



Announces Nominees

Record Number Of Award Nominations Received This Year

by Keri McAlpine

Each year the Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce presents awards for exemplary contributions to the betterment of the greater Zephyrhills community in various categories.

This year, a committee of nine Chamber members faced a real challenge.

A record number of nominees were submitted, according to Chamber Director Melonie Monson. Focusing on predetermined criteria and who has made a difference in the community this year, the

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New Traffic Signal Activated

Expected To Alleviate Safety Concerns

Staff Report

In response to requests by Pasco County residents, a new traffic signal was activated Monday at the intersection of Eiland Boulevard and Handcart Road, said Tambrey Laine, a Pasco County spokeswoman.

The new signal was activated in time for the beginning of the new school year, Laine continued.

Pasco County Commissioners are pleased to announce this latest traffic improvement as they work to keep our roads safe.

Signal • Continued on Page 4A



A long-awaited traffic signal at Eiland Boulevard and Handcart Road is now activated and is hoped to make the intersection safer. Photo by Joe Potter

Hercules Property Donated To City

School District Includes \$13,000 Stipend For Future Park



Allen Altman, Pasco County School Board member, discusses the cooperative efforts it took to donate the Hercules property to the City of Zephyrhills.

Story and photos by Dave Walters

After four years of hopes and dreams of what would become of Hercules Park, the City of Zephyrhills has officially taken possession of what's left of the property.

Formerly owned by the Pasco County School District, Hercules Park was divided with portions sold to developers to build Wawa and Culver's. The remaining property was to be donated to the City of Zephyrhills.

That donation was made official Monday night. School Board member Allen Altman presented the deed to the property's remaining 11 acres, which features the majority of the original park, the former Hercules Aquatic Center building, and the rundown pool.

Altman said that the district was able to obtain an additional \$13,000 from the developer to be donated to the city with the property to assist in creating a park for public use.

"It is another example of what we're trying to do with

Hercules • Continued on Page 7A

Elks Feed Nearly 5,000 Kids This Summer

Program Surpasses Expectations

Story and photos by Keri McAlpine

Summer is over, and as children return to school it also marks the end of the Elks Lodge's fourth year of their summer feeding program. This year's Feed the Kids program far surpassed last vear's efforts, serving out 4,885 meals as of the final lunch service. On Friday, the last day of the program, 150 meals were served for an end of the summer celebration. The cooks kept it simple for the farewell party, serving up hot dogs, beans and potato chips. Slices of cake were served for dessert, along with a special treat from Culver's. Culver's



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Culver's manager Jake Holmberg, center, with Elks members and Feed the Kids volunteers during the end of the summer celebration on Friday. Culver's supplied free vanilla and chocolate custard cups to go with cake at the party.



Zephyrhills Arrests Reckless Driving Alerts Police, Ends In Arrest

Stephenie Marie Flinders, 23, of 38029 Leondias



Drive, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on July 31 on charges of willful and wanton reckless driving, leaving the scene of a crash with property damage, and domestic battery. Police observed Flinders travelling north on Autumn Palm Drive allegedly at a rate of 55 mph in a 30-mph zone. Law enforcement fol-

lowed Flinders and observed as she reportedly continued to travel at a high rate of speed until she turned onto Leondias Drive. Following her onto Leondias Drive, the officer observed skid marks on the pavement as well as pieces of vinyl fencing in the roadway and a small tree knocked over. Police spotted Flinders' vehicle parked haphazardly at a residence in the 38000 block of Leondias Drive. The residence showed evidence of having been struck by the vehicle and extensive damage was observed to the front of the vehicle. Flinders was observed exiting the driver's side of the vehicle with a male passenger. Both Flinders and the passenger allegedly fled into the residence when law enforcement approached and later emerged to speak to the officer. Flinders advised she was in an altercation with her boyfriend inside the vehicle. Post Miranda, Flinders advised she was aware she was driving in a reckless manner and that she became frightened after striking the fence. She also stated she had allegedly struck the victim in the face multiple times with an open hand during the altercation. No injuries were observed on the victim's face and he refused to give a statement. Flinders was placed under arrest and transported to the Pasco County jail.

Nicholas Lee Payton, 35, of 39231 Third Ave., was



arrested by Zephyrhills police on Aug. 2 on a charge of domestic battery by strangulation. Police made contact with the victim who stated she and Payton were involved in a verbal altercation that became physical when Payton allegedly placed her in a choke hold, preventing her from breathing. Payton and the vic-

tim are married and have resided in the same household for five years. Law enforcement then made contact with Payton who, post Miranda, admitted to placing the victim in a choke hold but stated he did not apply pressure. The officer observed scratches on Payton's upper arm consistent with defensive injuries from the victim. He was placed under arrest and transported to the Pasco County jail.

