

# District Announces Phased Plan To Reopen Amenities Safely for Residents to Use


By **RICHARD BAIER**  
District Manager

The Villages District government staff in consideration of health department guidance is implementing a carefully crafted plan to slowly and safely reopen recreational amenities for its residents. District Manager Richard Baier and his staff have provided a glimpse into the strategies that will help restore lifestyle opportunities in and around recreation facilities.




Michael Johnson | Daily Sun  
The flag waves April 1 in front of Eisenhower Recreation Center.

## What's the first step in the District's plan?

 In order to have facilities ready and in addition to the COVID-19 aerosol sanitizing, District staff will devote the week of April 27 to May 3 to further clean and prep facilities.

These efforts will include establishing 6-foot buffers in room layouts, swimming pool areas, with tables and chairs and exercise activities so social distancing may be actively practiced. The residents will not have access to additional facilities this week, but they can rest assure that District staff is hard at work getting the facilities ready.

## When might residents be able to set foot inside recreation centers and use some of the outdoor facilities again?

 If approved by local, state and federal governments and their respective health agencies, the District will provide a phased "level of safe" services for residents starting May 4 and its Phase 2 plan will run through the remainder of May.

As health and safety are paramount, the District is reviewing all of its recreational activities through

the health department guidelines of limiting exposure, consideration of high respiration activities, activity interaction exposure durations and the interactions of persons/objects. The District will make prudent safety-based decisions for these limited activities, such as limiting facility use, special social spacing accommodations and the like.

For those activities that can be reopened, the activities will begin at their normal opening time (e.g. selected pools) but all activities which can be reopened will close at 8 p.m. in order to afford staff time for next day cleaning and preparations.


Village IDs will be checked and cashless Golf Trail Fee services will also continue to be the only method of payment.

An individual's decision to participate in any event must be made by the participant and in consideration of their personal health, the District will recommend that participants follow all CDC guidelines/local health, including wearing masks, wearing gloves and bringing their own water, wipes and/or hand sanitizer. At this time, all warming kitchens within reopened facilities are closed (No coffee, ice etc.).


I would ask that if you have

questions please refer to the District's home page at [Districtgov.org](http://Districtgov.org) and specifically direct them to the Recreation and Parks Department. This information may change as health guidelines are updated due to any change in circumstances.


## What happens after May 31?

 Considering a smooth procession during the month of May and no further change in health circumstances, the District would implement a Phase 3, in which additional non-regional recreation centers, additional outdoor facilities, as well as the consideration of a return of the popular boat tours and outdoor excursions. It is envisioned that there still would not be any recreation sponsored or co-sponsored comparatively larger lifestyle events, socials or special events.

## What will residents be required to bring?

 Besides their own protective gear such as face masks, gloves, wipes and hand sanitizer, they would need to bring their own water bottles as water fountains will not be operational and water coolers will still not be provided.

## Why is this happening in phases?

 The District is implementing a "health based" responsible approach to help prepare the facilities for use and afford residents time to adjust to protective measures, yet get them back to enjoying their lifestyle amenities.

The District will provide more information as it becomes available in Recreation News, the Daily Sun and [DistrictGov.org](http://DistrictGov.org).