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Officer Wounds Suspect

Domestic Disturbance Incident Ends With Shooting

by Dave Walters

Zephyrhills Police reported Monday that an officer responding to a domestic disturbance Saturday morning shot a man at a Beltram Drive residence to end the threat of further violence to the victim.

According to Police Chief Derek Brewer, three ZPD officers responded to 5239 Beltram Dr. in reference to a domestic disturbance.

When the officers arrived, the violence between the victim and the suspect, 24-year-old Stephen Barton,

was actively physical.

One of the responding officers, Ray Revell, discharged his firearm, which stopped the threat further of violence. The officers rendered first aid until Zephyrhills Fire Rescue arrived. Barton, of Seffner, was flown to a nearby hospital where he was initially listed in critical condition. By Monday evening Brewer



Barton

said Barton had been upgraded to stable condition. None of the responding officers were hurt.

Brewer said early indications of the shooting suggest the use of force was appropriate and necessary.

"It's never a good outcome when we have to use that level of force, but the actions taken may have prevented death or serious bodily injury," Brewer said.

Barton faces multiple charges to include attempted homicide and armed

Shooting • Continued on Page 4A

Scouts Treat Linemen To Barbeque

by Dave Walters

Scouts from Cub Pack 72 and Boy Scout Troop 77 in Zephyrhills came together Saturday to provide some relief to power company linemen working in east Pasco County.

The scouts, along with their parents, prepared 200 pulled pork barbecue meals for the linemen from throughout the southeast staged at the Duke Energy facility on Eiland Boulevard.

"We wanted to help the guys who have been helping everybody by restoring power," scout leader Meagan Sammons said. "A good hot barbecue meal is what we came up with."

Sammons said the scouts were amazed how these linemen would come out and help other people and be away from their own families for weeks at a time.

"We fed them Saturday and on Sunday they were off to another city to help someone else," Sammons said.

To show their gratitude, a group of linemen from Tennessee brought out their truck and put on demonstration for the scouts



Power company linemen from Tennessee take time to give a demonstration to Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts from Zephyrhills on Saturday. Photo Provided

Linemen • Continued on Page 5A



Kevin Jones, of Lakeland, parks his custom chopper which he has been riding for six years. He likes the chopper because, "It's big, it's fast and it's red."

A Roaring Good Time

Story and photos by Keri McAlpine

Multiple community events were cancelled last weekend in the wake of Hurricane Irma and Main Street Zephyrhills almost followed suit. However, they decided to ride on with Music and Motorcycles, which was held Saturday evening downtown along Fifth Avenue.

The streets were blocked off to cars, but allowed motorcycle riders to cruise down and find a spot to park and show off their ride.

Motorcycles • Continued on Page 6A

Council Considers Water Rate Hike

by Max Zimmerman

Ordinances regarding the budget, millage and water rates were discussed during a special City Council meeting held Monday.

Council members were told a large portion of the city's water and sewer infrastructure has reached the age where it needs to be replaced and increases in service fees will be required to do this.

Ordinance no. 1333-17 aims to increase water rates by four percent and sewer rates by eight percent each year for five years.

Councilman Charlie Proctor noted

Water • Continued on Page 7A



Demolition on the old City Hall building at 5335 Eighth St. began on Monday. Construction workers said it will take about a week to completely level the building. Photo by Keri McAlpine

INSIDE: Pg. 3A - 'Strike Teams' Attack Irma Pg. 1B - Bank, Dealership Plug Into Future Pg. 3B - Bingo Brightens Sight Program Pg. 4B - Cruise Cancelled, Then Tree Drops In Pg. 4B - New ICU Technology Comes To FHZ

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Zephyrhills Arrests

Suspect's Fists Had Something To Say

Cameron Lee Brady, 50, of 4944 17th St., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Sept. 13 and charged with felony battery and violation of probation – felony battery. Police were dispatched to the area of St. Joseph's Catholic Church at 1:06 a.m. regarding a battery. The victim told police he was walking in the area of 18th Street and Third Avenue when a truck in which Brady was a passenger pulled up. Brady, whom the victim knows, allegedly said he wanted to talk to the victim, who told police he replied he had "nothing to say." Brady then allegedly exited the truck, punched the victim in the side of the head, in the neck and mouth areas and then body slammed him to the ground. The victim suffered cuts to his left elbow, mouth, what appeared to be a chipped tooth and a large red mark on the side of his neck. These injuries were consistent with the victim's account of what had transpired. When Brady was contacted at his residence, he reportedly denied being out and denied being in contact with anyone. He was arrested and was booked into the Pasco County Jail.



could not resell them. Post Miranda, Parton reportedly admitted he damaged the items. He was released on his own recognition.