Pamela Jean Beaulieu, 42, of 5834 Broadmore St., was



arrested by Zephyrhills police on Aug. 2 on a charge of domestic battery. Police responded to the 5000 block of Broadmore Street in response to a report of a domestic disturbance. The officer made contact with the victim who advised he was involved in a verbal altercation with his girlfriend, Beaulieu. The victim stat-

ed he did not wish to get her in trouble, so he refused to say anything more. Two red bumps consistent with being struck were observed on his forehead. Police then made contact Beaulieu and observed a redness to her hands consistent with striking someone or something. She denied being involved in any altercation. Beaulieu was read Miranda by card and chose to invoke her rights. She was placed under arrest and transported to the Pasco County jail.



Seymore



Valasquez

Christian Lovell Jordan Seymour, 22, of 5339 Dianthus St., and Henry Velasquez Jr., 24, of 37644 March Lane, were arrested by Zephyrhills police on Aug. 6 on charges of possession of marijuana with intent to distribute within 1,000 feet of a school and three counts of possession of a controlled substance without a prescription. Police made contact

with Seymour and Velasquez during a traffic stop at 12th Street and County Road 54 for a non-functioning tag light. Upon approaching the vehicle, a strong odor of marijuana was detected. When asked the two admitted to previously smoking marijuana in the vehicle. A search of the vehicle's interior revealed a plastic baggy containing a green leafy substance tucked between the passen-

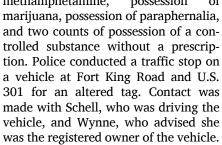
ger seat and the center console. A back pack was found on the back seat containing three baggies filled with the same leafy substance. All four baggies field-tested positive for marijuana. Further search revealed a vaporizer cartridge containing an oil which field-tested positive for marijuana, as well as a plastic baggy in the center console containing one green tablet and five white tablets all identified as Alprazolam. Seymour and Velasquez were placed under arrest. Post Miranda, they each advised that the recovered narcotics belonged to the other. They were transported to the Pasco County jail.

Ronald William Schell, 29, of 38619 Charles Ave., and



Wynne

Anna Lewise Wynne, 36, of 33327 Westwood Drive, Dade City, were arrested by Zephyrhills police on Aug. 1. Schnell was arrested on two Hillsborough County warrants for failure to appear - no license to operate a motorcycle and an unregistered vehicle. Wynne was arrested on charges of trafficking methamphetamine, possession of



Two active warrants were confirmed for Schell and he was placed under arrest, at which time a pink grinder was observed in the door pocket of the vehicle in plain view. The grinder field-tested positive for and contained a small amount of marijuana. Wynne spontaneously stated their "may have been" methamphetamine in the vehicle's gas cap. A search of the gas cap revealed a white crystalline substance which field-tested positive for methamphetamine, as well as a white powdery substance consistent with Oxycodone. A white pill bottle was discovered on Wynne's seat containing four and a half blue tablets identified as Alprazolam. Wynne was placed under arrest and, post Miranda, advised that all substances recovered from within the vehicle belonged to her and that it was her car. She also stated she uses methamphetamine daily and that she smokes marijuana to relax.

Jose Jesus Oliva-Castillo, 34, of 5701 Ninth St., was



arrested by Zephyrhills police on Aug. 8 on a charge of simple battery. Police responded to the 38000 block of 11th Avenue in response to a fight in progress. Contact was made with the victim who had several bumps and scrapes to his head consistent with being punched. The victim stated he was in-

volved in a verbal altercation with Oliva-Castillo that turned physical when the victim attempted to leave. Oliva-Castillo followed the victim outside before allegedly striking him with a closed fist. Oliva-Castillo stated the victim started the altercation and he tried to avoid conflict, which was inconsistent with the victim's story and visible injuries. Oliva-Castillo was placed under arrest and transported to the Pasco County jail.

Antione Larae Carr, 25, transient, was arrested by



Zephyrhills police on July 30 on five Pasco County warrants for failure to appear - possession of marijuana with intent to sell, aggravated assault, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill, missile into dwelling, and battery. Police made contact with Carr at 20th Street and Alston Av-

enue. Multiple warrants were confirmed and Carr was placed under arrest. He was transported to the Pasco County jail.

Troy Rasheed Adonte Clark, 27, of Lakeland, was



arrested by Zephyrhills police on July 31 on Polk County warrant for contempt of court. Police made contact with Clark during a traffic stop at Eight Street and A Avenue for an expired tag. An active warrant was confirmed, and Clark was placed under arrest. He was transported to the Pasco County jail.

Altonara Daniqua Graham, 23, of 5530 24th St., was



arrested by Zephyrhills police on Aug. 2 on a Pasco County warrant for direct file fraud - fail to redeliver hired or leased property, \$300. Police made contact with Graham at her residence. An active warrant was confirmed, and Graham was placed under arrest. She was transported to the Pasco County

jail.

Russell Joseph Wooldridge, 29, transient, was



arrested by Zephyrhills police on Aug. 7 on a Pasco County warrant for failure to appear - possession of marijuana. Police made contact with Wooldridge at Zephyr Park, 38116 Fifth Ave., prior to the park being open. An active warrant was confirmed, and Wooldridge was placed

under arrest. He was transported to the Pasco County jail.

