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SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

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SPECIAL SECTION
inside this week

Pasco boosts its stormwater fee

By Kathy Steele

ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

Pasco County residents will be paying a higher stormwater fee, following a Sept. 19 vote by Pasco County commissioners to increase the rate.

Beginning in 2018, the annual fee will increase from \$57 to \$95 — a 67 percent increase.

A previous increase approved two years ago added \$10 to the fee, raising the rate

from \$47 to \$57.

Commissioners were divided over raising the fee during two workshops earlier this year, but they gave tentative approval to the increase to meet a deadline for providing tax information to the Pasco County Property Appraiser's office.

There was some hope the increase wouldn't be needed, or could be reduced, if state funds came through for several proposed drainage projects.

That didn't pan out.

Only two projects, for a total of about \$1 million, were included in the 2018 state budget, and both of those were vetoed.

So, the higher fees are intended to support projects that can ease the county's chronic flooding issues.

There's no doubt that Pasco residents have seen their share of flooding in the last

See FEE, page 19A



COURTESY OF ACADEMY AT THE LAKES

Service is one of the core values at Academy at the Lakes, and those acts of service can be tailored to be done by the school's pre-kindergartners through seniors, said Mark Heller, head of school.

Academy at the Lakes turns 25

By B.C. Manion

bcmalion@lakerlutznews.com

The Academy at the Lakes students came striding off the yellow school bus, ready for action.

They'd just arrived at the Old Lutz School, and before long, they were yanking weeds, pushing wheelbarrows and spreading mulch at the historic schoolhouse, an icon in the community of Lutz.

They were also picking up branches and sticks, strewn about by Hurricane Irma.

This crew was just one of many spending the day doing volunteer work at various locations — as Academy's students and staff spent the 25th day of its 25th year, giving back to the community.

"Service has always been one of our core values, whether you're a 3-year-old or a senior in high school. We provide age-appropriate opportunities for children to learn an ethic of service," said Mark Heller, head of school.

"We need to make sure that all of our children know how to be net givers to the world, as opposed to takers from the world. They need to understand, and be taught, and experience how to do things that make a difference for others — and how good it feels to do that.

"That's part of what we did on the 25th day, thanking the community that has nurtured us and sustained us over our first 25 years," said Heller, who leads the school, located at 2331 Collier Parkway in Land O' Lakes.

Suzin Carr, who organized the workday at the Old Lutz School, was delighted to have Academy's help.

"Today, they'll help clean up after the

hurricane. They'll do some mulching," she said, pointing to a huge pile, across the schoolyard.

"That pile will be gone by the time they leave, no doubt," Carr said.

She also appreciated the timing of the volunteer effort.

"They'll help us get ready for our market, which is Oct. 14, the Market at the Old Lutz School," Carr said, putting in a plug for the upcoming fundraiser.

Beth Nevel Rader and her brother, Ben Nevel, were there helping, too.

"My brother and I went to school here, one through six," Rader said, noting her brother is the chairman of the Citizens for the Old Lutz School, a group that works to preserve the school.

"I think the kids are just awesome to come out and volunteer," she added.

Colleen McCormick, science department chair, said Academy students routinely volunteer in the community.

"This is something that's part of our core values," she said.

That's important, she said, because "hopefully, it instills a spirit of giving back that they'll continue after they leave Academy."

Kevin Crowley, who teaches video production and is the golf coach, has been at the school for 17 years.

"I can't imagine doing anything else," said Crowley, whose daughter attended the school, from pre-kindergarten through high school.

While one group was at the Old Lutz School, other groups were planting sunflowers, cleaning up Collier Parkway or

See ACADEMY, page 19A

Academy at the Lakes timeline

1982: Connie Wendlek opens Academy at the Lakes Preschool.

1992: Connie Wendlek's preschool evolves into Academy at the Lakes Day School, which opens with 32 students in prekindergarten through eighth grade. Her husband, Richard, a former principal in Pasco County Schools, becomes the head of school. Connie is the music teacher.

1997: McCormick Campus opens to house a middle school.

1998-99 school year: The school adds ninth grade. In subsequent years it added 10th grade, 11th grade and 12th grade.

2002: The school has its first high school graduation. There are four members in the class.

2004: The new high school building opens. The structure has the same colonial touches as the middle school.

2006: Academy at the Lakes accepted into the Florida High School Athletic Association.

2008: School gymnasium opens, new sixth-grade classrooms added to the fifth-grade suite, and the school introduces its fifth- and sixth-grade program.

2012: Academy at the Lakes celebrates its 20th anniversary.

2013: Academy acquires 47 acres of land from the MacManus family.

2015: The new Lower Division playground is dedicated.

2017: Master planning for future begins.

Roy T. Hardy was known for fish fries and kindness

By B.C. Manion

bcmalion@lakerlutznews.com

When Mike Carr was growing up in Dade City, he viewed Roy T. Hardy as a giant among men.

"He was just so kind," Carr said, of Hardy, who died Sept. 19 at the age of 94.

Carr thought so highly of Hardy that he said he routinely referred to him as "the patron saint of Dade City."

The Kiwanis Club and the city of Dade City also thought highly of Roy, and his wife, Martha, and honored them by naming a trail after them.

The couple moved to Dade City in the late 1940s and opened Hardy's & Lingle's Department Store, which later became Hardy's Department Store.

Carr said his family shopped there, and one of the highlights was the Red Goose shoes that Hardy's sold.

"There was this huge giant Red Goose in the front window of the store," Carr re-

called, noting that whenever a pair of the shoes was sold a child could pull the goose's neck and an egg would drop out.

"In the egg, there was a prize of some sort," Carr said, adding it was a huge hit with kids.

Later on, the couple closed the store, and concentrated on farming and their cattle.

Throughout it all, Hardy was devoted to the Dade City Kiwanis Club.

"If it's in Kiwanis, he's done it," Carr said, noting that Hardy was president of the Dade City Club, a two-time Kiwanis governor of the state of Florida and held other offices, too.

Keith Williams, another member, marveled at Hardy's commitment to the club.

"He had a 69-year perfect attendance," said Williams, past president of the club.

"It (Kiwanis) was a very big deal to him," agreed Penny Morrill, another longtime member.



FILE

Longtime Kiwanis member Roy Hardy of Dade City had been doing fish fry fundraisers in the area since 1949.

See HARDY, page 19A

1st Sunday Market

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COURTESY OF LALITA LLERENA

Partnership to aid veterans

Tampa YMCA CEO Tom Looby and Joe Battle of the Veterans Administration signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Sept. 7, detailing the partnership to better the health and well-being of Tampa Bay veterans and their families at multiple YMCA locations in Hillsborough and East Pasco counties. After the signing, veterans and families could attend a free health fair to learn about the benefits from Y programming. Those attending also had an opportunity to participate in health screenings, fitness assessments, yoga demos, group exercise demos, free giveaways and light refreshments.

Rate changes in store for Pasco utilities

The Laker/Lutz News Staff Report

Pasco County Utilities customers could see rate changes in monthly water and wastewater bills, starting Oct. 1.

Implemented during the same time period, customers will be charged a \$2.75 convenience fee when paying utility bills using credit cards and eChecks, whether online or over the phone.

Pasco County Utilities also will no longer accept Visa payments at any of the walk-in or drive-through Customer Service locations, with all other credit cards assessed a 2.65 percent transaction fee at these physical locations.

The County's Cost of Service Rate Study, findings and recommendations are available online and are outlined in the study to include

across-the-board adjustments, decreases and increases to service rates, fees and charges.

An example of the proposed rate for Fiscal Year 2018, for an average household that uses 6,000 gallons per month, in comparison with local partners, is:

- Pasco County \$70.02
- Hillsborough County \$75.69
- Pinellas County \$80.80

To enhance security, Utilities has partnered with Paymentus Corporation, which will be charging the convenience fee for the use of credit cards and eChecks. No portion of the service fee, used to cover the costs incurred by the payment processor, is retained by Pasco County Utilities.

For information about the rate changes or the new payment options and service fee, visit PascoCountyUtilities.com.

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2A | September 27, 2017 | www.LakerLutzNews.com

AFTER THE STORM

Photographs captured around Pasco County, in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma.



Trees did not fare well in front of a home near downtown Dade City.

STEFANIE BURLINGAME



Hurricane Irma blew down lots of trees around Pasco County, including this one, across an East Pasco road.

RICHARD RILEY



An example of damage wrought by Hurricane Irma's powerful winds.

RICHARD RILEY



COURTESY OF SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY

Hurricane Irma left her mark on Saint Leo University, knocking over trees on campus and causing water intrusion in dozens of rooms.

Getting help and helping others

HURRICANE RECOVERY RESOURCE FAIR

A Hurricane Recovery Resource Fair is being held at Pasco-Hernando State College's East Campus on Sept. 27, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The session is in Building A, at 36727 Blanton Road in Dade City. Community presenters will include Baycare Behavioral Health, Sunrise of Pasco, Wells Fargo and others. The fair will include information about hurricane recovery and resources.

TEMPORARY ROOF REPLACEMENT

If your roof was damaged by Hurricane Irma, you may be eligible for free temporary roof repairs by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Operation Blue Roof can install a temporary roof covering. For more information, call (888) Roof-Blu (That's (888) 766-3258.)

INDIVIDUAL AND HOUSEHOLD ASSISTANCE

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has determined that Pasco County is eligible for the Individuals and Household Assistance Program, which provides financial help or direct services for eligible residents.

Available help includes:

- Housing assistance for renters or homeowners for temporary housing, home repairs and either semi-permanent or permanent housing construction services
 - Other needs assistance, including uninsured, disaster-related necessary expenses; serious needs, such as medical expenses, funeral and burial costs, repair, cleaning or replacement of personal items; and, other eligible expenses
- Apply online at DisasterAssistance.gov.



COURTESY OF SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY

Students rode out the storm in a corridor at Saint Leo University.

PASCO NEEDS VOLUNTEERS FOR DISASTER ASSESSMENT

Pasco County needs volunteers who are able to help with disaster assessment in the field.

If faith-based, charitable, or other organizations or civic minded individuals are available and have successfully passed recent background checks, please email your contact information to volunteer@pasco-countyfl.net, or call the Volunteer Hotline at (727) 847-8940.

Other volunteer opportunities may become available. Additional information will be posted at PascoCountyFl.net.

HELP RECORD HURRICANE IRMA'S DAMAGE

Pasco County encourages residents and business owners who have been affected by the recent storm to report damages to their homes, properties and businesses by opening the MyPasco App and clicking the Report Irma Damage icon, or by completing a Damage Assessment Survey located online at PascoCountyFl.net.

Securing accurate information will help the State of Florida and the Federal Office of Emergency Management to determine if the county has enough damages to seek a federal declaration for our residents to receive financial assistance to make necessary repairs to their properties.

The LAKER / Lutz NEWS

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SEEKING VENDORS

Citizens for the Old Lutz School is looking for vendors for Autumn Day at the Old Lutz School, 18819 U.S. 41, scheduled for Oct. 14 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Outdoor spaces are \$20. Flea, craft, plant and direct-sale vendors can participate. For information, email market@oldlutzschool.com (preferred), or call (813) 909-2701.

FLORIDA JAZZ EXPRESS

Florida Jazz Express, a 17-piece band, will play an assortment of classic and modern big band music Sept. 28 at 9 p.m., at Dockside Grille, 5015 U.S. 19 in New Port Richey. Admission is free. For information, call (516) 480-8587 or email frednovo@pipeline.com.

MAKE A KEY CHAIN

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host a class on making Kumihimo key chains Sept. 28 from 10 a.m. to noon, for adults. To register, call (813) 929-1214.

AIR FORCE BASE HISTORY

The Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave., in Carrollwood, will present a program on MacDill Air Force Base Sept. 28 at 1 p.m., for adults. Guests can learn how MacDill's mission has evolved over the decades, and the important role the base plays in this area's history and economy. The program will be presented in partnership with the Tampa Bay History Center. For information, call (813) 273-3652, or visit HCPLC.org.

LUTZ SENIOR CENTER

The Lutz Senior Center, 112 N.W. First Ave., will host these events:

- Sept. 28 at 10 a.m.: Hispanic Heritage at The Regent "Celebrating Traditions My Sweet 15." Call for details.
- Sept. 29 at 1 p.m.: Monthly birthday celebration and dance party, with refreshments.

