in 1948. We will use a combination of historical documents, multimedia resources, and guided discussions.

Participants will gain a deep understanding of the political, social, and military challenges involved in creating a Jewish homeland in the face of opposition and adversity. You will view documentary videos that include archival footage, photographs, and personal testimonies to assist in understanding the key events that led to the formation of the State of Israel.

The course will be held on Tuesdays at 4 p.m., twice a month starting January 14 (11 meetings total) in the Sequoia Room. For information or registration contact Israel Littman at 201-573-0747 or irl856@gmail.com.



Villagers donate nearly 400 coats to 'One Warm Coat' Drive

By Toni Thunen



This past Friday, December 13 was the final day of the 2024 One Warm Coat Drive. The coat drive began on October 14 and over the course of the past two months Villagers have been cleaning their closets and drawers and generously sharing what they have uncovered. Coats and jackets that are no longer needed or no longer worn but have lots of warmth/use left in them have been collected, numbering just under 400 coats!

The many recipients that are served by Citi Team Ministries are the fortunate beneficiaries of the generosity shared by the many Villagers who have made this drive such a success. A big shout out to the Villages' Shonis who made children their focus and donated several new kid's coats and jackets, which are sure to bring smiles along with warmth. Anonymous financial donations have also been received and will add to the One Warm Coat's ability to serve the large population of people in need this season.

Since the One Warm Coat's inception over 1,500 non-profits and 50,000 individual organizations have collected 8 million coats keeping 60 percent of such garments out of the landfills.

In this season of sharing as we give thanks for all that we have, thanks to the many Villagers for every generous donation. You have made a warm difference!



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SCHEDULE A **COMPLIMENTARY** TRUST REVIEW

408-286-2122

RSVP for Republican Club Inauguration Watch Party at The Villages

January 20, 2025, 9 a.m. at Foothill Center

Save the date and time. This will be a watch party with a continental breakfast. There is no cost to attend. If you want, you may bring your own drinks, alcohol or non-alcohol.

To register, contact Mary Wagle at marylwagle@gmail.com or 408-829-4021 and text or talk.



VMA: Are you a golf cart buyer or seller?

The Villages Medical Auxiliary is looking for both buyers and sellers of golf carts! There's a new year coming and it's a perfect time for a new cart. Donations of your old cart will get you an IRS tax write-off!

The VMA currently has two golf carts for sale and you can view more details about these carts at vmavillages.vgcc.club. The office also keeps a waitlist for those in the golf cart buying market so call the office at 408-238-4230 to add your name. All proceeds go to VMA to provide free services to all residents!





2025 Midnight Countdown New Year's Eve Dinner December 31, 2024

\$90 Plus Service Charge & Tax
7 p.m. Reception / 8 p.m. Dinner — Midnight Champagne Toast

Reception

Charcuterie Display, Assorted Canapes

Salad

Baby Mix Salad with Pears, Gorgonzola, Candied Pecans, Pomegranate Seeds with Champagne Vinaigrette
Dinner Rolls & Butter

Entrée

Land & Sea

7-oz. Filet of Beef with Compound Butter, Colossal Prawns
Scalloped Potatoes
Broccoli & Baby Carrots

Dessert

Black Chocolate Truffle Marquise Mousse Cake with Wild Berry Compote

Reservation Required. Call 408-754-1339 or email: theclubhouse@the-villages.com



Early Bird Dinner

\$70 Plus Service Charge & Tax
Seatings: 5 p.m. or 7:30 p.m.

Salad

Baby Mix Salad with Pears, Gorgonzola, Candied Pecans, Pomegranate Seeds with Champagne Vinaigrette

Dinner Rolls & Butter

7-oz. Filet of Beef with Compound Butter, Colossal Prawns
Scalloped Potatoes
Broccoli & Baby Carrots

Dessert

Black Chocolate Truffle Marquise Mousse Cake with Wild Berry Compote

Reservation Required
Call 408-754-1339 or email: theclubhouse@the-villages.com



Italian Club to host Membership Dinner

The Villages Italian Club is having its annual membership dinner on **January 11, 2025** at 5 p.m. in the Clubhouse Fairway Room for members only. We will be revealing our 2025 calendar of events that includes two new fun events. Since 2025 is our 25th year anniversary, we have a big celebratory event planned for October. It is an event you won't want to miss.



We will enjoy a family style service dinner with Italian chopped salad, garlic bread, followed by a penne marinara pasta course. Next we'll have a platter of chicken piccata and sausage and grilled veggies. Our dessert is tiramisu. Think of having Sunday dinner at Nonna's house.

Have you ever wanted to buy authentic Italian products? Our guest speaker will be Kathy Winkleman who will talk about shopping in Italy—where to go to buy leather goods, Murano glass and gold jewelry, Venetian masks, pottery, and Florentine paper products. You might even get some tips on how to bargain.

Invitations will go out on December 11 so check your email and register early. Our events sell out quickly and this one is limited to the first 150 members who sign up.

Free Art Film: 'Amedeo Modigliani: The Future of Art is in a Woman's Face'

On **Tuesday, January 14**, see the art film, "Amedeo Modigliani: The Future of Art is in a Woman's Face" at 2 p.m. in the Cribari Conference Room.

Holding court in post WWI salons of Paris with other artists, Picasso, Cocteau and Diego Rivera, Modigliani battles for recognition as he struggles against religious bigotry amidst a passionate relationship with Jeanne, a beautiful Catholic girl whose father opposes him because he is Jewish.

This is a full-length feature adaptation of his life and art (not a documentary) starring Andy Garcia with an international cast and runs two hours and 7 minutes with closed captioning. There will be a brief intermission.

Presented by the Villages Arts & Crafts Association and hosted by Marion Rose, this event is free to all Villagers and their guests.



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Villages Jewish Community honored by San Jose City Council



On Tuesday, December 10, 2024 the Villages Jewish Community was honored by the City Council of San Jose and received a Proclamation celebrating Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights. Mayor Matt Mahan, Council Members Domingo Candelas and David Cohen presented the Proclamation to Marilyn Goldsmith, Rob Kirschbaum and Howie Blumstein.

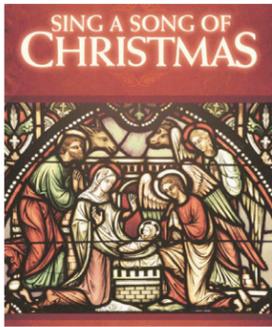
Sign up for Doug's class and add pizzazz to watercolor

Pizzazz means adding vitality and glamour, and Doug certainly does that when he teaches watercolor classes for Villagers. His "Watercolor Plus Multi-Media" class will make your traditional watercolor paintings pop. Beginners and experienced watercolorists alike will enjoy his classes on **Wednesdays, January 8 to 29**, from 10 a.m. to noon, in the Cribari Center Art Room.



Textured paste, colored pencils and charcoal pencils will be used for texture. Burnishing and blending tools will be introduced as will pen and ink. Each student can choose a class project to complete with Doug's expert coaching. Bring your basic watercolors, brushes and paper, and Doug will furnish the extras.

Register by emailing barb.gottesman@gmail.com and pay by check or cash. The class fee is \$70.



**Sunday, December 22
at 10 a.m. in
Cribari Auditorium**

Villagers, families, children & friends, are cordially invited to celebrate the season with the **Songs of Christmas!**

The Villages Chapel Choir
Mark Fish, Director
Catherine Ellacer, Accompanist

Join Zoe Caron for drawing class using alcohol markers and ink

And now for something completely different: Zoe Caron invites you to learn drawing techniques with ink and markers. Her class will be offered on **Tuesdays, January 7 to 28, 10 a.m. to noon** in the Cribari Center Art Room. Class fee is \$40.



Students will learn techniques in representational and abstract ink usage, ranging from texturing to technical skill in realistic drawing. Depending upon each student's interests, they will be able to choose which techniques most interest them and to cultivate their artistic experience with ink and marker media. First, they will have the opportunity to experiment with several different types of pens, markers, and water-based inks. Then, the class will review reference books of drawings and photos to practice different types of shading, layering, and texturing with pens and ink. We will review how to utilize pointillism, cross-hatching, and soft shading methods to help create intrigue in ink work. Participants will learn how to combine these new skills to create work which blurs the line between the imaginary and the real. Students are encouraged to bring reference photos of subject matter which intrigues them, especially those with interesting patterns or shapes.

