

local news



VILLAGER BACKSTORY

You may know Mike Abbott as a saxophone player and singer, but what you may not know is that he's a serial entrepreneur with expertise in multiple disciplines.



Michael Johnson | Daily Sun

GETTING TO KNOW MIKE ABBOTT

Age: 68

Village: Mallory Square

Partner: Patty Gillis

Moved Here In: 2017

Moved Here From: Ocala

Favorite Villages Activities: Playing music, pickleball and golf

**Kristen Fiore**

THE VILLAGES DAILY SUN

Do you know someone with an interesting backstory to tell? Email kristen.fiore@thevillagesmedia.com, or call 352-753-1119, ext. 5270

Mike Abbott describes his introduction to the saxophone as "total luck." He joined his school's band and was going to play trumpet, but the band director suggested he try drums.

"So I went home and told my parents that I was going to play drums, and they said, 'Think again,'" Abbott said.

His cousin played the saxophone, so he decided to try it out, too. Abbott grew up all over the world because his father was in the U.S. Air Force. Music was one of the constants wherever he went.

"Once you start playing at school dances and it becomes a part of your identity, you think, this is something I'd like to keep doing," Abbott said. "So for 52 years, I've been doing this professionally."

Hitting the Road

After graduating high school

in Okinawa, an island that is now part of Japan, Abbott got a degree in music education and studied saxophone, voice, flute and piano at the University of Southern Maine.

But the desire to perform outgrew the desire to teach, so Abbott hit the road and ended up playing with a band called the Lewis and Clark Expedition at the Sheraton Waikiki in Hawaii.

"It was right on the beach," said Abbott, of the Village of Mallory Square. "For a 25-year-old guy, it was pretty cool."

When Abbott tired of being on the road, he became a studio musician and worked in arranging, producing and composing. He played on albums and commercials and wrote radio jingles. At night, he played in bands.

"It was a good group of musicians and a lot of fun," Abbott said. At a wedding in 1978, he was introduced to the Lyricon, a

rare electronic wind instrument.

"Only 300 were made, and I was one of the guys who bought them," Abbott said. "I've been playing electronic wind synthesizers ever since. It's given me a whole avenue of expression that I wouldn't have had if I was just a regular woodwind player."

Performing Live

Several years ago, Abbott moved part time from Maine to Ocala, where he immediately fell in with a band that performed in The Villages, so he moved to The Villages and is now on his third house.

Locally, Abbott has played solo at places such as Cody's Original Roadhouse and GarVino's, and at Savannah Center with different Villages groups. He also plays with bands around Ocala and seasonally with bands up north.

Not being able to perform

due to the pandemic was rough for most musicians, including Abbott.

"It kind of feels like your soul got sucked out," Abbott said. "You've got to get out there and play. In a band, it's extremely rewarding to be united with these other people, singing harmony. There's something really cosmic about it that's hard to define."

Life as a Polymath

But music isn't the only thing Abbott has mastered in his lifetime.

He was a senior business consultant for major corporations, helping them redefine their business practices. He worked with people like former presidential candidate Ross Perot and health care companies like Blue Cross Blue Shield Association.

He also was in real estate

and won awards for remodeling houses, and he still remodels when he comes across the right project.

In 2008, he launched his own chain of music schools in Massachusetts and New Hampshire called The Real School of Music.

"We now have three locations and employ about 80 people," Abbott said. "In 2020, we gave over 100,000 online music lessons."

The schools put an emphasis on community and performance.

"Each of our schools has a performance hall," he said. "(Students) can take lessons and be in a band."

Abbott considers himself a polymath, someone who has deep levels of expertise in multiple disciplines.

"I've always approached life like that," he said. "If you're going to do something in life, you might as well learn as much as you can about it."

Monday TURKEY BLT WRAP
sliced turkey breast, bacon, tomatoes, lettuce, double egg mayo, flour tortilla
\$7.99

SCOOPLES DAILY SPECIALS

Scooples Sandwich Specials include full sandwich and choice of side.
AVAILABLE AFTER 11AM

MONDAY - Turkey BLT Wrap \$7.99**TUESDAY - Roast Beef & Cheddar \$7.99****WEDNESDAY - Chicken Philly \$7.99****THURSDAY - Club Sandwich \$7.99****FRIDAY - Chicken Salad Sandwich \$7.99****SATURDAY SPECIAL \$6.50 SUNDAE****ROTATING SUNDAE SPECIAL**
See server for details.**SUNDAY SPECIAL \$5.00 HOT DOGS****All hot dogs on menu \$5.00 served with choice of side.***Doesn't include Coney Dogs**We are open for Breakfast every day at 8am!**

PHOTOS FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY.

BROWNWOOD®2718 Brownwood Blvd,
The Villages, Florida 32163
352-750-6263**- HOURS -**
OPEN EVERY DAY
8am-9pm
TO GO COFFEE
AVAILABLE AT 7AM**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK**
www.facebook.com/scooplesicecream

FertiGator® BETTER LAWN & LANDSCAPES

LAWN & PEST

We Fertilize Thru Your Sprinklers with Mojo®

Fertigation Won't Stain & is Safe for Sprinklers.

Fertigation is used by Top Golf Courses & Plant Growers

Why FertiGator?

- **We are Highly Recommended**
By fellow residents on Talk of The Villages and Next Door
- **We are Reliable & Trustworthy**
15 years serving residents of The Villages® Community
- **We are the Right Size**
We can do it all, but are small enough to care
- **We DON'T Require Contracts or Prepay**
No worries & No hassles

We Give Your Lawn & Landscape MOJO®

& Mojo is our proprietary blend of micronutrients and bio-stimulant (humic acid & seaweed extract) that we inject thru your sprinklers to give you

- **A Greener, Thicker Lawn**
- **More Vibrant, Healthier Shrubs & Flowers**

LAWN, SHRUB, PEST PACKAGE**PREFERRED SERVICES PACKAGE**

- Lawn Care - bi-monthly visits (Fertilization, weed, insect & disease control)
- Shrub Care - bi-monthly visits (Fertilization, insect & disease control)
- Home Pest Control - bi-monthly (Outside barriers, inside anytime needed)
- Sprinkler Tune-Up (1 annual)

FREE FertiGator System Installation with Both Packages

- Lawn Care
- Shrub Care
- Home Pest Control

- Mowing/Edging*
- Plant Bed Weed Control (Chemical Only)
- Sprinkler Care - 2 annual tune-ups
- Free Service Calls

Small Lawns & Landscapes as low as

\$550/year* if prepaid
or
\$55 month-to-month

Villas as low as \$450/year if prepaid*

Small Lawns & Landscapes as low as

\$1500/year* if prepaid
or
\$150 month-to-month

Villas as low as \$1300/year if prepaid

*Mowing available south of 466A only.

FREE ESTIMATES 352-314-2867*Price shown is for prepaid service first year and small lawns with small landscape. Larger lawns and landscapes higher cost. Irrigation and fertilization services not available in Marion county. *Prices subject to change.