

The Villages News Magazine

VOL. 51 NO. 4 JULY, 2026



PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR ALL RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGES

Happy 
250th Anniversary America



Photo by Vito Ferrante

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THE VILLAGES NEWS MAGAZINE

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Statement of Policy

The *Villages News Magazine* is published as a service to our community. We solicit articles but reserve the right to accept, edit or reject any manuscripts submitted. All text must be approved by the staff. Only material that is in good taste and non-inflammatory will be considered. We cannot be responsible for acknowledgement or return of articles. Any non-staff contributions must be signed by the author. The articles in this magazine may, or may not represent the views of the entire staff.

NOTE: The Villages Trustees, Property Management and the VNM staff are not responsible for the advertisements or any of the products mentioned in this publication.

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Villages Office 732-431-1646

Important Phone Numbers:

Medical/Fire/Police Emergencies	DIAL 9-1-1
CentraState Hospital	732-431-2000
Howell Police (non emergency)	732-938-4111
Howell Fire Dept (non-emergency)	732-938-4500
Howell Township	732-938-4500
JCP&L	1-800-662-3115
JCP&L Power Outage	1-888-544-4877
N.J. American Water	1-800-652-6987
Verizon	1-800-427-9977
Verizon Emergency number	1-800-275-2355
Optimum	732-780-4868
Howell Senior Center	732-938-4500 ext.2552/2550

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Joe Ammiano

villageshelp@askaa.com

Office Hours

Summer Hours: M-H - 8:30am - 4:30pm.

Fri. - 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

You must make an appointment
to meet with Jennifer

Office Telephone: 732-431-1646

Fax: 732-431-1620

Emergency Phone # after hours and weekends
888-295-4617

We Want You!

This magazine is a vehicle for information and for bringing us together. Maybe there is something interesting in your life, some place you have been, or a special event in your life. If so, please share it with us. You can email them or attach as a word document to [**jbarbone546@gmail.com**](mailto:jbarbone546@gmail.com).

FROM THE EDITOR

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our country, on behalf of the Committee Members of the Villages Magazine, and myself, we want to express our gratitude to Kirms Publishing, publishers of the Villages Magazine, as they celebrate 100 years. **CONGRATULATIONS!!**

Joe Barbone, Editor

***If you know of a recent death, anniversary or significant event in the life of our residents, please send an email to jbarbone546@gmail.com. Thank you.*

ON OUR COVER

On June 6, 2025, which was the 81st Anniversary of D-Day, the American Veterans featured on the cover raised a flag to commemorate our country's 250th Anniversary, and to honor our servicemen and women, particularly those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom and way of life. They are, from left to right, Vito Ferrante (US Navy), Paul Nazzaro (US Army), Pat Scott (US Army), Chuck Haase (US Army) who is also the man who graciously purchased our beautiful flag, and Jerry Dixel (US Army). The flag will be flown until the end of the year when it will be replaced by our traditional Stars and Stripes. May God Bless our very young country, and may God grant us peace, kindness, and a beautiful sense of freedom. God Bless America. Contributed by Sally Ferrante and photo by Vito Ferrante.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OUR RESIDENTS BORN IN JULY

Happy Anniversary to all our residents who married in the month of July!! May your year be filled with love, happiness, fun times, and wonderful experiences.

Happy 250th to our nation!! Happy 100th to our Senior Publishing!!

Some famous people you share your birthday month with are Tom Cruise on the 3rd, Tom Hanks on the 9th, Jennifer Lopez on the 24th, and JK Rowling on the 31st. Research and astrological lore associate July babies with optimism, high emotional intelligence, and physical growth.

July is packed with world changing events from the birth of Nations to breakthroughs in space exploration. Six other countries have their

VILLAGES MAGAZINE MEETING SCHEDULE 2026 TUESDAY, 11 AM-12 PM

JULY 7

AUGUST 4

SEPTEMBER 1

OCTOBER 6

NOVEMBER 3

DECEMBER 1

independence day in July as well, and France and Canada have their national holidays.

On July 1st 1863, the Battle of Gettysburg began, which was a major turning point in the American Civil War.

July 4th, 1776 the Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia establishing the United States. This year marks our semiquincentennial celebration!

July 16th, 1945 the United States conducted the Trinity Test successfully detonating the world's first nuclear weapon in the New Mexico desert.

July 20th, 1969 Apollo 11 astronauts, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, became the first humans to walk on the moon,

July 28th, 1914 Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, officially sparking the beginning of World War I.

According to tradition, the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia cracked on July 8, 1835, while tolling during the funeral procession of chief justice, John Marshall.