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



Raises For City Staff Discussed At Budget Meeting

Amount Will Be **Determined Aug. 27**

by Dave Walters

Zephyrhills city employees will receive a pay raise in October, but how much it will be remains to be determined.

City Manager Steve Spina presented a draft budget to members of city council Monday with a three percent wage hike for all employees that would cost the city \$255,809.61.

City Councilman Charlie Proctor has been vocal during this budget preparation and urged Spina to give employees a bigger raise.

"I would like to do more than three percent," Proctor said. "It may not be

there, but three percent doesn't give the employees enough to keep up with the cost of living. Cost of living has gone up more than three percent."

When the next draft is presented in a workshop Aug. 27, Spina will present an option that shows a four percent hike. A chart presented to city council appeared to be inaccurate as it noted that a four percent hike would cost the city \$518,440.81.

Calculations by the Zephyrhills Free Press indicate that a four percent pay increase would hit the city budget for \$341,079.48, or \$177,361.33 less than presented.

Spina said he would look into the numbers and clear it up before the next meeting.

As the pay hikes were discussed, the idea of performance-based pay increases was kicked around, but Spina pointed out that with salaries being public record, a performance raise could easily cause dissention in the ranks and problems in a department.

Rewarding longer-tenured employees was also discussed, but salary adjustments in the past have made seniority-based raises unfair.

Large expenditures in the budget include \$105,000 for Animal Control Services from the county.

Four new police vehicles will be purchased at \$40,000 each and air conditioning replacement at the station will carry a \$160,000 price tag.

The Sarah Vande Berg Tennis Center design and construction will commence with \$1 million coming from state funding, developer paid park impact fees and the balance from Penny for Pasco funds.

It was also reported that the Simons Road construction will start this year. The \$3 million project has the Silverado subdivision developer paying for design and engineering and Florida Medical Clinic contributing \$140,000 for their shar of the roadway. It was also noted that the city will spend \$400,000 on road resurfacing this fiscal year.

Spina announced that the city will add two police officers, a new code enforcement officer and move a parttime employee at the airport to full time. An IT position will be added and a position in the planning department will be upgraded to assistant planner.

The city will also add an assistant finance director and an assistant city manager.

County Utilities Water Quality Reports Available Online

What's in your water? Pasco County Utilities customers can now view the latest water quality testing results for their service area online in the annual 2017 Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR).

"Providing safe and dependable drinking water is the number one priority for any utility," said Pasco County Utilities Customer Service Director Sandra Anderson. "Equally important is the reported data, showcasing the exceptional quality of our water."

Customers can view the CCR specific to their residential area by accessing the direct link provided on their utilities water bill, or by selecting their report at bit.ly/2017pascowaterreport. Pasco County Utilities routinely monitors drinking water according to Federal and State laws, rules and regulations.

Augustalsomarks#WaterQualityMonth across the Nation. Protecting the quality of water for all residents starts at home. The sources of Pasco drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells.

Connect on Twitter @PascoWater to join the conversation about how PCU protects your drinking water.

Visit www.PascoCountyUtilities.com to learn more about utility services in



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East Pasco Events

Aug. 16 - Desserts With Danny -State Rep. Danny Burgess, District 28, will be at Creative Souls Café, 38426 Fifth Ave., from 6-8 p.m. for a meet and greet event. Coffee and desserts will be provided for free.

Aug. 17 - National Thrift Shoppe Day – In honor of the special holiday all six Gulfside Hospice Thrift Shoppes will offer savings of 25 percent off storewide, plus double punches on store loyalty cards. Each shop will also be holding a drawing for store gift certificates and other prizes. Shops are open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and closed on Sundays. Local shops are at 36524 S.R. 54 and at 36504 S.R. 54.

Aug. 18 - Social Dance - A dance will be held from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Strawberry Square, 4401 Promenade Blvd., Plant City. Cost is \$6. Bring your own snacks, drinks and table service. No alcohol allowed on the property. Visit strawberrysquaredancing.com for information or contact (863) 409-7714 or pcsocialdanceclub@inbox.com for directions.

Aug. 18 – Wine For A Purpose – Break out that little black dress and support Sunrise of Pasco County at a special wine tasting event from 6-8 p.m. at Beach House Wiregrass, 30070 S.R. 56, Wesley Chapel. Tickets are \$30 or two for \$50. A variety of wines and appetizers from local restaurants will be featured, along with live entertainment, raffles and auction items. Visit sunrisepasco.org for information and to reserve tickets.

Aug. 18 – Pet Adoption Event – All adoption fees will be waived to help local families bring home a new pet during this national event. Held 12-6:30 p.m. at Pasco County Animal Shelter, 19640 Dogpatch Lane, Land O'Lakes. All adoptions include spay/ neuter, microchip and vaccinations. The waived fee applies to all dogs and cats with no exclusions. County residents are required to purchase appropriate county licensing at time of adoption. Visit www.mypasco.net/PAS for information.

