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“You Must Be A Villager”

by
Tom Holbrook

As I write this my youngest son Marc, his wife Lauren, and my extremely handsome 18 month old grandson Tucker are on their way back to Greensboro, NC after a wonderful week’s visit. Besides the joy of seeing all of them after a 6 month absence, they surprised Judy and I by bringing a plethora of fresh homegrown vegetables from the good rich soil of North Carolina... a peck of beautiful tomatoes; fresh white corn; yellow and zucchini squash; huge bell peppers; and delicious cucumbers. What a great eating time we had. Say what you will... in my several years in Florida I have yet to find a Florida grown tomato that can stand up to one from the north in texture and sweetness. Dirt does make a difference.

While here we had some good rounds of golf and some just sitting around and talking time as well. Good conversation time is often taken for granted and sorely overlooked as a great way to spend valuable time with one another. One never knows when our conversations with our children may, indeed, be our last... so let’s take advantage of every opportunity that comes our way and make the most of every moment we have with our loved ones.

How many of you guys and gals out there have been out and about to the new areas being developed here in the Villages. Homes, homes and more homes are being built further south and I rejoice every time I see a swarm of block layers laying each piece of a new home together in its proper place, wondering where in these United States or abroad the owner of that house will be coming from and will he or she... or they... become another good friend. So exciting to see all the growth and I can’t stop marveling and admiring the vision and logistics involved by those who are developing this wonderful place called home.

I get all kinds of e-mails and phone calls from those who read my articles. Some with just a ‘thank you’ or ‘good job’ included, but many times I get some suggestions as to what to include in my writing. The following might be something you’ve all seen before, but I thought it was apropos at this time to include it in today’s article. Hope you enjoy it.

- If you’ve ever waited over one hour to be seated in a restaurant, you might be a Villager.
- If you’ve ever driven a golf cart more than 10 miles in a day, you might be a Villager
- If you know what Pickle Ball, Hand and Foot, and Mexican Train mean, you might be a Villager
- If you’ve ever gone out eating and drinking for the evening and been home by 7 pm, you might be a Villager
- If you’ve ever played golf with anyone who uses a driver off the tee on a 100 yard, par 3 hole, you might be a Villager
- If you plan your day around happy hours, you might be a Villager
- If you’ve ever played bingo, or watched an outdoor movie in your golf cart, you might be a Villager

- **If you've attended all of the political rallies in your area and have never seen a Democrat candidate, you might be a Villager**
- **If you can no longer become pregnant but your husband looks like he is, you might be a Villager**
- **If you receive an average of 3 free dinner offers in the mail every week for you and your spouse to attend a retirement seminar, you might be a Villager**
- **If you've ever been asked by a Golf Ambassador to speed up your play, you might be a Villager**
- **If your heart starts pumping heavily every time you hear the Electric Slide, you might be a Villager.**
- **If you've ever been asked if you've seen the shuttle since you moved to Florida and you reply that not only have you seen it, you've ridden to the airport on it, you might be a Villager.**
- **If you've ever gotten a haircut and been out of the chair before your spouse can park the car, you might be a Villager**

And my contribution to the above borrowed words...

- **If you rise up every morning and go to bed every evening thanking the Good Lord for allowing you to spend your remaining days on earth in such a heavenly spot as this... you definitely are a Villager.**

Have a great week folks.

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