There is a distinct magic to July. It arrives in a flurry of neighborhood parades, the scent of backyard barbecues, and the familiar song of evening crickets. As the centerpoint of the season, July invites us to slow down our pace, long enough to savor the longer days, lingering over bright sunsets, and a simple joy of a cold glass of lemonade. It is a time for gathering with neighbors, sharing stories, and embracing the vibrant, sunny days that make this season so unforgettable. As we navigate the warmest stretch of the year, it offers the perfect opportunity to reflect on the

Continued on Page 5
July 2026 The Villages 3

VILLAGE HAPPENINGS

The clubhouse is open daily 6am-midnight for all activities. You will need your Fob to enter during non-business hours. (See office hours below)

The Shopping bus will run on **Wednesdays** only from 8:30am to 11:30am. The bus will stop at Freehold ShopRite, banks, and local pharmacies. Please call Richie Cunningham at 732-300-7181 the day before and leave him a message with your name and unit number. He will call you back to confirm.

To schedule medical transportation through RIDE IN MONMOUTH bus, call 732-431-6480.

A list of other transportation options is available on the side table in the clubhouse.

Social Worker, Joan Cavanaugh is usually available at the clubhouse once a month at 11:00am. Please check calendar for the exact dates. If you want to make an individual appointment, call 732-938-4500 ext 2553.

Trash pickup is on **Tuesdays only**. *If a holiday occurs on any of these days, trash will be picked up the next regular pickup day. One trash can per household. Curbside Recycling every other Tuesday.

Curbside Recycling schedule

July 7th; July 21st

Bulk Pick-up. Howell Township is offering curbside service on a limited schedule.

They usually take appointments April-October. You can schedule a pick-up by calling 732-938-4500 extension 2450. You can also bring your bulk trash to the recycling center (278 Old Tavern Road) Tuesdays through Sundays 7:30 AM to 3 PM.

*** From May-October, Pest Control will be on site every Tuesday.**

**** For July, Mowing will be done once a week (M, T, or W) weather permitting**

Powerwashing will begin on July 6th

Pruning will continue in July

Our Pool will be open everyday noon -7 pm (weather permitting)

***** Reminder: The deadline to have your dryer vent cleaning completed is September 30, 2026.**

Upcoming events:

Saturday, July 4 - Independence Day - Hot Dog Day 11:30am-1:30pm (\$5)

Friday, July 10 - Charity Bingo, 7:00pm; Doors open 6:00pm

Thursday, July 16 - Open Board Meeting 6:00pm

*** * * * ***

Our Management Company is ASSOCIATION ADVISORS NJ.

19 West Main Street, Freehold, NJ - 732-294-8882

Property Manager is Jennifer Tifte Office Administrative Assistant: Joe Ammiano

Summer Hours (M-H) 8:30am-4:30pm; F - 8:30 am-12:30 pm

Meetings with Jennifer will be by appointment only

Office number - 732-431-1646

Emergency # after hours and weekends-888-295-4617

(The poolroom is temporarily closed)

The following activities and clubs are available for anyone to join:*

Yoga: every Monday, Wednesday and Friday; 9:30am-10:30am.

Bingo: every Thursday afternoon, 2:00pm, doors open at 1:00 pm

Community Bingo also the 3rd Friday of every month at 7:00pm

Ceramics: every Thursday, 10am-12:00pm

T'ai Chi: every Tuesday 9:30-11:00am

Bookworms: last Monday of every month, 10:00am

Villages News Magazine: first Tuesday of every month, 11:00am

Howell Senior Friendship Club: first Wednesday of every month, 1:00pm

Entertainment Committee: first Monday of the month 7:00pm

Library is open during clubhouse hours, Fob needed to enter room.

Gym, card room, billiard room.

Ping-Pong. Paddles and balls are in the pool room closet.

Garden Club, call Bob LaVine, 908-342-6892.

Pickleball Court. Bring your own paddles. A pickleball reservation list is available in the Billiards Room.

Bocce Court. Bocce balls are located in the pool room closet.

***Only residents of The Villages are permitted to use our amenities. Guests must be accompanied by homeowners/renters when using all Villages's amenities.**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY from Page 3

season's beauty, connect with friends, appreciate the vibrant community life thriving all around us, enjoy a peaceful evening outdoors, seek the air-conditioned comfort of a great book, or take in the vibrant colors of a summer garden.

Here is an old weather predictor: According to British folklore, whatever the weather is on Saint Swift Day, (July 15th). It will remain that way for the next 40 days. (Not likely the way this year has been lol)

July's full moon is most commonly known as the Buck Moon because this is the time of the year when the new antlers of young male deer emerge from the velvet in full growth.

In 1984 President Ronald Reagan officially declared July as National Ice Cream Month? It is also National Grilling Month, Family Meal Month, Bereaved Parents Awareness Month, American Artist Appreciation Month, among others.

