



Summer residents working together to clear up debris following Hurricane Irma.

## Gem Estates Welcomes Northerners

### *Park Pristine After Irma Destruction*

Submitted by **Mabel Budzinski**  
*Gem Estates*

It has been rather quiet here in our little piece of paradise. People are beginning to return, and there were 71 folks at our coffee hour this week.

Those in sickbay are Bill Files, Linda Files and Deannie Bennett.

I would like to extend my gratitude

**Gem • Continued on Page 6B**



While some residences suffered some wind-related damage, overall the park stood up well against the storm.



The 29th annual Bug Jam will be held Nov. 11-12 at the Pasco County Fairgrounds, including a car show, swap meet, poker run and more. *Photo by Keri McAlpine*

## Bug Jam Putt-putts Back In

### *Hundreds Of VWs Will Cover The Fairgrounds*

by **Joe Potter**

Lots of us had sore arms in our younger years when friends or family played Slug a Bug riding in the car.

That's because the popular Volkswagen Beetles – known affectionately as 'Bugs' – were seemingly everywhere, and the first to

see one got to punch the nearest person to us and yell, "Slug a Bug!"

However, Bugs aren't as plentiful as they used to be, after all, the last air-cooled one rolled off a Mexico assembly line in 2003.

But over the years, Bugs – and other

**Bugs • Continued on Page 5B**

## White Marlin Ready For Winter



Debbie Clum's birthday celebration on Sept. 18. In attendance are Howard Crockett, Earl Johnson, Joann Johnston and Bob Clum.

### *RV Park Stood Well Against Irma*

Submitted by **Donna Crockett-Wing**  
*White Marlin RV Park*

Hurricane Irma was very kind to our park. The only real damage we had was the wind blew the roof off of our laundry/shower room building. Other than a lot of

limbs and brush. We survived very well. Of course, our prayers and love goes out to all Floridians who lost a lot during this disaster.

Our new sewer system is coming along

**Marlin • Continued on Page 6B**

## Beware of Medicare "Disadvantage" Plans

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MORNINGSIDE RV ESTATES

Morningside RV Estates

Up and Running

Submitted by *Lynn Kosto*  
*Morningside RV Park*

The park manager and employees have worked extremely hard this summer and fall getting Morningside ready for your return.

Park Manager Linda has been diligent making sure all aspects of the park are ready for use upon your return.

Even with Hurricane Irma, Bill and Brent have done a wonderful job keeping the park looking great.

Gloria and Lynn have been getting the new campground program

system up and running, while Connie is learning the ins and outs of the mailroom.

The year-round residents have been busy with their project at the dog park. Sod was bought by Applebrook Homes and the residents spent a good two days doing the hard work of putting all the sod down for our pets. Every day you will see Dick watering the sod so it will take hold.

Thank you to all who have done an excellent job early this season and welcome back to Morningside RV Estates.

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FOREST LAKE ESTATES

A Message From The Manager

Submitted by *Steven Bagiardi*  
*Forest Lake Estates*

I would like to say “Hello” to all of my year-round folks who stick it out with me all summer long, welcome everybody who is coming back from up North, and anybody new to the community. I cannot believe it is already November. Equity Lifestyle Properties has owned and operated this fabulous property for almost 17 months and we still love it here! I spent a lot of the summer out in the community working alongside the maintenance staff as we had a few changes in staff and the guys certainly appreciate the additional hand. Your HOA board really cares about this community and has been working equally as hard as well. I would like to specifically thank them for their diligence regarding the water rates for the park! I expect to see people out dancing in the streets spraying water uselessly because it is so cheap. Okay, maybe not quite like that, but we should at least see a few cars that are a little cleaner driving around the community.

I would like to give a special shout out to my maintenance staff for their amazing efforts in cleaning up this park after Hurricane Irma in September. The park had trees down, branches, leaves and moss everywhere. I said the park looked a little like something out of Jurassic Park. The staff had this park cleaned up in about 3-4 days to where you could not even tell a storm went through. Of course, that is if you didn't look at the few trees that fell on resident's homes or the missing carports. In addition to the maintenance team, several full-

time residents jumped in to help with cleanup. This was indeed a full team effort and I want to personally thank all who helped keep our park so beautiful. All in all, we fared extremely well and we all counted our blessings as it could have been much worse.

As many of you know, I have high hopes for this community and spend LOTS of my time here in order to keep this park as beautiful as it is. My staff and I have worked diligently to accomplish some projects around the community in order to make the community as a whole, much more attractive.

Some of these accomplishments include:

- Newly remodeled pool, pool bathrooms and sealed pavers.
- Clubhouse divider. Wow, it is gorgeous and sound resistant.
- Refreshed putt-putt course. New boards, rocks, and flags.
- Fresh mulch and landscaping throughout the community.
- New speed limit signs are highly durable and reflective. Now let's use them.
- We have refreshed some stop signs, and even added a few four-way stops. Look out for them and use them.
- Outdoor kitchen.
- Working extremely closely with the HOA and other groups to make FLE better, especially on water. Glad that is fixed.

Lastly, I would like to thank the HOA for making your voices heard throughout the park and especially for working so diligently on these newsletters. They are appreciated by everyone.

