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Car Show To Help Fire Victims

Community Rallies To Assist Families That Lost Everything

by **Keri McAlpine**

After a mechanical failure sparked a fire in a neighborhood across from Zephyrhills Correctional Institution last month, the blaze quickly spread from the shed and took the homes of two families.

It's in times of loss like this where the community comes together to help those in need. Virtually a stranger before the fires, Deanna Baker heard of the fire through her daughter, who attends school with one of the families' children.

"My daughter came home and said, 'Mommy, fix this'" Baker said. Since then she has worked round the clock for weeks to organize a benefit for the Ross and Weatherington families.

"They've lost everything. And the things that are most important to the little kids, just having normalcy," Baker said.

The R&W Car, Truck and Bike Show



The three Weatherington children and their parents lost everything when their homes burned in a fire last month. They are hoping to bounce back with the help of a May 7 car, truck and bike show put on by the community.

Photo Provided

will be held Sunday from 1-8 p.m. in the Big Lots and Mini Storage parking lot on Allen Road.

Baker and other organizers encourage the community to enter 'anything that

rolls' into the show for a \$15 fee, whether it be a classic car or a pimped-out trailer. The show is free for spectators.

Victims • Continued on Page 3A

Steeeeeeeee-rike!



Volunteer umpire Adam Wilkes calls a pitch during Little League action on Saturday at Sam Pasco Park. See more photos from this week's Little League games on page 3B.

Photo by Dave Walters



The larger illegal fires have been reported on the west side of the county and despite Tuesday's rain, the county remains dry.

Photo Provided

Better Learn Not To Burn

Staff Report

Pasco County is fed up with responding to 20 calls a day regarding illegal burning since a ban was imposed April 12.

The situation has become so dire that the sheriff's office and Pasco Fire Rescue will be citing violators of the ban that ran include fines and possible jail time.

Residents are not allowed to burn yard waste or garbage and no bonfires or camp fires are allowed until further notice.

During a Monday press conference,

Pasco County Emergency Services reported receiving 410 reports of illegal burning since the ban came into effect. Florida Forest Service joined the county representatives in stressing the need for compliance with the ban.

Brian Prill of the state forest service said those who are determined to be guilty of violating the ban could also be billed for the cost of suppressing the fire.

A warning will be issued on first violation of the ban followed by citations of \$500 and/or up to 60 days in jail.

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Pg. 3B - It's All Good For Pinewood Derby

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Zephyrhills Arrests

Burglar Does Not Tread Lightly At Foot Clinic

Charles Edward Jones, 52, transient, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on April 22 on charges of burglary, petit theft, resisting law enforcement without violence and violation of probation. The complainant said he had witnessed Jones use two large paving stones to shatter the front glass door to gain entry to Gentle Foot Care Clinic, 38192 Townview Ave., at about 3:18 a.m. The complainant also reportedly saw Jones attempting to flee the area when police arrived at the scene. Jones reportedly refused to follow verbal commands and had to be physically restrained. Jones had a pair of gloves in his possession when he was arrested that were stolen during the burglary, police said. Jones was positively identified by a witness as the person who had entered and then left the business. Also, he was on probation for possession of a controlled substance at the time the burglary occurred. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail.



what field tested positive as marijuana was found inside the vehicle along with a wooden pipe and two small glass pipes with trace marijuana residue. Delgado was released on her own recognizance.

