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From WVLG Radio at  
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# localnews

**Have a News Tip?**  
Contact the Newsroom  
352-753-1119, Ext. 5397

**CONSUMER NEWS**

## BLOCK WALL WORK STARTS ON PUBLIX AT MAGNOLIA PLAZA

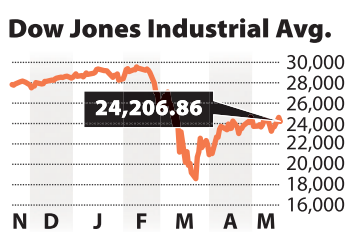
Inspections are underway on the stem-wall work at the Publix Super Markets store at Magnolia Plaza, a 21-acre neighborhood retail center at the entrance to the Village of Marsh Bend. **B10**

## 'PEACE OF MIND' SERVICE OFFERED

The service with Sumter County Sheriff's Office is offered for free. **Public Safety, B10**

## THE DAY ON WALL STREET

Daily Stocks, **B11**



**Dow**  
-390.51  
Close: 24,206.86

**Nasdaq**  
-49.72  
Close: 9,185.10

**S&P 500**  
-30.97  
Close: 2,922.94

## INSIDE

- Weather B2
- Public Safety B4
- Obituaries B4
- Club Notes B5

## Talking With ... Amy Cearley

Founder and owner of the Tri-County Caregiver Resource Center spoke with the Daily Sun about a series of monthly workshops.

Interview, **B4**

## Our Town

WHERE WE LIVE AND WHO WE ARE

# Driveway Concerts Pop Up Across Villages

RESIDENTS ENJOY ENTERTAINMENT AT THEIR DOORSTEPS



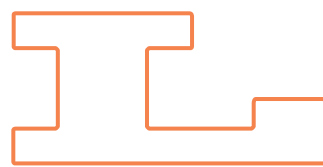
Cindy Skop | Daily Sun

The Skipper, of the Village of Ashland, joins Billie Thatcher, of the Village of Springdale, and her friend, Kevin O'Connell, of the Village De La Vista, Monday to perform for about 50 neighbors.



Michael Johnson | Daily Sun

Jim Fraser, of the Village of Silver Lake, performs with the Beatlemaniacs during a driveway concert in the Village of Lynnhaven. The concert was streamed via Facebook Live on May 1.



By **KRISTEN FIORE**  
Daily Sun Senior Writer

Local entertainers have found a way to bring back the joy of in-person live music while following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines. Amid canceled entertainment and social gatherings, people are venturing out to driveways to hold concerts in a fun and safe way. "We're social people who can't socialize, so we're trying to find alternative ways to socialize that are safe," said Donna Francis, of the Village of Charlotte. "This way we can still blast our music to a small area and people can dance or sit 6 feet apart on their lawns." Francis thought it would be a good idea to try it in her Village after seeing other people host driveway concerts. "I think people are just itching to be entertained, and we entertainers are itching to entertain," she said. After making sure it was OK with her neighbors, Francis sent out fliers around the street to let people know that she and her husband would do a

Please See **CONCERTS, B9**

**CHARITY NEWS**

## CHURCH COLLECTING FOOD FOR CHILDREN

Church @ The Springs is seeking donations for at-risk kids.

Church @ The Springs is partnering with Interfaith Emergency Services to ensure that at-risk children have access to food in the community. Donations are accepted before services at 9 a.m. Sundays and 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays at 5424 SE 58th Ave., Ocala. For more information, go to [thesprings.net/fooddrive](http://thesprings.net/fooddrive).

— James Dinan, Daily Sun

## 600

Village of Charlotte resident Ali Rhodes has made over 600 masks for first responders and health care workers in The Villages. Police, firefighters and pharmacists have received them.

— Liz Coughlin, Daily Sun

**LOCAL NEWS**

## TUNE IN TO NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ON FACEBOOK

Enthusiasts can watch a Facebook Live event featuring wildlife filmmaker.

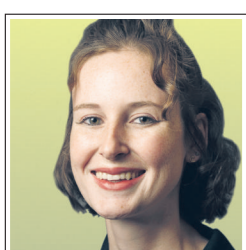
National Geographic Live is an interactive series that hits The Sharon a few times a year. This year's series is on sale through The Villages Box Office July 1. At 1 p.m. today, the series offers an event featuring wildlife filmmaker Filipe DeAndrade. It's on National Geographic Live's Facebook page, @natgeolive.

— Kristen Fiore, Daily Sun

## THIS & THAT

### Tickets for Rescheduled Tribute Shows at Savannah Center Are on Sale Now

Tickets for Savannah Center shows rescheduled to September are on sale now. "The Rocketman Show," an Elton John tribute show, will come to Savannah Center at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Sept. 18, with ticket prices starting at \$25. Eagles tribute band Hotel California will return to the venue for shows at 5 and 8 p.m. Sept. 23 with tickets starting at \$35, and Bob Seger tribute show "Hollywood Nights" will play at 5 and 8 p.m. Sept. 26 with tickets starting at \$25. Tickets are available online at [thevillagesentertainment.com](http://thevillagesentertainment.com) or by calling the box office at 352-753-3229. For updates on canceled and rescheduled shows, click "Latest Updates" on thevillagesentertainment.