For information, call (813) 264-3804.

BABY SIGNING

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host a Baby Storytime/Baby Signing program Sept. 28 at 10:30 a.m., and 11:30 a.m., for birth to 1 year old. The focus will be on learning Sign Language with stories. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR

The Veterans Homeownership Resource Fair will take place Sept. 28 from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the West Pasco Board of Realtors, 5409 Sunset Road in New Port Richey. The keynote speakers will be Frank A. Jones, Pasco County Division of Veterans; Kobus Appelgrijn, Habitat for Humanity; Connie Walker, Wells Fargo; and, DeLynn Gaston, The Mortgage Firm. Light refreshments will be served. To RSVP, call (727) 848-8507.

GIRLS' NIGHT OUT

belle ame Day Spa & Salon, 21758 State Road 54 in Lutz, will host a Girls' Night



Fall market

The GFWC Lutz-Land O' Lakes Woman's Club Fall Flea Market Fundraiser will be Sept. 29 and Sept. 30 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Land O' Lakes Community Center, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd. There will be bargains, the Plant Lady's booth, a homemade bake sale, and more. For information, call (813) 833-3962.

Sunday market

The first Sunday market at the Land O' Lakes Community Center, 5301 Land O' Lakes Blvd., will take place Oct. 1 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be a farmer's market, specialty foods, unique clothing, arts and crafts, and more. For information, contact Dave Bingham at (813) 545-9132 or taslanred@gmail.com.

Out Sept. 28 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. There will be complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvres. Guests can learn about the services offered. For information, call (813) 949-8400.

HEROES LUNCHEON

The Franciscan Center, 3010 N. Perry Ave., in Tampa, will host a Heroes Luncheon Sept. 29 at noon, to honor active law enforcement and firefighters whose lives were lost while on duty. The special guests will be Tampa Police Chief Brian Duggan, Tampa Fire Chief Tom Forward and others. Donations will be accepted. For information or to RSVP, email Anne Dougherty at FirstResponders911@gmail.com, or call (813) 229-2695.

GROWNUP NIGHT

The Glazer Children's Museum, 110 W. Gasparilla Plaza in Tampa, will host a Grownup Night, for ages 21 and older, Sept. 29 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Grownups can take over the museum; play like a kid with parachutes, slinkies and hula hoops; climb, jump and build in the exhibits; and, visit the beer garden on the terrace. There also will be free snacks and beer, while supplies last, and a cash bar. For information, visit GlazerMuseum.org.

MEETING OF THE MINDS

Baha'is of Tampa will host a "Meeting of the Minds" Sept. 30 at Baha'i Faith Worship and Community Center, 3112 Nundy Road

in Tampa. This is a free dinner and presentation on "What the Bicentenary of the Birth of Baha'u'llah Means to Me." Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m., followed by the presentation at 7:30 p.m. There also will be a book signing by John Hatcher, including his two most recent publications. For information, visit Bahai.org.

PRETEEN JEWELRY

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host a preteen jewelry-making class Sept. 30 from 10 a.m. to noon, for ages 9 to 15. A proper dress code, registration and signed liability waiver are required. To register, call (813) 929-1214.

ANTI-BULLYING

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will host "Anti-Bullying with Krav Maga Martial Arts" Sept. 30 at 2 p.m. For information, call (813) 929-1214.

CHURCH YARD SALE

Grace Lutheran Church, 3714 W. Linebaugh Ave., in Tampa, will host a community yard sale Sept. 30 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., with antiques, collectibles, clothing, toys, miscellaneous household items and more. There also will be a bake sale, and a lunch will be available by the Grace Youth Group. All proceeds will benefit the church's outreach committees and youth groups. For information, call (813) 961-8747. To register and to get free tickets, visit TampaBayKidsFest.eventbrite.com. For

information, email events@sunshinefamilyexpos.com.

TAMPA BAY KIDS FEST

The third annual Tampa Bay Kids Fest will be Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 at the Florida State Fairgrounds, 4800 U.S. 301 in Tampa. There will be products, services and resources for families; vendors; and, free activities, including face painting, bubble soccer, balloon twisting, a video game truck, a toddler play zone, canvas painting classes, dodge ball arena, a photo booth, character meet-and-greets, a bounce house, stage shows, and more. To register and get free tickets, visit TampaBayKidsFest.eventbrite.com. For information, email events@sunshinefamilyexpos.com.

TAILGATE TASTE FEST

The fourth annual Tampa Bay Tailgate Taste Fest, presented by Coca-Cola Beverages Florida, will be Sept. 30 from 3 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., at Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park, 600 N. Ashley Drive in Tampa. Families and pets can attend. No outside food or drink will be permitted. Guests should bring a chair. Admission is free. For wristbands and information, visit bit.ly/2qWhGkS or TailgateTasteFest.com.

ALL 4 KIDS

The North Tampa Chamber will host "All 4 Kids" Sept. 30 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Harley Davidson of Tampa Bay, 6920 N. Dale Mabry Highway in Tampa. Participants can learn how to foster, adopt, advocate, protect, donate, volunteer and/or mentor with a local charity. There also will be live music, food trucks, door prizes, a corn hole tournament, vendors and more. Admission is free. For information, visit NorthTampaChamber.com.

ORCHID EXPO

The Tampa Orchid Club will present an Orchid Expo Sept. 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Oct. 1 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the USF Botanical Gardens, 12210 USF Pine Drive in Tampa. There also will be a culture lecture on Sept. 30 at 2 p.m. Admission is \$5. Parking is free. For information, visit TampaOrchidClub.shutterfly.com.

GARDEN CLUB MEETING

The Land O' Lakes Garden Club will meet Oct. 3 at 10:30 a.m., at the Land O' Lakes Community Center, 5401 Land O' Lakes Blvd. The guest speakers will be Mike and Debbie Bratz, owners of The Family Tree Farm and Nursery in Dade City. For information, call Marie Woody at (813) 961-2697.

NATIVE PLANT SEMINAR

UF/IFAS Pasco Extension will present a free seminar on "Right Plant... Right Place" Oct. 3 at 6:30 p.m., at the Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway. Participants can learn which natives to plant and where to plant them for optimal plant health. Preregistration is required at tinyurl.com/yc38ep2f.

Continued on next page

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KNIT OR CROCHET

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer an "Intro to Knitting" Oct. 3 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., and "Crochet for Beginners" Oct. 4 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., for ages 9 and older. A proper dress code, registration and a signed liability waiver are required. To register, call (813) 929-1214.

BOOK DISCUSSION

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will host the Hugh Embry Mystery Book Discussion Group Oct. 3 at 2 p.m., to talk about "The Paris Librarian" by Mark Pryor. New members can attend. For information, call (352) 567-3576.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The Zephyrhills Historical Association will meet Oct. 3 at 5:30 p.m. Refreshments include provided drinks, and food brought in to share by the members. For information, call (813) 780-0064.

SUKKOT PROGRAM

Congregation Kol Ami, 3919 Moran Road in Tampa, will host a Sukkot Music Program, Erev Sukkot Services and pizza in the Sukkah Oct. 4. The music program will be at 6 p.m., followed by services at 6:30 p.m., and pizza at 7 p.m. To RSVP by Oct. 2, call (813) 962-6338.

ORANGE BLOSSOM CLUB

The Orange Blossom Garden Club of Lutz will visit Master Gardener Harriet Vaughn's home garden Oct. 4. To carpool, meet at 9:30 a.m., at the Lutz Civic Center, 98 First Ave., N.W. For information, visit Orange Blossom Garden Club of Lutz, Florida on Facebook.

CARROLLWOOD TOASTMASTERS

The Carrollwood Toastmasters will meet Oct. 4, and every Wednesday, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library, 2902 W. Bearss Ave., in Carrollwood. For information, visit Carrollwood.toastmastersclubs.org.

DEMOCRATIC CLUB

The Land O' Lakes Democratic Club will meet Oct. 4 at 6:30 p.m., at Beef O' Brady's, 21539 Village Lakes Shopping Center Drive in Land O' Lakes. The guest speaker will be Ryan Torrens, candidate for Florida Attorney

General in 2018. For information, visit [Facebook.com/LOLDemocraticClub](https://www.facebook.com/LOLDemocraticClub).

WOMAN'S CLUB

The Zephyrhills Woman's Club will meet Oct. 6 at noon at the clubhouse, 38545 Fifth Ave., in Zephyrhills. The guest speaker will be Bob Harrison, communications specialist for Pasco County Libraries. Lunch will be served. All women age 18 and older can attend. For information, call (813) 404-5789.

PAINTING FUNDRAISER

The Pasco Fine Arts Center, 4145 Fairford Drive in New Port Richey, will host a Painting Party Oct. 20 from 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., as a fundraiser to support its Kids N Art programs. The cost is \$35 per person. To register by Sept. 29, or for information, visit PascoArts.org, or call (727) 845-7322.

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Zephyrhills Area Amateur Radio Club will meet on the third Monday of each month at St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church, 5855 16th St. There will be a business meeting at 6 p.m., followed by a coffee break and a discussion or presentation program covering various topics at 7 p.m. The club also hosts a breakfast at the Village Inn, 5214 Gall Blvd., in Zephyrhills, every Thursday at 8 a.m. For information, call Gerald Hewitt at (813) 780-1980.

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Marine Forever Detachment 1440 meets the third Tuesday of every month at Franky D's Family Kitchen, 18450 U.S. 41 in Lutz. The meeting starts at 7 p.m., following Mess Call, which is every Tuesday at 6 p.m. For information, contact L. David Kirk at (813) 956-2469 or dkirk@Marine4ever.com.

VOLUNTEER AT THRIFT STORE

Life's Treasures Thrift Stores is looking for volunteers, adults and teens ages 14 and older, to join the volunteer team. Teens can earn community service hours for the Florida Bright Future Scholarships Program. Schedules are flexible and no retail experience is needed. Proceeds from the stores benefit the programs and services of HPH Hospice and LifePath Hospice. For store locations, visit ChaptersHealth.org. For information, contact Anne Ferrell at (813) 357-5321 or ferrella@chaptershealth.org.

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For more information, contact Christina Miller at 727-845-5707 or christina.miller@ghppc.org.



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Be Sure To Attend Asturia's Fall Festival!

Asturia, a master-planned community in Odessa, is celebrating its second Fall Festival on Sunday, Oct. 15 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. New residents, future residents and families from neighboring communities are all invited to this free event open to the public.

Fun activities for children and adults include hayrides, corn hole, bounce houses, sand art crafts, face painting, carnival games and a balloon artist. Hay will be provided for those wanting to stuff their own straw scarecrows (please bring your own pillowcase and old clothing). A variety of food trucks will be at the event, for those who want to buy lunch, snacks or sweets.

And, when Fall Festival guests are done playing and eating, they are invited to tour Asturia's decorated model homes at Asturia.

UNIQUE MODELS AND AMENITY CENTER

Ashton Woods, David Weekley Homes and ICI Homes are Asturia's exclusive builders. All have model homes with on-site agents to assist homebuyers in selecting their next residence. ICI Homes is the community's newest builder, and is opening its Costa Mesa model in late October.

Builders offer a range of home sizes and architectural styles, with pricing ranging from the mid \$200,000s to over \$500,000.

Asturia offers residents a kid-friendly, family oriented lifestyle surrounded by miles of multi-use trails, interspersed with dog parks and pocket parks. Kids especially love the Kompan Playground.

Everyone enjoys Asturia's distinctive, 5,800-square-foot Amenity Center and Clubhouse, with its fully



equipped state-of-the-art fitness center, covered outdoor living rooms, a luxurious resort-style swimming pool and expansive lawn areas for recreation.

SECOND PHASE OPENS

It's been only two years since Asturia began selling homes, and already the award-winning

development has moved into its second phase.

This new second phase has 157 large home sites, adding to Asturia's first phase of 248 lots. Most Asturia homes back up to conservation areas, and all provide homeowners privacy and a peaceful, quiet surrounding.

Many families have been waiting for Asturia's second phase to open be-

cause its 55- and 65-foot lots offer some of the best woodland conservation views in the entire community.