Joseph Albert Garcia, 33, of 5615 Gall Blvd., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on April 20 on charges of possession of methamphetamine and possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana. Police made contact with Garcia when they responded to an unfounded battery complaint at Bay Area Clinic, 37900 Daughtery Road. The incident was reclassified as a clothing assist and Garcia requested help in getting his personal belongings at the Zephyr Inn Motel. He voluntarily emptied his pockets prior to getting in the patrol car to be given a courtesy ride. Garcia handed police a small sewing box that contained 0.6 grams of marijuana which he admitted was his. He also had a glass bubble pipe in his possession that field tested positive for the presence of a trace amount of methamphetamine. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail.



console during an inventory of the car. Carrion was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

William Roy Riskus Jr., 54, of 4419 Autumn Palm Drive, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on April 19 on charges of driving under the influence with property damage, possession of marijuana – less than 20 grams, possession of paraphernalia and refusal to submit breath test. Police came upon a traffic crash at Gall Boulevard and North Avenue at 12:55 a.m. while patrolling. Riskus told police he had been involved in the crash and had been in control of the vehicle. A DUI investigation was conducted because a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage could reportedly be detected emanating from Riskus. He reportedly performed poorly on three field sobriety exercises and was placed under arrest. During a search of the vehicle, 6.2 grams of what field tested positive as marijuana was found inside a bookbag behind the passenger seat. He allegedly refused at the scene and again at the police station to provide a breath sample and was booked into the Pasco County Jail.



Shane Patrick Ryan, 23, 5742 Excel St., was arrested by Zephyrhills police on April 23 on a charge of aggravated battery with a deadly weapon after he allegedly struck a victim with his 2005 GMC truck as the victim was trying to get out of the way. The incident occurred on Broadmore Street and Ryan reportedly then drove two blocks west to his residence. A witness said Ryan had been following the victim prior to the incident because the victim had been yelling at him for harassing another person earlier in the parking lot across the street. Ryan was booked into the Pasco County Jail.



Edward Cotto Carrion, 38, of 39524 Meadowood Loop, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on April 21 on charges of possession of cocaine, possession of a controlled substance without a prescription and driving while license suspended or revoked. Police stopped Carrion for making an improper U-turn on Gall Boulevard and Fifth Avenue. Carrion reportedly exited the car and exhibited a hostile demeanor as the officer contacted him. A records check determined Carrion's driver's license was suspended on Jan. 11. He was secured in the patrol car for officer safety and a pat search was conducted. A pack of cigarettes located in Carrion's pocket contained a clear plastic baggie with a white powder substance and a small straw. The substance field tested positive for cocaine. Three 50mg Tramadol pills were found in the center



Justin Stephen Benner, 30, was arrested by Zephyrhills police on April 24 on charges of false verification of ownership and dealing in stolen property. Benner allegedly went to Pawn Max, 6948 Gall Blvd., and pawned six items for \$190. Benner signed a pawn transaction form claiming he was the rightful owner of the items. They were later discovered to be stolen. After having been advised of his Miranda rights, Benner reportedly admitted the items were not his and that he had knowingly pawned them for an acquaintance. He then subsequently provided his right thumb print to the pawn transaction form.



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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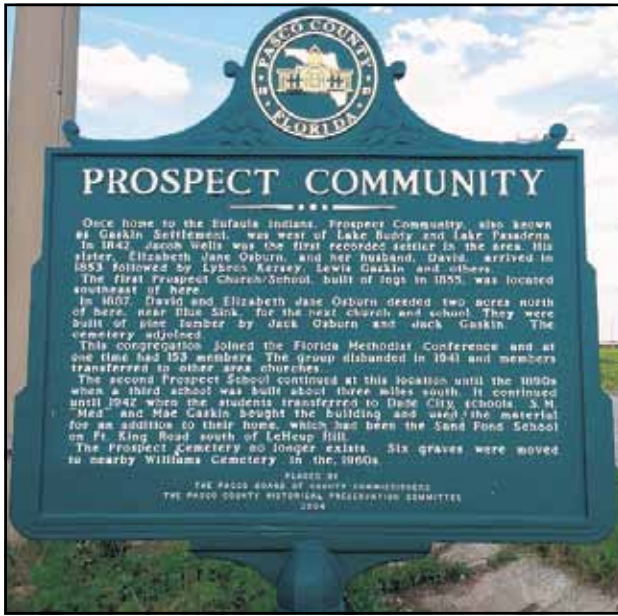
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27 YEARS IN THE SAME LOCATION



This is how the missing Prospect community historical marker appeared just prior to display in east Pasco in 2004. Photo Provided

Prospect Historical Marker Damaged Removed By Highway Department - Possible Repair/Replacement

by Joe Potter

The Pasco County Highway Department has the historical marker for the Prospect community, County Commissioner Ron Oakley, District 1, said Monday.

