

Seniors are rapidly becoming a prime target for fraud. Attend the fraud expo Feb. 28. Details on **page 3**.



The release of doves marks the official opening of a new church building in Ruskin. See more on **page 16**.



South County showed its community-spirit last weekend by holding a fund raiser for a local businesswoman. See the story on **page 16**.

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# THE OBSERVER NEWS

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## Seniors turn thumbs down on improvement program

By MELODY JAMESON

**SUN CITY CENTER** — Following intense campaigns pro and con, residents here have rejected a community capital improvements building program and its proposed financing. The issues — sometimes

portrayed in deceptive terms — prompted one of the largest voting turn-outs in the retirement center's recent history.

Although defeated, the concepts and reasoning behind them remain alive and could become the focus of organized community

conversations taking shape as early as next month.

Voting up or down on construction of two new buildings in the community's central activities campus to provide space needed for several functions plus updating additions to the atrium plaza area and projected financing involving a \$2.4 million bank loan was concluded February 14. At final count, 2,480 ballots opposed the plan while 1,917 supported it, said Ed Barnes, president of the SCC Community Association currently composed of about 10,800 residents.

The 4,397 voter turn-out approached 40 percent of the association's membership, several times more than the voter interest taken in recent years for annual community association elections to choose its directors. Approximately a quarter of the mostly retired residents defeated the plan aimed also at freshening the 50-year-old community's appearance as increasing competition by newer age-restricted developments in the area affects the resale of homes.

Following the vote tally, Barnes expressed disappointment that a plan which began about a year ago with a community-wide survey to pinpoint residents' improvement preferences was rejected. The CA president characterized that rejection as

post-performance "talk-back" at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 25.

See **FIREHOUSE CULTURAL**, page 11

See **SENIORS REJECT PLAN**, page 23



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

The curtains (bay doors) are set to rise on the Firehouse Cultural Center on Saturday. Leland Faulkner, the center's first Artist-in-Residence, will have an opening performance at 7 p.m.

## Curtains rise at the Firehouse Cultural Center

By MITCH TRAPHAGEN mitch@observernews.net

**RUSKIN** — The curtains, or more accurately, the bay doors, are rising on the Firehouse Cultural Center in Ruskin this week with performance artist Leland Faulkner, the center's first Artist-in-Residence. The new cultural center has been coming to life since last year when the former Hillsborough County Fire Rescue building was donated by the county to the Ruskin Community Development Foundation.

Although work on the new public center is still ongoing, the inaugural Artist-in-Residence program, running from February 25 to March 2, will throw open the doors for up-close and personal access to the arts for everyone in South Hillsborough.

Faulkner's residency will open with a public performance and



## Ruskin Woman's Club has reason to celebrate

Built in 1912 as the home of Adaline Dickman Miller and Dr. George M. Miller, president of the first Ruskin College, this three-story dwelling (left) with Swiss Chalet architectural touches on the Ruskin Inlet now is prized headquarters of the Ruskin Woman's Club. Once part of the college campus and the scene of both academic and social activities, it also is a designated historic site. See the full story beginning on page 14.

MELODY JAMESON PHOTO



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO

Ashley Ambrosia, first grade teacher at Apollo Beach Elementary School, shows students how to work with the new interactive technology recently obtained through a grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center.

## Your tax exempt group may be eligible for a grant

Part 2 of a 2-Part Series

By PENNY FLETCHER  
penny@observernews.net

**SUN CITY CENTER** — Money donated to the Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center finds its way all over South County and occasionally elsewhere if a donor specifies a different cause or place.

Last week I visited some of the Foundation's recent projects

which ranged from high-tech equipment for schools to venting for ceramic-room kilns and a walk-in freezer for food for lions, tigers and other big cats.

The variety of grant applications the Foundation receives can be dizzying.

"Charities often bring their donors to us so we can work together to accomplish a joint purpose," said Evelyn Lunsford, who sits on the Council's 12-member board.

Because only the interest of the \$30 million in the Foundation's coffers is given out and the principal never spent, each year more and more people are helped by organizations that get their funding — or at least part of it — from Foundation grants, as the principal amount in the Foundation's account (and corresponding interest) rises.

The first part of this story that appeared in the Feb. 16 edition explained how the Foundation is set up and run, and how people can donate to it. Anyone who missed that edition can read the

See **GRANTS**, page 2

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# Grants for tax exempt groups

Continued from page 1

story “Projects not too small, or large, for help from Foundation,” at [www.observernews.net](http://www.observernews.net).

Now we’ll examine where the money goes, and how your organization or group can apply for it.

There is money waiting that was donated for specific purposes or causes and other money that board members may access and gift based on applications and community needs, explained board member Robert Mohr, a Sun City Center attorney who advises the Foundation on legal matters. Only 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations may apply for the money. But 501(c)(3)s are as varied as the causes they serve.

Elmira’s Wildlife Sanctuary in Wimauma received \$11,740 last year towards a large walk-in freezer to hold the out-of-date meat regularly donated by Walmart and the out-of-date baked goods picked up at local grocery stores by Elmira’s volunteers, said Robin Greenwood, president of Elmira’s.

Greenwood and Darlene Williamson, sanctuary manager and treasurer, proudly showed off the inside of the large freezer and then pointed to the many chest-type and upright freezers it had replaced.

“People had been donating their old freezers to us and it was really hard working with the food that way,” Greenwood said.

Besides never having enough room and having to spread the freezers out where there was space, there was always a large electric bill from having so many plugged in at once.

“This has made everything so much easier,” Williamson said Feb. 17 as she unloaded a trunk full of baked goods she had just rounded up.

After spending some time looking at the lions and tigers and other big cats, I was shown a large area with a hole in the center that has been dug out for a pond.

Elmira’s volunteers envision the area as a “big cat playground.” The playground will allow the cats to exercise and have fun outside of their cages.

Elmira’s is planning to go back to the Foundation for money towards it as soon as all the costs are examined, Greenwood said. “We’re hoping to find a

contractor who will do the whole project, not just one piece of it,” she explained. “It needs an 18-foot fence around it with a 9-foot viewing platform so people can watch the cats and set up tripods and photograph them,” she said.

The area will simulate the cats’ existence in the wild, and have agility platforms for them to climb like two large cement culverts that have already been placed there.

Elmira’s volunteers have already raised between \$15,000 and \$20,000 for the project, she said. Although the contractors’ bids aren’t figured yet, volunteers estimate the whole project will cost between \$30,000 and \$40,000.

A letter of intent as to how the money will be spent and estimates of all costs and time frames must be included with the original application, Greenwood explained. “They (Foundation members) want to be sure every project they donate to is sustainable. And they follow up afterward really well. They don’t just ‘drop money’ and run.”

Application is made relatively easy by the Foundation board though, she added. “They’re thorough, but good to work with.”

Carol Cook, president of the Sun City Center Ceramic Club, echoed much the same praise as she proudly showed off the room where the ceramic pieces the group makes are baked in kilns.

Although the people that belong to the club have fun, it is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

“We sell the things we make in the gift shop and donate to worthy causes, and also donate items to charities and other organizations so they can use them to raise money,” Cook explained.

The \$1,550 donated for ventilation in the kiln room will make it much healthier for the club members who use it, Cook explained. It will also make it safer.

Even though no kilns were fired up when I arrived, there was a smell akin to “burned” paint in the room.

“Each kiln will have its own ventilation system,” Cook explained. When asked, she acknowledged that it would work like the ventilation of a stove-pipe or clothes dryer vent.

From there I took a ride over

to Apollo Beach Elementary School where first grade teacher Ashley Ambrosia demonstrated how students work with the new interactive technology recently obtained through a Foundation grant.

A computer (on a desk) throws a program through a device hung on a wall or blackboard called a mimeo that produces lighting that allows students to make letters, numbers, or pictures on the wall. “They actually interact with the program during the lesson,” said Principal Jamie Gerding.

This was technology that the school staff, parents, PTA, and private community groups had

been working on but just couldn’t seem to raise enough money to do it, Lunsford explained. So what the Foundation calls a “top off” grant was recently made in the amount of \$7,500.

Many other grants were given just last year, including about \$10,000 to Stepping Stones Farms- a place in Lithia that works with at-risk young girls- and \$15,000 to the South Shore Symphony Orchestra.

The girls’ home used its money to buy a bus to transport students to events outside its campus and the Symphony will be using it to help with the costs of bringing symphony music to events.

“It has cost the members of the orchestra to put these things on, and this will give them a small stipend so we can all continue to enjoy their music,” Lunsford said.

To find out more about the Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center call (813) 633-6677; send grant applications to P.O. Box 5914 Sun City Center, FL 33571; or visit [www.cftampabay.org](http://www.cftampabay.org).

“There is money to help improve lives all over our area,” Lunsford said.

Just because “Sun City Center” is in the name doesn’t mean the organization is strictly for that community’s benefit.



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO

Carol Cook, president of the Sun City Center Ceramic Club, shows the room where a grant will soon provide ventilation for ceramic kilns.

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## Dr. Rehl provides Financial guidelines for widows

The Sun City Center branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will host a luncheon meeting beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 10 in the Florida Room on the central campus.

The guest speaker, Kathleen M. Rehl, PhD, CFP, is a leading authority on the subject of widows and financial planning. Kathleen's world changed forever when her husband died in 2007. Her loss motivated Dr. Rehl to write, *Moving Forward on Your Own: A Financial Guideline for Widows*. The book has received several national book awards. This guidebook is a highly suitable gift for a widowed friend or relative.



Kathleen M. Rehl, PhD, CFP.

Today (Feb. 23) is International Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day. Celebrate by giving your dog a few dog biscuits.

# SCC senior expo targets con artists

By MITCH TRAPHAGEN  
mitch@observernews.net

**SUN CITY CENTER** — According to the Federal Trade Commission, more than 25 million Americans are victims of fraud each year. As the fastest growing segment of the population, and one often with considerable resources, seniors are rapidly becoming a prime target for fraud — and in always new and ever-changing ways. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, seniors are mostly likely to have a “nest egg” of funds, own their own homes and have excellent credit ratings, all things that make them attractive to con artists.

The FBI goes on to say that people who grew up in the 1930s, 40s and 50s were generally raised to be polite and trusting — traits that are exploited by thieves and con artists who know that their victims, due to their upbringing, often have a hard time saying no or even simply hanging up the phone on someone.

While the FBI isn't advocating a less polite posture among seniors, it is heavily invested and interested in helping seniors to be equipped to recognize possible scams and to avoid becoming the victims of crimes in which they could lose everything.

On Tuesday, February 28, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office and Sun Towers Retirement Community will host the Senior Fraud Protection and Awareness Expo at the Borini Theater in the Kings Point Clubhouse.

“This event is open to all seniors, not just the residents of Kings Point,” said Debbie Caneen of Sun Towers.

The expo will consist of 15-



MITCH TRAPHAGEN FILE PHOTO

**Sun City Center Community Resource Deputy Chris Girard will open the senior fraud expo on Feb. 28. Officers from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, special agents from the FBI, and officials from state consumer protection agencies will be on hand to share information and take individual questions.**

minute talks from experts ranging from special agents within the FBI, investigators from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, high-level administrators from state of Florida consumer protection agencies and attorneys from area law firms.

Each 15-minute session will focus on specific issues relating to senior fraud and crime — from insurance and financial scams to, appropriately enough, information about how to identify tax season scams and fraud. The sessions will also include recommendations for hiring in-home caregivers and will provide specific resources for seniors to contact should they feel they have been a victim of fraud.

According to the FBI, seniors

are reluctant to report such crimes not only out of embarrassment, but also because they often simply don't know who to call for help. The senior fraud expo will help seniors on both counts. Help is available and it is frequently just a phone call away.

The 15-minute sessions will run from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and will be followed by a light lunch. From 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., the morning's experts will make time for individual questions and answers at all of the tables. It will be a rare and valuable opportunity for seniors to meet one-on-one with experts from county, state and federal agencies to ask questions and gain individualized information.

Sun City Center Community

Resource Deputy Chris Girard will be on hand to open the expo. Deputy Girard, with an office at the Community Association building, is dedicated to fighting crime against seniors and to preventing seniors from becoming the victims of crime in the first place. He is the community's full-time resource for information and assistance.

*The Senior Consumer Fraud Protection and Awareness Expo will take place on Tuesday, February 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Borini Theater at the Kings Point Clubhouse, 1900 Clubhouse Drive, Sun City Center. The event is open to all area seniors.*

## Adult spellers sought

The Community Church College 1501 La Jolla Avenue is sponsoring another Adult Spelling Bee as a fundraiser. This is an exciting evening filled with prizes, gifts for all the participants, refreshments, and an ongoing Silent Auction.

Mark your calendar right now for 7 p.m. Friday, March 23 in the church Great Hall. Cost is \$10. Organizers would be pleased to have you, your business, or your club sponsor a speller(s) at the cost of \$100 each. If you have no one to participate, they will provide a speller for you.

The Bee is open to the public and everyone is invited. For more information 813-634-8607.

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# Dealing with life's little aggravations

I was watching a movie about a bullfighter. The crowds were cheering and the bands were playing as the lone man, dressed in a beautifully embroidered outfit, aggravated a poor bull. He waved a cape at the bull and the bull would charge him. The bullfighter, of course, would dance deftly out of the way and the bull would come up empty. It seemed the longer this scenario went on, the madder the bull became at his nemesis, the bullfighter. The bull seemed to be

tiring and getting more confused by the moment. The more angrily he reacted, the less effective he was. I think people are a lot like that bull. The madder they get, the less effective they are.

Are there aggravating red capes in your life that, when waved, cause you to seethe with anger and charge wildly

about? Unlike the bull, you have intellect; you can make choices. You can choose not to react. To do that, you must consciously acknowledge the things that make you mad. So when they pop up, you can consciously choose not to react to them. Make up your own list, but here are a few of the common red capes that



**Positive Talk**  
By William Hodges

cause many of us to react in a negative way.

Drivers who cut you off in traffic

Music blasting out of car windows (especially the kind we don't like)

Store clerks who take a phone call and assist that person before they finish with you

Arriving on time for a medical appointment and having to wait

People who do not let you finish before they begin talking

Being put on hold for long periods of time while the recorder repeats, "You are important to us."

Sales clerks and other strangers who call you "dear" and "honey"

If the bull refused to react, there would be no fight. The same is true in most of life's battles in which we become involved. In the bull's case, the results will admittedly be the same—he will end up at the packing house either way. But you can change your results by controlling your emotions and acting with logic. For instance, being kept waiting for a medical appointment is one of my own pet peeves. I've had many conversations with receptionists and doctors about long waits and learned that complaining to them was like shoveling sand against the tide. Few medical practitioners will acknowledge

your time is as valuable as theirs. I now attempt to get the first appointment in the morning or the first one after lunch. This prevents them from getting too far behind and me from having to wait too long. Do what you can to correct the situation and then relax.

When you see that red cape flying, start thinking stress reduction. Take a deep breath and take control of your emotions. Instead of blurting out, "Put the phone down; I was here first." Try smiling sweetly and saying in a pleasant tone, "I am sure that person would understand if you tell her you are assisting a customer." I've done that several times. In one instance, the clerk apologized for not thinking about keeping me waiting. In cases like loud radios, there is not much you can do; but even here, a polite request can work miracles.

Every time you go charging about, you put yourself in real jeopardy of raising your heart rate to such a point that you do real damage to your cardiovascular system. The choice is yours—react or don't react. But be sure it is a conscious choice or you are no smarter than the bull in the movie, and you will end up in much the same shape he will. Choice, not chance, makes the difference.

*Hodges is a nationally recognized speaker, trainer and syndicated columnist. He also hosts an interview-format television program, Spotlight on Government, on the Tampa Bay Community Network which airs Mondays at 8 p.m. and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. (Bright House channel 950, Verizon channel 30). The shows can also be viewed at www.hodgesvideos.com. Phone: 813-641-0816. Email: bill@billhodges.com Website: www.billhodges.com*

# Tampa Sailing Squadron to offer encore safe boating class

Every boater wants to do well at boating. Everyone wants to do 'docking' well. Everyone wants to know how to tie lines well. Everyone wants to know what to do when being crossed by another boat. Find out how to do it well with the Coast Guard Auxiliary at Tampa Sailing Squadron on Apollo Beach Blvd. in Apollo Beach.

"About Boating Safely" is a beginner boating course that can save boater's money, increase skill confidence and make for relaxing and safe boating excursions.

Many boaters have one day's experience...a hundred times over. They have not experienced the one situation yet that they are not prepared for. As in many accidents, it was a situation they had not anticipated. Sudden fog. A boat approaching at high speed. Throttle malfunction. A following sea. Sudden illness or falling overboard. A Safe Boating class gives a boater the basic tools to handle these unforeseen events by being both educated and prepared.

Topics include: types of boats,

boating law, boating safety equipment, weather and tides, knots, docking, types of buoys, sound signals, trailering, leaving and returning.

The seminars are held in manageable segments of three hours each over a two week period.

The three consecutive sessions will be held on Thursday evenings March 8, 15, and 22 from 7-10 p.m. overlooking the water at Tampa Sailing Squadron.