"These lots are some of the most beautiful in all of Pasco County," said Kevin Jund, the community's project manager. "Asturia really is an enclave, surrounded by 360-degrees of protected preserves of mature cypress and lush native vegetation."

A boardwalk has been built to connect the two smaller neighborhoods within Phase II, which will tie into the community's multi-use pathway that meanders for miles through residential areas, parks, playgrounds and the Amenity Center.

ABOUT ASTURIA

When Asturia's development is complete in a few years, it will likely have less than 550 single-family homes.

"What makes Asturia stand out from other new home developments in the area is our smaller size," said Jund. "Other communities are looking at 3,000 to over 5,000 homes, and many years of construction. Many families prefer the intimate neighborhood experience that comes with our modest community size."

Asturia is a mixed-use, master-planned community located in the high-demand State Road 54 corridor in Pasco County. The community's central location is just five minutes from the Suncoast Parkway and also provides close proximity to U.S. 41, U.S. 19 and I-75. Its master plan incorporates retail, office, multifamily and a variety of single-family residential offerings.

More information can be obtained by visiting Asturia's model homes, registering at the community's website, AsturiaFlorida.com, or by calling (813) 227-4148.

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26527 Chimney Spire Lane

This townhome needs carpet and paint to make home! Located in gated community minutes from I-75/I-275, Wiregrass Mall, and other all sorts of shopping, restaurants, schools, hospital and doctors. Features 3 bedrooms and laundry upstairs, living room, dining room, kitchen and 1/2 bath downstairs. PLUS a 1 car garage. Open floor plan with spacious kitchen overlooking dining and living rooms. Kitchen has maple cabinets with breakfast bar and small eat in space. All kitchen appliances are included, including a washer and dryer. Master suite offers dual sinks, garden tub and spacious walk in closet. The additional bedrooms are spacious and have nice sized closets as well. The flooring is tile in wet areas and carpet elsewhere. WATER, BASIC CABLE, TRASH AND SEWER ARE INCLUDED in the HOA fee! Community offers a swimming pool. Priced at **\$144,900**.



Hints for a Clean and Clutter-Free Home

If your home is more cluttered than clean, you're not alone — 85 percent of homeowners say that organization and storage is the most desired feature in a home, according to OrganizedLiving.com.

Your clean-home dreams can come true. In fact, simply getting rid of clutter alone can eliminate 40 percent of housework in the average home. With a few helpful hints your home can get organized... and stay that way.

CLUTTER-FREE KITCHEN

With a wealth of gadgets, it's no wonder the kitchen is a clutter culprit. To start your cleanse, remove everything from drawers and cupboards. If you haven't used an item in the last month (unless it's a holiday necessity) — purge it! Next up, clean and line drawer and shelf surfaces with a quality shelf liner. Not only will it protect them from dirt and grime, but it also offers a good gauge: if you can't see the shelf liner, it's time to purge again!

NEW SPIN ON LAUNDRY

Sometimes the laundry room needs a bit of cleaning itself. Detergents and other buildup can cause washing machine odors. Run white vinegar through a cycle to sanitize it with ease. Next, improve efficiency and reduce fire hazards by thoroughly cleaning lint from dryer vents -- both inside and out. Finally, use labeled baskets to ensure everything has its place. And, since the laundry room is often a catch-all location, label one as a "put away" basket and be sure to empty it daily, putting its contents back in their proper places.

CONTROL BATHROOM CHAOS

From towels to toiletries, bathrooms hold a lot of stuff, which can make organizing feel like a losing battle. Create a decluttering schedule. Since many toiletries, such as toothbrushes and makeup, should be replaced quarterly, this is the perfect time to purge. Empty drawers and linen cabinets, and then toss out



items that are old or aren't being used. Shelf liner can once again be a useful addition before putting items back, especially liners that prevent the growth of odor-causing mold and mildew.

GEAR-UP GARAGE ORGANIZATION

From toys to tools to seasonal gear, the garage has it all. Unfortunately, 25 percent of two-car garages are so cluttered that there isn't room to park a car, reports the U.S. Department of Energy. Annually, remove everything and categorize items into keep, sell/donate and trash piles. Next, designate sections of the garage for work (hardware and gardening tools) and play (toys, bikes and balls). Create vertical storage by adding hooks and floor-to-ceiling shelves. Finally, label bins, boxes and shelves to encourage everyone to maintain the new-found organization.

PURR-FECTLY CLEAN PETS

Humans aren't the only ones accumulating clutter or making messes. In fact, 34 is the average number of pet toys in a home! Start each season by tossing out tattered pet toys and thoroughly disinfecting the keepers — along with leashes, boxes and bedding. To keep areas neat and clean, place nonadhesive shelf liner under food and water bowls to keep them in place and spills contained. A piece under the litter box can also reduce litter scatter across floors and the grip surface helps pull litter from dirty paws.

By following these helpful tips and tricks, your home will soon be clean, organized and clutter-free.

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Inland Homes Joins The Connerton Family

Young families are discovering the master-planned community of Connerton in Land O' Lakes. Since the beginning of the year, more than 175 homes have been sold, with many buyers choosing homes between 1,500 and 2,000 square feet.

"This is a perfect size for the first-time homebuyer looking for an affordable home in an established community with excellent schools and resort-style amenities," said Reed Williams, president of Inland Homes and Connerton's newest builder.

"Many families are coming out of apartments and find these smaller homes with three or four bedrooms quite spacious, and perfect for their growing families," said Williams.

Inland's floor plans match up perfectly with this family profile. In Connerton, it is offering one- and two-story floor plans that are 1,708 to 2,800 square feet, and begin at \$234,000.

Inland's model home, the Magnolia, is nearing completion, and will open in October alongside Connerton's other model homes built by Lennar, M/I Homes, Homes By WestBay, and Taylor Morrison. Most models are open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and noon to 6 p.m., on Sunday.

This is the second time Inland Homes has built homes in Connerton — it was one of the community's original builders in the early 2000s, when Connerton first opened.

"We are excited to be back in Connerton, and pleased to offer homebuyers five new floor plans and some of the most beautiful home sites in the community," said Williams. "Many of our lots back up to conservation, water or both, and offer outstanding views and privacy."

Inland Homes differs from other moderately priced builders because its floor plans offer buyers some



Inland's model home, the Magnolia, is nearing completion, and will open in October.

structural options. Plus, Inland Homes buyers make personal selections at its design center for flooring, cabinets and other finishes. Jack Suarez, whose family has been building homes in the Tampa area since 1940's, owns the company.

CONNERTON IS A 'NEWTOWN'

When Connerton visitors stop at Club Connerton, the community's beautiful 10,000-square-foot clubhouse and amenity center, they often ask, "Why does Connerton feel so different than other communities we've visited?"

They discover that Connerton is different because it is one of only three communities in Florida that has been formally recognized as a "New Town" by both state and local governments. Like Seaside in Destin and Celebration in Orlando, Connerton earned its "New Town" designation for its community design, which reduces residents' reliance on cars and promotes a more sociable, pedestrian culture.

Connerton's vibrant "New Town" live/work/play design is master planned over the next decade to potentially make the community wholly self-sustaining. At full build out, Connerton may include up to 5,000 residential units of various

types and densities, 730,000 square feet of retail services, 1.4 million square feet of office / medical office/ industrial space, 150 hospital beds and 100 nursing home beds, a government center, and approximately 1,800 acres of parks and protected, natural spaces. Close to 1,000 families live in Connerton today.

As the town of Connerton grows, it is opening new neighborhoods and expanding its unique Town Center with a mix of residential, retail, professional and commercial space. The Town Center is the community's focal point and will connect its main streets, open spaces, gathering places, and educational and recreational opportunities.

Trails, boardwalks and pathways wind their way through the community. North of Connerton's planned developments is the pristine, 3,000-acre Connerton Preserve that protects its lakes, natural wetlands and wildlife. The Preserve is home to a bounty of wildlife, including alligators, otters, deer, bats, and birds such as aninga, little blue herons, wood storks, hoot owls and sand hill cranes. Strict rules are posted and enforced to maintain the preserve's natural beauty and to protect its wildlife.

DIVERSE RESIDENTS

People also choose Connerton because of the community's diversity in ages and the wide variety of interests found among residents. It makes living at Connerton interesting, fun and easy to make new friends.

At community gatherings, you'll find people asking, "what brought you to Connerton?" Many say the community's connection to the outdoors with its extended trails, bike paths and parks, as well as Connerton's preservation of its natural beauty and pristine environment.

Others talk about Connerton's hometown American feel and its Norman Rockwell look. And, just about everyone enjoys the amenities at Club Connerton, especially the fabulous resort-style pool and waterpark.

With its "New Town" designation and plan, unspoiled environment, and exceptional on-site amenities, Connerton offers an unrivaled setting that enriches the lives of its residents.

Please stop by for a personal tour. We're located on the east side of U.S. 41, about six miles north of the intersection of State Road 54 in Land O' Lakes, and three miles south of State Road 52. For more information, visit Connerton.com.

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Connerton is an amazing community located in the heart of Pasco county. It's the place that you've been searching for in a planned community. Imagine your wish list for a place to call home, a place to raise your family and create dreams and memories, and you'll find that Connerton has it all.

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NASH Bexley, LLC ("Fee Owner") is the owner and developer of the Bexley Community ("Community"). Certain homebuilders unaffiliated with the Fee Owner or its related entities are building homes in the Community ("Builder(s)"). Fee Owner has retained Newland Communities solely as the property manager for the Community. North America Sekisui House has an interest in one of the members in Fee Owner. See www.bexleyflorida.com for full terms of use. This is not intended to be an offer to sell or a solicitation of offers to buy real estate in the Bexley Community to residents of Connecticut, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, New York, New Jersey, and Oregon, or in any other jurisdiction where prohibited by law. © 2017 Bexley. All rights reserved. Bexley is a trademark of NASH Bexley, LLC, and may not be copied, imitated or used, in whole or in part, without prior written permission. • EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

The Bexley Difference

Where miles of trails lead you home

What a difference a year makes. Since Bexley by Newland Communities debuted in Land O' Lakes 10 months ago, this outstanding community has already distinguished itself as one of the Top 10 selling communities in the Tampa Bay market, and has been recognized as the best master planned community in the Southeast.

"We couldn't be happier with the response we've received to Bexley," said Pam Parisi, vice president of marketing for Newland Communities, the developer behind Bexley. "Our residents love the uniqueness of Bexley. It's just a wonderful community to live in, whether you're a family with kids, just starting out, or looking to downsize."

Centrally located in Land O' Lakes, at State Road 54 and the Suncoast Parkway, Bexley is an 1,825-acre community with significant conservation areas, that offers residents a sporty, social lifestyle that maximizes its pristine natural surroundings.

No doubt, people are taking notice of Bexley. The Southeast Building Conference recognized Bexley as the top master-planned community in the Southeast, awarding the community its highest honor, a Grand Aurora.

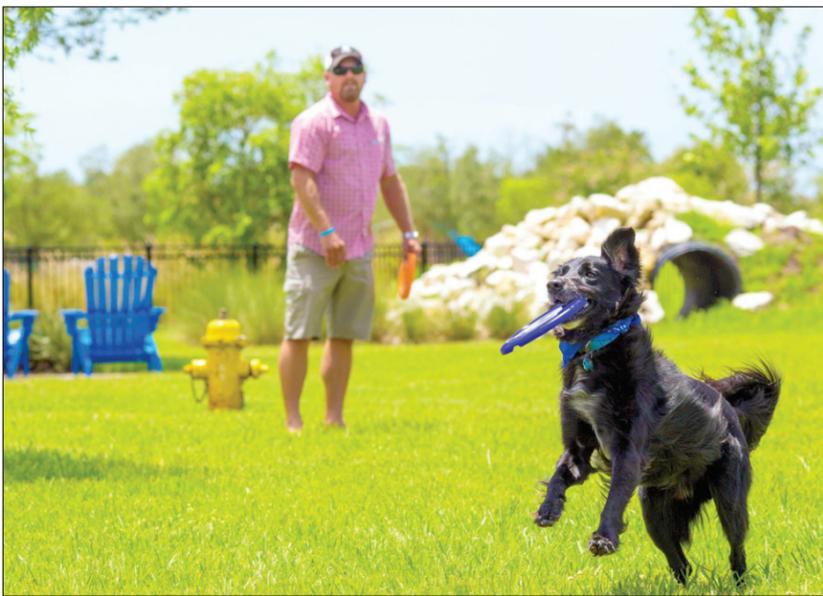
WELCOME TO THE CLUB

The Bexley Club, an award-winning lakefront clubhouse, is the hub of the community, with the popular Twisted Sprocket Café, a gathering place that is open to the public. Guests can enjoy a delicious menu of breakfast items, gourmet lunches, dessert, smoothies, wine, craft beer and coffee drinks served by Chef Ashley Davis and her team.

