



A trip worth taking, according to travel writer Warren Resen, is to Las Vegas. Read about his adventures beginning on **page 1B**

The Little Manatee South citizens planning group has cited "irreconcilable differences" as the cause for a split last week. See the story on **page 3**



Sun City Center's Fun Fest was well attended last weekend. See more details **page 13**

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MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

From two flowering cherry trees planted by First Lady Helen Taft in 1912, the annual National Cherry Blossom Festival attracts tens of thousands of visitors. Above, blossoms with the iconic Jefferson Memorial in the background.

America's Capitol blossoms anew

National Cherry Blossom Festival begins this week in Washington, DC

By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
mitch@observernews.net

WASHINGTON, DC - It is arguably one of the most powerful and historic places in the world. In a city driven by influence, protocol, and the business of government, the pink and white blossoms add life and a soft beauty to a place known for striking and iconic monuments of granite and marble. Millions of beautiful and fragile flowering petals enhance those monuments, permanent reminders of triumph and loss.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the gift of sakura, or flowering trees. This gift to a still-young nation from Japan has thrived, like the city itself, through the years. Thousands of people will begin flocking to Washington, DC, this week to take in the beautiful trees and attend the centennial celebration of the National Cherry Blossom Festival, running from March 24 to April 15.

On March 27, 1912, First Lady Helen Taft and Viscountess Chinda, wife of the Japanese ambassador to the United States, planted two flowering cherry trees, a gift from Japan, around the Tidal Basin near the National Mall in Washington, DC. Shortly after, another 3,020 trees of 12 varieties were planted. Today, the National Park Service cares for 3,750 cherry trees.

A century later, their beauty is breathtaking. It is an annual reinvigoration of a city that is known for tradition,

See **CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL**, page 14

Vacant plazas expected to encourage new businesses in South County – soon!

By PENNY FLETCHER
penny@pennyfletcher.com

SOUTH COUNTY — Many areas of South County have partially vacant, or completely vacant, shopping plazas and strip malls.

Even plazas that house thriving businesses like the Shoppes of Boyette where you can find a pizzeria, a newly-opened café, a bar and grill, dry cleaners, nail salon and several others including a Tae Kwan Do school still have many empty offices. About half the storefronts in the luxurious MiraBay Village are also empty.

The whole east side of the office plaza at Kings Lake on the Apollo Beach/Gibsonton border built in 2005 is completely vacant as is the new South Shore Corporate Park office building on Ruskin's 30th Street S.E.

It looks like this would be hurting the county's budget terribly, so I thought I'd

check it out with the Hillsborough County Property Appraiser's Office and Property Tax division.

I was wrong. Actually, things are looking up.

Tim Wilmath of the Property Appraiser's Office, says his staff always figures in a vacancy rate because even the best commercial properties usually have some vacancies.

"These vacancies actually affect the county's tax rolls only slightly," Wilmath said. "People see them and immediately worry. But Hillsborough County is so big, with a \$70 billion tax roll – made up of about 350,000 single-family homes, condominiums and town houses – that's more than 50 percent of the tax base."

"What you're seeing is the law of supply and demand," added Preston Trigg, director of administration for the Property Tax Collector's Office. "The Property Appraiser's Office values property's

See **VACANT PLAZA**, page 2

Seniors' homes called commercial property, owners become violators

By MELODY JAMESON

SUN CITY CENTER – Much to the surprise of their retiree owners, 14 single family homes here have been labeled commercial property. And, the shocked seniors living in them therefore are alleged to be violating county regulations mandating an expensive but questionable backflow device.

This action by Hillsborough County's Water Resources Department has raised several thorny issues, including the possible illegality of retroactively enforcing an ordinance.

Some of the affected homeowners — officers of their association - met early this week to discuss aspects of a situation now bearing a \$5000 price tag about which they had no knowledge, received no forewarning of, had no reason to anticipate and have not prepared to meet. Quoting Thomas Jefferson, they agreed that "when injustice becomes pervasive, resistance becomes a duty."