Aug. 20 – DIY Bath and Beauty Series - Learn to make nourishing body wash, lavender bath salts, and a nourishing face mask. Held 6-8 p.m. at Links at Lake Bernadette's clubhouse restaurant, 5430 Links Lane. Space is limited, so register by calling Susan at (321) 217-2000. Pricing for products are a la carte and affordable. Door prizes, cash bar and more will be featured.

Aug 21 – DIY Using Essential Oils – Held 3-4:30 p.m. at Living Food Bakery & Café, 38201 10th Ave. Call Marti at (813) 399-4467 or Deanna at (813) 479-7724 for information.

Aug. 23 - Cooking Demo - Learn to make Vero's triple play smoothie, which includes three valuable ingredients. Reservations required. Held 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at Creation Health Wellness Center, 38233 Daughtery Road. Call (813) 779-6476 for information.

Aug. 24 - Ladies Night Out - Held 8-10 p.m. at the Sunset Bar at Skydive City, 4241 Sky Dive Lane. Stop by for fun games and prizes. All ladies receive a discount on beer and wine.

Aug. 25 - Saturday In The Square - A classic car cruise in will be held during this month's Saturday in the Square event. Held from 5-8 p.m. downtown. Local craft food and beverages will also be featured. No coolers allowed. Bring a lawn chair and stay a while. Visit the Main Street Zephyrhills Facebook page for information.

Aug. 25 - Infinity Hair Salon -The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a ribbon cutting celebration at Infinity Hair Salon, 6536 Stadium Drive, Suite M, at noon. Call (813) 389-8261 for information.

Aug. 27 - DIY Bath and Beauty Series - Learn to make makeup remover pads, anti-frizz nourishing hair serum, and fresh breath mouthwash. Held 6-8 p.m. at Links at Lake Bernadette's clubhouse restaurant, 5430 Links Lane. Space is limited, so register by calling Susan at (321) 217-2000. Pricing for products are a la carte and affordable. Door prizes, cash bar and more will be featured.

Aug 28 - How to Use Essential Oils -Held 3-4:30 p.m. at Living Food Bakery & Café, 38201 10th Ave. Call Marti at (813) 399-4467 or Deanna at (813) 479-7724 for information.

Aug. 29 – Proper Food Safety – Learn how to handle fruits and veggies to ensure max benefits, limit waste, and prevent illness/toxins. Reservations required. Held 1-2 p.m. at the Creation Health Wellness Center, 38233 Daughtery Road. Call (813) 779-6476 for information.

Sept. 8 - Why Bats? - Bats are important, but they are also threatened. Their populations are declining, largely as a result of human activity. Join and learn more about our beneficial flying friends at this free UF/IFAS Pasco County Extension seminar. Registration required at Eventbrite. Held 10-11 a.m. at the Zephyrhills Library, 5347 Eighth St. Call (352) 518-0156 for information.

Sept. 12 - Guardian Ad litem Info Session – Children in our community





Who Is Bob White?

The primary elections are right around the corner. Early voting begins Aug. 18 and goes through Aug. 25. The early voting sites are open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Pasco County voters can cast a ballot at any of 11 sites countywide. Just be sure to bring a photo and signature ID.

Rumors have been swirling that a Bob White is running for the Governor of the State of Florida. Well, it's true. The name Bob White is on the official primary election Republican sample ballot sent out by Supervisor of Elections Brian Corley's office. This has got to be one of the best kept secrets around but it might be confusing to voters in this area.

I actually know two outstanding guys with the name of Bob White. The first is the founder of Bob White Painting in Zephyrhills. I know him pretty well. I didn't know he had any political aspirations. I do know he is a first-class guy and has probably painted more homes here in east Pasco than anyone else I know. His son, Daniel, now runs the company. He and his dad have always exceeded expectations and always go above and beyond what is expected. They are both humble and honest. I would definitely vote for this guy.

The other Bob White that I know is also a pretty awesome guy. This Bob was elected Sheriff of Pasco County in November of 2000 for three consecutive terms. He served the citizens of Pasco County with honesty and integrity. He

Signal • Continued from Page 1A

"Safety improvements like this are critical as we experience continued growth in Pasco County," said Pasco County District 2 Commissioner Mike Moore. "I worked with our Traffic Operations team to get this signal up, which is designed to make this busy intersection much safer for Pasco drivers."

"I received several calls about safety concerns at this intersection," said Pasco County District 1 Commissioner Ron Oakley. "I asked our team to make this location one of our top traffic safety priorities so we could have the signal in

retired in 2011 after 35 years in law enforcement. Sheriff White is now the owner of Lonestar Strategies LLC, a government relations strategy company that builds lasting relationships between private sector clients and elected sheriffs, police chiefs, and law enforcement officials along with state and local governments. This guy would also definitely get my vote.

After doing some research on which one is running for office it has been determined that neither of these two guys are running. I saw a post on Sheriff White's Facebook page that said, "I'm Bob White. I am not running for Governor of the State of Florida or any other state in the union." I sent a private message to Daniel White and asked about his dad. Daniel confirmed that his dad is officially retired.

