

from the front page



Michael Johnson | Daily Sun

Judy Collins shared stories about some of her friends, including Stephen Stills, who wrote "Suite: Judy Blue Eyes" about the romance he shared with Collins in the '60s.

COLLINS

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"I started out in a dysfunctional family just like any of us," she said. "That's any family with more than one person in it, by the way."

She spoke about her father's radio show and her family's "Irish Alzheimer's" forgetting everything but the grudges.

Collins said she had to practice music a lot as a kid, which ruined her social life.

"But I made up for it in the '60s," Collins told a laughing audience.

Collins strummed her guitar after each joke and transitioned into a song.

"Song for Judith," "Both Sides Now," "Diamonds and Rust," "Who Knows Where the Time Goes," and "Suzanne" were among the songs Collins sang.

"It was that kind of music," said Tim Healey, of the Village of Liberty Park. "We're from that generation."

"We love her nice, soothing music," agreed his wife, Irene. "It has beautiful lyrics."

Lee Bartolomeo, of the Village of Bridgeport at Lake Sumter, came to the show

with her mom, Lynn, of the Village of Glenbrook.

"I have always enjoyed Judy Collins' music," Lee said. "I have a lot of her albums, but I've never seen her in person, so this was an opportunity to do that."

Lynn said she appreciates the complexity of the lyrics.

"I keep thinking about some of her songs," she said. "They have a lot of meaning and a lot of depth."

Collins shared stories about some of her friends, including Stephen Stills, who wrote "Suite: Judy Blue Eyes" about the romance he shared with Collins in the '60s.

Collins said they have remained friends.

In fact, she performed 50 shows with him last year and plans to do some more this summer.

"We've remained friends all this time. I don't know how, because he's such a difficult person," Collins joked.

Collins created a night that was filled with timeless music and plenty of laughter.

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Multiple Types of Wine Were Available During Wine Walk Friday

Six hundred people enjoy different varieties of wine during the seventh annual Wine Walk.

By MICHAEL FORTUNA
Daily Sun Staff Writer

One group of friends traversing through The Villages Wine Walk had a two-pronged plan to enjoy the evening.

Their husbands dropped the 10 women off Friday night at Lake Sumter Landing Market Square.

Becky Diefendorf served as designated non-wine drinker of the group, but her wine didn't go to waste.

"We all get to have some extra," Jackie Vander Eyk said.

With Blue Stone Circle providing the musical portion at the pavilion and The Villages Mini Cooper Club showing off some of its recognizable British cars, some 600 people visited 29 merchants around the square and heading down Canal Street.

This was the seventh annual event sponsored by The Villages Commercial Property Management Division that benefits the Buffalo Scholarship Foundation.

"It's a great way for friends to get together, enjoy the entertainment, and support a good cause," said Brandie Rush, property manager with Commercial Property Management.

All 600 tickets for this event sold out within a few days.

"I think it's great," said Rob Eddy, president of the Buffalo Scholarship Foundation. "The residents are supportive of all the activities. It's a testament to how good this community is."

The money raised for the Buffalo Scholarship Foundation will bring the organization



Bill Mitchell | Daily Sun

Linda Luzzi, left, and her husband Patrick Luzzi, of the Village of La Belle, celebrate with Doug Montgomery, dressed as a grape Friday during the Wine Walk.

closer to fulfilling the goal of providing scholarships to all the current seventh-grade students at The Villages Charter School when they reach their senior years.

The Wine Walk attendees used a small clear tray complete with a cup holder for the wine glass. They also received a map to show them the locations of the wine-tasting stations, whether they were outside or inside a business.

Kindred Spirits provided the wines to some of the businesses, while the rest bought their own.

The people running the Buffalo Scholarship Foundation booth started pouring the Cuvée Blanc and Cuvée Noir a bit early if the people chipped in an extra donation.

Nancie and Bill Rohmann, of the Village of Pine Ridge, participated in last year's Wine Walk and were back for more.

"It's a night out on the square, and you support the school," Nancie said. "It's a fun and different night."

They were part of the early crowd, both getting some Cuvée Noir.

"It's tasty," Nancie said. "The first (glass) goes down real smooth. By the 15th glass, it goes down real nice."

At Designer Floors by Nickel



Bill Mitchell | Daily Sun

A variety of wines flowed from the bottles Friday during the Wine Walk at Lake Sumter Landing.

Tile on Canal Street, the wine tasters wound their way around the showroom, where they received a sample of Lagaria Pinot Grigio, as well as several appetizers.

One of the employees joked the tasters could get some gator tail, when it was actually chicken bites.

The group featuring Vander Eyk, of the Village of Pine Ridge, and Diefendorf, of the Village of Charlotte, started out along Canal Street, ending up in Nickel Tile.

"(The wine so far) has been very good," Vander Eyk said. "I had a chardonnay. I don't

usually drink that, but it was really good."

Vander Eyk was making her second appearance in the Wine Walk.

"We had a great time," she said. "It's great they're putting the funds to good use (for the Buffalo Scholarship Foundation). It's why we do this. We're willing to support them."

Kim Nickel, one of the owners, said the business has been a part of all of the Wine Walks.

"We've enjoyed being a part of the community," Nickel said. "We get to meet 600 people, and a lot of them didn't know we were here."

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