The matter came to light in mid-January when a WRS "water distribution safety" inspector served a "Notice of Inspection" that the property at 1601 Council Drive "is out of compliance with Ordinance 03-6 and corrections are required to bring the property into compliance." The inspector's report said the property violates Hillsborough's backflow prevention ordinance because no assembly to stop possibly contaminated water from flowing back into the main potable water supply was installed on the property's domestic water line. The irrigation water line, carrying potable water too, also was found to be without the required device.

If the Council Drive property were the only one involved, the inspection

See **VIOLATORS**, page 12



MELODY JAMESON PHOTO

It was these two water meters in front of a house on Council Drive, Dan Martis points out, which set in motion events leading to an expensive headache for retirees in one small Sun City Center home owners association. Martis, current president of the HOA, has been asking pointed questions about how Hillsborough County's Water Resource Services interprets and implements the local ordinance on backflow prevention, which could affect all HOAs in the county using master meters as part of a system for multiple homes.

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PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO

The Kings Lake Plaza was built in 2005 but the eastern strip at the plaza's entrance has yet to rent one office. There are three businesses in a plaza to the west side of the entrance, set back some from the road, but that portion of the plaza is still almost empty as well. Kings Lake is a project located on the border of Apollo Beach and Gibsonton on the north side of Big Bend Road that includes private homes and town houses as well as office spaces.

Vacant plazas

■ Continued from page 1

worth, and then we collect it.”

The supply and demand of which Trigg speaks is actually what will (eventually) save the day when it comes to these vacant shopping plazas and strip centers, Wilmath said.

“There are actually less than 1,000 shopping centers in Hillsborough County, not counting strip malls,” he said. “No matter what it looks like, somebody owns every piece of property, including the vacant ones you’re seeing.”

Developers bought when prices were high and things were booming, he explained. But then, the economy tanked and the owners couldn’t charge the rent for the offices and retail shops they thought they would get.

Many were abandoned by their original owners because they couldn’t rent at what they needed to break even, let alone make the profit they’d hoped for, and therefore they couldn’t pay their mortgage.

While this makes a dilemma for the developers and original owners, in the end, it will help South County businesses, he said.

“When the properties come under foreclosure that means the banks own them. We don’t usually lose taxes when banks are the owners. They’re good about paying,” he added. So the tax revenue is still coming in.

People are waiting for everything to drop as low as it’s going to go, and then there will be all kinds of investors, he explained. “This will be wonderful for business because now the rents will be lower and more people will be able to go into business there.”

John Healey of the county’s Planning and Zoning explained it further.

“Many of these properties were bought and rezoned for offices and other commercial purposes many years ago when people expected that prices would just keep going up. But then it happened. Values dropped. Many were left with properties they just couldn’t rent out. Some even stand unfinished, by developers who quit midway through a project.”

As the economy begins to regain stability, others will buy these commercial spaces from the banks and people will start to move in.

“Nobody wants to be first in a commercial center,” Wilmath said. “You have to have activity. A lot of these new buyers are offering free rent for three months to get tenants to move in and show some activity so others will come.”