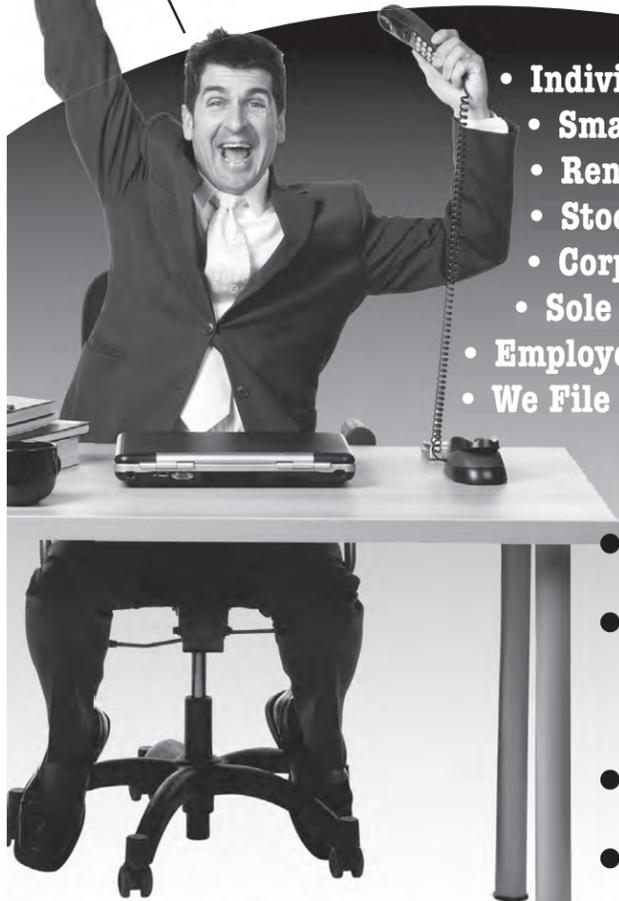
The first two sessions are instructional and the third session for reviewing and testing.

This boating course will give you the knowledge needed to obtain a Florida Boating Safety Education I.D. Card. Many boat insurance companies will offer discounts to boaters who successfully complete *About Boating Safely*. More importantly the course will make you a more knowledgeable and more confident boat operator. Cost is \$40 and includes the ABS book and CD, a lifetime reference manual.

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## Enjoy MOSI's February Special Events and Programs

The Museum of Science and Industry is a not-for-profit, community-based institution and educational resource dedicated to advancing public interest, knowledge and understanding of science, industry and technology. Located at 4801 East Fowler Ave. in Tampa, MOSI features educational and entertaining exhibits, activities and special events, and is home to Florida's only IMAX® Dome Theatre and the new Sky Trail® Ropes Course. For more information about MOSI and upcoming activities, visit [www.mosi.org](http://www.mosi.org) or call (813) 987-6000.

### MOSI Presents Development VRS Fundraising: Learn About Creative Collaborations and Grant-Worthy Projects at MOSI Thursday, Feb. 23 • 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Cost: \$45 per person; \$35 per MOSI member  
Corporations, donors, foundations and governments encourage collaboration. In this program, learn how to collaborate and why it is so important, and see creative examples of successful projects.

### MOSI Presents Innovative Technological Infrastructures: Tools, Talents, Toys & Teamwork Friday, Feb. 24 • 10 a.m. to noon

Cost: \$50 per person; \$38 per MOSI member  
Preview and test some of the latest toys in the technology playground that will keep a business competitive, comprehensive and courageous!

### Don't Miss MOSI Innovators: Weekend Science Clubs for the Creative Saturday, Feb. 25 • 10 a.m. to noon for ages 6-9 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. for ages 10-13 • 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. for ages 14-17

Cost: \$25 per person; \$20 per MOSI member  
Ordinary items around the house coupled with the baseline of percussive technology and music engineering make an invention in sound, movement and rhythm. Specialized activities include Hub Cap Harmonics, Pail Players Percussion, Newspaper Noise, and Basketball Barambah. It's all within the world of possibility in MOSI Innovators: Weekend Science Clubs For The Creative. Stay tuned each month for a new and exciting theme and age-appropriate programs.

### MOSI Presents Physical Computing with the Arduino Sunday, Feb. 26 • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Age 14 and up • Cost: \$136 per person; \$102 per MOSI member  
Find out why Arduino boards are all the rage. Arduino is an open-source microprocessor designed to empower artists, hobbyist and creators with the ability to build prototypes that interact with the real world in ways beyond what's real. Work with the electronics and learn to write code. Program cost includes project kit. Registration is required.

For more information on any of these events, visit [www.mosi.org](http://www.mosi.org) or call (813) 987-6000.

## Buzbee-McGriff reunion planned

The Buzbee-McGriff reunion will be held from 3 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 25 at the Ruskin Recreation Center, 901 6th St., Ruskin. Dinner will begin at 4 p.m.

Family and friends are invited to come and share food, fun and fellowship. You are asked to bring

your favorite covered dish along with recipes and memorabilia to share.

The playground is available for the youngsters to play. The inside game room is not available.

For more information or questions, call Tracey Buzbee at 645-0354 or Terri Buzbee at 645-3896.

## Eagles Set Their Weekly Activities

The Ruskin Eagles, FOE, located at 1205 1st St. S.W. has scheduled the following weekly activities.

All events and activities of the Eagles Club are supported by the members and members' guests.

The FOE Aerie meet at 7 p.m. the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. The Ladies' Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Thursday. Eagle Riders meet the 2nd Sunday of the month at 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, Feb. 23 -- Bar Games at 1 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 24 — Feather Your Nest Game at 6 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 25 — Eagle Riders Event. Check at club for time and event. Music by Double Shot from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 26 — Feather Your Nest Game at 6 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 27 — Bingo at 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 28 — Come on down and socialize.

Wednesday, Feb. 29 — Wings and Things at 5 p.m. OH SO GOOD! Bar Games at 6 p.m.

For more information, call the club at 645-2922.



## Dance at Manatee RV Park

The Manatee RV Park will host a social dance from 7 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 25 at the Park Hall, 6302 U.S. Hwy. 41 S.

Music will be provided by "Lee and Char." Bring your own refreshments, ice will be provided. There is a \$4 per person donation. The public is invited.

For more information contact J. Sullivan at (813) 649-9150. Directions are 4 miles north of I-275 or 7 miles south of Ruskin.

## American Sewing Guild to meet

The Brandon/Eastbay Chapter of the American Sewing Guild will meet on Wednesday, March 7 at the Brandon Recreation Center located at 502 East Sadie St., Brandon.

Coffee will be served at 9:30 a.m. with a business meeting with a demo at 10 a.m. Newcomers are always welcome.

For more information, call Darlene Youmans at 671-8852.

## Kiwis meet for lunch

The Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of The Kiwi Club will meet at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 25 at the Hanger Restaurant at the Albert Whitted Airport in St. Petersburg.



The Kiwi Club is a social and charitable organization for former and current American Airlines flight attendants, including those flight attendants from airlines purchased by or merged with American Airlines.

Members are urged to attend as well as prospective Kiwis as details of the 60th anniversary celebration will be discussed.

Members and guests are urged to make reservations with Sandra Anadel at (813) 690-1359.

## Riverview Kidcare

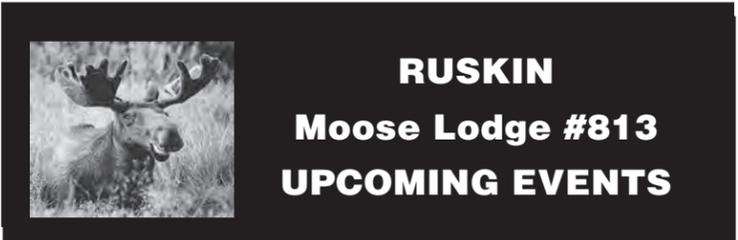
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## RUSKIN Moose Lodge #813 UPCOMING EVENTS

The Ruskin Moose Lodge #813 is located at 1212 E. Shell Point Road, Ruskin • (813) 645-5919  
[www.lodge813.moosepages.org](http://www.lodge813.moosepages.org)

### WEEKLY EVENTS

Every Wednesday	5-7 p.m.	'Best Spaghetti in Ruskin'
Every Thursday	5-7 p.m.	Wings
Every Friday	5-7 p.m.	Fish Fry (baked, beer batter or fried)
	7-11 p.m.	Live Music
Every Saturday	2 p.m.	Horseshoes

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, Feb. 17	7-11 p.m.	Redneck Band
Saturday, Feb. 18	5-7 p.m.	Steak Dinner
	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim Mullins
Friday, Feb. 24	7-11 p.m.	Live Band
Saturday, Feb. 25	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim Mullins
Friday, March 2	7-11 p.m.	Southern Tide
Saturday, March 3	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim Mullins
Friday, March 9	7-11 p.m.	Calvin O
Saturday, March 10	5-7 p.m.	Steak Dinner
	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim Mullins
Friday, March 16	7-11 p.m.	Live Band
Saturday, March 17	4-7 p.m.	St. Patricks Day Corned Beef Dinner
	7-11 p.m.	St. Patricks Day Party with Kim Mullins
Friday, March 23	7-11 p.m.	Del and Gary
Saturday, March 24	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim Mullins
Friday, March 30	7-11 p.m.	Shine On
Saturday, March 31	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim Mullins

All events are open to qualified Moose members and guests

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

### Community plan or community scam?

Dear Editor: We were told the Little Manatee South Community Plan was intended to be a long term vision to help guide future development of our community. The words 'long term' appears throughout the Plan and will go well beyond 2025, and maybe 2035.

We are now told that the taxpayers will be forced to spend \$450,000 in staff time and talent plus an additional \$180,000 in private money to create a new experimental code to put into 'Phase II' of the Community Plan. It makes no sense and is a complete waste of taxpayer's money to engage in such a costly exercise to plan for something that will not occur for decades.

Just think of what has changed in building and planning in the last two decades. The densities and allowable uses in the existing Plan already protect urban development from occurring in our rural community for the foreseeable future.

The County's rush to move us into the implementation phase sure seems like a typical case of a bait and switch.

We trusted and thought we were adopting a long term plan, only to be told once it was adopted, that this same long term plan requires us to move immediately into the implement phase. An investigation is in order because this fast tracking certainly raises many suspicions and many questions.

Why is Little Manatee South being implemented ahead of much of the other Community Planning that the County is doing? We are plan #21 of 26 total plans.

Who is really going to make up the private end of this public-private partnership?

What special interest group has such an interest in the implementation of the new SMART CODE that they are willing to invest \$180,000 of their own money to make sure it is in place?

I think we are better off without this new form of 'County help' if by enacting 'Phase II' of our Community Plan, we have unwittingly subjected ourselves to being a beta test site for an unproven code for the benefit of a few large landowners. Doesn't the County have a better place to use a half million dollars in this down economy?

Robert Mulholland, President Sundance HOA

## Is there pride in serving in our military?

Congratulations to the following students who entered Voice of Democracy Essay Contest sponsored by VFW Post 8108, along with their Men's and Ladies' Auxiliaries. The Voice of Democracy Essay Contest was open to students in grades 9th-12th. The theme of this year's essay was 'Is There Pride in Serving in Our Military?'

First place went to Randall Zak from Strawberry Crest High School in Dover. Randall received a Patriotic Jacket from the President of the Men's Auxiliary, Dave Schenck along with a check in the amount of \$300.

Second place went to Samantha Odum from Newsome High School in Lithia. Samantha received a check in the amount of \$200.

Third place went to Mary Cain Clark from Newsome High School in Lithia. Mary received a check in the amount of \$100.

The Voice of Democracy Essay Contest is sponsored each year by VFW Post 8108, Riverview.

**SUPPORT  
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### Cypress Creek Elementary February Terrific Kids

Cypress Creek Elementary School is one of the schools that is sponsored by Sun City Kiwanis. Each month they provide recognition to the school's "Terrific Kids."

Julius Jones-Trevil, Sharlys Roblero, Victoria Velez, Joshua Gaskill, Jimmy Van Dyk, Gavyn Kushmer, Steven Rodriguez, Sienna Greene, Zelyyah Rivera, Madison McKeefe, Jalyanna Morelock, Joe Fuentes, Jesus Antonio Prisciliano, Joshua Dias, Joseph Gonzalez, Mitchell Drain, Jaden Davis, Marisella Bello, Nundy Romero-Hernandez, Phillip Guerrero, Thanh Tran, Monica Chavero, Alyssa Perez, Cristian Bermudez Vega, Kade Ray, Jamal Roche, Benjamin Moreno, Malyssiana Lee, Christian Gellert, Monserrath Ventura-Aquino, Luis Morales, Victoria Fox, Jeanette Hilerio, Giovanni Salas, Bryan Pinel, Michael Ezell, Robert Ezell, Breanna Torres, Diana Hilerio-Gutierrez, Jesus Casas, Desyrae Hall, Lizbeth Arellano, Yaneli Escalante-Rosales, Kailynn Ramirez, Logan Edward Espinoza, Jessica Gomez, Milagros Feliciano, Jacob Silva, Maria Cortez, Ruby Coz, Savannah Santos, Emilio Murillo, Allison Walch-Duboff, Jose Chavez, Luis Cintron, Leyah Rodriguez, Isabelle Jordan, Yecenia Mochtuzuma, Franchellys Guzman, Litzi Luna, Regan Smith, Noemi Zeferino, Alisa Golimbiyevsky, Mariah Gonzalez.

## SOUTHSHORE REGIONAL LIBRARY

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### eBooks and eReaders

Thursday, Feb. 23 - 12:15 to 1:15 p.m.

Want to read eBooks? Don't fret, help is on the way! Demonstration of the Overdrive Media Console and Adobe Digital Editions; learn how to check out & download eBooks to your PC or eReader. Registration in person required no earlier than one hour prior to the start of the program.

Presenter: Tampa Bay Library Consortium

### No Fuss Foods: Take-Out Chinese at Home

Friday, Feb. 24 - 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Learn how to make delicious Chinese food at home with this fun cooking demonstration. Free samples! Seating limit: 20. Register in advance at the Information Desk or call 273.3652. Presenter: Rowena Sjoval. Event is funded by the SouthShore Friends of the Library.

### Internet: Safe Browsing and Malicious Software

Tuesday, Feb. 28 - 12:15 to 2:30 p.m.

Learn how to surf the Internet while avoiding common scams and pitfalls that can compromise your security. Learn about different types of malicious software, how they get on the personal computer, how to remove them, and precautions to take when using the internet. Registration is available one hour prior to the beginning of the program.

### On-Line Genealogy

Tuesday, Feb. 28 - 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Begin your family history research using Ancestry Library Edition and Heritage Quest.

### Word: Font and Page Formatting

Wednesday, Feb. 29 - 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.

Learn to create, save, print, and edit documents. Discover the basics font formatting, changing font type, size and color and page setup, margins, paper orientation. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended. Registration is available one hour prior to the beginning of the program.

### English Conversation Class

Wednesday, Feb. 29 - 1 to 2 p.m.

Adults (18 years or older) are invited to practice their English conversational skills with English speakers. No registration is required to participate. Co-sponsored by the Hillsborough Literacy Council and the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library System. For more information, contact the Hillsborough Literacy Council at 273.3650.

### Mah Jongg Club

Wednesday, Feb. 29 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Enjoy an evening of the popular table game, Mah Jongg, featuring challenging play for experienced players and instruction for beginners. We will be using the American Rules. Spectators are welcome! Participants are asked to bring their own Mah Jongg set or card. Limited to 16 players. Register in advance at the Information Desk or call 273.3652.

### SouthShore Needle People

Wednesday, Feb. 29 - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Join other needle people to share techniques, tips and experiences about knitting and other fiber and fabric crafts. Beginners are welcome! Bring a project and ask us questions!

## SouthShore Professional Fishing Tournament

The SouthShore Professional Fishing Tournament is being planned for Thursday, May 10 and Saturday May 12 at The Resort and Club at Little Harbor, 611 Destiny Drive, Ruskin. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit charities serving the children of the SouthShore Communities. These include the Rotary Club of South Shore-Ruskin Mentoring Program, The Y's Camp Cristina, and the Rural Social Services Partnership. The tournament will include a chil-

dren's fishing activity from 3 - 5 p.m. on May 10 followed by a gala dinner. On Saturday May 12 a professionally run fishing tournament featuring SouthShore Captains will be held from 9 am to 3 pm. Details and registration forms are available at [www.southshoreprofish.com](http://www.southshoreprofish.com). Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information on how you can participate check out the web site or leave a message at 813-645-3732.

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### Reddick Elementary Terrific Kid Winners

Terrific stands for- Thoughtful, Enthusiastic, Respectful, Responsible, Influential, Friendly, Impeccable and Caring. The following Reddick Elementary students were recognized for being just that: Mirellis Moreno, Anabel Aguilera, Kayla Ibarra, Marbella Barrios, Filiberto Lopez Gabriel Ventura, Junior Velasco Juliza Pizarro, Angel Jiminez Scarlet Marcelo, Yecica Morales Guadalupe Vera, Jannely Avila Jamarcus Jones, Viviana Bravo Anthony Jose, Lacey Piarrot James Strickland, Jesus Cuevas William Jose, Eduardo Sanchez Chris Garcia, Adam Alcantara Melanie Caraballo, Jasmin Calixtro Sierra Tomei, Edwin Marquez Jose Orduno, Nadageki Chivis Luis Villalon, Isaac Hernandez Rogelio Rodriguez-Nunez, Harley Evans Silvino Riqueno, Adriana Duran-Malave Jesseyana Iverson, Neftali Gomez Viviana Centura-Gomez, Charles Fowler Jasmine Osorio.

### Ceremonty honors Vietnam Veterans

On March 24 the Hillsborough County Veterans Council and the Museum committee will be holding a joint ceremony starting at 11 a.m. at the Hillsborough Veterans Memorial Park located at 3602 U. S. Highway 301 N. Tampa, FL 1/2 half mile south of the Florida Fairgrounds. This ceremony will honor all of those who have been awarded the Medal of Honor plus celebrate Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day. The ceremony will feature remarks from the keynote speaker, Major General David J. Scott , U. S. Air Force, Retired, former Deputy Director of Spe-

cial Operations Command's Special Operations, Florida Chapter President of Rolling Thunder, Jim (Moe) Moyer and will feature a display of Medal of Honor recipients and Tuskegee Airman by renown artist and WWII veteran John Silva. Invited special guests representing the families of local Tuskegee Airman will also be in attendance.

