

WEST VILLAGES  
FLORIDA  
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*Miss Goosie Wins Our Hearts*

August 29, 2018



### ***Pet Story Contest Winners***

*Our first West Villages Short Story contest concluded at the end of June and it proved what we suspected: West Villages residents adore their pets and many of you are great writers, too. Thank you to all of those who took the time to share your beautiful stories about the animals that mean so much to you.*

*Below, please find our winning entry by Susi Ruettimann of Grand Palm. Her sweet, action-packed story won our hearts, takes place right here in West Villages and shows the community camaraderie many enjoy here.*

*Congratulations also to Kate Nixon for taking second place with her story of Freddy, and Nadine Baker for winning 3rd place with her memories of Lucie Lynn!*

### ***Girl's Night Out!***

One of the greatest things about living in any of the West Villages communities is that there's ALWAYS something going on. Whether it's dance lessons, water aerobics, pickleball or community coffees, there's never a dull moment.

Unfortunately, our wonder-dog Miss Goosie caught wind of this very quickly. She decided she needed to be part of the activities, too, and arranged her very own Girl's Night Out. And what began as a party of one quickly escalated to a party of many, right here in Grand Palm ...

It all began when my husband, Danny, took Goosie for a ride through the neighborhood this past January (I mean, what dog doesn't love a good car ride?!). When they got home, Danny neglected to notice a bunny in our yard so the minute he opened the car door, Goosie bolted after it. Goosie is a border collie, and she can run like the wind with no effort. But if you put a bunny in front of her, she's faster than the speed of light.

This was around 6:30 p.m. and it was getting dark. I heard Danny yell for Goosie so I dashed outside to see him running down the street...

[Read the entire story here.](#)

Read the best entries on our [blog site](#).



## ***Atlanta Braves Announce 2019 Spring Training Schedule***

Today the Atlanta Braves and Major League Baseball announced their 2019 Spring Training schedule. Atlanta's 32-game slate will begin on Saturday, February 23, with a road game against the New York Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fla. The Braves open the home portion of their spring schedule on Monday, February 25, versus the Washington Nationals at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. This coming spring will mark the 22<sup>nd</sup> and final year that the Braves will train at the Wide World of Sports

Complex.

The Braves will conclude the Florida portion of their exhibition season with the opening of their new spring training facility in West Villages Florida on Sunday, March 24 against the Tampa Bay Rays (4:05 p.m.).

When completed, the new ballpark will feature 6,500 fixed seats and 2,500 additional general admission, including the berm and concourse. The overall facility will include six and a half practice fields, 55,000 square feet of clubhouse and fitness center for the Braves along with multi-purpose fields and public space that can be used for special events by West Villages, the City of North Port and Sarasota County. The complex will operate year-round with extended spring training for minor league teams, Gulf Coast League and Fall Instructional League.

[Read more here.](#)

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