Motorists who drive along Prospect Road in east Pasco noticed the marker was missing late last year.

San Antonio resident John Herrmann said the last time he recalled seeing it was around Christmastime.

The marker had been removed because it was damaged, Oakley said.

The Prospect community marker was set up in 2004 by a former group of volunteers who also helped obtain a historical marker for Freedtown, an African-American community that existed between 1850 and 1900. The Freedtown marker is still standing where it was placed along Fort King Road in 2004.

Jacob Wells was the first recorded settler in the area of the Prospect community in 1842. His sister, Elizabeth Jane Osburn, and her husband, David,

arrived in 1853 followed by Lybron Kersey, Lewis Gaskin and others.

The first Prospect Church/School, built of logs in 1855, was located southeast of where the marker was installed.

In 1887, David and Elizabeth Jane Osburn deeded two acres north of the Prospect community near Blue Sink for the next church and school. This congregation joined the Florida Methodist Conference and at one time had 153 members. The group disbanded in 1941 and members transferred to other area churches.

The second Prospect School continued in the area until the 1890s when a third school was built about three miles south. It continued until 1942 when the students transferred to Dade City schools.

The Prospect Cemetery no longer exists. Six graves were moved to nearby Williams Cemetery in the 1960s.

Oakley said he will check to see if the damaged Prospect community marker can be repaired or if a replacement can be obtained.

Victims • Continued from Page 1A

The event will be bustling with raffles, food and merchandise vendors, a kids' zone and music. Vendors are still being accepted and raffle prizes will be accepted until the day of the event. A U-Haul truck will be placed in the parking lot for physical donations for the two families.

The fire started in the shed of the Ross's home. The fire quickly spread to the home where Eric and Cassandra lived with their three children and engulfed it in flames, leaving nothing behind. Cassandra even lost her wedding ring. She sifted through the rubble in the aftermath with no luck.

The Weatherington's home next door soon attracted the flames, where Scott, Sarah and their three children lived.

Both Scott and Eric serve as correctional officers in the nearby correctional facility. The institution owns the property for its employees so they are able to live close to

work. Eric is a retired National Guardsman. Sara Weatherington is also a retired Army veteran.

Baker said the families have received many donations since the April 12 fire, but are still mainly in need of furniture. All donations of clothing, especially for the teenage kids, would be a big help.

"We want everyone to come out ... it's all about showing the community that there are people out there that still care," said Robert Silverest of Hi Alert Security in Zephyrhills, a sponsor of the event.

The event will also be pet friendly. Contact Baker via Deepbaker22@gmail.com for information and how to donate or visit the R&W Car, Truck and Bike Show Facebook event page for updates and information. Both families have Go Fund Me accounts accepting monetary donations.

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East Pasco Events

May 5 – Golf Tournament and Golf Ball Drop – The Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club of Zephyrhills invite the public to witness an unusual phenomenon at 12:30 p.m. at Silverado Golf and Country Club just prior to the Chamber/Rotary Annual Golf Tournament. The winner will be chosen by the owner of the first ball that falls in a cup. Golf balls are \$5 a piece or five golf balls for \$20. Tournament participation is not required and donors need not be present to win. Golf balls are on sale now at the Chamber at 38550 Fifth Ave., Silverado Pro Shop or Chamber members. Visit the Chamber or call (813) 782-1913 for information.