In addition there will be a POW/MIA remembrance ceremony conducted by Rolling Thunder, proclamations read from the city of Tampa and Hillsborough County, a performance by the Last Patrol



and the laying of a wreath remembering the 58,230 lives that were lost during the Vietnam War. Following the ceremonies, the Rear Admiral LeRoy Collins Jr. Veterans Museum will be open for touring. Complimentary refreshments will be served and attendees are encouraged to provide picnic items to share.



David Brate and Lucinda Hodges.

### Donations accepted by Crisis Pregnancy Center

David J. Brate, owner of Brate Aluminum & Construction delivered donations from clients, employees and his family to LifeCare of SouthShore, Crisis Pregnancy Center. The donations were gratefully accepted by the Center Director, Lucinda Hodges. LifeCare Center is a Christ centered, non-profit outreach ministry. Founded in Brandon in 1987, their newest outreach center located at 310 1st Street NE in Ruskin was opened in January 2012. Through compassionate care, education, counseling, practical support, and community networking, they provide support to teens, women, couples and families who are facing the

challenge of an unplanned pregnancy. Additionally, they offer hope and healing to those suffering from the heartbreak of a past abortion. The center relies on the community to support its ministry through the donation of supplies such as diapers and baby wipes and items for use by new mothers and infants, as well as financial support. People interested in making a donation can contact the center at 938-6024. The Brate family has been serving the construction and remodeling needs of the communities of SouthShore for three generations. To schedule your free project estimate call 813-649-1599.



### Deadline Reminder

week prior to publication

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 Display ads ..... Fridays at 11 a.m.  
 Classified ads..... Fridays at 4 p.m.

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# The pendulum swings

I realized very early on in college that I could never major in finance. What caused that realization you may (but probably didn't) ask? It's because the basic philosophy driving finance is impossible.

From the finance perspective, growth is necessary for survival. And growth must continue indefinitely. That does not (and probably cannot) happen. Look at Woolworth's, Sears or DEC Computer as examples. All were on top of the world at one time, leading an industry, thinking they were unstoppable. Yet they stopped, they fell and, in some cases, have disappeared. No company can grow forever. Things change, times change, people change — and a company that once made money

by selling pre-cut houses shipped via railcar during the 1920s and 30s is now struggling to survive. Walmart and Target came in and knocked Sears off the perch. Someday some new company will do the same thing to Walmart and Target.

Of course, the same could potentially be said for nations. These days there are frequent comparisons relating the Roman Empire to the United States. I'm not sure it works the same way for nations, though. At least it doesn't have to. Businesses are focused on one thing: making a profit. Once they find a way to

do that, they milk it until there's nothing left and then they look up to see that the world has changed around them and the money slows or simply stops coming in. Nations, however, are much more dynamic. There is no profit motive; there is just survival. Survival is a mighty strong motivator. Also, none of the leaders of the Roman Empire had to deal with election day. If the United States

falls as the Romans did, there will be no one to blame for it but the electorate. That's you and me, folks.

Take Florida as an example. Just a few years ago, the Tampa



**Observations**  
By Mitch Traphagen  
mitch@observernews.net



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

The pendulum is swinging in South Hillsborough. The new Village Marina, once part of Little Harbor Resort, has been purchased. Improvements to the facility are already underway.

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Bay area was leading the nation in job growth, and unemployment was so low that companies were concerned about the ability to fill positions while homebuilders put up houses around the clock to satisfy the demand. Today, Florida is frequently mentioned as one of a handful of poster children of economic malaise. Some "experts" are saying that the state may not come up for air until 2020 or later. (Of course those "experts" may have been the same people telling everyone to "buy now while you still can" during the housing bubble of a few years ago.)

Times do change and so do people, and ours is supposed to be a government of the people, after all. I am so sure of it that I can state this as fact: the United States of America will not go the way of the Roman Empire. At least not now or anytime in the foreseeable future. When things start to slide in this country, Americans simply pick up the slack. This nation has reinvented itself so many times and has always risen and always improved — sometimes it's just hard to see it while in the midst of the dark clouds.

But clearly not everyone has trouble seeing through dark clouds. People and businesses are quietly beginning to invest in Florida not just with optimistic words but also with money — real money. And I'm pretty certain that in this day and age, not many people joke about literally millions upon millions of dollars.

The nation's largest development since the housing bust has broken ground recently in Apollo Beach. Along Shell Point Road in Ruskin, work has begun on another housing development. Yes, it is all happening in the midst of a foreclosure crisis, but housing developments don't go up overnight and the foreclosure crisis won't last forever.

Little Harbor Resort in Ruskin suffered during the housing bust with an array of companies involved in foreclosure, and bankruptcy, and who knows what else. Although still in a legal quagmire of sorts, the resort landed on its feet and has been running full or nearly full the past several weeks. The tourists enjoying the amenities of the resort (peace, quiet and beautiful sunsets over dinner are worth enjoying) don't care about what happened during the housing bust. They are just happy to be enjoying beautiful Florida weather in February.

Word has been passed around that an entity has purchased 49 of

the condos at the development and a group has purchased the marina within the resort with the intention of actually running a marina. Kevin Lesler, the dockmaster for the new Village Marina, is a good man and lives just down the road. Improvements to the marina are already underway — and it is certainly one of my favorite places to be.

It's one thing to make happy talk while wearing rose-colored glasses, but it's quite another thing to be throwing money down on the table. With a few million here and 50 million there, real money says something quite different from what some "experts" are saying. Contrary to those "experts", the pendulum is swinging in America, in Florida and in South Hillsborough and things are going to get better. Did anyone really believe that it wouldn't?

That said, I don't think many people would want a return to the madness that gripped us in the first half of the last decade — a time when armies of bulldozers were threatening every last tree and the little green space that is left here. We are still feeling the pain of the repercussions of that madness. But at the same time, it's clear that some people — people smart enough to have millions of dollars at their disposal during a time when millions aren't necessarily easy to come by — feel that the best is yet to come in this area. And more than just spouting platitudes of doom or euphoria, they are putting real money where their mouths are.

There are those who believe America will go the way of the Roman Empire, and perhaps that we have already become a second tier nation. Yes, we have challenges in this nation. Our infrastructure is crumbling and, in my opinion, we are not investing nearly enough in the education of the nation's greatest resource — our children (or, as I like to think of them, the people who will grow up to pay into Social Security so I, too, can someday get back what I paid in). While at present there appear to be no good solutions, there is also no good end to the growing income disparity. We simply cannot survive as a nation of "haves" and "have-nots" from my perspective. So yes, we have serious challenges but there's nothing new in that, we've always had serious challenges.

And there is also nothing new in that America remains the world's economy, and, despite what you

# THE SAVVY SENIOR

## Organ Donation: You're never too old

*Dear Savvy Senior*  
*Is there an age limit on being an organ donor? At age 73, I'm interested in being a donor when I die, but am wondering if they would still want my organs. What can you tell me, and what do I need to do to sign up?*

*Willing But Old*



**The Savvy Senior**  
 By Jim Miller

Dear Willing,  
 There's no defined cutoff age for being an organ donor. In fact, there are many people well up into their 80's that donate. The decision to use your organs is based on health, not age, so don't disqualify yourself prematurely. Let the doctors decide at your time of death whether your organs and tissues are suitable for transplantation.

**Donating Facts**

In the United States alone, more than 112,000 people are on the waiting list for organ transplants. But because the demand is so much greater than the supply, those on the list routinely wait three to seven years for an organ, and more than 6,500 of them die each year.

Organs that can be donated include the kidneys (which are in the greatest demand with more than 90,000 on the waiting list), liver, lungs, heart, pancreas and intestines. Tissue is also needed to replace bone, tendons and ligaments. Corneas are needed to re-

store sight. Skin grafts help burn patients heal and often mean the difference between life and death. And heart valves repair cardiac defects and damage.

**How to Donate**

If you would like to become a donor, there are several steps you should take to ensure your wishes are carried out, including:

**Registering:** Add your name to your state or regional organ and tissue donor registry. You can do this online at either [donatelife.net](http://donatelife.net) or [organdonor.gov](http://organdonor.gov). Both sites provide links to all state registries. If you don't have Internet access, you can call your local organ procurement organization and ask them to mail you a donor card, which you can fill out and return. To get the phone number of your local organization, call Donate Life America at 800-355-7427.

**Identify yourself:** Designate your decision to become an organ donor on your driver's license, which you can do when you go in to renew it. If, however, you don't drive anymore or if your renewal isn't due for a while, consider getting a state ID card - this also lets you indicate you want to be a donor. You can get an ID card for a few dollars at your nearby driver's license office.

**Tell your family:** Even if you are a registered donor, in many states family members have the ultimate say whether your organs may be donated after you die. So clarify your wishes to your family. It's also a good idea to tell your doctors and include it in your advance directives. These are legal documents that include a living will and medical power of attorney that spell out your wishes regarding your end-of-life medical treatment

when you can no longer make decisions for yourself. If you don't have an advance directive, go to [caringinfo.org](http://caringinfo.org) or call 800-658-8898 where you can get free state-specific forms with instructions to help you make one.

For more information on organ and tissue donation and transplantation, visit the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Donate the Gift of Life website at [organdonor.gov](http://organdonor.gov). Also see the United Network for Organ Sharing at [unos.org](http://unos.org), and [transplantliving.org](http://transplantliving.org) which offers information on being a living donor.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](http://SavvySenior.org). Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

## Free income tax preparation

Through April 15 AARP/IRS trained counselors will assist in the filing of taxes at the following locations.

**Kings Point North Clubhouse**  
 1900 Clubhouse Drive, SCC  
 Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. or for an appointment call 642-1508.

**United Community Church**  
 1501 LaJolla Avenue, SCC  
 Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or for an appointment call 634-3502.

**Ruskin Neighborhood Service Center**  
 201 14th Ave. S.E., Ruskin  
 Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
 Walk-ins only  
 Bring photo ID, SS card and last year's Tax return (if available)

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Mine is a letter of gratitude rather than complaint. I would just like everyone who may need radiation for cancer to know about Tampa Bay Cancer Center. From the first day I was welcomed and informed in such a way that I felt comfortable and in good hands, Dr. Ryan Burri and his entire staff made a worrisome task of six and a half weeks of treatment, (everyday)

into an event I looked forward to each day. The radiation techs, John and Vicki were a pair beyond compare. Dr. Burri and his entire staff showed me there are people who still care enough to give their very best... everyday!

My heartfelt thanks and admiration,  
 Kaye Stroud  
 87 year-old cancer patient

## Philanthropic mother and daughter seeking "100 Women Who Care"

A local mother-daughter team is spearheading the formation of a new group intended to bring financial support to local charitable organizations. Amber Watt, a former Development Director, from Riverview, and her mother, Ann Rand, early childhood educator, from Apollo Beach, are forming this new group called "100 Women Who Care."

This group provides an avenue for women to join together to make a significant impact on local charities. Members commit to attending only 4 meetings per year, and they pledge to donate \$100 to an elected charity at each meeting. The goal is to have 100 or more members, which would result in a lump sum of \$10,000 for the charitable organization selected at each meeting. "The best part is that each person gives a little, and the winning charity receives a lot!" says Ann.

The concept is patterned after the original 100 Women Who Care, started in 2006 by Karen Dunigan, from Jackson, Michigan. Because it is so simple and effective, the concept has been implemented in

many communities throughout the country. Amber and Ann feel this is the time to breathe new life into local charities with 100 Women Who Care. "At a time when budget cuts are prominent for many organizations, charities need support now more than ever, in order to continue offering their services and providing relief to our neighbors in need," says Amber.

The first meeting of "100 Women Who Care" will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 28. They will meet at the MiraBay community clubhouse located at 107 Manns Harbor Drive, in Apollo Beach.

The meeting will start with a 30-minute casual, informational session and is open to anyone interested in learning more about this organization. Following the informational session, the first members' only meeting will be conducted, where members will select the first charity to receive their support.

For more information call Amber Watt at (813) 956-7839 or Ann Rand at (813) 641-3817 or email them at [100WWCSouthShore@gmail.com](mailto:100WWCSouthShore@gmail.com).

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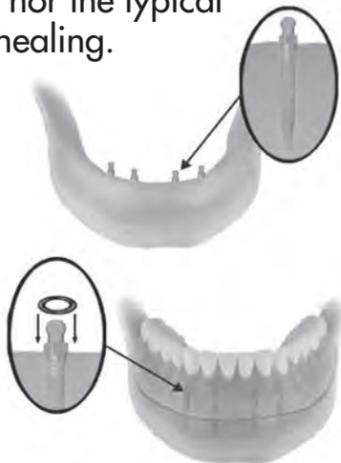
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## FISH TALES

### Pompanos are showing up this week

We have had an unusual run of none other than octopus in our bay waters. Those catching this so-called 'sea monster' this week, did the wise thing, and cut off its tentacles for bait. There is always a lot of excitement when one hooks onto this fish.

Octopus belong to the soft fish family. The Baird's octopus is an average size of 3" with the largest 6". It is not edible and it has eight arms. Most are usually found in water 75' deep, some have migrated into the shallows of our bay waters.

Our fishing blitz has been somewhat perplexing this past week, as one day is a warm 80° perfect for all catches, and then a sudden change to drop off to 40°. The fish come out of their hiding spots and then retreat to protective covering.

Another unusual factor in this changeable weather is king mackerel show up in our bay waters around Easter, but not this year. Since our spring weather has started in February, they are already in our bay waterways. Kings must be 24" for legal and 2 per harvest per day. A good food fish; fun and exciting to catch.

Redfish are on the run, keeping up with schools of mullet. The afternoons are the best time to fish for the reds. As the water warms up they start to move. Your legal catch is not less than 18" or more than 27" and one per person per day.

Triggerfish are abundant around our waterways this week. Most have been caught around deeper reefs. They are a lazy, snoozing fish with a small mouth which makes them difficult to catch. Use a small piece of shrimp and put on a minnow hook and try your luck.

If fishing the bay waters this week, you might hook onto a hogfish. They belong to the threadfish family. They are a small fish with average weight of 2 pounds. You will find them eating on the bottom, mostly shellfish, but will take any kind of bait. They

### Sandra Murman accepts honorary chair

Commissioner Sandra Murman, Commissioner, District 1, Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners has accepted the post a honorary chair of the The SouthShore Professional Fishing Tournament scheduled for Thursday, May 10 and Saturday, May 12. The tournament will be held at The Resort and Club at Little Harbor, 611 Destiny Drive, Ruskin. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit charities serving the children of the SouthShore Communities. These include the Rotary Club of South Shore - Ruskin Mentoring Program, The Y's Camp Cristina, and the Rural Social Services Partnership. The tournament will include a children's fishing activity from 3 - 5 pm on May 10 followed by a gala dinner. On Saturday May 12 a professionally run fishing tournament featuring SouthShore Captains will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Details and registration forms are available at [www.southshoreproffish.com](http://www.southshoreproffish.com). Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information on how you can participate check out the website or leave a message at 813-645-3732.



**Fish Tales**  
By Jonie Maschek

have three spider-like streamers on top.

Pompanos are showing up this week. They look like their cousins, the crevalle jacks, but are altogether different in food value. Crevalle jacks have the poorest food value with the pompano rated as excellent. Some are caught with a slow drop lure, while others use small live bait. Two pounds is the average size, must measure 11" and 6 per person per harvest. They are silver and pale blue above and gold in color on belly.

If you are fishing in a quiet unoccupied part of the bay you might hear a grunting sound. This more than likely is the white grunt. They are a small fish, but can be heard loud and clear. The white grunt's average weight is one pound. There seems to be no restrictions on your catch.

This is the week for fish we don't see caught daily. The sharp tailed eel has been on the end of some anglers' lines this week. It has two rows of round spots. May be fun to catch, but best to release them or cut them up for bait.

When the tide is low, it will reveal the hiding spots for the spotted seatrout and often a redfish or snook. Be quiet when you see them, as they will spook easily and swim away.

Freshwater fishing has been tops this week. Freshwater catfish is gracing many tables with onion hush puppies. Some anglers have been fishing the upper fresh waters of the rivers and enjoying great catches. I saw largemouth bass, which came from the upper waters of the Little Manatee.

If you're too busy to go fishing, you're just too busy!

*Aleta Jonie Maschek is a member of Florida Outdoor Press.*

### Maschek returns to Thrift Cottage

Aleta Jonie Maschek will be the guest speaker for Parrish United Methodist Church Thrift Cottage's annual Appreciation luncheon at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 26 at DaySpring Conference Center in Parrish.

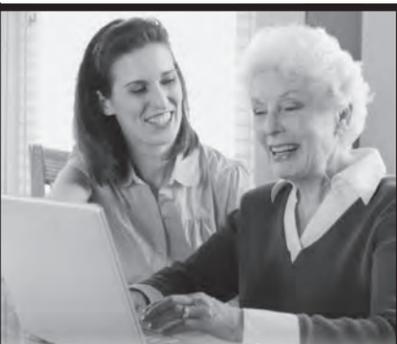
Maschek covered the opening day for *The Observer News* in 1963 when the Thrift Cottage first opened.

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Learn what can be done through the Control Panel, how to install and remove software, and run a disk cleanup.

### Manatee Genealogical Society to meet

Manatee Genealogical Society will meet at the Manatee County Central Library, 1301 Barcarota Blvd. W, Bradenton, from 9:30 a.m. - noon March 6. Featured is George Morgan, Certified Genealogist, University of South Florida, Tampa in a presentation titled "The Genealogist as CSI (Crime Scene Investigations)." The Computer Special Interest Group will explore the Archive Grid for genealogical research. Use the entrance on 2nd Avenue between 13th and 14th streets. <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flmgs/>

### Consumer fraud is topic

From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 28 the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office and Sun Towers retirement and rehabilitation community present Senior Consumer Fraud Protection and Awareness Expo. The event will take place at the Boroni Theater in the Kings Point Clubhouse on 1904 Clubhouse Drive, Sun City Center. All seniors welcome not just KP residents. For more information call 813-642-8990.