Please everyone: enjoy your time here as it really is a beautiful place.

New Orleans and Biloxi

January 18-23, 2018



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On our way to New Orleans from Biloxi we will be stopping in a couple of different areas around Biloxi to take in some additional local history.

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MAJESTIC OAKS CAREFREE RV RESORT

# Ghoulish Times At Majestic Oaks RV Resort



Jackie Laubach went back to her days at Woodstock for the Halloween bash.

Submitted by *Wendy Parsels*  
*Majestic Oaks Carefree RV Resort*

Seasonal activities always begin Nov. 1 at Majestic Oaks RV Resort... but why? Why can't the events start in time for Halloween?

Halloween is not just for kids anymore. Several residents at Majestic

Oaks ensured that is what happened this year. They “convinced” a resident to be a volunteer DJ and he spun some tunes. There were snacks shared, conversations had and costumes worn.

All residents were invited and encouraged to attend. All in attendance enjoyed a ghoulish time, freaky fun, frightening food, as well as spooky and magical music.



Our mild-mannered ship captain, Carlos Fossati, rocking his inner star.



Pattye Starrett dressed as a Dalmatian for Halloween.



Beth Hickman spent the night looking for her lost dog.

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American House Zephyrhills will be offering a unique opportunity for you to see, feel and hear what it's like to live with dementia. Offered by Second Wind Dreams, the **Virtual Dementia Tour (VDT)**, is a training activity created to help caregivers provide better care for those suffering from dementia and Alzheimer's Disease.

Please RSVP by November 15 to set up your appointment time.

This event is free and open to the public.

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# Three Area Relay Events Merging Will Be Called Relay For Life Of East Pasco

by Joe Potter

The American Cancer Society has decided to merge the Zephyrhills, Dade City/San Antonio and Wesley Chapel/Wiregrass Relay For Life events into one organization.

The decision was made based on results of relays held in the eastern Pasco County communities last year, Bonnie Gibson said Wednesday.

The ACS hired Gibson as a community development manager in August.

Two of her family members succumbed to the deadly disease, Gibson told about 40 people gathered at A Matter of Taste Restaurant for a meeting about the merge.

Some attendees questioned why the decision was made.

“We are simply trying to be better

stewards of our staff’s time, money and volunteers’ time,” Gibson told the crowd.

Support has been gradually decreasing for the three separate Relay events and having one large Relay would help bring more people and new talent into the event, Gibson said.

A location and date has not been determined for the 2018 Relay for Life. It will likely be held in early May so it will not conflict with high school proms or Mother’s Day.

Leadership teams have not yet been established but will determine the date, along with the location and length of the relay, which could be from 12 to 24 hours long. A 12-hour relay is easier to organize and is less physically taxing on participants, Gibson said. She had participated in a 24-hour Relay once, Gibson said.



Zephyrhills High School cheerleaders lead a group of survivors at last year’s Relay in downtown Zephyrhills.

Photo by Keri McAlpine

Those attending Wednesday’s meeting brainstormed various concerns, including fundraising, venues for the event, sponsorships, entertainment, activities and themes for the revitalized Relay.

Some suggested venues included the Pasco County Fairgrounds, various high school campuses, the Saint Leo University campus, Pasco-Hernando State College’s East Campus and the Pasco County District Park in Wesley Chapel.

Attendees were given an overview of the “Core 4” team approach to be used to organize the 2018 Relay for Life.

These leaders will consist of an event leader, a people leader, an experience leader and a fund the cure leader.

Each attendee had an opportunity to indicate if they were interested in serving as a leader or member of one of these four teams.

Several other leadership teams will serve under the “Core 4” teams. Those

teams will be responsible for getting as many people as possible involved in Relay for Life; overseeing all ceremonies taking place throughout the Relay event; and educating Relay participants about the mission of the ACS.

Another meeting will be held in approximately two weeks, Gibson said, to help select members of the various leadership teams and to kick off plans for the 2018 Relay for Life.

More meetings will be held over the coming months to finalize plans, which will be held at various locations throughout east Pasco, and not limited to one city.

Internet, Wi-Fi and Skype capabilities will be available at each meeting site so people who either don’t want to or can’t drive to the meeting can participate remotely, Gibson said.

For more information, contact Gibson at (863) 500-0199 for further information on the Relay merger and to get involved.



Survivors walk the first lap leading the pack in support of finding a cure for cancer at last year’s Relay for Life in Dade City.

Photo by Joe Potter

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THE OAKS AT ZEPHYRHILLS

The Oaks at Zephyrhills



Community Association

Oaks At Zephyrhills  
Plans Park Member  
Breakfast Saturday

By David Strange  
The Oaks at Zephyrhills

Our new year has started off with boots on the ground. We recently installed our officers for our 2017-2018 year. As always, with responsibility comes work, but we are ready for the challenges. We are planning a breakfast on Nov. 11 from 7 to 10 a.m.

The menu is scrambled eggs, toast, potatoes and your choice of sausage, pork chop or steak. Coffee is a necessity and will be onsite.

The cost is \$8.25 per couple or \$4.25 for single. Please RSVP by email to [djstrange69@gmail.com](mailto:djstrange69@gmail.com) or via text to (352) 424-3190.