**Kristen Fiore**

352-753-1119, ext. 5270  
[kristen.fiore@thevillagesmedia.com](mailto:kristen.fiore@thevillagesmedia.com)

### FRIDAY'S VIRTUAL PLAY READING IS 'ANTIGONE'

Up next in The Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol's virtual play reading series is Sophocles' "Antigone." The reading will be 1 p.m. Friday on The Studio's Facebook Page, @thestudiotheatretierradelosol and on The Villages Entertainment's YouTube page, "The Villages Entertainment." After the reading, audience members can interact with the actors via Facebook Live.



Joe Marchese | Village of Delmar

### Moment of Zen

Email your photo to [photos@thevillagesmedia.com](mailto:photos@thevillagesmedia.com) with "Moment of Zen" as the subject. Include your name and village/city. Photos should be from our community.

### 'OTHER DESERT CITIES' ON PAUSE

The fourth show of Season 4 at The Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol, "Other Desert Cities" currently is on pause, and there are efforts in place to reschedule in the coming months, said a statement in "The Scoop," an online magazine published monthly by The Studio and The Sharon. Ticket holders who want a refund should call 352-753-3229.

local news



**Celebration:** Alan and Estelle Brauer, of the Village of Gilchrist, recently celebrated their grandson, JT Heilbronner's, bar mitzvah with their family via Zoom.



**Lifestyle:** Dr. Gerry Powers, of the Village of Sanibel, also known as "The One Man Band," recently put on a driveway concert for friends and neighbors. He performs every 10 days. Friends and neighbors enjoy driving by, sitting in their driveways and listening to good music while keeping a safe distance.



Michael Johnson | Daily Sun

Vinny Como, center, of the Village of Charlotte, plays guitar while singing alongside drummer Richard Senator, left, of the Village Hacienda, and bass player Sam Surgeon, of the Village of Lake Deaton. The Beatlemaniacs gave a driveway concert in the Village of Lynnhaven that was streamed via Facebook Live on May 1.

CONCERTS

Continued from B1

driveway concert if people wanted to come out and listen, as long as they stayed 6 feet apart.

"People sat on their lawns, and a few people driving by in golf carts stopped to listen," she said. Francis has done more since the first driveway concert a few weeks ago, including a private driveway concert with the vocal trio she's in, The LaLi-Pops, on Friday in the Village of Hemingway.

Local entertainer Billie Thatcher has put on driveway concerts at 6 p.m. every Monday in her driveway in the Village of Springdale with her friend Kevin O'Connell, of the Village De La Vista.

"We do a wide variety of music and try to do something for everybody," Thatcher said. "So far, it's been a great joy. We take requests if we know them. We tell people we'll try anything if we can think we can do a good job of it."

Thatcher also streams the performances from her Facebook page via Facebook Live.

Facebook Live also has proven to be a good tool for the Beatlemaniacs club, which recently started streaming performances from member Bob Shea's driveway at 10 a.m. every Friday in the Village of Lynnhaven.

"We've limited it to nine musicians and the camera man," said Jim Fraser, president of the club. "At many of our meetings, we sometimes have

up to 30 musicians. We limited it so we can stay safe and be 6 feet apart."

Neighbors sit out on their lawns to watch as hundreds of people tune in on Facebook.

"We had 229 people tune in last week," said Fraser, of the Village of Silver Lake. "There were even people from Liverpool, England. They ask questions and request songs."

To tune in, visit the Beatlemaniacs' Facebook page, "The Beatlemaniacs of The Villages." Some are using driveway concerts for charitable efforts as well.

Ralph DiNome, known on the squares with Flashback Band, has been performing driveway concerts with his three-person band, Village Dreamz, and collecting donations for Wildwood Food Pantry and Villagers for Veterans.

"We raised about \$2,000 and collected a lot of food," said DiNome, of the Village of Mallory Square. "The generosity in The Villages is just phenomenal."

Local tenor Mark Steven Schmidt, of the Village of Orange Blossom Gardens, has even started offering private driveway concerts.

"I've been doing concerts in the home for a couple of years, so the natural progression was concerts in the driveway," said Linda Succi, Schmidt's manager. "There's such a need and a hunger for people to have entertainment."

Schmidt tried a few livestream concerts but was glad for the chance to perform for a live audience in person.

"I've been amazed at the positive response," he said. "I try to really mix it up because you never know what musical tastes you'll have."

To book Schmidt for a driveway concert for your street, call Succi at 401-323-4072 or email her at drlinda-succi@aol.com.

"Music spreads joy," said

Succi, of the Village of Calumet Grove. "It benefits us and our neighbors and friends. It's just been wonderful and has helped us so much."

It's not quite the same as club meetings and nights out dancing, but most agree that it's a good replacement for now. "Everyone seems to be having a really good time with it,"

Fraser said. "We'll keep doing it as long as we have to. I prefer the full meeting with a live audience, but this is something we can do during the pandemic and it's better than nothing. The weather is nice and it's great to be outdoors playing."

Thatcher said she will continue holding driveway concerts every week until

things are operating more normally.

"And then maybe we'll do it one more time and have a party," she said. "Maybe we'll even get to hug each other."

Senior writer Kristen Fiore can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5270, or kristen.fiore@thevillagesmedia.com.

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Cindy Skop | Daily Sun

Billie Thatcher, of the Village of Springdale, and her friend, Kevin O'Connell, of the Village De La Vista, perform for about 50 neighbors Monday at Thatcher's home.

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