Terrance Charles Smith, 25, of 38621 Fir Ave., was apprehended by Zephyrhills police on Aug. 31 on a Bradford County, Pa., warrant charging him with failure to appear for a plea hearing. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrant.



Demond Jahman Woods, 45, of 4648 Court St., was apprehended by Zephyrhills police on Aug. 31 on a Sumter County warrant charging him with failure to appear – violation of probation/driving while license suspended or revoked. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrant.



Anthony Louis Brown, 27, of 38414 Always Ave., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Aug. 30 and charged with knowingly driving while license suspended or revoked – habitual. Police stopped Brown on First Street for an equipment violation – illegal window tint. A records check indicated seven prior suspensions of Brown's driver's license and that he was labeled as a habitual traffic violator on Oct. 12, 2015, with a 60 month revocation. Post Miranda, Brown acknowledged he knew his license was suspended. He was released on his own recognition.

Christopher Scott Gunts, 38, of 5211 Ridge St., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Aug. 30 and charged with possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana. Gunts was initially arrested for driving with a suspended driver's license after a truck he was driving was stopped for an expired registration. Prior to being arrested, Gunts reportedly produced a small plastic baggie from his right front pocket. The baggie contained 1.4 grams of a green leafy substance positively identified as marijuana. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

Jarrett E. Pla, 41, of 38646 Valley Oaks Circle, was apprehended by Zephyrhills police on Sept. 12 on a Pasco County warrant charging him with failure to appear – driving while license suspended or revoked. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrant.

Mistie Yvonne Bailey, 30, of Lakeland, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Sept. 9 and charged with driving under the influence with property damage. Police responded to a two-vehicle traffic crash at Gall Boulevard and Townview Street at 2:45 p.m. The officer investigating the accident said Bailey appeared to be under the influence. She reportedly admitted to having taken a prescription medication and drinking prior to the accident. Bailey reportedly performed poorly on field sobriety tests and was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

Tiffany L. Gillespie, 39, of 4922 Eighth St., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Aug. 31 on a charge of violation of pre-trial release. The Pasco Sheriff's Office learned Gillespie had been riding to work with a person who had a domestic violence injunction against her and that she had also recently stayed at the residence the couple shared before the DVI was issued. The victim, who is Gillespie's husband, reportedly said he did not know what the stipulations of the pre-trial release were. When she was arrested on Aug. 31, Gillespie reportedly told police she was aware she was not supposed to be at the residence or to be in contact with the victim. She was rearrested by Zephyrhills police on Sept. 6 on a charge of obstructing court order pretrial release. Gillespie allegedly entered a residence she shared with her husband on Sept. 2 and yelled and cursed at him in front of the couple's two minor children after he had obtained a domestic violence injunction against her. The victim's oldest son confirmed Gillespie had been in the residence on Sept. 2. Gillespie was arrested at the Pasco County Jail where she was being held on another charge. She reportedly told police post Miranda that her husband had called her to come home and take the boys to a soccer tournament. "We argued and I left without the boys," Gillespie told police.



Jessie Ellis Yarborough, 34, of 5435 17th St., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Sept. 5 and charged with domestic battery. The victim told police Yarborough grabbed her shirt and threw her into a bedroom dresser. The couple reside together and have one child in common. Yarborough reportedly said post Miranda he and the victim were involved in an altercation resulting from alcohol abuse by the victim. A witness told



police they had observed Yarborough grab the victim by the shirt and throw her into the dresser. Yarborough was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

Iran Brito, 41, of 5331 Satsuma Drive, was apprehended by Zephyrhills police on Sept. 8 on two Hillsborough County warrants charging him with violation of probation – possession of a controlled substance and driving under the influence. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrants.



