



# Zephyrhills FREE PRESS

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## Save Some Money For Saturday

*'Shop Small Saturday'  
Dedicated To Local Folks*

by **Joe Potter**



A grand opening for Outside The Box Too will be held Saturday starting at 10 a.m. *Photo Provided*

Sandwiched between Black Friday and Cyber Monday is a shopping day dedicated to the small business owner, Small Business Saturday.

Maybe the day doesn't carry the same weight as Black Friday, but locally the day can make or break the 'mom and pop' retailer.

According to Forbes magazine, there are 28 million American small businesses, which account for more than 50 percent of all retail sales in the country.

A major benefit for shopping locally, according to Forbes, is that money circulated in the same locality gives the community vitality.

**Shop • Continued on Page 6A**

## Daybreak Rotary Offers Historical Ornament

*Christmas Tree  
Decoration Depicts  
Jeffries House*

Story and photo by **Dave Walters**

Anyone driving down Fifth Avenue admiring the Captain H.B. Jeffries House can actually have a token of that historic structure in their own home this holiday season.

The Rotary Club of Zephyrhills Daybreak is selling Christmas ornament replicas of the Jeffries House as a fundraiser to support charitable causes in the community and its scholarship program.

According to incoming club president Jodi Wilkeson, this is the first in a series of ornaments depicting the city's historic buildings.

"Our club is growing and we were looking new opportunities and we thought this was a great idea," Wilkeson said.

The Jeffries House was purchased by the City of Zephyrhills and renovated for use. In the next couple of weeks, Main Street Zephyrhills and the Community

**Ornament • Continued on Page 5A**

## Festival Of Lights To Strike Up The Band

*This Year's  
Annual Christmas  
Kickoff Is Dec. 3*

by **Keri McAlpine**

Every year, hundreds line up on the downtown streets of Zephyrhills to kick off the holiday season.

As city workers decorate Fifth Avenue with twinkling lights the cooler air adds that winter touch and sets the stage for the first Saturday of December.

This year's Festival of Lights parade will feature floats depicting classic holiday songs. The 'Christmas Melodies' theme has float builders

**Parade • Continued on Page 4A**



The Festival of Lights event will be held in downtown Zephyrhills from 4-9 p.m. The hugely popular parade will start at 7 p.m. *File photo*



Lea Braun of WQYK puts a bag of donated food on a table outside the Sunrise Eatery on Nov. 18.

## Dozens Donate During Annual Food Drive

*WQYK Holds Benefit  
At Sunrise Eatery*

Story and photos by **Joe Potter**

Radio station WQYK didn't have to wait long for folks to start donating food after they set up a remote broadcast last Friday morning at the Sunrise Eatery on Gall Boulevard.

About 100 people donated nonperishable food items to Feeding Tampa Bay during the five-hour event that began before the crack of dawn at 5 a.m.

The food items will benefit area families who are in need this holiday season, said Tom Gaggin of the country music station.

"It was a great day for a food drive with Veronica, Kevin

**Benefit • Continued on Page 7A**

**INSIDE:** Pg. 3A - New Ultrasound Unit Making Waves Pg. 8A - Volunteers Shoe Schools One Step At A Time Pg. 1B - Bulldogs Boys Aiming High Again  
Pg. 3A - Peace Breakfast Hosts Law Enforcement Pg. 1B - Lady Bulldogs Remain Winless In Soccer Pg. 1B - Local Shufflers Star In Championships



## Beware of Medicare "Disadvantage" Plans

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# Zephyrhills Arrests

## Transient Arrested On Multiple Felony Charges

**Eric James Vliet**, 29, transient, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Nov. 7 on charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, resisting arrest with violence and three warrants charging him with failure to appear – battery; FTA – resisting arrest without violence; and FTA – driving while license suspended or revoked. Vliet allegedly choked a woman and told witnesses who saw him doing so to mind their own business. He then allegedly removed a handgun from the woman's shoulder bag and pointed it at the witnesses. They told police they fled because they were in fear of being shot. Vliet allegedly continued to point the firearm in their direction as they were fleeing. Vliet and the woman then left the scene and the victims called 911 while following from a safe distance. Vliet then reportedly fled into a nearby mobile home park. He allegedly aggressively resisted arrest by an officer who located him and struck the officer with an elbow to the chest. Post Miranda, Vliet told police he had been in an altercation with the woman, who he identified as his girlfriend. He said he had told the witnesses "to mind their own business." He said he fled because he had active warrants. The warrants were confirmed. Vliet was booked into the Pasco County Jail with bond set at \$26,000.

