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Utility Fee Hikes Approved

Aging System In Need Of Major Work

by Joe Potter

Commissioners agreed 4-1 on Tuesday to raise the city's water and wastewater rates for the first time in eight years.

Commissioner Nicole Deese Newlon cast the dissenting vote because she favored increasing the rates on an annual basis rather than locking in a five-year increase.

Customers using 1,000 gallons of water and wastewater now pay \$19.61 per month and will pay \$20.65 in FY18, with their rates increasing by two percent each year afterward through 2022.

A typical customer uses 6,000 gallons and currently pays \$51.85 per month. They will see their bill increase to \$54.45 in 2018, followed by the two percent increases annually

through 2022.

Customers using 10,000 gallons now pay \$74 and their bill will rise to \$77.65 in 2018, to go along with the yearly two percent bumps through 2022.



James Shive

No one spoke during a public hearing held before commissioners cast their votes.

"Nobody likes to increase rates but I think these are reasonable rates. We have done a ton of work on our wastewater utility system," Commissioner James Shive said.

Mayor Pro Tem Eunice Penix asked if five consecutive rate increases would need

to be made.

Fees • Continued on Page 8A

First Roots Planted For Festival

County Gardeners Host Huge Plant Sale

Story and photos by Keri McAlpine

San Antonio City Park was buzzing Saturday as county locals flocked to a gardening haven created by the Pasco County Master Gardeners.

The inaugural Gardening 365 horticulture festival expanded on the gardeners' previous annual plant sales events.

Chair for the event and co-president of the Master Gardener Association in Pasco, Dorothy Moore, was thrilled as she scanned the full park.

"We thought it was time to expand because really our whole goal is to educate the public and if we're selling the plants it's hard to do some of the education," Moore said of the change.

The festival brought in vendors from local nurseries and businesses to sell



In addition to plants, garden accessories like these friendly insects were available for purchase from vendors on Saturday.

Plants • Continued on Page 10A

Big Dreams For Doc's Pub

Local Watering Hole Making A Comeback

by Keri McAlpine

A familiar restaurant and bar in the area, Doc's Bar and Grille, is under new ownership and is working to become the place to be in Dade City.

Steve Sparrow moved to Dade City after living in Toronto for a little over a year in search of a bar with potential to purchase. When he found Doc's, he said it was exactly what he was looking for and became the official owner on Oct. 3.

In his home country of England, Sparrow accumulated more than 30 years of experience in the restaurant and bar industry, managing two bars and two restaurants throughout that time.

From that experience, his plan is to perfect the local watering hole and bring back old customers and bring in new ones.

"It's brilliant as far as the potential the place has," Sparrow said.

The new owner said from what he can tell the establishment has been neglected over the years and has rubbed some locals the wrong way. He hopes everyone will give it a second chance and see the positive changes he is making.

If there was a problem in the past, the

Doc's • Continued on Page 5A



Jeff Jeter, left, was accompanied by his wife Sue when he was presented with an honorary award on Sept. 30 by the Florida Cattlemen's Association.

Photo Provided

Decades Of Dedication

Local Cattle Broker Honored For Inspiration

by Keri McAlpine

When Jeff Jeter was diagnosed with cancer more than three years ago, he knew the disease and necessary treatment would not stop him from doing what he loves.

Working as a cattle broker out of Dade City since 1972, Jeter has made some of his best, life-long friends through his work and is credited with making numerous contributions to the cattle industry.

The Florida Cattlemen's Association recognized his lifetime body of work on Sept. 30, as he was one of three men recognized and honored as an "Honorary Team Captain".

The award was established a decade ago for unsung heroes and leaders in the industry and is always presented

Dedication • Continued on Page 8A

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Dade City Police Report Loud Music Leads To Felon's Arrest

Jaquion Oushae Clower, 21, of 37503 Oakview Circle, was arrested by Dade City police on Sept. 21 and charged with two counts of felon in possession of firearm/weapon/ammunition, possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana, resisting law enforcement without violence and driving while license suspended or revoked – second conviction. Clower allegedly fled on foot when an officer stopped a vehicle for excessively loud music in a residential area at 4:58 a.m. Clower allegedly disregarded several verbal commands to stop and continued running until the officer apprehended him. Clower was reportedly found to be in possession of six Winchester 12-gauge shotgun shells as well as a clear plastic bag of a substance that field-tested positive as 1.3 grams of marijuana. A 12-gauge shotgun was reportedly found propped



up in plain view on the passenger side of the vehicle Clower was driving. It was learned Clower was a convicted felon and his driver's license was previously suspended or revoked. He was also found to have two outstanding Pasco County warrants for violation of felony probation. Clower was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

Joshua Oal Lones, 31, of 18414 Lawrence St., was arrested by Dade City police on Sept. 27 and charged with burglary of a structure. Lones allegedly entered the victim's closed but unlocked storage shed with the intent to commit a crime on Sept. 5 at 5:24 a.m. The victim's shed was burglarized on two previous occasions and officers installed a surveillance camera following the second burglary. Images of Lones were found on



video on Sept. 24 when police checked the camera. Items stolen from the shed were reportedly found inside Lones's home and he was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

Brandon Justin Mapp, 23, of Wesley Chapel, was arrested by Dade City police on Sept. 28 and charged with lewd and lascivious battery/victim 12-16 years of age. Mapp was arrested at the Parole and Probation office on a Pasco County warrant charging him with the offense. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrant.



