



**You may know Keith “Chubby” Chubb as your neighbor in the Village of Calumet Grove, but what you may not know is he is an accountant-turned-karaoke-host and Mexican wrestling referee.**



Bill Mitchell | Daily Sun

**GETTING TO KNOW KEITH “CHUBBY” CHUBB**

**Age:** 67  
**Village:** Calumet Grove  
**Partner:** Jude Hamilton  
**Family:** Two sons, one daughter, three grandchildren  
**Moved Here In:** 2020  
**Moved Here From:** Cancún, Mexico  
**Favorite Villages Activities:** attending live entertainment, golfing



**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

Music was one of Keith “Chubby” Chubb’s favorite things while he was growing up in a tiny Ohio town. He was hooked from the time his mom brought home a single of “Jailhouse Rock,” and he later spent many afternoons carrying his own stereo and collection of 45s to his friends’ houses. But his love for music didn’t instantly transfer to his career. He went on to Bowling Green State University, where he studied accounting. Accounting brought him to Charlotte, North Carolina, where he settled in to working and raising a family. But he just couldn’t find any joy in that career path. “I spent four years getting educated, one year learning how to do it and 14 years trying to get out,” Chubb said of accounting. And so he did. But what does an ex-accountant do? In

Chubb’s case: karaoke. Chubb had worked part time as a mobile DJ and had gone out to karaoke before, where he was appalled by how the host just kept calling up his friends and not giving anyone else a turn. “I said, ‘I’m going to do that business, because I’m never going to treat costumers like that,’” said Chubb, of the Village of Calumet Grove. Chubb got a job at a business that made cassette tapes with lyrics and was looking to make CDs with graphics. They weren’t hiring, but Chubb got an interview with the company president. “I proceeded to tell them that they’d hire me and I’d launch and design their new product line,” Chubb said. And they did. But it was definitely a pay cut. After three years, Chubb started his own karaoke

business, Chubby’s Karaoke. He had to talk his then-wife into taking a second mortgage on the house so he could start the business. But things took off in Charlotte, so after visiting Cancún and being unimpressed with the karaoke options there, Chubb decided to expand to Cancún. “I didn’t speak Spanish, I didn’t know the culture or music, but I thought we could make a business,” Chubb said. Once again, it worked out. Chubb scored a relationship with Royal Resorts and was soon set up in Cancún, where he also performed about 40 wedding vows and renewals. “In Mexico, only a Mexican judge can make the binding, so there’s the show and the legal aspect,” Chubb said. “People wanted to have a destination wedding. Doing that stuff was really a lot of fun for me.” Chubb’s favorite part

about hosting karaoke was connecting with people and helping people feel more confident about singing. “A lot of people came up to me and said, ‘I was petrified and you got me to sing and now I love singing,’” Chubb said. Chubb said he has hosted about 5,000 shows in his career. In Cancún, Chubb got involved in one of his other passions: wrestling. There was a Lucha Libre scene there, and he got to the point where the wrestlers and fans got to know him. He got his referee’s license and has been in the ring as a guest referee a few times. Wrestling was just another way Chubb could be part of the show. In Cancún, he dubbed himself the Ambassador of Fun. “All of that without really learning Spanish,” Chubb admitted. “I know a lot of bad words, but nothing

conversational.” While living in Cancún, Chubb set up an online dating profile and met his wife, Jude Hamilton. “I decided I would show her the lowest side of life that I lived, so I took her to Lucha Libre and we went to eat tacos at a taco stand on the street,” Chubb said. “I decided if she didn’t run after that experience, then it might be a possibility.” It did work out. Hamilton introduces herself by saying, “I’m Jude, like the song,” and Chubb follows with, “I’m Chubby, like The Twist.” The two moved to The Villages after accidentally selling their house in Charlotte (long story). “We really weren’t thinking about coming to Florida,” Chubb said. “But just because something isn’t on your life radar doesn’t mean it won’t happen.”

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