



JANUARY 2022, VOL 6-1

NEXT MEETING FEBRUARY 10, 2021

WWW.VILLAGEVETTES.COM

Visit our website at www.villagevettes.com for changes and updates to the schedule

VILLAGEVETTES CORVETTE CLUB 2022

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Well, 2021 with all of its issues is finally behind us. Despite having limitations on capacity at our meetings, we still were successful in keeping things moving in the club. Some of the highlights included the Color Run, Spring Fling at Nahas, Cruising the Town Squares, Fly-in at Love Field, Stetson Mansion and of course Toys 4 Tots. There were also numerous Drives & Dines and Car Shows. With the help of the membership, I would hope to continue these events and expand with new ones.

The club has also participated in several events with the Nomads Motorcycle Club. With their president, Bob Kerfin, making the arrangements, we were involved with placing flags at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, the Veteran Honor Flight, and the OneBlood Drive at Meyer Recreation Center. This year we need to formalize participation in the Wreaths Across America program.

The 2021 Toys 4 Tots campaign was a success beyond our wildest expectations. The final tally was 1246 toys and an incredible \$54,403! The club will need our membership to really step up to try to achieve those numbers again this year.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank past president Charlie Tagman for his leading the club through two difficult years. While other clubs shut down their activities, we were able to keep the club viable. I also want to thank past present Marcus Sherrill for his taking on the roll of Board Secretary. While both members will no longer be on the board, I am confident their presence will be felt during the upcoming year.

Upcoming events in January include:

- On the 20th a Drive & Dine at The Cove in Inverness
- On the 23rd The Festival of Speed in St. Petersburg
- On the 28th a cruise to Tampa for lunch at the Columbia and then onto the Tampa Bay Auto Museum

At the February meeting there will be entertainment provided by Suzie Casta. While this is a no cost event for the members, registration will still be required.

Lets hope for a Happy & Healthy New Year!

Rich Rose

Village Vettes Annual Toys-For Tots Campaign 2021

Art Donnelly has confirmed the “final” number for the
2021 Village Vettes
Toys-For-Tots Campaign – see chart below

<u>Village Vettes</u>			
<u>Annual Toys-For Tots Campaign</u>			
<u>Campaign Year</u>	<u>Cash Donations</u>	<u>Toy Donations</u>	<u>Participating Vettes (Kick-Off Event)</u>
2012	\$ 3,954.00	780	45 Vettes
2013	\$ 6,040.00	1,028	63 Vettes
2014	\$ 7,215.00	1,127	45 Vettes
2015	\$ 10,070.00	1,860	40 Vettes
2016	\$ 6,040.00	1,170	25 Vettes
2017	\$ 11,219.50	1,473	45 Vettes
2018	\$ 13,352.66	1,684	48 Vettes
2019	\$ 20,345.00	1,548	40 Vettes/ 23 Motorbikes*
2020	\$ 25,600.00	1,400	28 Vettes/10
2021	\$54,403.00	1,246	40 Vettes/ 15 Motorbikes

Vette Stories --- Hawaii

Weather in Northern Virginia in early February 1984 was a haphazard event. A weather guesser friend of mine told me that an hour north of us was Frederick, MD which got 40 inches of snow a year on average --- back then --- and an hour south of us was Fredericksburg, VA which got 4 inches of snow a year. So, we, in Great Falls, Virginia, were in the middle and freezing rain seemed to always be in the forecast. We had freezing rain that morning and as I tried to back my four wheel drive out of the garage spot, next to my gold C4 Corvette, when the trip down the slightly inclined driveway turned into an uncontrolled slide. Bad enough as that was, the nine-mile trip into the McLean, VA office from Great Falls saw 32 accidents and took most of an hour. I finally got there and as I sat down my phone rang. It was George, an old friend who had been promoted into another division. The usual pleasantries were exchanged and George got down to business. He had a staff opening and it sounded like it was written off my resume. The bad news, as he called it, was the job was not in the Washington D.C. area but elsewhere. George, just where is it was my immediate query. Honolulu was the answer. I was ready to go that afternoon but it took several months for everything to come together.

“Everything” included making arrangements to take my months old gold C4 Corvette to Hawaii. The shipper agreed the car would fit in the sea-land container with my household furniture so off we went. My two young sons, me and the Vette in the shipping container.