The information provided in the Dade City Police report is taken from public record. All parties are considered innocent until proven guilty.

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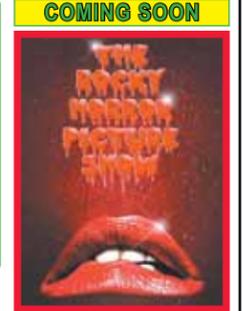


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All The Park's A Stage

A Shout-Out For Artistic Endeavor

by Emily Kochanski

Dade City is home to several incredible talents that, at times, go unnoticed.

Local artists got the chance to showcase their skills at the inaugural Arts in the Park event held last Saturday in Agnes Lamb Park.

Curious locals in sizeable numbers enjoyed three hours of local and Saint Leo University singers, dancers, poets, actors, storytellers and stand-up comedians.

The event was created by local writer Wendell Speer, SLU writing instructor Marissa McLargin and Mayor Camille Hernandez.

"Anything that supports the arts in the community I am totally in favor of," Hernandez said. "And so, it was a very easy marriage between the three of us to just make this happen."

As a published writer, Speer knows

artistic talent when he sees it; he did not, however, expect to see that so much of it had been hiding right here at home.

"The performances were excellent," said Speer. "I'm just flabbergasted that there's so much incredible talent in this area."

Most of the performers were SLU students and staff. Members of the university's theatre department performed a scene from their upcoming fall production of Mary Zimmerman's "The Secret in the Wings," under the direction of Alicia Cortes, assistant professor of theatre at the school.

"We want [SLU] to be a cultural mecca for people to come and enjoy the arts in all forms," Cortes said. "We were incredibly delighted to be a part of this event and to support the arts, not just at Saint Leo, but here in Dade City as well."

Kids and teens from Dade City's youth theater community Arts in Motion treated the audience to select musical numbers from their forthcoming production of "Annie."

"We wanted to get the kids out in front ... and used to the crowd, especially our new ones," said Arts in Motion president Shirley Surratt. "We have a lot of new kids in this show and we want them to have a great audience in November."

Aside from the performances, there were also plenty of artsy activities for kids, including the wildly popular rock painting. A special prize rock was even hidden somewhere in the park for one lucky child to haul home.

The event was judged a success and is expected to return next year with new and returning performers.

In the meantime, Mayor Hernandez encourages more Dade City residents to take the time to support the arts.



Graham Music Studios students Haley Sanders, left, and Shelby Surratt, right, perform a rendition of Frank Sinatra's 'That's Life.'



Several booths, including one hosted by the Prodigy Cultural Arts Program, featured beautiful pieces crafted by local artists.

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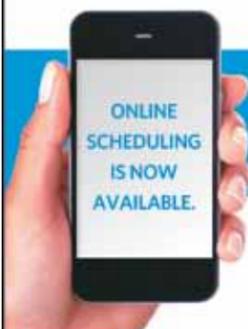
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East Pasco Events

Oct. 13 – Focused Selling Skills – This program will address salespersons tactics and ways to improve the selling process in the new millennium. Held from 1-3 p.m. at SMARTstart Dade City Entrepreneur Center, 37837 Meridian Ave., #309. Visit pascohernando.score.org for information and to register.

Oct. 13-14 – Garage Sale – Shoes 4 Schools is hosting a garage sale at 29441 Coharie Loop in San Antonio from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. both days. Stop by for antiques, household, linens and more. Call Janet at (931) 210-0184 for information or to donate.

Oct. 14 – National Chess Day – Hugh Embry Branch Library is hosting a chess event. Play a game of chess this Saturday and you may win a prize. Held at 14215 Fourth St. starting at 11 a.m. Contact (352) 567-7449 or bookbollard@iCloud.com for information.

Oct. 14 – Fall Family Fest – Florida Heritage Real Estate Group, Giella Insurance and Eagle Home Mortgage invite everyone to a fall open house. Goodie bags, treats, games and free photos for past, present and future customers will be offered. Held at 13937 Seventh St. from 2-6 p.m.

Oct. 14 – Clays for the Community – The fourth annual Boots & Roots Foundation event will be held at 2 p.m. at Tampa Bay Sporting Clays, 10514 Ehren Cutoff in Land O' Lakes. Profits help give back to local agriculture, outdoors and sportsman communities, focusing on youth, people in need and other local charitable organizations. Dinner is at 5 p.m. Visit www.bootsandroots.org/registration for registration information, prices, and rules.

Oct. 14 – Dentistry from the Heart – Free dental care will be provided from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Premier Community Healthcare, 37944 Pasco Ave. Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. No appointments necessary. This event is first come, first served. Community members 18 and older without access to dental care may choose one of the following: one filling, one extraction or cleaning services. First 100 patients guaranteed to be seen. Call (813) 971-1688 for information.