When I vote I consider several things. The most important is character. Both of these men have great character and if they ever did decide to run they would have my vote. They are both top notch guys.

The Bob White who is running is from Melbourne. His website says he is the founder and former chairman of Liberty Catalyst Fund. Their mission is to educate fellow Americans on the issues of liberty, freedom and constitutional integrity so voters will make informed choices at the ballot box.

I don't know about you but I learned all of those things at a very early age beginning right here in Pasco County. I applaud all of my teachers, my family and my community. They taught us right from wrong. They taught us that we are responsible for our actions. We learned that honesty is the best policy. They taught us about the love of God and country.

I appreciate all of that. I do love the Lord with all my heart. I also love our veterans and the military. I will always be grateful for their sacrifice and I will always proudly stand and salute the flag of the United States of America no matter what.

place by the beginning of the new school vear."

Improvements at this intersection also include the installation of a guard rail and the milling and resurfacing of the intersection.

Pasco County received numerous requests for a traffic signal at this intersection, which resulted in a 30day Traffic Operations study to analyze traffic data. The Pasco Board of County Commissioners approved the contract for design plans in late 2016 and construction began in March.

Aug. 22 – Vegetable Gardening Basics

Interested in starting a vegetable garden, but have no idea where to begin? Join this free UF/IFAS Pasco County Extension seminar to learn about how to choose a location for a garden, what makes good soil, when to plant different vegetables, and how to control common vegetable garden pests. Held at 15029 14th St. from 10-11:30 a.m. Contact Eden at esantiagogomez@ pascocountyfl.net for information.

Aug. 22 – Chair Yoga – Easy stretching routine that works wonders. Reservations required. Held 3:30-4:30 p.m. at Creation Health Wellness Center, 38233 Daughtery Road, Call (813) 779-6476 for information.

need your help. Find out how you can help abused, neglected and abandoned children by attending a Guardian ad Litem information session at 1:30 p.m. The sessions are held monthly at the Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., Dade City. Contact Larnelle Scott at (727) 834-3493 or Larnelle.scott@gal. fl.gov or visit www.herotoachild.org for information.

Sept. 15 - Music & Motorcycles -The 14th annual event, presented by Main Street Zephyrhills, will be held in downtown Zephyrhills from 4-9 p.m. Live music by The Bearded Brothers will be featured at 6:30 p.m. along with vendors, food, drink and the bike show. A 10-class ride-in bike show will be featured with first and second place trophies and best in show. Visit www.mainstreetzephyrhills.org for information.

For more events visit www.pasconewspubs.com

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Chamber Of Commerce Community Award Nominees

The following businesses, individuals, and organizations were nominated in 11 different categories:

Small Business

Commandough's Pizza Creative Soul's Café Faithful Friends Pet Cremation Palm Tree Acres Mobile Home Community Pin Chasers East Pasco Zephyrhills Brewing Company

Large Business Bahr's Propane Gas & A/C Jarrett Ford Dade City Sonny's BBQ San Antonio Citizens Federal Credit Union Suncoast Credit Union Sunrise Eatery

Innovative Business

4/One The Gentlemen's Quarters Creative Soul's Cafe' Krafty Owl The Academy of Spectrum Diversity The Hemp & Coffee Exchange Zephyrhills Brewing Company

<u>Economic Development Champion</u> Florida Hospital Zephyrhills

Chamber • Continued from Page 1A

committee was able to narrow the field and determine the official nominees.

"This year the committee did an exceptional job. It was a difficult decision because we had so many nominees this year – about double what we usually have," Monson said. "They were able to come together and slate the top six for each category, which is not an easy task."

Narrowing categories to just six official nominees was especially difficult for large business of the year, which had 21 nominees, and small business of the year, which had 17 options. Even though it was more work for the committee, Monson was thrilled with the feedback the community provided. Florida Medical Clinic Gail Hamilton, CRA Director, City of Zephyrhills Main Street Zephyrhills, Inc. Wilton Simpson, Florida Senator Todd Vande Berg, Planning Director, City of Zephyrhills

Leadership in Government Danny Burgess, FL House of Representatives, District 38 Bob Hatfield, Congressman Bilirakis, District Staff Lance Smith, Councilman, City of Zephyrhills Steve Spina, City Manager, City of Zephyrhills Anna Stutzriem, Director, Main Street Zephyrhills, Inc. Jonathan Till, Legislative Assistant, Rep. Burgess

Diamond Award (Non-Profit) Main Street Zephyrhills, Inc. Pregnancy Care Center of Zephyrhills Make a Difference, Inc. Sunrise of Pasco County, Inc. The Academy of Spectrum Diversity The Church at Chancey Road The Thomas Promise Foundation

<u>Leadership in Youth Involvement</u> Kevie DeFranc & Audrey McGuire, City of Zephyrhills Chris & Tammi Dester, The Academy of Spectrum Diversity Randy Light, Light Insurance Diana Thomas, The Thomas Promise Foundation Zephyrhills Elks Lodge #2731 BPOE