Summer time, in fact almost any time, and the weather was great in Honolulu. The boys were in summer camp and I was on my own in paradise. Saturday came and the Hawaii roads beckoned. So, the gold Vette and I took off for our circle island adventure. Out of my Hawaii Kai neighborhood, west on to the H1 with interstate shield signs (interstate in Hawaii?? Really??? How??). Saturday morning saw relatively little traffic on H1 as I skirted Waikiki and then turning north on H2 (at the time there was only talk about finishing H2 and building H3). Let’s just say that I was enjoying the good road, great weather, and the Vette. H2 stopped and the multi-lane freeway-like road turned into a two lane (one each way) meandering country road. Wonderful!!! Hawaii route 92 if memory serves. Now, it was even more fun screaming errrr cruising past Schofield Barracks, Haleiwa, Sunset Beach, Waimea Bay, Turtle Bay, etc. The twisty road should have been named Vette Road. Where traffic allowed, those d&^\$# tourists, the Vette enjoyed the turns and dips in the road eventually ending up back in Hawaii Kai after a brief stop at Sandy Beach to watch the surf rip off tourist bathing suits.

Vette Stories --- Hawaii, (CON'T)

The house phone was ringing as I walked in the door, the engine of the Vette making those little ticking sounds as it cooled down. The deep male voice on the phone asked if I was Michael Grinder. Answering in the affirmative I asked if the call was about my kids in summer camp fearing someone had been hurt. Sergeant Kimo, Honolulu PD, told me no, its not about my kids but more to the fact, according to him, that I was going too fast up H2. Of course, I denied any such transgression of the speed limits. At this time, Sgt Kimo informed me that I had the only Gold 1984, really a 1983 ½, Corvette in the whole state. Not admitting anything, I asked what's next to which the good Sgt told me to be at a particular address on the west side of the Island, Eva Beach, at 5PM.

I showed up at the appointed time and place only to see a number of Honolulu's finest unclamping the light bars from the roof of their cars. Light bars were put in the trunks and now the cars looked nothing like a police car. It seems, at the time and perhaps even today, the HPD allowed the officers to purchase their own cars with all the police performance equipment on them including the removeable light bars. End of shift: off comes the light bars and now just a fairly hot personal vehicle.

I found Sgt Kimo and as I queried him just why was I here, two cars took off side-by-side under heavy acceleration down the road. Drag racing obviously. Stating the obvious, I blurted out, oh, we're drag racing and got a positive head nod from my new friend Sgt Kimo. Not necessarily being the sharpest tool in the shed, I said something along the lines of aren't we afraid of the cops. With a bit of a suppressed smile on his face, Sgt Kimo advised me "not to worry, we sort of have that covered."

So, discretion being the better part of valor, lifting off the Vette's throttle a bit meant that I "lost" to the HPD cars a number of times. Ah, Hawaii, great roads, better weather, a gold Corvette, police cars disguised as muscle cars and..... Sgt Kimo.

Michael Grinder



How To Clean The C8 Corvette's Engine Compartment

- BY [JONATHAN LOPEZ](#)
- — DEC 12, 2021



The [C8 Corvette Stingray](#) introduces a fresh mid-engine layout for the iconic American sports car, breaking from decades of tradition. Naturally, many fans will want a peek at the new powerplant, so it makes sense to want to keep it clean. Now, *GM Authority* is detailing the do's and don'ts of cleaning the C8 Corvette's engine compartment.



Per the C8 Corvette owner's manual, there are a few things to be careful about when cleaning under the hood of the latest eighth-generation [Chevrolet Corvette](#). For starters, owners should avoid using solvents and aggressive cleaners, as they may actually cause harm to underhood components. Rather, owners should *only* use water when washing the engine compartment. A pressure washer can be used as well, but with a few caveats. For starters, water pressure must be kept below 2,000 psi, while the water temperature should be below 180 degrees Fahrenheit.

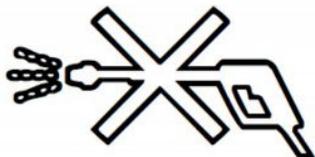


How To Clean The C8 Corvette's Engine Compartment (CON'T)

- BY [JONATHAN LOPEZ](#)
- — DEC 12, 2021



C8 Corvette customers should exercise caution when using a pressure washer under the hood, keeping the nozzle at least a foot away from all surfaces, as well as keeping the nozzle at a 40-degree wide angle spray pattern, or wider. Finally, owners should pay attention to any components under the hood that have a symbol indicating that they should not be pressure washed, as seen below:



As a reminder, the [Chevy Corvette Stingray](#) is motivated by the naturally aspirated [6.2L V8 LT2](#) gasoline engine, which is rated at 495 horsepower and 470 pound-feet of torque when equipped with the factory performance exhaust system. All that output is sent exclusively to the rear wheels through an eight-speed dual-clutch automatic transmission.

