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Novices, Lawmakers Gear Up

Local Representatives To Participate In Monday Forum

by Emily Kochanski

Mid-term elections are right around the corner and the Dade City and Zephyrhills chambers of commerce will be hosting a forum Monday to help voters become a little more familiar with the candidates.

Before the big meet and greet, here are some helpful facts to get folks better acquainted with their potential county and state officials:

State Representative District 38

Republican **Danny Burgess** was born and raised in Zephyrhills. At 18 he became the youngest City Council member in the history of Zephyrhills as well as the youngest elected official in the state. He later went on to serve as the mayor of Zephyrhills from 2013-2014, before being elected to the Florida House of Representatives. He is currently a practicing attorney and serves in the United States Army Reserve. Danny says he cherishes his family, his faith, and his involvement in his community.



Danny Burgess



David 'TK' Hayes

David "TK" Hayes (non-affiliated) was raised and educated in Newfoundland, Canada and moved to Zephyrhills in 1995. Hayes became a permanent resident in 2001, and a U.S. citizen in 2008. He is a pilot, skydiver and businessman, among other things, and most recently managed Skydive City. His political priorities include increasing the minimum wage in Florida, maintaining

Forum • Continued on Page 6A

New City Hall Opens

Employees Look Forward To More Elbow Room

Story and photos by Keri McAlpine

The new Zephyrhills City Hall officially opened its doors for business Tuesday after breaking ground in August of last year. While city employees moved the majority of their belongings and equipment into the new space on Monday, Tuesday morning was full of hustle and bustle as construction workers finished touch ups and employees unpacked.

City • Continued on Page 7A



The newly constructed City Hall building on Eighth Street opened for business Tuesday morning. A fountain and courtyard to the left of the main entrance is expected to be completed in one to two weeks, said City Manager Steve Spina.

ZHS Spooky Spectacle Ahead

High School Homecoming Will Have A Ghostly Theme

by Dave Walters

It's going to be a spooky Zephyrhills High School Homecoming week.

The Zephyrhills High School Student Council announced the theme for Homecoming 2018 will be "A Bulldog Spooky Spectacular."

One of the most iconic traditions associated with Zephyrhills Homecoming is the annual parade down Fifth Avenue. The Homecoming parade will take place Oct. 18 at 4:30 p.m. The theme for each class float will be: the seniors, Hocus Pocus; juniors, Ghostbusters; sophomores, Halloweentown; and the freshmen, Scooby Doo.

Zephyrhills Mayor Gene Whitfield is a staple at the homecoming parade and looks at the annual event as a way

Homecoming • Continued on Page 5A



Last year's sophomore class was already in the Halloween spirit with their Egyptian-themed float as some students shambled alongside the float as mummies. Photo by Emily Kochanski

Police Women Step To The Beat

ZPD Diversifying Ranks With Addition Of Two Officers

Story and photos by Dave Walters

There is a resurgence of "Girl Power" at the Zephyrhills Police Department as a third female officer has been added to the department's ranks.

For several years, Sgt. Ailisa Starnes was the only female officer in the department, but in the last 15 months, two more women are on the streets proudly wearing the ZPD badge. This brings the percentage of female police in Zephyrhills to just under 12 percent of the force.

Zephyrhills Police Chief Derek Brewer

ZPD • Continued on Page 7A



Officer Anisa Bailey, left, Sgt. Ailisa Starnes and Officer Lacey Hall are making an impact at the Zephyrhills Police Department.

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Zephyrhills Arrests

Phony Checks Result In Real Arrests

April Dawn Hernandez, 40, and Maria Lynn Johnson, 47, both of 3349 Sandy Drive, were arrested by Zephyrhills police on Sept. 27 on a charge of uttering a forged check.



Hernandez



Johnson

Johnson was arrested on two counts of uttering of a forged check. On Dec. 8, 2017 Johnson passed a forged check payable to herself as a true check at the San Antonio Credit Union, 7301 Gall Blvd. Johnson knew the check was forged, defrauding the victim of \$150. On the same day and at the same location, Hernandez passed a forged check payable to herself, defrauding the victim of \$60. On Sept. 27, police made contact with both Johnson and Hernandez at the Pasco County jail where, post Miranda, they admitted to stealing the victim's checkbook and passing the forged checks. Johnson also admitted to being addicted to cocaine and stated she passed the forged check to fuel her habit.

Anthony Stiles Werner, 23, of 38401 Venus Ave., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Sept. 27 on charges of aggravated battery on a pregnant woman, simple battery, and criminal mischief. Police made contact with the victim who advised she and Werner



have children in common, are currently 38 weeks pregnant with another, and have been in a relationship and residing as a family unit for four years. The victim stated she and Werner were involved in a verbal altercation that became physical when Werner allegedly pushed her to the ground and struck her in the face several times with his closed fist. A second victim stated that, during the altercation, Werner allegedly used his closed fist to punch out the rear window of her vehicle, resulting in \$500 worth of damage. Werner also allegedly spit in her face and then struck her with a closed fist. Police made contact with a witness who corroborated both victim's stories, seeing him strike each victim several times before fleeing the scene on foot. Both victims were observed to have injuries consistent with their statements. Police then made contact with Werner and placed him under arrest. Post Miranda, Werner stated he did not intentionally strike the victims and only did so in self-defense.

