

local news

WATER

Continued from C1

Although no flooding was reported from any residential or commercial properties last year, Baier told the Daily Sun that “we are revising operating policies that allow us to do even better.”

For example, crews will start an early draw-down of a retention pond in the Village of Chatham, sometimes referred to as “Lake Chatham,” now that they are aware of its extremely large watershed basin, Baier said.

Also, about \$800,000 in capital improvements include five new pipe projects, generator purchases for lift stations and other improvements to the storm-water management system, he said.

The system is monitored daily to ensure flood protection by Trey Arnett, president of Arnett Engineering, who is The Villages’ water resource engineer.

“The Villages has an extensive network of retention basins and pumping facilities that allow for aggressive stormwater management during extreme events such as Hurricane Irma,” Arnett said. “In all but the oldest areas of The Villages, the retention basins are designed to retain stormwater runoff from a 100-year event, which has a 1 percent chance of occurring.”

The District also continues to refine its coordination with county and city officials to ensure that government operations will continue during and after a significant weather event.

They’re closely watching four tropical disturbances in the Atlantic against a backdrop of rainfall that has already exceeded its historic average this year, according to the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Baier said the master system of interconnected retention ponds is designed to allow officials to move water from one sub-basin at greater risk to another sub-basin more able to handle the overflow.

The community’s reliance on golf courses to keep overflow out of homes has performed extremely well, he said.

That system uses irrigation sprinklers to remove water in retention areas and spread it out over the vast land of golf courses. Although a temporary inconvenience to golfers, many courses were back online within a week of Irma’s passing.

“The golf courses are designed to be the flood-plain and retain stormwater runoff from larger storm events,” Arnett explained. “The primary basin areas hold runoff from all of the smaller storm events.”

Baier said the District is also aided with strong county and city partners who work ahead of storms to make sure that stormwater lines are cleaned out and ready for the worst.

Sumter County has increased its closed circuit television stormwater pipe inspections in The Villages from 13,430 feet of inspected pipe in 2013 to 82,500 feet in 2016. Nearly \$500,000 was spent in pipe repair in The Villages in 2015 alone.

Daily Sun Managing Editor Curt Hills and Senior Reporter David R. Corder contributed to this report.

See Your Script Come to Life at The Studio’s New Play Workshop

Studio Theatre at Tierra Del Sol is accepting submissions for the play workshop, Scripts from Scratch.

By KRISTEN FIORE
Daily Sun Senior Staff Writer

Dig that old script out of the drawer of your writing desk, dust it off and give it a chance to come alive. You owe it to yourself and your story.

The Studio Theatre at Tierra Del Sol recently announced Scripts from Scratch, a new play workshop open to all Florida residents.

The four selected finalists from the submissions will have the opportunity to spend one week in May 2019 with The Studio’s creative staff, including local actors and directors, to workshop their plays.

During the final two days of the workshop, another element will be added: an audience.

The workshop is the brainchild of Elizabeth Constant, booking coordinator at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center, and Whitney Morse, artistic director at The Sharon and Studio.

Constant has a background in playwriting and dramaturgy, and Morse has experience as a literary manager.

Before moving to Florida, Constant established two highly successful national play-reading festivals and hopes to see similar success with Scripts from Scratch.

“So many writers have piles of scripts sitting in a drawer



Erin Williams | Daily Sun

Local actors, directors and audience members will bring your play to life with Scripts from Scratch, a new play workshop presented by the Studio Theatre at Tierra Del Sol.

or on their hard drive just waiting for an opportunity to be heard, and this workshop is just that,” Morse said. “It’s an invaluable resource for a playwright to get feedback from actors, directors and audience members before a play is complete.”

Constant said they aren’t looking for plays that are pristine and 100 percent polished, but scripts that are still in process and show potential.

“If you have a script that could use some fine tuning, or a section of dialogue just isn’t quite right, those are the submissions we want,” Constant said. “We’d love to dissect and iron out the trouble spots, and hopefully you walk away after a week with a new, more polished draft of what you came in with.”

While the workshop is open to all Florida residents, Morse and Constant hope that Villagers will submit their scripts.

“They have the best stories,”

compelling stories, solid structure, believable dialogue and a strong sense of style.

“Plays are meant to be heard,” Constant said. “You can only develop a play for so long sitting behind your keyboard. I think having an opportunity to workshop your play with live voices of eager actors is a phenomenal way to see how the words on the page translate in real life.”

Kristen Fiore is a senior staff writer with The Villages Daily Sun. She can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5270, or kristen.fiore@thevillagesmedia.com.

Public Safety

LAW ENFORCEMENT NEWS

MARION COUNTY INMATE DEATH

A 24-year-old female inmate in Marion County Jail was pronounced dead after staff learned she was unresponsive and attempted resuscitation. The inmate’s name was not released, pending next-of-kin notifications. Detectives are investigating the cause of death.

— Julie Butterfield, Daily Sun

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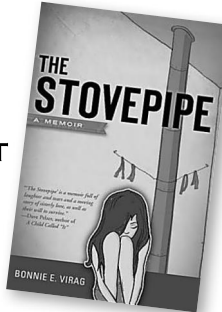
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