Some fun days include: ([the spruce.com](http://the.spruce.com),)

July 6th National Fried Chicken Day

July 7th World Chocolate Day

July 10th Don't Step on a Bee Day

July 12th Eat your Jello Day

July 13th French Fry Day

July 15th Be a Dork Day

July 23rd National Hot Dog Day

July 25th National Wine and Cheese Day

July 26th Aunt and Uncle Day

July 29th National Lasagna Day

July 30th International Day of Friendship

Just UseLess InFoRMation

By Barbara Di Nonno



Mariah Carey holds the record for the most Billboard Hot 100 No. 1 singles by a solo female artist, with 19 chart-toppers.

The first airline stewardesses in the U.S. were all nurses.

On May 6, 2003 the final first-run episode of "Friends" aired on NBC.

Arthur Conan Doyle first introduced Sherlock Holmes in the 1887 novel "A Study in Scarlet." The story also marks the first appearance of Dr. John Watson.

On average, more than 100,000 people a day get a speeding ticket in the United States.

On May 7, 1915, a German torpedo sank the British liner Lusitania off the Irish coast, killing nearly 1,200 people.

Kentucky Fried Chicken was the first Western fast food chain to arrive in China, and made its debut on November 12, 1987.

On May 26, 1978, the first legal casino in the eastern United States opened in Atlantic City, N.J.

Al Roker and Lenny Kravitz are cousins through Roker's mother and Kravitz' mother.

FROM THE EDITOR

Live Oak released its mowing schedule for the year. It erroneously stated that tree pruning will take place on Sundays in June and July. Pruning will not take place on Sundays.

Also, the Clubhouse Summer hours through September 4, are Monday-Thursday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, and Fridays, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm.

Joe Barbone, Editor



SUMMERTIME



Word Scramble



The sun is shining, and the days are long, but our summer words have gotten all mixed up! Can you help put things back in order by unscrambling the letters to reveal the summertime words? Write the words in the blanks provided on the right. Two blanks indicate the answer contains 2 words.

uns

baceh

salcdstean

aocne

irm ecaec

sisuwmit

lfpl-iofps

_____ - _____

cncpii

rbucbeea

lnrmeatewo

edomnela

lgsseuasns

slhaeelss

nugirsf

cpeslpoi

oahmkcm

rirewsokf

ytelfutbr

inpgmca

gnshfii

vtcaonia

oopl

usrcesenn

ebarsfie



PHOTOS BY VITO



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
250
ANNIVERSARY



250TH FLAG FLYING HIGH



TAKING DOWN THE OLD FLAG



RAISING THE NEW FLAG

BUS TRIP



To Wind Creek Casino in Bethlehem, PA. On Wednesday, August 5th. Cost \$40 which includes \$25 in slot play. The bus leaves the clubhouse at 10:00am and returns approximately 7:00pm.

It is a two hour ride, but there is a restroom on the bus. The bus holds 56 passengers. Call Chuck Haas at 917-751-6013 if interested or for more details.

THE VILLAGES
FINANCIAL SUMMARY PAGE
April 30, 2026
UNAUDITED AND CONFIDENTIAL

Cash and Cash Equivalent Balances:

First Citizens/CIT Bank Operating: \$93,295.83
First Citizens Bank Debit Card: \$3,000.00
First Citizens Bank Fire Account: \$102,792.11
Valley National Loan Cash #2048: \$21,389.09
Morgan Stanley Working Capital #8618: \$387,326.34
Morgan Stanley Working Capital Invested: \$2,210.37
First Citizens/CIT Deferred Maintenance: \$109,376.51
First Citizens/CIT Bank Reserves: \$904,909.10
Morgan Stanley Reserves #4618: \$6.04
Morgan Stanley Reserves Invested: \$487,303.78
Provident Bank – Reserve CD #1: \$72,559.51
Provident Bank – Reserve CD #2: \$56,917.62

Total all Cash and Cash Equivalents: \$2,241,086.30

- *Total Capital Reserve as of April 30, 2026 was \$1,521,696.05*

Accounts Receivable:

Total delinquency as of April 30, 2026 is \$329,539.83

- Current - \$29,082.76
- Over 30 - \$18,124.78
- Over 60 - \$22,094.09
- Over 90 - \$260,238.20

Accounts Payable:

Total open Accounts Payable as of 4/30/2026 is \$238,473.09. All open invoices are current and not considered past due.

Notes: Current annual Reserve Funding is budgeted for \$461,675.

Monthly Loan payment is \$37,741.01

Highlights:

YTD Over Budget

- *Engineering is over budget YTD \$3,618.20*
- *Legal Fees: Collections is over budget YTD \$3,107.30*
- *Office Expense is over budget YTD \$8,744.45*
- *Mold Remediation is over budget YTD \$72,019.80*
- *Landscaping Repairs & Removal is over budget YTD \$40,550.63*
- *Snow Removal is over budget YTD \$129,196.92*

YTD Under Budget

- *Rezkom Maintenance Contract is under budget YTD by \$5,650.60*
- *Trash Removal is under budget YTD by \$3,108.80*



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9		3		6		5		2
	4		9		5		8	
	3		8		6		9	
7		2		4		6		1
	5		7		3		2	
			6	8	4			
1				5				7
8	2		1		7		5	4

Answers on page 23

ADVANCE HEALTH CARE DIRECTIVE

Lilian Finlay RN

Everyone, no matter what age or current health status, is encouraged to write out an advance health care directive. You name someone to make medical decisions for you if you are unable to express your wishes. This is known as a power of attorney for health care. You can also specify treatments you do or do not want to have, such as tube feeding or mechanical ventilation. These instructions are known as a Living Will.