See the current issues of "The Observer News" as well as past issues, classified advertising, advertising information, and much more!

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# Firehouse Cultural Center

■ Continued from page 1

“Expect a great performance in an unexpected place...the bays of a fire house!” said Sandy Council, RCDF president and chairperson of the Firehouse Cultural Center Advisory Board.

“Faulkner was highly recommended by area arts professionals who had seen him perform and interact in different settings with audiences of different ages,” said well-known area artist Dolores Coe. “The group considered a small number of artists who were suggested because of both the quality of their professional work and their ability and openness to interact with the community: teach, mentor or share in some way what they do. We thought a performer with his international background; the range of traditions, skills and approaches he draws on; his experience and interest in sharing skills and creative processes would be great.”

Faulkner is a performance artist offering a program designed for the whole family, ranging from mime to shadowgraphs. Through performances around the world, he is known as an artist magician and as a man of a thousand faces. At the Firehouse Cultural Center, his residency will offer participants the opportunity to learn from and work closely with the artist — an opportunity limited only by your imagination.

“First, we hope people will enjoy and be intrigued by Faulkner’s professional performance,” Coe continued. “His very contemporary performance based on traditional forms and illusion is unique and highly imaginative.”

Faulkner will conduct workshops beginning next week. The first workshop, entitled “Story Telling and Story Theater” takes place on Feb. 27 and 29 and is designed for adults and seniors.

The second workshop takes place during after-school hours on Feb. 27 and 29 and is designed for both adults and children and adult teams. It is entitled “Light Theatre and Shadow Play.”

The third workshop, entitled “Theater, Mime, Mask and Improvisation,” has two parts, the first of which carries a \$5 materials fee. Organizers recommend that attendees “dress for a mess.” There are three available sessions for this workshop, all taking place on Feb. 28 and Mar. 1.

On Wednesday, February 29, at 7 p.m., Faulkner will host an “artist’s talk” and discussion session that is free and open to the public. The discussion will be held in the artist’s studio.

“We hope that the residency experience allows audiences and participants to get an up-close sense of the creative process at work,” Coe said. “It will be an opportunity to observe, work with and learn from a master performer in a very relaxed, informal atmosphere. As a performer Faulkner is working with tools we all mostly have — voice, body, shadow, movement, story, tradition — so the workshops allow all to jump in wherever you are. It’s a great time for beginners to try something new and gain confidence. It’s a real opportunity for young performers or for classes and groups to meet and have access to him. We invite educators, as well as experienced and professional performers, artists and writers to participate or join in where they can to work with Leland to experience his approach to creative performance and working with groups.”

Although work continues on converting the Hillsborough County fire station into a regional cultural center, organizers do not expect work to hamper the Artist-

in-Residency program. According to Sandy Council, much of the work on the new facility is related to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards and it is expected to be fully completed by May.

“The Tampa Bay area as a whole will benefit [from the new cultural center], but more specifically the families from the local area that can’t regularly travel to the larger institutions like the Straz Center or the other centers that are too far away [will benefit],” said Firehouse Cultural Center director Deon Blackwell. “We are offering quality events and programs for the people of this region. Close to home, close to the arts.”

This week will begin what can only be described as an exciting future for the Firehouse Cultural Center. Faulkner’s residency is merely opening the large bay doors of the firehouse to the entire region.

“The idea behind the Residency Program is to bring to the area significant artists, writers and performers from different disciplines to stay for an extended time, share their professional work and interact in some interesting and meaningful ways with the community” Coe said. “The plan is to develop the program into three or four seasonal residencies that last between one and four weeks, each with a different focus and guest. Under discussion for next fall and winter, for example, is hosting a Florida Writer-In-Residence, or Spoken Word Poet/Performer, a Photography or Filmmaker-In-Residence.”

According to Coe, full-time programming at the Firehouse will begin this summer and will be a time earmarked for young people during the summer school break. Plans are in the works for weeklong themed camps



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FIREHOUSE CULTURAL CENTER

Faulkner, an artist who has appeared around the world, during a performance.

and classes for teens and young school-age children, as well as special programs for families and pre-schoolers.

Already on the schedule is Boston puppet artist Sara Peattie as an Artist-in-Residence in July. Peattie will conduct “Giant Puppet Construction” workshops to create a public event with workshop participants.

“That will be an extraordinary experience and a great, fun, summer spectacle. She will also be doing a workshop session for educators at the Firehouse,” Coe said.

It all begins on Saturday with an inaugural opening performance by world-renowned artist Leland Faulkner. Faulkner and the many supporters and volunteers at the Firehouse Cultural Center invite everyone in through the bay doors of what was once a fire station to

have a close, personal and even one-on-one encounter with the arts in ways that may well be life changing.

Faulkner will close out his residency on March 2 with a final performance that will include workshop participants, a talkback and sharing session, and a post-workshop celebration.

“The final Friday evening participants have the opportunity to perform together with Leland in a finale performance and celebration. It will be a fun and engaging experience in creating and performing with him,” Coe said.

Come to the Firehouse Cultural Center on Saturday evening to watch the enormous bay doors rise on a new era in South County arts and entertainment and prepare to lose yourself, for a short while at least, in the magic of an artist.

Tickets for the opening performance are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and seating is limited. For a complete schedule of events during Faulkner’s Artist-in-Residency program, visit the Firehouse Cultural Center on the web at [www.firehouseculturalcenter.org](http://www.firehouseculturalcenter.org).

The Firehouse Cultural Center Winter Residency with Leland Faulkner is sponsored by the Southshore Arts Council, Target Stores and Walmart. Residency accommodations are sponsored by the Mary & Martha House.

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photo by Helen Barnwell

### Apollo Beach Elementary recognizes students of the month

The following students at Apollo Beach Elementary were recognized as "Student of the Month." David Amshel, Raquel Amshel, Kelsy Arteaga, Sydney Baksa, Elise Boudreau, Mikayla Canterbury, Gabriel Creasy, Kristina Driggers, Michael Espinal, Jake Foster, Max Gardner, Abby Gerding, Avery Gerding, Angelica Grimaldo, Gavin Henley, Lindsay Ise, Alyssa Jones, Naia Kilcoyne, Kayleigh Miley, Alexis Orozco, Bailey Palmer, Brianna Parrino, McKinney Parsons, Makenzie Rees, Hannah Seibert, Olivia Smoak, Riley Sorge, Christian Stibich, Elizabeth Sutton, Clayton Warner, Olivia Wilson, Savana Woods. Patrol of the Month: Ashley Sanchez.

### FCAT Boot Camp scheduled

Shields Middle School students 'Club 212' has organized Saturday FCAT boot camp sessions from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on March 3, 24, and 31, April 14 at Shields Middle School, 15732 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin.

Challenge, motivate, and support all students as they prepare for the FCAT.

Each session will focus on two subject areas using active, collaborative learning labs, as follows.

- Feb. 25 -- writing
- March 3 -- reading and science
- March 24 -- math and science
- March 31 -- reading and math
- April 14 -- test taking skills

Refreshments and prizes will be provided. Club 212's name is derived from a theme Shields Middle School had a few years ago about going the extra degree in all you do (i.e. at 212° water boils and at 213° change happens).

For more information, call Stephen P. Hegarty or Linda E. Cobbe in the office of communications 272-4060 or 272-4602.

## SOUTHSHORE REGIONAL LIBRARY

15816 Beth Shields Way • Ruskin 33573

### Kids' Program/Event Highlights February 23-29

**Teen Night: Game Zone**  
Thursday, Feb. 23 • 5 to 7 p.m.

For middle and high school students. Get in the zone and join your friends for some gaming fun on the Xbox 360 and Nintendo Wii with games such as Band Hero, Guitar Hero 5, Smash Brothers Brawl and more! Event is funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

**Family Story Time**  
Thursday, Feb. 23 • 7 to 7:30 p.m.

For ages 2-5 with a caregiver make reading time family time. Stories, action rhymes, songs, interactive activities, and crafts make up this fun 30-minute program that celebrates a love of reading. Children may wear pajamas and bring a blanket and favorite cuddly toy.

**Baby Time**  
Monday, Feb. 27 • 1:35 to 1:55 p.m.  
Tuesday, Feb. 28 • 11:35 to 11:55 a.m.  
Wednesday, Feb. 29 • 10:05 to 10:25 a.m.

For children ages 0-20 months and their caregivers. Early literacy begins at birth. Bond with your baby through stories, bouncy rhymes and songs in this 20-minute lapsit program that introduces early literacy skills and encourages language development.

**Mad Science**  
Monday, Feb. 27 • 7 to 7:40 p.m.

For children in grades K-5. Join them for the fun science program all about amazing chemical reactions, special effects, and fantastic forces. This highly interactive event instills a clear understanding of what science is really about and how it affects the world around us. Event is funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library.

**Toddler Time**  
Tuesday, Feb. 28 • 10:05 to 10:25 a.m. and 10:35 to 10:55 a.m.  
Wednesday, Feb. 29 • 10:35 to 10:55 a.m.

For children ages 20-36 months and their caregivers stories, fingerplays, songs and interactive activities make up this fun 20-minute program that highlights early literacy skills and encourages reading readiness.

**Story Time**  
Tuesday, Feb. 28 • 11 to 11:30 a.m.  
Wednesday, Feb. 29 • 11 to 11:30 a.m.

For children ages 3-5 and their caregivers. Stories, action rhymes, songs and interactive activities make up this engaging 30-minute program that highlights early literacy skills, and encourages reading readiness and social interaction.

### Riverview Memorial VFW Post #8108

7504 Riverview Dr.  
(813) 671-9845

#### MEETINGS

Men's Auxiliary -- First Thursday at 7 p.m.

Ladies' Auxiliary -- Second Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Post -- Second Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

#### MEALS

Wednesday Spaghetti Dinner from 5 to 7 p.m.

Friday Fish Fry from 5 to 7 p.m.

Sunday Breakfast from 9 a.m. to noon

#### CANTEEN HAPPENINGS

Bar Bingo Monday at 6:30 p.m.

Bar Poker with Lori on Wednesdays at 1 p.m.

Fire in the Hole on Saturdays at 1 p.m.

### Ruskin VFW Post #6287

Ruskin VFW Post #6287, 5120 U.S. 41 N. has listed the following weekly activities. Meetings are: American Legion on 1st Wednesday each month; VFW and LAVFW on the 2nd Wednesday each month; and MAVFW on the 3rd Thursday each month.



Thursday, Feb. 23 — Bar Bingo at 6 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 24 — Fish Fry from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Music by Sunset from 7 to 11 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 25 — District Meeting 8108 at noon. Turkey Shoot at 1 p.m. Steak Dinner from 4:30 to 7 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 26 — Fire in the Hole from 1 to 4 p.m. Music by Bert & Sassy at 5:30 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 27 — Open.  
Tuesday, Feb. 28 — Games in Lounge from 1 to 5 p.m. Kitchen open from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Bingo at 6 p.m.  
Wednesday, Feb. 29 — Open.

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### Ballet scholarship up for grabs

Brandon Ballet is pleased to be able to offer a scholarship, to a selected serious ballet student(s) ages 13-18, of up to \$500 on behalf of the late Richard Munro, beloved choreographer and coach of the Brandon Ballet.

Winners are chosen by a guest judge. The awarded monies are used to offset the cost of any 2012 summer intensive of the recipient's choosing.

Auditions will be held on Saturday, March 3, with time TBA. Audition fee is \$25 per dancer.

Ages 13-18 only and winner must not have won in a previous year.

For more information, visit [www.brandonballet.org](http://www.brandonballet.org) or call (813) 684-4282.

### Preschool and kindergarten registration open

Registration is now open for the Preschool and Kindergarten located at First United Methodist Church of Brandon, which has featured quality teachers and smaller class sizes since 1967. Past students are now sending their own children. If your child or grandchild will be 3, 4 or 5 years old before September 1st, you are invited to register for our part time or full time classes, which meet Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. They also offer a 4-year-old VPK program.

The Preschool and Kindergarten at First United Methodist Church of Brandon is located just north of S.R. 60 (Brandon Blvd.), at 120 North Knights Avenue, between Kings and Parsons.

For more information, call (813) 689-9482, visit [www.fumcbrandon.org](http://www.fumcbrandon.org) or email the school's Director of 30+ years, Susan Pardue, at [preschool@fumcbrandon.org](mailto:preschool@fumcbrandon.org).

### IN UNIFORM



### DANIELLE PAPPAS

Navy Seaman Recruit Danielle N. Pappas, daughter of Renette M. and Marcus G. Pappas of Apollo Beach, FL, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, IL.

During the eight-week program, Pappas completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness.

The capstone event of boot camp is "Battle Stations." This exercise gives recruits the skills and confidence they need to succeed in the fleet. "Battle Stations" is designed to galvanize the basic warrior attributes of sacrifice, dedication, teamwork and endurance in each recruit through the practical application of basic Navy skills and the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. Its distinctly "Navy" flavor was designed to take into account what it means to be a Sailor.

Pappas is a 2011 graduate of East Bay High School of Gibsonton, FL.

### 55+ basketball league forming

Hillsborough County's Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department is looking for adults 50+ years old to compete in a 5-on-5 Full Court Adult Basketball League at All Peoples Life Center, 6105 E. Sligh Ave. in Tampa. The games will be played from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays from March-May. Registration will be from 10 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, March 6. A \$10 registration fee includes trophies for the winning team. For more information, call Joe Soletti, Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation at (813) 744-5871.

### Florida Friendly Family Festival invites all to learn about conservation

The Florida Friendly Family Festival will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 3 at the Manatee County Fairgrounds, 1303 17th Street W., Palmetto. The festival will feature a variety of fun activities, eco-workshops and entertainment that appeals to children of all ages and will offer a wide array of interactive demonstrations, ideas, workshops and exhibits to highlight our environment and show ways that families can conserve in and around their homes.

The Master Gardeners will demonstrate recycling with a "Trash to Treasures" sale and will be selling plants as well. Admission is free. The Manatee County Utilities Department will be hosting a shower head exchange. Bring your old shower head to exchange for a new water conserving model. For more information, call (941) 722-4524.



Photos taken at last year's Florida Friendly Family Festival.

## Emergency electric bill payment assistance for seniors is now available

Hillsborough County's Home Energy Assistance Program (EHEAP) has funds immediately available to assist senior citizens with payments of their delinquent electric bills. Applications and qualification requirements must be submitted by March 31 at a Neighborhood Service Center.

Households may qualify if they meet the following criteria:

- Have a total household gross income below 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines;
- Have at least one member that is 60 years or older;
- Reside in Hillsborough County;
- Are a U.S. Citizen, qualified alien or permanent resident of the U.S.; and

- Have a recent past due or final notice energy bill.

Additional requirements may be necessary for eligibility determination. Applicants will be informed of these requirements at the time of application.

### How To Apply

- Applications are accepted at a local Neighborhood Service Center.

• Proof of income for all household members for the last 30 days. This proof can be a pay check stub, employer letter, public assistance check, Supplementary Security Income check, unemployment check or a pension check stub.

- Proof of home energy obligation or electric bill.

- Picture identification.

• Proof of Hillsborough County residency, such as: valid driver's license with current address, a letter from your landlord or mortgage company, voter's registration card, etc.

Residents can apply at their local Neighborhood Service Centers

- Lee Davis Neighborhood Service Center, 3402 N. 22nd St. in Tampa, (813) 272-5220

Hillsborough County's Emergency Home Energy Assistance Program (EHEAP) is a federally-funded program offered by the Department of Family and Aging Services. For more information contact one of the above neighborhood service centers or call 813-272-6770.

## C.A.R.E. Pets of the Week

C.A.R.E. is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For directions, visit [www.CareShelter.org](http://www.CareShelter.org) or call (813) 645-2273.



**Chico**

Chico is a very friendly boy who is partially black with a lot of white who would like to find a forever home. It's believed he is the brother of Scopypy although they arrived at C.A.R.E. at different times. Like his bro, Chico is a very sweet dispositioned cat. Wouldn't it be great if some loving person would take home this band of brothers? Chico will be neutered. He is up-to-date on his shots and as part of his adoption will be micro chipped. Visit Chico and take him to his forever home.

Est. DOB: 5/02/2011



**Poppi**

Poppi is a handsome Chihuahua. He and his daughter were relinquished to the shelter due to no fault of their own. Poppi is a smart and sweet boy. He likes to explore the play yard as well as pop up into your lap for some cuddle time. Poppi is a perfect size for someone who doesn't have a lot of room for a big boy. Poppi also walks fine on a leash and is eager to please. He just needs someone to scoop him up and give him a forever home. Visit C.A.R.E. and meet Poppi today! As part of his adoption, Poppi will be neutered, microchipped, and brought current on his shots.

DOB: January 2, 2010

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# Woman's Club celebrates community involvement for a century

■ By MELODY JAMESON  
**RUSKIN** – On the frontier here one hundred years ago, this community's women were enjoying a legal equality unknown to their sisters in northern cities. Their votes and their voices carried the same weight as those asserted by men.

That fact well may explain both how and why their organization would become a backbone of the community, growing with it, continuous in its service, strong and supporting, for a full century, and counting.

That organization, now known as the Ruskin Woman's Club, begins public observance of its centennial on March 4, opening a display of artifacts and photos in the Tampa Bay History Center demonstrating its proud and lengthy record of achievement.