We are anxious to meet and greet new people. Welcome.

The clubhouse is located at 39442 County Road 54 in Zephyrhills.



The community firepit at the Oaks at Zephyrhills.

Bugs • Continued from Page 1B

VW models, such as Karman Ghias, buses, and Things – have achieved a cult status.

And there are few places where this will be clearer than the Pasco County Fairgrounds on Nov. 11 and 12 during the 29th Bug Jam. The fairgrounds have hosted these joyous VW get-togethers each year and the event is billed as the largest homage to the Bug in the southeastern United States. Folks even drive in from the northern most parts of the U.S. and beyond to attend.

More than 800 VWs participated in last year’s event that includes a car show and swap meet and this year’s party revs up early Nov. 11 with a five-stop 40-mile poker run.

‘Bugs on the track’ begins at 11:30 a.m. and runs until 4 p.m. where VW owners cans drive on the redesigned off-road motocross track at the fairgrounds.

Entertainment takes place on the Reeves Main Stage throughout the day. Open Mic will be from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; followed by the scheduled opening act at 1 p.m. Featured bands will perform from 4-10 p.m.

At 2 p.m. Nov 11, Dade City police will escort VWs from the fairgrounds for a cruise-in and party in historic downtown. The party will start at 2:30 p.m. on Pasco Avenue and Seventh Street, in front of

Beef O’ Brady’s and The Brass Tap.

There will be live music, contests and games throughout the night. Craft beer vendors will offer their beverages and many shops and eateries will be open for the event.

But the main event is on Sunday, Nov. 12, where those attending will get to peruse more than 50 classes of Volkswagens, including air- and water-cooled versions, as the vehicles are being judged.

Nearly 30 VWs were offered to potential buyers during last year’s show.

More than 100 swap vendors and new parts vendors are anticipated to be at the Bug Jam along with toy and collectible vendors. Craft beer and plenty of food will fuel folks while live music will add to the festive two-day event.

Children’s games and a few contests for all ages will also be on tap for that Sunday.

General admission is \$10 per day or \$15 for both days. Children age 10 and under are admitted for free if they bring a can of food, which will be donated to the Feeding America Suncoast Food Bank.

Parking fees are \$5 per day per vehicle. Gates open for spectators at 11 a.m. on Nov. 11, and 9 a.m. on Nov. 12.



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GEM ESTATES



Fallen trees were a common sight following Irma in September.

Gem • Continued from Page 1B

to our summer residents for all the work they've done to clean up our community

after Irma went through. They cleared all the debris and it was hauled away before us winter residents returned.



A tree fallen right next to a Gem Estates residence.

WHITE MARLIN RV PARK



Bob Clum's birthday celebration on Aug. 3. In attendance are Howard Crockett, Dave Sisco, park Manager Craig Welfare, Cindy Beckers, Debbie Clum and Earl Johnson.

Marlin • Continued from Page 1B

and should be done by the time this hits the newsstands. Considering the fact there are only a few of us here for the summer, we have been having a good time.

We have celebrated three birthdays, with cake and ice cream, and all current residents in attendance. The birthday

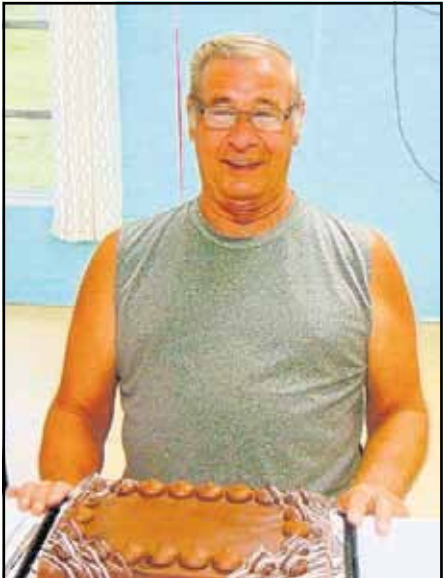
honorees are Bob Clum, Debbie Clum and Donna Crockett-Wing.

Soon our friends and neighbors from the north will be arriving and the winter activities will begin.

Stay tuned.



Debbie Clum at her birthday celebration at White Marlin.



Bob Clum at his birthday party.

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# Barbershop Choir Seeking New Members

*Men and Women Invited to Attend Rehearsals*

**Staff Report**

Because of their love for music, a small group of men from the Pasco County area decided to join together in 1985 to form a choral group and meet on a weekly basis. The word quickly spread around town that this group of men, although not professional singers, had a refreshing sound now called four-part barbershop harmony.

Soon afterward, this group of four quickly became eight, then 16 and finally leveled off at around 50 singers. The group was asked to perform their music at hospitals, assisted living facilities, homes for the elderly and carious other locations wanting musical entertainment.

They gave up their time and talents, asking for nothing in return, to enlighten the lives of those less fortunate.