James Woodrow Cannady, 37, of 38301 Tucker Road, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Sept. 26 on a charge of giving a false name to law enforcement and on a Pasco County warrant for violation of probation - violation of career offender registration. Police made contact with Cannady during a traffic stop at Eiland Boulevard and Fountain Road. Cannady, the passenger, told police his name was "Jaicen Davis," but a check confirmed that no



record of an individual by this name existed, even though he insisted that he had an ID out of Indiana. Cannady was detained and placed in the back of the patrol car while the other occupant of the vehicle provided law enforcement with Cannady's real name. Cannady advised police that he was aware he had an active warrant, which is why he provided the false name. The warrant was confirmed, and he was placed under arrest.

Frederick Eugene Stanton, 70, of 7322 Landover Drive, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Sept. 20 on a charge of domestic battery. Police made contact with the victim who stated she and Stanton are married and live together. The victim stated she and Stanton were involved in a verbal altercation which became physical when he allegedly threw a set of car keys at her, striking her in the forehead. Stanton then allegedly grabbed her by the shirt collar, causing an abrasion to her chest. Police then made contact with Stanton who denied touching the victim at anytime during the altercation.

Kayla Lynn Hester, 27, of Port of St. Joe, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Sept. 26 on a charge of retail theft. Police responded to Walmart, 7631 Gall Blvd., where they made contact with a loss prevention employee who advised he observed Hester select 26 items valued at \$237.54, conceal them in her purse, and walk past all points of sale without paying. The employee advised that Hester refused to accompany him to the loss prevention office when he approached her. The officer made contact with Hester and escorted her to the office where, post Miranda, she admitted to stealing the items.



Jose Antonio Sanchez Roche, 58, of Wesley Chapel, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Sept. 30 on a charge of providing a false name to law enforcement and on two Pasco County warrants for failure to appear - animal running at large and failure to prevent vicious behavior by an animal. Police made contact with Roche in reference to a theft complaint. Roche provided the name "Armando Antonio Sanchez" and a search confirmed no existing record for an individual with that



name. His real identity was later confirmed through a search of arrest inquiries, at which time two active warrants were also confirmed. Roche was placed under arrest and transported to the Pasco County jail.

William David Seville, 21, of 6258 Timberly Lane, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Sept. 25 on a Pasco County warrant for contempt of court - access to a computer electronic device without authority. Police made contact with Seville at his home where an active warrant was confirmed. He was placed under arrest and transported to the Pasco County jail.



David Lee Robinson, 29, of 3415 Drum Road, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Sept. 20 on a charge of violation of probation - possession of a controlled substance. Police made contact with Robinson during a traffic stop at Autumn Palm Drive and Donna Avenue, in which Robinson was the passenger in the vehicle. A check confirmed that he had been placed on active felony probation out of Pasco County on Aug. 24 for possession of a controlled substance. A search of the vehicle revealed a small plastic wrapper containing a white powdery substance hidden inside an empty cigarette pack located on the passenger side floorboard. The cigarette package matched another observed in Robinson's pocket. The substance field-tested positive for cocaine and Robinson was placed under arrest. Post Miranda, he initially denied any knowledge of the cocaine, but later stated the drug belonged to him.



Jonathan James Smith, 47, of 5239 17th St., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Sept. 27 on a Citrus County warrant for contempt of court. Police made contact with Smith during a traffic stop at Wawa, 6450 Gall Blvd., for an inoperable tag light. An active warrant was confirmed, and Smith 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.

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City To Receive \$210,000 From FEMA

Sarah Vande Berg Tennis Center Funding Assured

by Joe Potter

City Council learned Monday the Federal Emergency Management Agency would reimburse Zephyrhills at least \$210,000 for costs associated with Hurricane Irma, which struck the city on Sept. 11, 2017.

FEMA will pay all of the \$179,707 the city spent in preparation for the hurricane and for work that was done afterward to clear streets of debris, said Assistant City Clerk Jessica Carter.

FEMA will also pay \$30,000 – a 75 percent reimbursement – for damage that occurred at the Zephyrhills Municipal Airport as a result of the storm, Carter said.

She said additional claims are still being processed and a final tabulation is yet to come.

In another matter, City Manager Steve Spina said funding is in place for the \$2.5 million Sarah Vande Berg Memorial Tennis Center that will be built on nearly five acres on the north end of Dean Dairy Road at Eiland Boulevard.

The proposed center, named after Vande Berg, who died in a 2015 automobile accident, is expected to attract players from across the country and even internationally.

Vande Berg was attending the University of South Carolina Upstate

on a tennis scholarship when the fatal accident occurred.

The tennis center will be paid for through a \$1 million state appropriation, \$800,000 in transportation impact fees, some Penny for Pasco funds as well as some private funding, Spina said.

“This is a vision or a road map and, of course, things may change.”

– Lance Smith

Penny For Pasco is an extra one-cent sales tax approved by Pasco voters for infrastructure projects such as road improvements and the construction of schools and other facilities.

Spina also briefly discussed the city’s five-year capital improvement plan.