Register by emailing barb.gottesman@gmail.com and pay by check, Venmo or Zelle.

EVERGREEN VILLAGES FOUNDATION



CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Generous donations from EVF's Circle of Friends to projects in the Villages have generated over \$30,000 over the years!
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Good times begin at 8 p.m. until the Midnight Hour!
Everyone is invited!
Hors D'oeuvres & Champagne Toast!
Bring your own beverage. Alcohol permitted.
Music by DJay Zee
Dance contest!
"Come Dance With Me"
\$35 for Cribari residents / \$40 for others
Seating Limited. RSVP required:
Text to 408-375-1760, call 408-274-1882
or email cribarisc@gmail.com.
Please include House number for ticket(s) charge.

Attention Storytellers



Storytellers: Do you like to write and share what you wrote? If yes, then the Villages Storytellers group may be for you.

We share our poems, memoirs, stories and any other personal writings. We do not critique.

We meet in a private residence on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. to noon.

For more information, please contact Marty Fucell at 408-933-8423.

Take Traditional Oil class with Swati Mohari

Have you always wanted to try traditional oil painting, the medium used by the old masters? Here is your chance to try it risk-free with Swati's four classes on **Thursdays, January 9 – 30**, from 10 a.m. to noon in the Cribari Center Art Room. All materials are furnished so you don't have to purchase anything.

Swati has 15 years' experience teaching art in the public schools. She has also taught three drawing classes for Villagers. Swati will demonstrate how to blend five basic oil colors in landscape compositions that you will be proud to display. These four sessions with Swati providing the materials will cost \$90 per student. She will provide an 11 by 14" canvas, oil paints, brushes, palettes, linseed oil and turpentine to clean brushes.

If you want to bring your own materials, the class will be \$70. Just bring the items listed above to class.

Register by emailing barb.gottesman@gmail.com and pay by writing a check to Swati Mohari. Swati also takes Venmo and Zelle.



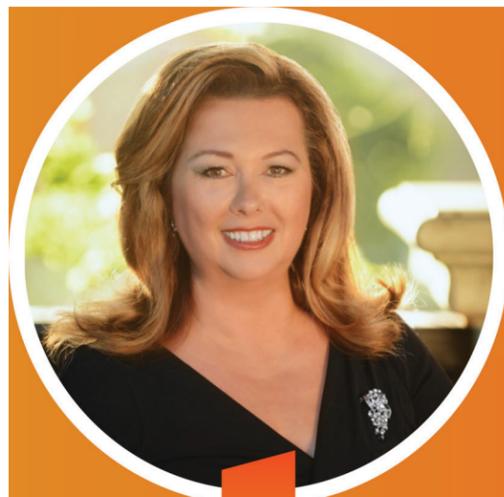
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FROM THE VILLAGES LIBRARY

The Villages Library is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Here at The Villages we can rely on our very own library. New books arrive monthly in regular and large print, chosen from among the bestsellers. There's also a wall of mystery, fiction and non-fiction large print editions in the backroom. While you're there, take a look through the biography section.

Our devoted library volunteers are available to assist you. We're open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Our latest recommendations (Large Print Books):

"Society of Lies" by Lauren Ling Brown. Fiction. Publisher's description: "How far would you go to belong? Maya has returned to Princeton for her college reunion—it's been a decade since she graduated, and she is looking forward to seeing old faces and reminiscing about her time there. This visit is special because Maya will also be attending the graduation of her little sister, Naomi. But what should have been a dream weekend becomes Maya's worst nightmare when she receives the news that Naomi is dead. The police are calling it an accident, but Maya suspects that there is more to the story than they are letting on. As Maya pieces together what happened in the months leading up to her sister's death, she begins to realize how much Naomi hid from her. Despite Maya's warnings, Naomi had joined Sterling Club, the most exclusive social club on campus—the same one Maya belonged to. And if she had to guess, Naomi was likely tapped for the secret society within it. The more Maya uncovers, the more terrified she becomes that Naomi's decision to follow in her footsteps might have been what got her killed."

"Identity Unknown" by Patricia Cornwell. Fiction. Publisher's description: "Summoned to an abandoned theme park to retrieve a body, Dr. Kay Scarpetta is devastated to learn that the victim is a man she once had an intense love affair with. The murder scene is bizarre, with a crop circle of petals around the body, and Giordano's skin is strangely red. Scarpetta's niece Lucy believes he was dropped from an unidentified flying craft. Scarpetta knows an autopsy can reveal the dead's secrets, but she is shocked to find her friend seems to have deliberately left her a clue. As the investigators are torn between suspicions of otherworldly forces, and of Giordano himself, Scarpetta detects an explanation closer to home that, in her mind, is far more evil..."

2025 Mah Jongg cards available to order

By Barbara Smith

Some Mah Jongg players really like the 2024 Mah Jongg card and others of us, not so much. Fortunately, those of us who did not like the card have a once-a-year opportunity.



Now is the time to order your 2025 Mah Jongg card! More people in The Villages are playing Mah Jongg every year—including men! The window for ordering next year's card is from now through February 1, 2025. The price of cards remains the same. Small print cards are \$14. Large print cards are \$15.

Barbara Smith will be coordinating the sale of Mah Jongg cards again this year. Checks are made out to Barbara Smith. At the end of the sale, one large check is written and all the individual checks are deposited. Please include the number and size of the cards you are ordering in the "memo" place on your check.

Checks can be dropped off or mailed to Barbara Smith, 2067 Folle Blanche Dr, San Jose CA 95135. In late March, your Mah Jongg card(s) will be sent directly to your home from the National Mah Jongg League in New York.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ARTS AND CRAFTS?

All Villagers are invited to participate in Arts and Crafts Activities. Visit villagesartsandcrafts.org
Open Studio in the Art Room: Monday and Friday mornings, 10 a.m. - 12 noon and every weekday afternoon, 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

January 14: Free Art Film "Modigliani" with Andy Garcia. Tuesday, 2 p.m., Cribari Conference Room. Host Marion Rose. Free popcorn and door prize.

February 3: General Membership Meeting in Cribari Conference Room. 1:45 p.m. Mandy Book presiding. Guest Artist demonstration.

Art Classes—Register by emailing barb.gottesman@gmail.com

January 7 - 28: "Ink and Alcohol Based Markers for Drawing" with Zoe Caron. Tuesdays, 10 a.m. - 12 noon. \$40. All materials included. Registration deadline: December 31.

January 8 - 29: "Watercolor Plus Multi Media" with Doug Canepa. Wednesdays, 10 a.m. - 12 noon. \$70. Bring your own watercolor materials. Registration deadline: January 2.

January 9 - 30: "Traditional Oil Painting" with Swati Mohari. Thursdays, 10 a.m. - 12 noon. \$90 with everything furnished. \$70 for bring your own materials. Registration deadline: January 2.

February 4: Tuesday free Make 'n Take class in Diamond Art with Michael Sunzeri, 6 - 8 p.m. in the Art Room. All materials furnished but must register at barb.gottesman@gmail.com to reserve your space.

Ceramics Room has open studio days for approved members only. For Open Studio hours and classes, go to villagesceramics.com

Stitchery Group on Mondays: Patio Room from 1 - 3 p.m. Call Roberta at 408-218-8372. Meeting location schedule at villagesartsandcrafts.org. Learn knitting here.

HIKING CLUB SCHEDULE

Bring water, snacks, poles, and lunch, as necessary. Wear layer clothing appropriate to the current weather. In addition to scheduled hikes, the following hikes occur regularly: **Every Wednesday and Saturday - Villages hill hike** with Russ Glines at 8:30 a.m. from Foothill Center. All hiking abilities are welcome. **Every Monday** - Walk around the golf course with Terri Vivoli and/or Cheryl Allmen, meet at the Clubhouse parking lot at **8:20 a.m.**, leave at 8:30.