The second phase of The Bexley Club opened earlier this summer. It includes two resort-style pools, cardio-focused fitness center, screened-in game room, outdoor fire pit and an event lawn for community festivals and gatherings.

CENTRAL, ACCESSIBLE LOCATION

Bexley's prime location next to the Suncoast Parkway offers fast, con-



venient access to many areas of Tampa and area beaches.

Bexley Village Drive has been open since the spring providing direct access to the Suncoast Parkway. It connects Tower Road to State Road 54, allowing residents to bypass Ballentrae Road for State Road 54 access.

Several commercial businesses have announced development plans in the area, including a convenience store and hotel. Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel is also building an emergency department within the Bexley community, which is scheduled to be complete in 2018.

BEST SCHOOLS

The newly constructed Bexley Elementary School opened its doors to students in August to help accommo-

date the many families that are moving to Bexley. Located within the community, the new elementary school features a state-of-the-art media and computer center. For upper grades, top-rated schools assigned to Bexley are Charles S. Rushe Middle School and Sunlake High School.

TRAILS AND PARKS

Spanning Bexley's 1,200 acres of preserved wilderness are exceptional trails to hike, bike and run. Designed by outdoor-living pioneer Avid Trails, several outdoor Fit Stations are located throughout the trail to keep workouts interesting and fresh. The community also offers open space for sports fields, a BMX pump park

bicycle course and custom-made playgrounds, as well as two dog parks (one for large breeds and the other for small).

ABOUT NEWLAND

Bexley is the fourth master-planned community for Newland in the Tampa Bay area, joining other award-winning communities of Fishhawk Ranch, Mirabay and Waterset in south Hillsborough County. For information, visit BexleyFlorida.com.

Discover Twisted Sprocket Café

Have you discovered Bexley's best-kept secret — The Twisted Sprocket Café?

This gem of a café is located inside The Bexley Club at the community's amenity center. People are often surprised to learn that the cafe is open to the public, and that it offers much more than just grab-and-go items found at most clubhouses.

The Twisted Sprocket Café is headed up by clubhouse and café Manager Ashley Davis, a talented young chef and Florida International University graduate, who has created a surprising menu of delightful recipes that are getting rave reviews from local food bloggers.

Most menu items are made from recipes created by Davis, including smoothies and milk shakes, French toast, omelets, pastries, sandwiches, flatbreads, quesadillas and desserts.

The café's popular Twisted Sprocket Salad is overflowing with flavor, and textured with walnuts, dried cranberries, tomatoes and bacon, all served on a huge bed of spring mix. A honey mustard vinaigrette perfectly rounds off this salad.

The Cafe overlooks a lovely lake in a serene woodland setting. Decks overlook the lake with cabin-like chairs and tables, and guests enjoy the view inside from tables, booths and a friendly, old-fashioned counter. During cooler months, folks enjoy fireplaces located inside the café and



Ashley Davis

on the deck.

Davis invites area residents to bring their laptops to the café and spend a few hours catching up with work, or staying in touch with family and friends. The Café serves Buddy Brew, a rich specialty coffee made in Tampa, craft beers from Big Storm Brewery in nearby Odessa, and has a respectable section of wine.

Twisted Sprocket Café

HOURS: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon - Sat
Noon to 6 p.m. Sunday

ADDRESS: 16950 Vibrant Way,
Land O' Lakes, FL 34638

PHONE: (813) 491-4879

WEBSITE: BexleyFlorida.com

Aurora Awards

Bexley may be less than a year old, but its already an award-winning community.

The Southeast Building Conference (SBC) recently named Bexley by Newland Communities the top Master Planned Community in the Southeast, awarding the community its highest honor, a Grand Aurora award. The Bexley Club, the community's hub, also earned a Grand Aurora award for Best Recreational Facility.

"We are thrilled to be recognized by the Southeast Building Conference," said Pam Parisi, vice president, marketing for Newland Communities. "Bexley is the result of years of planning and research, and it's rewarding to see so many families choosing to make their home here. In just a short time, Bexley is already a vibrant community for people at all stages of life who crave an active lifestyle and greater connections with the outdoors and with each other."

The Aurora awards encompass all facets of the residential, commercial and remodeling industries; and are presented annually to outstanding residential and commercial builders, planners, architects, developers, designers, interior merchandisers and other housing-related professionals. Award winners were selected from entries representing industry professionals in 12 Southeastern states and the Eastern Caribbean.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFFREY SCHWARTZ - FOTOLIA.COM

Transform Your Yard into a Bird Refuge

Millions of wild birds are killed each year flying into windows, including private homes. Birds face other dangers, too, in your yard, whether they are migrating or flying locally.

Everyone, but especially those who enjoy having birds visit their yards and gardens, should take steps to make their homes a safer place for birds.

"Birds are part of a healthy ecosystem. Turning your home into a refuge for birds is good for the environment, saves lives and can add beauty to your garden," says Spencer Schock, founder of WindowAlert, a company that offers decals and UV Liquid that are highly visible to birds, but barely noticed by people.

Schock is offering three home projects you can do to help protect birds.

• Do some planting: Creating a bird-friendly yard does not have to be at odds with your desire to have a beautiful garden. Plant trees, shrubs and flowers that provide birds with the nourishment and shelter they need. The good news is

that there are many beautiful varieties of bird-friendly vegetation. To be a good environmental steward, opt for species native to your region.

• Make windows visible: Preventing birds from striking your windows is easier than you may think because birds can see certain light frequencies that humans can't. An easy way to make your windows visible to birds in a way that won't disrupt your view outside your window is by applying UV decals and UV liquid to your windows. While the ultraviolet coating will look like etched glass to you, it will be quite visible to birds.

• Monitor the cat: If you have cats that like to spend time outdoors, be sure to monitor them to prevent bird hunting. If possible, consider keeping birds safe by creating an outdoor area for your cat to roam that's enclosed.

With a few simple steps, you can convert your garden and yard into a veritable safe haven for birds.

Courtesy StatePoint Media

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Joe Massa, Owner

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"When your A/C is on the blink, you want to talk to someone who is knowledgeable and available ASAP," said Joe Massa, owner of Air Hawk. "By asking the right questions, we usually have a good idea what the problem is, and within a few hours send out the most suitable technician for the job."

Joe and his field staff are all NATE-certified technicians — meeting the highest standard in the HVAC industry for repair and installation.

"Our customers can feel confident knowing that their HVAC system is being properly installed, repaired and maintained by the Air Hawk team," said Joe.

In the two years that Air Hawk has been in business, Joe's commitment to customer service and technical expertise has resulted in the company growing to 12 employees and six service vans.

Air Hawk works with both residential and commercial customers out of its Odessa location. Most customers are from Land O' Lakes, Wesley Chapel, Lutz, Carrollwood, Odessa, Trinity and Palm Harbor.

You can reach Joe at 813-929-HAWK (4295), or by email at JMassa@AirHawkAC.com. Website: www.AirHawkAC.com. CAC License: 1817999.



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Three Mini-Makeover Ideas to Refresh a Room

Looking to bring new energy to a space? Hoping to update that outdated décor?

These easy tips can help you revitalize any space in your home with minimal time and effort -- utilizing color, accessories, accents and more.

A NEW COLOR SCHEME

Looking at the same wall color day after day can be uninspiring. Consider a new color scheme to change the dynamic of your space. Blue hues are shown to create a calming, tranquil effect, making them the perfect choice for a baby's nursery or spa-like bathroom.

Pastels are also a fun way to stimulate the same soft, calming effect of blue, and their less saturated nature creates a unique twist.

Color is also a great way to explore new looks. Both coastal and farmhouse styles are easy to accomplish through a neutral color palette, giving you plenty of opportunities to

incorporate your unique style accents.

FIND A FOCAL POINT

When choosing a design aesthetic, many find inspiration from an accessory, like a piece of artwork or textile. However, highly functional objects that feature great design can also serve as your muse. One such example is a ceiling fan. Its elevated, and often central location, can serve as a stylish focal point, while enhancing comfort.

Whether you decide to incorporate a fan that blends into the existing style, or opt for a statement piece, the addition can help put a new spin on your room. Consider stylish, yet timeless options, such as the Hepburn from Hunter Fan Company. Its mid-century, modern flair is complemented by light and airy colors, combined with a brass finish.

ACCESSORIES AND ACCENTS

Revamp a tired space with new

and inexpensive accessories. A new duvet cover, vibrant pillows or a statement floor rug can help to refresh a room without a high price tag. Adding in mixed-metal items can add texture to an otherwise boring countertop, while positioning items in groups of threes can create a visually pleasing setup.

Go shopping in your own home. You can also switch things up by using objects from around the house, to make a space new again. Decorating a built-in bookshelf with jars, candles, pottery and those favorite items you just can't find the right place for, can make your room feel new, without having to purchase anything at all.

Updating a room doesn't need to cost a fortune or take months to complete. Mini-makeovers that focus on smaller details can make all the difference.

Courtesy StatePoint Media



A stylish ceiling fan can serve as the focal point of a room's design inspiration.

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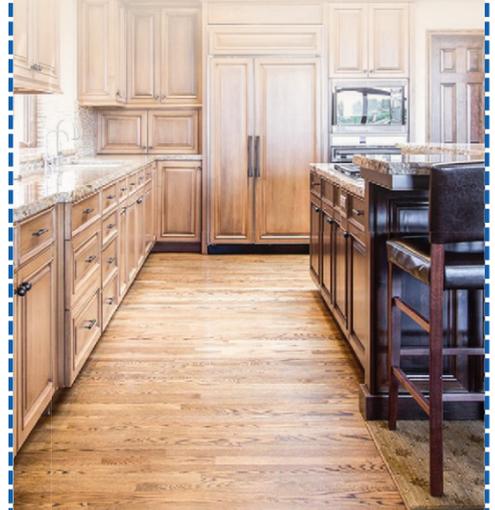
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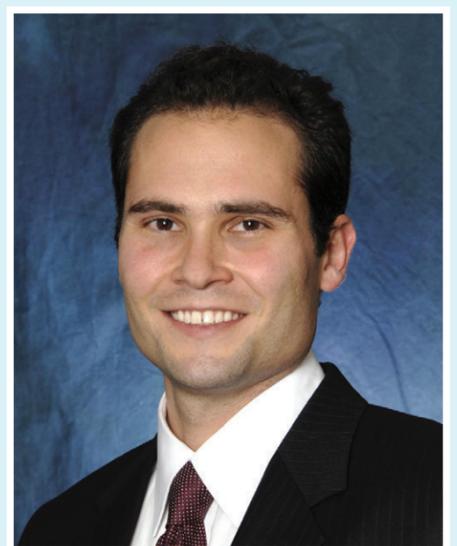
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Jewish community gears up for Yom Kippur

By Kevin Weiss
kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

Yom Kippur, considered to be the most important holiday in the Jewish faith, this year runs from sunset on Sept. 29 through nightfall on Sept. 30.

Yom Kippur, meaning "Day of Atonement," marks the culmination of the 10 Days of Awe, a period of introspection and repentance that follows Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. Both are part of Judaism's "High Holy Days."

Yom Kippur is observed with a 25-hour fast and a special religious service.

OBSERVANCE:

The Torah (Jewish bible) commands all Jewish adults (apart from the sick, the elderly and women who have just given birth) to abstain from eating and drinking between sundown on the evening before Yom Kippur and nightfall the following day. The fast is believed to cleanse the body and spirit, not to serve as a punishment. Religious Jews observe additional restrictions on bathing, washing, using cosmetics and wearing leather shoes. The prohibitions are intended to prevent worshippers from focusing on material possessions and superficial comforts.

