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So Little Time Left

by
Tom Holbrook

By the time you read this there will only be 27 days until Christmas and 33 days until the year 2006 is history. An unbelievably fast year was 2006, so I'm going to be covering a lot of "stuff" in this article just so I can sweep it under the rug before the year gets away from me.

First and foremost... since last we talked I joined the fantastic organization known as the "Central Florida Barbershop Chorus" which consists of 150 gentlemen of all sorts and sizes but who put out beautiful music. It's a good possibility that by now all the tickets for our December 2nd, Christmas Concert have been sold so you've probably missed out on hearing some really great Barbershop Christmas sounds. Just in case, check with The Villages Box Office and see if any of the \$15 tickets are left for the concert at Savannah Center on the 2nd. There are two shows that evening and if you can get in it will definitely be worth your while.

However, for additionally great Christmas music there's still the opportunity to hear The Village Voices, of which I'm a member as well, with 130 strong and trained voices. Our Christmas Concert will be held at Church on the Square December 20th. I am thrilled that I can be a part of two great organizations with such skilled and professional directors and dedicated, talented performers as members.

Speaking of these two superb musical groups brings me to another area of interest for you the listening public, and that is being able to view and listen to professional performing groups in a venue that will truly showcase their talent. Savannah Center and Church on The Square are both splendid buildings and have certainly done a fantastic job allowing The Villages to bring in great Broadway shows and other genres of music and drama for the residents to enjoy. However, I'm sure the developers couldn't have foreseen the amazing popularity of this beautiful place called The Villages and nor would they think it would have outgrown their two magnificent facilities so quickly.

Currently there are approximately 55,000 residents, not counting the surrounding area's population, with another 50,000+ projected in the near future, and there is a true need in the Villages for state of the art facilities that will be able to seat a minimum of 1,500 people and provide adequate seating, sound systems and amenities. I mentioned once that a serious move is underway to generate the necessary funds to construct such a facility in The Villages and people will be out and about doing their darndest to get you involved in the "happening" of the first Villages Performing Arts Center.

Watch for news releases, phone calls, TV commercials, newspaper inserts and other means of communication to keep you abreast of what's going on and how you can be part of this great undertaking. The organization moving and shaking this project is the VPAA (Villagers Performing Arts Alliance) and their web site is www.villagerspaa.org and their mailing address is PO Box 2201, Lady Lake, FL 32158-2201. Contact them and find out what you can do to help change this from a dream to a reality. It will not be a property of The Villages but a private 501 (c) 3, Not For Profit Organization owned by its members. Let them hear from you.

My friend Ron and I were playing golf the other day with two fine gentlemen from Michigan whose names were Dennis and Gil (as in Gilbert) and they said they would be watching to see what I had to say about them in the paper. They were a great way to fill out a foursome. Although the both of them were much better than me they intentionally shot below their normal game just to make me feel comfortable. Thanks guys... not many golfers out there would do that and I appreciate it. Sorry about Ohio State giving your guys a whoopin'. Maybe you'll still get another shot in the National Championship game?

Hey, time is flying folks and there are still a lot of other things I've wanted to do in my six decades of life and I plan to as many of them as I can. How about you, isn't there anything you would really like to do but keep putting it off for one reason or another? You realize there's no time like the present to get with it don't you? Don't let your spouse or close friends talk you out of it if it's something you really want to do. Since officially retiring Judy and I have been to Israel, been canoeing, hiking, parasailing, snorkeling, wild water rafting, and rappelling.

With a new year coming up just around the corner, why don't all you guys and gals make it a point to make a list of everything you would like to do and then go do them. Scratch 'em off one at a time until you've done them all. I've got a ceramic plaque hanging over my desk in the office that says "We do not stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing!" I'm a firm believer of that and look forward to playing at something every day for as long as the good Lord gives the opportunity. You should do the same.

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