Community Service

Beth Aker, East Pasco Meals on Wheels, Inc. Cheryl Hinton, Pregnancy Care Center of Zephyrhills Roxxy Geisenheimer, Samaritan Project Sean Klotz, Silverado Golf and Country Club

Citizen of the Year

Kevin Bahr, Bahr's Propane Gas & A/C Anna Bailey, Creative Soul's Cafe' Rod Rehrig, Marine Corps League Cliff Martin, Jarrett Ford Dade City

Chamber Member of the Year

Beth Aker, East Pasco Meals on Wheels, Inc. Jarrett Ford Dade City Vicky Jones, Palm Tree Acres Mobile Home Community Pin Chasers East Pasco Sam Abrahani, Toastmasters International

Ambassador of the Year Sam Abrahani, Toastmasters International Lee & Russ Heffelfinger, ABC Pizza Dade City Vicky Jones, Palm Tree Acres MHC Tim Proctor, Sisel International

Congratulations to each of the hornored nominees.

"This tells you a little bit about our community and how vested they are," Monson said.

"Even though we're growing they still have that home town feel and wanting to be a part of the community. It's a great outlook in my opinion."

Categories for the awards include: Innovative Business of the Year, Small Business of the Year, Large Business of the Year, Leadership in Youth Involvement, The Diamond Award, Economic Development Champion, Community Service Award, Citizen of the Year, Leadership in Government, Chamber Member of the Year, and Chamber Ambassador of the Year.

The winners will be announced at the Chamber's annual Member Appreciation and Community Awards Banquet, scheduled for Aug. 23 from 6 to 9 p.m. at St.

Joseph's Parish Center, 38750 Fifth Ave.

All nominees are encouraged to attend to receive recognition. The winners in each of the 11 categories is a surprise and will be revealed during the banquet where they will receive a trophy and bragging rights for the next 12 months.

This year's banquet theme is "Zephyropoly" and will focus on the community and what makes Zephyrhills special. Following with a Monopoly theme, the Chamber has designed a special Zephyropoly board highlighting community properties, which will be represented during the banquet.

"It's going to be quite spectacular," Monson said.

Visit ZephyrhillsChamber.org or call (813) 782-1913 for more information or to purchase tickets.



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Whiskey Sonic Jase Randall Rachel **Community Coming Together to Benefit** Ashley and Hanna Sunday, Aug. 19 • 10am-8pm Five bands performing all day • Crossfire Canyon Jase Randall Band • Therapy101 • The Groovediggers • Spin Lok **Live** Auctions Mini Poker Run starting at Noon Kickstands up Raffles 50/50 Drawing 8:30am McDonalds - Zephyrhills 9-9:45am - Ralphs - San Antonio Great Food 10-10:45am - Eagles - S.R. 54 Breakfast 10am-Noon

Lunch 12:30-5pm

Dinner 5:30-8pm*

11-11:45 - Cheers - Zephyrhills Noon-12:45 - Commandoughs Last Stop - Creative Souls Café

Elks • Continued from Page 1A

manager Jake Holmberg was handing out the restaurant's famous custard for free available in vanilla and chocolate.

Organizer Donna Moyer was thrilled on Friday as she watched children enjoying the music, activities and games set up for

the program's final day. She believes this summer's success was thanks to word of mouth and more people learning about the Lodge's offerings.

"We had an amazing summer... Last year we served 4,028 meals so we've surpassed that," Moyer said. "I think the kids really enjoyed the food. All the meals



County Commissioner Ron Oakley, District 1, visits with Elks members Karol Fleming, left, and Anne McDonald, who volunteered for the Feed the Kids program every day this summer.





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Volunteer Rose Carigg on hand to disperse school supplies to children at the final day of the Zephyrhills Elks Lodge #2731 Feed the Kids program on Friday.

are hot meals. Luckily everybody liked of help they were able to provide this what we cooked."

The homemade meals were cooked fresh every day in the kitchen of the Zephyrhills Elks Lodge #2731 on Wire Road. A two-week menu cycle rotated classics lunch items with some new introductions from pasta with meat sauce, to empanadas and beans and rice.

Elks members and outside volunteers rotated in daily shifts to serve the meals for two hours every week day. Moyer said about 35 volunteers were involved this summer.

"I hope we continue the program. We've had a lot of fun and a lot of community support," Moyer said.

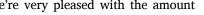
The Elks are supported in their endeavor by the Thomas Promise Foundation and East Pasco Meals on Wheels. Both organizations supply ingredients for the delicious meals as well as groceries for parents to take home with them. The groceries help ensure the family will be able to continue providing meals for the family after they leave the Lodge.

"We're very pleased with the amount

year... we're looking forward to working with them again next year," said Thomas Promise Executive Director Joe Simmons. Thomas Promise also provided bags with meals to sustain the children over the weekend, as they do in local schools during the academic year.