**Wesley Andrew Thompson**, 29, transient, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Nov. 13 on charges of robbery with a weapon and resisting a merchant. Thompson allegedly stole a pair of pliers from Lowe's, 7291 Gall Blvd., on Sept. 26 and brandished a knife at a loss prevention employee who attempted to detain him. This action reportedly placed the victim in a well founded fear for his life. Thompson then reportedly fled the store with the stolen merchandise. Police made contact with Thompson on Nov. 13 at Dollar General, 5919 Gall Blvd., regarding an unrelated call. He denied the Sept. 26 offense at Lowe's and was booked into the Pasco County Jail with bond set at \$50,000.

**Erin Marie Doyle**, 29, of 33290 Teakwood Drive, was apprehended by Zephyrhills police on Nov. 13 on two Hernando County warrants charging her with two counts of failure to appear – possession of a controlled substance, no bond. Contact was made with Doyle at Zephyr Water Park, 5039 Fourth St. She was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrants.

**Michael Jason Osborn**, 44, of Wesley Chapel, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Nov. 7 at the Pasco County Jail on a charge of grand theft in connection with a Nov. 3 incident at Walmart, 7631 Gall Blvd. Osborn had previously been arrested on Nov. 3 on unrelated charges. Osborn allegedly took a spotlight, valued at \$49.97, and a Dell laptop computer, valued at \$379, from the store on Nov. 3 and left without paying for them. He was later stopped by the Pasco Sheriff's Office and the stolen items were discovered. Walmart loss prevention personnel responded to the scene and positively identified Osborn as the suspect who committed the theft. The recovered items were returned to Walmart.

**Joe Wayne Glover Jr.**, 27, of 37042 Geiger Road, Lot #10, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Nov. 9 on a charge of simple domestic battery. Contact was made with Glover when police responded to a report of a physical disturbance in progress. Glover reportedly exited a residence, placed his hands behind his back, and said "I hit her." According to police, Glover slapped a female in the face after she pushed him because she was afraid Glover was about to hit her. Glover also allegedly grabbed the victim by her neck, but she told police that she was still able to breathe. Glover was determined to be the primary aggressor and was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

**Julio Angel Diaz-Campos**, 22, of Lakeland, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Nov. 10 on a charge of retail grand theft and on a Polk County warrant for failure to appear – aggravated domestic violence battery. Contact was made with Diaz-Campos at Walmart, 7631 Gall Blvd., regarding a retail theft complaint. Diaz-Campos allegedly removed two items valued at \$796 from a shelf at the store and left without paying for them. The stolen items were recovered by a loss prevention staff member who made contact with Diaz-Campos outside the store. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrant.

**Michael Ray Haas**, 25, 13142 Happy Hill Road, Dade City, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on Nov. 13 on charges of grand theft auto, driving while license suspended or revoked/habitual offender and possession of a controlled substance. Haas was reportedly found inside a 2002 Toyota Corolla on Nov. 1 with the engine running. The Sioux Falls, S.D., police department reported that the car had been stolen on June 21, 2016, by the registered owner. An inventory of the vehicle resulted in the discovery of a sun-glass case that contained a round purple pill positively identified through drugs.com as Zolpidem 10 mg. It was determined that Haas' Florida driver's license was suspended for 60 months on Dec. 18, 2012 and that he was an habitual traffic offender. Post Miranda, Haas admitted to being in possession of the vehicle and of the controlled substance for which he did not have a prescription. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

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*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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# New Ultrasound Unit Making Waves

## FHZ Using The Most Advanced Breast Cancer Tool

Story and photo by Keri McAlpine

In light of recently upgrading their robotic system, Florida Hospital Zephyrhills has added yet another piece of valuable technology to their menu. For about six weeks now, the Simpson Breast Health Center has been using a new Aixplorer Supersonic Imagine, the latest tool in breast ultrasound technology.

“Having the newest technology is critical to accurately ascertain which masses are truly suspicious needing biopsy,” Dr. Ronald C. Prati, said in an email.

The new technology reportedly provides a resolution that has thrilled FHZ physicians, radiologists and equipment technicians for its clarity.

According to the hospital, the “shear wave elastography” technology allows health professionals to get clearer images and provide a quicker diagnosis of masses in dense breasts.

Dense breasts often pose a problem for normal ultrasounds or other x-ray technology because there is normally too much other tissue or material interfering with the image. Potential patients with dense breasts that are interested

in accessing the new technology first need to keep their regular mammogram appointment to determine whether the Imagine session is needed.