Joshua Levi Bogart, 27, of 36639 Keeuka St., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Sept. 5 and charged with driving while license suspended or revoked, violation of probation and felon in possession of ammunition. Bogart had been stopped at North Avenue and 12th Street for a traffic violation and a records check indicated his license was suspended on June 27 for failure to pay a fine. Also, Bogart was reportedly on felony probation from July 14, 2015 through July 14, 2019. Three rifle cartridges were reportedly found during a search of Bogart's vehicle. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail.



Michael Lee Lofley, 23, of 38241 13th Ave., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Sept. 6 on charges of possession of methamphetamine and possession of marijuana – more than 20 grams. Police stopped a vehicle Lofley was driving because of a nonfunctioning headlight and brake light. A K-9 conducted an exterior sniff of the vehicle and alerted to the possible presence of narcotics. A small black bag found inside the vehicle contained four clear, plastic baggies with a green leafy substance inside them. The substance field-tested positive as 67.1 grams of marijuana. A blue wallet inside the bag reportedly contained three small clear, plastic baggies with a white powdery substance. The bags field-tested positive for 2.2 grams of methamphetamine. Lofley was booked into 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.

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'Strike Teams' Attack Irma

City Takes To Streets, Power Takes More Time

Story and photo by **Dave Walters**

Traveling down the streets of Zephyrhills, the glow of lights from homes and streetlights are a comforting sight.

Hurricane Irma left its mark on Zephyrhills. Downed powerlines, fallen trees, destroyed fences and an assortment of property damage.

If you look around, normalcy has returned rather quickly and the city braved the storm.

City Manager Steve Spina said the city staff was ready as "strike teams" of employees from different departments were assembled and stationed before Irma's arrival and tackled storm-related incidents as they came.

"If there was an emergency of some kind, they would go out together," Spina said. "They watched each other's back basically and be there if something happened. That is one thing that helped us a lot."

There was an emergency operations center established at the Zephyrhills Police Department and others stationed at the county EOC in Dade City.

"It was teamwork. It was literally teamwork. No one tried to one-up each other," Spina said. "We learned how much effort it takes to do this."

The city police department had every police officer and dispatcher on duty. Every firefighter was called in well as the employees with public works and utilities.

"For being in a hurricane, the things we could control, we controlled pretty well," Spina said.

Sometimes, residents didn't do so well dealing with aspects they couldn't

control like power outages.

While crime didn't spike as a result of the storm, there were some instances of people losing their temper.

"People get a little cranky when they don't have power," said ZPD Chief Derek Brewer. "We understand and try to be empathetic to that. It was hot and uncomfortable."

Brewer did notice a lot of community unity as the city recovered from the storm. He saw neighbors helping neighbors and volunteers helping their community.

"I feel this was a great community effort," Brewer said. "I feel a lot of that. People lent helping hands to us and to perfect strangers. It was great to see."

Pasco County provided plenty of stats from its joint information center, pointing out they were ready as well.

The four Pasco County's power companies of Duke Energy, Tampa Electric Company, Withlacoochee River Electric and Sumter Electric Cooperative reported a high of 217,382 addresses without power.

Pasco County opened 26 shelters during Hurricane Irma. The shelters housed 24,100 residents total, including special needs. The Pasco County School District provided food for the 24,100 residents being housed in the shelters.

At the peak, 749 roads were closed and 97 traffic signals out of 260 total were without electricity. There were 606,800 sandbags used containing more than 9,524 cubic yards of sand.

To help keep everyone on their toes, officials remind residents that Hurricane Season runs through November 30.



Zephyrhills Police Chief Derek Brewer instructs a group of volunteers assembled to help clear debris from city streets.

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East Pasco Events

Sept. 21 – Quit Your Way – Quitting tobacco isn't easy but Tobacco Free Friday offers tools and services to get you started. Held from 3-5 p.m. at the Creation Health Wellness Center, 38233 Daughtery Road. Reservations required. Call (813) 929-1000 for information.