In recent years, the group has dwindled due to the aging of members, better job opportunities elsewhere, health concerns

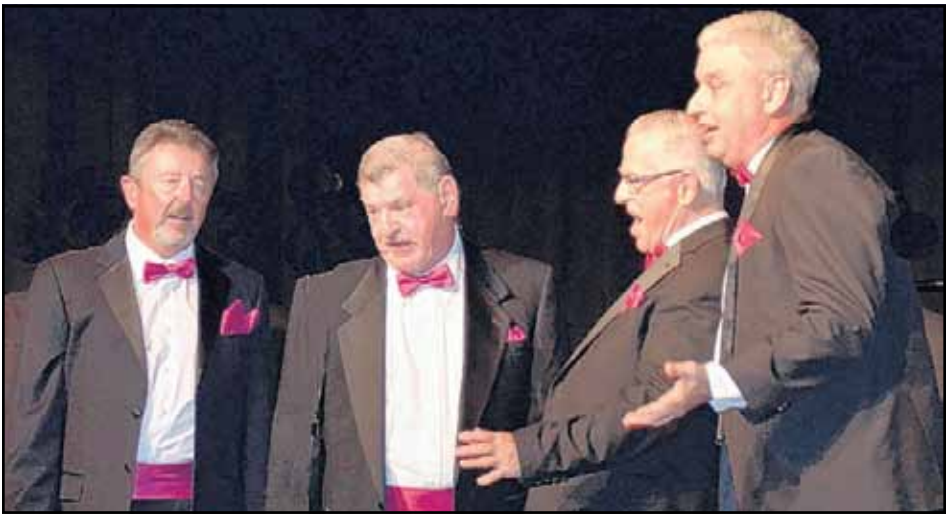
and other reasons.

They need more voices in order to continue to meet their objective of providing musical entertainment to the residents and car facilities in Pasco County.

In order to keep up with the changing times, they no longer enlist men exclusively. Chartered under the auspices of the Barbershop Harmony Society, they are now able to accept female members into their chorus. So, here’s your chance, ladies, to contribute to a great cause and make new friends, while enjoying a craft that benefits others.

The group doesn’t require potential members to read music or pass an audition to join the chorus, but they do require members to enjoy singing within a group setting while learning to improve their craft, all while having fun.

The group rehearses every Tuesday night from 7 to 8:45 p.m. at the Millennium Academy, 10005 Ridge Road in New Port Richey. Interested members are invited to



The once exclusively male harmony group is seeking both men and women to join their nonprofit organization.

*Photo Provided*

stop by rehearsals anytime.

As a nonprofit organization, several of the group’s members have formed quartets that perform to raise funds for their chapter. On Valentine’s day, the gentlemen, while dressed in formal attire,

sing two live songs and present a rose, a Valentine’s Day card, and a souvenir photo of the occasion to a lucky recipient.

Call (727) 857-7224 for information on the quartet, bookings and joining the Sound of Sunshine.

## Florida Oldtimers Hockey

The new Florida Hospital Center Ice facility is open and hockey clubs for “vintage” players are forming. Groups will be made for players ages 60 and over, age 65 and over and possibly even 70 and over.

Guys who would like to skate twice a week with players of similar talent and who enjoy competition, comradery and the fellowship of hockey are encouraged to join – there may even be a cool adult refreshment enjoyed after the games.

Visit [www.FloridaHospitalCenterIce.com](http://www.FloridaHospitalCenterIce.com) for information on the facility,

which is located at 3173 Cypress Ridge Blvd. in Wesley Chapel, in the northeast quadrant of Interstate 75 and State Road 56. The facility features an Olympic rink, three NHL rinks and a studio rink.

Contact Norm Dann at (813) 973-3654 or [old.puck@juno.com](mailto:old.puck@juno.com) if you’re interested in joining or just want more information on the program. You may also drop a note to: Norm Dann, c/o Florida Oldtimers Hockey Association, P.O. Box 7218, Wesley Chapel, FL, 33545-0103.

## Elderly Nutrition Senior Center ReopensAfter Kitchen Remodel

Following a nine-month kitchen renovation project, the Pasco County Elderly Nutrition Division has reopened the Zephyrhills Senior Center, located at St. Elizabeth’s Episcopal Church, 5855 16th St.

Meals are served from 9 a.m. to noon on weekdays.

“Thank you to the members of the Dade City Senior Center for their hospitality during this project,” said Gabriel Papadopoulos, Pasco County

Elderly Nutrition Division Manager. “To our Zephyrhills members, thanks again for your understanding during this major renovation project and welcome home.”

The Elderly Nutrition Division extends its apologies for any inconveniences caused during the duration of the renovation. The staff looks forward to welcoming all new and registered members to the Zephyrhills Senior Center.



# Welcome Back to the City of Zephyrhills

## While you were gone we made some changes:

### City Hall Renovations

City Council and staff had their last City Council meeting in the old City Hall on May 22, 2017. The city had been meeting in the Robert E. Johnson Council Chambers since 1959. City staff moved into the City Hall Annex located at 5344 Ninth Street on June 9, 2017. Demolition of the old City Hall started on Sept 18, 2017.



### Also, traffic changes have been improved:



- In order to improve driver safety, we have added a 4-way stop sign at the intersection of Dairy Road and Daughtery Road.
- All vehicles must stop at the intersection and then proceed when able at this intersection!
- At Fort King Road and Eiland Boulevard, the traffic signals have been improved and turn arrows have been added for traffic headed in all directions.