Oct. 14 – Old Timer's Picnic – The annual picnic will be held in the Clayton Building at the Pasco County Fairgrounds, 36722 S.R. 52. Food will be served at noon. Attendees are urged to come early and visit. Bring a

covered dish to share and with your own table service. Refreshments will be provided. Anyone who has lived in Pasco County for 20 years or more is considered an "old-timer." Bring old photos and memorabilia about your families. Prizes will be awarded. Call (352) 567-3996 or (352) 588-3368 for information.

Oct. 14 – Dade City Symphony – The Symphony's fall concert will be held in the Pasco Middle School Auditorium, 13925 14th St. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and concert begins at 7 p.m. Visit www.dadecitysymphony.com for information, tickets and sponsorship opportunities.

Oct. 14 – Scarecrow Festival – Held at the Pioneer Florida Museum & Village, 15602 Pioneer Museum Road, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Make your own scarecrow, touch a truck, local vendors, pumpkin painting, carnival rides and more. Admission is \$5, children under 5 are free. No coolers, outside beverages or food or pets allowed. Contact the museum at (352) 567-0262 or visit www.PioneerFloridMuseum.org for information.

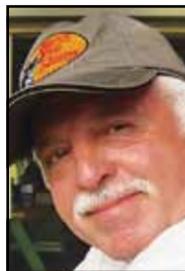
Oct. 14 – Farmers Market – Held in the San Antonio City Park from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Offering fresh produce, hand-crafted wine, yard art, plants, jams and jellies, dog treats, honey and bee products, repurposed glass items, dried herbs and herbal products and baked goods. Hot dogs, popcorn, coffee and sodas available for purchase. Vendor spaces are available for \$25. Contact Winnie Burke at (352) 437-5161 or rotarysanantoniofl@gmail.com for information.

Oct. 14-15 – Fall Antique Faire – Hosted by the Dade City Merchants Associations and held downtown from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sunday. Find the perfect items for the fall season by shopping the streets of downtown for furniture, garden décor, jewelry, tools, primitives, shabby chic, architectural, vintage and more. Call (352) 424-0601 or visit www.dadecitymerchantsassociation.com for information.

Oct. 17 – Mobile Medical Unit – The Public Defender Mobile Medical Unit will be at the Church at Chancey Road, 34921 Chancey Road from 9-11:30 a.m. and New Life Assembly of God, 38012 Trilby Road, Trilby from 12-3 p.m. The medical unit provides free basic medical care for the uninsured and no appointment is necessary. Call (727) 324-7823 for information.

For more events visit www.pasconewspubs.com

Commentary



First Things First

Greg First

Losing An Icon And A Friend

I am a Gator fan and have been since I can remember. I recall going to Ben Hill Griffin Stadium in Gainesville years ago and enjoying some awesome tailgating experiences courtesy of Lykes Pasco. They had it all going before, during and after the games. You had to have credentials to join in the fun, as it was always a huge social event. Several tents were set up in a reserved section of the parking area with an awesome barbeque meal, TVs and an open bar. Some of the Gator cheerleaders would stop by and do a couple of cheers and we even got a visit from Mr. Two Bits and mascots Albert and Alberta. What a way to start a game.

Gator fans held a tribute this past Saturday between the third and fourth quarter for Gainesville son, Tom Petty, who passed away Oct. 2. Thousands of fans joined in singing one of his greatest hits, "I Won't Back Down". He was an icon in the music industry and actually worked as a janitor at the University of Florida before his music career kicked in. My wife Jenny and I always admired his music and saw him

and the Heartbreakers in concert a few times. He will be missed but his music will live on.

I also got word Sunday one of my friends, Louis Giella, passed away. He



Louis Giella

was born on Feb. 8, 1963, and was a major Florida State fan. Jenny and I attended a few college football events when the Gators and Seminoles met head-to-head and Louis was sometimes there. It didn't matter who you rooted for or what team colors you had on, Louis was always a friend to all. His magnetic personality and award-winning smile captured the hearts of everyone he met.

Louis had a very successful business, Giella Insurance Agency. I think I know his secret in business and in his personal life and that was to treat all people fairly. He made a positive impact and has helped so many. He was a great role model and his memory will live on through his family and those who knew him.

As most of you know, I am the stadium announcer for Zephyrhills High School and at every home football game, once a quarter, I announce, "Giella Insurance Agency is family owned and family operated and has served Central Florida since 1987. Why trust your insurance needs to a 1-800 number when you can be protected by family?" I will continue to say those words at each game but with a whole new meaning and purpose. As I do I will quietly say a prayer and thank God for Louis's life and for his family and that I could always call him friend.

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Doc's • Continued from Page 1B

previous owners had day jobs and were not always accessible to bar management and staff, Sparrow said.

Sparrow said he kept almost all original staff on board, and they are embracing the change.

"They're really excited as well because they know the owner is going to be here all the time. So, when there are problems and issues I'll be here to handle them," he said.

After living in Dade City for only about six weeks, Sparrow is still learning the geography and clientele of the area, but is determined to make Doc's the place for everyone, whether it be an after-work drink, a night out on the town or a family dinner. He is also adjusting to the formal processes of running a business in the United States versus in England.