“It judges the stiffness of the lesion,” said Alexa Stinnette, Breast Imaging Manager. “By that, the radiologist can determine whether or not it needs a biopsy ... it’s just an amazing resolution. So, instead of struggling to see certain layers, you can quickly identify different types of breast tissue.”

What used to take possibly days to correctly identify a benign mass can now be done in seconds.

Stinnette said it is now easier to determine whether or not a woman has to undergo the pain of a biopsy because the image clarity allows more certainty when making that decision.

The Supersonic Imagine’s advanced waves also allow radiologists to detect smaller cancers faster than traditional methods.

“Our physicians have been extremely pleased with what we have been able to see, as well as the technologists ourselves,” Stinnette said. “It’s very exciting to have a technology that you know is going to be a benefit [for the patient] and you know you’re not increasing radiation dose. And it’s comfortable for the patient.”

The compact machine sits in the corner of one of the exam rooms in the Simpson Breast Health Center. It is easily wheeled



Florida Hospital Zephyrhills Breast Imaging Manager Alexa Stinnette stands with the hospital’s newly acquired Aixplorer Supersonic Imagine breast ultrasound machine.

and maneuvered around the room.

The more the radiologists use the machine, the better they will be in determining the volume of a mass before surgery even happens, thanks to its 3D aspect.

“We’re hoping to do volumetrics...

and be able to give the pathologist a better idea of how large the lesion is, so when the patient goes into surgery they have a better idea of the whole volume of the lesion they’re going after,” Stinnette explained.

“And it takes seconds.”

# Peace Breakfast Hosts Law Enforcement

## Format Shifts For Sunrise Of Pasco’s Major Fundraiser Of The Year

by Joe Potter

Sunrise of Pasco Domestic & Sexual Violence Center will hold its 13th annual Peace Breakfast next Thursday at Saint Leo University.

According to executive director Kelly Sinn, the focus of this year’s breakfast will focus on how local law enforcement agencies can collaborate with Sunrise to lessen instances of domestic and sexual violence.



Chris Nocco

Now in its 13th year, Sinn said the format of this year’s breakfast will break with tradition.

A panel consisting of Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco, Dade City Police Chief Raymond Velboom and New Port Richey Police Chief Kim Bogart will make a presentation.

Previously, survivors of domestic and sexual violence have shared their stories and told how Sunrise has helped them to find a new life.

There will be an element of that in this year’s breakfast, Sinn said, but the primary emphasis will be on how law enforcement and Sunrise can combine their efforts.

Each year, close to 200 community leaders come to Sunrise’s signature fundraising event to network and support the local agency’s battle against domestic and sexual violence.

A hot buffet breakfast will be served beginning at 7 a.m., in the Greenfelder-Denlinger Boardroom in the Student Activities Building.

Those attending the event make donations in order to acquire a seat at the breakfast. Sinn said there is no suggested donation amount, but obviously larger gifts help the nonprofit agency carry out services and maintain the shelter for women who have been abused.

Sunrise of Pasco offers a free,

confidential hotline that is available for safety planning 24/7. The numbers

are (352) 521-3120 or statewide toll free 1-800-500-1119.

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## East Pasco Events

**Nov. 25 – Black Friday Turkey Trek** – Avoid the stores, hike a park. Join the friends of Colt Creek State Park for ranger-guided hikes beginning at 9 a.m. Regular park admission fees apply. The hikes will be geared to all levels of hikers, and hikers will meander through pine flatwoods, around cypress domes, and bottomland forest. The park is located at 16000 S.R. 471 in Lakeland. Call (863) 815-6761 for information.

**Nov. 25 – Black Friday Sale** – Gulfside Hospice's Thrift Shoppes will be participating in the excitement of Black Friday shopping by offering discounts of 25% off storewide. The Gulfside Zephyrhills Furniture Shoppe will also have select showcase items at 25% off. Gulfside Hospice Thrift Shoppe locations are: Dade City Thrift Shoppe, 37925 Sky Ridge Circle, (813) 782-7200; Zephyrhills Thrift Shoppe, 36524 S.R. 54, (813) 788-5461; and Gulfside Zephyrhills Furniture Shoppe, 36504 S.R. 54, (813) 715-2895. All five of the stores are open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Black Friday. Shoppers are also encouraged to bring in gently used donations.

**Nov. 26 – Wine Festival** – Florida Estates Winery, located at 25241 S.R. 52 near Land O'Lakes, will host a Wine Festival from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. The event will include vendors offering many unique gifts, live entertainment and an opportunity to sample the winery's offerings and meet our winemaker for an educational tasting. We are pet friendly. Call (813) 996-2113 for information.