HISTORY:

According to tradition, the first Yom Kippur took place after the Israelites' exodus from Egypt and arrival at Mount Sinai, where God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. Descending from the mountain, Moses caught his people worshipping a golden calf and shattered the sacred tablets in anger. Because the Israelites atoned for their idolatry, God forgave their sins and offered Moses a second set of tablets. Jewish texts recount that during biblical times, Yom Kippur was the only day on which the high priest could enter the inner sanctum of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, and made atonement and asked for God's forgiveness on behalf of all the people of Israel. The tradition is said to have continued until the destruction of the Second Temple by the Romans in 70 A.D.; it was then adapted into a service for rabbis and their congregations in individual synagogues.

TRADITIONS AND SYMBOLS OF YOM KIPPUR:

- **Pre-Yom Kippur feast:** On the eve of Yom Kippur, families and friends gather for a bountiful feast that must be finished before sunset. The idea is to generate strength for 25 hours of fasting.
- **Breaking of the fast:** After the final

Local Yom Kippur services

Congregation Kol Ami, 3919 Moran Road, Tampa

Sept. 29: Kol Nidre at 6:30 p.m.
Sept. 30: Shacharit/Yizkor at 9 a.m.; Rabbi's Teaching at 4:15 p.m.; Mincha at 6 p.m.; Neilah at 7 p.m.; Havdallah at 8 p.m.; and Break the Fast at 8:15 p.m. For information, call (813) 962-6338, or visit KolAmi.org.

Congregation Mevor Shalom, 14005A N. Dale Mabry Highway

Sept. 29: Erev Shabbat at 6:30 p.m.; Kol Nidre at 6:45 p.m.
Sept. 30: Yom Kippur at 9 a.m.; and, Minha, Ma'ariv, Neilah & Shofar Blast at 5:30 p.m. For information, call (813) 963-1818, or visit MevorShalom.org.

Congregation Beth Am, 2030 W. Fletcher Ave.

Sept. 29: Kol Nidre at 8 p.m.
Sept. 30: Yom Kippur morning service at 10 a.m.; Junior Congregation at 11:30 a.m.; Children's Service at 2 p.m.; Discussion Group at 3 p.m.; Yom Kippur afternoon, Yizkor, N'eila Final Shofar at 4:30 p.m. For information, call (813) 968-8511, or visit BethAmTampa.org.

Chabad at Wiregrass, 2124 Ashley Oaks Circle in Wesley Chapel

Sept. 29: Kol Nidre at 6:45 p.m.
Sept. 30: Yom Kippur morning service at 10 a.m.; Yizkor Memorial Service at 12 p.m.; Afternoon & Neilah Closing Service at 5:45 p.m., and Shofar Blast at 7:51 p.m. For information, call (813) 642-3244, or visit ChabadAtWiregrass.com.

Yom Kippur service, many people return home for a festive meal. It traditionally consists of breakfast-like comfort foods such as blintzes (pancakes), noodle pudding and various baked goods.

- **Wearing white:** It is customary for religious Jews to dress in white — a symbol of purity — on Yom Kippur. Some married men wear kittels — white burial shrouds — to signify repentance.

- **Charity:** Some Jews make donations or volunteer their time in the days leading up to Yom Kippur. This is seen as a way to atone and seek God's forgiveness. One ancient custom known as kapparot involves swinging a live chicken or bundle of coins over one's head while reciting a prayer. The chicken or money is then given to the poor.

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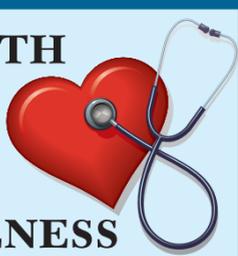


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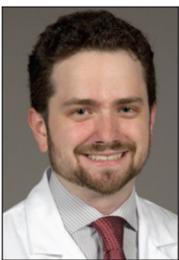
WELLNESS



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FAMILY DOCTOR JOINS BAYCARE

Dr. Aaron Lozano has joined BayCare Medical Group, specializing in family medicine. Lozano will accept new patients at Oak View Family Care, 2044 Trinity Oaks Blvd., in Trinity. Lozano received an undergraduate degree from the University of South Florida, earned a Doctor of Medicine from USF Morsani College of Medicine, and completed his family medicine residency at Morton Plant Hospital in Clearwater. He is a former recipient of the University of South Florida's Charles E. Aucremann Excellence in Family Medicine award. For information, call (727) 372-2501.



Dr. Aaron Lozano

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

Gulfside Hospice will host a bereavement support group for individuals coping with the loss of a loved one.

The group will start Sept. 28 at 3 p.m., and meet every Thursday for eight weeks, at Gulfside's Bereavement and Community Outreach Center, 6224 Lafayette St., in New Port Richey.

During group sessions, participants will be encouraged to share information, experiences and emotional support for one another under the group counselor's leadership, with an emphasis on discussion and participation, while focusing on the aspects of grief and the healing process.

To attend, call Kelly Cavagnetto at (727) 845-5707.

MEDICARE HELP

The Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., in Dade City, will offer Medicare help Sept. 28 at 2 p.m.

For information, call (352) 567-3576.

QUARTER AUCTION FUNDRAISER

The Lighthouse for the Visually Impaired and Blind will host a Quarter Auction Sept. 29 at 6 p.m., at the Trinity Meeting Center, 7813 Mitchell Blvd., in New Port Richey.

A Quarter Auction is a fast-paced auction with bids on items using quarters instead of large sums of money. Items will include jewelry, baskets, candles, handbags, food, and items for the home.

All proceeds will be used to provide services to Lighthouse clients.

Tickets are \$20 (includes one paddle, light appetizers and beverages) and can be purchased at the door or online at LVIB.org/events.

For information, call Mary Anne Richard at (727) 364-3611 or Joanne Krapf at (727) 375-9700.

LIVE WELL SEMINAR

The New Tampa Regional Library, 10001 Cross Creek Blvd., will offer a Live Well event Sept. 30 at 1 p.m.

There will be multiple short demo programs on health and wellness topics, such as stress relief, yoga and healthy eating; au-

thors; information displays; and, activities for all ages.

For information, call (813) 273-3652, or visit HCPLC.org.

VOICE 4 RECOVERY

The Salvation Army Tampa Adult Rehabilitation Center and Sober Lyfe will host "Voices 4 Recovery" Sept. 30 at Al Lopez Park, 4810 N. Himes Ave., in Tampa.

Guests can participate in a 5K run or 1-mile walk starting at 7:30 a.m. Register by email at voices4recovery@gmail.com.

A Recovery Awareness Celebration will take place from 9 a.m. to noon, with activities, games, food truck, and live entertainment by Secondhand Band.

The guest speakers will be the Honorable Jack Espinosa Jr., who sits on the Juvenile Dependency Drug Court, Division J and the Marchman Act Drug Court, Division Z; and, Dr. Scott Tietelbaum, who serves as department vice chair and clinical chief of addiction medicine division at the University of South Florida College of Medicine.

Admission is free.

The Center also accepts donations of unwanted, tax-deductible items by calling (800) 728-7825 or visiting SATruck.org, to schedule a pickup.

For anyone who would like long-term help for drug or alcohol dependency, call (813) 972-0471, ext. 59074.

JOINT REPLACEMENT

St. Joseph's Hospital-North, 4211 Van Dyke Road in Lutz, will offer a Total Joint Replacement Lecture Oct. 2 at 10 a.m., in the Nursing Administration classroom.

Participants can learn more about joint replacement, how to prepare for surgery and the recovery process.

Based on the requirements of your physician and availability, participants

could get pre-op testing done the same day.

Other lectures will take place Oct. 9, Oct. 16, Oct. 23 and Oct. 30, at the same time and place.

For information and to register, call (813) 443-2046.

SPINAL FUSION LECTURE

St. Joseph's Hospital-North, 4211 Van Dyke Road in Lutz, will present a Minimally Invasive Spinal Fusion Lecture Oct. 3 at noon, in Garden Classrooms A/B.

Topics will include disc degeneration, herniation and stenosis, as well as the latest nonsurgical treatments and surgical procedures.

Admission is free. Registration is required. For information, call (813) 443-2046.

HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICES

Premier Community Healthcare will be at the Zephyrhills Public Library, 5347 Eighth St., in Zephyrhills, Oct. 3 from 9 a.m. to noon, with information on support services for migrant workers, the homeless, minorities and the indigent.

There also will be information on health educational series and training to ensure continuity of care, education on insurance affordability programs, and health insurance applications.

For information, call (813) 780-0064.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT

The Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Collier Parkway, will offer an Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group Oct. 4 at 11 a.m.

Participants can learn about services and support available for patients with dementia.

For information, email Phyllis Bross at pebross@verizon.net.

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10/17/17

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'He was our own Indiana Jones'



Knowing Your History

Madonna Jervis Wise
Special to The Laker/Lutz News

After 91-year-old Bill Smith was laid to rest on Aug. 11 amid the emotionally riveting melody of bagpipes from quaint Smith Cemetery, a group of Smith's fans gathered at Lake Jovita to swap stories and remember the rugged Wesley Chapel pioneer.

Dr. Christopher Darby Immer, the pioneer's son-in-law, was among those paying homage to Bill's memory.

"He was our own Indiana Jones!" said Immer, recalling his initial encounter with the legendary Bill Smith.

"Do you remember the Indiana Jones character that was created by Harrison Ford in 'Raiders of the Lost Ark?' Immer asked.

"Well, I was 10 years old and star-struck by Indiana Jones. Around about that same time, I encountered Bill Smith.

"Modest and unassuming in demeanor, he shared a few quips on Wesley Chapel... ranching, open range and the like.

"Understanding a thing or two about the attention span of a 10-year-old, Bill pulled out his authentic Florida Cracker Whip and — reminiscent of Harrison Ford — Bill wielded his braided rawhide with painstaking precision.

"Just four effortless thrusts and he peeled each of the four letters from the label of the aluminum Coke™ can in sequence," Immer said.

Timing was important to Bill Smith — along with honor, friendship, legacy and savoring life's gusto.

Unpretentious and keenly aware, Bill was much more than merely his folksy humble Florida-boy persona.

He traveled the world with his beloved Lillian.

He had a map that chronicled their extensive travels and his hunting expeditions throughout the world—every continent.

He was well-read and, on things he deemed important, held strong opinions.

It was only after one got to know him well, that Bill would humbly reveal glimpses into a life well-lived.

For instance, his division was first to enter bomb-ravaged Nagasaki, at the beginning of allied occupation of Japan at the conclusion of World War II.



Bill and Luther Smith on horseback in Wesley Chapel in 1940.

COURTESY OF MADONNA JERVIS WISE

And, during a 1963 work project on the Wesley Chapel overpass at the construction of Interstate 75, Bill remembered the fellow who waved him down off his tractor to tell him the sad news: "Our President was assassinated!"

Bill's wife Lillian found a 2004 handwritten memoir, drafted in Bill's classic self-effacing fashion.

In part, it reads: "I was born William Rollie Smith on November 15, 1925, to Luther Daniel Smith and Louneta (Stanley) Smith in a two-story home about 200 yards from where I reside on Smith Road. A Fourth Generation Floridian, many would see my years as simple ... it was a day-to day survival. I could not grow up fast enough to leave the farm during the Great Depression years.

"My sister, Ruth and I had a hard life but a good life, and we were always close. Everyone should have a sister like mine. We completed the eighth grade at a two-room schoolhouse with no electricity (electricity came in 1947), near the 1878 Double Branch Baptist Church, which was the center of the community, before subsequently graduating from Pasco High.

"My grandfather was Daniel Henry Smith, a man I dearly loved who told stories of the past. He died in 1955—a great loss. He and

dad had cattle and hogs...running in the woods...from San Antonio to the present day site of the University of South Florida. This was the time of Open Range. You fenced the animals out of your yard or farm. Cities were fenced in!"

A descendant of homesteaders, William Riley Smith and Anne E. Sims Smith, Bill was eager to share that the Homestead Act of 1862, provided a 160-acre piece of land for a person who had resided on the land for five years and improved it.

Smith's family was recognized at the September 1987 centennial ceremony, which commemorated the formation of Pasco County (including Precinct 4, Wesley Chapel). Fittingly, the homesteaded land now belongs to the Pasco County School Board.

Preserving history was an important mission for Bill.

In recent years, he lamented that his cohorts were decreasing.