Special Walk, Friday, December 20 - Holiday Lights Walk. Linda Arbaugh (408-789-7657). Meet at Vineyard Center at 6 p.m. Join the Hiking Club for this year's Holiday Lights Walk to view festive decorations in the Villages. After the walk we will gather at Vineyard Center for coffee, tea and hot chocolate. Participants are asked to bring cookies or an appetizer to share. Please dress warmly and bring a flashlight. Members, prospective members and non-members are welcome.

New Year's Day Hill Hike, Wednesday, January 1, 2025: Celebrate the New Year on Top of our Hill. The Hiking Club will once again celebrate New Year's Day at the top of the Villages' tallest hill at 2,330 feet. The Long Hikers will start from Foothill Center leaving at 9 a.m. and will meet up at the picnic tables at the top of Rawhide. It will take about 90 minutes to make it to the top. The celebration there will aim to start at 11 a.m. The hike to the top of the hill is 4-5 miles total round-trip distance and includes a 1,500 ft. elevation gain depending on which trails are taken. For a more leisurely pace and a slightly shorter distance, hikers can also start at the upper garden parking lot. Time your start to make it to the top by 11 a.m.—perhaps starting between 9 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

The Rambler Hikers will hike on the lower hill trails to the picnic tables at the intersection of Sky and Ohlone, and will meet at the cul-de-sac at the top of Valle Vista at 9:45 a.m.

For all hikes, please bring snacks and suitable libations to share with friends and fellow hikers. In the event of rain, the Foothill Center will be open to hikers to enjoy their snacks and suitable libations. No RSVP required. Members, prospective members and non-members are welcome!

Rambler-Lite Hike, Wednesday, January 1, 2025: Weather allowing, Katy Peretti (408-531-0917) will lead a New Year's Day hike through the Joe Marsh trail in the lower hills and up the short slope to the picnic table beyond the upper gardens. Bring some small snack to share. We will provide a "beverage" to greet 2025. Meet at the dead-end at the top of Valle Vista at 9 a.m. If it rains, Foothill Center will be open to hikers to enjoy sharing good times.

Rambler-Lite Hike, Wednesday, January 8: Katy Peretti (408-531-0917) will lead a hike through Cribari starting at the west side. Meet at the clubhouse at 9 a.m.

RV CLUB SCHEDULE

More information and photos from recent outings are on villagesrvclub.org

January 25, 26, 27, 28 - Fountain of Youth Spa & RV Park, Niland

January 29, 30, 31, February 1 - Indian Waters RV Resort, Indio

March 24, 25, 26, 27 - Black Oak Casino Resort, Tuolumne

April 21, 22, 23, 24 - River Point Landing Marina Resort, Stockton

May 6 - Quarterly Meeting - Sequoia Room (Cribari) 3:30 p.m.

May 9, 10, 11, 12 - Costanoa KOA, Pescadero

June 14 - Open House at the RV Storage Lot

June 22, 23, 24, 25 - Santa Cruz Redwoods RV Resort, Felton

July 21, 22, 23, 24 - Zephyr Cove Resort, Lake Tahoe

August 3 - Annual Barbecue

August 11, 12, 13, 14 - Dumbarton Quarry Campground (full hookups), Fremont

September 26, 27, 28, 29 - Yosemite Lakes, Groveland

October 30, 31, November 1, 2 - Pismo Coast Village, Pismo Beach

November 3, 4, 5, 6 - Wine Country RV Resort, Paso Robles



RELIGION

Villages Religious Services

Weekly:

Sunday	8:15 a.m. Catholic Mass	Cribari
	Contact: Dennis Haggerty	408-569-9553
Sunday	9 a.m. Episcopal Service	Montgomery
	Contact: Leslie Bailey	408-270-9022
Sunday	10 a.m. Community Chapel	Cribari
	Contact: Del Herfurth	408-440-4649

Regularly Scheduled:

Friday	9 a.m. Catholic Mass	Cribari
	First three Fridays of each month	
	Contact: Louise Connors	408-221-6485
Friday	7:15 p.m. Jewish Shabbat	Foothill
	Next date: TBA	
	Contact: Marilyn Goldsmith	732-672-8601

Everyone is welcome! Please call for more information!

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

'The Third Sunday of Advent'

By Msgr. Eugene O'Donnell

The Third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday which tells us to Rejoice (Gaudete in Latin) because of the nearness of the Lord's birth and Second Coming. We light the third candle of the Advent Wreath, which is the violet candle, and the priest wears a Violet vestment.

The prayers and readings for this celebration invite us to rejoice because God has revoked his judgements and has scattered the enemies of the people God is among the people and is their powerful Savior. (Zeph.3:14-18).

The Second reading from Philipians (4:4-7) tells us that because the Lord is near, we are to have no anxiety, and we are to make our requests known to God. Then the peace of God will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

The message of John the Baptist (Lk. 3:10-18) is that salvation is close

for each one of us and that is a reason for rejoicing. Salvation is extended to all people and all professions and what counts is that we work with justice and charity. Whoever has two tunics is to give one away to someone who does not have one.

Regardless of the conditions around us, we are to rejoice, because our joy and our hope come from God and not from anywhere else. The other great source of strength and comfort that we have is that we are part of a community of believers who accompany us and support us daily. We have many reasons to rejoice.

Like St. Paul I say, "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say Rejoice!"

Christmas Eve –

Tuesday, December 24

4 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi – 5111 San Felipe Rd.
5 p.m. at Cribari Auditorium, The Villages

At St. Francis:

6 p.m. – Vietnamese
8 p.m. – Spanish
11:45 p.m. Christmas Caroling

Christmas Day –

Wednesday, December 25

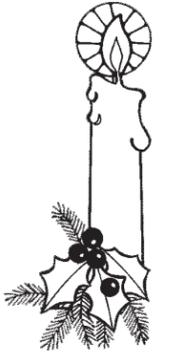
Midnight - 12 a.m.

8 a.m.

10 a.m.

12 p.m.

4 p.m. - Vietnamese



COMMUNITY CHAPEL

'What a Precious Gift'

By Pastor Bill Hayden

I first heard the expression, "What a precious gift" as a child, expressed by friends of my mother. She had received a costly gift from a family member. They knew the gift was beyond my Mother's means and how much it meant to her. Sometimes, ladies look at pictures of a recent birth of a child and say, "How precious!" especially when the mother had a challenging birthing experience.

The Bible reveals the extent to which God cares about us and is willing to restore our relationship with Him by sacrificing His precious, one and only Son. God controlled every event in human history and gathered the forces of nature to comply with His will, His son's birth, suffering, death, burial, and resurrection to give us eternal life. The demonstration of love for us should prove His care for us with everything we may face in this broken world.

If God went to all those lengths to control the events of the world to sacrifice His one and only Son for your eternal security, why would He abandon you now? We all come into this world with the number of days we shall live before transitioning from this life to the next.

Unfortunately, some of us lose our mates with whom we start our faith journey, with no knowledge of the brevity of life. This may be your first, second, third year or more, for you to live without them during this Christmas season.

Don't let any evil enemy whisper any lies in your ear, that life is miserable and you are alone or God doesn't hear or care. Don't become fearful that you will not get through the loneliness. Never forget that God unleashed His powerful, precious love gift because you matter to him, and He will do whatever it takes to protect and keep you safe.

I pray that the Lord blesses you during this Christmas season with unexpected new friends in your life until the time you join your loved ones in His presence. This is a promise from the Lord: Deuteronomy 31:8 - "The Lord himself goes before you and will never leave you; He will never forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

What a gift you are to us!

Please celebrate with us at the Christmas Cantata and experience the Good Life at the Villages Community Chapel in Cribari Auditorium this Sunday at 10 a.m. to be encouraged over the Word of Life and enjoy coffee and cookies with friends. The chapel is a place for needs to be met, faith to be affirmed, and new friends to embrace. You can view our worship services on YouTube at www.villagescommunitychapel.vgcc.club

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES



Search the Scriptures is meeting at **10 a.m., January 13 at Vineyard**. We are meeting on the second and fourth Monday of each month. Any questions, contact Everett Jacobson at 408-629-7210 or Ron Speer at 408-223-2025

EPISCOPAL

'Grace Incarnate'

By The Rev. Joel P. Miller

Have you noticed that there is a mournful and even disturbing side to Christmas? In the midst of angels singing in heaven, shepherds bowing before the baby Jesus and wisemen from the East visiting the newborn King with lavish gifts—Jesus is born in poverty; his parents could barely afford to pay their taxes, and Simeon harshly predicts that for Mary the birth of Jesus will be a sword that pierces her heart. All this, I think, is to let us know that Jesus came into a real world—a world where there is loss, disappointment and even mortality. He didn't come to us on a golden escalator, dine in 5-star restaurants and give us exemptions from our taxes. Jesus lived a real life among us. He enjoyed being with the "sinners and the publicans." In fact, Jesus seemed to be his happiest when he was with raw humanity.