"The fundamental principles are still the same it's just mainly the processes and how things are done. I've had more than 30 years experience in the industry though - I know how to run a good restaurant and

good bar," he said.

The menu and drinks will keep much of their original content, with some minor changes. One big goal is to make sure the kitchen never runs out of food, Sparrow said.

During his first weekend as owner, Sparrow spent his days and nights making rounds to customers, introducing himself and asking for advice and feedback.

"The first week has been interesting. The customers seem to love the fact they can talk to the owner. I'm willing to talk to anyone day or night ... and if there are suggestions I will consider them," Sparrow said.

Regulars have suggested things like bringing back the all you can eat crab nights, ladies' night and free beer on Tuesdays. While he does not think the free beer night will be sustainable, he is willing to consider all suggestions and make the customer happy and invites everyone to come in and meet him.

Doc's is located at 14946 U.S. 301.

Oakley Thanks County Staff At Chamber Breakfast



Pasco County Commissioner Ron Oakley, District 1, addressed a full house at the September Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce Business Breakfast at Bayfront Health Dade City. Breakfast was sponsored by San Antonio Citizens Federal Credit Union. Oakley discussed the fantastic performance of county staff during the Hurricane Irma aftermath, the economic and residential growth in Pasco, and the ongoing transportation improvements in the area. Pictured, from left, are Chamber Director John Moors, Commissioner Oakley and SACFCU CEO Tim Baldwin.

Photo by Richard K. Riley

Letter To The Editor...

Editor,

I would like to pass on my compliments to your paper for this past issue. I was so thrilled to read Greg First's column, First Things First. His words touched my heart and I almost stood up and cheered. His words should be printed in all our country's papers.

When he acknowledged NASCAR and their continued beginning each race by saying a prayer and listening/singing the national anthem with everyone standing, I was right there with him. We have been long-standing NASCAR fans and I have often commented that the prayer and National Anthem were never

questioned. We have definitely reduced our TV watching of the NFL and until something is done to change the attitude of the players, owners, and sponsors, they will not have our support and that of many of our friends and co-workers.

It was wonderful to also see the articles/pictures in your paper of the attention given to the first responders. These are the men and women that our youth should be looking up to instead of the way-overpaid athletes that have no understanding of how the real world operates.

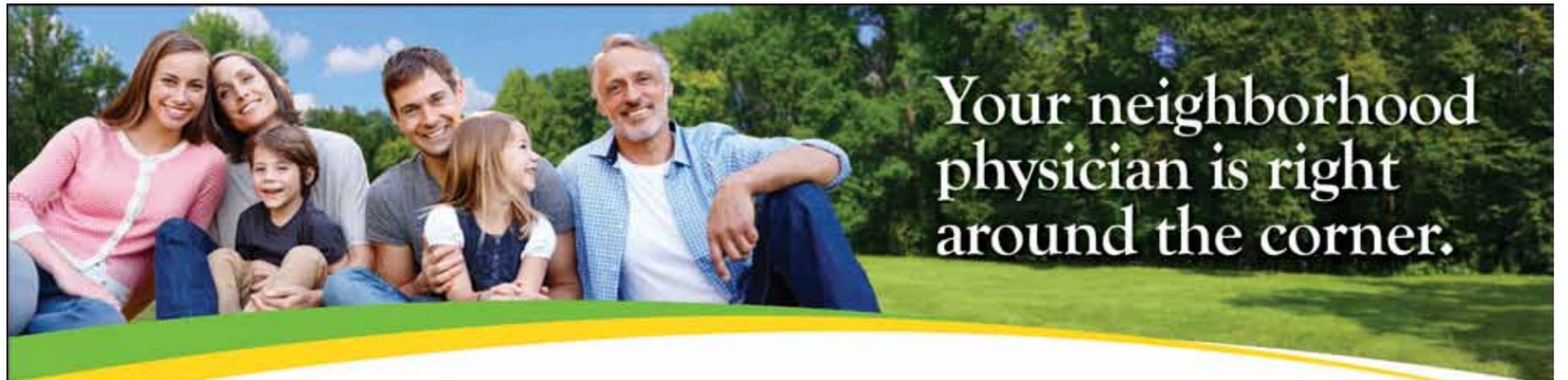
Sincerely,
Barbara Crum

San Antonio Farmers Market

Celebrate October at the San Antonio Farmers Market, held in the City Park on Oct. 14, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visitors will find fresh produce, including some organic produce; wine, jams and jellies; jewelry; yard art, including painted holiday pallet art and recycled glass items; fresh-squeezed lemonade, Italian ice, coffee and popcorn; herbal products; holiday craft items and more. Returning

by popular demand will be Jim and his now-famous hot dogs.

There is always more room for more vendors. Call Rotary Club President Winnie Burke at (352) 437-5161 for information and an application. The San Antonio Farmers Market is sponsored by the Rotary Club of San Antonio and is held monthly on the second Saturday of each month.



