

# Shady Lane Village

September 2025



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Hello Neighbors...

Here we are already....getting to celebrate Labor Day. For many of us, it is the end of our summer fun, back to school for the kiddo's and what I think is the start of the prettiest season of the year....FALL!

But really it is a federal holiday, that celebrates the social and economic achievements of the American Workers. It is always observed the first Monday of September and was established in the late nineteenth century , when labor activiists pushed for a federal

holiday to recogize the many contributions worker's have made in America's strength, prosperity and well-being.

So if your thoughts go straight to the end of summer fun, stop for minute to appreciate all of the people that put so much of their lives into raising the standard of living and contributing to the greatest production the world has ever known.

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## The Buzz around town...



Hello Neighbors...

The time is near...the Snowbirds will start their migration back to the Florida coast! Traffic will increase, reservations at restaurants will be harder to get and the beaches will be filled with folks working on their tans.

Shady Lane Village and Shady Lane Oaks will once again come alive. Not that it isn't in the summer, but let's face it, some days it's just too hot to come out of your house, hence the quietness in the parks. Our regular fall and winter activities will start back up and I'm sure our social directors are already planning ahead for more events. I can't wait to see what they are.

I have heard a lot of buzz while here in Ohio about how great our summer activities have been. Kudo's to all that have worked together on these events. There was also a lot of buzz about not having enough activities and concerns regarding the cost of events. Especially if there was more than one event planned in the month.

I know that this topic is an old one, but occasionally it needs to be repeated. If there are multiple activities in a month and the cost to attend all of them is not in your budget, you may need to pick and choose which activity you want to attend. Both communities try to keep the cost of the events within reason because we know we have a lot of people living here on fixed incomes and everything is going up. But, if you think about it...where can you go for dinner or breakfast and have entertainment for \$10 or less?

If you were to look at other communities' calendars and see what they plan for activities, I am sure that each one of them would have activities that residents share in the cost. So, it's not really uncommon. Perhaps, other communities have more residents that like to participate or have activities that are more interesting. We continue to ask over and over again for suggestions and volunteers,

but never seem to get any interest. Maybe times have changed over the years and the days of community involvement is dwindling away, but both Shady Lane Community HOA's have both been working hard to bring it back. We are promoting positivity, community and transparency. We want your suggestions and ideas to work towards these goals. We want you to have a voice in planning and sharing in our activities, but you must understand that to keep activities going, there may be some cost involved. We welcome ideas for activities that peak our residents interest and can be achieved with little or no cost. If you have some...bring them on.

Lets try to keep the momentum going in both Shady Lane Village and Shady Lane Oaks this coming fall and winter season. Take a positive interest in our communities....bring ideas to the table and take part in the activities. Leave the negativity at home behind close doors and enjoy what life has to offer.

Stop with the mean attitudes and remember that each and every one of us has a part in what happens in our lives. If you don't like what's happening, be part of the solution...work together because together is always better!

Billie





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## **SCAM WATCH**

### **Sun City Center man loses hundreds of thousands in romance scam –**

July 17, 2025 - By LOIS KINDLE

It began in 2022 with an unsolicited message on social media from a woman striking up a conversation with a lonely man. As their messaging grew more frequent and personal, the man – a resident of a local assisted living community – began to fall in love.

Unbeknownst to him, the affection he felt was being carefully manipulated by the caller. He was being targeted by an experienced scam artist – a man posing as a woman, whose sole aim was to exploit his trust and drain his finances. As the “relationship” deepened, the scammer began talking about market trends and personal investments. He shared screenshots flaunting his crypto profits and encouraged the man to use his (the scammer’s) broker to set up an account.

After his initial investment of few hundred dollars, the elderly man began sending larger sums to an account he believed was growing. The website looked convincing, as his balance climbed with each transfer. But it was all a façade. When the senior finally tried to withdraw money from the so-called “crypto broker,” the truth unraveled: the account was fake, and the website he’d been sending money to didn’t exist.

A concerned friend contacted Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office Master Deputy Jeff Merry, who went to see the man in person. “He was confused, embarrassed, hurt and extremely upset. He didn’t know where to turn,” Merry said. “I helped him gather his documentation and convinced him to file a report.”