**Nov. 26 – Yard Sale** – Neighborhood Care Center is having a huge yard sale as their fall fundraiser from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the parking lot of First Baptist Church on Fifth Avenue Between Fifth and Sixth Streets. Donations accepted. Call (813) 780-682 for information.

**Nov. 26 – Rainbow Village Christmas Bazaar** – Rainbow Village Resort Association is having their Christmas Bazaar and Craft Show from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. On sale will be used books and videos, a bake sale, chinese auction and a raffle. There will be 22 crafters displaying their products and Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be available for visits at 10:30 a.m. Rainbow Village is located at 4150 Lane Road in Zephyrhills. Call Sue at (860) 822-8556.

**Dec. 3 – Alpaca Open House** – Come join us at our Alpaca Open House from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. See alpacas and learn what we do with the fiber. The alpaca products are a great gift idea. There will be refreshments available for purchase. Visit [www.sweetblossomalpacas.com](http://www.sweetblossomalpacas.com) or email [dpettis11@yahoo.com](mailto:dpettis11@yahoo.com) with questions. Alpaca Farm is located at 37543 Pappy Road in Dade City. We are not open to the public except for the open house.

**Dec. 3 – Christmas Bake Sale and Cookie Walk** – Tippecanoe Village, on the corner of Morris Bridge Road and Chancey Road, invites you to their Christmas Bake Sale and Cookie Walk from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Delicious cookies, bake table, crafts and auction will be featured. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**Dec. 3 – Yard Sale** – The Sweetwater RV Park Yard Sale will be held from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Come one, come all! Sweetwater RV Park is located at 37647 Chancey Road. Contact [hunt.rhoda@yahoo.com](mailto:hunt.rhoda@yahoo.com) for information.

**Dec. 3 – Country Aire Village's Annual Holiday Bazaar** – Held at 39333 Blue Skye Drive from 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Come and enjoy. Coffee and donuts will be available at 7 a.m. and a luncheon will be served from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Inside and outside treasures, bake sale, cookie walk, Chinese auction, crafters, raffles and clothing boutique. Free shuttle service is available. Call (989) 430-4850 for information.

**Dec. 3 – Festival of Lights and Parade** – Presented by Main Street Zephyrhills, Inc. Parade begins at 6 p.m. Parade Theme is "Christmas Melodies." Visit [mainstreetzephyrhills.org](http://mainstreetzephyrhills.org) or call (813) 780-1414 for information.

**Dec. 3 – Free Photos With Santa** – Goin' Postal at 38439 Fifth Ave. will offer free photos with Santa during the Festival of Lights celebration from 2-9 p.m. in downtown Zephyrhills. Santa will take a brief break to appear in the 6 p.m. lighted nighttime parade. Anyone wishing to be part of Santa's walking unit in the parade is encouraged to email [drmjpricegp@gmail.com](mailto:drmjpricegp@gmail.com) for details.

**Dec. 3 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day** – Meet two Pearl Harbor survivors, and bring your kids to meet living history. Held from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Zephyrhills Museum of Military History, 39444 South Ave. Call (813) 788-5969 or e-mail [CPRMOF1@aol.com](mailto:CPRMOF1@aol.com) for information.

**Dec. 3 – Run for Life 5k** – This 5k run and fun walk benefits the Pregnancy Care Center of Zephyrhills. Registration opens at 7 a.m. and 5k starts at 8 a.m. on Main Street in Zephyrhills. Call (813) 453-9042 for information. Sponsorship opportunities available. Register now at [pcczephyrhills.org](http://pcczephyrhills.org).

**Dec. 4 – Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration** – The 32nd annual lighting ceremony will be a family-friendly, free event hosted by Florida Hospital Zephyrhills. A musical Christmas program featuring entertainment revue and other guests will be featured. Held on the FHZ front lawn, 7050 Gall Blvd. Events start at noon and go till 7 p.m., rain or shine. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. Visit [FHZeph.org](http://FHZeph.org) to view the full schedule of events. The tree lighting and fireworks will conclude the program.

**Dec. 6 – Five Things You May Not Know About Christmas** – Doug Higgins, senior chaplain for Florida Hospital Zephyrhills will dive into Christmas details that are sometimes overlooked. These include learning about the star, the angels, the Wisemen and the timing of the birth of Jesus. Held from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at 38233 Daughtery Road. Call (813) 779-6476 for information. Reservations required.