Not to trivialize the Christmas story, I believe that is because of what I like to call the "Salamander" principle. Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and the wisemen knew the genius of the salamander. When a salamander suffers the loss of a limb, they grow a new one, albeit a leg or tail, with skin, bone and muscle. And so do we. Did you know that every cell in our body is replaced every 7-10 years? There is not a single cell in our body today that we had when we were born. We not only replaced limbs with new bone and muscle, we've replaced every cell in our body perhaps a dozen times.

The joy of Christmas is that grace is incarnated in our losses and in our grief. God comes to us through our losses and manifests himself in the empty and missing parts of our lives. Join us on December 22 as we celebrate the 4th Sunday in Advent at 9 a.m. at Montgomery Center.

As a reminder, we will **not** be meeting on Sunday, December 29 but will see you again on January 5.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas. See you in the new year!

SPORTS NEWS

WOMEN'S 9-HOLE



Bunker project continues to take shape.

By Vicki Krattli

The bunker project is really starting to take shape as the bunker surrounds are being sodded. They look beautiful and Scott has advised us that when the holes reopen, the grass area around the bunkers will be ground under repair until the grass takes root. It will be free relief where you will find the closest point not in the ground under repair area and drop within 1 club length no nearer the hole.

Tuesday was a chilly but beautiful day on the course and there were some great scores in both flights. Congratulations to all our winners.



Pajama contest winners Sheryl Driskell, Judy Steinberg, Gloria Lowry and Pam Short.

Short and Nancy Carson.

Our final tournament of 2024 was our Holiday Tournament and Luncheon on December 17. Above is a photo of our pajama contest winners. Watch for more holiday photos in the next article.

Happy Holidays to all with wishes for a happy, healthy season.

BOCCE NEWS



Bocce newbies hone important skills at Skilz course on December 10

By Betty Hall

On Tuesday, December 10, the Bocce Gurus conducted an advanced beginning Skilz course for 30 participants. Organized and directed by Tom Hunt, the tournament director, this program was intended to assist the newer bocce player in honing some valuable skills. Tom was assisted by six volunteers with some serious skills in these areas: Fran Schumaker, Kerry Besmehn, Todd Horvatic, Roger King, Jeff Rose and Jay Deimling.

This two-hour program focused on bocce game skills such as distance control, banking techniques, and strategies for better play.

If you missed this class and really would like to work on these skills, don't despair. There's another class scheduled for January 28 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Class size is limited to 30 participants and fills fast. So don't delay! To register, go to the bocce website at villagesbocce.vgcc.club.

SHONIS

By Betty Hall

December 10 was our last official golfing date of 2024. Wow! 20 Shonis came out today. It was a little chilly to start but with the sun out, pretty soon everyone was shedding the extra layers. Scarfs, vest and coats, gone.

Lots of golfing events today: we finally had our Turkey Trot closest to the pin, we finished up the December birthdays and Nahareen Rahim finished her fifth game and completed her qualifying so now an official Shoni. Congrats!

No birdies today so that pot will roll over to our January 7th return. Who's going to get the first birdie of 2025?

Putting for Pesos had 2 winners today: Meg Rogers and Manoli Kelly. Congratulations.

Those putting dollars will go in your sweeps envelopes for June payouts.

The December birthday golfers were Marty Blinde and Teddy Morse. Sadly, Deborah Strauss was unable to golf today. So Marty and Teddy each got to drop their worst hole today and so swept the 1st flight sweeps. Happy birthday, you two.

Turkey Trot closest to the pin on 5, delayed from November was won by Peggy White with a drive that landed 2 feet, 10 inches from the hole. What a nice drive! A few of us got on the green but had no chance once Peggy hit that red ball. She

was rewarded with the turkey pin seen here.

The festive table setting at the Shonis holiday luncheon.

Our "official" distance marker was Guy Juarez, Delma's husband. We always appreciate his help and reward him with some chocolate turkeys.

Bonus: Here is a preview of the next article with two photos from our holiday luncheon.



The Shonis' major winners this year: Eclectic—Schinae Ogihara, Club Champion—Manoli Kelly and Most Improved—Sabrina Malcolmson

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MEN'S GOLF CLUB



Mike Tuft named 2025 Men's Golf Club Chairman

By Kurt Pagnini, kmpagnini@gmail.com

We're thrilled to introduce Mike Tuft as the General Chairman of the Men's 18 Hole Golf for 2025!

Mike is a true golf enthusiast and has been a dedicated member of the Men's Club for the past four years. He's served as the Home and Away Chairman, the Chairman for the Villages Saturday Match Play, and even helped with signups and billing for the Evergreen Invitational.

We are thrilled to have Mike at the helm and eagerly anticipate the positive impact he will bring to the club in the coming year!



18-HOLE WOMEN

By Vivian Brown

Twenty-eight ladies braved the unpredictable weather and played 15 holes on the last Play Day of 2024. Check the list of winners on the Scoreboard page of The Villager.

Only one member, Cindy Fuller got a Birdie on #18.

Chip-ins: Laura Swenson #15, Vicki Krattli #10, Judy Owen #16 and Janet Gonzales #14. Congratulations to all the final winners of 2024.

Check your 2025 Handbook for upcoming events. Captain's Trophy is on January 2.

Also, our website contains up to date information at villageswomensgolf.vgcc.club.

Happy Holidays to all and a healthy, happy and good golfing in 2025.

TENNIS TALK

Tennis Club looks back at history of Rossmoor exchange

By Phyllis and John Mueller



2001 Rossmoor Cooking Committee: Carol Fundingsland, Unknown member, Marlyn Unger, Cookie Hales, Lois Rountree and Adele Ratcliff.



A tennis themed cake at the 2001 Rossmoor luncheon.

As 2024 comes to an end, it is time to explore a little more lore and history of our Club. Our Club was formed in 1972 and started with two courts. The joke often told was they had to give lessons to two others so they could play doubles on one court! The Club has come a long way to now having six courts, a beautiful viewing stand but has yet to have water other than the hose!

We are finishing up 30 years in The Villages and have been fortunate to be active in the Tennis Club for 20 of those years! Golf entered our life for another 20 years and who knows, bocce may be next!

We had the opportunity to spend a few hours at the recent Rossmoor exchange and were thrilled to see how the format remains the same and points still counted on winning sets. In our day, October was always at Rossmoor and springtime at the Villages. The committee who ran this event would start months before to coordinate all the activities. We had a wonderful guy named Angel who we always put in charge of parking for the Rossmoor guests. He loved to rent costumes and always came early dressed as a security guard—hat and all. I think Rossmoor thought we hired him!

Lunch for Rossmoor players was usually at the Vineyard. A huge separate committee was in charge of this. On the playing day, phone calls were made back and forth to make sure our matches were concluded but there was always the long one that had to come late. We jumped in our cars and trekked up to Vineyard for a great feast. We were happy to see this year a taco stand right at the viewing stand. What a great idea!

History lesson over and have a wonderful holiday season and let's keep that little yellow ball over the net in 2025!



Phyllis Mueller in 2001 at Rossmoor.

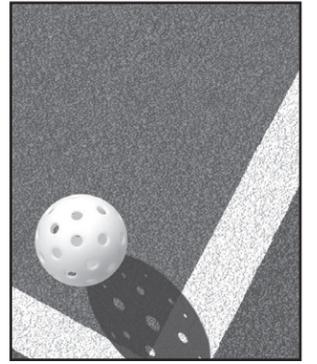
PICKLEBALL

'Pickleball Reflections'

By David Wong

November is over, and I have the opportunity to wax semi-nostalgia over the past 11 months.