Come April, its members will host a public reception complete with authentic period garb on the grounds of their historic headquarters, the three-story home that was a cornerstone of Ruskin's first college, which, in turn, was a key factor in the Commongood Society, the name taken by the communal settlement's pioneers.

In 1912, when The 20th Century Club, precursor of today's woman's club, formed, its members held equal voting rights in the Commongood Society, the organization that anchored the fifth and last U.S. settlement named for and founded on the principles of English social critic John Ruskin.

In northern cities at the

time, where women had few options beyond those granted by husbands, the campaign for woman's suffrage – the legal right to vote in U.S. elections – was being waged by the likes of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. Yet, in Ruskin "A woman could be president of the Commongood Society; she could be president of anything!" notes Dr. Arthur "Mac" Miller, the son of pioneers, in his authoritative history of the area.

In fact, an outstanding one was Miss Harriet Orcutt, novelist, teacher, leader, served the society both as secretary and as president, plus was a charter member of The 20th Century Club. In 1928, she would donate her large, personal library to the club, making it the first public library in the community and one maintained for years by club members.

That independence has characterized the RWC through the years, underpinning its programs and projects, sustaining it during lean times, attracting new members and fresh leadership.

Improvement, both personal and in the community, was the first objective in 1912, according to a 75th anniversary booklet prepared in 1987. Members sought to meet the objective in their monthly meetings featuring progressive programs and in their community as they undertook an extraordinary range of efforts that have highlighted their history, year after year.

Members of the club became involved in the war effort as the

second decade matured, working with the American Red Cross, active in veteran's assistance programs and supporting child labor laws. Under the leadership of Adeline Dickman Miller, wife of Ruskin College's first president, the group endorsed equal rights for women in 1918 with a resolution sent to U. S. President Woodrow Wilson. The club actively supported prison reforms, participated in lobbying the Florida legislature for "old age pensions" for citizens 65 and older long before social security was created and campaigned for a \$300,000 federal appropriation for the state board of health.

In 1940, the family of Adeline D. Miller deeded to the woman's club her beloved home, the three-story dwelling facing the Ruskin Inlet and built in 1912 with heart of pine floors and fireplaces on two floors that she designed with Swiss Chalet features. It was the last of the original Ruskin College structures, added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 and dedicated as a National Historic Site in 1976.

Come the '60s, the RWC led a movement to recondition and reactivate the Ruskin Agricultural Park and this effort snowballed, eventually becoming a community betterment group known as The Ruskin Roundtable. The club also steadfastly pursued efforts to establish a branch of the county library system on the south shore of the Ruskin Inlet, just east of U.S. 41.

See **WOMAN'S CLUB**, page 17

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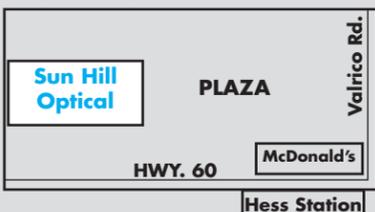
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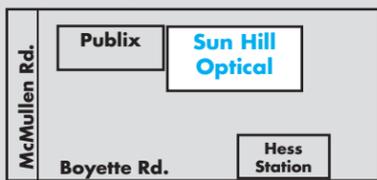
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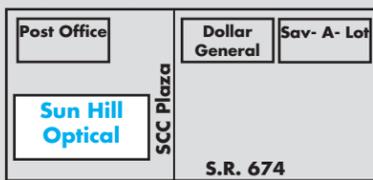
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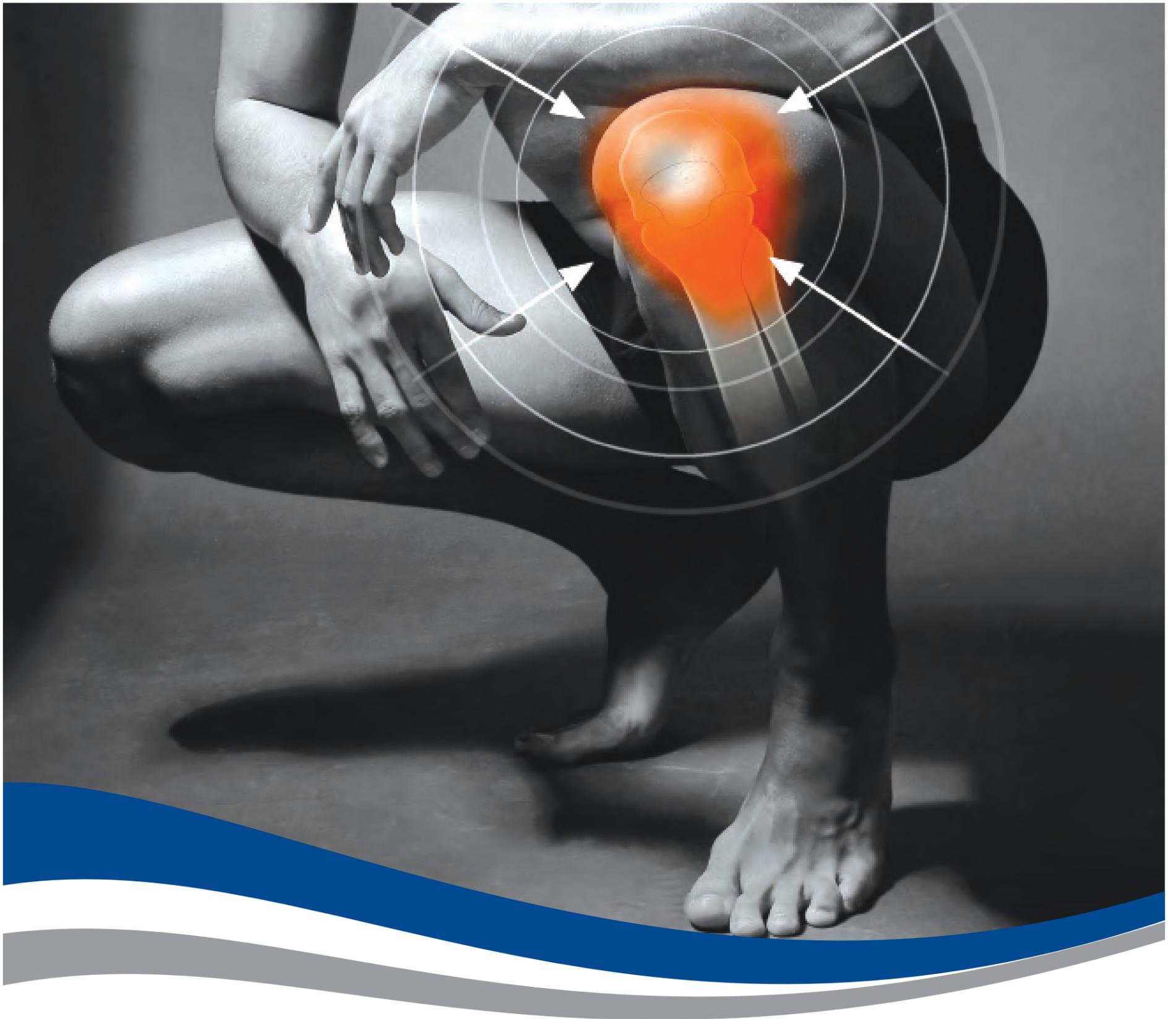


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**Dove release follows dedication**

After eleven months of construction, with all the trials and tribulations inherent to any building project, The First Christian Church of Sun City Center, 1707 33rd Street SE in Ruskin, held its dedication ceremony on January 22, 2012. The congregation hosted approximately 200 members and guests as they dedicated the new church to the glory of God and the community. After the beautiful ceremony, the audience watched as Dr. David Campbell, along with his helpers, released doves that charmed everyone with their aerial show before heading home. Food and refreshments were enjoyed by everyone following the ceremony.



**For a giving Sun City Center businesswoman...  
a time to receive**

A true miracle occurred Friday night at the Sun City Center Chamber of Commerce. In less than six hours over \$6,300 was donated in checks and cash to a medical needs trust for local business woman Linda Cardamone, owner of the "Three Legged Poodle" pet supply store (www.the3leggedpoodle.com). There are still donations coming in that have not yet been included in that amount.

In early February Linda's staff, friends and loyal customers learned that without health insurance it would be financially impossible for her to receive medical tests needed to diagnose her illness. Beginning with store employee Bonnie Flora, contribution containers were quickly distributed to area businesses in Sun City Center, Wimauma and Ruskin.

Linda has spent her life caring for animals and working with local rescue organizations. She is well-known in the area for working tirelessly to find help for any animal and a good forever home. She opened her store in Sun City Center in 2003 to fill what she saw as a void in the community.

Upon learning of her illness, loyal customers and friends brainstormed what could be done instantly to help with those expenses — and in 16 days a fundraiser had been organized, promoted and held. Sharon Roberts, owner of "All About Paws Pet Services" contacted Dana Dittmar, Executive Director of the Sun City Center Chamber, to book the chamber's Community Room for the event. Both Dittmar and chamber staff member Kristy Mahoney were extremely helpful in allowing the use of the facility on such short notice.

Robin Roberts, an Independent Consultant with ARBONNE International, signed on to pull the event together by coordinating donations, supplies, volunteers, press and online notices.

Store employees sent emails to customers, vendors, friends and local business owners to spread the word and asked for donations — with the hope of having a silent auction, raffles, homemade baked treats, finger foods, beverages, and music for the event.

Colorful flyers were produced and distributed to area businesses. Animal Rescue organizations like Feline Folks, C.A.R.E. and Elmira's Wildlife Sanctuary were contacted to promote and help with

the event. Within days donated items began rolling into the store or were picked up and held in family garages awaiting the big event. Doggie Doos Pet Grooming Salon in Ruskin, Bark Busters and Big Bend Animal Hospital all donated valuable gift certificates. The Skin Cancer Center even gave their shopping bags for people to carry home their goodies.

The Fromm Family Pet Food Company donated over \$2,000 in dog food bags to be used for the event. A handful of ladies from Kings Point and Sun City Center baked cakes, cookies and brownies to be sold to also raise funds. People called opening their hearts, wallets and donated cherished artwork, handmade jewelry, and gift cards for local restaurants.

Donations came from Dutch ReTreat Spa, Sun City Center Flowers & Gifts, SCC Golf Carts, Taco Bell, Bogg's Jewelry, American Printing and Scentsy Representative Ruth Foss. Debbie Caneen from Sun Towers Retirement Community, and Connie Lesko from Freedom Plaza. Mike Lesko (United Yacht Sales) grilled scrumptious hot dogs and sausages to sell with chips and sodas. Arthur DeAngelis (Design One Garage Doors) donated cases of water, soda and beer. Kay Dyer (Dyer Solutions) brought in wine, sub sandwiches and appetizers.

While working with store customers Andrea Peterson always mentioned the upcoming fundraiser. One customer who delivers plants from local nurseries to area stores offered to help. On Thursday afternoon he delivered over 300 live potted plants from several local growers in Riverview for the fundraiser.

D.J. Gary Larkin supplied background music all night between live musical sets from about 20 members of the Front Porch Pickers.

"This event would not have been possible without the help of so many critter loving people jumping in to help us. Linda really is loved and respected for what all she does for us and our animals. This was our way of giving back to her! The generosity of this community is amazing!", said Robin Roberts.

*An account has been set up at Cadence Bank, 4842 Sun City Center Blvd where donations may be made direct to the "Linda Cardamone Medical Needs Trust."*

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PHOTOS BY MICHELLE TRAPHAGEN

According to organizers, more than 250 people turned out for the Linda Cardamone benefit held on Friday evening at the Sun City Center Chamber of Commerce. The event included raffles and a silent auction. More than \$6,300 was raised.



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

## Mobile home fire leaves one dead in Gibsonton

Hillsborough Fire Rescue responded to a mobile home fire at 7007 Illinois Avenue in Gibsonton about 10:30 p.m. on Saturday. Fire fighters subsequently discovered a body in the remains of the home. The state fire marshal is investigating to determine the cause of the blaze, while HCFR officials have turned over the death investigation to the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office. According to the HCSO, the deceased was described as an adult male and was transported to the Hillsborough County Medical Examiner's Office where positive identification will be made and an autopsy will be performed to determine the cause of death. The HCSO went on to say that based on the preliminary investigation, the fire was not suspicious in nature and foul play was not suspected in the death. No further information was available at press time.



MELODY JAMESON PHOTO

While sorting the Ruskin Woman's Club accumulation of information for the organization's forthcoming centennial celebrations, Iris Mixon, (left) incoming president, and Betty Jo Council, (right) current property manager overseeing the club's historic headquarters, took a break to talk about RWC's lengthy record of community involvement. Their combined years of membership exceed four decades.

## Woman's Club

■ Continued from page 14

In subsequent years, the women of RWC joined efforts to keep Cockroach Bay in a natural state and undertook beautification of the Ruskin Cemetery and took on publication of the Ruskin Telephone Book. The club for years sponsored an annual Christmas Bazaar, has staged dramatic presentations, hosted chamber of commerce breakfasts, and published a Diamond Jubilee Cookbook. Its scholarships awarded to graduating seniors at East Bay and Lennard High Schools annually assist local youngsters with a start on college careers. And the list goes on.

So, to what do leaders of the 80-member Ruskin Woman's Club attribute its long list of successes accumulating over a century? "Women care," says incoming President Iris Mixon. It is women, she suggests, who notice needs and

become exercised enough to do something about them. And women together can be very focused "doers," determined to reach goals that benefit those around them, adds Betty Jo Council, a member for the last quarter century. This fact has been proved time and again in the RWC history, suggests one of the newest members, Tina Trent. Trent, a relative newcomer 18 months ago and incoming club historian, has been cataloguing the extensive collection of club memorabilia that dates back to its inception in 1912. "Women," she notes, "have been at the center of every community endeavor."

They also see no reason that the Ruskin Woman's Club, forged on a frontier, polished through a first century of service, and prepared to carry on indefinitely, will not celebrate its bi-centennial in 2112. *Copyright 2012 Melody Jameson*

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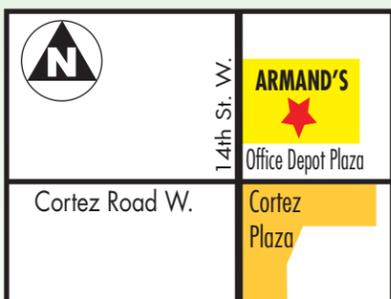


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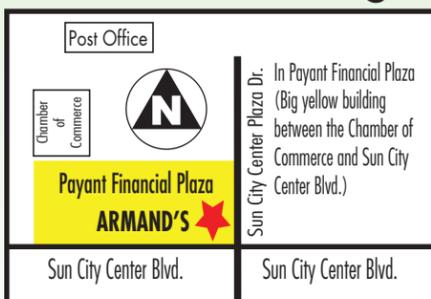


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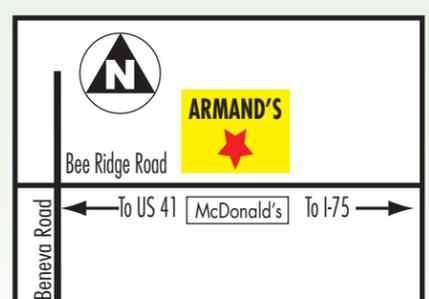
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BUSINESS NEWS

**South Bay Hospital receives award**

South Bay Hospital has received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Silver Plus Quality Achievement Award at the association's International Stroke Conference 2012. The award recognizes the hospital's commitment and success in implementing a high standard of care by ensuring that stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, evidence-based guidelines.

South Bay Hospital is one of 124 hospitals to be recognized for the Silver Plus Award, among the 677 total hospitals to be given quality achievement awards at the conference.

To receive the Silver Plus Quality Achievement award, hospitals must achieve 85 percent or high-

er adherence to all Get With The Guidelines-Stroke achievement indicators for at least 12 consecutive months and during the same period of time achieve 75 percent or higher compliance with five of eight Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Quality Measures, which are reporting initiatives to measure quality of care.

These measures are evidence-based treatments known to result in improved patient outcomes. They focus on appropriate use of guideline-based care for stroke patients, including aggressive use of medications such as clot-busting and anti-clotting drugs, blood thinners and cholesterol-reducing drugs, preventive action for deep vein thrombosis and smoking cessation counseling.

"South Bay Hospital is committed to providing our patients the highest

quality care based on the most current and effective clinically based guidelines" said Sharon Roush, Chief Executive Officer at South Bay Hospital. "With a stroke, time lost is brain lost, and this award demonstrates our commitment to being one of the top hospitals in the country for providing aggressive, proven care for the patients we treat."

South Bay Hospital has developed a Primary Stroke Center, featuring a comprehensive system for rapid diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients admitted to the emergency department. As a result, the staff is always prepared to provide brain imaging scans and neurologists are on hand to conduct patient evaluations and using clot-busting medications when appropriate.

According to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, stroke is one of the leading causes of death and serious, long-term disability in the United States. On average, someone suffers a stroke every 40 seconds and 795,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

For more information about South Bay Hospital's Primary Stroke Center, call 813-634-0496.



**Alley Cat celebrates anniversary**

Bugs will scat when you call the cat! On February 13, Alley Cat Pest Control hosted a Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate their fifth year in business. Their business anniversary was Feb. 7, 2012. Alley Cat Pest Control is a family owned and operated business run by the husband and wife team of Cliff and Lisa Kennedy who provide service to the Riverview community. Lisa Kennedy is the 2012 Honorary Mayor of Riverview. For more information call 813-671-3838 or email info@alleycatpestcontrol.com.