**Dec. 7 – Ask the Doctor at Ortho Forum** – Florida Hospital Zephyrhills will host an open forum from 12:15-12:45 p.m. for anyone who wants to ask an orthopedic surgeon questions about aching joints, hip or knee pain. "Getting Down to the Bare Bones" features Trey Alexander, a board certified orthopedic surgeon. This free program will take place in Florida Hospital Zephyrhills Cypress Room located off the main lobby at 7050 Gall Blvd. Dessert and coffee will be provided. Reservations are required by calling (877) 534-3108.

For more events visit  
[www.pasconewspublications.com](http://www.pasconewspublications.com)

## Commentary



### First Things First

Greg First

## What Is Up With The Vote?

I am so thankful to live in a country that has a democracy.

The voice of the people can actually be heard and as a result we can help to control the destiny of our country.

Our voting operates under the electoral college system. It was set up so that the people in every state can have a proportionate say so and the results are not controlled by super big states like New York and California. Folks upset with how the election was decided are signing petitions to change to a popular vote system and throw out the current one.

It doesn't work that way. The last I heard approximately 4 million people signed the petition. The way that we vote will not be changed for this past election but could be addressed in the future. It will however require a re-write of the Constitution, and that will be no easy task.

Can we please get on with our lives now? Most of the major media told us who was going to win by a landslide well before the election and they were all wrong,

and their credibility has been seriously damaged. Part of the reason some people are so upset is this major fail by the major media. Can we ever trust them again?

Today is Thanksgiving Day and a day to be thankful. Our country has been blessed with an abundance of everything. I have visited many third world countries and most of them have nothing. They do have each other and for that they are grateful. They have learned to help one another with the little that they have. You don't hear too much about politics over there. They are a happy people and rejoice for what God has blessed them with.

Many years ago Jenny and I adopted a young Haitian boy through Compassion International. It was rewarding to see this young boy grow up with a chance in life and an experience that we will never forget. Even though we never met him in person we communicated via mail. It was very humbling.

I am thankful for my family and friends. I am thankful that this radio guy was given the opportunity to try my hand at writing a weekly commentary in all three of our local newspapers on the way that I see things. From what I am hearing most of our readers can relate and we really have a lot in common. I am thankful for the great staff that we have that helps me out. I couldn't do it without them.

I guess what I am most thankful for is the day that Jesus came into my life. He has brought me blessings beyond compare and for that I will always be grateful. It is great to know that He has already paid the price for all of my sins in full.

I hope that each and every one of you has an awesome Thanksgiving day.

### Parade • Continued from Page 1A

excited, according to Main Street coordinator Amanda Clark. Some have already chosen to exhibit tunes such as "Silent Night" and "Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer," to name a couple.

This year's downtown festival will be held from 4 to 9 p.m., with the massive parade beginning its march at 7 p.m.

"It's the beginning of December and this will kick off all the festivities for the month, including Christmas," Clark said. "It's a family fun event to bring the kids to."

The parade roster typically has more than 40 unique floats and starts its lineup at 17th, 18th and 19th Streets along Fifth Avenue. Its path will head west on Fifth Avenue, take a right on Seventh, a right on Tenth Street, ending at Raymond B. Stewart Middle School. The affected streets will close to traffic at noon and will open up once the parade finishes.

Three guest judges will determine the

best floats in eight categories, with each winner receiving a laudatory plaque from the Main Street organization.

Clark said all of the floats will be playing festive music. Several food and merchandise vendors will also be set up downtown.

Zephyrhills High School teacher and native son Rick Briggs will be the grand marshal for this year's Festival of Lights.

Santa Claus is rumored to be joining the festivities, complete with Rudolph and his reindeer friends.

If reports from the North Pole are correct, Santa enthusiasts should stop by Goin' Postal, 38439 Fifth Ave., before and after the parade for pictures.

Prior to the parade, performances by Helen's Baton and Dance Studio, Peggy's Dance Studio and Clogging Connection from Plant City, will be held at Time Square beginning at 4:15 p.m.

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# Commentary



## The Rest Of The Story

Dave Walters

# A Time Of Thanks, And Giving

It is easy to forget the point of this (quite brief) Thanksgiving holiday season. Thanksgiving is not about taking school off (though that's nice), or about the glorious feast that many of us can't wait to eat (as delicious as that might be). It's certainly not about pre-Black Friday shopping or watching the football game, either.

Quite simply, Thanksgiving is about being thankful. It's a time meant to be spent with our loved ones, thinking about what really matters and how we should be grateful and thankful for our lives.

The potentially sad part about the holiday is that some don't get to experience that gratitude.