I am thankful for the friends and loved ones who play with me weekly. Thank you all for forgiving me for my poor eyesight and calling your balls out. To my dearest friends... when I lift the ball and get you smashed, it's not intentional. I thank you all for your patience as you watch me play the game without warming up, and then hobble off mid-way because I tweaked something.



I am thankful for all the Villages staff who work to support our day-to-day pickleball activities. They respond to requests for different services, and help us coordinate our varied social, tournament and parties. A heartfelt thank you to the Villages managerial team for their presence and attention.

I am thankful to the pickleball club members who work quietly behind the scenes to help ensure that our playing environment can be safe, enjoyable, and organized.

And to those who teach us at the beginning, lead us as we move up in our levels, and then sprinkle us with occasional opportunities to compete, socialize and just celebrate our love of the game, we Thank you.

And lastly, I am thankful for all of us. We get to have access to a game that binds us in joy and provides us with another path to health. We get to see each other improving in our skills, playing for fun and enjoying the moment when we pull off an intentional shot.

Men's 18 Hole Golf Club Frostbite Open

- When:** Saturday, January 11, 2025
- What:** Scramble. Four-Man Teams, Flighted. MGC Members *only*. No guest or spouses. Complete rules provided by the Pro Shop.
- Signup:** December 28 through January 9. Sign up with the Pro Shop either as a team, or individually, and the Pro Shop will pair you with other players to form a team.
- Handicaps:** 100 percent of January 9 Handicap
- Flights:** Flighted, depending on the number of players
- Tees:** #4/3 Combo, or #3 based on Flight
- Tee Times:** 8:30 a.m. Shotgun
- Scorecard:** Turn in signed and attested scorecards to the Pro Shop. The scores are non-postable.
- Cost:** \$50 – This includes green fees and sweeps. Coffee and Donuts from 7:15 to 8:30 a.m.



FROM THE PRO



By Scott Steele, PGA Head Golf Professional
Bunker Renovation Project

The construction team will be working each week (weather permitting) Monday-Saturday. Currently Holes #4, #5 & #8 are closed.

On Holes #1, #2 & #3, the bunkers and the surrounding new sod are roped off as Ground Under Repair. If your ball comes to rest in any of these areas, please do not play from within the marked GUR, but instead take relief at your nearest point, no nearer the hole with no penalty. We appreciate your cooperation as we need to allow the new sod to root in before we can play on it. Let us know if you have any questions.

More detailed information regarding golfing logistics, posting scores, tournament play, and guest play is available in the Pro Shop.

Posting Golf Scores

Although we will not be playing a complete 18-hole round of golf, posting scores will still be required during the duration of the Bunker Project per the USGA/NCGA protocols for maintaining a valid handicap...Golfers will need to post their scores on the USGA/GHIN App/Website or via the Villages Posting Computer in the Posting Room as such:

1. Hole by Hole Posting will be required – you cannot use the Total Score Option for posting scores for the duration of the project.
2. Post your score for each of the holes played that day and leave the holes not played *blank*.
3. The USGA Handicap algorithm will automatically fill in the holes not played to derive an “18-Hole” score for your record.
4. The Pro Shop Staff will be more than happy to assist you with posting scores during the project. Stop by the Pro Shop if you need any assistance at all.

Pro Shop Holiday Sale

Through **December 24**, all merchandise in the Pro Shop will be on sale right here at the Villages Pro Shop! Plenty of Villages logo merchandise for the non-golfers as well including crew neck sweatshirts, shirts and outerwear, and headwear in many styles.

All Holiday Sale Shoppers who spend over \$40 will qualify for the **Grand Prize** with the winner being chosen on the final day of the sale:

Three free rounds of golf plus \$50 on your range card!

10 Reasons to do your Holiday Shopping at The Villages Pro Shop:

1. Convenient – Shop while at your home within the Villages gates
2. No long lines – no long waits
3. Fabulous selection of all things golf
4. Exceptional Customer Service
5. Close Parking
6. Sale Lasts two weeks for your convenience
7. 10%-70% Off Sale Items
8. No Shipping Fees
9. Leave with what you want – no waiting for boxes to be delivered to your front door
10. No supply chain disappointments – it’s right here for you

Winter Rules—From now until further notice we will play Winter Rules defined as 6-inch relief, Pick-Clean-Place, no nearer the hole everywhere including the rough.

Tree Trimming—There is some necessary tree trimming being conducted near the Clubhouse and on the golf course. Please be aware and safe and not enter any safety zones or roped off areas.

December Golf Schedule

Thursday, December 19 – Open Play All Day

Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve – Open Play tee Times 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m. – All Golf Facilities Closed at 1 p.m.

Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day - Golf Courses, Driving Range, Pro Shop closed all day

Thursday, December 26 – Open Play All Day

Please Check in for Golf—Please remember to check in to the Pro Shop when you play golf. It is often difficult for the Pro Shop staff to see all the players who are teeing off on the first hole of the day. This is especially true now that we are starting play from Hole #10 during the Bunker Renovation Project. Checking in can be as simple as poking your head into the Pro Shop and saying hello. Checking in helps us immensely to know who is here in each group. And checking in especially helps mitigate billing errors. So please let us know you are here and ready to go play some golf, we always enjoy seeing you!

Fall Maintenance Schedule

Fall Overseeding will continue through the end of January.

Tips from the Pro—10 Minutes a Day

I’m sure most of you have heard of Dave Pelz the short game guru who worked with some

(Continued on next column)

From The Pro...

of golf’s best short game minds to include Phil Mickelson, Seve Ballesteros and Tom Watson. One of the best tips that Mr. Pelz has instituted is the “10-minutes a day” philosophy to putting. Putting is the most feel based aspect of golf. The ability to choose the correct line and more importantly hit the ball with the correct speed is a feel based skill and therefore must be practiced. The premise is...practice your putting for 10-minutes per day, every day. Work on 20-40 foot lag putts for 5 minutes, work on 10-15 foot putts for 2-3 minutes, and spend the last 3-4 minutes working on holing 3-5 foot putts. The goal is not to make everything, but to attain a consistent pace and feel to your putting stroke. Try it for a month and see if your putting improves...you will be very surprised how much you can gain from a simple 10-minutes per day of focused putting practice.

To sign up for a lesson with me, email ssteele@the-villages.com

SCOREBOARD

SHONIS

Tuesday, December 10
All Nets

Flight One:

- | | |
|-------------------|----|
| 1. Teddy Morse | 20 |
| 2. Marty Blind | 24 |
| 3. Joyce Baptiste | 26 |

Flight Two:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Sabrina Malcolmson | 17 |
| Our lowest gross 34 today. Nice game! | |
| 2. Donna Erickson | 21 |
| 3. Schinae Ogihara | 25 |

Flight Three:

- | | |
|-------------------|----|
| 1. Jan Trusso | 21 |
| 2. Dee Garfinkle | 25 |
| 3. Fran Schumaker | 26 |

BRIDGE

Monday, December 9:

1. Louann Partridge – Guest
2. Jan Kiernan
- Sumi Minami
- 3/4. Mary LeGrand
- Jonna Robinson;
Bosh Singh
- Bonnie Taylor

Wednesday, December 11:

1. Ed Logg – Guest
2. Jane Michaels
- Jonna Robinson
- 3/4. Mary LeGrand
- Art Lind; Alan Waltho
- Maureen Waltho

Friday, December 13:

1. Guests
2. Joe Henry
- Jonna Robinson
3. Jane Michaels
- George Welch

MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES

Wednesday, December 11

- | | |
|----------------|-----|
| Sandy Gardiner | 151 |
| Remy Pessah | 197 |
| Linda McMullen | 198 |

Friday, December 13

- | | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Sandy Gardiner | 169 |
| Sylvia Rozewicz | 229 |
| Shirley Bellavance | 249 |

18-HOLE WOMEN

Thursday, December 12

Flight One

- | | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Low Gross: | |
| Camille Giuliobarbari | 72 |
| Low Net: | |
| Millie-Anne Schwerin | 59 |
| 2nd Low Net: | |
| Janis LeCompte | 59 |

Flight Two

- | | |
|------------------------|----|
| Low Gross: | |
| Michelle Chung | 80 |
| Low Net: Betty Sharps | |
| 2nd Low Net: Jini Kang | |
| 60 | |

Flight Three

- | | |
|---------------------|----|
| Low Gross: | |
| Carol Zaccheo | 86 |
| Low Net: Patti Bell | |
| 63 | |

2 Tees Flight

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Low Gross: Mary Wagle | |
| 84 | |
| Low Net: Kathy Apgar | |
| 64 | |

FEATURES

The Roots of Evergreen series

The Roots of Evergreen installments will be published in *The Villager* the third week of every month and collected in *The Villager Online* under a new History heading.