**Business slow? Need to advertise?**  
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**Ten steps to a perfect room**

Dove Interiors Carpet One is proud to present Sally Morse, world renowned designer, speaker and author. "Ten steps to a perfect room" is one of Sally's most popular seminars. It answers some of the most asked questions. Whether you're building a new home, moving into an older home, remodeling or just wanting to improve what you have, this is the seminar for you. Sally leads you through the steps of where to start your plan, than adding furniture, lighting, windows, walls, floors and accessories. The "rule of thumb" demystifies the process of decorating and makes anyone feel like a pro.

Sally has appeared in Better Homes & Gardens, Windows and Walls, Real Simple and other interiors design publications. She has evolved from owning her own retail decorating business, to consulting with the largest manufacturers on interior design products in the world.

This event will be held from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 8 in support of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. A \$10 contribution will be collected from each person attending. All monies collected will go directly to the Foundation. There will be a grand prize drawing, food and fun.

Register at Dove Interiors, 2305 College Avenue, Ruskin, or phone 645-8660.

**Riverview Moose Family Center 2158/Chapter 1031**  
**Loyal Order of Moose • 9000 Honeywell Rd. • Gibsonton**  
**Lodge2158@mooseunits.org • (813) 677-7921**

All events are open to qualified Moose Members and guests.

**Upcoming Events**

- Wednesday**  
Chef's Choice Dinners from 5:30 - 7 p.m. Cover-Your-Moose Bar Games 7 p.m.
- Thursday**  
Tacos/Burgers 5 - 7 p.m. Draw Darts 7:30 p.m.
- Friday**  
Steak/Fish Dinners 5 - 7:30 p.m. Karaoke 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday**  
Various Lodge Events  
Have to watch the Calendar
- Sunday**  
Beer Specials  
Wings 6 @ \$3 / 3 - 6  
Bar Games 3 - 6 p.m.  
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**Feb. 25**  
BBQ at the Tiki Bar at 3 p.m.  
Nascar Weekend Camping Camp Fri. 1/24 - Sun. 2/26
- March 3**  
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**AARP Driver Safety program offered**

- (1) One day - 1 six (6) hour class
- (2) Two days - 2 three (3) hour classes
- Cost: AARP Members \$12 NON-AARP Members \$14
- Feel free to call AARP Driver Safety Program for additional class locations 1-888-227-7669
- Sun City Center  
March 2, 2012 Kings Point - S. Social Room - Main Clubhouse  
9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Registration: Encore Bank 813-634-8001  
Further information: Lou/Mary Jane Tovey 813-634-7399
- Sun City Center  
March 26 Caper Room Sun City FL  
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### Special food collection drive for famished felines

Critter Adoption and Rescue Effort (C.A.R.E.), the local no-kill animal shelter in Ruskin, and Feline Folks, the non-profit organization dedicated to humane feline management in the Greater Sun City Center Area are sponsoring a special food collection drive in March for unopened bags and/or cans of cat food. The food collection drive is part of a partnership between C.A.R.E. and Feline Folks. The food will be used



to help feed the many homeless cats and those awaiting placement in forever homes in the local

SouthShore area. Cat food donations may be dropped off at the shelter at 1528 27th Street S.E. in Ruskin any Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm. Food collection boxes are located just inside the shelter's main gate in a well-marked metal shed next to the driveway. No appointment is necessary. Questions or directions to the shelter may be directed to C.A.R.E. at 813-645-2273 or to Feline Folks at 813-633-4742.

### South Hillsborough Elks Lodge #2672 Upcoming Activities



**Every Tuesday** - Jam Session - 3 to 5 p.m. - No charge for all Elks and their guests.  
**Every Wednesday** - Best Spaghetti in Town - \$7, All You Can Eat, for all Elks and their guests. Music by Bryan from 5 to 8 p.m.  
**Every Friday** - Seafood and Sandwiches for all Elks and their guests from 5 to 7 p.m. Karaoke by Bryan from 5 to 8 p.m.  
**Saturday, March 3**- Cyndi, A One Girl Band, 6-9 p.m., \$8 including Snacks.  
**Monday, March 5 and March 19** - Blue Plate Special, \$7 with all the trimmings, 5 p.m.  
**Saturday, March 17** - St Patrick's Day Celebration, Music by Bryan Ashley, Menu: Corn Beef and Cabbage with all the trimmings, Cocktails 5p.m., Dinner, 6p.m., all for only \$12 per person.  
**March 31** - Installation of new officers and appreciation & awards for all the volunteers who worked so hard all year.  
 The South Hillsborough Elk's Lodge is located at 1630 US Hwy 41 S., Ruskin, FL 33570, Telephone 813-645-2089 and has a clean, smoke free environment.

*John V. Dunne, MD, FA*

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This 1932 Ford 'woody' station wagon owned by Sherwood Moore of Bradenton is the Roamin' Oldies February cruiser of the month.

### Surf's up for '32 Woody

A 1932 Ford wagon, complete with rooftop surfboards and ready for the beach, is the February cruiser of the month for the Sun City Center Roamin' Oldies. The skillfully crafted 'woody' is owned by Sherwood Moore of Bradenton, and based on a reproduction station wagon body. The woodwork was custom fabricated by a sailboat maker in New Smyrna, Florida. After acquiring the wagon about a year ago, Sherwood added the surfboards and 'Sherwoody's Surf Shop' signs on the doors. That's all for fun, but there's serious power under the hood, provided by a fuel-injected Corvette engine. A regular at area car shows, Sherwood says he also

enjoys the smiles and friendly waves he gets cruising the local beachfronts. The monthly Roamin' Oldies cruise-in is held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month in the Apollo Beach Winn-Dixie Plaza on US 41. The event is free to both entrants and spectators, and the public is welcome. About 90 of the area's finest antique and collectible cars and trucks are typically on display, accompanied by classic 1950s music played by DJ Joey Ferrante. The event is sponsored by Thompson's Auto Parts and Mama Iguana's Restaurant. For more information, call Chet at 813-842-1511.

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### Attention citizens over 60

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If so, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as Food Stamps) may be able to help you pay for some of your groceries. The West Central Florida Area Agency on Aging has a team of specialists who can help you complete your Supplemental Nutrition Assistance application over the phone. If you would like assistance in applying for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), call at 800-96ELDER or 800-963-5337.

### Attention all Veterans

Sun City Center Chapter #110 of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) has opened an outreach center in Conessa Hall at the Prince of Peace Church located at 702 Valley Forge Blvd., Sun City Center. Bob Gerdes and Darrell Katz are DAV certified service officers who will discuss benefits and assist with claims for all veterans in South Hillsborough County. Male and female Vets are welcome to participate in this non-denominational, and free service. Appointments are available for Tuesday mornings from 9 a.m.- noon. Drivers also are needed to assist Veterans with transportation to James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital in Tampa. For more information call Bob at 813-634-1761 or Darrell at 813-260-3692.

### Business slow? Advertise in The Observer

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A bake sale is a sweet way to support any charitable cause, whether it's raising money for new uniforms or donating to a local animal shelter. These tips and recipes from the celebration experts at Wilton will make bake sale treats that stand out among the rest — it's a piece of cake.

- Baking delicious goodies is just the start of a successful bake sale. Add some dazzling details. The eye-catching finishes on Bake-Sale Ready Cupcakes — swirls of colorful icing topped with jumbo sprinkles and butterfly decorations, complete with vibrant wraps — will ensure they sell out fast.
- Serve sweets-on-a-stick like Kaleidoscope Cookie Pops and School Star Cereal Treat Pops. Favorite treats are more fun and easier to eat when customers can just grab them and enjoy.
- Offer size options. Sell some cupcakes and mini breads by the “eaches” and cookies by the pop. Have dozens available, too.
- Wrap goodies using treat bags and ribbon, or pack in colorful, easy-to-transport boxes — making them perfect gifts customers will want to keep for themselves.

Visit [www.wilton.com](http://www.wilton.com) for other bake sale ideas and recipes, and for all of your baking and decorating supplies.

## Zucchini & Apple Bread

- 2-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1-1/4 cups granulated sugar
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 3/4 cup vegetable oil
- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 medium zucchini, shredded (about 1-1/2 cups)
- 1 medium apple, peeled, cored and shredded (about 1 cup)
- 3/4 cup chopped pecans or walnuts

Preheat oven to 325°F. Spray 9 x 5-inch loaf pan with vegetable pan spray.

In large bowl, combine flour, sugar, cinnamon, baking powder, salt and nutmeg. In medium bowl, whisk together oil, eggs and vanilla. Stir into flour mixture. Stir in zucchini, apple and pecans, mixing until just combined. (Do not overmix.) Turn mixture into prepared pan.

Bake 50 to 60 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.

Cool bread in pan 10 minutes. Loosen edges of bread from pan. Remove bread from pan; cool completely.

Makes about 12 servings.

Brighten up  
Bake  
Sales

## Kaleidoscope Cookie Pops

- 2-3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
- 1-1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- Round Comfort Grip Cutter
- Assorted Colors Cookie Icing
- Assorted Jumbo Sprinkles or other favorite Sugars and Sprinkles
- Cookie Treat Sticks
- Candy Melts candy (optional)

Preheat oven to 350°F.

In small bowl, combine flour, baking powder and salt. In large bowl, beat butter and sugar with electric mixer until light and fluffy. Add egg and extracts; mix well. Do not chill dough. Divide dough into 2 balls. On floured surface, roll each ball into a circle approximately 12-inch diameter x 1/8-inch thick. Dip cookie cutter in flour before each use. Bake cookies on ungreased cookie sheet 8 to 11 minutes or until cookies are lightly browned. Cool cookies completely.

Outline and fill-in cookie with Cookie Icing. Add zigzag border to some cookies. If desired, pipe alternating circles of colors onto cookie surface; immediately pull toothpick through icing from center of cookie to outer edge, pulling colors through. Or, arrange sprinkles and sugars on iced cookie surface. Let dry.

Attach sticks to back of cookies with icing or melted candy. Let dry.

Makes about 2 dozen cookies.

## School Star Cereal Treat Pops

- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter or margarine
- 4 cups mini marshmallows
- 6 cups crisp rice cereal
- Cookie Treat Sticks
- Cookie Icing
- Assorted Sprinkles

Spray Star Cookie Treat Pan and rubber spatula or wooden spoon with vegetable pan spray.

In large saucepan, melt butter. Add marshmallows; cook and stir until melted. Remove from heat and add cereal; mix well. Press into prepared pan; insert cookie sticks. When cool to touch, remove from pan. Repeat with remaining cereal mixture. (If mixture becomes hard to work with, microwave at 50 percent power 30 to 60 seconds to soften.)

Outline treat with Cookie Icing; add Sprinkles. Let dry.

Makes about 2 dozen pops.



## Coconut Lime Mini Breads

### Breads

- 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon finely grated lime zest
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter, softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1-1/2 teaspoons coconut extract
- 1/3 cup unsweetened coconut milk

### Topping (optional)

- 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1 to 2 teaspoons fresh lime juice
- 3 tablespoons toasted sweetened flaked coconut

Preheat oven to 350°F. Line cavities of Petite Loaf Pan with Petite Loaf Baking Cups.

In medium bowl, combine flour, lime zest and baking powder. In large bowl, beat butter and sugar with electric mixer until light and fluffy. Add eggs one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Stir in coconut extract. Add flour mixture alternately with coconut milk to butter mixture; mix until well combined. Divide mixture evenly into baking cups.

Bake 25 to 28 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool loaves in pan 10 minutes. Remove loaves from pan; cool completely.

To make icing, combine confectioners' sugar and lime juice in small bowl to desired consistency. Drizzle icing over tops of loaves, allowing icing to run down sides. Sprinkle with toasted coconut.

Makes 9 petite loaves.

## Candy Bark

- 2 packages (12 oz. ea.) White or Light Cocoa Candy Melts candy

Rainbow Chip Crunch or other Sprinkles or Sugars

Line 10.5 x 15.5-inch cookie pan with parchment paper.

Melt Candy Melts candy following package instructions; spoon into prepared pan. Tap pan on counter to remove air bubbles; if needed, smooth top with large spatula. Sprinkle on Rainbow Chip Crunch. Chill until firm, about 15 minutes. Remove parchment from pan; break candy into smaller serving pieces.





MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

## Support local vendors at the Southshore Market on Sunday

The Southshore Market in Ruskin will make its monthly appearance on Sunday, Feb. 26 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the southwest corner of the U.S. Highway 41 and Shell Point Road. This month's market will include several new vendors such as Pottery Town, a mobile paint-your-own pottery studios, Hog-Father BBQ and the Cheesecake People, along with previous favorites ranging from Pamela Vasquez Photography to vendors offering seafood, homemade soaps and dog treats as well as homemade jams, jellies, and, of course, fresh from the farm produce. At least 50 vendors are expected to be in attendance. For information, email southshoresundaymarket@gmail.com.

## Commonly used vitamin could help produce 'good' cholesterol

Maintaining healthy cholesterol levels can keep heart disease, heart attack and stroke away. And a commonly used vitamin could help by increasing production of "good" cholesterol in the body, researchers at the University of Florida College of Medicine-Jacksonville have found. The findings were published recently in the journal *Metabolism, Clinical and Experimental*.

Physicians have long prescribed a B-vitamin called nicotinic acid to help keep good cholesterol levels high. Early studies suggest that niacin prevents the removal of good cholesterol — known as high-density lipoprotein or HDL — from the body, and in so doing, raises the concentration of the substance. But the new results from studies of human cells suggest that niacin plays an even greater role, not just preventing removal, but actually boosting production of good cholesterol in the liver and small intestine.

"We've known the value of nicotinic acid for years, but this shows there could be even more benefits than we thought," said the study's lead author Michael Haas, Ph.D., a research associate professor of medicine.

A person's cholesterol reading is made up of two major parts: HDL and low-density lipoprotein, also called LDL or "bad" cholesterol.

HDL is responsible for moving cholesterol out of various tissues and into the liver so it can be flushed from the body. Doctors recommend keeping good cholesterol levels high and bad cholesterol levels low.

The body uses nicotinic acid to convert carbohydrates into energy. It is found in many over-the-counter multivitamin formulations and is sometimes prescribed on its own to lower triglycerides and increase good cholesterol.

But until now, researchers weren't quite sure whether niacin could actually increase good cholesterol levels.

To find definitive evidence, the UF researchers tested human liver and intestine cells in the first study of its kind. They found that nicotinic acid increased the activity of a gene that produces a protein called apolipoprotein A-1, which is the major component of good cholesterol in the blood. Not only that, the researchers were able to identify the specific region of the gene that was responsible for making new HDL.

The work was funded by a \$20,000 grant from the Endocrine Fellows Association to former UF fellow Abdul-Razzak Alamir, M.D.

Recent UF&Shands news releases are available at [www.news.health.ufl.edu/](http://www.news.health.ufl.edu/) or [www.shands.org/news/archive/](http://www.shands.org/news/archive/).

## Puppy love for a whole year

What would you say if you could have all the joy of having a puppy in the house for at least a year and then have the most rewarding experience ever? Well, by becoming a Puppy Raiser for Southeastern Guide Dogs, you can!

Volunteer Puppy Raisers receive velvety bundles of energy when they are just nine weeks old and spend the next year loving, nurturing, training and exposing these special pups to the wide world so when they are paired up with a visually impaired person, they will be unflappable guides.

"To see the puppy you raised now act as the eyes for a blind person is truly an amazing feeling, knowing that the work I put in is the reason that person now has their independence makes it all worth every minute -- it's the reason I continue

to raise puppies for Southeastern" said Shay Doerner, Co-Area Coordinator and Puppy Raiser for Southeastern Guide Dogs.

Southeastern Guide Dogs is especially looking for local Puppy Raisers and expect to have a number of puppies ready to go out and start their training over the next

few months.

If you would like to join this great group of volunteers, Southeastern invites you to contact their Puppy Raising Services department at (941) 729-5665 to learn all that is involved and how you can get your own cuddly puppy to nurture.

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**Carl E. Friedman, D.D.S.**

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# Seniors reject plan

■ Continued from page 1

“a major setback for SCC.” On one hand, he added, “we are very glad for the interest the members have shown in this project.” But on the other hand, he noted that apparently many “do not want to modernize and update SCC.”

Barnes also noted the “unfounded fear” that was encouraged in the community by “a tremendous amount of erroneous information put out about the plan” as opponents campaigned against it with “highly distorted and in most cases just flat wrong” information.

CA Director Howie Griffin, reflecting on the balloting outcome, said he found the resistance “puzzling.” He pointed to the three town hall sessions and several informal coffee conversations at which board members demonstrated and explained all components of the building program along with the projected financing based on conservatively estimated revenues from the \$1,500 fee accruing each time a home is sold to an incoming first-time buyer. The multiple occasions provided repeated opportunities for residents to ask any questions and make all comments to which the CA board responded, Griffin added.

These numerous exchanges were scheduled over a period of months as part of a step-by-step sequence in an effort to avoid repeating the multiple problems that erupted when the central campus fitness center was built under a previous CA board in the middle of the last decade, Griffin said. That multi-million-dollar project, poorly handled, was

subject to long delays, required replacement of defective windows and roof after construction and ultimately was settled only with expensive litigation, because of lack of competent planning, he asserted.

Griffin also called attention to inaccurate information spread across the community in an effort to defeat the building program. Statements that interest on a bank loan could be \$900,000 over a 10-year period were “totally erroneous,” as were implications that CA membership dues would be encumbered to repay a loan or that residents’ homes could be foreclosed upon to discharge the debt, he said.

Another CA director and board secretary, David Floyd, emphasized that the leaders’ intentions were solely to “do the best the board can for the community.” He noted that every misperception was addressed and efforts made to respond to every concern although “some people chose not to listen.”

However, board directors do not take rejection of the plan personally, he said, predicting the board now will consider other options that might be explored to accomplish similar objectives on behalf of the community.