Under the sexy exterior, the C8 Corvette rides on the mid-engine Y2 platform. Production of the eighth-generation Corvette takes place exclusively at the [GM Bowling Green plant](#) in Bowling Green, Kentucky. [Subscribe](#) to *GM Authority* for more [mid-engine Corvette news](#), [Corvette C8 news](#), [Corvette news](#), [Chevy news](#), and around-the-clock [GM news](#) coverage.

Christmas Party "Garth Brooks Tribute" December, 2021



The Village Vettes had yet another memorable Christmas Party at Eisenhower Recreation Center. Appropriate to our Garth Brooks Tribute band, many members came dressed in their western finest attire, boots and all. The music was great, the group entertaining and the food plentiful and delicious.

Next year we are thinking we may go a little more formal and give the ladies a chance to show off their best party dress, more to come on that score in later newsletters. The message is don't miss the club Christmas parties they are always a fun evening.





AMBASSADOR

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As with many of you, December has been a very busy month for us but included a late month/early January trip to the National Corvette Museum (NCM) at Bowling Green, Kentucky.

On the Scene in Bowling Green

Multiple tornadoes wreaked havoc in Bowling Green devastating various facilities associated with the NCM. The NCM itself suffered only minor damage but both the Motorsports Park and part of the assembly plant took direct hits. The worst of these was the NCM Motorsports track and Chris Sweeney, Member Relations Supervisor, at the NCM paved the way for us to meet Greg Waldron, Executive Director, NCM Motorsports Park, to learn about the track damages.

NCM Motorsports Track



Greg Waldron met us at the Motorsports Park and stayed with us for most of an hour answering all of our questions. The tornado, or perhaps tornadoes, were random in their destructive paths. You can see both the NCM and the Motorsports Park in the image to the left. Note the proximity of the two facilities yet the NCM suffered little damage but the Motorsports Park took a substantial hit. The garages near the straight had their doors pushed in with massive damage to the cars therein. The building to the right of the Park parking lot had stored cars waiting for delivery at the NCM and these were severely damaged when the tornado took the roof. We saw those cars lined up waiting for the insurance adjusters the day after our visit. Not wanting to show the Park “without its lipstick” we refrained from imaging the line of cars but it appeared to be about two dozen or so. The Holley tower along the straight was severely damaged and is unusable. The road leading to the Motorsports Park has been cleared of debris but blown down trees and other debris litter both sides of the roadway. Greg related that the Park’s parking lot was filled with the same type of debris along with pieces of aluminum siding and insulation which also decorated the surrounding trees.





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But, 17 days after the tornadoes, December 28th, the Motorsports Park was open for guests. Two of the eight C8s the Motorsports Park owned survived relatively unscathed, see image of Greg and me, and are available for the “Corvette Experience.” Interesting, both of those vehicles had been parked outside. Those that had been in the garages were damaged when the doors blew in and, restrained by their lifting cables, battered the cars inside the garage. You can see some of the garages sans doors and the Holley Tower in the background. The track is open and Greg enthusiastically invited guests to “come visit.”

The National Corvette Museum

The National Corvette Museum suffered very little damage and is fully open operating its winter schedule. We visited Chris Sweeney, watched a couple of Museum delivery events, and browsed the Corvette Store picking up yet more hats, shirts, etc. Our museum membership provided us a ten percent discount. That savings, coupled with what we had received in previous visits, has exceeded the cost of Museum membership. The haphazard nature of the tornado path is shown by the destruction of the Shell station on the left as you enter Corvette Drive. Yet, 50 yards away the Wendy’s store only had the W on its sign smashed in. The adjacent Shell sign and its pedestal were on the ground.

Corvette Plant Impact

We were not permitted to visit the assembly plant nearby the NCM, however, Greg Waldron had visited the plant and provided his observations. Only a portion of the assembly plant had been hit but, unfortunately, it was the part of the Plant where almost finished Corvettes were waiting for their roofs and engine lids. The lack of top covering permitted those cars to be filled with various debris in addition to direct damage by the winds. Greg did not say how many cars were affected. He did say production had resumed and a new Corvette rolled off the assembly line about every 11 minutes.

An interesting anecdote from Greg: there had been a sign at the entrance to the Plant grounds stating photography was prohibited. After the tornado, that sign was found on a firm 31 miles from its previous position.

Conclusion

The great news is that the NCM, the Motorsports Park, and the Corvette Assembly Plant are open. The NCM suffered little damage, the Assembly Plant more so and the Motorsports Park was severely damaged. Some of the surrounding areas still shows signs of the devastation but, as Greg Waldron said, **“COME VISIT!!”**

Village Vettes Upcoming Events for January, February and March 2022

Village Vettes Members:

Following is a listing of a Village Vettes activity for the months of January, February and March 2022 which are, or will be, included in the Calendar on the club's website.