His boyhood friend and close neighbor, Frederick (Dick) Tucker, passed away in 2012. More recently, Wesley Chapel lost other keepers of the frontier history.

Michael Boyette, who spearheaded the placing of the Wesley Chapel historical marker, died on June 30, 2017. Bill's own sister, Ruth Smith Adams, passed away on May 24, 2017.



Bill Smith served in Japan in 1945.

The Smith cracker home is on display at 'Cracker Country' at the State Fairgrounds as a hands-on living legacy of frontier Florida. (Neighbors of Daniel H. and Elizabeth Geiger Smith built the cracker home in barn-raising fashion as a wedding present in 1894.)

The house was donated in 1979, as a tribute.

The fairgrounds exhibit reflects life on the Florida frontier, which included farming, ranching, charcoal producing, gator hunting, turpentine stills and moonshining.

Frontier independence permeated Wesley Chapel pioneer settlers who possessed a character of hard work and strength. Eking out an existence was a challenge, and Wesley Chapel was known for its gator hunting and moonshining.

Bill donated his moonshine still to the Florida Pioneer Museum in Dade City.

Wesley Chapel, as well as Bill's many friends and family, will mourn the loss of his wisdom and insight.

One such lifelong friend and a member of Bill's weekly fishing group is local sports hero Keathel Chauncey, who offered this reflection: "From the times that I spent with Bill, I realized that he was a straight shooter (literally and figuratively).

"Taught from early in his life what life is about, Bill experienced families that respected each other, worshipped together, and helped anyone in need. When you asked him a question or advice about anything, his answers came from his heart and his upbringing. Find a quiet place, think of the teachings of the Bible, and you will find your own right answer; you don't need me."

"Bill Smith taught me self-respect, self-reliance, honor, patience," Chauncey said.

Madonna Wise, who lives in Zephyrhills, has written three local history books and is actively involved in preserving local history.

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NO HURRICANE MAKEUP DAYS FOR PASCO

After receiving confirmation from the Florida commissioner of education that the state is forgiving the two days Gov. Rick Scott ordered all Florida schools closed for Hurricane Irma, Pasco County Schools leaders have determined that the other four hurricane days can be made up without cancelling planned days off.

There will be no school on any day during Thanksgiving week, and no days will be added to the end of the school year.

Instead, 11 schools are adding time to class schedules by having shorter passing time between classes, reducing the length of homeroom, or starting earlier or dismissing later.

None of these changes take any teacher below the contractual minimums for weekly planning time, daily planning periods or daily lunchtime.

Individual schools notified students, teachers and staff of the adjusted bell schedules, which started Sept. 25.

STUDENTS GLIMPSE CITY GOVERNMENT

Gulf Middle High School students will get an inside look at government agency operations, meet city officials and have a complimentary lunch Sept. 29 from 7:45 a.m. to 1:20 p.m., for Student Government Day with the City of New Port Richey.

The school's student council members will tour the New Port Richey police, fire, and public works departments, as well as the water filtration and waste treatment facilities.

The tour will start at City Hall, and then the students will be paired with city officials, and experience a mock City Council meeting.

For information, call Elizabeth Kuhns at (727) 774-8018.

MANUFACTURING DAY

CareerSource Pasco-Hernando announced the fifth annual Manufacturing Day will take place Oct. 6.

More than 26 manufacturers and more than 650 high school students will tour local manufacturers in Pasco and Hernando counties. Also, more than 1,800 virtual manufacturing tours will be viewed by high school and middle school students.

For more information about tour locations and times, visit MfgDay.com, or call CareerSource at (352) 200-3020.

SAINT LEO OPEN HOUSE

Saint Leo University will host its Undergraduate Admissions Fall Open House Oct. 7 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Guests can explore the campus at 33701

State Road 52 in St. Leo, and speak with members of the university's community.

Current high school seniors or students who are looking to transfer can complete an application and meet with an admissions counselor on-site during the open house.

Students who bring official copies of transcripts and test scores may also be reviewed for instant on-site admission into the university.

For information, or for special accommodations, call (352) 588-8283, or email admissions@saintleo.edu.

TEACHER EVALUATION AGREEMENT REACHED

The United School Employees of Pasco and Pasco County Schools signed a revised agreement for the 2017-2018 teacher evaluations.

The one-year agreement is the result of joint efforts to improve evaluations, so that more emphasis is placed on professional coaching and growth. The procedural revisions are expected to reduce or eliminate the concern previously reported as a byproduct of the evaluation process and allow for a more collaborative approach.

Key elements in the agreement include:

- Observations conducted over time through multiple informal classroom visits
- Timely feedback, no later than 10 days from visit

• Post-conferences available on request following classroom visit feedback

• Scores for classroom practices finalized no later than the end of the third quarter

• Elimination of paperwork and documentation associated with scoring of multiple domains

• Deliberate practice will remain additive, weighted at 20 percent instead of 15 percent

The district and the union are committed to working toward a further improved evaluation system for the 2018-2019 school year.

CLASS REUNION

The Land O' Lakes High School Class of 1977 will host its 40th reunion Oct. 27 and Oct. 28. Events will include the Land O' Lakes homecoming game on Friday, and a dinner party on Saturday. The dinner will be \$25.

Guests should RSVP and pay by Oct. 14.

For all details, including times and cost, email lolreunion77@gmail.com, or go to the Facebook group Land O' Lakes Class of 1977 Alumni.

ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE

Hillel Academy, 2020 W. Fletcher Ave., in Tampa, will host an open house Oct. 24 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Hillel is the city's only private Jewish day school.

Topics will be academic secular programming, Hebrew and Judaics, art, music, physical education and technology programs. There also will be door prizes, tours, goody bags and refreshments.

For more information or to RSVP, you can call (813) 963-2242.

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A witness to hard-working volunteers

Anthony Jones, principal of Walker Middle Magnet School in Odessa, appreciated all those who served at various shelters to provide for anyone seeking safety from Hurricane Irma. Staff, including the principals of Hammond Elementary, Lowry Elementary, Northwest Elementary and Walker Middle schools manned the hurricane shelter at Hammond in Odessa, where Jones and his family rode out the storm.

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FEE, from page 1A

two years, and most recently endured the wind and rain from Hurricane Irma.

County staff members previously told county commissioners of a backlog of 93 years of service and maintenance to clean drainage culverts. More projects for repairs and other services also would take decades. Total costs for all projects could add up to about \$300 million.

The increased fee will give the county about \$25 million for engineering and design of 10 priority capital projects, and for cleaning, replacing and maintenance of culverts and swales.

Southwest Florida Water Management District, known as Swiftmud, is being asked to contribute half of an estimated \$38 million in construction costs for the capital projects.

Hurricane Irma is only the latest to add to Pasco's flooding issues.

Tropical Storm Hermine in 2016 and torrential summer rains in 2015 caused extensive flooding to Pasco County homes. Much of the damage was in New Port

Richey, Port Richey and Elfers, though some areas of central and east Pasco also saw flooding.

In separate votes, county commissioners also approved special assessments related to the purchase of two former golf courses in the Magnolia Valley and Timber Oaks subdivisions.

The purchases centered on easing flooding in those areas by creating additional drainage capacity.

However, Magnolia Valley and Timber Oaks residents through the special assessments will pay a share of the purchase prices.

Magnolia Valley residents will pay \$28; Timber Oaks residents, about \$61.

Magnolia Valley resident Judy Osteen spoke during public comment against the fee.

"You've selected a few people to pay for a project that the whole county is going to enjoy," Osteen said. "That to me is the county dictating to a certain amount of people for a project they want done."

Pasco County Commissioner Jack Mariano said homeowners' property values would benefit from the county's efforts.



B.C. MANION

From left, Hannah Church, Anisa Navavati and Addison Pollock work to transport mulch from a huge pile across the yard from the Old Lutz School to plant beds closer to the school. The trio of eighth-graders from Academy at the Lakes was taking part in a service day the school organized to celebrate its 25th anniversary.

ACADEMY, from page 1A

pitching in at Feeding Tampa Bay and Metropolitan Ministries.

Heller attributed Academy's staying power to its ability to create a culture that works on a scale "that takes great care of the individual."

"I think there's great power, in the small school, to unlock human potential," he said.

In a school with a low student-teacher ratio, the teachers get to know each student "well enough to know how to motivate them to be their best and to inspire them to be their best," Heller said.

With such familiarity, they can transmit "a sense of that joy in the journey, of how to walk through life finding things that are beautiful, and wonderful and meaningful," Heller said.

Academy at the Lakes originally opened in 1982 as a preschool operated by Connie Wendlek, but evolved into Academy at the Lakes Day School in 1992, with 32 students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. Connie's husband, Richard, a former Pasco County principal became the head of school.

Besides drawing students from Land O'

Lakes, the school also attracts students from Odessa, Trinity, Lutz, New Tampa, Wesley Chapel, Zephyrhills, Dade City, Tampa and other Tampa Bay communities.

The school now has more 500 students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, in its lower division, middle division and upper division programs.

Essentially all of its graduates pursue education beyond the secondary level, with approximately 80 percent being accepted by their first-choice colleges, according to school statistics.

Heller is gratified by the school's accomplishments during its first quarter-century, and he's enthusiastic about what lies ahead.

"There are tremendously exciting things on the immediate horizon for Academy at the Lakes.

"We own 47 acres of undeveloped land just on the other side of Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church," he said.

"We have our stake of the ground right here in Central Pasco, in Land O' Lakes. As the community grows, so too, will Academy at the Lakes, just as has happened in the first 25 years of Academy of the Lakes.

For more information about the academy, call (813) 948-7600, or visit www.AcademyAtTheLakes.org.

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Losing the Grand Canyon

Join us for an evening with Kevin Fedarko, National Geographic writer and acclaimed author of *The Emerald Mile*. Kevin will share photos and stories of the 650+ mile trek he took through the heart of the Grand Canyon, a landscape now facing an unprecedented array of threats that could damage the integrity of the crown jewel of the National Parks system.

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FILE

Karen DeStefano, Roy Hardy and Cathy Blommel were among those helping out at the annual Roy Hardy Fish Fry held Thursday, April 10, 2008, at the National Guard Armory in Dade City.

HARDY, from page 1A

"Even in his last six months, when he was failing, his family brought him every Tuesday to meetings," she said. "He actually stopped coming to Kiwanis, about a month, six weeks, ago. We knew then that it wasn't going to be too long," said Morrill, who met Hardy during the 1980s.

Morrill said she's sad at Hardy's passing for herself, but happy for him.

"He was always very clear, particularly in his later years, that he wished that God would take him, so he could be with his Martha.

"He's been waiting for this for a long time. "They were glued at the hip.

"If he was out in the field haying, she was in the truck with him," Morrill said.

Carr agreed: "Until Martha passed away ... if you saw Roy, you saw Martha. They were inseparable."

Carr also noted the couple was known for their generosity.

"Many, many years ago, he and his wife Martha started a little benevolent foundation called the Hardy Benevolent Fund," Carr

said. "The fund was set up to help cover medical costs of needy citizens around the area, primarily children.

"Our major fundraiser for years and years and years was the Roy Hardy Fish Fry," Carr said.

"The fish fries were his baby," Morrill said. "You fried the fish the way Roy said. You made the coleslaw the way Roy said. You used the seasonings, the way Roy said."

"It was all his.

"Before his wife passed, she would always help make the coleslaw. She and Agnes Lamb — that's another one who passed. They would always make the coleslaw."

Hardy left his mark, Williams said, noting he will always think of him as "a true friend. A true gentleman. One of the last really good guys."

Morrill said his concern for others was consistent and genuine.

"I think it was the nature that God gave him. His focus was always to help others," she said.

Carr said Hardy left an impression on the community.

"If you were born and raised in Dade City, you knew Roy Hardy," Carr said.

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Sunlake keeps 'Butter Bowl' streak alive

By Kevin Weiss

kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

It wasn't easy, but the Sunlake Seahawks secured its first win of the season — and maintained its dominance over the Land O' Lakes Gators in the 11th annual "Butter Bowl" rivalry game, with a 37-20 victory.

The Sept. 22 road win marks the Seahawks' (1-3) eighth straight victory over the Gators (1-2) since the series began in 2007.

Trailing 14-3 midway through the third quarter, the Seahawks battled back with a potent rushing attack and key special teams plays, rallying to a 27-0 run.

