AUGUST 2020 EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER



Community Development Districts

OUR CORE VALUES Hospitality Stewardship Creativity & Innovation Hard Work

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

PURPOSE

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

VISION

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

MISSION

To provide responsible and accountable public service that enhances and sustains our community.

Happy Almost New Year!

Summer is coming to a close and that means our Fiscal Year is also winding down. Like many local governments, our Fiscal Year does not coincide with the calendar year. Our Fiscal Year ends on September 30 and if you are working within the OMB Department that is a clear sign for celebration. By the end of the Fiscal Year, you have created (with the assistance of all the District Departments and Offices) 17 municipal budgets across some 56 separate and distinct funds. Unlike the vast majority of local governments, your District staff team and elected officials have presented to the residents and received feedback on 17 budgets. The end of the Fiscal Year is not only a very busy time for the budget process but it is also a busy time for many individual departments. This is the time of year when contractors, vendors, and consultants are completing year-end projects and submitting final invoices for a variety of services as well as capital work.

The end of the Fiscal Year is the time of year when I have asked all departments to submit their balanced scorecard achievements as they pertain to their operations. This is especially important as the District measures its continued successes with initiatives pertaining to Transparency, Customer Service, and Efficiency Measures. All of our team members are committed to providing The Villages residents with the highest level of service in the most efficient manner. It is each of you that provides the team's strength and allows us to provide these services in accord with our core values of Hospitality, Innovation and Creativity, Stewardship, and Hard Work!

> Ríchard Baíer, P.E. LEED AP Dístríct Manager



IN THE SPOTLIGHT...





Gerard Nesel ~ Property Management ~ Assistant Director

Where were you born & raised and went to school? I was born in Brooklyn, New York and moved to Rhinebeck, New York where I was raised and went to school.

What was special about where you were from? Rhinebeck was a small town, one traffic light, in the beautiful Hudson River Valley in upstate New York. I graduated from High School with less than 100 other students. It seemed we all knew each other. We had a volunteer Fire Department and an annual trout fishing contest for kids up to age 14. We lived on the other side of the high school baseball field and I spent all day outside.

Tell us about your family, people (including pets!) I am married to my wife Joan and have a daughter Meghan and three grandsons; Alex, Cody and Caleb, who all live in New York. Two years ago, all three were playing football for their school district at the same time! They are all my pride and joy.

Hobbies? Favorite activities? I like to golf and fish as well as play electric and standup bass. One of my favorite activities is being with my family.

Who has been the most influential person in your life and why? My wife. She's smart, an unbelievably hard worker, she makes me laugh, she trusts me and she continually reminds me not to take myself too seriously!

What's the best advice you ever received? My father once wrote to me in a birthday card, "There are three things that are essential in life; always have something to do, always have someone and something to love and always have something to hope for".

What is the career & training path that led you to the Districts? I have been a licensed electrician for 37 years. I also served as a supervisor, manager and director of facilities at Bard College in New York from 1994 until about 2 years ago when I began working at Cape Canaveral/Kennedy Space Center as director of facilities management.

Can you tell us about your day-to-day responsibilities? I just finished my fifth week at the Villages Community Development District. My day consists of learning the people, the processes, the roads, the town centers, the Fire Stations, the existing construction sites and the facilities department. It's a lot to learn. What is your favorite aspect of working for the Districts? The Villages is a beautiful place and I get to help keep it that way. I also enjoy the people who report to me as well as the people I report to.

What is the most interesting thing you have ever seen? I've seen Normandy, Yellowstone, the Alps, the Adirondack Mountains, the Eiffel Tower and the assembling of a NASA rocket for lift off from Cape Canaveral (up close and personal).

My favorites...Movie: John Wayne and the Cowboys...Television Show: Blue Bloods

Sports Team: The New York Yankees...Vacation Spot: The Adirondack Mountains

Restaurant: It's been so long I can't remember...Food: NY strip steak, mashed potatoes and grilled asparagus with olive oil

Dessert: Blueberry Cheesecake

Morgan Feckley ~ Human Resources ~ Human Resources Generalist

Where were you born & raised and went to school? I was born and raised in a very small farming village; Oak Harbor, Ohio. I graduated from American Public University with my Master's degree and Bachelor's degree in Human Resources Management.

What was special about where you were from? Oak Harbor is known for Apple Orchards (I was the Oak Harbor Apple Festival Queen in High School).