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While all kinds of shoes are welcome, Shoes 4 Schools primarily focuses on collecting athletic shoes for needy students in Pasco County. *Photo Provided*

Shoes Program A Step Ahead

Raffle Raises More Than \$1,000 For Students

by Keri McAlpine

Shoes 4 Schools, a non-profit 501c3, is always accepting shoes for needy students in Pasco County. Members and friends of the group came together last Friday for an evening of raffles and raised \$1,845 for the much-needed shoes.

Program Director Janet Chubinsky extends a big “thank you” to all who participated and to event coordinator Sarah Brown and her team. The raffle was held at Tampa Bay Golf and Country Club west of San Antonio.

Although the event was successful, Chubinsky said the organization still needs to raise about \$3,000 more by the first day of 2018 to reach their goal for the year. Monetary and shoe donations are always welcome and needed.

Shoes 4 Schools works year-round to provide new and gently used shoes for children. The organization works with the ABC programs at more than a dozen schools in Pasco County, including Rodney B. Cox Elementary, Lacochee Elementary School, West Zephyrhills

Elementary School and Zephyrhills High School. The schools relay information on sizes and specific shoe needs of the children.

The volunteers at Shoes 4 Schools work almost every day, picking up donations, delivering shoes and working to get others involved. They also make sure to volunteer during other community events.

Shoes 4 Schools mainly provides athletic shoes, but will occasionally buy dress shoes. When they get what they call “quality new” or brand name shoes, they mainly deliver these to high school students so they can wear them to interviews or other important events.

When the organization receives donated “quality used” shoes, Chubinsky said there is a group of volunteers who work to clean those shoes and make sure they are in tip top shape for their new owners.

Visit the Shoes 4 Schools Facebook page or contact Janet Chubinsky at (813) 505-1378 for information on the organization, volunteering, upcoming events and how to donate.

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Car Show Makes For Grand Event

Several Hot Rods, Trucks And Motorcycles Also Exhibited

Story and photos by Joe Potter



A chrome dress-up kit was installed on the 3.8 liter turbocharged and intercooled V-6 that sits between the fenders of John DiCarlo's 1987 Buick Grand National.

John DiCarlo of Zephyrhills beamed with pride as he displayed his 1987 Buick Grand National at Saturday's car show in Dade City.

He has owned the car for 15 years and has done a lot of work on it. The black paint job goes perfectly with the grey interior.

Lurking under the hood is a turbocharged and intercooled 3.8 liter V-6 coupled to an automatic transmission. The engine produces 245 horsepower and 355 pound-feet of torque making for plenty of power to get the 3,472-pound coupe moving quickly, especially when the turbocharger kicks in.

The car can accelerate from 0 to 60 mph in less than six seconds and has a top speed of more than 120 mph. The Grand National is a performance car based on Buick's popular Regal.

DiCarlo also owns a 1986 Chevrolet El Camino with the same drive train as the Grand National.

He only drives the Grand National to car shows but uses the El Camino to run errands such as going to his local Walmart store, DiCarlo said.

Other vehicles shown Saturday included hot rods based on early model Fords and Chevrolets. Many of them sported modern features such as air conditioning, automatic transmissions, power steering and brakes and showed off colorful paint jobs.

A 1970s era Chrysler Imperial and a 1950s era Edsel Villager were also shown at the event sponsored by the Dade City Merchants Association and organized by Ronnie Setser.

Three or four Corvettes, a smattering of Mustangs, and several Dodge Chargers and Challengers were also exhibited.

The format of the show debuted last month as it is a show rather than a cruise in.

Participants may pay a \$10 fee if they wish to have their car judged for awards that are presented at the end of the show that is held from 3-7 p.m. People who just want to come in, show their vehicles, and leave when they want to do not have to pay the fee.

The car show is held the first Saturday of each month except during July and August.



John DiCarlo stands beside the 1987 Buick Grand National he has owned for 15 years.



Black is beautiful in the eyes of the owner of this 1930s Ford hot rod powered by a modern V-8 engine.



A custom paint job and grille helped separate this 1940s street rod from many of the others exhibited during Saturday's car show downtown.



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Tickets & Info: BrewfestForHospice.org
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Gulfside Hospice For more information, contact Christina Miller at 727-845-5707 or christina.miller@ghppc.org.
#FallBrewfest2017

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CRA Agrees To Fund Two Groups

Chamber, Merchants Association Each Get \$25,000

by Joe Potter

The Dade City Community Redevelopment Agency Board approved requests on Tuesday to provide \$25,000 in funding each to the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce and the Dade City Merchants Association.

The measures passed 4-1 with board member Nicole Deese Newlon casting the dissenting vote.

Newlon said it is her opinion marketing does not fall within the state statute establishing CRAs and does not fit into Dade City's CRA plan.

City attorney Nancy Stuparich said she believes the majority of the courts agree that such contracts are allowable.

Members of the Dade City Commission sit as the CRA board.

Dade City has two CRA districts. Taxes from improvements that occur within those districts are placed into

the CRA fund. The money is used for various projects including façade improvements and paving parking lots.

The chamber's executive director, John Moors, outlined the many services the chamber provides to the city, including hosting the annual Kumquat Festival. It also promotes activities in Dade City through social media and print advertising. And the chamber is a center for visitors to obtain information about the city.