- This change, with the cooperation of the Pasco County Traffic Division, helps move the flow of traffic and makes turning safer.
- Major improvements have been completed at the intersection of Highway 301 and Eiland Boulevard/CR 54. This is a joint project between the Florida Department of Transportation, Pasco County and the City of Zephyrhills.
- Additional turn lanes, traffic lanes and sidewalks will improve what has become one of the busiest intersections in Zephyrhills.



### New businesses:



- In continued efforts to improve the downtown district, we’ve welcomed a number of new businesses downtown.
  - Be sure to stop in while you are in the area.
- Enjoy the winter from Mayor Gene Whitfield and Council members, Alan Knight president; Lance Smith, vice president; Kent Compton, Ken Burgess, Charles Proctor.*



# COMMUNITY & CLUB NEWS

## National Active and Retired Federal Employees

The next meeting of NARFE, Zephyrhills Chapter #390 will be Nov. 14 at 12:30 p.m. at Mike's Southern Table & Smokehouse (formerly Mike's Smokehouse & BBQ) located at 5740 Seventh St. For seating purposes or any questions, email hreed10@tampabay.rr.com, or call (352) 523-3674 by noon on Nov. 10. All Federal employees, retirees, survivor annuitants and spouses are welcome to attend.

## Pasco County Genealogical Society

The next meeting will be Nov. 11 from 10 a.m. until noon. Meetings are hosted in the Latter-day Saints Meeting room on Fort King Road, halfway between Zephyrhills and Dade City. Guests are welcome if interested in genealogy. The speaker is Donna Moughty with the topic of "Jumping the Pond, Finding the Origins of your Immigrant Ancestor." Moughty is a professional genealogist and former Regional Manager for Apple

Computer and has been conducting family research for over 20 years. Call (813) 788-8894 for information.

## Dade City Garden Club

Master Gardener Steve Cox will present a free program Nov. 20 on backyard fruits suitable for Florida. The public is encouraged to attend at the Dade City Garden Club, 13630 Fifth St. Social hour, with coffee and light refreshments begins at 9:30 a.m. followed by the program at 10 a.m. Steve is also a successful vegetable gardener, so he has a wealth of knowledge to share. Contact jeff352@gmail.com for information.

## Pasco County Historical Society

The next meeting will be Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. at Pioneer Florida Museum & Village, 15602 Pioneer Museum Road, Dade City. Meetings are free and open to the public. A covered-dish dinner precedes the program, so bring something special to share. Please bring your own cutlery for your personal use. The program will be Fallacies of the War Between the States. "General Lee" portrayed by Al Stone will discuss the fallacies related to the Civil War. He will share his knowledge and understanding of the situation when the military conflict concluded in 1865. Contact Glen Thompson at (352) 567-7449 or bookbollard@iCloud.com for information.

## Garden Gate Garden Club

The next meeting will be Nov. 16 at 10 a.m. at the Magnuson Hotel, 5734 Gall Blvd. The program this month will be a succulent presentation and a white elephant sale. Contact Vicky at (813) 782-8004 for information.

## Zephyrhills Art Club

The next meeting will be Nov. 21 at Alice Hall, 38116 Fifth Ave. This month will feature the members' mini show with a fall theme. Artist Gainor Roberts is providing a demonstration of her egg tempera techniques. This should be very interesting to watch. If you are interested in art or new to the area and curious, please stop by. Call (301) 300-9865 for information.

## AMVETS Post #550

Monday is Bingo from 1-4 p.m. and the kitchen is open from 12-2 p.m. Every Tuesday is Karl Sapp from 4-7 p.m. with the kitchen open from 4-6:30 p.m. Wednesday is Ship, Captain and Crew from 1-3 p.m.; the Queen of Hearts is at 5 p.m.; and Corn Toss is also on Wednesdays. Thursdays from 4-7 p.m. is a meat raffle. Friday is our famous Fish Fry from 4:30-6:30 p.m. with other menu choices available. Entertainment is from 7-10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. On Sundays join E-bowling at 1:30 p.m. AMVETS is located at 4645 Airport Road in Zephyrhills. Find us on Facebook or call (813) 780-8180 for information.

## East Pasco Democratic Club

The next meeting will be Nov. 20. Dinner is a la carte at 5 p.m., with the meeting at 6:30 p.m., at Omari's Grill, Scotland Yards Golf Club, 9424 U.S. 301 in Dade City. The guest speakers will be William Seville for city council and Kelly Smith for Pasco County Commission. All Democrats are invited. Call (813) 586-3093 for information.

## VFW #8154

Located at 3954 Paul S. Buchman Highway (State Road 39). Post and Auxiliary meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Wings and Things will be from 2-6 p.m. on Sundays with music from 5-8 p.m. Monday Meat Drawings begin at 4:30 p.m. with music by Billy Cole from 4-7 p.m. Fish Fries are served on Fridays from 4:30-7 p.m. with music following from 7- 10 p.m. Come enjoy and participate in Karaoke on Saturdays from 5-8 p.m. Call (813) 782-7194 for information.

## Zephyrhills Lions Club

On the first Thursday of each month from 9-11:30 a.m. applications are accepted from Pasco County residents for basic eye care through our Sight Program. To qualify please see a list of required documents by visiting [www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/zephyrhills](http://www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/zephyrhills) or by contacting our clubhouse at (813) 788-1441. Clubhouse hours are 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The clubhouse is located at 5827 Dean Dairy Road.