Some renovations will be done to both fire stations during 2018 and 2019. That work will consist of improvements to the interior of both stations, including bathrooms and air-conditioning systems.

A beacon will be relocated at the Zephyrhills Municipal Airport and the Zephyrhills Police Department will be acquiring four or five new vehicles over the next five years. The vehicles will be put into the budget before the purchases are scheduled to take place, Spina said.

“Are we committed to making any

of these purchases?” Council President Lance Smith asked.

Spina said no, that the list is primarily for planning purposes.

“This is a vision or a road map and, of course, things may change,” Smith said.

The five-year capital improvement plan was then approved 4-0. Councilwoman Jodi Wilkeson was unable to attend Monday’s meeting.

Action on an agreement regarding the paving of Simons Road was tabled for two weeks so City Attorney Matt Maggard could review the item. Maggard was also unable to attend Monday’s meeting.

Council was invited to attend the second annual Zephyrhills Economic Summit that the Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce will hold Oct. 24

from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Florida Hospital Zephyrhills is also sponsoring the event, which will be held at the new City Hall at 5335 Eighth St.

The Chamber’s executive director, Melonie Monson, said several professional speakers would be attending the event. The primary focus will be on education and Pasco County Schools Superintendent Kurt Browning and state Rep. Danny Burgess (R-Zephyrhills) are scheduled to speak and the chamber has also reached out to state Sen. Tom Lee (R-Brandon) to see if he can attend. Burgess, who represents District 38 in the House, and Lee, who represents District 20 in the Senate, are both facing challengers in the Nov. 6 mid-term elections.

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East Pasco Events

Oct. 13 – Old Timers Picnic – Anyone who has lived in Pasco County more than 20 years is entitled to attend along with family members. Participants are asked to bring a covered dish to share and their own table service. Iced tea and lemonade will be provided. Held in the Clayton Building at the Pasco County Fairgrounds, 36722 S.R. 52. Serving begins at noon but folks are urged to come early and “talk old times.” Prizes will be handed out and a short meeting to elect officers will be held. Call Diane at (352) 588-3368. for information.

Oct. 13 – Scarecrow Festival – Family fun event featuring activities including build you own scarecrow, inflatables, barrel train rides, Mr. Tommy live entertainment, photos with “Ruby Cornbread” the live scarecrow, games, food, food trucks and more. Also, new this year is a corn maze. Held from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Pioneer Florida Museum, 15602 Pioneer Museum Road. Visit www.pioneerfloridamuseum.org for information.

Oct. 15 – Candidate Forum – The Greater Dade City and Zephyrhills Chambers of Commerce are hosting a Candidate Informational Forum for the upcoming general election at East Pasco Adventist Academy, 38434 Centennial Road, Dade City and will be moderated by representatives of the local media. A meet and greet will begin at 6 p.m. with the forum beginning at 6.30 p.m. The public is invited to attend and will be given the opportunity to submit questions to the moderators for consideration.

Oct. 15 – Pregnancy and Infant Loss Ceremony – The Women’s Health Center at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills will host its third annual “Remembering Our Babies” pregnancy and infant loss ceremony from 5-5:30 p.m. in the chapel on the hospital’s first floor at 7050 Gall Blvd. The ceremony is open to anyone who has experienced such grief. Family and friends are also invited to attend. The ceremony will include a special prayer, music, readings, and the opportunity to visit one on one with Chaplains immediately following. No reservations are required. Call (813) 779-6471 for information.

Oct. 15 – Fire Prevention Event – In honor of Fire Prevention Week, a special event will be held at the Elks Lodge, 6851 Wire Road, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. benefitting the Zephyrhills Volunteer Fire Department. The fire department and the Florida Antique Bucket Brigade will be in attendance. Breakfast and coffee will be served until 12 p.m. and lunch from 12-2 p.m. Kids’ activities, raffles, and more will be featured.

Oct. 18 – ZHS Homecoming Parade – Enjoy a Zephyrhills tradition with the 2018 Zephyrhills High School homecoming parade beginning at 4:30 p.m. in downtown Zephyrhills. This year’s theme is “A Bulldog Spooky Spectacular.” Contact Rick at (813) 794-6100 or rbriggs@pasco.k12.fl.us for sponsorships or to participate in the parade.

Oct. 20 – Craft Show – First United Methodist Church presents a craft show at 38635 Fifth Ave. from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Stop by and shop from many vendors. Lunch will be served including sandwiches, soup, pie and food from vendors. Sponsored by United Methodist Women.

Oct. 20 – Fall Festival – Zephyr Christian Church, 5940 Dogwood St., will be hosting a fall festival open to the public from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. There will be games, fun and food. There will also be someone available to pray with or for you. Contact (813) 782-8893 or zephyrcc@aol.com or visit www.zephyrchristianchurch.org for information.

Oct. 20 – Walk to End Alzheimer’s – The Alzheimer’s Association is inviting Pasco residents to join the fight to end Alzheimer’s by participating in the walk, which will be held at Starkey Ranch District Park, 11880 Lake Blanche Drive, Odessa. This is the first time the walk is being held in Pasco County. Registration begins at 8 a.m. This is a family and pet-friendly event. Visit alz.org/walk for information and to register.