This month's installment is about pioneer vintner Albert Haentze.

History of the Evergreen area

Pioneer vintner Albert Haentze

In 1915, William Wehner sold his winery and vineyards to Albert Haentze. The two men had a lot in common. Haentze (1896-1947) was also a German immigrant and a vintner living in Chicago. His primary occupation before coming west was as a mortgage broker.

William Wehner sold his vineyards at a very opportune time—a few years before Congress ratified the 18th Amendment with the prohibition of the production, importation, transportation and sale of alcoholic beverages. Prohibition caused many of the local wineries to close down, and Wehner died about a year after it took effect.

The Volstead Act was set down by Congress establishing the rules for enforcing the federal ban of alcoholic beverages. Not all alcohol was banned—religious use of wine was permitted. And some local wineries were still producing sacramental wines for churches and temples, including Haentze's operation. Once Prohibition began, the Santa Clara Valley Grape Growers promoted other legal options, such as considering canning grapes and crushing grapes for juices and syrup.

Overall, Prohibition had a negative effect on the US economy by eliminating the fifth largest industry in the nation at that time. The support for Prohibition diminished and it was eventually repealed in 1933 by the 21st Amendment.

Much like Wehner, Albert Haentze was an experienced businessman, familiar with producing wine, and having run large business operations, he was no stranger to the world of finance. Haentze renamed the winery Rancho Villa Vista and he took what Wehner established and ran it in much the same way—perhaps an unintentional tribute to his predecessor.

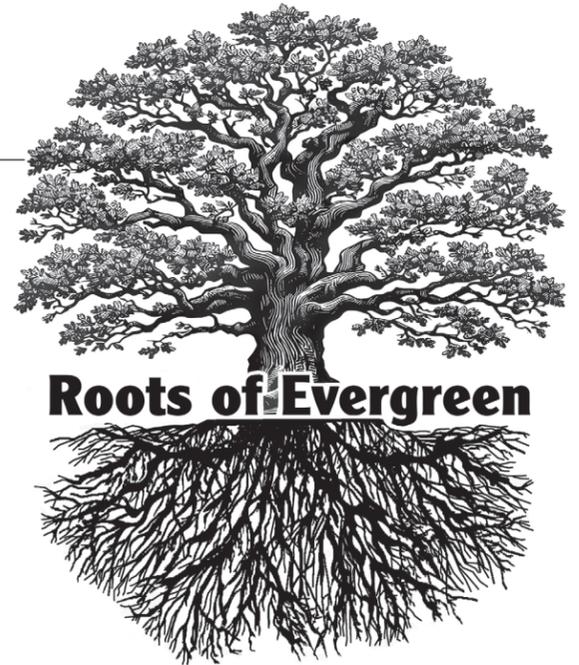
Haentze became well-connected in the field of viticulture, later serving as the president of the Santa Clara County Grape Growers and California Wine Advisory Board, among his several other professional memberships. He was naturally suited for a bright future as one of the top vintners in the region.

When Prohibition was repealed in 1933, the surviving California wineries were able to rebuild and the burgeoning California wine industry surged forward. This new beginning foreshadowed the success of big wine producers and the control of wine labels by big corporations—essentially the modern California wine industry as it exists today was set back on its course in the wake of Prohibition.

Eventually Haentze sold his vineyard to the University of California at Berkeley for a viticulture lab, but the university later decided to locate the lab in Santa Cruz County.

Another well-established winemaking family, the Cribaris, purchased the Evergreen winery operation from the University of California. The Cribaris already had quite a broad winemaking history when they picked up the Villa Vista property.

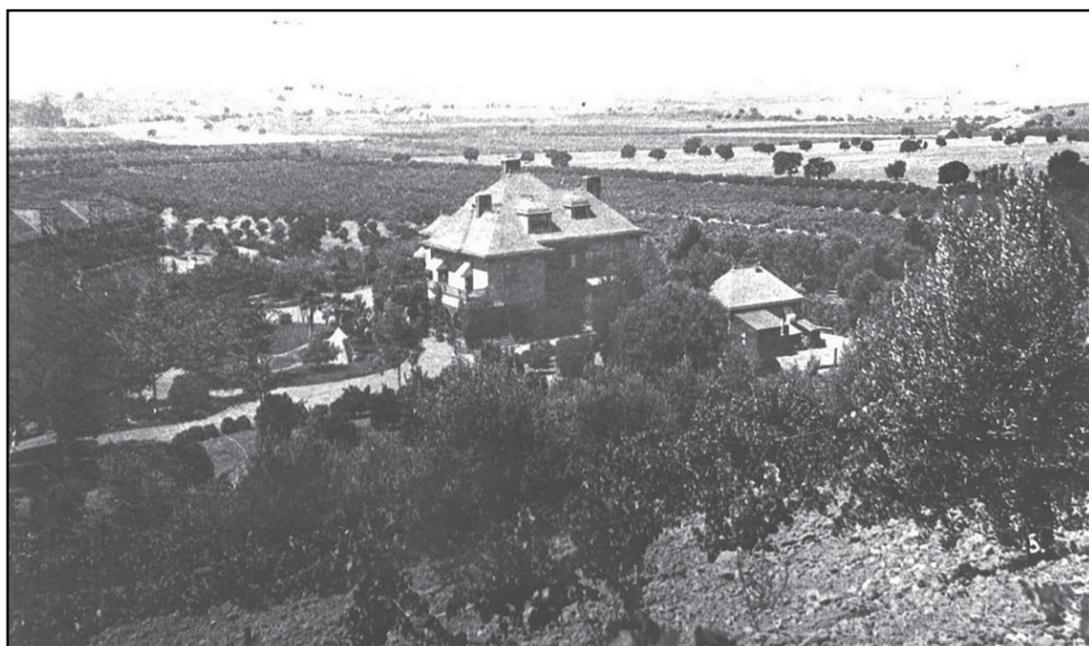
The Roots of Evergreen series will be published the third week of each month and posted in the Online Villager. Series compiled and written by S.R. Hinrichs. The next article will feature the Cribari Family, the most famous name in Villages' history.



Roots of Evergreen



Label from the Rancho Villa Vista winery of Albert Haentze.



Early 20th century view of the mansion surrounded by the developed vineyards and orchards.

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TECH CORNER

Clubs and Events page gets new look on The Villager Online

We know Villagers are an active bunch who are eager to find out about the next Village Voices concert, Arts and Crafts class, or Cribari party. That's why The Villager Online's **Clubs and Events** page—now with its own dedicated tab—has been reorganized to help you find the information you want quickly.

The page is now organized into five sections:

Club Calendars—Take a quick look at upcoming schedules for clubs such as Arts and Crafts, VMA and the Hiking Club.

SRS—Learn valuable legal and general tips from the folks at Senior Resource Services.

Upcoming Events—Find articles containing descriptions, dates and times, RSVP instructions and other pertinent information submitted by clubs sponsoring the events.

Event Recaps—Read about recent events such as the fun RV Club outing or the record turnout at the "Inside the Gates" Home Tour.

Announcements and Community Outreach—Learn about donation or volunteer opportunities or the ongoing Library book sale.

Check out the new Clubs and Events page on The Villager Online today at news.thevillagesgc.com/clubs-events

Shopping scams skyrocket during the holiday season

Online shoppers must be especially careful during the holidays because criminal schemers are flooding the internet with more and more bogus information.

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) conducted a survey that revealed more than 80% of adults have faced some form of fraud online. Now with almost a quarter of Americans shopping online, the chances of getting scammed are even more likely.