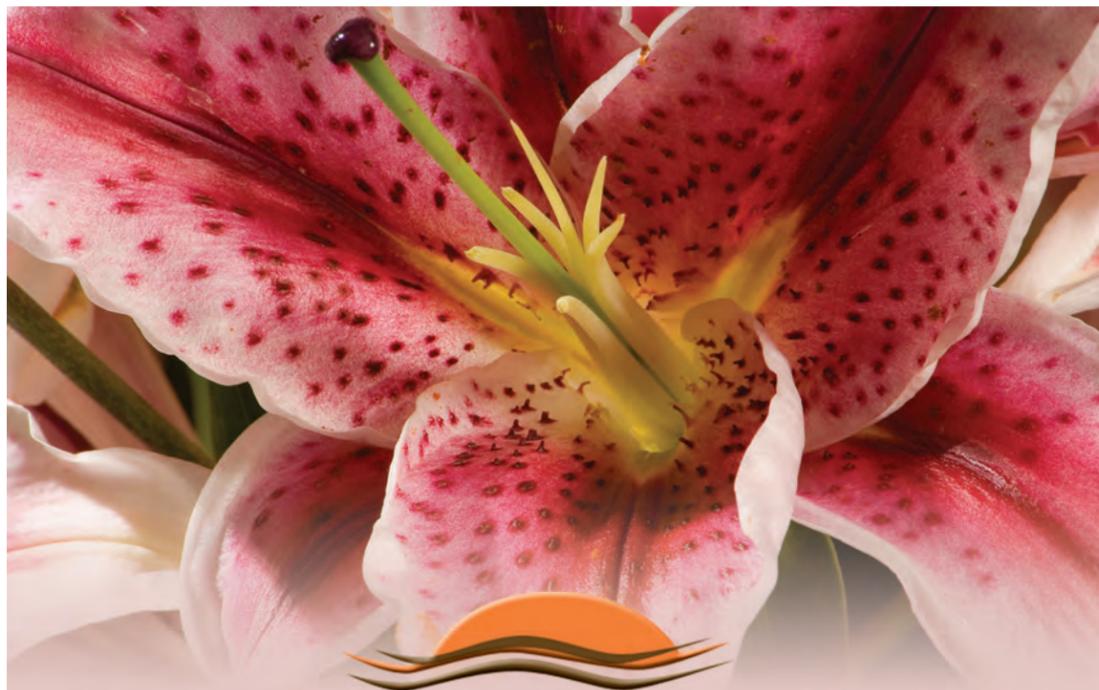
So what was bad fortune for some developers will eventually be good for business because of the lower rents that will have to be offered, he concluded.

Still not completely sure the vacant centers aren’t somehow bad for South County, I called Paul B. Dickman Realty Inc., in Ruskin. In business here since 1924, I felt its staff would be good judges of what I had so far been told.

My call was returned by realtor Cathy Griggs, who said although it would be nice to see the vacancies filled so residents would have more choices of shops and services closer to home, she has never been asked by a potential residential buyer about a vacant plaza near (or in) the area where they are purchasing.

“I’ve never had anyone say it’s a bad thing. In fact, nobody has even commented on it,” Griggs said.

Not one single potential buyer.



SUNSET GRILL AT LITTLE HARBOR Easter Day Menu

Soup

- Mageritsa - Greek Easter Soup

Garde Manger Displays

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- Montage of whole and sliced fruits accompanied by a mango, passion fruit coulis and coconut dipping sauce.
- Mediterranean Antipasto: Italian meats and marinated vegetables
- Roasted vegetables with bruschetta and olive tapenade accompanied by grilled French bread with sun dried tomato basil drizzle and a blood orange reduction.

Endless Salad Bar

- Spring salads, endless selection of seasonally fresh salad accompaniments with dressings and toppings.

Chilled Seafood Display

- Chilled Gulf shrimp with cocktail sauce
- Crab claws with drawn butter
- Pastrami smoked salmon with dill crème fraiche

11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Chef’s Carving Station

- Herb roasted leg of lamb with orange mint sauce
- Honey glazed ham with Autumn spice glaze

Entrees & Accompaniments

- Roast loin of pork with herbed blackberry glaze
- Breast of chicken with a portabella mushroom marsala sauce
- Filet of basa with lobster cream sauce
- Cranberry, apple and walnut stuffing
- Horseradish, garlic mashed red skin potatoes
- Broccoli and cauliflower casserole
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- Spinach gratin
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PHOTO BY ROSIE CLIFTON

Left to right, top row: Nan Dorsey, Ann Bohachek, Sue Fitts (guest), Linda Smith and Pat Bennis. Seated: Chris Avella, Jeanne Naish, Bev Engles, and Sylvia Goldsmith.

SCC Woman’s Club celebrates member birthdays

A new club activity has been designed by Nan Dorsey so that members can become better acquainted. Once a month members celebrate birthdays at the new Sandpiper Restaurant. The current month’s “birthday girls” and any other interested members gather on the fourth Tuesday for lunch.



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Citizen planners split their union in growing animosity

■ By MELODY JAMESON

LITTLE MANATEE SOUTH — “Irreconcilable differences” are being cited as cause of the “divorce” that last week split apart the community planning group here.

It probably is a first in the 30-year history of regional and community planning in the South County.

Differences frequently have simmered as small lot homeowners and large acreage land holders have tried together to draft future development plans involving both preservation of their existing neighborhoods so vigorously defended and their yet unrealized small cities foreseen as sprouting profitably in former pastures and groves.