An advance directive is a gift to yourself; it ensures that, in the event of a health emergency, you will be treated in the manner you want. It is also a gift to your loved ones who will be able to act with greater confidence if they need to make life and death situations for you.

Experts say it's best to have frank conversations with your loved ones about your goals and values for your health. These talks can help you refine your priorities and help your family better understand your preferences. You can discuss your specific desires further if your health status changes.

Keep your advance directive in a safe place where it can be found easily, not in a safe only you can open. Give copies to your chosen health care agent, close family members and your doctor. You can change your directive at any time as your situation or wishes change. You must create a new form, distribute new copies and destroy old copies. Specific requirements for changing directives may vary by state. AARP.org will give advice on how to fill out forms for NJ.

Source: Mayo Clinic Health

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HOWELL SENIOR CENTER

251 Preventorium Road

www.twp.howell.nj.us

The Senior Center Hours are 8:00am-4:00pm

732-938-4500

Director, Melanie Decker ext. 2550

Transportation, Rob Pignato ext. 2551

Program coordinator, Nichole M. ext. 2554

Social Worker, Joan Cavanaugh ext. 2553

Nutrition ext. 2556

Bus drivers (Mike and Brett), ext 2552

Department of Senior Services

4567 Route 9 North 2nd floor

Howell, NJ 07731

Attn: Senior Services

The mission of the Howell Senior Center is to offer registered residents 60 years of age and over and their caregivers, programs and services that promote safety, encourage healthy living, and enhance the quality of life. It offers many on-going activities, classes, events, senior services, exercise classes, seminars, educational programs, **trips**, birthday celebrations, holiday parties, *free breakfast items*, and daily lunches (\$4.00 donation). Bingo, and Pokeno are each played once a week. A senior exercise program takes place on Mondays and Wednesdays 10:30am-11:30am and chair yoga on Wednesdays from 1:15pm-2:15pm. They have *craft classes, ceramics, computer instruction and services, dancing classes, mahjong, cooking classes, etc.* Pre-Registration is required for most activities. Their art is exhibited at the Howell library. For a complete list of **all** their activities, trips, and registration dates, pick up a copy of their **Senior Scoop** located on the side table in our lobby or read online at twp.howell.nj.us newsletters.

- *The tent, table and chairs are set up on the patio for you to enjoy your lunch if you wish. (60 people maximum)*
- *Examples of trips are the Point Pleasant Boardwalk and a Blueclaws game (July 22nd); Examples of the lectures were about cybersecurity, risks of skin cancer, and healthy feet.*
- *The center has purchased a new 2026 bus which should be delivered next month.*
- **The Walking Club** at the Manasquan Reservoir has begun and will take place every Tuesday through Oct. 31st (weather permitting) at 10:30am.
- The Center hosts weekly support groups from 10am to 11am, followed by 4-fifteen minute individual appointments with a fully licensed, and knowledgeable therapist, Marni Elson-Victor.

Topics include grief, depression, anxiety, care-giver support, loneliness/isolation and addiction issues.

- SHIP/Medicare assistance is available. Contact Joan ext 2553 to schedule an appointment about your Medicare questions and concerns. The 2026 Leap Program registration is available until 6/2026.
- *The Center is not just a place to have fun, learn new things, and make friends but it also offers **assistance** at the Center and in the home. For example, responding to crisis calls, helping to fill out important documents, assisting with relocation, helping to secure access to State programs such as PACE, SNAP, NJSAVE etc., help with access to mental health services, help with homelessness or lack of food and toiletries, provides home visits to shut-ins, problem solving such as finding a handyman, landscaper, vet services etc, local transportation to medical appointments, shopping, chores, etc, assistance with Social Security issues or bank issues, legal services. **If in need, call 732-938-4500 ext 2550 to speak with the director, Melanie or social worker, Joan.***

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BOOKWORMS REVIEW

By K. Oraboni



Our book choice for May was *The Concrete Alibi*, by Michael Stagg, an appropriately titled legal thriller taking place in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan during the winter. At the onset of the story, we are introduced to Mason Pierce, a gentle giant of a man, who has just received his law degree. Previously he worked for his family's construction company, and who enjoys meeting up with his cousins at their favorite eatery.

Immediately after getting his degree, he is hired by well-established law firm that is opening an office in his town. His boss, Peter, wants him to head up the investigation into their new high-profiled case because of Mason's background in construction. The case involved a local establishment that was hosting a major town event. Everyone was so excited to attend because of the big game, drinks, food, tee shirts, and over-all fun atmosphere. The dining room filled up quickly, so many people went to sit out on the patio. A tragedy occurs when the patio collapses into the water, resulting in three fatalities and several severely injured. Mason's firm is hired to defend the owner of the bar who is being charged civilly and criminally for causing the collapse by overloading the patio. With Mason's knowledge of construction, and with the help of an expert in the field, Mason tries to prove that it wasn't the weight that caused the collapse, but that the original construction and concrete of the patio was the culprit.

Although, there were a lot of technical explanations, the author made it easy for the reader to understand. The book went at a pretty reasonable pace, so it wasn't dragged out and we liked that the other characters were well developed including his family, the expert, the lawyers, and the shady ones. We also liked the main character because he is a blue collar worker and more down to the earth than the more polished attorneys. The intricate plot twist in the story also made it interesting.

What is good about a book club is that if there is a part you didn't quite understand, or a character you were unsure who he was, we discuss it so everyone understands it better or, at least, we give our take on it. Although the author has written other legal thrillers, this was his first in the Mason Pierce series. When asked if they would read the second one that came out, most members said yes, but not necessarily for book club, instead choosing to read it on their own. Overall, if you are a fan of the legal genre, reminiscent of the earlier John Grisham books, you will probably enjoy this novel.

For June we will be reading *The Expat Affair* by Kimberly Belle, a suspenseful thriller about two American women. That novel will be reviewed in the next issue. For July our choice is *Theo of Golden*, by Allen Levi, "about a mysterious, kind stranger named Theo who arrives in the small southern city of Golden, Georgia." That meeting will be on **July 27th**, so please join us if you'd like. We meet on the last Monday of each month at **10am** in the downstairs TV room. We would love to see new members and hear their suggestions for a future read.

Enjoy a wonderful 4th of July celebration, everyone!!!





THE VILLAGES

2026 MOWING SCHEDULE

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



Lawn Maintenance



Turf Fertilizer Application



Pruning

See Editor's Note on page 5

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July 2026 The Villages 13

HOWELL SENIOR FRIENDSHIP CLUB

President Pat Scott

The Club is sorry to announce that due to poor turnout at our last few monthly meetings the Board has decided to skip the July and August meetings and resume monthly meetings in September. Keep in mind that we will start collecting for our December 6, 2026 Christmas Party in the Clubhouse.

We have booked Lou Abbato for our entertainment and the food will be provided by Di Angelos Italian Market (menu to follow). The cost will be \$45 per person and the time will be 1 to 5 PM.

Thanks to all who joined us on our trip to The Surfflight Theater to see their production of 'Guys and Dolls.' The show was a hit and everyone had a great time.

Chuck had a very successful trip to Resorts in Atlantic City in May and is working on more trips in the coming months. Our next trip will be in early August and if you are interested give Chuck a call (917-751-6013).

If you are a new resident of the Villages, or those who have been here a while, you should consider the Friendship Club as a means of getting to know your neighbors.

Come to a meeting, meet some new friends, and join us on a day trip if it suits you. We have a Spring Fling in the Clubhouse each year, and an annual Holiday Party also in the Clubhouse. Membership Dues in the Club are still just \$5 and are due by June 30th of each year. Our monthly meetings are the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00PM, with a 50/50 drawing, and coffee and cake is served as well. We would also be interested in your opinion as to other things the Club could be doing.

For condolence and get-well cards, call Mona Scott at 732-677-3489. We really need to know so that we can get the cards out.

Just a note of interest, if you are not receiving "One Call" messages you must go to the Office and register for them.

There is no parking in the parking lot during any of our trips, please remember to park in the street. It is also suggested that you remember to bring your cell phone on all trips in case of an emergency.

Enjoy the summer and see you all at the September meeting.

THE HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

Sally Ferrante, President

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!

We hope you are enjoying BBQs and beautiful celebratory fireworks as we kick off July and our nation's celebrations. As we honor our country's complex history and its servicemen and women, we turn our eyes to the future... It's time to get down to some business - fun business.

The Hospital Auxiliary, with the generous co-operation of the Bingo Committee, will be hosting a **Charity Bingo night on Friday, July 10th**. As always, there is a \$3 entrance fee which serves as a donation to the Hospital. Doors will open at 6:00 pm with our games beginning at 7 pm.

As always, coffee and cake will be served and
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snacks will be available for purchase. We hope to see you there, and wish you all good luck.

B-I-N-G-O!

With respect to our oft-mentioned, and recently canceled, Waffles and Ice Cream Social, we are looking to August for this event and zeroing in on a date.

Once again, we wish you all a very Happy, Healthy and Peaceful 2026 as we send prayers for peace throughout the world. Please remember that all of our proceeds go to the Pediatric Wing of CentraState. Children should never have to go to

Continued on page 19

IN THE KITCHEN WITH MARYLOU REMEMBERING DOTTY PETROCELLI



Dotty Petrocelli, a long-time resident of The Villages and until February 2020, the cooking columnist for The Villages News Magazine, passed away on May 2, 2026, a few days shy of her 95th birthday. Dotty is remembered by her family as being kind, loving, generous, a class act, smart, strong, and dignified. The Villages News Magazine staff members remember her as always having a smile on her face. And The Villages News Magazine readers loved trying the recipes she published each month.

In gratitude for Dotty's many cooking columns, here is a recipe that was previously published in The Villages News Magazine. Thank you, Dotty, for sharing your many recipes with us! We know you are having lots of fun cooking for the angels and saints up in heaven!

DEE'S DELICIOUS DUMP CAKE

Ingredients:

- 1 20 oz. can crushed pineapple with juice
- 1 can cherry pie filling
- 1 pkg. yellow cake mix without pudding
- 1 cup walnuts or pecans
- 1 stick of cold butter cut in thin slices

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees and grease a 13X9 inch baking pan. Dump the pineapple and juice into the pan, covering the bottom evenly with pineapple. Spread cherry pie filling over pineapple. Sprinkle dry cake mix over cherry layer and top with nuts and slices of butter. Bake 50 minutes or until top is lightly brown. Sever warm or at room temperature. Delicious topped with vanilla ice cream.

BEST ADVICE FOR PEOPLE IN THEIR 70'S*

From the Internet

1. **Walk every single day.** Even slowly, movement keeps you independent longer than medicine.
2. **Eat small, clean meals.** Heavy food becomes a burden at this age.
3. **Keep your mornings calm and predictable.** Routine protects your heart and mind.
4. **Strengthen your legs.** Strong legs decide how long you live on your own.
5. **Get Sunlight daily.** Low vitamin D causes weakness, sadness, and pure immunity.
6. **Keep your weight stable.** Sudden changes are warning signs, not progress.
7. **Stay around calm people only.** Stress is more dangerous now than ever.
8. **Do balance exercises.** One fall can change the rest of your life.
9. **Sleep early and protect your sleep like medicine.** Recovery keeps you alive.
10. **Get regular blood, heart, and bone checkups.** Small issues grow quickly after 70.
11. **Drink water throughout the day.** Dehydration leads to dizziness and falls.
12. **Keep the house clutter free.** Safety at home protects your future.
13. **Stay mentally active.** Learn small new things daily to keep your brain sharp.
14. **Spend more time outdoors.** Fresh air improves mood sleep and energy
15. **Avoid arguments.** Peace is more valuable than being right at this age.

*also in your 60's and 80's)



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IT HAPPENED IN NEW JERSEY LOOKING BACK 250 YEARS: THE COLONY ON THE EVE OF THE REVOLUTION

What did New Jersey look like as war with England became increasingly likely? Although originally two proprietary lands (East Jersey and West Jersey) New Jersey was one royal colony by the early 1700's. In the years leading to the Revolutionary War, there were two capitols: Burlington and Perth Amboy, but one royal governor, William Franklin, and one provincial legislature, which alternated meeting between the two capitols.

The total population of the colony was approximately 130,000 and consisted of residents of French, Dutch, British, Scottish, Native American and African ancestry. Elizabethtown (Elizabeth) was the largest city in New Jersey followed by Newark, Trenton, Perth Amboy and Burlington. The religious preferences of New Jerseyans were diverse and ranged from Dutch Reformed, Baptist, Quaker, English Congregationalist, Anglican, Lutheran and others.

In the 1770's, New Jersey's fertile farm land produced wheat, corn, rye, fruits and vegetables and hay for farm animals. The animals were raised for meat, milk, cheese, eggs and in the case of sheep, wool. The abundance of water both within and surrounding New Jersey also provided food. Lush forests afforded lumber for housing and transportation needs. Iron ore was mined from both northern mountains and southern bogs. Early factories had the ability to produce cannon, guns and gun powder.

By 1775, the provincial congress had taken the power to levy taxes and wage war away from royal governor Franklin and, with a succession of provincial congresses, New Jersey installed a new elected government. An ardent loyalist to the end, Governor Franklin was arrested on June 15, 1776 and charged with treason. The five New Jersey delegates who had previously been told to vote no on independence were recalled from Philadelphia and replaced with five new delegates who were instructed to vote yes.

On July 2, 1776, two days before the Declaration of Independence was adopted, New Jersey adopted its own state constitution. It was the fourth state to do so.

By then, over 32,000 British soldiers and sailors had arrived at New York Harbor...

TO BE CONTINUED

Source: Maxine N. Lurie, *Taking Sides in Revolutionary New Jersey: Caught in the Crossfire*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2022.