Come join our Tuesday and Friday night Bingo, the largest Bingo in east Pasco. Doors open at 3 p.m., first Bingo session begins at 6 p.m., second session begins at 8 p.m. so come for one session or stay all night. Our kitchen opens at 4 p.m. with a delicious array of freshly prepared foods and desserts. Daily Specials, when available, are \$5.

## Zephyrhills Eagles #3752

Smoking and non-smoking Bingo is held every Saturday at 1 p.m. Come early to enjoy our kitchen's burger sliders – two for \$2. Friday fish fries are from 5-7 p.m. and stay for Billy Cole Karaoke from 7-11 p.m. Monday night is good home cooking for \$6. Wednesday and Thursday are open menu items, and Sunday morning breakfast from 8-11 a.m. Stop in to visit and stay for a while. Calendars are on Facebook at Zephyrhills Eagles #3752 or call (813) 780-1558 for information.

## Elks Lodge #2731

The Zephyrhills Elks Lodge is located at 6851 Wire Road. A fish fry is held every Friday evening from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. with music and dancing. Menu is fried or baked haddock, shrimp or baked chicken, baked potato or French fries, coleslaw or applesauce. Cost is \$10. All events are open to Elks and their invited guests. Karaoke with Dudley is every Tuesday beginning at 5:30 p.m. Summer hours are currently in effect – please see the Lodge bulletin for details. Call (813) 782-4604 for information.

# Pets of the Week



BRUNO



Bruno is a sweet 3-year-old brindle mix that doesn't mind outfits or sunglasses. He passed his dog to dog assessment and shows good greeting skills and did well on his cat assessment (We still recommend a meet and greet and slow introductions).

SAM



Sam is 5-year-old male that arrived at the beginning of October. Sam enjoys his time roaming our Feline Freedom room. He is a wonderful greeter and is very outgoing. He also has a pair of the most mesmerizing eyes we have seen in a while.

Adopt one of these or other adorable pets today!

**Pasco County Animal Services**

19640 Dogpatch Lane  
Land O' Lakes, FL 34638  
(813) 929-1212  
Email: [adoptionpartners@pascocountyfl.net](mailto:adoptionpartners@pascocountyfl.net)





## Representative Danny Burgess

Florida House of Representatives, District 38

Creekside Center • 35358 SR 54 Zephyrhills, Florida 33541  
(813) 780-0667 [danny.burgess@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:danny.burgess@myfloridahouse.gov)



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M-F 8am-5pm • Nov-March



# COMMUNITY & CLUB NEWS

## Zephyrhills Family Moose Lodge

Mondays – Corn Hole Toss, 7 p.m. in the SQ and spaghetti/chicken dinner from 5-7 p.m.; Tuesdays – Ship Captain Crew at 2 p.m. in the SQ, darts at 7 p.m. and taco Tuesday from 5-7 p.m.; Wednesdays – Dance on Hall Side and Karaoke with Cathy on SQ Side Wind Night from 5-7 p.m.; Thursdays – Live music in SQ from 2-5 p.m.; and burgers from 5-7 p.m.; Fridays – Fish Fry 4-7 p.m. every Friday.

All events are for members and qualified guests. Public Bingo on Thursdays at 6:30 pm is open to the general public. The lodge is located at 3211 Gall Blvd. and can be reached at (813) 782-1771.

## Military Order of the Purple Heart

Chapter #705 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) is calling all combat wounded veterans to join us promoting patriotism, history, fraternalism and assistance. We meet the first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at AMVETS Post #550, 4645 Airport Road, Zephyrhills. Life membership is available for all combat wounded veterans, their dependents and survivors, for \$50, payable in two convenient payments of \$25 each. Call Earl McMillan at (813) 782-3425 or email emcmillan1@verizon.net, or contact Guy Patterson at (864) 561-6644 for information.

## Support Group for Grieving Adults

Adults who are grieving the death of a loved one are welcome to participate in an ongoing grief support group, offered at no charge by HPH Hospice. The group meets the second and fourth Monday of each month, from 3-4 p.m. at Humana, 7920 Gall Blvd. in Zephyrhills. No registration is required. An HPH bereavement counselor facilitates the group and one can attend as often as they'd like. Call HPH at (800) 486-8784 for information.

## Marine Corps League

The Sgt. Maj. Michael S. Curtin Detachment #1124 of the Marine Corps League (MCL) are looking for a few good Marines and Fleet Marine Force (FMF) Navy Corpsmen to join their ranks. The MCL meets on the last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post #8154 located at the southeast corner of State Road 39 and Tucker Road at 3954 Paul Buchman Highway in Zephyrhills. Call (813) 788-5676 for information.

## Marine Corps League Auxiliary

The Marine Corps League Auxiliary meets the first Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. at the Zephyrhills V.F.W. Post #8154 located at 3954 State Road 39. Call Vanice Holland at (772) 480-0658 for information.

## Ladies Oriental Shrine Cairo Court #97

The local LOSNA group, Cairo Court #97 of Zephyrhills, meets on the third Wednesday of each month (September through May) at the Zephyrhills Masonic Hall at 5950 12th St.