May 5 – Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Service – The memorial will honor eight officers killed in the line of duty in Pasco County, from 1909 with Deputy Sheriff Shelly Nicks to 2011 when Hernando County Deputy Sheriff John Mecklenburg was killed in Pasco County while pursuing a suspect on U.S. 41. The 2017 memorial service will be held at Dade City’s Historic Courthouse at 37918 Meridian Ave. from 10-11 a.m.

May 5 – Zephyrhills High School Art Show – The Zephyrhills High School Art Department is proud to be hosting an art show curated by our Advanced Placement students. The work displayed will be comprised of various levels of artistic ability to include: painting, drawing, ceramics, sculpture, digital art and photography. Held from 5-8 p.m. in the commons area of ZHS, 6335 12th St. Admission is free and light food and beverages will be provided.

May 6 – Women Build – Local women are invited to grab their hammers and volunteer during Habitat for Humanity’s annual Women Build Week. Men are also welcome. No construction skills or tools are necessary. To volunteer or donate to this project, please contact (352) 567-1444, volunteer@habitatpasco.org or visit www.HabitatPasco.org. Held from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 37812 Beth Street in Dade City. Pre-registration required.

May 6 – Community Shred-It Day – Start your spring cleaning now so you’ll be ready for the San Antonio Federal Credit Union’s annual Shred-It Day. This year’s event will be held at the Zephyrhills location, 7301 Gall Blvd. from 9-11 a.m. Bring any old documents you would like to dispose of securely and only what you can carry. Maximum is two boxes per person no larger than 18 x 12 x 9 inches each. The credit union will shred it for free, everyone is welcome. Call (352) 588-2732 for information.

May 10 – Mother’s Day Cooking Demo – Enjoy a delicious Mother’s Day treat, with samples and recipe included. Facilitated by Myriam Parham, RD, CDE. Call Florida Hospital Zephyrhills Wellness Center at (813) 779-6476 for information and required registration. Held from 2-3 p.m. at 38233 Daughtery Road.

May 10 – Power Tools – In honor of Habitat for Humanity’s National Women Build Week, Lowe’s is hosting a “how-to” construction clinic on power tools for women volunteering during the eighth annual National Women Build Week. The class will be held at 6 p.m. at the stores location at 7921 Gall Blvd. Contact Habitat for Humanity of

East & Central Pasco County at (352) 567-1444 or jferguson@habitatpasco.org to sign up for the clinic.

May 11 – Bingo Continues Due to Popularity – Florida Hospital Zephyrhills (FHZ) will continue its Bingo and education programs this spring and summer to meet the requests of year-round residents. The next program will take place from 2-3 p.m. in FHZ’s Creation Café at 7050 Gall Blvd. Monica Wills, RN, will give a brief presentation entitled “Your Role in Safety During a Hospitalization.” A few games of Bingo will be played with small giveaways awarded to winners. Homemade cherry pie and coffee will be provided. There is no charge, call (877) 534-3108 for required registration.

May 13 – Unusual Plant Propagation Methods – Join us to learn of the many easy and unusual ways we can propagate plants at this seminar, held from 10-11 a.m. at the Zephyrhills Library, 5347 Eighth St. We will discuss the methods as well as take a look at some hands-on examples. Registration required. Call the UF/IFAS Pasco County Extension Office at (352) 518-0156 for information.

May 18 – “I Can’t Trust My Body” – Wellness Director Casio Jones, MHA, will help you identify and interpret what your body is craving and what it’s trying to tell you. Call Florida Hospital Zephyrhills Wellness Center (813) 779-6476 for required registration and information. Held from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at 38233 Daughtery Road.

May 18 – Medicare 101 – SHINE will be offering free answers to Medicare questions at the New River Library, 34043 S.R. 54, starting at 11 a.m. Call (813) 788-6375 for information. SHINE provides free, unbiased one-on-one insurance counseling and information about Medicare options and prescription drug assistance for elders and their families and caregivers. Volunteers are needed. Contact Sue at sue.samson@aaapp. or (727) 570-9696 ext. 234 for volunteer information.