Tell us about your family, people (including pets!) I moved to Florida in 2011 to escape the icy cold winters in Ohio. My parents/step-parents each moved down to Florida shortly after I left Ohio and they retired and live in the area. I have one brother, one step-brother, one step-sister, 3 nieces and 2 nephews but they all live out of state so I don't get to see any of them too often. My boyfriend, William and I have many fur-kids; at the moment 3 adult cats (Maizey, Toby, Mj) and 2 kittens (Moo and Sir Barley Hops). Also, we already had 17 chickens but recently hatched 23 chicks that are growing fast and now we have 40 chickens. If you're ever looking for farm fresh eggs, let me know!

Hobbies? Favorite activities? Being active is very important to me and I change it frequently from running or weight lifting to high intensity training or dancing. I enjoy going to the beach as often as possible. I DON'T watch a lot of TV or movies. I

love spending time with my pets and friends and family. I attempt to cook and bake but admit I am not the best at either; it's usually 50/50 if the recipe turns out ok.

Who has been the most influential person in your life and why? Many people have been influential but my parents and grandparents. They all were very involved in my life and raised me to be a kind and smart person.

What's the best advice you ever received? Overthinking is the biggest cause of unhappiness.

What is the career & training path that led you to the Districts? I graduated with my Master's degree in Human Resources Management in May 2019. I was furloughed from my job at Walt Disney World in March 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. What led me to VCCDD was I desired to be on a career path with stability that utilizes my education and professional skills.

Can you tell us about your day-to-day responsibilities? I am fairly new to the District but my main responsibility will include employee benefits and I hope to bring more to the other areas of Human Resources.

What is your favorite aspect of working for the Districts? To me, The Villages is very similar to Walt Disney World. The service standards are top-notch! What is the most interesting thing you have ever seen? Europe; I went for a month in 2018 (France, Germany, Italy, and London) Everything I saw was interesting and amazing but my favorites from the trip were the Chateau de Versailles and attending Oktoberfest! Paris is also where I ran my very first half marathon.

My favorites...Movie: A League of Their Own....Television Show: Grey's Anatomy

Sports Team: I cheer for a variety of different sports, teams and players ...Vacation Spot: Las Vegas (would love to travel abroad again someday; Greece is a bucket list spot)...Restaurant: San Jose's Original Mexican...Food: Mexican...Dessert: Brownies



Díd You Know?

The District is here for you!

The District is continuously updating policies and procedures to maintain a healthy work environment during COVID-19. We continue to take guidance and direction from Federal, State and local legislative and health entities during this time. Important items to remember:

COVID-19 Symptoms Include:

- Fever of 100.4+ degrees Fahrenheit
- Chills
- Loss of taste or small
- Muscle or body ache •
- Diarrhea •
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- Dry cough
- Nausea or vomiting
- Congestion or runny nose

If you get sick at work, or know a team member who gets sick at work, with COVID-19 symptoms, please notify your immediate supervisor and Human Resources immediately, 352-674-1905.

Please don't come to work if you're sick or not feeling well.

Please continue to watch for more updates regarding steps the District is taking to keep you safe during this trying time.

There are resources available to you. Our Employee Assistance Program, provided by The Standard, is for all part time and full time employees and their families. Please visit

www.workhealthlife.com/standard3 or contact them 24 hours a day/7 days a week by calling 888-293-6948, TDD: 800-327-1833.

Tickets At Work Discount Program

Tickets at Work is a discount program available to all part time and full time employees with the District. Right now, you can take advantage of some great discounts for back to school! Visit www.ticketsatwork.com for tons of discounts on travel, theme parks, and so much more.

1. Enter & click the link below.

- 2. Fill out the information to become a member (Select sign up with company code)
- 3. For Company Code, use "VCCDD"
- 4. Fill out the rest of the form, then select submit https://ticketsatwork.com/tickets/account.php?sub=enroll

EMPLOYEES ON THE MOVE **Community Watch**

- Jerry Indermuehle was promoted from Patrol Driver to Patrol Supervisor.
- John O'Connell was promoted from Patrol Driver Substitute to Training Coordinator.

Property Management

- Julie Davie was promoted from Administrative Assistant to Administrative Coordinator.
- Hope Schortemeyer was promoted from Administrative Assistant to Staff Assistant.

On your District Anniversary. Thank you for your service!