Here are three of the biggies:

Package Delivery Scams—when you shop online you'll receive scads of fake notifications claiming to be from the big delivery companies UPS, FedEx and the U.S. Postal Service telling you to click on links or call phone numbers.

It seems when you order something from a legitimate source you'll get numerous texts telling you there is a problem with your delivery because of address issues, insufficient postage, the recipient wasn't home, or numerous other "problems" preventing the package delivery. Whatever you do, please don't click on links or call the phone numbers on these fake messages.

The scammers generating these fake messages are getting better at making their messages look legitimate.

To be sure you are contacting the real companies, type the web addresses of the legitimate company directly into your browser, use your phone app if that is an option, or call the shipping company directly using a verified phone number. (Go to the company web site and get the real contact information.) Even if you Google the company be careful that you don't get fooled by a website listing that was set up by criminals.

Online Shopping Scams—be careful when purchasing from online ads

More and more fake websites offer popular gift items promising deep discounts. If you fall for the fake website and purchase these unbelievable deals, you might just receive an inferior product that was not advertised or receive nothing at all.

To avoid getting stung, do your online shopping only with trusted retailers and be suspicious of too-good-to-be-true online offers advertising deep discounts.

Gift Cards—giving compromised gift cards that have no value on them is not uncommon.

Criminals go to unattended gift card displays and manipulate cards, or electronically scan for activated gift cards online and steal the value off the cards even before the cards are given.

To avoid getting or giving drained gift cards, purchase gift cards directly from the retailer online, if possible. Also don't stockpile your gift cards—use them immediately to spend the balances before the criminals can.

The above tips were provided on the AARP Fraud Watch Network, a service provided by the American Association of Retired Persons. AARP is an organization that sells memberships to seniors over the age of 50.

In its mission to fight fraud perpetrated on seniors, the organization provides Americans with reliable, up-to-date information about scams and fraud, and tips to avoid them. The AARP Fraud Watch Network, established in 2013, offers a number of free resources:

A Fraud Resource Center with more than 60 tip sheets providing do's and don'ts on common scams and fraud.

Watchdog Alerts delivered by email or text message, on the latest scams and tips on how to spot them.

A nationwide Scam-Tracking Map, where you can find the latest alerts from your state attorneys general and other officials, read what people are reporting in your state and report scams or suspicious emails and phone calls in your area.

A toll-free Fraud Watch Network Helpline, 1-877-908-3360, whose trained specialists offer peer counseling, support and referral services to fraud victims and their family members.

For more information, visit aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork.

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Notice of Proposed Changes to Association Rule 2.25 Voting and Election Rules

Proposed revision to The Villages Association Rule 2.25 Voting and Election Rules were approved for publication and member comment period prior to formal approval consideration at a Special Open Meeting on Friday, January 10, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Zoom Meeting Information
Meeting ID: 889 5391 4936
Passcode: 554175

To view Proposed Changes to Association Rule 2.25 go to this link: <https://member.thevillagesgcc.com/static/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Updated-Election-Rules.pdf>.

You may also review the proposed changes on hard copies of the proposed rule that can be picked up in the Building A lobby.

These proposed new Election Rules are to comply with changes in California law affecting the way membership votes in homeowner associations are to be conducted, and add electronic voting provisions, which are intended to reduce election costs and encourage more owner participation. Under these rules, members can choose whether to use an electronic ballot or to use paper ballots. Electronic voting cannot be implemented unless the Association Election Rules are amended to incorporate these provisions.

The Board has consulted with Association legal counsel to develop Election Rules that comply with the requirements of the law, and which will work in a practical way for the Association. These Election Rules will apply to elections of directors as well as any other official votes by the membership.

Membership votes increase the Association's annual/regular assessment over twenty percent (20%) from the prior fiscal year, or a vote to impose a special assessment over five percent (5%) of the gross budget expense for that fiscal year require those votes to be conducted only by written secret ballot (Civil Code 5105).

The electronic voting option in the Association proposed election rule provides that all members will be sent electronic secret ballots unless the member affirmatively opts out and requests a written ballot. Members have until 90 days before the membership vote to "opt out," and the Association will send a member notice (by individual delivery per Civil Code section 4040) notifying members of their voting method, (default will be electronic voting) email to be used for electronic voting and explanation of the procedures for opting out of electronic voting and using a written secret ballot. It is important to note that although the proposed election rules include the option for electronic voting, Member votes may continue to be conducted by written secret ballot until such time as the Association Board approves the implementation of electronic voting for a membership vote.

Response to the proposed changes may be made by one or more of the following methods: 1) Participation in the discussion of the proposed changes at the Association Board of Directors Special Meeting on January 10, 2025, or 2) via written comments delivered to the Board through Board Services at BoardServices@the-villages.com, seven days prior to the meeting, or 3) via written comments delivered to Board Services located in Business Administration Bldg. A seven days prior to the meeting, or 4) via written comments mailed to:

The Villages Association – Proposed Election Rules
Attention: Board Services
5000 Cribari Lane
San Jose, CA 95135

All comments will be considered in advance of the Board's vote to adopt these Election Rules. If you have any questions, please contact Board Services at 408-223-4680.

Enhance The Villages with EVF's Planned Giving Program

'Tis the season of giving, and amidst the festivities, the Evergreen Villages Foundation (EVF) invites you to seize various opportunities to support the causes close to your heart. As you explore avenues to enhance Villages amenities, consider the impactful Sustaining Membership Program.

But, here's a thought that goes beyond the ordinary—a chance to make a lasting contribution to the community through the Planned Giving program. Picture this: an opportunity not just to embrace the holiday spirit but to etch your legacy into the very fabric of the Villages. Express your gratitude for the community we all cherish by incorporating the EVF into your estate plans. The foundation welcomes bequests, allocations from retirement plans and IRAs via Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs), stocks, and life insurance.

Jerry Neece shared his perspective: "As a single person with no dependents, leaving the remainder of my estate to EVF makes perfect sense and allows me to 'pay forward' to ensure The Villages remains the active and vibrant community I enjoy."

For more details on how to join the Planned Giving program, visit our website at evfsj.org. While there, explore becoming a Sustaining Member with contributions as modest as \$5 per month. For those inclined towards one-time gestures, single donations to EVF via the website are always welcomed.

This season, let your generosity echo through time, leaving a mark that transcends the holidays and enhances the legacy of the Villages.



The Villages community progresses toward Firewise designation

A dedicated group of Villager volunteers has been hard at work since early November, conducting in-person property assessments gathering data that will be considered for enhancing wildfire resilience within The Villages. To date, approximately 13% of homes have been assessed. It is anticipated that by March 2025, all assessments for condominiums and those requested by single family homeowners will be completed. Once finalized, any homeowner will be able to request a data report for their property.

The Villages is actively pursuing recognition as a Firewise community, a national designation that provides a structured approach to improving wildfire resilience. Recently, a core team of Villager community leaders, management, and representatives from the Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council collaborated with the San Jose Fire Department to complete a perimeter risk hazard assessment—an essential requirement for Firewise designation.

The Firewise program promotes collaboration between residents, local fire departments, and other key stakeholders to strengthen home and community defenses against wildfires. Supported by CAL FIRE's Community Wildfire Preparedness & Mitigation Division, this initiative aligns with California's broader wildfire preparedness strategy, providing guidance and resources for communities to reduce risk and increase safety.



On December 4, the Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council, City of San Jose Fire Department, representatives from the Boards of Directors and management team did a risk hazard assessment of wildland urban interface properties at The Villages. This was done to complete one of the many requirements necessary for The Villages to earn designation as a Firewise community.

WOW sessions now scheduled online only

The WOW Member Portal help sessions, previously held in the Sequoia Room at Cribari Center, are now scheduled online by going to the link: tvgcc.co/book/aleung

You may also email memberportal@the-villages.com or call Anita at 650-582-2223 to get on the schedule and receive assistance with the Member Portal.

Slice of Humor



A duck, a skunk and a deer went to the Clubhouse for dinner. When it came time to pay, the skunk didn't have a scent, the deer didn't have a buck, so they put the meal on the duck's bill.