January 20 (Thursday) – Drive & Dine for Dinner at Cove Pub Restaurant in Inverness FL

This event is full and not taking additional reservations.

January 28 (Friday) – Lunch at Columbia Restaurant in Tampa FL followed by a tour of the Tampa Bay Automobile Museum in nearby Pinellas Park FL

This event is full and not taking additional reservations.

February 12 (Saturday) - Dinner at Hollerbach's Willow Tree Café in Sanford FL

We'll meet at Eisenhower Recreation Center at 3:45PM and will depart together at 4:00PM for a 90 minute "cruise" to Sanford, FL. A fun and very entertaining evening dining on authentic GERMAN CUISINE, singing, dancing, and laughing with the band, and making new friends. Sign up by clicking on the following link that takes you directly to the web page for this event. As of the date of this email, only six spots remain open!

https://villagevettes.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=4002&club_id=214221&item_id=1603529

February 26 (Saturday) – Lunch at Lilly's on the Lake in Clermont FL followed by a tour of the LunaSea Alpaca Farm in Clearmont FL

Larry Joy, the event leader, is working with George Borke to finalize this event and to get it posted in the calendar (reservations are currently not being accepted) which should be completed by January 12th.

March 11 (Friday) - Dinner at Mesa De Note Italian Restaurant in Ocala FL

This event is full and not taking additional reservations.

March 23 (Wednesday) – Trip to World Equestrian Center in Ocala FL for Lunch and an Exciting Afternoon

This will be a highlight event for 2022 which you will certainly not want to miss! Event Leaders Glenn & Kathleen Bush and Richard & Susan Edwards are finalizing plans for an exciting day at the World Equestrian Center in Ocala, the LARGEST equestrian complex in the USA, that includes multi-indoor and outdoor arenas, a five-star hotel, many dining options and much more!

We will cruise to the WEC for a 11:00 arrival, enjoy a lunch at one or more of the several restaurants located on the complex, enjoy one of several horse events during the afternoon, and to go on self-guided tours of the facility.

Once plans are finalized and included in the calendar, which should be by mid-month, you will be able to sign up for this event. A separate email will be sent to you when this occurs. We are planning on a 60-car turnout for this event!

March 31 (Thursday) – Mystery Drive & Dine

Tim & Terri Berthiaume are at it again! Once details are finalized (you will not know the location of the restaurant), it will be included in the calendar. Look for it! You will not be disappointed!

Tom Swiers, Assistant Activities Director
(847) 951-2230
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Welcome New Members

List of New Members
Since December 1, 2021

Nick Montanino

He lives in the Village of Pine Hills. He is from New York and he has a 2003 C5 Red, Coupe.

Bryan Davis

He lives in the Village of Dunedin, He is from Long Island, New York and he has a 2019 C7 Red Targa

Del Underwood

He lives in the Village of Piedmont. He is from Michigan and he has a 2003 C5 Burgundy, Vert.

Let's give a warm welcome to our newest members!

TOTAL MEMBERS 514		
FAMILIES	223	
SINGLES	68	
GEN	Qty	% Tot
C8	50	15%
C7	107	32%
C6	59	18%
C5	46	14%
C4	18	6%
C3	27	8%
C2	15	5%
C1	11	3%
TOT.VETTES	333	

TOP 10 VILLAGES	
VILLAGE	#
FERNANDINA	13
PENNECAMP	12
GILCHRIST	11
COLLIER	10
PINE HILLS	10
LABELLE	9
Pine Ridge	9
PINELLAS	7
CHARLOTTE	6
CHATHAM	6
37%	93
ALL OTHERS	198

	Body	Qty	% Tot
NCM MEMBERSHIP	RagTop	149	45%
NCM FAMILIES 73	Targa	123	37%
INDIVIDUAL 26	T-Top	18	5%
LIFETIME 10	Coupe	9	3%
SENIOR INDIV 1	HTC	17	5%
	FRC	4	1%
TOTAL = 110	TBD	13	4%
	TOTAL	333	
FullTime -402			79%
PartTime -109			21%
????? 4			
C8 ON ORDER??? 7			

As of: 01/04/22 12:03

For more information about our events go to www.villagevettes.com and click on the Calendar.



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ARTICLES OF INTEREST WANTED

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We are looking for articles for our newsletter.

If any member has an article they think may be of interest to other club members please submit it for consideration to darrybova@gmail.com. Please include information on the source publication if you didn't write it yourself.