Scott Grimes. Recreation Facilities Manager, celebrating 20 years of service



Barbara Lemay, Gate Attendant, celebrating 10 years of service







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

Property Management

Full Time Manager-Infrastructure Full Time Assistant Manager-Facilities \$57,378.50 annual \$51,573.41 annual

Recreation

MOVING

Current Job Openings

Part Time Facility Specialist \$11.07 per hour Part Time Facility Specialist-Fitness \$11.07 per hour Part Time Recreation Service Representative \$11.07 per hour

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



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Barry Phillips Ralph Bari Mitchell Leininger **Roberto Bargas** James Morris Linda Sojourn Terry Austin Maureen Zajac Robert Horvath Robert Traina William Gangemi Sr Jerald Goldstein Joel Smith Michael Kroeger II Daniel Bridgewater Robert Andrews Melissa Schaar Alfred Cloutier Henry Henderson Lisa lannello George Bodlak Vickie Colpitts **Darlene Stevens** Monica Lui Stanley Noval Anita Graner Mary Jo Kulinski Earl Mitchell Roger Navarro Sharon Miller Judith Rankin Pamela Gulla Robert Doyle Ryan Founds Ralph Strickland Yajaira Perez Karla Coats Steven Waitzman Pamela Henry Roger Loomis **Daniel Angelone** David Cole Jaime Denton Anne Flanagan Gary Cook David Dutkiewicz Tasha White Juliane Day David Fitzgibbons David Weston Karla Jordan

Recreation Recreation **Executive Golf** Community Watch **Property Management** Finance Administration Community Watch Community Watch Recreation Community Watch Community Watch Community Watch Recreation Recreation Community Watch Purchasing Recreation Community Watch Recreation Recreation Recreation Recreation Recreation Recreation Community Watch Community Watch Community Watch Recreation Recreation Recreation Recreation Community Watch Recreation Recreation Recreation Community Watch Community Watch Recreation Recreation Community Watch Community Watch Property Management **Customer Service** Recreation Recreation Recreation Community Watch Community Watch Recreation Community Watch

Brittany Tuggerson Donna Schultz James Pierce Elizabeth Stone Frank Moravcik Peter Bratkovich Cheryl Bidwell Thomas Carlyon **Donald Fitzpatrick** Jerrold Indermuehle Cynthia Siple Josephine Romero James Mosier Robert Reid Thomas Rafuse James Van Dyke William Butler Nancy Schaffer **Daniel Famularo** Julie Evans William Ulrich Donald Maestri Nancy Larger Vince Rados Katie Evans Colleen Weill Gary Wolfe Sheila Barnes Patricia Carey Gary Mastny Shannon Mattiucci Joseph Bagnato Daniel Krehl Christopher McEntire Willis Jines Robert Mlaka Gary Monterville Nehemiah Wolfe Rodney Graham **Timothy Kinne Richard Spidel** Romayne Skory Susan Pregitzer David Wilkinson Shelli Farnsworth Jorge Molina Julie Phillips Jerry Lapham Dakotah Tucker Janet Oric

Community Watch Administration Recreation Recreation Community Watch Public Safety Public Safety Recreation Community Watch **Community Watch** Finance Recreation Community Watch Community Watch Community Watch Public Safety Public Safety Recreation Recreation Community Watch Community Watch Recreation Recreation Public Safety Customer Service **Customer Service** Recreation Recreation Recreation Recreation **Community Standards** Recreation Community Watch Public Safety Recreation Community Watch Community Watch Public Safety Public Safety Recreation Recreation Community Watch Finance Community Watch Community Standards Public Safety Recreation Recreation Recreation Community Watch

Happy August Anniversary! Thank You For Your Service!

