

# AMERICA'S HEALTHIEST HOMETOWN


A weekly report on The Villages' efforts to become "America's Healthiest Hometown" compiled by Daily Sun Ombudsman **Larry D. Croom**. Email [larry.croom@thevillagesmedia.com](mailto:larry.croom@thevillagesmedia.com). Or call him at 753-1119, ext. 9366.

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### Did you know?

Sue Schueler, a nurse practitioner at the Pinellas Care Center, is a big fan of the 1978 hit movie "National Lampoon's Animal House" and the popular CBS reality game show "The Amazing Race."


### Meet the extenders

**Susan Bonenclark**  
(Physician assistant)  
**Care center:** Belleview  
**Age:** 46  
**Undergraduate:** James Madison University  
**Master's degree:** University of Florida


**Virginia 'Ginger' Clive**  
(Advanced registered nurse practitioner)  
**Care center:** Santa Barbara  
**Age:** 57  
**Undergraduate:** State University of New York at Plattsburgh  
**Master's degree:** State University of New York Institute of Technology at Utica/Rome

**India Dillion**  
(Advanced registered nurse practitioner)  
**Care center:** Pinellas  
**Age:** 35  
**Associate degree:** Lake-Sumter State College  
**Undergraduate degree:** University of Central Florida  
**Master's degree:** Frontier Nursing University (Hyden, Kentucky)

**Beverly Dorson**  
(Physician assistant)  
**Care center:** Colony  
**Age:** 30  
**Undergraduate:** University of South Florida  
**Master's degree:** Mercer University (Atlanta)

**Karen Doyle**  
(Physician assistant)  
**Care center:** Lake Sumter Creekside  
**Age:** 63  
**Undergraduate:** Hahnemann University (Philadelphia)  
**Master's degree:** University of Nebraska

**Marykate Drake**  
(Physician assistant)  
**Care center:** Pinellas  
**Age:** 48  
**Undergraduate:** University of Colorado Boulder  
**Master's degrees:** Mercer University (Macon, Georgia); Nova Southeastern University (Fort Myers)

**David Fischer**  
(Physician assistant)  
**Care centers:** Colony, Specialty Care  
**Age:** 44  
**Undergraduate:** University of Florida  
**Master's degree:** University of Florida

**Brittany Gagnon**  
(Physician assistant)  
**Care center:** Belleview  
**Age:** 27  
**Undergraduate:** University of Florida  
**Master's degree:** University of Florida

**Jennifer Jordahl**  
(Advanced registered nurse practitioner)  
**Care center:** Pinellas  
**Age:** 42  
**Undergraduate:** Grand Valley State University (Grand Rapids, Michigan)  
**Master's degree:** Grand Valley State University (Grand Rapids, Michigan)



Dr. Saul Rosenblum, left, talks about a patient recently with Sylvia Wallace, a nurse practitioner at the Santa Barbara Care Center.

Photos by George Horsford / Daily Sun

# ACCESS TO CARE

## Physician extenders help make patient-centered concept reality

By LARRY D. CROOM / DAILY SUN OMBUDSMAN

Physician extenders who work for The Villages Health provide a variety of services to patients, but one of the most important is quite simple – access.

“One of the beauties of this place is that our physicians have limited panels. They don’t have 3,000 patients that they have to take care of,” said David Fischer, a physician assistant at the Colony Care Center.

“But still, if you’re trying to see patients when they need to be seen, for routine followups and then also provide access when they need acute care – they get colds or have knee pain or shoulder pain or if they fall and cut themselves and they need to be sutured – we provide that kind of access,” added Fischer, who also is working at The Villages Health Specialty Care Center.

Beverly Dorson, a physician assistant at the Colony Care Center, said physician extenders provide many different advantages.

“We’re able to provide quality patient care and spend time with the patients, not shuffling them in and out,” she said. “We’re able to get patients in on short notice as well. And we’re able to collaborate with the physicians about their management.”

Sylvia Wallace, a nurse practitioner at the Santa Barbara Care Center, said patients want to see the same doctor or extenders when they come in, rather than being shuffled among a

### Coming Aug. 17

The Villages Health welcomes its first medical student from the University of South Florida’s Morsani College of Medicine.

variety of different providers. “That’s our whole purpose, is getting back to family medicine,” Wallace said. “They want to be known. We want to know them. It’s a team effort – including the patient – and they do feel that.”