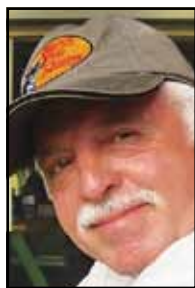
May 19-21 – The Wizard of Oz – Follow the yellow brick road to Arts In Motion Community Youth Theater’s production performance at Pasco Middle School, 13925 14th St. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$7 for students K-12. Visit ArtsInMotionPasco.com or call 352-834-IAIM (1246) for information and show times.

May 20 – Community Clean Up – The City of Zephyrhills’ clean team needs you. The next focus are will be Lincoln Heights and the Depot Museum. Held from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Staging area will be at the Depot Museum, 39110 South Ave. Contact Rodney Corriveau at rcorriveau@ci.zephyrhills.fl.us for information.

May 20 – WoofStock – Pasco Animal Services will hold the third annual WoofStock from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Florida Estates Winery, 25241 S.R. 52 in Land O’ Lakes. We will have live bands, kids crafts, pony rides, vendors, food, wine tastings and more. Funds raised will go for the care of sick or injured animals that come into the shelter. Tickets are \$5 and kids under 10 are free. Tickets available at www.FPCAS.org. and at the winery. The winery is always pet friendly.

For more events visit www.pasconewspubs.com

Commentary



First Things First

Greg First

Music To His Ears

My wife Jenny and I have always had a love for the arts. When the kids were young we took them to many of the Broadway series performances at the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center, now called the Straz Center. Some of our favorites were “Phantom of the Opera,” “Les Miserables,” “Chicago” and “Cats.” We also got to see Riverdance and already have our tickets to see it again in January. Today Kristen still has a passionate love of the arts but Evan, being a new daddy and in the United States Air Force, stays pretty busy. Hopefully one day he will think back to those days and might consider introducing his daughter and family to the arts as well.

This past Saturday I was excited to attend the Dade City Symphony’s final performance of this year’s concert series, “What’s Up At The Symphony?” It was held in the Pasco Middle School Auditorium, which has proven to be a great venue for the orchestra and looking around at a packed house I would think most would agree. In the last year Jenny and I have become sponsors of this awesome volunteer organization made up of amateur, professional and retired professional adult musicians from the Dade City, Zephyrhills area and beyond. Jenny wasn’t able to make the concert

but I made some new friends.

I was really happy to be seated by some really wonderful folks from American House, the senior living community located in Zephyrhills. The lady sitting next to me was very interesting and I can’t even remember her name although I’m sure it started with and M. She used to live in Hollywood, Fla., and her husband worked for Eastern Air Lines. He had to drive from Hollywood to Miami every day to get to work. It was enjoyable spending time with her and listening to her comments and watching her as the Dade City Symphony played songs she knew very well. I think her favorite was “Gershwin by George” arranged by Jerry Brubaker. The DCS played a medley of songs written by George Gershwin both popular and classical including “I Got Rhythm,” “Embraceable You,” “An American in Paris,” “Rhapsody in Blue,” “Summertime” from “Porgy and Bess” and the seldom heard “Piano Prelude No. 2”. The music surely had a way to transport us back to happy, simpler times.

The 2017/18 series will begin in October.

If you have musical talent and are interested in joining this awesome group they would love to give you a listen. You can contact them online at www.dadecitysymphony.com. Growing up I played the saxophone in school but after trying out for the United States Air Force band I realized I had a long way to go. After my audition they politely told me to keep practicing.

For me I will continue to support the Dade City Symphony in other ways and look forward to the beginning of the season. Oh, and I’m pretty sure Miss M and a whole lot more will be counting down the days until we can do it all over again.

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Commentary

Our High School Is Failing Our Community



The Rest Of The Story

Dave Walters

Does anyone have an icepack? If so, keep it handy, because we live in a city that keeps getting black eyes thanks to the goings on at Zephyrhills High School.