This led to the arrest of 37-year-old Otiz Swinton Jr., a convicted felon with a history of targeting elderly residents. Swinton had previously served six years in prison for debit and credit card fraud, involving Aston Gardens residents. Released last spring, Swinton Jr. was arrested again in May by the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office for scamming the elderly man out of more than \$800,000. After posting bond, he was rearrested in June and is now being held without bond. He faces 20 pending charges, each carrying a potential sentence of five to 30 years, Merry said. The investigation remains

active.

Merry added that Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier and HCSO Sheriff Chad Chronister have prioritized this case. “These predatory schemes rob our residents of the security and financial stability they’ve spent their lives building,” said Chronister in a June news release. “Those who deliberately prey on the elderly are the worst kinds of criminals as they exploit vulnerability, trust and, often, isolation for personal gain. We will continue to pursue anyone who targets our seniors with every resource at our disposal.”

Romance scams are especially cruel and heartbreaking. According to Merry, they leave behind more than empty bank accounts. Victims often spend months, even years, investing themselves and their finances in what feels like a genuine, loving relationship. When the truth comes out, they’re devastated by the emotional betrayal and financial loss, which sometimes involves their entire life savings.

If you or someone you know has been or is being victimized by a scammer, call Merry or Ashley Stewart, community service aide, at 813-242-5515 for support and help filing a report. Their office is at 948 Cherry Hills Drive, Sun City Center. On weekends, call the District IV Command office at 813-247-0455.

<https://www.observernews.net/2025/07/17/scc-man-loses-hundreds-of-thousands-in-romance-scam/>

Submitted by:

Patsy Clarke Peters, Lot 1029 SLV, 732-688-0892

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## **DONNA'S CORNER**

Well, hello again,

It seems like I just wrote something for August, however, I must have lost it, forgotten it or I've lost my memory. That's because I'm sure I did write it, but it never made it to the magazine. I've been on a search and recover mission and have had no luck so far. So, I'm doing another one for September, and let's hope this one makes it.

Now then, how is everyone's summer besides HOT? I don't recall this much heat during our past few years. 2025 is something new or most of the earth, and .... It makes me wonder if all of us are going to have learn new ways of keeping cool if our climate is changing too much.

Now I'm also wondering about our WINTER and if it will change too. Any opinions out there? I'm hoping for our regular cooler months, not colder ones! I'll say my prayers for our regular weather, that's for sure.

Anyway, we will handle it I'm sure. We all seem to adapt to climate changes a little bit more each year. Until this year's heat it's been okay don't you think?

Now on to something other than weather. I went to an activity meeting between SLV and the oaks at their meeting, mainly I was curious about any upcoming events for the rest of the year. I know, I know it's too early but, even a little information on some of it is beneficial. The earlier you know what's up coming, you can plan around their agenda and what you may be interested in. Right? I think so anyway. And \_\_\_\_\_ this way you can volunteer ahead of time. This will give you plenty of time so you can lend a hand and help. You know it's not easy trying to plan events w/o help to accomplish all that fun stuff you like. Just a reminder folks, you should not complain about events if you haven't put in some time and effort to make them successful. And no, I'm not being goody, goody about helping. I just know from past experiences how much goes into having successful activities. Believe me \_\_\_\_\_ IT AIN'T EASY!

Now a bit about what's up? Who's willing to be an active HOA member? We seem to see the same "few" faces at every meeting. If you belong, go to the meetings. If are not a member then join and participate. Our

membership seems to be dropping and that's a shame. The HOA does a lot for all residents. At some meetings there may be issues that require a vote. If you're not an HOA member your household loses 1 vote. Please note 1 vote per household even if more than 1 lives there. If you did not know that it is in the HOA rules. Read it. It's there. I'm finally getting off my high horse. Sorry if I went off on a few items this month, but I cannot pass it up when the itch strikes, I scratch! I still love y'all so till next month.

Donna, Lot 1031

P.S. Please notice that this is almost the same as the August magazine article, I didn't get. It wasn't received yet when I did this one. Maybe it's a good reminder.





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