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Candy Dennis	Community Standards	08/09/1999	21	Sherry Griffin	Community Watch	08/31/2015	5
Scott Grimes	Recreation	08/14/2000	20	Nancy Brennen	Community Watch	08/31/2015	5
Hector Agosto	Recreation	08/08/2001	19	Cheryl Horgan	Finance	08/31/2015	5
David Parris	Community Watch	08/09/2002	18	Cindy Kelley	Recreation	08/15/2016	4
William Poling	Recreation	08/12/2002	18	Michael Knoch	Recreation	08/15/2016	4
Jason Weis	Public Safety	08/29/2003	17	Lonny Abramsky	Community Watch	08/15/2016	4
Paul Dreher	Recreation	08/23/2006	14	Douglas Lloyd	Community Watch	08/15/2016	4
Brian Degnan	Recreation	08/01/2007	13	Edward Woods	Community Watch	08/15/2016	4
Michael Distefano	Public Safety	08/01/2008	12	Anthony Valadez	Property Management	08/15/2016	4
Thomas Rohan	Recreation	08/04/2008	12	Kimberly Watts	Public Safety	08/15/2016	4
Richard Frette	Community Watch	08/13/2008	12	Joseph Haremza	Community Watch	08/29/2016	4
David Latus	Community Watch	08/05/2009	11	David Wilkinson	Community Watch	08/29/2016	4
Robert Sondel	Community Watch	08/05/2009	11	Richard Baier	Administration	08/14/2017	3
John Warner	Community Watch	08/05/2009	11	Ralph Strickland	Recreation	08/14/2017	3
Brian Twiss	Public Safety	08/10/2009	11	Arthur Blumberg	Community Watch	08/14/2017	3
Larry Terracino	Recreation	08/26/2009	11	Randy Dodsworth	Community Watch	08/14/2017	3
Barbara Lemay	Community Watch	08/04/2010	10	George Hatzigiannakis	Community Watch	08/14/2017	3
Gary Cook	Recreation	08/03/2011	9	Frances Ryan	Community Watch	08/14/2017	3
Rose Marie Peppe	Recreation	08/03/2011	9	Pamela Gulla	Recreation	08/28/2017	3
Kevin O'Brien	Recreation	08/03/2011	9	John Degrave	Recreation	08/28/2017	3
James Brown	Community Watch	08/03/2011	9	Janet Talbot	Recreation	08/28/2017	3
Kacie Linton	Recreation	08/17/2011	9	Pamela Springer	Recreation	08/28/2017	3
Robert Ramage	Public Safety	08/05/2013	7	Christopher Trace	Property Management	08/28/2017	3
Ryan Keller	Public Safety	08/05/2013	7	Joseph Cacciatore	Recreation	08/13/2018	2
Shirley Sirkis	Public Safety	08/05/2013	7	Doreen Rousseau-Purdy	Community Watch	08/13/2018	2
Taylor Demarchis	Public Safety	08/05/2013	7	Thomas Bosley	Public Safety	08/13/2018	2
Preston Stokes	Public Safety	08/05/2013	7	Blair Bean	Property Management	08/20/2018	2
Kenneth Sherfinski	Recreation	08/19/2013	7	Mary Hargreaves	Recreation	08/27/2018	2
Thomas Carter	Recreation	08/19/2013	7	Ardis Barness	Recreation	08/27/2018	2
James Johnson	Community Watch	08/19/2013	7	William Shelly	Recreation	08/27/2018	2
William Ulrich	Community Watch	08/19/2013	7	Deborah Pease-Martinez	Recreation	08/27/2018	2
Sean Garvey	Recreation	08/04/2014	6	Gordon Laughlin	Recreation	08/27/2018	2
Dennis Costello	Recreation	08/04/2014	6	Susan Armbrecht	Recreation	08/27/2018	2
Edward Przybowski	Recreation	08/04/2014	6	Anne Marie Plaia	Recreation	08/27/2018	2
Emily Andrews	Recreation	08/04/2014	6	Keith Gordon	Community Watch	08/27/2018	2
Robert Bogdonoff	Recreation	08/04/2014	6	Ronald Kelm	Community Watch	08/27/2018	2
Thomas Villnave	Property Management	08/04/2014	6	Joseph Notarianni	-	08/27/2018	2
Cheryl Prevete	Finance	08/11/2014	6		Community Watch		
Hugo Muller	Public Safety	08/11/2014	6	Elizabeth Kimzey	Finance	08/27/2018	2
Eric Williamson	Public Safety	08/11/2014	6	Ronald Fox	Recreation	08/12/2019	1
Chelsea Illeck	Public Safety	08/11/2014	6	Amanda Cyr	Recreation	08/12/2019	1
Melissa Schaar	Purchasing	08/18/2014	6	Jon Kulinski	Recreation	08/12/2019	1
Thomas Tritt	Property Management	08/18/2014	6	Leslie Lavigne	Recreation	08/12/2019	1
Dawna Dean	Recreation	08/03/2015	5	Gregory Reichard	Community Watch	08/12/2019	1
Lamar Oberholtzer	Recreation	08/03/2015	5	Alexandria Allen	Finance	08/12/2019	1
Barry Brown	Community Watch	08/03/2015	5	Sheila Barnes	Recreation	08/26/2019	1
Thomas McGinty	Community Watch	08/03/2015	5	Mark Bednarek	Community Watch	08/26/2019	1
Perry Sumner	Community Watch	08/03/2015	5	Robert Lagerquist	Community Watch	08/26/2019	1
Mark LaRock	Purchasing	08/10/2015	5	Margaret Johnson	Community Watch	08/26/2019	1

Recreation & Parks News

Water Lily Village Recreation Center

Recreation & Parks first "virtual" ribbon cutting took place with the Grand Opening of Water Lily recreation center in the Village of DeLuna. This village center offers a resort style family pool, billiards room, trails and outdoor fitness equipment, picnic pavilion, pickleball, shuffleboard, bocce, and corn toss courts. The picturesque center sits amongst hardwood trees and has beautiful views from every angle.