Sept. 22 – Este Loves at Rhythm & Brews – Este Loves can be found spreading good vibes, playing her guitar and singing original and familiar songs in her own unique and organic style. Show starts at 8 p.m. at Rhythm & Brews, 4711 Gall Blvd. Visit the Rhythm & Brews Facebook page for more information.

Sept. 23 – Paul Fournier at Rhythm & Brews – Paul Fournier, the front man for Wild Root Music, is a songwriter, guitarist, vocalist and drummer. Now is your chance to get up close and personal with Paul. Show starts at 8 p.m. at 4711 Gall Blvd. Visit the Rhythm & Brews Facebook page for more information.

Sept. 23 – Salvation Army Golf Tournament – The second annual golf tournament will be held at Silverado Golf & Country Club, 36841 Clubhouse Drive. Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$50 per golfer and includes 18 holes, cart, buffet, gift bag and prizes. Prize packages also available. Call (352) 521-3126 for information and to register.

Sept. 25 – Grief, Pain and Suffering – Whatever challenge you're facing Chaplain Doug Higgins offers hope. Held from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Creation Health Wellness Center, 38233 Daughtery Road. Reservations required. Call (813) 929-1000 for information.

Sept. 26 – 1960s Themed Concert – The public is invited to Saint Leo University's Fall Faculty Recital where its accomplished instructors will present "Camelot to Woodstock: Music of the '60s," at 7 p.m. in Selby Auditorium, Lewis Hall. The campus is located at 33701 S.R. 52 in St. Leo. Admission is free. Visitors can park for free on surface lots or in the campus garage. Contact Megan Orendorf, at (352) 588-8401 or jennifer.orendorf@saintleo.edu for more information or special seating requests.

Oct. 2 – Performing CPR and Choking Rescue on Babies – Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, 7050 Gall Blvd., will offer a free and lifesaving American Heart Association class for parents who are expecting a baby or have a newborn. The class will teach participants how to perform infant CPR and choking rescue and will be held from 6:30-8 p.m. This is not an AHA certifying or credentialing course. Call (813) 783-6124 to register beforehand.

Oct. 7 – Yard and Bake Sale – A huge yard and bake sale will be held from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at Atonement Lutheran Church, 29617 S.R. 54 in Wesley Chapel. Contact nilslenz@gmail.com for information.

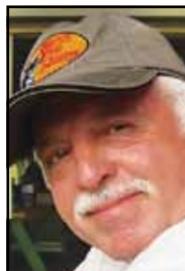
Oct. 12 – Bingo With A French Flair – Florida Hospital Zephyrhills will host Bingo in the Creation Café from 2-3 p.m. at 7050 Gall Blvd. Attendees will enjoy homemade French pastries and coffee while they learn about PatientSecure from Mike Vanderbilt, Patient Access Director. The new technology, which was installed earlier this year, provides an extra layer of identity protection for patients every time they come to the hospital. Bingo winners will receive small prizes. Call (877) 534-3108 to register and for information.

Oct. 14 – Fall Brewfest for Hospice – Grab your friends and raise a glass to support Gulfside Hospice at the Fall Brewfest at the Zephyrhills Community Event Venue, 5200 Airport Road from 3-7 p.m. The outdoor beer festival will feature craft beers from local breweries, live music, vendors and food trucks. All event proceeds will benefit Gulfside. Single tickets are \$25, doubles for \$45 and a 6-pack for \$125. Must be 21 or older to attend. Visit BrewfestforHospice.org for tickets and information. Vendor and sponsorship opportunities are available.

Oct. 14 – Lawn Care Made Easy – Caring for a lawn is not difficult, once you discover the proper fertilization techniques, water requirements and cultural care your lawn needs in Florida. Come learn how at this seminar, held from 10-11 a.m. at the Zephyrhills Library, 5347 Eighth St. Call the UF/IFAS Pasco Extension Office at (352) 518-0156 for information.