The swelling hasn't seemed to subside yet following the April 22 arrest of Samuel Walker, a 39-year-old Zephyrhills High School instructional assistant for student discipline and head coach for the girls' junior varsity basketball team. He was charged with unlawful sexual activity with a 17-year-old ZHS student.

Keep the freezer cold. There could be more to this story.

The investigation by the Pasco Sheriff's Office is ongoing. Will there be others named for similar crimes or possibly other charges? Time will tell.

I hated to write this column. It wasn't that long ago when ZHS was the pride of Pasco County and the fingers of accusations were pointed in the direction of Pasco High.

I hate to admit it, but Zephyrhills High School is the school that people are now trying to avoid. Thanks to school choice, there will be a shift in enrollment due to this sex scandal.

Just 15 months ago, Zephyrhills Principal Angie Stone erroneously fired head football coach and Zephyrhills Police Sgt. Reggie Roberts, claiming he wasn't on campus to properly monitor his players' actions.

Last time I checked, Stone was on campus and she didn't properly monitor Walker. Now, a 17-year-old girl's life will never be the same.

She fired a cop to hire an alleged criminal. That bruise won't heal for a long time. In fact, that wound may require stitches.

This happened on Stone's watch and she knew there were unprofessional

actions going on for months between Walker and the young female student. This isn't something that was uncovered a few weeks ago. She knew about interaction between Walker and the student dating back to the first semester, which started in August and the second semester that started in January.

In a letter of reprimand, Stone noted that Walker's behavior is unacceptable and he could receive an unsatisfactory evaluation in the area of professionalism as result of his behavior.

An unsatisfactory evaluation? Really? That deterrent worked, didn't it? That was almost as good as "Don't make me turn this car around."

Come on. Prompt action and not

words could have ended this scandal before it ever started.

The disciplinarian at ZHS is the problem, which makes it easy to understand. How could Walker administer discipline properly, if the administration couldn't discipline him correctly?

The good news is the school year will end soon, so we can only hope we're free of scandals through the summer. A lot can happen between now and the start of the new school year in August.

It will be a long time before this community heals as long as the place where our community entrusts to educate and protect our children is failing miserably.

Getting Pumped For Summer



Representatives from the Pasco County Sheriff's Office were a popular visit for children attending the local YMCA's latest event.

Kids and families were inspired to keep their minds and bodies active all summer at the East Pasco Family YMCA's free Healthy Kids Day event on April 29. Healthy Kids Day is the Y's national push to improve families' health and well-being. Children enjoyed camp games, bounce houses and healthy snacks while learning more about summer camp, swim lessons and youth sports. Community partners gave out freebies, including backpacks from Publix and books from the Pasco County Library to help encourage education and reading throughout the summer. The Pasco County Sheriff's Office provided free fingerprinting, Zephyrhills Fire Rescue offered fire truck tours and Zephyrhills Police showcased their K-9 unit, which reportedly stole the show. Healthy treats were also provided by Publix, Nutri-Truck and Kona Ice. Other partners who helped make the day a success, including LuLaRoe, Bricks 4 Kidz, Great Clips, Young Living Essential Oils, Origami Owl, Family-Friendly Tampa Bay and Chat & Chalk.

Sunday May 7th 10am-2pm

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The Rules Of Recycling

According To The City, Residents Are Pitching In

Story and photo by Max Zimmerman

In light of the recent county survey of residential recycling habits and desires, the City of Zephyrhills has embraced the process and even improved residential participation in the last few years.

Pasco County recently shared results of a nearly two-month survey of residents that was established to improve the process and lengthen the life of the Waste to Energy Facility in Shady Oaks. The WTE is operating at near capacity and the county says a \$190 million expansion would be necessary if changes are not met.

In the survey 84 percent of the respondents said they would recycle weekly as opposed to the twice-monthly curbside service that exists now. The county has decided to test a pilot program somewhere in the county before making any permanent policy changes.