Chitty Chatty Neighborhood Recreation Center

Chitty Chatty recreation center opened on Friday June 26th in the Village of Chitty Chatty. The neighborhood center has an adult pool, picnic area, bocce, shuffleboard, and corn toss courts. Take the time to visit all of our new recreation facilities in the southern areas of The Village's community.



Recreation Administration "Front Office" staff, Jan Collom, Recreation Service Representative, Ernie Stevens, Staff Assistant, and Wendy Galiardi, Recreation Service Representative displayed their patriotic 4th of July spirit with red, white and blue before the extended holiday weekend! Not pictured, Sue Webster, Recreation Service Representative.





The Construction Academy at the Villages Charter High School along with Habitat for Humanity will partner to build a home for *Amanda Brooks, Staff Assistant for The Enrichment Academy and her daughter Emilee.* Building is set to begin, in Lady Lake, in August, 2020



and completion is scheduled for May, 2021. There will be a Build Day opportunity for District staff to assist with the build. More infor-

mation on the Build Day to follow. The District wishes Amanda and Emilee the best of luck with their build and can't wait to see the finished product!

Recognizing Our Core Values In Action!

Lisa Babbitt, Customer & Administrative Support Representative was acknowledged by a resident. "I want to acknowledge the great customer service we received from Lisa Babbitt for a memorial bench that was just installed. We were looking for a location in the Fenney area and Lisa helped us by providing location suggestions and sending maps. She also had some good suggestions for the messaging on the plaque. Lisa made things easier for us by demonstrating a combination of sympathy and professionalism. She is a great asset to your team and an ambassador for the Villages. Please extend our thanks to her once again."

Fred Lonergan, District Property Management Supervisor was recognized by the Colony Cottage Staff and Colony Region. "I just want to take the time to say thank you! I really want to thank you for making it so easy to communicate with you. You are always very accessible and visible. You have made a huge difference in a short period of time on not only my facility but in the Colony region. Your prompt attention to details and responsiveness have not gone unnoticed by my staff, Jim Lucas or myself. You have gotten to the issues with our AC units in such a short time it's amazing! I have been asking for years for something be done about the humidity levels in our meeting rooms. The sports pool showers, locker rooms and bathrooms look outstanding since the LED's added and the new tile cleaning. Colony Cottage never looked so good! Your dedication to what you do is a true reflection of our core values! We are so glad you are here! Keep up the great job!"

The *Customer Service* team was thanked by *Community Watch*. "We would like to thank you and your team, for taking the time and asking the Home Owners the extra question when talking to them on phone orders or in person about any of their storm doors, lanai doors and/or garage windows intentionally left unlocked or open. These extra questions by your team has had a sizable impact on our operations with the Patrol Drivers, our Dispatch Center and here in the Administration office, saving us a lot of communication time on all of our operation's including us contacting the home owners confirming if these items were intentionally left unlocked."

The Property Management Landscape Team received a thank you from a resident. "Bless you. Thank you for the reply. I look forward to hearing what the plan is. Again, I am a fan of our landscaping team. Thank you for all you do."

Customer & Administrative Support Representative Andrea Crecelius received a card from a resident. The resident thanked Andrea for her persistence, patience and caring when finding the resident's lost ID and holder. The resident stated Andrea has the wonderful qualities for someone in a customer service role. Andrea made her day.

> Hospitality * Innovation & Creativity Stewardship * Hard Work

Public Safety News



The Villages Fire Rescue Department is hosting a FREE Car Seat Check

August 6, 2020



3 – 5 p.m. Fire Station #44, 3035 S. Morse Boulevard

To schedule an appointment: 352-205-8280

Please provide age & weight of each child under 8 when making an appointment

This event is open to all staff, family members and members of the community.

Please know that the firefighters (installers) will be following CDC guidelines regarding social distancing and wearing masks and gloves during this event.

We all want our children to travel safely in cars. Installing a car seat for younger children and babies can be a challenge. This one-on-one learning experience typically takes 20-30 minutes per child, depending on your car seat and vehicle. When you leave, you should be confident that your child's seat is installed correctly and feel comfortable reinstalling it on your own.

Before the Car Seat Checkup

- To ensure your safety and that of the installers, masks will be required
- Please bring with you:
 - ☑ current car seat(s) along with child(ren)
 - ☑ the vehicle owner's manual
 - ☑ the car seat manual
- Allow 20-30 minutes per appointment/child
- Be prepared to purchase a replacement car seat if the current one is deemed unsafe. There are no free seats offered at the station, they must be replaced AT COST.
- If possible, bring another caregiver to help while you are learning.