As disruptive as some of our hardships and turmoils might be, we tend to forget that the majority of us still have that good roof over our heads and can spend time with family or friends.

A lot of people among us in Zephyrhills and Dade City don't have that simple comfort that we take for granted.

Thousands of children receive food every week through the Thomas Promise and other organizations.

Be mindful when you see someone ringing a bell for charity, or taking a collection at church. Let us be thankful that we can help the less fortunate in many ways. All you have to do is pick one.

Let's not be above helping others.

As we sit down and have dinner among our loved ones, let's think of that. Let's remind ourselves of all the great things we have in our lives. But let's not forget about the simple comforts each one of us has – whether that's an adequate meal or simple shelter – and remember those who don't.

The holidays are about giving and sharing, and this is especially true for Thanksgiving. Let's not forget the meaning of holiday spirit.

Thanksgiving has and will always be one of my all-time favorite holidays. It's a perfect time to sit down and reflect on our lives and declare that we're thankful for all the comforts we're endowed with.

I have a big family with four kids and nine grandchildren and I am thankful for each one of them.

I am thankful they are happy, healthy, have roofs over their heads and food in their bellies.

It is way too easy to overlook Thanksgiving and focus on Christmas. How can we help it with the way stores are pushing the Christmas season down our throats as soon as Halloween ends?

Ornament • Continued from Page 1A



These ornaments of the Captain H.B. Jeffries House are available this holiday season as fundraiser for the Rotary Club of Zephyrhills Daybreak.

Redevelopment Agency will relocate their offices into the former home of the city's founder.

Wilkeson said those interested in purchasing the ornaments can contact her at (813) 782-4592 or can come to the Jeffries House in December to purchase one of the \$22 ornaments.

"I think people have fond memories of the house," Wilkeson said. "There are any number of people who would want this as a keepsake."

She said a committee of people will be decorating the historic home for Christmas in time for the Festival of Lights Parade which will march past the home.

"We're going for historic taste," Wilkeson said of the decoration theme.

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# Community Invited To Traditional Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration

## Florida Hospital Zephyrhills Hosts Holiday Event

A 32 year tradition continues at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills as the community is invited to its Tree Lighting Celebration on Dec. 4.

The event will be held on the front lawn of FHZ at 7050 Gall Blvd. The free, family friendly event will take place rain or shine.

Community groups, businesses, families, churches and scout troops will decorate Christmas trees representing every state in the nation from noon to 3:30 p.m. A Canada Tree, International Tree and Support Our Troops Tree will also be decorated, said Jane Freeman, FHZ Community Relations Manager.

Santa and his elves will make a surprise entrance at 3 p.m. and visit with children and give each a small gift. There will also be bounce houses from 3 to 5 p.m. on which children can play.

The Christmas program begins at 5:30 p.m. and runs until about 7 p.m. culminating with the lighting of the trees and a fireworks show, Freeman said.

This year's headline entertainment is the

Entertainment Revue comprised of talented female singers and dancers from Tampa Bay. The group will perform a 20-minute medley of popular Christmas songs with costume changes. The Entertainment Revue is noted for producing Broadway stars and American Idol finalists.

Rev. Denise Lay, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Zephyrhills, will deliver an inspirational Christmas message. There will also be performances by the FHZ Chorale and the East Pasco Adventist Academy's Bell Choir.

Limited seating is available so individuals are encouraged to bring a lawn chair or blanket. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

For those interested in adopting a 2017 tree, sign up begins at noon that day within the Circle of Trees. All trees for Christmas 2016 are adopted, Freeman said.

Call FHZ's Marketing Department at (813) 783-6192 for information.



Florida Hospital Zephyrhills will hold its 32nd annual Tree Lighting Celebration with various programs throughout the day on Dec. 4 *File photo*

### Shop • Continued from Page 1A

And our local businesses are no different.

The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce has been promoting Shop Small Saturday on its Facebook page this month.

Shoppers are encouraged to take selfie pictures while at small businesses on Saturday and share them on the chamber's Facebook page, said executive director Melonie Monson. A photo winner will be selected Monday and given a \$50 'night out on the town'.

The U.S. Small Business Administration first began promoting Small Business Saturday six years ago.

The day immediately follows Black

Friday – the traditional start of the Christmas holiday shopping season for most large retail businesses. The larger retailers hope to make a significant amount of their annual profit during the 30 days between Black Friday and Christmas Eve.

There are a couple of local shops hoping this Saturday will be a special day for them.

Outside the Box Too will have a grand opening at 38424 Fifth Ave., from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Nov. 26, said shop owner Anna Bailey.