Oct. 20 – Pasco Local Food System Conference – Hosted by UF/IFAS Pasco County Cooperative Extension Service from 8 a.m.-1 p.m., at Pasco-Hernando State College East Campus, 36727 Blanton Road, Dade City. The conference will appeal to those interested in small farm/crop service, economic development, agriculture, alternative crops, health and nutrition, and the components of the local food system. Cost is \$40 per person and includes brunch and educational sessions. Visit pascolocalfoodconferencebrunch.eventbrite.com for information and to register.

Oct. 20 – Rattlesnake Run – The 40th annual run will take place starting in downtown San Antonio. The one-mile runs will begin at 9:15 a.m. with the five-mile race beginning at 8 a.m. There will be a one-mile dog race – dogs must remain leashed to the runner and complete the race without physical assistance. Team challenges are also new this year. Visit rattlesnakerun.com for information and to register.

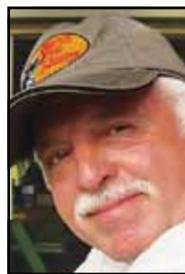
Oct. 20-21 – Rattlesnake Festival – The 52nd annual event will be held in a new location at the Pasco County Fairgrounds, 36722 S.R. 52, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. Stop by for snake and wildlife shows, live music, food and craft vendors, kids’ activities, wooden gopher races and more. Jesse and Noah Bellamy will perform Sunday at 1:30 p.m. Visit rattlesnakefestival.com for information. Admission is \$5 and parking is free. Benefitting the Thomas Promise Foundation.

Oct. 22 – Scoopie Night – Benefitting Sunrise of Pasco Domestic and Sexual Violence Center. Held from 5-7 p.m. at Culver’s, 6386 Gall Blvd. Culver’s will donate 10 percent of proceeds for anyone presenting a Sunrise ticket which will be given out at the door by Sunrise volunteers to those entering.

Oct. 24 – Economic Summit – Hosted by the Zephyrhills Economic Development Coalition from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the new City Hall, 5335 Eighth St. Registration is \$10 and includes lunch and a continental breakfast. Presentations will focus on growth in the city, education, high school career academies, and business at the airport. Contact Melonie at (813) 782-1913 or director@zephyrhillschamber.org to register.

For more events visit www.pasconewspubs.com

Commentary



First Things First

Greg First

Don't Take The Abuse

Many years ago I was the Chairman of the Board of Sunrise of Pasco. In case you are new to the area and haven’t heard of them before, Sunrise is a domestic and sexual violence center. Almost every Sunday I see the former CEO of Sunrise Penny Morrill at church. Each and every week it is a reminder to me of what this agency does and what they would ultimately like to accomplish.

I became involved with Sunrise of Pasco when I was the marketing director at Dade City Hospital (now Florida Hospital Dade City). Penny and her staff were on a blitz to help educate health-care personnel and members of law enforcement on some signs to look for when interacting with someone who may have been involved with domestic or sexual abuse. From what I learned the symptoms are not always obvious and the abuse comes in a variety of different forms.

Sunrise focuses on two major areas: intervention and prevention. The intervention team is made up of advocates who help participants set their own goals and then plan with them how to reach those goals.

The prevention team focuses on training in the community through schools, law enforcement and various

health care providers.

Sunrise wants to get in front of the violence before it ever starts.

Looking back at the Sunrise 2016 Community Impact Statement, 346 adults and children sought protection at the emergency shelter services and 43,000 meals were served during the year. Nearly 2,000 phone contacts were made in 2016 requesting counseling, information and referrals for other services, shelter or community education. The community donated more than 10,000 volunteer hours, and there were 147 prevention and education classes.

Sunrisepasco.org mentions that the annual Candle Light Vigil at Agnes Lamb Park in Dade City will be held today at 6 p.m. This will be a good opportunity to help you to educate yourself. The vigil provides time to reflect on the impact of domestic violence, especially as it affects our children. Many young ones expressed their emotions on a t-shirt they designed. Some will be displayed on the clothes line project at this evening’s event and you will take in what the kids were thinking during those dark times. Some of their thoughts will break your heart.

When Penny Morrill retired, Kelly Sinn took over as CEO of Sunrise of Pasco yet the vision of this organization has not changed. It is, “To lead our community in creating an environment in which domestic and sexual violence does not exist.”

No one should have to be subjected to this abuse; no one should have to be subjected to any kind of violence.

It’s time to stand up. It’s time to volunteer. It’s time to make a difference. It’s time to pray. The great people at Sunrise of Pasco are doing their part to make a difference one person at a time.

If you need help - or have knowledge of a friend or acquaintance - you can contact someone at Sunrise on their hotline, 24 hours a day at (352) 521-3120.

They are always ready to help.

Letter To The Editor...

Dear Editor,

Only four states in the entire country permanently ban people from voting if they have a prior felony conviction. Florida is one of those four, but Amendment 4, on the ballot this November, would fix that. When someone completes their sentence we expect them to get a job, pay taxes and re-join society, so it’s not right to deny them the right to participate in their democracy. Besides, being subject to taxes while not being allowed the vote is taxation without representation.