During the Car Seat Checkup

During the checkup, the Installer will:

- Fill out a car seat check form to document the process (including car seat type, location in vehicle, misuse observations, etc.). The form may be electronic or on paper.
- Review car seat selection appropriate for your child's age, weight and height as well as review factors that affect proper use.
- Review the car seat instruction manual and the vehicle owner's manual to ensure that both are being followed correctly.
- Ensure that an appropriate seating position in the vehicle is being used.
- Check the car seat for recalls, visible damage and an expiration date.
- Guide your installation of the car seat. You are encouraged to ask to learn how to install the car seat in different seating positions with different installation techniques.
- Discuss the next steps for your child, such as when to move to the next type of car seat.
- Discuss your state laws and best practice recommendations for occupant safety.
- Discuss the benefits of everyone riding properly restrained, including all adults.
- Discuss safety in and around the vehicle & answer any questions.



Public Safety News

On July 9th, Firefighters from the Villages Fire Rescue, Sumter County Fire & EMS, and Lake County Fire Rescue quickly extinguished a semi fire on the Florida Turnpike near mile marker 301 Southbound. The 911 caller reported a semi fire that was hauling cars and both smoke and flames were visible. Villages Fire Rescue's Battalion 51 arrived on scene to find the cab of a semi and two vehicles heavily involved with fire. Battalion 51 established command and assigned incoming units to deploy two handlines, one to protect the uninvolved vehicles and the other to attack the fire. Firefighters made an offensive attack and quickly controlled the fire. Firefighters were able to keep the fire from spreading to other vehicles. During the course of the fire attack it became necessary for firefighters to deploy Rescue 42 to stabilize one of the vehicles. Hazardous Materials crews also secured the remaining fuel tank and transfer valve to stop any fuel leak. The fire was declared out 20 minutes later. Crews awaited the arrival of a heavy wrecker to remove the vehicles for final overhaul. The Florida Turnpike was shut down in both directions during the fire attack and overhaul. Those present were: Chief Edmund Cain, Lieutenant Justin Boudreaux, Firefighter Paramedic Shane Danford, Lieutenant Christopher Gruber, Lieutenant Noah Hartman, Firefighter EMT Joshua Hayes, Firefighter Paramedic Brian Konnerth, Lieutenant Jeff Loder, Firefighter Paramedic Daniel Pursell, Division Chief Robert Ramage, Firefighter Paramedic Christopher Roberts, Battalion Chief David Rutter, Firefighter Paramedic James Schnitker, and Firefighter EMT William Turner.







Chief Edmund Cain recently received a letter regarding Division Chief Robert Ramage's wonderful news as he was chosen as a Chief Training Officer by the Center for Public Safety Excellence. "On behalf of the Commission on Professional Credentialing (CPC), I am writ-



ing to inform you that Robert Ramage received the Chief Training Officer (CTO) designation on July 7, 2020. Division Chief Ramage becomes one of only 144 CTO designees worldwide. The designation program is a voluntary program designed to recognize individuals who demonstrate their excellence in seven measured components including experience, education, professional development, professional contributions, association membership, community involvement and technical competence. In addition, all applicants are required to identify a future professional development plan. The CTO designation program uses a comprehensive peer review model to evaluate candidates seeking the credential. The Commission on Professional Credentialing awards the designation only after an individual successfully meets all of the organization's stringent criteria. Achieving this designation signifies Division Chief Ramage's commitment to his career in the fire and emergency services. The professional designation is valid for three years. Maintaining the designation requires recipients to show continued growth in the areas of professional development, professional contributions, active association membership and community involvement as well as adhere to a strict code of professional conduct." Congratulations!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Cheryl Bidwell, Administrative Assistant,** on her engagement to Jon Higgins. The proposal took place on July 4th in Cape Coral, Florida. Best wishes to you both!



Property Management News

Nick Sanchirico, DPM Supervisor-Water Resources, recently obtained a commercial pilot license by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for Small Unmanned Aerial Systems (SUAS), also known as a drone. This will enable Property Management to conduct efficient and safe aerial inspections of the District's vertical and horizontal assets, such as preserves, basins and structures.



Rísk Management News

TEN REASONS TO STOP ON RE

- RED-LIGHT RUNNING CAN BE FATAL.
 One in three Americans know someone who has been
- One in three Americans know someone who has been injured or killed in a red light running crash.
- 3. Between 2004-2016, an estimated 10,125 were killed in red light running related crashes.
- 4. On average, two people died each day in red light running crashes in the United States in 2017.
- 5. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teens.
- In 2017 132,000 people were injured in crashes involving red light running.
- Over half of deaths in red light running crashes are pedestrians, bicyclists and occupants in vehicles other than the vehicle running the red light.
- Nearly 93% of drivers say it is unacceptable to go through a red light, yet nearly 43% admitted to doing so in the past 30 days.
- The most common type of urban crashes involve drivers who run red lights, stop signs and other traffic controls.
- 10. Red light running is often a result of aggressive or distracted driving and is completely preventable.