Sunlake entered half-time with a 3-0 lead, but quickly surrendered two straight scores early in the third quarter — both touchdown runs by Gators running back Kyle Leivas.

Undeterred, the Seahawks answered with four consecutive touchdowns, taking advantage of solid field position to set up scoring drives.

The tide of the game shifted once Sunlake fullback Grant Henderson ripped off a 37-yard kick return to create an easy scoring opportunity at the Land O' Lakes' 25 yard line.

Minutes later, Sunlake defensive lineman Trent Shorey blocked a punt that was recovered by tailback Bryant Beacham, setting up a 16-14 lead early in the fourth quarter.

Key Stats:

LAND O' LAKES

- **Quarterback Ethan Forrester:** 234 yards, one touchdown, 44 percent completion percentage
- **Tailback Kyle Leivas:** 130 all-purpose yards, two touchdowns
- **Wide Receiver Taylor Winn:** 87 yards, three receptions, one touchdown
- **Safety/Wide Receiver Nate Howard:** 13 total tackles; 70 yards on three receptions

SUNLAKE

- **Quarterback Hunter Watts:** 45 yards passing, 88 yards rushing, one touchdown
- **Tailback Bryant Beacham:** 143 yards on 17 carries, two touchdowns
- **Fullback Grant Henderson:** 61 all-purpose yards, two touchdowns
- **Kicker Grant Presson:** 32-yard field goal, four-of-five PATs (Point-after touchdowns)

The Seahawks didn't trail again.

Besides a dominant first-half defense and timely special teams plays, the Seahawks combined for over 300 rushing yards and five touchdowns, including two apiece by Beacham and Henderson.

Though it wasn't enough, the Gators received a standout performance from sophomore quarterback Ethan Forrester, who threw for 243 yards and one touchdown on just 11 completions. He's thrown



COURTESY OF TOM KETCHUM

Senior running back Bryant Beacham helped guide Sunlake to a comeback victory over Land O' Lakes High, rushing for 143 yards and two touchdowns.

for 439 yards through three games.

Next up: Sunlake travels to Springstead (2-1), while Land O' Lakes travels to Cypress Creek. Both games are Sept. 29 at 7:30 p.m.

—Stats compiled using Maxpreps.com



Despite a 37-20 loss, Land O' Lakes sophomore quarterback Ethan Forrester showed great promise, throwing for 243 yards and two touchdowns.

Butter Bowl series history

SUNLAKE LEADS 8-3

- 2017: Sunlake 37, Land O' Lakes 20
- 2016: Sunlake 21, Land O' Lakes 3
- 2015: Sunlake 34, Land O' Lakes 0
- 2014: Sunlake 42, Land O' Lakes 14
- 2013: Sunlake 38, Land O' Lakes 21
- 2012: Sunlake 18, Land O' Lakes 6
- 2011: Sunlake (Land O' Lakes forfeit due to recruiting violations)
- 2010: Sunlake 29, Land O' Lakes 21
- 2009: Land O' Lakes 42, Sunlake 14
- 2008: Land O' Lakes 28, Sunlake 0
- 2007: Land O' Lakes 26, Sunlake 0

Locals shining in college football

By Kevin Weiss

kweiss@lakerlutznews.com

With the college football season in full swing, dozens of players from Pasco County can be seen showcasing their skills on Saturdays throughout the fall. Nearly 50

players from east Pasco are a part of various programs at the Division I Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) and Football Championship Series (FCS) levels, Division II, Division III National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), and Junior College.

THREE TO WATCH:



COURTESY OF CHARLESTON SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

SHANE BUCENELL; Charleston Southern University; sophomore quarterback

Bucenell earned Charleston Southern's starting quarterback out of camp after he went 6-2 as a starter last season, passing for 1,100 yards and a Big South Conference-leading 15 touchdowns. Besides arm talent, the 5-foot-11, 190-pounder redshirt sophomore also is a viable threat with his legs — he rushed for 325 yards and four touchdowns in 2016.

In three games this season, Bucenell has passed for 396 yards and three touchdowns, with a 52 percent completion rate.

Bucenell graduated from Wiregrass Ranch High School in 2015. He became the school's career touchdown passing leader, and set school records for passing yards and completions in a single game. He also was a standout in baseball and track throughout his high school career.



COURTESY OF RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

JANARION GRANT; Rutgers University; senior wide receiver

The former Pasco High School star has proved himself a dynamic all-purpose playmaker at the Division I level ever since stepping foot on the Rutgers campus.

Besides one of the program's receiving leaders this season (12 receptions, 113 yards through three games), the fifth-year senior is tied for the NCAA all-time record for kick/punt return touchdowns with eight. At 5-10, 178 pounds, Grant is often praised for his elusiveness and straight-line speed — qualities that may make him a highly sought special teamer priority in the NFL.

The speedster was granted a medical redshirt for this season after he underwent broken ankle surgery last September and missed the final eight games in 2016.

Grant had an illustrious career at Pasco High School, where he set the county record with 77 career touchdowns. In his final two prep seasons, Grant was part of Pirates squads that reached the Class 5A state final four in 2011 and made a regional final appearance in 2012.



COURTESY OF SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

SHAHEED SALMON; Samford University; senior linebacker

Salmon was one of 97 players selected in July to the STATS FCS Preseason All-America Team. Thus far, the sturdy 6-foot-2, 232-pound Land O' Lakes High School product has lived up to the hype, ranking among the nation's leaders in tackles per game (10.3).

That production has some outlets coining him a legitimate NFL prospect.

He had his breakout campaign last season, where he started 11 games at linebacker and finished second on the team with 93 tackles, including 50 solo stops.

Salmon graduated from Land O' Lakes High in 2014. He led the Gators in tackles (117), tackles for loss (21.5) and sacks (8.5) as a senior, and earned third team All-State, and first team All-County and All-Conference honors.

Here's a running tally of known Pasco County players from The Laker/Lutz News coverage currently competing at the next level:

BISHOP MCLAUGHLIN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

- **Patrick Beatty** (defensive back) — Luther College (Decorah, Iowa)
- **Scott Edwards** (defensive back) — Luther College
- **Marc Herrera** (linebacker) — Malone University (Canton, Ohio)
- **Joe Mastrino** (wide receiver) — Lyon College (Batesville, Arkansas)
- **RJ Perciavalle** (tight end) — Washington and Lee (Lexington, Virginia)
- **William Potosky** (tight end) — University of Southern Mississippi
- **Luis Valentin** (wide receiver) — Ave Maria University

LAND O' LAKES HIGH SCHOOL

- **Joshua Brown** (cornerback) — Warner University (Lake Wales)
- **Spencer Childress** (quarterback) — Lyon College
- **Andy Dowler** (punter/kicker) — Geneva College (Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania)
- **Jordan Ferrante** (linebacker/defensive lineman) — William Jewell College (Liberty, Missouri)
- **Liam Heaney** (tight end) — Black Hills State University (Spearfish, South Dakota)
- **Dylan Hothenthaler** (kicker) — Indiana State University
- **Cedric Lowe** (linebacker) — Huntingdon College (Montgomery, Alabama)
- **Shaheed Salmon** (linebacker) — Samford University (Homewood, Alabama)
- **Larenz Scroggins** (running back) — Jacksonville University
- **Quentin Smith** (wide receiver/running back) — Malone University
- **Ethan Weiland** (wide receiver) — William Jewell College

PASCO HIGH SCHOOL

- **Janarion Grant** (wide receiver) — Rutgers University (Piscataway, New Jersey)
- **Jayvaughn Myers** (defensive back) — Auburn University (Alabama)

SUNLAKE HIGH SCHOOL

- **Tommy Berrios** (defensive back) — Southern Virginia University
- **Joseph Jean-Baptiste** (defensive back) — University of West Florida
- **Tyler Peretti** (wide receiver) — Southeastern University (Lakeland)
- **Chris Williams** (defensive back) — Ohio Wesleyan University
- **Austin Yeloushan** (linebacker) — Jacksonville University

WESLEY CHAPEL HIGH SCHOOL

- **Ellrie Allen** (safety) — Florida A&M University
- **Kyle Brown** (defensive back) — Beloit College (Wisconsin)
- **Davon Henry** (wide receiver) — Missouri Valley College
- **Angel Ramos** (linebacker) — Missouri Valley College
- **Na'im Smith** (offensive lineman) — North Park University (Chicago, Illinois)
- **Jacob Thomas** (quarterback) — Mars Hill University (North Carolina)

WIREGRASS RANCH HIGH SCHOOL

- **Taylor Bleistein** (wide receiver) — Hanover College (Indiana)
- **Elijah Brooks-Davis** (defensive lineman) — Sewanee University (Tennessee)
- **Dylan Bryan** (wide receiver/linebacker) — Ave Maria University
- **Shane Bucenell** (quarterback) — Charleston Southern University (South Carolina)
- **Chris Faddoul** (punter) — Florida A&M University
- **Vinnie Haider** (offensive lineman/defensive lineman) — Sterling College (Kansas)
- **John Harris-Scott** (safety) — Trine University (Angola, Indiana)
- **Evan Hogan** (offensive lineman) — Keiser University (Fort Lauderdale)
- **Mark Hutchinson** (wide receiver) — Florida International University
- **Brandon Mosley** (defensive back) — Feather River Community College (Quincy, California)
- **Jason Winston** (defensive lineman) — Stetson University (Deland)

ZEPHYRHILLS HIGH SCHOOL

- **Jaylen Pickett** (linebacker) — Eastern Michigan University
- **Antwione Sims** (running back/safety) — United States Naval Academy (Annapolis, Maryland)

ZEPHYRHILLS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

- **Serion Bellamy** (running back) — Shorter University (Rome, Georgia)
- **Mykh'ael Chavis** (running back) — Minnesota State College
- **Matt Iovine** (quarterback) — Minnesota State College



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Rallying 'round the blueberry bushes

By Kathy Steele

ksteele@lakerlutznews.com

Hurricane Irma blew across the landscape, uprooting and toppling about 100,000 blueberry bushes at Frogmore Fresh Farm, outside Dade City.

In Irma's aftermath, the farm's general manager, Leonard Park, knew he had a narrow window to salvage as many of the plants as possible. He also knew he didn't have enough labor to make that happen.

An unexpected phone call from Whitney Elmore offered some hope.

Elmore is the chief executive director of the University of Florida/IFAS Pasco County Extension, in Dade City.

"She wanted to know if she could send some volunteers to help," said Park. "I thought she meant a van with maybe 20 people."

Elmore had bigger ideas, and put social media to work.

"This went viral," said Elmore. "It's been all over Facebook and Twitter."

Pasco County, the University of Florida and the extension service worked as a team to put out the word.

On a hot, Saturday morning, about 200 volunteers drove their cars and trucks down a narrow dirt lane, off St. Joe Road, to put in a day's work and save the blueberries.

Volunteers focused on about 23 acres of the approximately 145-acre farm. That is where the youngest blueberry plants had either been uprooted or knocked down.

Farm employees were able to put their attentions on more mature plants elsewhere.

The turnout caught Park by surprise.

"It's heartwarming. This is a tremendous benefit to us," he said. "This (the young plants) is the future. We're going to keep on, keeping on."

It was all for a good cause, said Elmore.

Frogmore Fresh Farm benefits the county's economy. The Sigety family, which owns the farm, does charitable work in Pasco, donating to food banks and providing internships to local students, Elmore said.

"It's about being part of the community and making it better for everyone," she said.

About 50 students and faculty members came from UF. Two sororities also sent volunteers.

"People have driven two hours basically on a call from social media, which is really interesting," said Kevin Folta, UF professor and chairman of the university's horticultural sciences department.

"But, this is what we're supposed to do as a land grant institute. It fits our mission well."

Frogmore's blueberries are hybrids developed through UF research. Folta said the plants produce fruit after the harvests in other countries, such as Chile.

It opens markets for Florida blueberries that might not be available, he said.

They are rooted in wood chip beds and hydrated with an irrigation system, sort of as a "big, crazy hydroponic garden," Folta said.

"None of this would happen naturally," he said. "It's a system that works and brings millions of dollars to the state of Florida. Blueberry acreage is exploding."

Elmore said Florida provides about a quarter of the country's blueberries, and adds about \$82 million to \$100 million to the state's economy annually.