## American Legion Post #118

The honor society of American veterans, the 40/8, is now in Zephyrhills. Our promenades are the third Saturday of each month at 9:30 am. at American Legion Post #118.

American Legion Zephyr Post #118 meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at 5340 Eighth St., Zephyrhills, at 7 p.m. Auxiliary meets at 1 p.m. the third Wednesday. The club is open for Legion members, veterans and guests at 3 p.m. Monday-Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m. Canadian veterans are welcome. Membership is open to all eligible veterans. Call (813) 782-0481 for information.

## Zephyrhills Historical Association

The Zephyrhills Historical Association meets every first Tuesday at the Zephyrhills Public Library, 5347 Eighth St. The business meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. followed by the program at 6 p.m. All are welcome to attend and refreshments will be served. Contact Clereen Brunty at (813) 782-8763 or clereen@tampabay.rr.com for information.

## Eagles Ladies Auxiliary

The Eagles Ladies Auxiliary is a great way to volunteer your time to make a difference in someone's life. We are a community-based organization that is not for profit located at 4149 New River Road in Zephyrhills.

## East Pasco Amateur Radio Society

Monthly exams for all levels of amateur radio licenses are available on the third Tuesday of every month. The test sessions are held at Saint Leo University, 33701 S.R. 52, at 5:30 p.m. Email k4ex@arrl.net or visit eparsonline.org to schedule a test please or for more information.

## Senior Golf Group

Our senior golf group plays rotating courses each Wednesday in Pasco and Hillsborough counties year round. Meet new golfing friends and get a group rate. Call Walt Bockmiller at (813) 527-8211 for information.

## Centennial Eagles #4399

Our Friday Fish Fry is back every Friday from 4:30-7 p.m. serving fish, shrimp and chicken strips. Meal also includes choice of baked potato, French fries or Onion Rings; cole slaw or applesauce; hush puppies or yeast roll; and dessert.

Other activities include Sunday bar Bingo at 1 p.m.; dart tournament on Mondays at 7 p.m.; pool tournament on Tuesdays at 7 p.m.; nickel Bingo on Wednesdays from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; bar Bingo on Thursdays at 6 p.m.; Friday fish fry from 4:30-7 p.m. followed by a pool tournament at 7 p.m.; and nickel bingo on Saturdays from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Located at 10549 U.S. 301. Call the club at (352)567-9755 for information.

## Kiwanis Club of Dade City

This service organization meets every Tuesday at noon at the American Legion Hall, located at 37745 Church Ave. in Dade City. Lunch is followed by a speaker on current topics of interest to the club. Kiwanis is a worldwide organization whose focus is on the children of the world. The Dade City club's primary focus

is on helping the children of east Pasco County. Guests are welcome to come to a meeting and learn more about how we support children in our community.

## Chess Club

The Hugh Embry Library Chess Club meets Wednesdays from 5-7:30 p.m. We have boards and pieces so bring your winning attitude and chess clock if you prefer to use one. Meetings are held at the Hugh Embry Library Meeting Room, 14215 Fourth St. in Dade City. Contact Glen Thompson at bookbollard@iCloud.com or call (352) 567-7449 for information.

## American Legion Post #15

Join Dade City Post #15 every Saturday night for Karaoke with Rick starting at 6 p.m. Saturday dinners are available from 5-7 p.m. Music jams are every Wednesday night, but when the snowbirds go home we will have to practice Karaoke for those who want to try new songs, just watch, or sing Karaoke for the first time in a friendly environment. Refreshments available for purchase along with a full-service bar.

Regular business meetings are conducted on the second Monday of each month. All members are encouraged to attend.

We are located in beautiful downtown Dade City at 37745 Church Ave. Join us in support of all veterans and hometown heroes. Call (352) 518-0021 for information.



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# My Afternoon With A WWII Hero

Submitted by **Tammy Watson**

According to my parents, and to the history books that proved to be the proverbial Achilles Heel of my 10th grade education, I learned that there are Seven Wonders of the World. Based upon newly gathered evidence I believe I can provide proof that there are actually eight.

This ‘Eighth Wonder’ is located in a little town known as Zephyrhills in Pasco County. This little town is where I encountered the Eighth Wonder I speak of, who is none other than 93 years young World War II Veteran, Master Gunnery Sgt. Paul Crook.

The following story is evidence of that claim.

After completing what seemed like an endless, 12-hour shift in the ICU at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, I was in need of my own refreshing to say the

least. This particular afternoon would prove to be anything but routine as I shared an elevator ride with an elderly gentleman whose ball cap read “WWII/ Korea Veteran”. I thanked him for his service and inquired as to which theaters (places of combat) he had served in. I discovered that he had seen many places, as he was a United States Marine that served our country for more than 27 years.

I asked Crook if he would be willing to sit down with me and allow me to interview him about his service as a Marine. I later phoned him and he, along with his sweet wife, Vi, afforded me what would turn out to be the interview of a lifetime.