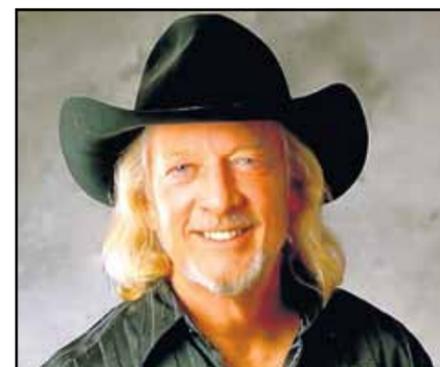
For more events visit www.pasconewspubs.com

Commentary



First Things First

Greg First



John Anderson

Irma Gave Us All A Wake Up Call

Wow, for the most part we dodged a bullet as Hurricane Irma came swinging through this area. This storm left a trail of destruction along its path including several Caribbean islands, the Florida Keys, South Florida and many other areas of the state. In addition, Georgia, Alabama and the Carolinas felt the effects. Everywhere this storm went everyone was affected, ranging from stress and minor inconvenience to total destruction. My son Evan, his wife Sarah, and our granddaughter Naomi, actually lost power from the storm, and they live in Asheville, N.C. For them power was out for days.

For the most part services have been restored in most areas that didn't get the full force and we are thankful for so many different organizations and individuals that really stepped up to the plate to help. It has definitely brought people closer together. Maybe that's what it took for us to wake up.

I mentioned last week that one day we would look back and smile at some of the things that happened during Irma's visit. Even during a tragedy you can always find something to make you smile. At my house we tripped on power cords and stumbled on Pooh's dog toys hiding in the dark. Even with the power off,

and by habit, we flipped the light switch on when we would go into a room. You would think we would have learned but continued to do it every single time. After a while all you can say is, 'Duh'. We made it through this and I think most of us have learned many life lessons from it. It has brought our family closer together.

Writing about this wind event reminded me that John Anderson will be in town tonight performing to a sold-out crowd at the Dan Cannon Auditorium in Dade City.

As has been the case in the four preceding years, the concert will benefit many charitable organizations. More than likely Anderson and his band will perform "Seminole Wind, and many of his other country hits.

He may or may not perform "Eye of the Hurricane" (1984). I thought it was really about a hurricane but found out it was about something else.

Here is a little bit of the song. "You're the eye of a hurricane, the calm within a storm"

When the day is done you're the midnight sun

I can run to, to keep me warm

You're the eye of a hurricane, a beacon in the night

When the whistle blows till the rooster crows

I know you're gonna do me right, yeah."

Shooting • Continued from Page 1A

kidnapping. More charges are pending.

Barton has a history of arrests in Pasco County with his most recent coming July 12 for possession of methamphetamine and possession of paraphernalia. He was arrested March 8 on four Pasco County warrants for failure to appear – domestic battery.

Last year, he was arrested for resisting an officer without violence, four counts of battery and on a Pasco County warrant for violation of probation – possession of alprazolam.

He also has an arrest record for four counts of battery, possession of a controlled substance, and driving while license suspended or revoked (first conviction) and multiple counts of failure to appear.

It is believed this officer-involved shooting is the first in Zephyrhills in more than three decades and possibly longer, according to police.

"While we understand the inherent dangers with the job, I am extremely relieved the officers weren't injured," Brewer said. "We always tell each other 'be safe'. It takes on significant meaning in situations like this."

The Pasco Sheriff's Office Forensics Unit responded to process the crime scene. Per standard protocol, Officer Revell was placed on paid leave pending the administrative review of the incident. Zephyrhills Police Department detectives are investigating the incident with the assistance of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

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Letter To The Editor

Editor,

My best friend was eating in Sonny's last Wednesday, and noticed that a group of utility workers was also there. She planned on thanking them as she left. Before she could do so, another diner stormed up to their table and demanded to know why they were eating and not out working. Stunned, one tired lineman replied that they had to eat sometime. She told them to

hurry up. Ungracious people like this exist everywhere, but these men left their homes and families to help those of us affected by Irma. They needed to be thanked, not harassed.

Harriet Ellis

If you would like to write a letter to the editor, send to 38440 5th Ave., Zephyrhills, FL 33542 – attn: Editor; or email keri@pasconewspubs.com.

Area Man Dies From Car Accident

Staff Report

A Zephyrhills man died on Monday from injuries he received in a two-vehicle collision that morning, the Florida Highway Patrol said.