Amendment 4 will restore voting

rights to ex-felons only once they’ve completed their sentence, parole and probation and it will not apply to people convicted of murder or sex crimes. These are your neighbors and friends who have done their time, repaid their debts and have earned the opportunity to participate in their community.

It’s time for Florida to catch up to the rest of the country. Vote yes on Amendment 4 this November to restore voting rights to 1.4 million fellow Floridians.

Gary Reynolds
Port Richey

Pasco News Publications

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Publisher

Chris Drews
cdrews@pasconewspubs.com

Editor

Keri McAlpine
keri@pasconewspubs.com

Reporters

Emily Kochanski
emily@pasconewspubs.com

Accounting

Linda Wood
lwood@pasconewspubs.com

Design

Edwin Pitts
pasconewspubs.design@gmail.com

Joe Potter
jpotter@pasconewspubs.com

Sales

Krista Black
kblack@pasconewspubs.com

Public Relations

Greg First
gfirst@pasconewspubs.com

Max Zimmerman
mzimmerman@pasconewspubs.com

Dave Walters

Zephyrhills Free Press | www.zephyrhillsfreepress.com



38440 5th Avenue - Zephyrhills, FL 33542

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The senior class celebrated Homecoming last year with their all-American patriotic float.

Photo by Emily Kochanski

Homecoming • Continued from Page 1A

to help bind the community together. "It's a parade the entire community can get involved in," Whitfield said. "Tradition is a form of showing respect and keeping precious community events alive. Homecoming is one of those traditions that intertwines teachers, administrators, students, parents, community leaders and all our citizens who come out and support our school kids."

"Nothing represents Americana more than a Homecoming parade. I loved my high school days as many people did. Let's get out and support our ZHS students."

Homecoming coordinator Rick Briggs sees the parade as an opportunity for the community to come out and see what the students of ZHS are doing.

"We have some incredibly creative kids who are showing off their skills with these Homecoming floats," Briggs said. "They put in over a week of work and weeks of planning to put these

floats together.

"I think this parade is very important. We are one of the few schools in Pasco County that has a Homecoming parade because of the sense of community in this city."

Businesses and organizations are welcome to join the parade. Those interested can contact Briggs at Rbriggs@Pasco.k12.fl.us or (813) 794-6100 for more information.

The dress-up days during Spirit Week include Tuesday – Toddler Day; Wednesday – Meme/Character Day; Thursday – Dynamic Duo Day; and Friday will be Spooky Spirit Day.

The Zephyrhills Bulldogs football team plays their Homecoming game Friday, Oct. 19 at 7:30 p.m. The pre-show will begin at 7 p.m., which includes the class floats and the announcement of the float winners. During halftime, the crowing of the 2018 Homecoming court will occur.

The week will conclude with the Homecoming dance Saturday, Oct. 20 at 7 p.m., in the Zephyrhills High Activity Center.

Council Discusses Event Limits

No Alcohol Allowed At Upcoming Seafood Festival

by Joe Potter

A request by Go Party Live to sell beer and wine at the Zephyrhills Seafood Festival on Nov. 3 was denied by city council during their Monday meeting.

The Orlando-based for-profit organization holds festivals across the state.

They have been promoting the festival on their website as, "A family event meant to bring out those who share one thing in common, the love of seafood."

It will be held from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

"You will not only have access to this amazing outdoor experience with multiple seafood vendors ... As for our parents with young ones, your kids will have a designated play area to interact with many their age," according to the company's website.

A representative of Go Party Live who was scheduled to speak during citizen comments at the end of the meeting did not arrive in time to do so. The rep emailed city manager Steve Spina to tell him they were delayed in traffic so council proceeded without them.

The festival is scheduled to take place at Zephyr Park.

Both Spina and Bill Burgess, Zephyrhills' building official, said they had previously told Go Party Live they felt the event venue near the Zephyrhills Municipal Airport was a more appropriate location for the festival.

Go Party Live's representatives reportedly told council the still-unnamed event venue was too large and remote as a location and people who planned to attend the event would have difficulty finding it.

"How hard is it to find an airport?" Spina quipped.

Burgess also said he had told Go Party Live any request to sell alcoholic beverages at the event would have to be approved by the city.

Spina said city employees will have to clean up Zephyr Park after the Seafood Festival has concluded and he thinks Go Party Live should reimburse the city for that expense.

Councilman Charlie Proctor said he didn't think the city should have to eat the cost of cleaning up after a for-profit business that was holding an event at a city park. Also, Proctor said, he doesn't like the idea of having alcohol sold and consumed in city parks.

"What if 6,000 people come to this event? Where are they going to park?" Councilman Alan Knight asked.

"The city needs to be reimbursed for any cleanup costs incurred by a for-profit business and I am against having the park closed down," Council Vice President Ken Burgess said. The events venue near the airport would be a better location for an event of this type, he said.

Mayor Gene Whitfield said the city might want to look at steering away from using Zephyr Park for commercial events because of parking issues and other reasons.

Knight said he was concerned approving this request would open the door to other for-profit organizations wanting to hold events at Zephyr Park.

Bill Burgess said the city could stipulate that events attracting more than 200 people should be held at the event venue.