Along with her original store just a few doors down; Bailey features the work of 40 different artists, crafters, "up-cyclers,"

and refinishers. Bailey likes to refer to here artisans as 'creative souls' selling their handiwork in a boutique setting.

"We do custom pieces and art work, teach classes from painting to crochet and night-light making classes," Bailey said.

The Outside The Box operations offer free holiday gift-wrapping services for store-bought purchases, or, for a small fee, even wrap items from other stores.

"We treat you like a friend when you walk in the door old school style," Bailey said.

"We really appreciate you and we want you to feel that from the moment you walk in the door until you leave."

Also located downtown, Serendipity is

an antique, thrift and consignment store that opened in May, eager to cash in on its first Small Business Saturday.

Co-owned by Hilda Lycana and her daughter-in-law, Christina, Serendipity will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and will offer coffee and donuts to customers.

There will be some sales and promotions throughout the day, both of merchandise owned by the storeowners at 38501 Fifth Ave., and of merchandise consigned there by various vendors.

While downtown, shoppers may want to stop into Stella's Café for lunch. The eatery opened a couple of weeks ago and is located where Rose's Café used to operate.

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Dave Druda of WQYK autographed a board for Judith Myers of Zephyrhills during last Friday's WQYK Food Drive held at Sunrise Eatery.

**Benefit • Continued from Page 1A**

and friends from 99.5 WQYK supporting Feeding Tampa Bay Food Fund November," said state Rep. Danny Burgess, R-Zephyrhills.

"Thanks for coming back to Sunrise Eatery in Zephyrhills for the fourth year in a row," Burgess told members of the WQYK group.

Burgess noted on Facebook that he "even tied Veronica in the College of Hollywood Knowledge.

"I consider that a victory," he said.

AmeriLife and Masterbuilt were sponsors of the event and food donors had the opportunity to register to win a Butterball Indoor Electric Turkey Fryer by Masterbuilt and a Butterball Turkey.



Photo Provided

State Rep. Danny Burgess, left, presented a proclamation to WQYK radio personalities Kevin and Veronica during Friday's remote broadcast and food drive.



32<sup>nd</sup> Annual

# Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration

Sunday, December 4, 2016  
Noon to 7:00 pm

## Schedule of Events

Noon to 3:30 pm

- Tree decorating

3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

- Visits with Santa & Surprises
- Bounce houses

5:30 pm

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- Musical performances
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# Volunteers Shoe Schools One Step At A Time

## Local Nonprofit Has Been Steadily Growing In The Area

by Keri McAlpine

When Janet Chubinsky started volunteering for the Children's Outreach Program Effort, she and many other volunteers quickly realized they needed to narrow their target.

After originally working with local churches to provide children with clothes and sundry items, they noticed that shoes were what children needed the most.

That was about five years ago.

Today, Chubinsky is the program director for Shoes 4 Schools, a nonprofit 501c3 that works year round to provide new and gently used shoes for children.

The organization works with the ABC programs at 15 schools in Pasco County, including West Zephyrhills Elementary School, Zephyrhills High School, Rodney B. Cox Elementary and Lacochee Elementary School. The schools relay information on sizes and specific shoe needs of the children.

After starting small and exclusively at Raymond B. Stewart Middle School, Chubinsky said other schools caught on fast and requested shoes for their own students.

The first year, Shoes 4 Schools provided about 40 pairs of shoes at the middle school. This year, Chubinsky said she and nine other volunteers have distributed almost 2,000 pairs of shoes.

She said Christmas orders are going to be tough to fill this year, because the need for shoes is so great in the Tampa Bay region. Schools in Hillsborough County have even reached out to Shoes 4 Schools, but Chubinsky is unsure if they have the



**Shoes 4 Schools volunteers getting shoes ready to be delivered to three needy schools in Pasco County during an October shoe drive.**

Photos Provided

manpower to cover such a range. "For Christmas right now it's unbelievable," Chubinsky said. "As soon as we get these shoes they're gone. So we can't get to the point where we've got an accumulation that we can go in at anytime and pull them off the shelves. The need is that bad."

She hopes that should the organization get some help from local governments and public figures they might be able to expand their reach in the future.

Another issue Shoes 4 Schools has had is competing with other organizations that hold massive shoe collecting events only once a year.

Chubinsky said she wishes organizations that only host only one annual event would join with Shoes 4

Schools to combine their efforts, since Shoes 4 Schools works year round to service schools.

The volunteers at Shoes 4 Schools work almost every day, picking up donations, delivering shoes and working to get others involved. Along with other groups, Shoes 4 Schools recently volunteered at Farm Share, which was hosted by Rep. Danny Burgess.