RED-LIGHT RUNNING BY THE NUMBERS

re injured in 2017

An estimated

August 2nd-8th is "Stop On Red Week"

Innocent lives are lost every day because drivers recklessly decide to run red lights. We must do everything in our power to protect our children, our families and our communities from the callous and dangerous behavior of drivers who run red lights. Between 2004-2016, an estimated **10,125 people were killed in the US in crashes related to drivers running red lights** according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). In 2017, **880 people were killed and an estimated 132,000 were injured** in crashes involving drivers who ran a red light. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) found that about half of the deaths caused by drivers running red lights involved pedestrians, cyclists and occupants in vehicles who were struck. These crashes, injuries and deaths are 100 percent preventable if people would simply follow the law and **stop on red**. National Stop on Red Week serves as an important reminder of the dangers in intersections and the importance of stopping on red. Preventing these crashes is in each driver's control. Together, we can protect our community, families and children by <u>always stopping on red</u>!

Data from 120 red light camera programs showed that in 2018:

- More drivers ran red lights in May than any other month of the year.
- More than 1.2 million red light violations occurred during the hours of 1-5pm.
- Independence Day weekend was the holiday travel period with the most red light violations.
- More than 660K drivers ran red lights on Friday, making it the deadliest day of the week due to red light violations.

Safety is the responsibility of <u>every driver</u>, <u>every day</u>, <u>every time someone gets</u> <u>behind the wheel</u>— not just during Stop on Red Week. <u>Intersection safety is an</u> <u>extremely important aspect of road safety in our community</u>.

#StopOnRed2020

Source: https://ncsrsafety.org/stop-on-red-3/

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over

Even a .02 blood alcohol concentration (BAC) will impair your thinking, reasoning, and muscle coordination – all vital abilities to operating a vehicle safely. Because of this risk, it's illegal in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to drive with a BAC of .08 or higher.

A report by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration States:

s have red-light camera prog

• In 2018, 3,133 people died in car accidents in the state of Florida and 26% (814) involved alcohol

• In 2017, 3,116 people died in car accidents in the state of Florida and 27% (841) involved alcohol.

BE RESPONSIBLÊ: ĤAVE A PLAN

- Plan a safe and sober ride home before drinking alcohol.
- Don't let someone get behind the wheel if that person has been drinking.
- If you're hosting a party with alcohol, make sure everyone has a sober ride home.
- Always wear your seat belt. It's your best defense against impaired drivers.
- If you see a drunk driver, call law enforcement.

Driving sober refers to drug use, as well as alcohol. **42% of drivers killed in fatal crashes who were tested, tested positive for drugs. Drugimpaired driving is illegal and just as dangerous as drunk driving**. Illegal drugs, prescription medication, and some over-the-counter drugs can inhibit brain function by negatively impacting your motor coordination and reaction time. Driving while drug-impaired puts you, your passengers, pedestrians, and other drivers in danger.

Fast Facts:

- 1. THC slows reaction times, impairs cognitive performance, and makes it more difficult to keep a steady lane position.
- 2. Cold medication and other over-the-counter drugs can impair your driving, making you drowsy and less alert.
- 3. Discuss the effects that your prescription drugs have on your driving with your doctor of pharmacist.

Source: https://one.nhtsa.gov/drivesober/index.html

In August and everyday, drive safely! Stop on red Always drive sober



Human Resources News



AMERICA SAVES America Saves, a campaign man-aged by the nonprofit <u>Consumer</u> <u>Federation of America</u>, motivates, encourages, and supports low-to

moderate-income households to save money, reduce debt, and build wealth. The research-based campaign uses the principles of behavioral economics and social marketing to change behavior. Non-profit, government, and corporate groups participate in America Saves nationally and through local, regional, and statewide campaigns around the country. America Saves encourages individuals to take the America Saves pledge.

America Saves also targets three populations with unique savings needs through:

Military Saves - A component of America Saves and a participant in the Department of Defense Financial Readiness Network, which seeks to motivate, support, and encourage military families to save money, reduce debt, and build wealth.

America Saves for Young Workers – A program to support and motivate young workers to use direct deposit to save part of their pay through their first-time work experience.

America Saves Split to Save is a free online program provided to employers to motivate and encourage their employees to save the easiest way - automatically through split deposit (an option the District does offer).