After about 30 minutes of discussion, council decided to tell Go Party Live they can hold the Seafood Festival at the park but can't sell alcohol.

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Forum • Continued from Page 1A

funding for public education, supporting and emphasizing the rights of those in the LGBTQ community, reducing gun violence, healthcare improvements, equal rights for women, and bail reform.

County Commission District 2



Mike Moore



Kelly Smith

Mike Moore (R-Wesley Chapel) is a local business owner as well as the incumbent Pasco County Commissioner. He was first elected to County Commission in 2014 and previously served as the vice-chairman of the Pasco County Commission in 2016 and chairman in 2017. He currently serves as the Chairman for numerous committees, including the Tourism Development Council, Circuit Conflict-Sixth Judicial Circuit, Dependency Drug Treatment Court Planning Steering Committee, Government Operations Committee, Insurance Selection Committee, Public Safety Coordination Council, Habitat for Humanity, CARES, the Boys and Girls Club and the Homeless Advisory Board.

Kelly Smith (D-Wesley Chapel) has a background in land use after having served eight years as the Zoning Administrator for the city of Marco Island. Smith is ready to fight for a \$15/hour minimum wage for workers, the expansion of labor unions, and an overall better quality of life for those in Pasco County, including properly maintained parks, affordable housing, and effective community services.

County Commissioner District 4



Mike Wells



Brandy Geoit

Republican **Mike Wells** has been a resident of Pasco County for 39 years and currently serves as the vice-chairman of the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners. He is a member of the National Association of Realtors, West Pasco Board of Realtors, Florida Realtors and the West Pasco Chamber of Commerce. Wells also participates in other volunteer activities, including Feeding Pasco's Elderly, the Coastal Conservation Association, Sunrise of Pasco and others. He is also a member of the National Rifle Association.

Democrat **Brandi Geoit** is currently the Executive

Director at a small non-profit and has worked in the social work field for nearly 20 years. She also currently serves as the vice-chair of the West Central Ryan White Care Council. Geoit has experience in the fields of domestic violence and sexual assault services, homeless services, veterans services, and has familiarity working with working with AIDS patients and advocating for those with disabilities. The prominent issues in Pasco County she is gearing up to tackle include a balanced budget, drainage and flooding improvements, drug abuse, road maintenance, homelessness and poverty issues.

School Board District 5



Megan Harding



Tara O'Connor

Megan Harding (non-affiliated) developed a strong desire to teach when she was just eight years old. She greatly enjoyed her time in school and even took on the role of teaching Sunday school and leading children's choir during vacation Bible schools at her local church in Hudson. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from the University of South Florida St. Petersburg Campus in 2012 and graduated from Saint Leo University last year with her master's degree in reading. She is currently a third-grade teacher at Fox Hollow Elementary School. In order to supply the children of Pasco County with a quality education, Harding wants to focus on supplying teachers with proper and plentiful resources and supplies. She wishes to be a voice for teachers and students alike.

Tara M. O'Connor (non-affiliated) was a member of Hudson Middle School's first graduating class and graduated in the top 10 percent of her class at Hudson High School in 1990. She is currently the President and Managing Partner of the O'Connor Law Group in Port Richey, which she established alongside her sister in 2000. O'Connor is a firm believer in collaboration between teachers and parents, school safety and security, transparency between the school board and the community, enhancing the technology of older schools, and effective planning to meet the demands of student growth.

State Senator District 20



Tom Lee



Kathy Lewis

Tom Lee (R-Brandon) currently serves as chairman for the Committee of Community Affairs and is a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education, Appropriations Subcommittee on Pre-K - 12 Education, Committee on Education, Committee on Rules, and the Committee on Ethics and Elections. His plans for the state include ending the animal abuse and saving Florida money by banning greyhound racing, eliminating wasteful spending, promoting budget transparency, and ending taxpayer funded stadium upgrades.

Democrat **Kathy Lewis** is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University as well as a writer and motivational speaker. She has also served on the boards of several non-profits and organizations, including her local chapter of the Boys and Girls Club in Dade City. Inspired by her daughter's disability, Lewis has been advocating for the other families who have children with disabilities for more than 20 years. Her priorities include eliminating healthcare fraud, creating a living wage of at least \$15 an hour for all workers, fully funding public schools, protecting the environment, and banning the sale of assault-style weapons.

State Senator District 10



Wilton Simpson



Michael Cottrell

Wilton Simpson (R-Trilby) currently serves as the chairman on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development and is a member of several other committees and boards at both the state and county level. He is a farmer and small business owner and believes in creating an environment where businesses can thrive. Simpson has worked over the past five years to balance the budget which has resulted in a \$5 billion tax cut. Going forward, he hopes to provide greater access to education and employment opportunities to veterans while preserving the environment and protecting natural resources.

Democrat **Michael Cottrell** settled in Tampa in 1979 after his father retired and, following in dad's footsteps, went on to serve in the U.S. Army. He became a social studies teacher after graduating from the University of South Florida and worked for the Department of Defense Dependent Schools and was the Information Specialist at Kadena Middle School. The Spring Hill resident says he will fight for the needs of his fellow Florida residents in areas such as health care, education, environment, living wage, unions and equality.