The Elks also provide books for kids to read on site or take home with them. Crafts and games are also set up during meal times to provide some entertainment for the youngsters. Visitors from Zephyrhills Fire Rescue visited often to hang out with kids and show off their shiny fire engines. Chief Brian Swartout was on hand Friday to celebrate with the volunteers and children. This year the department was able to donate \$1,000 to the Feed the Kids program, thanks to their participation in Wawa's Hoagies For Heroes competition in early July.

"We're happy to be a part of it. The fact that we got a chance to donate this year was a big thing for us. I couldn't think of a better charity for the money to go to other than this," Swartout said.





Members of the Zephyrhills Fire Rescue team stopped by the Elks Lodge on Wire Road on Friday to wish children good luck in the upcoming school year. The department has supported and volunteered with the Feed the Kids program for two years.



Pig 'Myth' Postpones Animal Control Ordinance Youth Honored For Tidying Up At Zephyr Park

Story and photo by **Dave Walters**

There was pig put on the table at the Zephyrhills City Council meeting Monday night.

In fact, the pig will be tabled for the next two weeks as City Attorney Matt Maggard and City Manager Steve Spina look into whether or not a miniature pig is an actual breed of pig.

Zephyrhills City Council was seconds away from voting on the first reading of a new Animal Control ordinance before Ciara-Diana Hayn stood at the podium and disputed that miniature pigs do not exist.

Havn, who has spent time showing pigs in the fair, told members of city council that miniature pigs are a myth.

"Miniatures pigs do not exist," Hayn said. "That's what people call pigs who are not fully grown yet. They don't get small. They only get bigger."

"Then there's a problem with this ordinance then," joked council president Lance Smith.

Hayn tried to set the members of city council straight. "Miniature pigs are not a thing," Hayn explained. "It's

like a miniature wolf. It's a cute idea, but it doesn't exist." Spina said staff will look into the definitions further and return with the ordinance in two weeks.

Mayor Gene Whitfield recognized youngster Mark Villanueva for his citizenship. Villanueva, 10, was walking around Zephyr Park recently and picked up litter to beautify the centerpiece of the city.

"It is our honor as the City Council and Mayor of the City of Zephyrhills to recognize you for your fine example of good citizenship," the letter from the mayor and council read. "Your example draws attention that all of us who are citizens of this community have a responsibility to keep our city clean. Your act of 'Clean Up and Recycle' is to be commended."

In other business, Spina's performance evaluation will be put in the hands of the members of city council. The evaluation forms will be completed and returned to Mayor Gene Whitfield by Sept. 10. The annual performance evaluation is a requirement of Spina's contract.

In the area of planning development, council approved the final plat for the Silverado Subdivision Phases 7, 9B,



Zephyrhills Mayor Gene Whitfield recognizes Mark Villanueva for his citizenship for his 'Clean Up and Recycle' efforts during Monday's city council meeting.

11A and 11B. Council also got its first look at extensive proposed amendments to the city's Land Development Code.

Help Kickoff The 2018 Relay For Life Of East Pasco

Pasco kicks off its new fundraising season on Sept. 18 at Atonement Lutheran Church at 29617 S.R. 54, Wesley Chapel. The community is invited to come out and learn more about the Relay For Life movement and how they can help the American Cancer Society attack cancer from every angle.

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life movement

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life of East is the world's largest peer-to-peer fundraising event to save the Relay For Life event held in March 2019. lives from cancer. At Relay For Life events, participants celebrate people who have been touched by cancer, remember loved ones lost, and take action for lifesaving change.

> Join a Relay For Life event and help attack cancer from every angle. During the kickoff event, community members will have the opportunity to register a team for

Funds raised help the American Cancer Society attack cancer in dozens of ways, each of them critical to achieving a world without cancer – from developing breakthrough therapies to building supportive communities, from providing empowering resources to deploying activists to raise awareness.

Visit www.relayforlife.org/eastpascofl to learn more.

Hercules • Continued from Page 1A



Pasco County School Board member Allen Altman presents the deed to the 11-acre Hercules property to the members of City Council Monday night.

county, city and developers with jointuse agreements," Altman said during his presentation. "We can partner together to utilize a piece of property and facilities and that is what we did here."

Altman thanked the city for its cooperation in getting this project complete to allow the district to present this property to the citizens of Zephyrhills.

He presented the deed to Mayor Gene Whitfield with members of city council looking on.

Hercules Aquatic Center was a countyoperated swimming pool and park, but the county shut the pool down as a costcutting measure. There were efforts to keep the pool open by a local youth group, but after one swimming season the pool did not reopen and fell into disrepair.

The park was on a lease to the county from the school district as long as the property was used as a county park. Once it was no longer operating as a park, the property reverted back to the school district in 2012, where it was partially sold to accommodate the construction of Wawa and Culver's.

Zephyrhills City Councilman Alan Knight fought diligently to obtain the entire property from the district to develop a large-scale park for the local residents.

