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## Friends Everywhere

by  
Tom Holbrook

Over the last several weeks, because of this column, I have heard via snail mail and e-mail from quite a few folks, some of whom are not only from my home state of WV but even from my home town. All of them now living here and enjoying the lifestyle The Villages offers to all who come.

One of those old friends, Bev C. of Craigsville, WV, via Gainesville, FL, couldn't believe I was the same Tom Holbrook whom she met over 15 years ago when she was an RN and an administrator of a Nursing Home in WV. Another WV reader asked me if I knew several individuals whom she named, and not only did I know them all, a couple of them were my cousins. "It's a small world" has become too cliché in situations like this, especially since a brother of my best friend and son of the preacher who baptized both Judy and me called two days ago and said he and his wife just bought a home in The Villages and were looking forward to getting together with Judy and I. Dick and Sue are looking forward to their ultimate full time move from Kentucky so they can totally immerse themselves in everything The Villages provides for its residents.

Judy and I have never, regardless of where we've lived, made friends as quickly as we have in The Villages. She and I both are gregarious types, to a fault some say, but it seems that moving to The Villages unlocks within everyone a desire to seek out those with like interests and to be that perfect neighbor we've all read about. It's like we've been given an opportunity to start our lives all over again and take advantage of all the goofs we made with our former inferior brains and begin anew with an agenda of diplomacy and friendship.

Of course, there are always those few... so very few thankfully, who were, are and always will be a putz and no matter what, they aren't going to change. But you know what happens to them eventually... they find that they just don't fit in to the scheme of things around all the other friendlys here and they move on to darker environs where they can sulk in private. We tried to cheer them up, but they just wouldn't let us.

One nice couple we just met at Sumter Landing will fit right in to the sunny landscape here in The Villages. They arrived in February so they were able to experience the temperature differences of Lake Grove in Long Island, NY and The Villages immediately. Although they both look too young to be legal residents of Sunset Pointe they are and are glad they've been able to get their house in order and start enjoying the lifestyle they have become part of here in paradise. Lu, of the Lu and Danny Doubrava clan, said there is so much to do here it will be difficult to determine just what is best with which to occupy her time. The rumor that somewhere down the road there could be over

**60 golf courses within golf cart range in The Villages makes both she and Danny smile since they like to hit that little dimpled ball. Lu, you and Danny have a great time and see you tomorrow at water volley ball.**

**There is a suggestion I have for everyone, so listen up. Invest in a software program entitled “Business Card Factory” and make a few hundred cards on your computer with your name, address, phone, e-mail, etc., on them and hand them out to everyone you meet. Some of the cards might end up in the round file, but a majority of them will end up on somebody’s refrigerator to remind them to call you the next time they need a fourth for golf, bridge, pickle ball or just sittin’ around shootin’ the bull.**

**Why not do it today and avoid missing the opportunity of meeting the best friend you’ll ever have.**

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