Thomas Richard Schaeffer, 66, was driving a 2001 Ford Ranger southbound on U.S. 301 near Dead River Road in Hillsborough County when his truck reportedly crossed the centerline for an unknown reason at 6:55 a.m.

The Ford collided head-on with a

northbound 2012 Dodge Ram driven by Ronald James Greene, 52, of Plant City.

Both drivers were wearing seatbelts and alcohol was not a factor in the accident, the FHP said.

Schaeffer was declared dead at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills after being transported there following the accident.

Greene did not report any injuries, the FHP said.

The accident occurred just north of Hillsborough River State Park.

Linemen • Continued from Page 1A



Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts from Zephyrhills brought barbecue dinners to power company linemen Saturday and a group from Tennessee posed for photos with the scouts.

Photo Provided

and answered a lot of questions from the curious group.

"We honestly did not expect anything out of it," Sammons said. "These guys just put in a full day out in the blazing heat. When we were there, these guys were smiling the whole time."

The charity of the scouts doesn't end there. They will be conducting a donation drive for Hurricane Irma victims at Publix at Zephyr Commons on Saturday at 10 a.m. They will be collecting non-perishable items, baby items and monetary donations.



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The Bearded Brothers Band begins their headlining performance on Saturday at Music and Motorcycles.

Motorcycles • Continued from Page 1A

Main Street's new coordinator Anna Stutzriem said a crowd of more than 2,000 people stopped by throughout the event to make for a successful night.

"When I walked up and down the streets there were motorcycles everywhere," she said. "I had a lot of people who came up and thanked us for doing the event. They felt it was a way to get away from what was happening with the storm and give them an evening to have some fun."

Previous Music and Motorcycle evenings have been cancelled because of bad weather, so locals and visitors were happy to see Main Street and the city carrying on.

The Bearded Brothers Band headlined the event, drawing a crowd in front of the

stage set up at Time Square.

Full Throttle Magazine sponsored the event and organized a bike show with winners in 10 categories: Bagger, Harley Non/Bagger, Metric Cruiser, Stock, Trike/Sidecars, Antique, Ladies Class, Custom/Pro Build, Paint, Anything Goes. There were about 50 entries in the show, which was a good turnout according to Full Throttle owner Tony Cianci.

"It was refreshing to see people out and about and moving around and not dwelling on what happened," Cianci said. "Zephyrhills was very welcoming to the biker community and that's very comforting."

A Zephyrhills couple who go by their biker names of Muff and Muffette were walking up and down Fifth Avenue scoping out other bikes. The two have

Stutzriem Earns Main Street Job

by Keri McAlpine

After serving as Main Street Zephyrhills' Interim Coordinator since mid-June, Anna Stutzriem was officially hired by the City for the role starting Monday morning.

Stutzriem is replacing Amanda Clark, who was hired for the position in March 2016.

Born in California, Stutzriem was raised in Dade City after moving there at the age of 5. She has lived in Zephyrhills for 23 years now, calling herself a "successful transplant."

Stutzriem has worked at the same small business, a childcare center, since moving to Zephyrhills and became a partner in the business 15 years ago. From that experience, she said she understands the struggles and

difficulties of running a local small business.

She became involved with Main Street about five years ago, serving as a member, volunteer and board member during that time.

Her goal as coordinator is to build relationships and expand on downtown events.

"Main Street is a promoter, supporter and advocate, in some instances, for small businesses. I want to be the one who helps our local mom and pop shops," she said Monday.

Stutzriem welcomes anyone to suggest ideas or thoughts on the downtown area, and said she will present them to the board.

Visit www.mainstreetzephyrhills.org for more information on the organization and to contact Stutzriem.

lived in the area for five years and attend bike nights such as Music and Motorcycles across the country. To them, motorcycles are freedom.

"It's not a hobby, it's not a weekend thing, it's a lifestyle," they both said, smiling.

With several community bike nights diminishing or leaving completely, the couple said they were happy to see Zephyrhills continuing the event.

"It's really, really a loss I think for the people, the community and the whole neighborhood for people to get out, socialize, and get to know your neighbors and get to know what's going on around

you. It's fun and you get to meet people," Muffette said.