**Attempting To Narrow The Details**

For several days prior to the interview, I began the arduous task of trying to narrow down questions about a military career that spanned 27 years,

so on the afternoon of the interview I could include the basics and move on to the really good stuff. After recording the name of his unit, Marine Air Group VMF-221, his last rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant, and a few details of the beginning of his career, I finally reached the question that many want to ask these WWII veterans. “What made you want to join the military?”

The eyes that saw much combat, leading many times to tears of great sadness, on this day many years later, twinkled at the question.

As fate would have it, Crook was an avid outdoors person like myself and our shared love for fishing and hunting would lead to the unfolding of a humorous story that proved to be the catalyst to his military career. He described to me, through his laughter, that when growing up in North Carolina he got into trouble at age 16 and was placed on probation for hunting (otherwise known as poaching by game wardens) at the Biltmore Estate. Yes, readers, THAT Biltmore Estate.

This event, combined with his “not liking school much” made him realize he was headed down the wrong road. He decided that the best way to change his life for the better was to join the Marines. Crook discovered that the Marines wouldn’t take him as long he was on probation. It was explained to him that the judge presiding over his case would have to rescind the probation in order for him to enlist. The judge did agree to waive probation, however, not without a strong warning to this young man. He told him, “I will let you off probation if you promise you will join the service, but if I let you off probation and you do not join you will be ‘splitting rocks, doing hard



**Master Gunnery Sgt. Paul Crook served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 27 years.**  
*Photos Provided*



labor at Craggy Pinnacle.” With that, this young teenager left the world of hunting, fishing and working in the family dry cleaning business to which he had become accustomed. He left it all behind to take on the sometimes humorous, but most of the time hard days of Basic Training at Parris Island in 1940.

World War II Veteran, Master Gunnery Sgt. Paul Crook’s first assignment took him to Pearl Harbor in 1942, where he boarded the U.S.S. Saratoga to join with Marine Air Group 21, bound for Wake Island. While en route the fleet was informed of the

**Hero • Continued on Page 11B**

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Hero • Continued from Page 10B

taking of Wake Island by the Japanese, redirecting the Saratoga to Midway.

Once set up, PFC Crook’s duty was to refuel the squadron’s F2A Brewster Buffalo Fighters.

The Battle of Midway would conclude with a 62 percent casualty rate for his squadron, and earned him a letter of commendation for conspicuous courage and heroic service from Frank Knox, Secretary of the Navy under President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

His last tour of duty began in 1966, when he voluntarily came out of retirement to serve not one, but two tours in Vietnam with the First Marine Aircraft Wing.

Along with his accounts of battles, fought alongside his many brothers, some still living but many who have since passed on, this witty Marine had his share of funny, personal stories, as well.

My favorite story told that afternoon was one from way back in 1943. On a quiet afternoon while serving as Squadron Chief of the F4U, Corsair Fighting Training Unit, at El Toro, Calif., Crook was summoned to his commander’s office to be briefed and introduced to a man by the name of Col. Charles Lindbergh. Crook was told he would be readying planes for Lindbergh as needed, as the famed pilot was there to try to make sense of the reason behind the loss of eight pilots due to the continual crashing of the F4U Corsair, aka, Whistling Death. The pilots in charge of test flights would perform maneuvers that required them to take the aircraft up into a loop.

Lindbergh was able to determine the problem and Crook went on to tell me that after the war he wished to visit the pilot’s gravesite. On an anticipated trip to Hawaii, he and his wife weren’t having much success locating the grave,



as at that time the location of the site was kept a bit secret. Crook saw a park ranger and inquired if he might know where Lindbergh’s grave was located. The park ranger instructed him to “go a few miles back” to the Palapala Ho’omau Church that sits on the island Hana Maui. This gravesite today is one of the most visited sights by tourists, however, on that day in the quiet sanctuary of those beautiful gardens, Crook and his wife had a cherished few moments of privacy at the grave of the man who touched his life.

As I hugged this great man whose body began to show signs of brief periods of weakness as the afternoon drew to a close, one thing remained very apparent. Somewhere inside this great man still resides the sharpness and quick wit of that 16-year-old young man who relished those secret hunts on the grounds of the Biltmore Estate so many years ago.



Ed Evans, conductor and artistic director of the Dade City Symphony, leads a rehearsal an hour before the evening performance of the symphony’s first concert of the year.

Photos by Richard K. Riley

# Symphony Kicks Off Season

The Dade City Symphony hosted their first performance of their seventh season on Oct. 14 with a full crowd. The program – Lullabies, Broadway & Blues – featured a variety of pieces for every age group to enjoy.

The concert was held in the symphony’s usual location: the auditorium at Pasco Middle School.

If anybody is interested in joining the symphony, visit [www.dadecitysymphony.com](http://www.dadecitysymphony.com) for more information. While all professional musicians are appreciated, the group is always in need of string players.

The Christmas and Spring shows have already been scheduled this season, to take place on Dec. 16 and April 21, respectively, both at the same times at Pasco Middle School. Guests are advised to arrive early at all shows, but especially for the Christmas program, which tends to fill up fast.



Laurie Fox, Violin II, focuses during the Dade City Symphony’s first performance of the season held Oct. 14 in the auditorium at Pasco Middle School.

Sat. Nov. 11, 2017 • 9:30 AM

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\*Medical professionals may include physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners.