



# CARING NEIGHBORS NEWS

thevillagescaringneighbors.com



**JANUARY 2026**

## OFFICERS

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## Caring Neighbor...

Of late our lives have changed dramatically. On Monday, October 13, my husband was taken by EMS to the UF Health Leesburg Hospital, ultimately diagnosed with pneumonia, and admitted. We had just returned the day before from family celebrations in Michigan and Indiana.

From that point forward our lives have been affected. My husband went from an active 90 year old, playing golf three times a week, enjoying all the amenities of The Villages, to medical testing, shots, blood work, medication, on and on.

Then the miracle begins:

I had been serving as a volunteer at the Wildwood Soup Kitchen for six years, receiving my five-year pin in 2025. When my difficulty became known, our coordinator suggested that I contact the Caring Neighbor's Organization in our area to learn of their offerings to the community. I in fact followed that advise and spoke to a director and ultimately was interviewed by staff and the wonder began. During the discussion I learned that Caring Neighbors has a presence in 30+ communities in the Villages Area.

After our needs were evaluated, we were offered three meals a week to be delivered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday for myself and my husband, prepared and packaged by the Wildwood Soup Kitchen. (I might add, the quality of the delivery is superb) - delicious, nutritious, complete offerings. The evening before each delivery the Caring Neighbors delivery volunteer calls to confirm time and arrangement.

About the Delivery:

We have never met such Caring, Supportive Individuals EVER. Their warmth and concern emanates from their faces and their voices. They TRULY CARE. It is just the simple little things that matter in our lives today. We are supported, and not alone in our new adventure.

We can never thank Caring Neighbors enough for such a positive, secure impact on our lives. From the delivery of food, flowers, cards, and undeniable goodness, how lucky we are to be supported by such an organization. Caring Neighbors DO God's work in such a special, meaningful way. Just one of the many ways The Wildwood Kitchen and Caring Neighbor's Community Effort make a difference.

Email sent by Lana and Sheldon Jacobs  
Village of Amelia

## EXECUTIVE BOARD CHANGES IN 2026

The Executive Board will now consist of the following Officers:

President – Ellen Broedlin

First VP – Vicky Giraud

Second VP – Debbie Caskey

Secretary – Scott Prenavo

Treasurer – Pam Taylor

Technical Projects – Brian Holdsworth

To accommodate the rapid growth of the Caring Neighbors organization, it has become necessary to increase the size of the Executive Board. Beginning in 2026, Debbie Caskey who is currently serving as the Secretary, will become the Second Vice President. Scott Prenavo will fill the Secretary vacancy. ✉

Director of Technical Projects will be the sixth member on the Executive Board. Brian Holdsworth has agreed to fill this position. 🖥

In future CN Newsletters, we will feature each of the new Executive Board Members.

## UPCOMING CN EVENTS

Jan. 21 Directors Workshop  
10 am  
Rohan Rec. Ctr.

Jan. 22 Executive Board Meeting  
10 am  
President's Home

## COMING IN THE FUTURE

The beta test of a new Volunteer Hours Reporting System has been underway in four CN Groups for several months. Natalie Skadra, a volunteer in Virginia Trace, has created a tracking system to calculate our volunteer hours. It is easy to use and simplifies the process of collecting data from all our volunteers while reducing the possibility of error. If all goes well, it should be available to all volunteers soon.



## TLC Mental Health Professional News

Jan 6 - Jan 27 Tuesdays, 9:30 - 11 am  
When Life Changes: Grieving Losses Big and Small - 4 Weeks.

January 12 - February 16, Mondays 1-3 pm  
Balancing Care: Support for New Caregivers - 6 Weeks.

January 12 to February 23, Mondays 1-3 pm on Zoom  
Weigh to Go: Weight Loss Support - 7 Weeks.

For more information on the above support groups, go to [tlc-services.org](http://tlc-services.org)



Please join us at SeaBreeze Rec Center on Thursday, Jan 15, from 2-4 pm for "The Role of Mental Health in Healthy Aging" presented by Dr. Richard Hoffer.

"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass; it's about learning to dance in the rain." – Vivian Green

Submit news items, events, and photos for the February CN Newsletter to  
[ab.ultimateassistant@gmail.com](mailto:ab.ultimateassistant@gmail.com)

NO LATER THAN JANUARY 23, 2026