You Don't Have To Go It Alone

America Saves helps you reach your savings and debt reduction goals. It all starts when you make a commitment to yourself to save through the America Saves pledge. When you pledge, America Saves will send you detailed information on how to reach your savings goal and remind you of the amount you chose to save. You will also receive monthly challenges to save, as well as information and advice to help you save for your goal. Additionally we encourage you to interact with other member savers, learn from their experiences, and exchange money-saving ideas. Think of them as your own personal support system. More information available at www.americasaves.org.

Nationwide has a great new feature. It's called Nationwide Account Lock. It's an extra layer of protection that allows you to control distribu-Nationwide tions. With Nationwide Account Lock, you get

extra confidence and peace of mind from enhanced security for your account. You can:

- Control when you lock and unlock your account to manage distributions.
- Receive notifications every time a distribution is requested from your account.
- Receive this optional layer of protection at no additional cost.

Get additional peace of mind with nationwide Account Lock. Call 1-800-772-2182 to set up Nationwide Account Lock.

Helping Floridians improve their financial knowledge and resilience

University of Florida/IFAS Extension Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) agents are ready to help you and your family make the best financial decisions for your financial stability and wellbeing. Our mission is to provide free and accurate financial education to Floridians. Based in local offices across the state, our agents are Accredited Financial Counselors through the Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education (AFCPE) and in some cases, Housing and Urban Development.

Who can participate in financial Counseling?

Our program is open to those in need during the coronavirus pandemic, prioritizing those who are underserved and unable to utilize any other services. This may include rural communities, those with chronic illnesses or those struggling to make ends meet.

How we can help

We focus on helping you organize your finances and understand your options. Our counsellors help you think through how to prioritize bills, stretch food dollars or find alternatives to some of your current expenses. In addition, we can assist you with understanding your credit situation and credit report, establish a plan of action and learn how to follow your plan for success.

How does it work?

During the coronavirus pandemic, all efforts will be conducted virtually.

- Once you sign up, we will match you with one of our facul-1. tv members.
- 2. They will reach out to you and set up a time to talk.
- 3. In your first meeting via Zoom, Skype, phone, or whatever works best, you will review the scope of the program, and sharing information with us. We will clarify expectations for all involved and to be sure our program is a good fit for your needs.
- 4. Your information is stored securely and your identity is confidential.
- 5. Through your relationship with your counselor, you will explore some of your financial concerns and challenges.
- 6. Participants will be expected to complete tasks between meetings that only you can do (for example, calling lenders or accessing accounts).
- 7. Together, you and your counselor will devise approaches that might work for your family and identify resources in your community that may be able to provide assistance.

For more information, please visit: https://fycs.ifas.ufl.edu/financial-counseling/

Human Resources News

SAVE THE DATE



Open Enrollment Meetings for 2020-2021 Employee Benefits will be held during the week of August 17th

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW, STAY TUNED



Training in the COVID 19 Era

Training any time is a challenging task, but training in times when you are thrust into a pandemic are especially challenging when you are scrambling around canceling and/or rescheduling training for projected future dates. It would be easy to just postpone training until things return to "normal". Not knowing

when, or if, that will be, how do we still achieve our training goals? How can we work around the scheduling and social distancing challenges so that training does not get lost in the mix of all the other changes? When we let our Core Values guide us, we become creative and innovative! We looked at all tools currently available to us and, in so doing, found that we could utilize already construct-



ed courses in our current online learning system and make them available to all staff members. Thinking even further outside-the-box, we are also looking at current instructor-led-courses to see of those, what can be reconstructed and also make available to take online and/or use video technology to record for future viewing. Our goal is to make the presentations and courses as short as possible while still delivering the needed content and making the course as engaging and interactive as possible for our online "attendees." If we let our challenges overwhelm us, we can miss seeing them as the opportunities to be event better than before. We are excited to be able to continue to offer ongoing training in these new formats and to continue to develop our training program roster. If you have suggestions or questions, please don't hesitate to contact Angela Pattillo, Training Administrator via email: Angela.Pattillo@districtgov.org.

Human Resources News



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



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



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



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



Wear a mask and appropriate attire for the activity.



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



Bring your own water bottle.



Consider bringing your own Hand Sanitizer and disinfectant wipes.



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



Avoid touching, eyes, nose and mouth.



Clean & disinfect frequently touched objects & surfaces.



Bring your own equipment/supplies conducive to the activity.

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

For more information contact your supervisor, or Human Resources. HumanResources@DistrictGov.org

Hospitality | Stewardship | Creativity & Innovation | Hard Work