The candidate forum will take place from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the East Pasco Adventist Academy, 38434 Centennial Road in Dade City. The meet and greet segment of the forum will be held at 6 p.m. For more information about the event, contact John Moors of the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce at jmoors@dadecitychamber.org. Visit www.pascovotes.com for a complete list of candidates.



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City • Continued from Page 1A

According to City Manager Steve Spina an open house will be held once the place is fully put together, most likely sometime in November.

“We’re thrilled with it,” Spina said.

The new offices are located where the old city hall building once stood at 5335 Eighth St. Built in the 1950s, the former City Hall was just 13,497 square feet and had some structural problems. The new two-story facility boasts 19,615-square-feet, new council chambers, plenty of office and storage space, an elevator and a courtyard.

The project cost the city about \$6.2 million, plus furniture and office equipment.

During construction employees were set up at the temporary City Hall Annex on Ninth Street as well as in the Jeffries House downtown.

Walking into the new building residents and visitors are greeted by a two-story foyer with marble accents, a welcome desk and a grand staircase. To one side the council chambers are still being set up, but it’s clear it will be something special. Windows line the back wall and another wall of windows and French doors lead out to what will be a courtyard and fountain.

Spina said the courtyard and fountain should be finished within one or two weeks. City Council chambers are expected to be completed by the next



Although it does not look like much now, the new city council chambers on the main floor of the new city hall building will be ready for the next council meeting Oct. 22 and can also serve as an event space.

council meeting Oct. 22 and ready for an Oct. 24 economic summit which will be held in the chambers. A small kitchenette adjoining the room will allow the space to be used for parties or other events, Spina said.

Most of the offices have new furniture that allows for a uniform and streamlined aesthetic. The downstairs offices house the building and planning departments, meeting and conference rooms and other departments which generate more foot traffic.

Upstairs is more “the back of the house,” Spina said, where the city clerk, public records, payroll, human resources, financing, CRA, purchasing and other departments are located.

Spina’s office is on the second floor, which he loves for his view of the future courtyard and foundation. Overall the employees Tuesday seemed happy with the extra space and their new set-up.

“It’s a great space, great location, I really like it,” said Todd Vande Berg, the city’s planning director, as he was settling

into his office.

Some vacant offices upstairs are likely to include a workspace for the city attorney when he’s on site or the future assistant city manager.

There are also “double offices,” which are currently being utilized by one employee but have the ability to be split into two separate spaces.

“We have extra space so if we need room later we can just frame in a wall,” Spina said.

While residents were welcomed to the new space Tuesday, there is still plenty to do before the project is fully finished. Spina said he and employees would sit down to come up with a list of what needs attention in the upcoming weeks.

“We’re still tweaking things,” he said.



City Manager Steve Spina settles into his new office on the second floor of the new City Hall building, which opened its doors to the public for business on Tuesday.

ZPD • Continued from Page 1A

said his department is close to the national average in its percentage of female officers and more could be hired in the coming months.

“Female influence in law enforcement is extremely important,” Brewer said. “We’re going to plan on increasing our strategy here. We’re going to have a bigger presence here and more diversity, not just females, but other areas, too.”

Brewer isn’t shy to point out that women in law enforcement may be better at quelling stressful situations than their male counterparts.

“They are better problem solvers,” Brewer said. “They’re better communicators and they have a natural tendency to bring high liability situations under control without having to use force. I would rather do that if possible.”

Starnes is in her 18th year on the force and is the first female sergeant and third woman officer ever hired at ZPD. Dana Riley and Annette Poe were the first two female officers ever to wear the Zephyrhills Police Department badge. There were two other female officers after Starnes was hired, but they have since left the department.

“I would tell them to hire women all the time, but they said they couldn’t handle another one like me,” Starnes joked.

Anisa Bailey, a 27-year-old, who started at ZPD May 10, 2017, was at a crossroads in her professional life between a career in the fire service or law enforcement. She started her career in the fire service as an EMT and responded to calls in an ambulance with AMR in Tampa. She learned quickly that she “didn’t have the stomach for it.”

Even as a kid, she knew she would pursue a career in public safety.

“Like fire, I knew I wanted to help people and I loved the athleticism that came with it,” Bailey said. “I’m very competitive and being in a primarily male-dominated profession, it is a challenge for me.”

Lacey Hall, 21, was hired in September, but her preferred career path was to predict the weather as a meteorologist. However, she was discouraged from that field by her mother, so she thought criminal justice was a road she would travel.

Starnes has law enforcement in her family gene pool as her uncle Richard Cloud was a sergeant with the Tampa Police Department. As a kid, she listened to her uncle’s stories about his life as a cop.

“You always heard the stories about what he was involved in back in the day,” Starnes said. “They were pretty cool stories so I thought that would be something I would be interested in doing.”

Starnes serves as a mentor for both Bailey and Hall and her advice is simple.

“Don’t let someone tell you in this job that you can’t do something because you’re a female,” Starnes said. “It should have no bearing as to how good of a job you do.”

In decades past, the role of a policewoman was to assist in the arrest of a female. Now, their role as a law enforcement officer is no different than their fellow male officers.