The downtown merchants association hosts First Friday, which is held the first Friday of each month. This event attracts many people to Dade City to shop at area stores and eat in local restaurants.

Margaret Angell, president of the merchants association, also said the organization hosts various festivals throughout the year.

The CRA also agreed to pay the merchants association to decorate downtown Dade City for Christmas.

Board member James Shive said he believes the Christmas decorations have had a big economic impact on Dade City. Many people come to the city to see the lights and shop locally.

Dedication • Continued from Page 1A

during the group's Ranch Rodeo and Cowboy Heritage Festival.

FCA Executive Vice President Jim Handley, who has worked with Jeter in the past, said Jeter has always been personable, forthright and honest in the industry.

"He's a great guy and a lot of people love him and we're proud to see him recognized," Handley said.

The heritage festival is a competition for teams of working ranch cowboys to compete in a statewide rodeo. The cowboys often interact with cattle brokers such as Jeter to sort and ship cattle, Handler said. The team captain award is meant to recognize more senior members of the industry who have made an impact on the younger people in the cattle business.

"He has quietly been a big part of our industry and ... we wanted to acknowledge that," Handler said. "[He has] inspired generations of working cowboys through the way he conducts himself."

At the age of 78, Jeter still to this day works with ranchers to sell cattle online, organize their shipment and do other work for ranches during the off-season, according to his wife, Sue.

Jeter has been working with some of the same clients since he graduated from the University of Florida in 1961 with a degree in Meats and Animal Husbandry. A graduate of Pasco High School, he has built a reputation for being a trustworthy and honest business partner locally and around the state.

"People know his description is going to be accurate. They feel comfortable bidding on them or buying them," Sue said.

Jeter attended the award presentation with his wife, daughter, two sons and several grandchildren. His third son could not attend as he lives in Oregon.

"We were very happy for him. He has multiple myeloma and we were just so pleased he was able to get that while he was still able," Sue said. "It meant a lot to him."

Jeter's wife said he is often exhausted at the end of a workday, but tells her it is what keeps him going every day.

"He loves what he's doing and his doctors encouraged him to do what he feels like as long as he feels likes he's able," she said.

Jeter thanked all of the people responsible for presenting him with the award, and "everyone he's worked with all of these years".

Fees • Continued from Page 1A

Henry L. Thomas, senior vice president of Public Resources Management Group of Maitland, told her his firm would make annual recommendations to the commission regarding whether the rates needed to be raised. He noted that Lakeland adopted a similar ordinance but was able to forego one of the rate increases.

"We've got to raise our rates or else. I think it's good for our citizens if we do it this way," Commissioner Scott Black said.

The increased fees will affect all customers who receive city utility services, not just people living

within the city limits. One of the reasons the rates were increased was because of growth occurring in the area. The ordinance says the cost of providing utility services for that new development should not be borne solely by city residents.

Thomas said the current wastewater rates do not cover the cost of operating the utility. Also, they do not provide any support for improvements in either the wastewater or the water utilities. He said the rate increases would correct that situation over time and help both utilities to be more fiscally sound.