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

When the organization receives donated "quality used" shoes, Chubinsky

said there are four volunteers who mainly clean and ensure the shoes are in tip-top shape for their new owners.

Right now the organization is raising last-minute funds to fill an order of shoes from Chester W. Taylor Elementary School.

The raffle includes golfing packages, dinner packages and gift certificates from different Pasco County businesses, with the winner selected on Dec. 2. Contact Chubinsky at jchubinsky@gmail.com or (931) 210-0184 for information and how to buy tickets.

The best way to donate shoes is to drop them off at one of three Shoes 4 Schools' locations inside Zephyrhills businesses. Decorated shoe boxes can be found on the west side at East Pasco YMCA, 37301 Chapel Hill Loop; north at Lowe's at 7921 Gall Blvd.; and at Hole in One Donuts, toward the center of town at 5914 Gall Blvd.



**Shoes 4 Schools program director Janet Chubinsky stands with Rep. Danny Burgess at the Farm Share event in Dade City on Nov. 12.**



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## Florida Hospital Zephyrhills December Events

DEC 4

**32nd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration**  
Join us for the 32nd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting on the front lawn at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, rain or shine. This free, family-friendly celebration includes decorating of over 53 Christmas trees, visits with Santa and bounce houses.  
**Sunday, December 4 | Noon – 7:00 pm**  
Musical program with fireworks runs from 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm  
Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, Front Lawn  
7050 Gall Boulevard, Zephyrhills

DEC 13

**Cooking Demonstration: Edible Holiday Ornaments**  
Whether you hang these pretty decorations from your tree or enjoy them as soon as they are prepared, you'll have fun in this interactive class. CREATION® Café Executive Chef Duane Maxwell will facilitate. Reservations required. Call (813) 779-6476.  
**Tuesday, December 13 | 11:00 am – Noon**  
Florida Hospital Zephyrhills CREATION® Health Wellness Center  
Education Room  
38233 Daughtery Road, Zephyrhills

DEC 6

**Five Things You May Not Know About Christmas**  
Join us as Doug Higgins, MDiv, Senior Chaplain for Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, dives into the Christmas details that are sometimes overlooked. These include learning more about the star, the angels, the Wisemen, and the timing of the birth of Jesus. Reservations required. Call (813) 779-6476.  
**Tuesday, December 6 | 11:00 am – Noon**  
Florida Hospital Zephyrhills CREATION® Health Wellness Center  
Education Room  
38233 Daughtery Road, Zephyrhills

DEC 15

**15 Minutes In the Spotlight Will Improve Your Health**  
Spending time outside everyday enjoying the fresh air and sunlight has been clinically proven to improve one's health and wellbeing. As the Adventist Health System celebrates its 150th anniversary, exposure to the outdoors on a daily basis is a tenet upon which our organization is founded. Life Coach Veronique Polo, MHA/CRM, will expand upon how to integrate this important principle into your daily life. Reservations required. Call (813) 779-6476.  
**Thursday, December 15 | 11:00 am – Noon**  
Florida Hospital Zephyrhills CREATION® Health Wellness Center  
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DEC 7

**Getting Down to the Bare Bones**  
Trey Alexander, MD, Board Certified Orthopedic Surgeon, will answer your questions about achy or troublesome joints and available treatments. Reservations required. Call (877) 534-3108.  
**Wednesday, December 7 | 12:15 pm – 12:45 pm**  
Florida Hospital Zephyrhills Cypress Conference Room  
7050 Gall Boulevard, Zephyrhills

DEC 19

**Don't Wait for the New Year!**  
Get a head start on 2017 and begin the new year with confidence and optimum health. While others are adding pounds during the holidays and skipping the gym, Casio Jones, MHA, Wellness Director, will motivate you to do just the opposite. Reservations required. Call (813) 779-6476.  
**Monday, December 19 | 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm**  
Florida Hospital Zephyrhills CREATION® Health Wellness Center  
Education Room  
38233 Daughtery Road, Zephyrhills

DEC 9

**Women's Heart Health – What You Need to Know**  
Do you realize that heart disease is frequently underdiagnosed in women, undertreated, and that heart attack symptoms can be very different in females than in males? Join us as Jayapriya Raj, MD, gives an encouraging and educational presentation with time for questions. Reservations required. Call (877) 534-3108.  
**Friday, December 9 | Noon – 1:00 pm**  
Florida Hospital Zephyrhills Cypress Conference Room  
7050 Gall Boulevard, Zephyrhills

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