UF wasn't alone in rounding up students to help.

Another 50 or so volunteers were from Pasco High School's science club and student body council. There also were students from Saint Leo University, local residents, and church members.

The Salvation Army provided bottled water.

Margarita Roma, local migrant activist and executive director of Farmers Self-Help Inc., came with about 10 volunteers. Most were teenagers, wearing T-shirts in support of DACA, the Deferred Action for Childhood



FRED BELLET

Pasco High senior Matt Gregory, 17, took a break and used a cane stake to stretch out his back. Gregory and senior Nathalie Sawczuk, 17, (obscured by plant) were among students who volunteered at Frogmore Fresh Farm.



Kevin Folta, professor and chairman of the University of Florida's horticultural sciences department, relied on social media to recruit about 50 UF students to help salvage blueberry plants damaged by Hurricane Irma.



Pasco High School student, Roney Webster, 17, ties green tape around a stake to support a damaged blueberry plant.



University of Florida graduate students Carlos Zambrano, right, and Dario Racano, both of Gainesville, staked young blueberry plants at Frogmore Fresh Farm.



Land O' Lakes resident Tom Stewart staked fallen blueberry plants. Stewart said he learned about the event at Frogmore Fresh Farm on Facebook.



Linda Dao, a University of Florida senior biology major, worked to fix damaged blueberry plants that fell over from the force of Hurricane Irma's wind.

Jim Moll, the extension service's Florida-Friendly Landscaping program manager, gave tutorials on blueberry care.

Plants had to be stood upright, firmly replanted, and wrapped with tape to keep foliage from drooping.

"It doesn't have to be a pretty knot, just effective," Moll said. "You want it tight, but not too firm. You don't want to cut off circulation."

Moll felt optimistic.

The plants "will be traumatized from being whipped in the wind," he said. "The good news is they are all green. They aren't limping."

Samantha Acacio, 21, bent down to tie a knot around a blueberry plant. She felt a connection to the environment, as she worked to put the plants upright.

"These (plants) produce oxygen," said Acacio, a pre-med student at Saint Leo University. "Why not have more oxygen in the world? It's motivation. They weathered the storm, and we're going to help them stand upright."

Wesley Chapel residents Maleena Newcomb, 14, Allie Black, 14, and Ana

Anderson, 24, might have been volunteering at an annual coastal cleanup, if not for Irma.

But, they were happy to find themselves being useful at the farm instead.

"It's a good effort," said Black. "You get community service hours. It's all good."

Gayle Womer and her daughter, Jenny Konow, attend First Baptist Church in Dade City. Konow is a 4-H leader.

Konow said they had some experience with blueberry plants. "We're small hobby farmers," she said. "We kind of know the struggles if you need help."

But, it was her 11-year-old son, Archer Konow, who told his family that they had to volunteer. He loves everything about farming.

"It's good to help people after hard things come through," he said. "If it's a business, he added, 'You need to help out.'"

Arrivals program.

Those children, often referred to as Dreamers, are undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children before age 16, and who have lived here since June 15, 2007.

"It's good for our kids to have visibility," she said. And, good to show that they can help the community they live in, she added.

Jose Pedro Lopez, 14, wanted people to know that Dreamers are like everyone else. "They should be able to live a free life," he said.

Volunteers headed into the field, one group at a time.

In groups, volunteers carried batches of cane stakes and rolls of tape, and walked into the field.

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Charlie loves to learn

Charlie is a young pup, and he recently learned how to jump rope with our trainer, and will be starting basic obedience classes. The shelter offers obedience classes at a reduced cost for pets adopted from the shelter, so Charlie will have the option to continue training. The shelter plans to continue trick training with him as well, and he enjoys the work. Charlie is recommended to be an only pup in a home.

If you would like to adopt Charlie, be sure to visit Pasco County Animal Services at 19640 Dogpatch Lane in Land O' Lakes. The adoption center is open Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 6:30 p.m. All adoption fees include spay/neuter, microchip and vaccines. For more information, email adoptionpartners@pascocountyfl.net.

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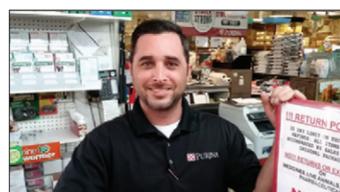
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SHELL'S GARDEN GUIDE SEPTEMBER

By Dax Gonzalez

WHAT TO DO IN SEPTEMBER:

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Store Manager Dax Gonzalez

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The store is owned by Lutz resident Greg Shell, whose father, Charles, bought the store in 1961. Greg took over the store in 2007, and is assisted by Manager Dax Gonzalez, who has worked at Shell's for over 12 years.

**Some information obtained from the University of Florida, Hillsborough County agricultural extension website.*

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All tuckered out

Cindy Warner, of Land O' Lakes, noticed this frog napping in a tree in her yard, post- Hurricane Irma.

Share your wildlife photos

If you've captured a photograph of an interesting bird or wild creature, we'd love to share your image with our readers.

If you'd like us to consider publishing your photograph, please email it to us at news@lakerlutznews.com.

Please be sure to include what kind of animal it is, and where you took the picture. Also include your contact information, so we can get in touch with you, if we need to.

BLESSING OF THE PETS

All Saints Lutheran Church, 5315 Van Dyke Road in Lutz, will host its annual "Blessing of the Pets" Sept. 30 at 10 a.m., for people and pets of all faiths.

Pastor Josh will perform the blessing. There also will be "Ask a Vet," free nail trims, free face painting, a photo booth, and a food collection for Suncoast Animal League.

For information, call (813) 963-0969.

PARADE OF PETS

Congregation Kol Ami, 3919 Moran Road in Tampa, will host its ninth annual "Parade of Pets" and "Birkat Behemot" (Blessing of the Beasts) Oct. 22 at noon, in the North "Barking" Lot. The event is open to the public.

For information, call (813) 962-6338.

DONATE TO HELP SHELTER PETS

Pasco County Animal Services, 19640 Dogpatch Lane in Land O' Lakes, accepts donations to help the shelter pets.

The shelter's wish list includes snap-closure dog collars; dog and cat treats; cat toys; blankets, sheets and towels; liquid laundry soap; pet shampoo; cat hideaway boxes; small beds for cats; kitten bottles and formula; heating pads; and, Kong dog toys.

Donations can be dropped off at the Adoption Center during operating hours.

For information, call (813) 929-1212.

SHARE YOUR PET NEWS

If you have pet news about adoptions, walks or other events for pet owners and their pets, you can let us know by sending us an email. We just need the basics: who, what, when, where and why.

The information should be submitted two weeks prior to the desired publication date. We also need a contact name and number, in case we have questions.

There is no guarantee of publication, but we consider each item we receive.

If you'd like to make a submission, send it to news@lakerlutznews.com.



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BUSINESS DIGEST

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CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS

The Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominees for its 2017 Annual Excellence in Business Award event.

Award winners are chosen by a panel of peers based on their commitment to the advancement of the business community.

Nominees are eligible if they:

- Are members in good standing for one year
- Contributed time and service within the current year
- Do business in the Greater Wesley Chapel/New Tampa, and Trinity and Odessa area
- Haven't won an Excellence award in the last five years
- Show a commitment to social responsibility and exemplify community involvement.

The award categories are small business (0-49 employees); large business (50 or more employees); volunteer of the year; business leader of the year (founder, owner, chief executive officer or president); and new business (less than three years old).

For information, email the chamber at office@wesleychapelchamber.com.

SMARTSTART ROUNDTABLE

The SMARTstart Entrepreneur Roundtable will meet Sept. 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., at The Greater Wesley Chapel Chamber of Commerce, at 6013 Wesley Grove Blvd., in Wesley Chapel.

Entrepreneur Roundtables bring small business owners and early-stage venture



COURTESY OF PULTE HOMES

Pulte Homes will build homes at the new Monroe Commons neighborhood in Starkey Ranch, including its Clearview home design.

PULTE HOMES BUILDS AT MONROE COMMONS

Monroe Commons is the newest neighborhood to be built in the Starkey Ranch master-planned community on State Road 54 at Heart Pine Avenue, according to a news release from Pulte Homes.

Monroe Homes will have 95 home sites, with six home designs in the Park and Garden series built by Pulte Homes.

Pre-sales will begin in October. The grand opening of two models, the Clearview and the Sienna, are scheduled in January.

The six home designs will offer from two to five bedrooms, two to three bathrooms and range from about 1,900 square feet to 2,400 square feet. Prices will start in the high \$200,000s. Each home will have ultra-fast Internet connectivity, and an energy efficiency package.

Home features can be customized, and will include granite counter tops, ceramic tile floors, covered lanais, two-car garages and paver driveways.

Starkey Ranch is a master-planned community on about 2,400 acres north of Tampa, and adjacent to the Jay B. Starkey Wilderness Preserve. Amenities include a 20-mile trail system, more than 150 acres of parks, two pools, four dog parks, playgrounds, canoes and kayaks for rental, and a community garden.

A kindergarten through eighth grade Pasco County public school also is planned. And, a Publix is expected to open in 2018 in the Starkey Ranch Town Square at State Road 54 and Gunn Highway.

For information, visit Pulte.com/starkeyranch.

founders together on a monthly basis for an exchange of information. Groups typically include six to 10 members from diverse industries, in a confidential setting, to share the challenges and rewards of entrepreneurship, and how it affects life at work and home.

Participants have the opportunity to attend two meetings to decide if the roundtable is the right fit for them and their businesses. Thereafter, the annual cost is \$150.

Participating in the roundtable is free for SMARTstart business incubator members.

For more information, please visit SmartstartPasco.com, or call John Walsh at (813) 926-0827, ext. 223.

ENCORE GRAND OPENING

Encore Boutique Consignment will have its grand opening for its new home décor department Sept. 30 at 5132 Land O' Lakes Blvd., in Suites 106 and 107.

Encore Boutique is expanding into space formerly occupied by a florist.

For information, call the shop at (813) 406-4456.

WOMEN-N-CHARGE

Join Women-n-Charge Oct. 6 from 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Pebble Creek Country Club, 10550 Regents Park Drive in New Tampa.

Guest speaker is Life Coach Laura White who will share basic tools and tips to foster

positive communication, connection and relationships with present and future customers.

The cost is \$15 for members and \$18 for guests.

Please register at Women-n-charge.com.

For information, call (813) 600-9848, or email info@women-n-charge.com.

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

Florida's Virtual Business Emergency Operations Center is an online portal for private sector preparation, damage assessments and recovery.

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Small Business Administration are available to individuals, businesses and nonprofit organizations. The loans can be used for loss and damages not fully recovered by insurance.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via the small business administration's secure website. The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is Nov. 9. The deadline to return economic injury applications is June 11, 2018.

HELP FOR BUSINESS DAMAGES

Pasco County wants to know about damages to business property to assist in getting resources to make repairs, according to a news release from the county's Office of Economic Growth.

Please report your interior or exterior damages, including clean-up costs, to either the mobile application, MyPascoapp, or the county website, at PascoCountyFl.net, where

you can click on "Report Irma Damage."

After completing the Pasco County survey on damage, also report damage losses to the State of Florida. If you need financial assistance, the state has activated the Emergency Bridge Loan Program. The business damage survey information will be used to help qualify businesses for the loan program.

The link to use for the state survey is tinyurl.com/yc4bx4tj.

The survey results will be shared among various state and local agencies to expedite appropriate disaster relief programs for affected businesses and to aid in determining eligibility for assistance from the bridge loan program. Please choose "Hurricane Irma" from the Event pull-down menu.

The state's Bridge Loan Program provides short-term, interest-free working capital loans intended to "bridge the gap" between the time a major catastrophe hits and when a business has secured longer term recovery resources, such as sufficient profits from a revived business, insurance payments or federal disaster relief.

The loan program isn't designed to be the primary source of assistance, which is why eligibility is linked to pursuing other sources. The program provides short-term loans from public funds, not grants. The expectation is that loans will be repaid from receipts from other sources of longer-term recovery assistance.

For information, and an application, visit FloridaDisasterLoan.org.

ADOPTIONS

In accordance with FL statute 63.212(1)(g), only attorneys licensed to practice law in Florida and Florida licensed adoption entities may legally provide adoption services under state law.

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