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The Perfect Place to Spend a Summer's Day

By Kendra Reinshagen



Deep Cut Gardens in Middletown, NJ is 54 acres of gardens and greenhouses. By far the highlight is the rose garden, with over 180 rose bushes containing 52 varieties of roses. When the flowers are in full bloom in June and July the rose garden is truly breathtaking.

The land was originally owned by Edward and Theresa Dangler who built a cottage on the land in the early 1900's. In 1935 the property was purchased by Vito Genovese as a retreat for his family from New York city. He developed the estate to be reminiscent of his Italian homeland. The peanut stone walls, cascading pools and the pergola that stands at the end of the rose garden were all added during his time as the owner of the land that was to become the Deep Cut Gardens. Marjorie and Karl Withal bought the property in 1952. The home they built eventually became what is now the Horticultural Center after Mrs. Withal bequeathed 20 acres to the Park system in 1977. The Park system used Green Aid funding to purchase another 20 acres. Deep Cut was opened to the public the following year and, in 1990, another 14 acres was added to the park.

We have visited Deep Cut several times and always found something delightful and new to see there. Among the things Deep Cut Gardens offers is a Koi pond (just as you enter the grounds) graced with tropical lilies and bog plants and filled with large, brightly colored Koi and Goldfish.

Another water feature is the Natural Pond. Fed by a stream on the grounds, this pond is home to frogs, fish, water birds, turtles and plants. The last time we were there we rested on a bench at the edge of the water and watched turtles sunning themselves on the logs that floated on the water. The trees and grasses surrounding the pond provided shade and a sense of quiet restfulness as we watched the wildlife move around us.

A Japanese-themed garden in the park is filled with texture, winding tree limbs and light that works together to create a sense of serenity and peace in the small space it occupies.

Another special garden is the Shade Garden. Spruce and tulip poplars form a canopy over shade-loving plants like ferns, hosta, bloodroot and cardinal flowers that have been planted along this walkway. The Meadow Walk is a chance to stroll through a woodland meadow that features four groves of trees including chestnut, oak, maple and ash trees. This walk circles the rose garden and looks down on the Pergola and across to the natural pond.

A Rockery features a group of Sargent's weeping hemlocks forming an umbrella over three cascading pools. These Hemlocks boast a width that is rarely seen on the East Coast.

Separate and unique offerings at Deep Cut Gardens include:

- the Bonsai Display which boasts miniaturized trees and shrubs, a few of which are more than 100 years old;
- Horticultural Center which offers beautiful views of the park, a library, program rooms, restrooms and offices.
- Display Garden has vegetables, flowers and herbs cultivated in raised beds by intensive-style gardening

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THE PERFECT PLACE from page 18

- Display Greenhouse has colorful orchids, succulents and houseplants.
- Home Composting Demonstration Site. This site provides information to help transform your yard and garden waste into a beneficial resource for your garden.

For those of you who enjoy gardening you should know that Deep Cut Gardens Horticultural Center is dedicated to the home gardener. It offers classes, guided tours, a library with 4,000 books and other tools you can use to improve your skills and your own garden.

Whatever you are looking for - a chance to look at a unique approach to gardening, a quiet walk through a wooded area decorated with local flora, drinking in the beautiful scent and sight of hundreds of blossoming roses, a peaceful moment sitting in the woods while the local amphibians sun themselves on nearby fallen trees, or the mysterious serenity of a Japanese garden we've done it all at Deep Cut Gardens. We hope you will too.

HOSPITAL AUXILIARY from page 14

the hospital, but we can all do our part to contribute towards any research and comfort. As always, if you have any questions, or just want to chat, don't hesitate to give me a call at 631-456-9174, We are sending you thoughts of love and kindness to you all. Again, stay happy, stay healthy and be safe. So much fun to celebrate together.



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Submitted by his son, Max Sadueste Apun., Jr.

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IT'S SPORTS TIME!

By Joe Barbone

Since it is July, it's time for some sports trivia.

Who was the first woman to have her picture on the front of a Wheaties cereal box?

- A. Elinor Smith C. Mary Lou Retton
B. Billie Jean King D. Babe Didrikson Zaharias

The answer is C.

Olympic gymnast Mary Lou Retton became the first woman to appear on the front of a Wheaties box in 1984 after winning gold at the 1984 Summer Olympics. Her appearance marked a major milestone for the brand and helped elevate the visibility women's athletics nationwide. Previously, pictures of women had been featured only on the back of the box, including aviator Elinor Smith in 1934, and multi-sport star Babe Didrikson Zaharias in 1935. Retton's front-cover placement signaled a new level of recognition for female athletes in mainstream sports marketing.

Which U.S. city is the only one where all its major professional sports teams use the same primary colors?

- A. Boston C. Chicago
B. Pittsburgh D. Philadelphia

The answer is B.

Pittsburgh is the only U.S. city where all its major sports share the same primary color scheme.