“At first, when I would arrive at calls, people would say I can’t do anything because I was a small female,” Starnes said. “That is what you would hear, but you don’t hear that much anymore.”

Bailey, who is petite in size, surprises people when she arrives to a call. People don’t expect to see an officer who is roughly 130 pounds.

“I respond and people look at me and ask if someone else is coming,” Bailey joked. “It happens all the time. It’s always a challenge. You are constantly in a state where you have to prove yourself.”

“To me, it’s fun and it’s worth it. I get gratification every time I do the job right and I didn’t need the assistance of anybody else. I love having the guys there as another level of protection for me, but I know I’m qualified and capable and I love showing that to people.”

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Little Free Library Dedicated

Woman's Club Offers Books To Readers On Fifth Avenue

Story and photo by Joe Potter

The Zephyrhills Woman's Club dedicated a Little Free Library outside its historic clubhouse on Fifth Avenue on Oct. 5.

Books are contained in a weatherproof case mounted on a metal post near the entrance to the clubhouse and those who explore the little lending library will find volumes written by female authors and of interest to female readers.

Books that are borrowed should either be returned after reading or replaced by other books of similar value and interest, said Becky Finley, the club's public issues chairwoman and a member of its board of directors.

Some people have acted unethically

in the past when Little Free Libraries have been established, said Gina King Granger, the club's president. They have taken books and resold them at area used bookstores.

Also, people shouldn't mistake the Little Free Library as a place to return regular library books. Regular library books should be taken to the Zephyrhills Public Library at 5437 Eighth St., Granger said.

The little library project is a cooperative effort between the Woman's Club and the Friends of the New River Branch Library.

Granger said the local Woman's Club is excited about the opportunity to have the Little Free Library. Woman's Clubs throughout the United States have been actively involved for decades in programs contributing to the development or strengthening of local libraries.

Six months of work was involved in getting the Little Free Library established, said Finley, who is also a member of the Friends of the New River Library.

She and Angelo Liranzo, New River's



Angelo Liranzo, regional manager of the New River Branch Library, and members of the GFWC Woman's Club of Zephyrhills stand by the new Little Free Library as it is dedicated on Friday at their clubhouse.

regional branch manager, worked closely together and held numerous meetings with city officials and other groups, Finley said. It took a while to get the necessary permits.

The Zephyrhills Woman's Club was established on Nov. 11, 1915.

More information about the Woman's Club of Zephyrhills may be obtained by emailing info@gfwczephyrhills.org.



William Bozone of San Antonio helps his father, Daryl, stuff a scarecrow at last year's Scarecrow Festival at the Florida Pioneer Museum. The scarecrow build will be featured again this year for \$5 or for a discounted price if guests bring their own clothes to dress the scarecrow. Photo by Richard K. Riley

Scarecrow Event Adds Corn Maze

Thousands Expected Saturday At Pioneer Museum Festival

by Keri McAlpine

It's fall festival season again and Saturday will be full of different fall celebrations, one of them being the Scarecrow Festival.

The biggest event hosted by the Pioneer Florida Museum every year, the festival typically brings in around 5,000 people and organizers are expecting even more this year.

Each year there is something new to explore on the museum's sprawling grounds and this year you might just get lost in the festival's latest addition. A real, live corn maze has been growing on the museum property since May and is full of twists and turns with multiple entry and exit points and, of course, some confusing dead ends.

Some portions of the maze are 10 feet tall while others are shorter, but it is sure to be fun for everyone and what's more, there is no additional fee to walk the maze.

"I think people will have a lot of fun going through with their kids," said museum event coordinator Brenda Minton. "Every year I try to add something new and different just to bring different crowds out ... If the maze works well, which we're hoping, then we can [continue to] grow it and have a bigger one eventually."

Traditional Scarecrow Festival activities including building one's own hay-stuffed scarecrow, free family portraits, a pumpkin patch and pumpkin painting, a petting zoo, pony rides, face painting, bounce houses and more will return this year.

Minton said as of Monday there were about 100 vendors registered to attend, with a variety of food to purchase as

well as crafts and products.

The scarecrow build normally cost \$5, but this year there is a lack of clothes for the scarecrows to wear. So, if guests bring their own clothes to dress their scarecrow in they will receive a discount.

The ever-popular Mr. Tommy will have two performances at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. so be sure to not miss him.

A new blacksmith building has been set up at the museum and the Scarecrow Festival will serve as its "soft opening" with blacksmith demonstrations inside.

"There's something for everyone here from the children to the grandparents," said museum executive director Stephanie Black. "You have the museum ... with docents in period dress in addition to everything else going on here. We have traditional craft demonstrations going on at the same time."

Remote parking at the judicial courthouse at 38053 Live Oak Avenue was added last year and will be offered again Saturday to allow for more guests. Buses will begin at 9 a.m. and run about every 20 to 30 minutes to and from the museum. Last pickup to the museum will be at 3 p.m. and last return to the courthouse will leave the museum at 5 p.m.

Museum gates at 15602 Pioneer Museum Road will open for entry at 9 a.m. and the festival runs until 5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and children age 5 and under free.

No pets, coolers, or outside food or beverages allowed. Visit www.pioneerfloridamuseum.org for further information.

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