Zephyrhills Public Works Director Shane LeBlanc said participation increased dramatically when the county moved from accepting blue bags to deploying blue bins, a policy that has also kept the sorting process moving along.

However, items that seem to show up seemingly everywhere but cannot be included in a recycle bin are plastic bags of any kind.

LeBlanc said the hundreds of thin plastic bags doled out daily by Publix, Walmart, Home Depot and other stores can actually bring the whole process to a grinding halt.

"The bags get caught up in the conveyor system and it tears up the mechanical conveyor," he said. "If somebody has bags out with our curbside pickup, we won't pick it up and we'll tag the bin." A tag informs the customer as to why the pickup is 'contaminated'.

With plastics listed in seven categories, the main culprit regarding recycling seems to be No. 6. Items made of plastic in this category include foam drink cups and packaging, packing peanuts and bubble-wrap, and rigid shapes, such as DVD cases and plastic cutlery. The county also deems kiddie pools, tablecloths, 5-gallon containers, furniture, flowerpots or lawn hoses made of plastic as being unacceptable



According to Pasco County, formed plastic that is found in packaging is most likely not a plastic coded 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 7 and therefore is not to be recycled. In this instance the thin cardboard can go into the bin but the plastic needs to go into the trash.

to recycle.

Since the city deployed blue bins about three years ago, LeBlanc said participation has definitely improved and now paper has been added to the stream.

"This past year the county started accepting paper and cardboard so we had to change our game plan," LeBlanc said, noting how previously when paper was added to the mix the entire bin would be labeled as contaminated. Not anymore.

Doug Tobin, a spokesman for Pasco County, also asks for a little consideration when recycling.

"We ask that you rinse your recyclables as food is considered contamination," he said. "Keep in mind that there are still people who participate in the processing of the material."

Both the county and city websites have more extensive lists of what can and cannot be recycled.

		
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Chamber Touts National Business Program

Ten-Week Course Aims To Help Small Business

Staff Report

Help for the small businessperson is on the horizon as a nationally known program gets under way on May 11.

A three-hour class in the Co.Starters Program will begin at 6 p.m. at the Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce. Open enrollment for the classes closes Friday at 4 p.m.

According to the Pasco Economic Development Council, the program has been adopted by more than a dozen



Krista Covey

entrepreneurial organizations around the country. It is a 10-week program aiming to equip small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs with the insights, relationships and tools needed to turn business ideas into action.

Each of the classes are three hours and will be held every Thursday through July 13 inside the chamber at 38550 Fifth Ave.

The goal of the course is to build a foundation to launch a new product, service or business by sharing ideas and collaborating with others who share the entrepreneurial spirit. Participants will also learn how to start their companies and grow their businesses.

The cost of the program is \$295.

The PEDC SMARTStart Business Incubator Director Krista Covey is overseeing the program in Pasco County.

When applying for the program, individuals will need



Melonie Monson

Monson. She is seeking at least 10 participants for the Zephyrhills program.

Those interested may contact the office at (813) 782-1913 or director@zephyrhillschamber.org.

a well-articulated description of the product or service (or plan to offer) as well as a description of the desired consumer, client, or target audience. Brevity and clarity are appreciated.

"It is a great program for encouraging new business and strengthening established businesses," said Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Melonie

Sunrise Tea Reception Spreads Awareness

Center Continues Conversation On Sexual Abuse

Story and photo by Keri McAlpine

Community members gathered in their afternoon best on April 20 for a slightly unconventional tea party. Rather than focusing on normal day-to-day chatter, Sunrise of Pasco County Domestic and Sexual Violence Center used the tea and conversation to discuss what can sometimes be a difficult topic: sexual assault.

The aptly named Tea(L) and Crumpets event was held as one of the center's last events for sexual assault awareness month, which is represented by the color teal, often in the form of a ribbon. Chocolate teal ribbon candy sticks represented the cause as everyone's parting gift, going along with the teal outfits worn by almost all of the near 50 guests.