Karen Doyle, a physician assistant at the Lake Sumter Creekside Care Center, said patients with various illnesses or conditions are often quite thankful when they receive same-day appointments.

“In many cases, they’re like, ‘thank you so much for seeing me. I was afraid I was going to have to wait for another week,’” Doyle said. “That’s not taking care of you if you call on Monday



Marykate Drake, left, a physician assistant at the Pinellas Care Center, talks with Maria Parker recently in a visit room.

and we can see you two weeks from now. When you call in the morning, if you’re sick, your blood pressure’s high, whatever it is, you need to be seen that day and taken care of.”

Jamie Kinsey, a physician assistant at the Belleview Care Center, agreed.

“We’re basically a third arm of the doctor,” she said. “We work so closely together and they read our notes. We bounce things off of each other. It really allows the doctors to take care of their patients better than if it were just the doctor.”

Another plus that physician extenders provide is the opportunity to educate and explain various things to patients, depending on the condition or disease they might be dealing with.


“We can spend some time really motivating them and sometimes we’re holding them accountable,” said Marykate Drake, a physician assistant at the Pinellas Care Center. “I might have room


on my schedule to have somebody come back every four weeks or six weeks to talk about blood pressure or lifestyle changes with diet or exercise and really give them the monitoring tools that they need. I think that’s important, because in the longterm, it may make the difference in whether they stay healthy or don’t stay healthy.”


India Dillion, a nurse practitioner at the Pinellas Care Center, said she finds that many patients are quite happy to see an extender. And, she added, if she’s not comfortable with treating certain conditions or she needs more help, she immediately seeks input from a physician.


“Honesty is the best policy,” Dillion said. “If you’re honest with the patients and say, ‘this is something that I’m not really familiar with, let me find out,’ I think they’re more receptive to listen to you. If you don’t know something, just ask.”

### Meet the extenders

**Jamie Kinsey**  
(Physician assistant)  
**Care center:** Belleview  
**Age:** 41  
**Associate degree:** College of Central Florida  
**Bachelor's degree:** Miami Dade College

**Rosemary Kipp**  
(Advanced registered nurse practitioner)  
**Care center:** Specialty (women’s health)  
**Age:** 65  
**Nursing school:** Daytona Beach Community College  
**Nurse practitioner education:** University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center


**Caroline Mathis**  
(Advanced registered nurse practitioner)  
**Care center:** Specialty (women’s health)  
**Age:** 35  
**Bachelor's degree:** Shenandoah University (Virginia)  
**Master's degree:** University of Cincinnati (nurse practitioner)

**Riddhi Patel**  
(Physician assistant)  
**Care center:** Santa Barbara  
**Age:** 28  
**Undergraduate degree:** University of South Florida  
**Master's degree:** Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science (Chicago)

**Sue Schueler**  
(Advanced registered nurse practitioner)  
**Care center:** Pinellas  
**Age:** 67  
**Associate degree:** University of Louisville  
**Bachelor's degree:** University of Louisville  
**Master's degree:** Spalding University (Louisville, Kentucky)

**Shira Small-Cangialosi**  
(Physician assistant)  
**Care center:** Santa Barbara  
**Age:** 58  
**Undergraduate:** Lehman College (City University of New York)  
**Physician assistant training:** Touro College (Coney Island Hospital)

**Cynthia Stewart**  
(Physician assistant)  
**Care center:** Mulberry Grove  
**Age:** 63  
**Undergraduate:** University of Wisconsin-Madison  
**Master's degrees:** University of Wisconsin-Madison; Towson University (Maryland)  
**Doctorate:** Argosy University (Washington, D.C.)

**Sylvia Wallace**  
(Advanced registered nurse practitioner)  
**Care center:** Santa Barbara  
**Age:** 52  
**Undergraduate:** University of Florida  
**Master's degree:** University of Florida

**Linda Wheeling**  
(Advanced registered nurse practitioner)  
**Care center:** Colony  
**Age:** 53  
**Undergraduate:** Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis  
**Master's degree:** Old Dominion University