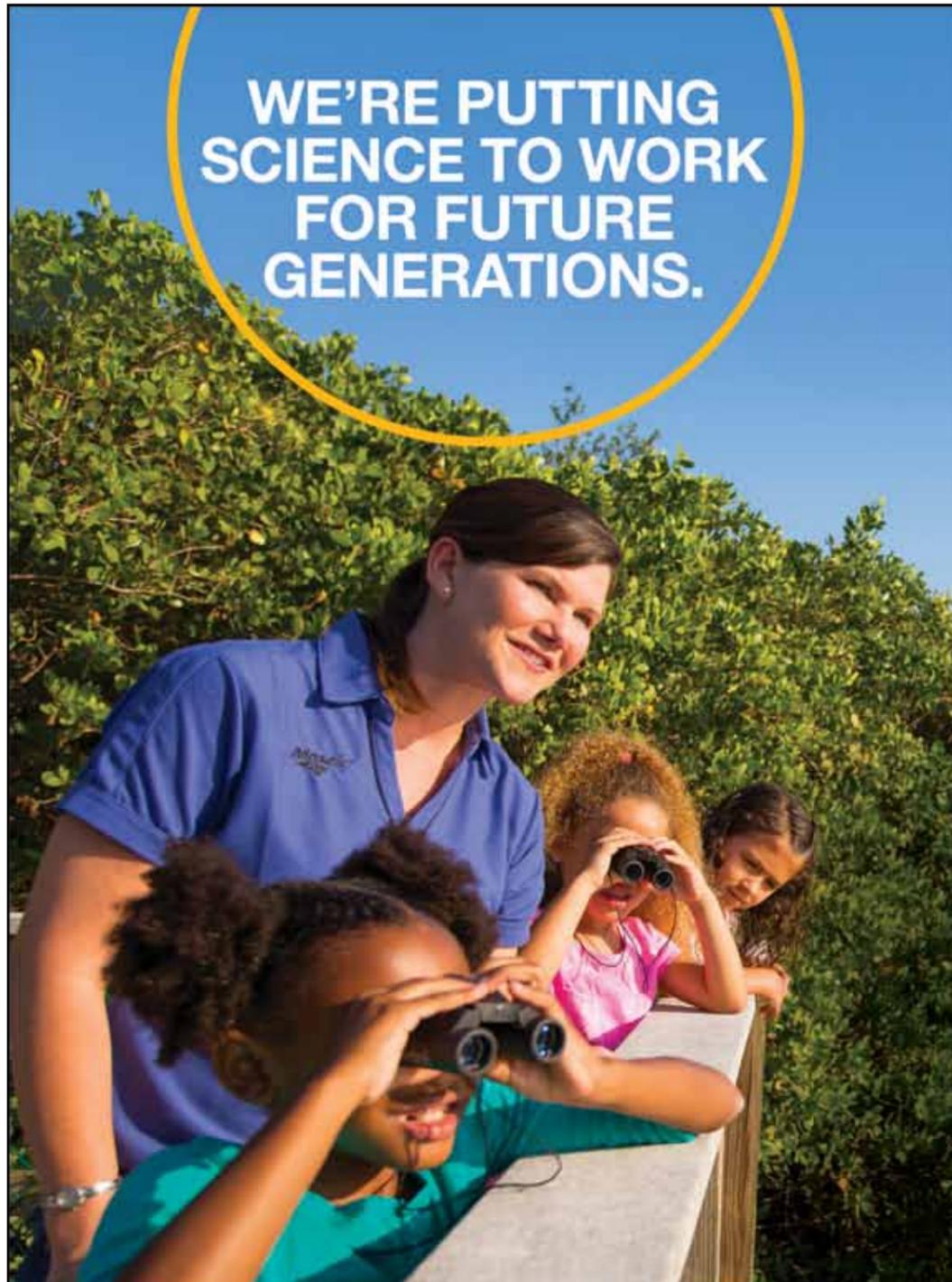
The city needs to make \$9.6 million in capital

improvements during the next five years.

Approximately 30 percent of Dade City's underground lines are substandard and need to be replaced. Thomas said additional money is also needed to address that aging underground infrastructure and the state could step in and order it to be fixed should the city not do anything about it.

The city also needs \$4 million for lift stations and line replacement. Increasing the rates means Dade City will not have to borrow any money to keep its water and wastewater utilities fiscally sound, Thomas said.

The ordinance will be effective Jan. 1.



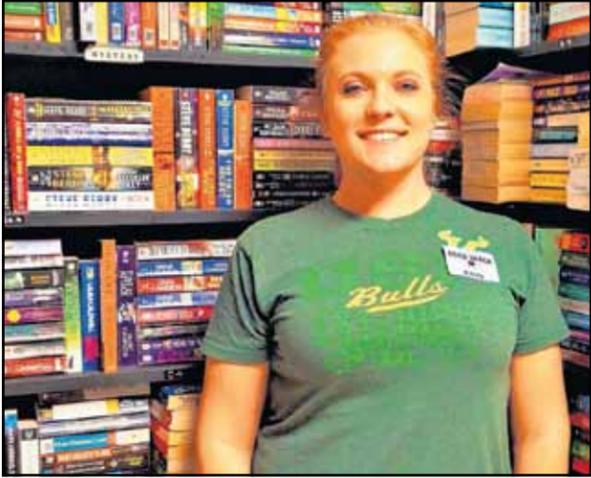
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To learn more about Mosaic's support of STEM education, visit Science.MosaicCo.com.



First Friday Celebrates Music, Food



The Book Shack's readers relished the extended hours.

Dade City rolled out its monthly First Friday last week and the event is gaining a popular following. Downtown shops and eateries appealed to residents seeking bargains, mouthwatering morsels and unique entertainment. Shop windows were festooned with orange, black and macabre Halloween garb and the sidewalks were abuzz with upbeat music from local bands of varying music styles. With a plethora of pleased patrons, this First Friday was the perfect way to kick off the start of the fall season.



With Halloween right around the corner, Dade City shops like Top Drawer Antiques have already gotten into the spooky spirit with some frightening window displays.



Each block featured a local band playing their catchy renditions of popular hits.



Some shops even offered special activities and entertainment, such as some relaxing classical music performed by members of the Dade City Symphony.

Photos by Emily Kochanski

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Plants • Continued from Page 1A

plants and other garden accessories, allowing the master gardeners to manage the event, speak in educational seminars, and be available to answer questions.

There are about 100 master gardeners in Pasco County, and a majority of those attended Saturday's festival, Moore said.

"We're really pleased to see a nice turnout. There's a lot of people with a lot of questions. People are excited and are glad we're here and that makes me feel good," she said.

Seminars were presented in St. Anthony's Catholic School throughout the six-hour event.

Popular topics included hydroponics, drip irrigation, container veggie gardens, hummingbirds and herbs. Multiple of the seminars filled the classroom to the brim with people eager to learn and perfect their gardens.

While adults had plenty of shopping and tutorials, the kids also had many intriguing booths to check out.