Teal tablecloths were home to whimsical and garden themed centerpieces, created by members of the Dade City Woman's Club, who also donated their building for the event. Angel's Tea Room in Dade City

provided fresh tea and pots for pouring. After tea and brunch was served, Sunrise's Director of Outreach Amanda Markowitz and Green Dot Coordinator Aubrey Hall welcomed the guests, explaining how the event would proceed.

A Sunrise staff member was present at each table in the room to help guide conversation about sexual assault.

The event also focused on the services provided by Sunrise, and ways to make those services more available and known throughout the community.

After the table "breakout sessions," the conversation opened to the room when the moderators asked everyone to name examples of how individuals and Sunrise as a whole can help reach more people.

"We have a lot of survivors ... here today, and they all already support Sunrise. So, we're hoping to get some folks in who don't know a lot about Sunrise so we can make sure they know where they can go if they have a family member or friend who's in trouble," said event organizer

Vicki Wiggins.

Guests suggested billboards, being present at community events and different education opportunities with schools, teachers and churches. Members of local clubs and organizations offered to host speakers from Sunrise as well as provide free vendor space at upcoming events.

Call Sunrise of Pasco's administrative office at (352) 567-1681 for information and how to get involved or volunteer. A 24-hour help hotline can be reached by calling (352) 521-3120.



A whimsical centerpiece created by Laurie Padavan was auctioned off at the end of Sunrise's Tea(L) and Crumpets event.



Sunrise's Director of Outreach Amanda Markowitz, left, and Green Dot Coordinator Aubrey Hall guided about 50 guests in a conversation about sexual assault awareness at the April 20 event.

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April Student Citizens



Greater Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce Student Citizens for April 2017 stand with Chamber representatives at the Student Citizen of the Month ceremony held April 19 at the Church at Chancey Road. From left, are Ashley Ayers, 11, Heritage Academy; Carolyn Sentelik, president, Chamber Board of Directors; Kaylee Weirich, 11, Woodland Elementary School; Melonie Monson, GZCOC executive director; Laila Woolfolk, 10, Chester W. Taylor Elementary School; Zechariah Mitchell, 18, Zephyrhills Christian Academy; Hailey Turner, 12, Raymond B. Stewart Middle School; Roxxy Geisenheimer, GZCOC marketing and events coordinator; Hope Holloway, 13, East Pasco Adventist Academy; Katy Boyd, GZCOC ambassador chairperson; and Jodi Baldwin, 15, The Broach School. Christian Redmond, 17, Hope Ranch Learning Academy and Kaylan Turlich, 10, West Zephyrhills Elementary School were not present for the ceremony.

Photo by Gary S. Hatrick

Concealed Weapon Permits May Be Renewed In Dade City

Since May 1, the Dade City branch of the Pasco County Tax Collector's Office has been accepting applications for new concealed weapons permits, renewal applications for existing permits and issuing renewals of existing permits.

During regular business hours, customers can visit the Dade City office, located at 14236 Sixth St. in the East Pasco Government Center.

Fingerprints, photographs and related services will all be available to process new/renewal applications. Assuming all statutory criteria are met, customers who apply for a renewed permit will be able to walk out of the office with the renewed license in hand.

"As tax collector, I am committed to improving customer service in every way I possibly can," said Mike Fasano.

"Processing concealed weapons permit applications is an important service that our office has been able to provide for the past two years.

"Due to the excellent work of our staff and the need expressed by the community, we are now able to issue renewals to qualified permit holders the day they visit our office. We will continue to accept applications for new permits as we have been doing since 2015," Fasano said.

Concealed Weapons Permit services are available at the Dade City branch of the Pasco County Tax Collector's Office on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. This service is not available on Saturdays.

Appointments for concealed weapons permit applications are not required.



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