"I am very gracious and grateful to have that piece of the property to do something, but to be honest from my heart, I wanted it all," Knight said following the meeting. "I wanted something for the youth. I wanted a perfect park.

"Thank you to the school board, but I would be remiss if I didn't say I wanted it all. It was ours. It should have been ours. People talk about that we don't get things done for the youth. What a perfect opportunity. That would have been a showcase for our community."



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New Year, New Hairdo

Downtown Barbershop Continues Back-To-School Event

Story and photos by **Dave Walters**

Landon Keith was a clean-cut eight-year-old once he got out of the barber's chair Sunday in preparation for his first day of school.

Keith's cut was one of nearly 200 free haircuts during the back-to-school event at 4/One The Gentlemen's Quarters downtown. The event also featured a school supply giveaway by Bank of the Ozarks and fingerprinting by the Zephyrhills Police Department.

"This is so awesome," said Landon's mother Courtney Keith. "It's amazing. I always loved how Zephyrhills is so community and family-based. It's all about the kids."



Devon Firestone, owner of the Dirty Heifer Salon and Boutique in Dade City, gives a back-to-school style and cut to Kendra Clemmons at the Gentlemen's Quarters Back-to-School event on Sunday. All around the Fifth Avenue barber shop, stylists and barbers donated their time for the event to make sure the children of Zephyrhills looked good for the first day of school.

Julia "Red" Richards, owner of Gentlemen's Quarters and coordinator of the event, went to local salons last month looking for stylists to donate their time as well as getting graduates from the Paul Mitchell School in Tampa to help out.

This is the second year Richards has sharpened her scissors for the back to school event.

"I grew up in Zephyrhills and as a parent, I don't want any child going to the first day of school without a haircut," Richards said. "They need that confidence boost when they walk into school. They should feel proud walking through those doors. A new haircut can do that."

Roberts added that it's is a big hand up for parents as well.



Landon Keith, 8, gets a back-to-school haircut from Julia 'Red' Richards, owner of 4/One The Gentlemen's Quarters, during Sunday's free haircuts.

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Four-year-old Joshua Hinson sits in the chair as Darius Smiley gives him a cut to get him ready for his first day of Pre-K during the Gentlemen's Quarters Back-to-School event.

"The parents love it. Having multiple kids is hard. When it comes to school shopping time, I would rather they be able to buy an extra shirt than have to worry about a haircut. That's our way of giving back. The customers and community have been great to us supporting our business."

Tonya Hamilton made sure her children got a schoolopening haircut and their fingerprints documented as part of the program.

"It's great for the kids," Hamilton said. "They get to help out a lot of parents. Hair cuts aren't cheap anymore. The fingerprints help out, too. With everything going on these days, you never know."

Marti Wallace, a volunteer with ZPD, just finished up getting adorable little prints of one-year-old Dakota Lawson.

"It's good," said ZPD volunteer Marti Wallace. "We print all year long. We give it all to the parents and we ask them to attach a photo to it. Hopefully it will never be used. It's there if it is ever needed."

Richards plans to continue the back-to-school free haircuts on the Sunday before the start of school and looks to pack the Gentlemen's Quarters again in 2019.

National Thrift Shop Day

In honor of the special holiday this Friday, all six Gulfside Hospice Thrift Shoppes will offer savings of 25 percent off storewide, plus double punches on store loyalty cards. Each shop will also be holding a drawing for store gift certificates and other prizes.

"This day is more than a special sale," said Gulfside CFO Allison Maughn. "We are honoring the initial purpose of the Gulfside Hospice Thrift Shoppes – to help people in need. It's not only about offering a way to purchase things at a lower cost, it's about supporting a charitable organization, like Gulfside Hospice, and supporting the community where we live."

Every purchase made at the six Gulfside Hospice Thrift Shoppes makes it possible for patients in Pasco County with lifelimiting illnesses to receive compassionate care. Shops are open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and closed on Sundays. Donations of gently used clothing, household items, electronics and more are always welcome.

Local Gulfside Hospice Thrift Shoppe locations include Dade City at 37925 Sky Ridge Circle; Zephyrhills at 36524 S.R. 54, and the Zephyrhills Furniture Shoppe at 36504 S.R. 54.

Suncoast Credit Union Shines On Thomas Promise Foundation

The Suncoast Credit Union Foundation named The Thomas Promise Foundation as a recipient of a \$10,000 grant to help the organization fulfill its mission.

The Thomas Promise Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides bags complete with six meals and snacks for Pasco County students over the weekend when they would otherwise go without. Twenty-four Pasco schools and more than 1,100 children benefit from this program every week of the school year and when school is not in session. This donation will provide more than 20,000 meals to nutritionally-challenged students within Pasco County.

"We are grateful for the donation," said Joe Simmons, executive director of the Thomas Promise Foundation. "We are preparing to launch into a new school year. For six years we have not missed one weekend of packing and delivering weekend lunches and have delivered more than one million meals so far. We couldn't do it without the support of organizations like Suncoast Credit Union."

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