The Pittsburgh Steelers (NFL), Pittsburgh Pirates (MLB), and Penguins (NHL) all use black and gold in their uniforms. The colors were inspired by Pittsburgh's official city seal, which traces back to the coat of arms of William Pitt, the Elder, for whom the city was named. The Steelers adopted black and gold in 1933, the Pirates followed in 1948, after previously wearing red, white, and blue, and the Penguins embraced the citywide color tradition in 1980, after originally using powder blue.

Who is the only unanimous inductee in the Baseball Hall of Fame?

- A. Willie Mays C. Mariano Rivera
C. Babe Ruth D. Derek Jeter

The answer is C.

In 2019, Mariano Rivera made history by becoming the first player ever elected unanimously to the Baseball Hall of Fame, receiving 100% of the votes from the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Widely regarded as the greatest closer in baseball history, Rivera spent his entire career with the New York Yankees and holds the all-time record for saves (652). His dominance in high-pressure postseason situations further cemented his legacy, making his unanimous induction a fitting milestone in Hall of Fame history.

Here's some additional sports trivia.

On April 14, 1905, a crowd of 40,000 packed the Polo Grounds in Manhattan to watch the New York Giants, the reigning National League champs, begin the season against the Beaneaters.

On April 18, 1923, the original Yankee Stadium, nicknamed "the house that Ruth built," opened with a crowd of 74,200. Babe Ruth homered as the Yankees beat the Boston Red Sox, 4-1. The stadium would stand until 2010, when a new Yankee Stadium was built.

On January 25, 1924, the first Winter Olympics began at Chamonix in the French Alps. The Scandinavians dominated the speed rinks and slopes, and Norway won the unofficial competition with nineteen medals.

The United States came in third, winning its only gold medal in the 500-meter speed skating event.

On August 9, 1934, the fourth and final Women's World Games opening ceremony took place in London, England. The games took place

Continued on page 21

from 1922-1934, organized by French feminist Alice Milliat.

On May 24, 1935, the Cincinnati Reds beat the Philadelphia Phillies 2-1 in Major League Baseball's first ever night game, played courtesy of recently installed lights at Crosley Field in Cincinnati. The game drew 25,000 fans, who stood by as President Franklin D. Roosevelt symbolically switched on the lights from Washington, DC.

On July 16, 1979, eleven-year-old Crystal Fields was the first girl to win the Pitch, Hit, and Run competition, a youth program sponsored by Major League Baseball, in Seattle, Washington.

The NBA (National Basketball Association) uses a silhouette of a basketball player as its logo. Its image is that of Jerry West, who played primarily for the Los Angeles Lakers, and Golden State Warriors. He was a 14 time NBA All-Star, Olympic gold medalist, and NBA champion. He died in 2024, at the age of 86.



FIREWORKS FUN FACTS

1. The ancient China invented fireworks over 1000 years ago. They initially used bamboo stalks filled with gunpowder that exploded when heated.
2. The vivacious colors of fireworks come from different metal salts: strontium makes red, copper compounds produce blue, sodium creates yellow and barium makes green.
3. Fireworks were created to explode in various shapes, depending on the arrangement of the pyrotechnical materials.
4. Fireworks are used in military applications and as flares for signaling.
5. Sparklers can burn at temperatures as high as 2000 degrees. That's hot enough to melt some metals.
6. Modern firework shows often use computer technology to synchronize the explosions with music, creating an engaging experience for spectators.
7. Macy's 4th of July Fireworks, on the East River in Manhattan, has the largest firework display in the United States.

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5	6 9:30-10:30 AM Yoga *Powerwashing Begins 7 PM Entertainment Committee	7 9:30-11:00 AM T'ai Chi 11:00 AM VNM 	8 9:30-10:30 AM Yoga	9 10 AM-12 NOON Ceramics 2 PM Bingo	10 9:30-10:30 AM Yoga Office closes 12:30 PM 7 PM Charity Bingo Doors open 6 PM	11
12	13 9:30-10:30 AM Yoga	14 9:30-11:00 AM T'ai Chi	15 9:30-10:30 AM Yoga	16 10 AM-12 NOON Ceramics 11 AM-12 NOON Social Worker 2 PM Bingo 6 PM Open Board Meeting	17 9:30-10:30 AM Yoga Office closes 12:30 PM 7 pm Bingo	18
19	20 9:30-10:30 AM Yoga	21 9:30-11:00 AM T'ai Chi 	22 9:30-10:30 AM Yoga	23 10 AM-12 NOON Ceramics 11 AM-12 NOON Social Worker 2 PM Bingo	24 9:30-10:30 AM Yoga Office closes 12:30 PM	25
26	27 9:30-10:30 AM Yoga 10 AM Bookworms 	28 9:30-11:00 AM T'ai Chi	29 9:30-10:30 AM Yoga	30 10 AM-12 NOON Ceramics 11 AM-12 NOON Social Worker 2 PM Bingo	31 9:30-10:30 AM Yoga Office closes 12:30 PM	