The most recent Zephyrhills bike night was held last fall, but Stutzriem hopes to have it continue biannually, with a prospective M&M in the spring, depending on opinions from the Main Street board members.

Music and Motorcycles serves as a fundraiser for Main Street to fund their other main events throughout the year, especially since Tasting Away in Zephyritaville was cancelled this year, Stutzriem said. A total of money raised Saturday had not been calculated by press time.

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Mayor Gene Whitfield proclaimed Daughters of the American Revolution Week in Zephyrhills during Monday evening's City Council meeting. He presented the proclamation to DAR Echebucassa Chapter Registrar Jodi Wilkeson, center, and Regent Karen O. Patterson.

Photo by Max Zimmerman

Water • Continued from Page 1A

the city's water rates have not changed in a decade and even with the increase Zephyrhills would still have one of the lowest rates in Florida.

Should the ordinance be passed at the next regular meeting of the council on Sept. 25, the rates would go into effect Jan. 1, 2018, and then occur each Oct. 1 through 2021.

"It is still a reasonable rate," City Manager Steve Spina said, compared to rates around the state.

With no comment during the public hearing, councilmembers unanimously agreed to maintain the millage rate of 6.35 mills in ad valorem taxes for fiscal year 2017-2018 which begins Oct. 1. While the rate remains the same, the city

will accrue more funds since property values have increased in the past year.

Also without any public comment, council tentatively adopted a budget of \$63,381,259 for the new fiscal year.

A second public hearing and final adoption of both ordinances will occur during the next regular meeting on Monday.

A resident of 20th Street thanked the police for increased presence in the area in an effort to reduce speeding along the road. Although it is a county road, council expressed a desire to contact the Pasco commission regarding the issue.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Council President Alan Knight asked for a moment of silence for Councilman Kent Compton who was absent for medical reasons.

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MON. - FRI. 9AM - 6PM
 SAT. 9AM - 4PM
 SUN. 11AM - 4PM

What's next — Steps for Storm Recovery

Listen to local officials for updates and instructions.
Once it is deemed safe, we encourage you to return to your home.

Safety First

- Anticipate loss of power in most areas for an extended period of time. Every effort will be made to restore power as soon as it is safe for crews to do so.
- Avoid walking or driving through flood waters. Just six inches of moving water can knock you down and one foot of fast-moving water can sweep your vehicle away.
- Looks can be deceiving. Walk and search the perimeter of your home before attempting to enter. Downed powerlines or trees may pose a risk for injury.
- As we work to recover, boiled water notices may be issued. If your area is affected, bring your water to a rolling boil for one (1) full minute before use.

