

## local news

# Club Offers Ride to Prom For Special-Needs Adults

Village Vettes Corvette Club members providing first-class transportation to the event in Ocala.

By DREXLER B. JAMES  
Daily Sun Staff Writer

## THE VILLAGES

Ron Tanner is going to the prom in February.

It's not his prom — he's just the driver. But the night will be just as special for him as it will be for the passengers.

Tanner is one of 12 members of the Village Vettes Corvette Club who has volunteered to drive special-needs adults to the Night to Shine prom being hosted by the Tim Tebow Foundation in February at One Life Fellowship Church in Ocala.

"This is a real special deal, so we didn't have any



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Scherissa Rai, of Summerfield, front, will be attending the Time to Shine prom event in February. Ron Tanner, back, of the Village of Pennecamp, is among members of the Villages Vettes Corvette Club volunteering as drivers.

## NIGHT TO SHINE

The event is a prom for special-needs adults hosted by the Tim Tebow Foundation at 365 churches around the country. Real Life Church, 1501 Steve's Road in Clermont, is one of the churches and is looking for an additional 500 volunteers to help out the night of Feb. 10. To volunteer, call Ashley Ayers at 352-394-3553.

problems getting volunteers," Tanner said.

The Village of Pennecamp resident is a close friend of Joe and Brenda Barton, leaders of the Villagers for Tim Tebow Foundation in The Villages, who shared the idea with Tanner and his wife, Marty.

"They approached me several

months ago and they know I have a Corvette and belong to the Village Vettes Club," Tanner said. "They asked if we would be interested in providing 'limousines' for the event."

After Tanner took the idea to other club members, many of them were eager to be chauffeurs.

Villages Vettes President Gene McConkey is very proud, but not surprised, to see members of the club step up and serve in this capacity.

"Generally, wherever we go, there is a lot of interest in the car," the Village of Gilchrist resident said. "I think that the Village Vettes, we are all pretty fortunate to ride around in Corvettes, and the less fortunate need to be paid attention to as well."

The Bartons, of the Village of Buttonwood, were thrilled to have a dedicated group of volunteers from their hometown on

board to serve others.

"When people hear opportunities like this, people like Ron and Marty jump in and want to help out," Brenda said.

Brenda added that the evening will be special for all the guests thanks to the volunteers.

One of those guests is Cherissa Rai, who arrived in The Villages on Thursday afternoon to get a sneak peek at her potential chariot.

"We know she's going to have a great time this year, because she's going to get to ride in one of these Corvettes," Brenda said.

It was a joy for Tanner to see an excited participant, and he looks forward to seeing more of them at the event in February.

"It's a worthwhile cause and we're very happy to do this sort of thing," Tanner said. "Our club supports a lot of charitable groups throughout the year and this falls under that."