A pumpkin patch was set up for visitors



Ragans brothers, from left, Owen, 1, Riley, 5, and Chase, 3, of San Antonio took advantage of the pumpkin patch for a fall photo shoot with their mom at the Gardening 365 event in City Park on Saturday.

to get Jack o' Lantern necessities as well as a great photo opportunity, provided by a local rancher.

Bert's Beekeeping provided honey samples and had a live enclosed beehive

set up so kids could learn just where the sweet nectar comes from.

Across the park, a netted box enclosed dozens of colorful butterflies, which fluttered into the air when they were released in the early afternoon.

The master gardeners set up a booth on ladybugs and were selling bags of the spotted insects. The ladybugs feed on unwanted garden pests, and once placed in a garden will continue to reproduce and protect the plants.

County students and 4H members provided a "valet plant" service to festivalgoers, by loading wagons and coordinating a pick up area to easily load the new greenery into vehicles.

Master Gardeners are specific to counties in Florida because of the state's varying climates. So, the Pasco County Master Gardeners are the experts when it comes to gardening in this specific region. To become a master gardener, candidates must complete a 75-hour training session equivalent to a university minor in horticulture, Moore said.

Candidates learn everything from soil

testing and plant diseases to irrigation systems. Pasco MGs are instructed through the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) Pasco County extension office.

Moore became a master gardener five years ago, and loves having the knowledge to teach others about gardening.

"I like to see things grow. It makes me feel good and hopefully it makes my neighbors say, 'Hey, that's a neat yard. Maybe I need to learn more about how to garden myself,'" she said.

In addition to the festival, Pasco County Master Gardeners are continually holding community seminars, which are free and open to the public. They present at nine locations throughout Pasco at libraries, the extension office in Dade City and a Home Depot in west Pasco.

Visit pasco.ifas.ufl.edu or the UF IFAS Extension Pasco County Facebook page for information on the master gardener program and a calendar of events and seminars.



Shoppers were able to select from dozens of vendors to find the perfect additions for their gardens at Saturday's horticulture festival.



Bert Blackburn, left, and his son Tyler provided honey samples of their locally harvested raw honey and educated visitors on bees and how honey is made.

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Brewfest Tapped For Saturday

Hospice Event Still Needs Some Volunteers

by Keri McAlpine

After successfully hosting the first Spring Brewfest for Hospice in Spring Hill, Gulfside Hospice decided to bring the event east and host a fall version of it in Zephyrhills.

This Saturday the beer tasting event will spread out at the yet-unnamed community event venue at 5200 Airport Road, with gates opening at 3 p.m.

For four hours, guests will be able to wander the grounds and sample craft beers brewed from multiple local breweries including: Big Storm Brewing, Brew Bus Tampa Bay, Escape Brewing Company, Florida Avenue Brewing Company, Infusion Brewing Company and, of course, Zephyrhills Brewing Company.

“We’re definitely ready. I think it’s going to be a great event this year. We’ve got nine breweries on the list for beer and wine so we’re going to have a nice variety,” said Gulfside’s Community Relations Manager Kirsty Churchill.

Admission single tickets are selling for \$25, doubles for \$45, and a 6-pack for \$125. All event proceeds will benefit Gulfside Hospice, a local non-profit organization that serves Pasco County residents facing life-limiting illnesses.

Tickets include entry to the ground, access to craft vendors, live entertainment, and a one-ounce commemorative glass, which guests will use to obtain samples from the different breweries.

Tickets can be purchased at the gate or visit BrewfestforHospice.org or call (727) 845-5707 to purchase ahead of time. All attendees must be 21 years or older. Gulfside’s Fundraising Events Coordinator Christina Miller said they are expecting as many as 300 people to

attend.

The Spring Hill event raised \$7,500, and organizers are hoping the Zephyrhills version to match or surpass that total.

In order to successfully hold large events, organizations such as Gulfside depend on volunteers. Churchill said the event is still in need of volunteers for all kinds of tasks including pouring beer, checking IDs, set up and clean up.

“We’re really excited we really hope the community will come out and support us,” said Miller.

The sister event in Spring Hill was catered, but organizers voted for food trucks for the Zephyrhills version.

Aloy Pat Thai Food Truck, D&R Specialty Hot Dogs, Up N Smoke BBQ, and Wicked Chickens Deviled Eggs will be on site for guests to purchase food.

“The west Pasco community had such a great time at the Spring Brewfest for Hospice, it’s only fair to share the fun with the east Pasco community too,” said Carla Armstrong, director of philanthropy at Gulfside. “Come drink local brews to support your local hospice. Every dollar raised will help provide hospice care and bereavement services to patients and families right here in Pasco County.”

Retro Fit Tampa, a local rock and country cover band, will take the stage and entertain the crowd during Saturday’s shindig. Some seating will be provided, but guests are welcome to bring their own lawn chairs and set up in the grass for an ideal spot. Hits 106 will be doing a live broadcast on site as well.

Pets are welcome to attend provided they are on a leash.

Vendor opportunities for the event are available until Friday at 10 a.m. Contact Miller, at (727) 845-5707 or Christina.miller@ghppc.org for information.

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