Damage Assessment

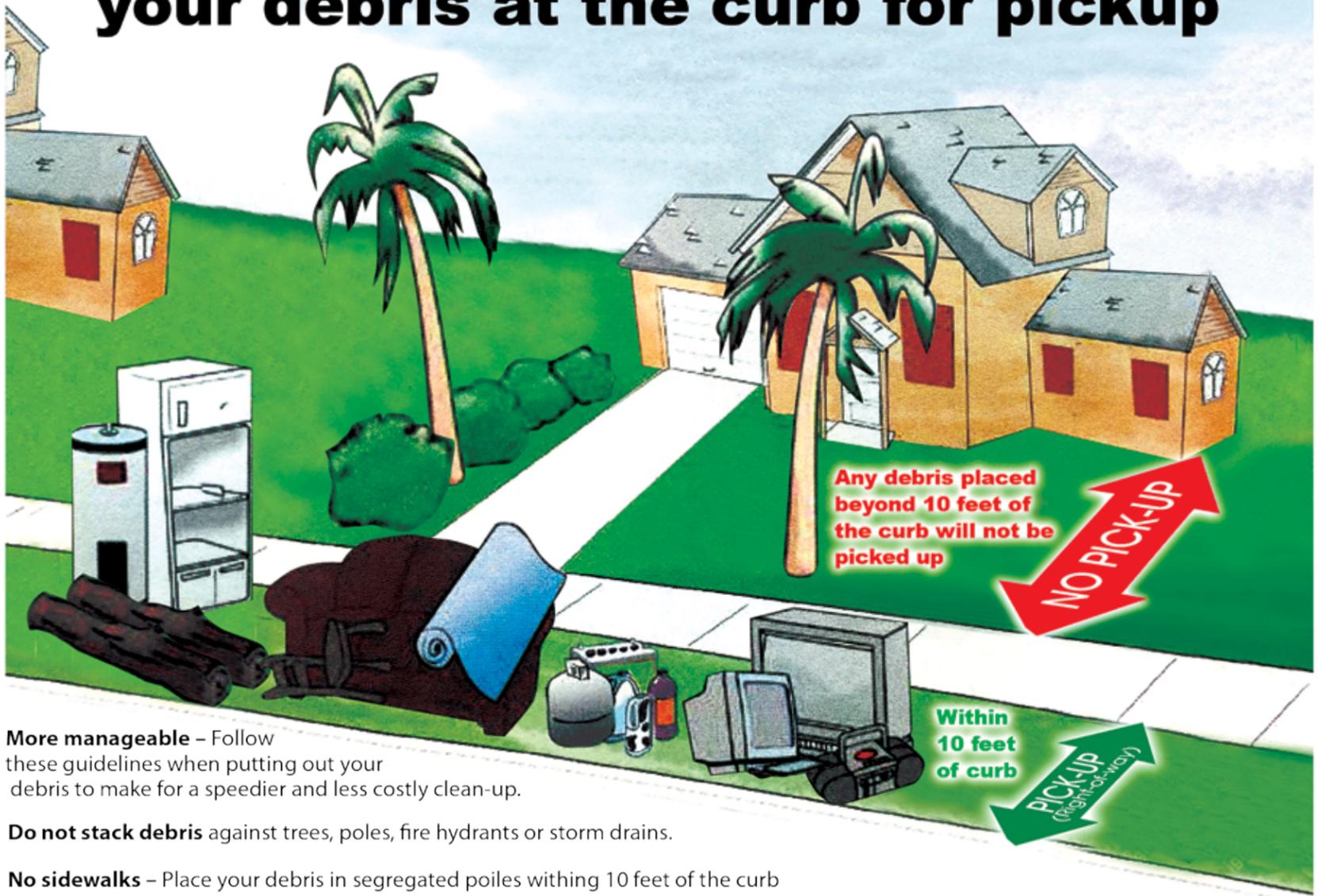
- Inspect your property and document damage by taking photos, then upload them on the My Pasco App or on the Pasco County website (click on the red hurricane symbol). These photos may also assist in filing an insurance claim.
- Do what you can to prevent further damage to your property (e.g., putting a tarp on a damaged roof), as insurance may not cover additional damage that occurs after the storm.
- Check-in with family and friends by texting or using social media.

Relief Resources

Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs): Centrally located station to aid with FEMA assistance and Small Business Assistance Loans (SBLs).

Disaster Debris Removal: Disaster related debris removal is available to residents following the storm. Collection of debris is managed in a systematic manner. Please contact the phone number or visit the website below for more information prior to the collection operation.

Picking up the pieces: Putting your debris at the curb for pickup



More manageable – Follow these guidelines when putting out your debris to make for a speedier and less costly clean-up.

Do not stack debris against trees, poles, fire hydrants or storm drains.

No sidewalks – Place your debris in segregated piles within 10 feet of the curb

Place food waste in normal trash and recycling containers for collection by your resident trash hauler.

Household hazardous waste

- Batteries
- Cleaning supplies
- Compressed gas
- Lawn chemicals
- Pesticides
- Oils

Electronics

- Televisions
- Computers
- Radios
- Stereos
- DVD players
- Telephones
- Other devices

Appliances

- Refrigerators: Remove all food and remove or secure doors.
- Washers/dryers
- Freezers
- Stoves
- Air conditioners
- Water Heaters
- Dishwashers

Structural debris/bulky waste

- Building material
- Drywall
- Lumber
- Carpet
- Furniture
- Mattresses
- Plumbing

Vegetation debris

- Tree branches
- Leaves
- Logs

NOTE: Will not be picked up with debris

- Unusable food items
- Wet or moldy newspaper
- Cardboard, etc

For more information, contact:



Pasco County Government Call Center
(727) 847-2411
or visit www.pascocountyfl.net