LANDSCAPE & MAINTENANCE

MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Landscape Maintenance

• **General Maintenance Schedule** (General weeding control, pruning, and cleaning)
High-level maps and the up-to-date outline of the vendor's various activities for December can be found on The Villager Online news.thevillagesgcc.com. The schedule reflects days for mowing, combined mowing/cleaning, cleaning, and detailing. Detailing includes pruning, pulling weeds, and detailing plant material.

• Holiday Tree Disposal

BellaVista will pick up holiday trees on **Friday December 27, Monday, December 30, Thursday, January 2, and Friday, January 3.**

- Place your tree at the curb in front of your home by 10 a.m. on the dates listed above.

- Remove all decorations, lights and stands.
- The BellaVista Team will pick up your tree by the end of the day.
- The SavATree Team will chip and dispose of the trees for you.
- Need assistance? Please submit a work order by emailing workorder@thevillages.com or call 408-223-4670.

• Pest Control

Treatment for voles, moles, gophers, and squirrels—Village Montgomery, Village Del Lago, and Village Sonata **will occur on 12/23.**

(Rozol Vole Bait, Talpirid, Gopher Coetter Type 2 Bait, Rodent Bait Diphacinone .005% and .01%).

For Pesticide information used by the pest control vendor or the landscape vendor, please contact Customer Service at 408-223-4670 or visit the Corporation Yard at 3401 The Villages Fairway Drive. San Jose, CA 95135 or visit the Resident Portal and click on the pesticides button for pest control or landscape.

• Watering Schedule

BellaVista and management have adjusted/reduced the watering schedule based on the latest weather conditions.

• **Beta Sites/Non-functional turf conversions**—The Villages entry along Sonata/Del Lago in progress. The Montgomery Beta Site conversion is in progress.

Association Maintenance

If your village is not listed below, there is not a large-scale project occurring within your community. However, Public Works continues to address ongoing standard maintenance and landscape requests within each village.

• **Village Cribari**—village gutter cleaning and roof preventative maintenance (PV) is in process.

• **Village Verano**—village gutter cleaning and roof preventative maintenance (PV) is in process.

• **Village Montgomery**—management and a third-party vendor are finalizing the schedule for gutter cleaning throughout this village.

• **Village Glen Arden**—roof replacement is currently in progress for the building at 7859 Prestwick Circle.

• **Village Highland**—the Public Works Department is currently replacing walkway and house lights throughout this community. Our team is currently awaiting the delivery of materials in order to complete this project.

• **Village Valle Vista**—Fire Hardening Project Delayed

Update: Notices have been posted to all residents about the project which will restart next week. Updated schedule as follows:

9071-9073—Pending the remaining shipment of vents, once received, notices will be posted.

A friendly reminder from your friends at BellaVista Landscape Services, Inc.

In an effort to keep the holiday spirit alive and avoid unnecessary damage to personal property, the BellaVista team will not prune any shrub, plant or tree or mow turf that has holiday decorations or lights in or near it.

We wish you a happy, healthy holiday season!



Maintenance Emergencies and/or Advice

The Maintenance Services Department's general work hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you experience a maintenance emergency during those hours, please call the office right away at 408-223-4670. Even if you are certain the emergency is your responsibility, Maintenance Services can provide a list of contractors that are familiar with The Villages and may be helpful for the repair.

If a maintenance emergency occurs outside of the general work hours or during a holiday, please call Public Safety at 408-223-4665. Public Safety will contact the Maintenance Area Supervisor and/or the appropriate contractor. Together, they will address your emergency.



Report Irrigation Issues

Please report broken sprinklers or other irrigation repair issues by calling Maintenance Customer Service at 408-223-4670 or online at: workorder@thevillages.com

For after hours or on holidays, contact Public Safety at 408-223-4665

Victorian Carolers

Saturday December 21, 2024

The Clubhouse Restaurant

4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The Clubhouse Restaurant will be open for regular dinner service 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Come join us at the Clubhouse Restaurant on Saturday December 21st as we welcome the Lyric Theatre Victorian Carolers! The restaurant will be open early that evening at 4 p.m. and will close at our regular time of 8 p.m. We will be offering our regular dinner menu service. Reservations are recommended. The carolers will be performing around the restaurant from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

LYRIC THEATRE



Presented by The Villages

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

To Place a Classified Ad

Mia Ahlstrom: 408-223-4657
mahlstrom@the-villages.com

Ad copy is due Monday at 4 p.m.

The Villages does not endorse or guarantee any advertisement or insert using space in this paper to reach our readers. It is the responsibility of the users of these services to check references and claims made. Residents, please be aware California State law mandates any contractor bidding for a job more than \$500 in parts and labor must be licensed. The Contractors State License Board (1-800-321-2752) may be contacted regarding any questions or concerns about a contractor.

REAL ESTATE

California Law limits the minimum age and maximum number of occupants in a unit. Details available at the Public Safety Administration Office. Licensed Real Estate professionals advertising in The Villager are required to name themselves as agent or broker, or list the name of the brokerage for whom they work as part of their ad. This is in compliance with Real Estate Law Section 10140.6.

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LANDSCAPE

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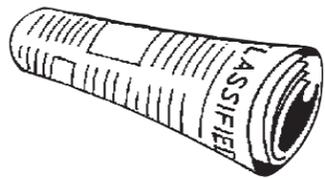
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Please notify Public Safety of passing of spouse or household member

As a friendly reminder, if you experience the passing of a household member or spouse, please add the Public Safety Administration to the list of places to notify of the passing. You may contact us at 408-239-5246 option 2, or you may email: mhidalgo@the-villages.com



OBITUARY

William J. Hackel, III October 16, 1940 — November 3, 2024

William J. Hackel, III ("Bill"), passed away peacefully on November 3, 2024. He was 84 years old.

A native and life-long resident of San Jose, CA, he attended Bellarmine College Preparatory and graduated from San Jose State University before starting a 33-year career as a forecaster for the National Weather Service.

After retiring in 2000, he spent several years driving a school bus for children with developmental difficulties and volunteering as a driver improvement instructor for seniors. He loved driving that bus and was frequently seen washing it in the driveway of his house and taking his grandchildren for rides in it.

Bill enjoyed working in the yard, tinkering at his workbench, walking the dog, discovering and mapping Taco Bell restaurants along the I-5, and visiting with family.

Bill will be remembered as a friendly, humble, considerate, and patient man who always had time for his family and friends. Best of all, he was a man truly happy and content with his wonderful life.

Bill is survived by his wife of 56 years, Linda; his sons David (Marisa), John (Cristin), and Kasey (Stacy); his six grandchildren Mason, Bryce, Zoe, Nathan, Davis and Louvie; his sisters Marianne (Larry) Fuller, Teresa (Gary) Watson, and Roberta Hackel; and many nieces and nephews.

A private memorial service will be held in January 2025.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to a charity of your choosing.



OBITUARY

Marty Hutchinson January 27, 1938 — November 25, 2024

Marty Hutchinson, born in 1938, passed away November 25, 2024. Marty met his first wife Judy in high school. They married in 1959. Together they had eight children and were married 48+ years. He had a passion for learning how things worked and was meticulous with anything he designed and built (including the Menorahs for The Villages). Judy preceded him in death in 2007. In 2014, Marty was lucky to find love a second time and married Marcie. They had 6 lovely years together before she also preceded him, in 2021. Marty and Marcie enjoyed many group and club activities with their circle of friends at The Villages. Marty is survived by his sister, his eight children, nine grandchildren and one great-grandson. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that any charitable donations be made to "Pets in Need" (petsinneed.org).



Obituary notices may be placed in the Classified Advertising section for a fee. For more information, please contact Kory Tran at ktran@the-villages.com or 408-754-1341 or Scott Hinrichs at shinrichs@the-villages.com or 408-223-4655.



RODDA REALTY
TEAM

Feliz
Navidad

Vrolijk kerstfeest

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Maligayang pasko po 圣诞快乐

Meri Kirihimete Hyvää Joulua Mir

PEACE ON EARTH

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024

Noël Sretan Božić ΚΑΛΑ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ

С Рождеством Frohe Weihnachten

Selamat natal Buon Natale メリークリスマス

즐거운 성탄절 Priecīgus Ziemassvētkus Glædelig jul

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HAPPY HANUKKAH Feliz Natal

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