In fact, a move in that direction could become a discussion topic in mid-March when the next CA membership meeting is slated, said Chuck Collett, CA vice president. Collett said board members are looking at forming a series of focus groups consisting of interested residents charged with listing, talking through, recommending or rejecting various concepts that

might address community needs in the near future. “We need to understand what’s going on in the minds of members before we try again,” he added. Such focus groups could include both opponents and supporters of the just-defeated building program.

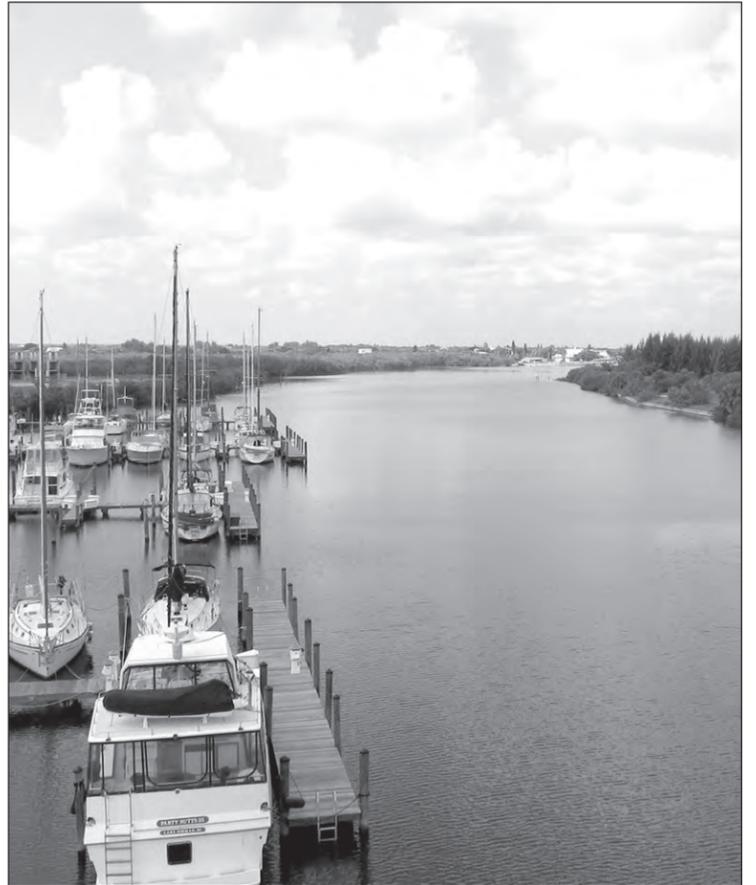
In view of the amount of misinformation and misperception about the plan that spread through the community, he noted, “perhaps we didn’t communicate with the membership well enough.”

Given the potentially turbulent marketing environment confronting the nearly built-out retirement center with a substantial, obviously aging housing stock and the rare opportunities offered by a low interest rate situation coupled with temporarily reduced construction costs, “we’re still committed to moving the process forward” in order to upgrade and add attractive space, the vice president said.

One of the first needs the board soon will address is parking adjacent to the Atrium building, Barnes said. He described the severely limited parking space as “critical” and said construction on an expanded parking lot could be undertaken during forthcoming summer months when demand is the lowest.

Several individuals who successfully voiced strong objections to the capital improvements building program also were contacted for this article. They did not respond to telephone inquiries.

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MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

The new Village Marina, formerly part of Little Harbor Resort.

## Observations

■ Continued from page 8

may have heard, remains the world’s largest manufacturer (although that could possibly end this year but c’mon, China has more than a BILLION people! It’s amazing they aren’t already the largest and it is still uncertain when they will actually become the largest).

Indefinite growth may be impossible for a corporation, but for a nation, it is just plain survival. We will continue to grow as long as we remain committed

to our nation, our ideals and our neighbors.

This isn’t the Roman Empire and our best days aren’t anywhere near over. Seriously, did you really think they were? When it comes right down to it, is anyone really willing to bet against the United States? I’m not — not now, not for a very long time. Sure, we have some big-time kinks, quirks and problems to work out, but in my opinion, we’re just getting good at this stuff. The best is yet to come.

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the young  
at heart”

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Join us as we  
celebrate our rich  
beginning while looking  
forward to a bright  
tomorrow...



Sun City Center’s 50th anniversary will be celebrated by a WHOLE YEAR of parties and events. Watch this monthly ad for upcoming events throughout the 12 months of May 2011 through April 2012.

### MARCH EVENTS

#### Friday, March 2

A tribute to Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. Six singers/dancers and four-piece band bring back favorites such as “Sherry,” “Big Girls Don’t Cry,” and “Walk Like a Man.” CA Community Hall, S. Pebble Beach. 7 p.m. Open to public. Tickets (\$21) at CA Office, 1009 N. Pebble Beach Blvd. Info: Judy Schings 642-2001.

#### Saturday, March 10

Don’t miss the SCC Swim Dancers performing to a delightful collection of songs we all love, including “The Way We Were,” that features seven former group members. This synchronized swim group has been delighting audiences since 1983. CA Central Campus inside pool. Tickets (\$2) sold March 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 from 9 a.m. to noon in the Atrium.



#### Sunday, March 11

The east coast’s hottest retro band—Joey Arminio & The Family—performs renditions of legendary classics, combining Doo-wop, Broadway, USO, Rock n’ roll and Rat Pack. CA Community Hall. 2:30 p.m. Open to public. Tickets (\$15) at CA Office, 1009 N. Pebble Beach Blvd. Info: Judy Schings 642-2001.

#### Saturday, March 17

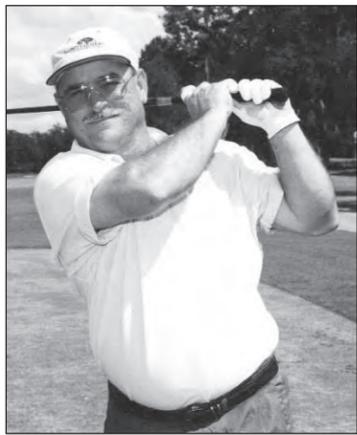
Sun City Center showcases its lifestyle with a special FunFest for a special year. The golden anniversary theme is being combined with the “green” of St. Patrick’s Day for a full day of entertainment, exhibits and food. SCC Central Campus, N. Pebble Beach Blvd. 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Admission is FREE and it’s open to the public. Info: Jane Keegan 633-3500.



#### Monday, March 26

An Awesome Auction (silent and live) will offer a festive evening with complimentary hors d’oeuvres and wine (+ cash bar), entertainment, and coveted items for the lucky bidders. Renaissance Clubhouse, S. Pebble Beach Blvd. 5 p.m. - ? Only 200 tickets (\$25) will be sold March 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 from 9 a.m. – noon in the Atrium, CA Central Campus. Info: Cam McGary 642-9800 & Merlene Smithyman 634-8387.

## Area Obituaries



### Dennis Akers

Dennis Akers, 60, of Apollo Beach, died Wednesday, February 15, 2012, at a local hospital after a very courageous battle with cancer.

He was born in Norfolk General Hospital, October 28, 1951, to Ernest O. Akers, Sr. and Anna P. Akers. He is survived by his wife, Karen Akers, of Apollo Beach; his brother, Ernest O. Akers, and wife, Sherry of Virginia Beach, Va.; his brother Rick and his wife Margaret of Norfolk, Va.; his sister Gloria Jean Harris and her husband Shane of Brooksville, FL; his son, Dennis Wayne Akers, Jr. and his wife Allison of Virginia Beach, Va.; his daughter, Tammy Allison of Tacoma, WA.; his grandson, Brian P. Akers of Tacoma, WA., and his granddaughter, Hailey Kay Akers, of Virginia Beach, VA.; nieces, Kristy Harris and Shana Chesser of Brooksville, FL., Karen Skees of Norfolk, VA.; nephew Ricky Akers of Norfolk, VA. Also, his father and mother-in-law, Harry and Dorris Foradori of Cocoa Beach, FL.; brothers-in-law Mark, Keith, Mike Foradori, and John Parks; and sisters-in-law, Jane Parks, Dawn Willett, Debbie Richards, and Alice Foradori.

Dennis was born and raised in Norfolk, where he attended high school. He later served in the Merchant Marines and the United States Air Force. During his career, Dennis worked for several shipbuilding companies including Norfolk Ship Building and Dry-dock, and Tampa Bay Shipbuilding. He was also a consultant for IMIA.

Dennis was a faithful member of Faith Worx Church in Apollo Beach where he served on various ministry teams including Home Life Groups, Feed the Bay, Men's Bible Study, Lord's Lighthouse Clothing and Pantry Drive, and other ministries to our local community. He was a very loving husband, father, and loyal friend.

Dennis really enjoyed fishing and golfing; he was a member of Apollo Beach Golf Club, where he played as often as he could. However, fishing was his first love, and he really appreciated fishing on Tony and Pam's Lake Preserve with family and friends.

Dennis was married to Karen Foradori Akers in 1994, and they lived in Apollo Beach since 2000, with a brief 2 year stay in New Orleans before, during, and after hurricane Katrina.

A Celebration of Life for Dennis was held at Faith Worx, 202 Flamingo Drive, Apollo Beach, on Saturday, February 18, 2012. In lieu of flowers, anyone wishing to make a contribution is encouraged to donate to prostate cancer research or prostate cancer support groups.



### Bernice A. Cocco

Bernice A. Cocco, 74, of Sun City Center, FL, passed away on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at her residence. Born in Norwalk, Ct, on April 7, 1937, Bernice was a retired Sales Clerk and was Roman Catholic by Faith. Bernice volunteered at South Bay Hospital at the out patient desk. Survivors include her husband of 56 years, Leonard and a daughter, Linda (Jim) Noll of Scott City, KS.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Sun City Center Funeral Home, 1851 Rickenbacker Drive, Sun City Center, FL.



### Angie Davis

Angie Davis, 39, passed away on February 19, 2012.

She was born on October 11, 1972. She was from Apollo Beach, FL. She is survived by her son, Devin; her daughters, Crystal and Tamara; grandsons, Aden and Christopher; her mother, Barbara Gardner; sister Melissa; brother, Shawn; 2 grandmothers; a stepfather; two uncles, and her best friend Vicki Selph. We love you and may you rest in peace now baby girl.



*Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*

*1 John 4:11*

### World Day of Prayer

On Friday, March 2, this year's World Day of Prayer will be held at the St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 1239 Del Webb Boulevard, West, in Sun City Center. A breakfast buffet will be available at 10 a.m. followed by the service at 11 a.m. which will include pageantry, a speaker, music, and prayer.

### Take a safeguarding children class

A safeguarding children class will be held from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, March 3 at the St. John the Divine Episcopal Church [SCC campus] 1015 E Del Webb Blvd. It is strongly recommended for all members who have keys to the church and for those who work or interact with children. It is open to everybody. Sign up sheets are available in each parish hall. Sign up by Feb. 26. Certification is good for 5 years. Recertification is now available on-line. Questions or need to be re-certified? Call Judy Weiffenbach at 813-938-5078.

### Take a trip or tour

The Community Church College, 1501 La Jolla Avenue is offering terrific Trips & Tours this Spring Session.

The opera "Carmen" at the newly renovated Sarasota Opera House will be on Friday, March 16 and is an elegant setting for a gala evening.

Dinner at the Field Club House in Sarasota is Friday, March 9. The Field Club is an exclusive private club located on the estate of department store mogul, Marshall Field. The setting is beautiful and the hors d'oeuvres and surf and turf dinner promises to be an elegant evening.

If you wish to see stunning homes, go boutique shopping or enjoy an excellent selection of restaurants, the House Tour at Lakewood Ranch is for you. This annual fundraiser by the Sarasota Orchestra Association is Friday, March 2.

For reservations, visit the College or call 813-634-8607. Hours are Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

### St. John the Divine hosts Community Sing

South Hillsborough Ministerial Association [SHMA], an organized, interactive group of local church ministers and congregations committed to the work of the Lord Jesus Christ in South Hillsborough County, will host the monthly "Community Sing" on Monday, Feb. 27 at the St. John the Divine Episcopal Church [West Campus] located at 705 9th St. S.E. Ruskin, beginning at 7 p.m. The "Prelude" to the sing will begin at 6:30 pm. Refreshments will be served afterwards. Call (813) 633-3970 for further information or visit [www.shmasouthshores.org](http://www.shmasouthshores.org)

### Southside Baptist Church to host concert

Southside Baptist Church will be hosting award winning vocalist, Alan Harris at 6 p.m. on Sunday, March 4. Alan has a "blended worship style that appeals to young and old alike. He has toured with many of the Gaither Homecoming Friends and was recently honored with a Diamond Award nomination for Male Vocalist of the Year. His preaching style touches the heart. He will be accompanied by his wife, Angie, and his son Andrew. For more information call 813-645-4085.

### Unitarian Universalists announce events

February 23  
The Unitarian Universalists of Sun City Center bring Melody Jameson, a lifelong resident of Florida, to discuss The League of Women Voters, what it is and what it has accomplished. Melody is a widely-experienced writer, editor and photographer. Her versatility as a communications specialist is reflected by the wide range of publications in which her work has appeared beginning with newspapers such as The Seattle Times, The Seattle Post-Intelligencer, The Sarasota Herald-Tribune, The Bradenton Herald, The St. Petersburg Times, The Sun City Center Observer as well as in magazine periodicals such as Southern Living, and Homestyles. Melody is current chairman of the South Hillsborough unit of Hillsborough County's League of Women Voters. She also is a certificated paralegal who prosecuted cases in Small Claims Court of the 13th Judicial Circuit on behalf of local corporations.

### Arthritis and hip replacements seminar scheduled

Dr. Robert Maddalon, MD, MS, will present an arthritis and hip replacements seminar at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6 at St Andrew Presbyterian Church. Dr. Maddalon specializes in total joint replacement with arthroscopic and/or computer-assisted surgery. If you will be attending this seminar call the church office at 813-634-1252.

## Area Places of Worship

### Ruskin United Methodist Church

First Street & 4th Ave. NW, Ruskin (behind Suntrust Bank)  
ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME AND WORSHIP WITH US:  
**SUNDAY MORNINGS:** Nov. - April..... 8:30 a.m. **Day Care Available**  
Rev. Richard Nussel and All Year..... 10:45 a.m. Mon. - Fri.  
Phone: 645-1241 Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m. 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
call 645-6198

### Friendship Baptist Church

**Rance Good, Pastor** (Southern Baptist)  
1511 El Rancho Dr.  
Sun City Center, FL 33573  
Phone/Fax: 813-633-5950  
WEEKLY SERVICES:  
**Sunday**  
9 a.m. .... Bible Study  
11 a.m. .... Bible Study  
10 a.m. & 6 p.m. .... Worship  
**Wednesday**  
6 p.m. .... Prayer Meeting/Bible Study

### Ruskin Foursquare Church

Building Community Thru God's Love  
106 7th Ave. N.W.  
Ruskin, FL 33570  
N. Blanton (813) 309-3558  
**10 a.m. Sunday School**  
**11 a.m. Worship Service**  
**7 p.m. Wed. Bible Study**  
Pastor Norman & Sherri Blanton

### REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

701 Valley Forge Blvd. • Sun City Center, FL 33573-5354  
**Rev. Dr. Peter Stiller, Pastor**  
Telephone: 813-634-1292 • Website: [sccredeemer.org](http://sccredeemer.org)  
Worship Services on Sunday 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.  
Holy Communion First & Third Sunday • Bible Class Thursday 10 a.m., Guests Welcome

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of SCC**  
Meets in the Henry Gibson Social Hall of the Beth Israel Synagogue • 1115 E. Del Webb Blvd.  
Thursday, 7:00 PM • Call 633-0396  
*Beginnings are opportunities for making endings better.*  
— L. Annie Foster

**Unity COMMUNITY OF JOY**  
Spirituality Rather Than "Religion"  
Henry Gibson Social Hall, Beth Israel Synagogue  
1115 Del Webb E. • Sun City Center, FL  
www.unitycommunityofjoy.com  
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.  
813-298-7745

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"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19  
Traditional Worship Service  
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Nursery Available  
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Gibsonton, FL 33534  
\*Sunday School 9:30 A.M.  
\*Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Sunday Evening 6:00 P.M.  
Mid-Week (Wed.) 7:00 P.M.  
Malcolm S. Clements, Pastor  
813-677-1301

**Prince of Peace Catholic Church**  
702 Valley Forge Blvd., SCC, FL 33573  
Phone: 634-2328 • Fax: 633-6670  
www.popcc.org  
**Masses:**  
Sunday ..... 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., Noon  
Saturday Vigil ..... 4:00 & 6:00 p.m.  
Daily..... 8:00 a.m.  
**Confessions:**  
Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. and Sat. 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

**NORTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
"Loving God, Loving Others,  
Serving Beyond Borders"  
Dr. Samuel (Sam) A. Roach, Pastor  
1301 U.S. Hwy. 41 N., Ruskin, FL • 645-1121 • www.nbc.org  
Sunday School (all ages)..... 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship .... 10:45 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday (all ages) ..... 6:30 p.m.

**UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH - United Church of Christ**  
1501 La Jolla AVE, Sun City Center, FL 33573-5329  
A Caring Church United in God's Love Serving Our Community  
All Are Welcome!  
Rev. Dr. Michael F. Evans - Worship Service - 10 AM  
(813) 634-1304 - www.uccinccc.org

Welcome to the:  
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1611 First St. SW • Ruskin, FL • 645-7607  
—NON-INSTRUMENTAL—  
SERVICES: Sunday..... 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.; 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday..... 7:00 p.m.

**CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Sunday Worship: Blended 8:00 a.m.  
Contemporary 9:40 a.m.  
Traditional 11:15 a.m.  
Nursery Provided  
Pastor Jack R. Palzer  
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INVITES YOU TO SERVICES AT OUR NEW LOCATION  
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Minister - DR. DAVID CAMPBELL

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*Come and experience the power of Jesus to change your life.*  
Sunday @ 9 & 11 AM • Servicio en Español @ 6 PM  
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2322 11th Ave. SE • Ruskin, FL • 813.645.3337

# Area Places of Worship

*Spiritual Leader*  
**Rev. Sue Meixner**  
**813-362-0806**  
 sue@alterways.com



**Sunday Service 11:00 a.m.**  
 Sun City Center  
 Chamber of Commerce  
 1651 Sun City Center Plaza

*Turning problems into lessons, lessons into wisdom and wisdom into freedom.*

**The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center**  
 1210 Del Webb Blvd West • 634-2539  
 http://www.sccumc.com

**Come Belong**  
**Grow Serve**

**WORSHIP SERVICES:**  
**SATURDAY**  
 4:00 p.m. .... Sanctuary (Casual Service)  
 5:00 p.m. .... Creason Hall (Oasis Contemporary)  
**SUNDAY**  
 8:15 a.m. .... Sanctuary (Communion Service)  
 9:15 a.m. .... Creason Hall (Oasis Contemporary)  
 10:55 a.m. .... Sanctuary (Traditional with Choir & Bells)

**Pastor: Dr. Warren Langer**  
**Pastor: Dr. Daniel White**

**Pages of Life**  
 Bookstore 633-8595

**FIRST BAPTIST of CHURCH**  
 of RUSKIN, FL

**820 COLLEGE AVE. W.**  
**RUSKIN, FL 33570**  
**645-6439**  
 www.fbcfruskin.org  
 A Resource for Families



Dr. Barry Rumsey  
**CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**  
 K-2  
**THROUGH 12TH GRADE**

Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.  
 Morning Worship.....8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.  
 Evening Service.....6:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday Night Service.....7:00 p.m.  
 Awana .....7:00 p.m.

**Southside Baptist Church**  
*"A Warm, Loving & Friendly Church"*  
 Looking for a church home?  
 Need the comfort of a warm and loving family?  
 Join us on Sunday to come home to the warmth of our church family.  
 Located in South Hillsborough County, just south of Stephens Road in old Sun City.  
**4208 U.S. Hwy. 41 S • Sun City, FL 33586 • 813-645-4085**

"Getting to Know You" (Donuts & Coffee) .....9:00 a.m.  
 Sunday School .....9:30 a.m.  
 Sunday Morning Worship .....10:55 a.m.  
 Sunday Evening Service.....6:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday Evening Service .....7:00 p.m.  
 Thursday Morning Prayer.....10:00 a.m.

**Dan Collis, Pastor**  
*Come join us to learn about God's Word and salvation in Jesus Christ*

**First Church of Christ, Scientist**  
**204 2nd St. N.W. • Ruskin, FL 33570 • (813) 645-6102**  
**Christian Science Heals**

Sunday Service.....10:00 a.m.  
 Sunday School .....10:00 a.m.  
 Wednesday Service.....5:00 p.m.  
 Reading Room..... Wednesday 4 to 4:45 p.m.

**All Are Welcome**

**St. Andrew Presbyterian Church**  
**Sunday Services 9:30 a.m.**  
**Casual Service 11:00 a.m.**

Prayers with anointing for healing and wholeness during worship the second Sunday of every month.

**Pastor: Rev. Dr. Mark E. Salmon**  
*Meet friends in Fellowship Hall after the Service.*  
*Refreshments served.*

1239 Del Webb Blvd. West Phone: 813-634-1252  
 Sun City Center, FL 33573 For information visit:  
 Church is Handicap accessible www.standrewatccc.org

**Saint Anne Catholic Church**  
 SouthShore: Apollo Beach, Ruskin, Sun City and S. Gibsonton



U.S. Hwy. 41  
 106 11th Ave. NE  
 Ruskin  
 813-645-1714  
 SaintAnneRuskin.org

Very Rev. John F. McEvoy, V.F.

**MASSES**

Vigil Mass.....Saturday 5:00 p.m.  
 Sunday Mass.....8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (Contemporary)  
 Monday thru Friday .....8:00 a.m.  
 Wednesday and Friday.....12 noon  
 Holy Days ..... Contact Parish Office for Schedule  
 Español ..... Domingo - 12:30 p.m.; Jueves 7:00 p.m.  
 Confession..... Thursday 6:15 p.m.; Saturday 3:45 p.m.



Back row: Brenda Figueroa, Carlos Figueroa, Bobby Thomas, Olon Miller. Middle row: Wayne Hawkins, Sarah Hicks, Sylvia Thomas, Amanda Santos. Front row: Chris Giddens, Sara Peel, Betty Fountain and Louise Miller.

## New Beginnings Fellowship welcomes new members

On Sunday Feb. 5 the congregation of New Beginnings Fellowship was privileged to welcome 17 new members into the fellowship. Many of the new members have been attending for some time but were happy to sign the membership book, receive their certificates and be recognized by the congregation. Pastor Lewis Brady presided over the service and welcomed each one to the fellowship.



From L to R: Shirley Bergman, Joe Sheff, Frances Sheff, Sandra Hurwitz, Martin Dodell, Pearl Moss, Mel Moss. In back row: Donald Linsky, Martin Hurwitz. Missing from the photo are Lil Aaron, Lynn Gordon, Annette Gibson and Ruth Bialik.

## SCC Beth Israel Synagogue of Sun City Center celebrates 25 years and honors its founders

On February 4, 2012, Beth Israel, The Jewish Congregation of Sun City Center celebrated its 25th Anniversary at the Renaissance Country Club. They honored the original founders, who are in the community, plus three past presidents. Over 90 members of the Temple attending the dinner were enlightened by shared stories of the beginnings of the synagogue.

## Strike up the band

The South Shore Concert Band, led by new director Ken Easton will present a wide selection of music at 7 p.m. on Thursday, February 23 in the Trinity Baptist Church Sanctuary at 702 Del Webb Blvd. West in Sun City Center, corner of S.R. 674.

The program will include a variety of music from show tunes to marches to Bach, a spirited composition, Toccata For Band.

**Are you ready to listen?**  
*God is speaking in your own spiritual language - a language you can hear*

Come to a **FREE** talk:  
**"God is Speaking - Are We Listening?"**  
 by **Jill Grimes**, practitioner of Christian Science healing and a member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship



**Sunday February 26 3 p.m.**

Florida Room, SCC CA Building  
 N. Pebble Beach at Cherry Hills Drive  
 (945-D North Course Lane) Sun City Center



Mike Markaverich

## Mike Markaverich Jazz Trio to perform

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, 1210 Del Webb Blvd. West, is proud to announce that it will be hosting the Mike Markaverich Jazz Trio on Friday Feb. 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary. A native of Nashua, New Hampshire, Mike Markaverich was a premature baby whose experience in the incubator resulted in his blindness. In November 1988, he and his wife, Debbie, moved to Sarasota where he has been a regular member of the local jazz scene. Mike has also appeared in concert in various venues, appeared on television and radio, given workshops in schools and colleges, teaches jazz piano, and has produced eight of his own recordings. Mike will perform a variety of jazz classics as well as several original arrangements of popular and Broadway songs.

Mike will be accompanied by Ernie Williford on bass and vocals. Ernie grew up in Chicago playing R&B and blues. He spent four years in New Orleans working with a Dixieland band on Bourbon Street. Ernie has made Sarasota his permanent residence since 1985.

## Classic Dixie and Jazz to be enjoyed

At 7 p.m. on Friday, March 2 at St. John the Divine Episcopal Church at 1015 Del Webb E. enjoy the rebirth of the Blues III and the Big Band Jazz Era.

Savor an evening of traditional sounds of classic Dixie and Jazz as it was played in the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s. Stop by and relive those memories.

## Beth Shalom spoofs "Glee"

Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon 706 Bryan Road, is proud to present a new Purim Spiel (a spoof or play), "A very Glee Megillah." It will be presented at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 7.

This year they are happy to incorporate the TV show, "Glee," as inspiration. The Glee characters fit very well into the Purim storyline.

"We have some favorite actors from past year's performances along with some new faces this year," said Director Joel Edelson, "with some great choreography as well, designed and taught by Elizabeth Edelson."

Make plans to see if Haman Sue Sylvester succeeds in bringing down Mordecai Will Schuster's Glee Club and the rest of the Jews! It is toe tappin', non-stop fun for the whole family! Come dressed as your favorite Purim (or Glee) character. The fun commences at 7 p.m. with a short service, followed by the play.

## Attention citizens over 60

- Are you having trouble making ends meet?
- Could you use a little help with your grocery bill?
- Do you live in Hillsborough, Manatee, Polk, Highlands or Hardee County?

If so, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as Food Stamps) may be able to help you pay for some of your groceries. The West Central Florida Area Agency on Aging has a team of specialists who can help you complete your Supplemental Nutrition Assistance application over the phone.

If you would like assistance in applying for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), call at 800-96ELDER or 800-963-5337.

## Freedom Plaza to host events

Thursday, March 15 - Freedom Plaza Dance Club hosts dance

Free dance lessons at 6:15 p.m. with dance to follow from 7 - 9:30 p.m. at Freedom Plaza Retirement Community, 1010 American Eagle Blvd. Open to the public. No RSVP required. Dance the night away to the sounds of Rudy Rosa. Affordable cash bar offering beer, wine and sodas.

Wednesday, March 21, Woof & Wine

Bring your canine friends for an outside event of wine tasting, and a silent auction benefiting C.A.R.E. at Freedom Plaza's Golf View Terrace Apartment grounds located at 819 Freedom Plaza Circle just off the driveway into Freedom Plaza. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon celebrating dog ownership with other canine lovers. Follow event signs. RSVP required by March 13 call 813-634-1824.

## Foreclosure prevention workshop offered

The world of real estate is evolving and changing daily. The law office of Terrence F. Pyle, P.A. is generously donating his time to work one on one with individuals with questions about their options regarding their mortgages. People behind on their mortgage or upside down on their mortgage may be wondering what their options are and what government programs may help them.

You can find out the answer to questions like:

Can I do a strategic default? Does it make sense to do a loan modification? What happens after foreclosure? Can I own a house again? If I do a short sale will it cost me anything out of pocket? What happens to my credit?

Terrence Pyle has been a licensed attorney since 1973, and his office is involved in all aspects of mortgage foreclosure including defense of mortgage foreclosure lawsuits. His office can assist in loan modifications and the short sale process as well. Current information on the many government programs can also be provided.

The foreclosure workshop will be held Saturday, Feb. 25, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Florida Home Realty Professionals, Inc. office located at 10028 Water Works Lane, Riverview. Coffee and homemade treats will be available. For more information or to RSVP email [pylelaw@gmail.com](mailto:pylelaw@gmail.com) or call 813-562-8500.



Jan Platt, Doretha Edgecomb, Dolores A. Berens.

## Women of Distinction honored

On Feb 7 the Sun City Center branch of the American Association of University Women held a luncheon with 170 in attendance at the Community Hall to raise money for the Mature Women Scholarships. It was also a time to honor their Women of Distinction. The 2012 award went to Doretha Edgecomb, a 47 year educator on the Hillsborough County School Board, Jan Platt, a Hillsborough County Commissioner for 24 years, and Dolores A. Berens, a local SCC resident serving on many clubs and organizations.

Bunny Blackstone chaired the event and was assisted by members of her committee.

## S.T.A.R.T. to meet

Science & Technology Active Round Table (S.T.A.R.T.) will meet from 7:30 - 9 p.m. on Monday, March 12, Caper Room, Atrium Building, N. Pebble Beach Blvd., SCC At this meeting Walt Prouty will discuss, "The Making of a Pharmaceutical Drug." No cost; all who are interested in science and technology subjects are invited.

## Greater Riverview Chamber hosts golf tournament

The 18th Annual Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament is slated for Saturday, March 17 at Bloomingdale Golfers Club. Enjoy this special St. Patrick's Day celebration with an 8 a.m. shotgun start!

Included with your admission (team and individuals) is the opportunity to attend a Golf Clinic with the pros from the John E. S. Cochrane Golf Schools at 7 a.m.

Become a Hole Sponsor like Century 21 Beggins-Joe Eletto and A+ Hearing Center, Inc. and promote your business on the golf course. You may have a table with your brochures, business cards, and/or product samples located near one of 18 holes all for \$150.

Have your business represented on the Green like Pivotal Business Services and Blu Marc Printing with a Green Sponsor Sign for \$75.

For more information call Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce (813) 234-5944 or email [info@RiverviewChamber.com](mailto:info@RiverviewChamber.com).

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EXP. 3/31/12

## You, Me, and Business

By: Dana Dittmar, Executive Director

### SCC Chamber News

It never ceases to amaze me how quickly this community comes together when one of our own is in need. It happened again this past

Friday night when hundreds of local residents and business people came to the Chamber banquet room to participate in a fundraiser for Linda Cardamone.

Linda is the owner of the Three Legged Poodle and has been taking care of local animals for years. She has been ill for some time now and needs to have a biopsy of her lungs to rule out cancer. But Linda is one of the millions of Americans who do not have any medical insurance. The test alone costs more than \$5000.

So, Friday afternoon, the donated items started coming in. Hundreds of plants from local commercial growers in Riverview, framed artwork donated by Sun Towers Retirement, and every conceivable item for a silent auction. Friends and volunteers began setting up refreshments. DJ Gary from Apollo Beach provided the music. The banquet room that serves as a meeting hall for networking during the week and becomes a church on Sundays was turned into a "store" of objects and items to purchase.

There were some very special ladies who pulled this event together: Robin Roberts, a local Arbonne independent contractor; Bonnie Flora who has been holding the Three Legged Poodle together; Sharon Roberts of All About Paws, and Janie Hadley who reached out to all of the various animal care groups in the South County area.

Checks and cash came out of wallets in a flurry, all for a woman who has helped our pets and homeless animals for years.

At the end of the night, after all of her friends, customers, fellow animal lovers and business owners had left; after all of the food was gone and trash taken out to the dumpster, it appears they raised a little over \$6300.

This is not the first, nor the second, nor the third time this community has come together to help. In the past year, the Chamber has donated the use of our banquet room to several groups who organized fundraisers for local people in need.

It costs the Chamber nothing to donate our room, but it means the world to the folks who are in dire straits.

This community is one of the most generous I've ever lived in, and that generosity is one of the main reasons I love to call South Shore home. From the all-volunteer Emergency Squad to the folks at Samaritan Services, from the pink-smocked volunteers at South Bay Hospital to the hundreds of you who donate your time to serve your condo or homeowners' associations, this area is blessed with people who give of themselves.

We wish Linda the best of luck with her medical tests and pray for good results. And we humbly thank each of you who have given to the various folks who needed it. May it all come back to you tenfold.



You, Me & Business

By Dana Dittmar



Tuesday - Saturday  
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#### 310 GARAGE/YARD SALE

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### PENNY SALE Feb. 25 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Chula Vista Landings Clubhouse  
1702 Gulf City Rd., Ruskin  
• RAFFLES • SILENT AUCTION  
• QUILT RAFFLE • 50/50  
Lunch Served • Great Food  
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Moving sale. Thursday, Friday & Saturday, 2/23 through 2/25. 8am-2pm. 2016 Del Webb Blvd. East, SCC

TOPS garage sale. Feb. 24, 8am-2pm. Feb 25, 8am-noon. 1403 Brattleboro Circle (off Bunker Hill) SCC. Treasures for all. No early birds

Friday & Saturday, 701 Fox Hills Dr, SCC. 8am-1pm. Little of this & little of that. Come and see

1346 Bluewater SCC. 2/24 & 2/25, 8am-? Furniture, printers, jewelry, TV, lamps, clothes, shoes, collectibles, linens, household items & much more.

Community Sales. Friday 24, 9am-? Furniture, glassware, jewelry, western books, patio furniture & small appliances. Hot dog, soups, & deserts. Sun City Mobile Home, 5116 SR 674. Wimauma

#### 310 GARAGE/YARD SALE

**WORLD'S  
ALMOST  
LARGEST  
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**Saturday, Feb. 25  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
KP Clubhouse Theatre and Banquet Room  
NO CHARGE FOR BROWSING  
Refreshments will be on sale throughout the day

Garage/ moving sale. Many items including, household, furniture, tools, etc. Friday & Saturday, 9am-4pm. 1931 South Pebble Beach Blvd., SCC.

Huge garage sale. 2 trailers of small appliances, bicycles, exercise equipment, books, etc. Something for everyone. Saturday, Feb 25, 9am-2pm. Dooley Groves, 1651 Stephens Rd/ (old Sun City)

Huge yard sale. Saturday, 2/25, 8am-? Something for everyone. 716 Tam O Shanter Ave., Sun City Center

Large garage sale. Feb. 24 & 25, Friday & Saturday, 8am-3pm. Household items, clothes, crafts & more. 2343 Emerald Lake Drive, SCC

Community garage sale. in the clubhouse. King Richards Court, 10306 Big Bend Rd., Riverview. Saturday, Feb. 25, 8am-?

Multi family garage sale. 6319 Cottonwood Lane, Apollo Beach. Saturday, 2/25, 9am-2pm. Furniture, old books, dolls & lots of stuff.

**Calvary's  
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Greenbriar Entire neighborhood sale. Friday & Saturday, Feb. 24 & 25, 8am-2pm. SR 674 to S. Pebble Beach Blvd., 1 mile down & take a right. Parking on one side of the street only.

Yard sale. Saturday, 9am-2pm. To Benefit the SCC Relay for Life. Payant Financial parking lot. 1653 SCC Plaza. Furniture, clothing, decorative & household items

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**METHODIST MEN  
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**\$6**  
Chicken,  
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