The gap between the two was apparent in the 1980s when the first SouthShore AreaWide Plan was taking shape and continued in the last decade as community citizens from Riverview to Ruskin, from Wimauma to Gibsonton, huddled together at regular intervals, sometimes in heated exchanges, to compromise ultimately, sufficiently to create mutually acceptable visions for their future locales. The final agreements often evolved with the concerted help of Hillsborough County professional planners guiding the process.

But last week, for the Little Manatee South citizen planners, the inevitable variances of viewpoints and growing mistrust of motives came to a head. A majority of what had been dubbed the Implementation Group aiming for Phase II planning covering still open tracts supported a move to effectively eject Sundance community residents who expressed in various words at various times their fears about the underlying meanings of fresh planning. There was no professional planning staff present.

The majority lined up behind Mike Peterson, an Apollo Beach-based land use attorney involved in many planning efforts over the years and whose clients include area large land owners. In an overview he titled “Sundance Attempting to Overwhelm Other Interests Within Little Manatee River South Community Plan,” Peterson referred to the “Sundance Factor” as “a concern that can’t be ignored.” He

asserted that “Sundance actions are causing confusion about whether they speak for most south of the river regarding planning concerns” He suggested that many of the large tract owners who have long been interested in long range planning have been asked to accommodate the environmental, equestrian and community desires of others who, in turn, change nothing on their properties. He questioned that Sundance residents should “have equal say on what should occur” on the properties of others.

Peterson also raised the matter of renaming the area, using “Uzita” and “Uzita Shores” as possibilities and positing that the historical ties “might win over those clinging to the failed dream of Sun City, particularly given the constant confusion with Sun City Center.”

In the end, Peterson moved that the Little Manatee River South Implementation Group be reformed, without the Sundance stakeholder seats, and renamed to reflect that it does not speak for the Sundance portion of the community plan. His motion was supported by a vote of six to three.

For their part, the Sundance residents present in last week’s meeting entered objections early. Before Peterson took the floor, Bob Iocca, co-vice chairman of the group, asked that the meeting be devoted to discussion of a January proposal by Bob Hunter, retiring executive director of The Planning Commission, related to the Phase II advanced planning. This request was turned aside by Will Redd, the implementation group’s chairman and representative of one of the larger land owners, the Church of the Latter Day Saints. Sundance citizens also suggested unsuccessfully the tabling Peterson’s motion for further study.

After that meeting, Ralph Greenlee, also a Sundance resident and outspoken member of the community’s home owner association, referred to it as “an ambush,” adding “this shows the hubris and the duplicity of the large landowners in action.”

Greenlee noted that the owners of the larger tracts worked with the Sundance contingent through the initial planning process for nearly three years, but when the

“hand of fairness and balance” provided by professional planners was removed they “made up their own rules and the 16 months of treachery and deceit began.”

Still later, Greenlee in a conversation with The Observer, listed the concerns of Sundance residents which, he said, underlay their objections driven by suspicions. One involves whether the advance planning process would be based on achieving consensus among the citizen planners or settling for “consistency” between new planning specifics and the existing initial community plan. While the professional planners advised it was consistency that was required in Phase II, the Sundance residents insisted that their adopted guidelines for the continuing process called for consensus. Without the assurance of consensus, Greenlee indicated, it was the Sundance contingent that feared being overwhelmed.

Another major Sundance concern is development of the

large tracts adjacent to the very rural community where horses on their roads, boating on their waterway and wildlife on their five and 10-acre homesites all are prized, reasons residents choose to buy in the community. Developments of massive housing communities with densities of two dwellings to an acre without having any input are threatening to many Sundance citizens, Greenlee said.

Yet another big worry for Sundance is potential altering of the Urban Services Area, he added. The community was assured that and residents counted on the USA to the north remaining unaltered until 2035. Sundance residents have septic tanks and water wells and want to keep it that way for the foreseeable future as part of a cherished lifestyle, he affirmed. But the second layer of planning, pinning down detail through application of the process known as SmartCodes, anticipates urbanized, walking types of communities and

therefore expansion of the USA to allow for municipal water and sewage systems to serve the new urbanized communities. “We’re not urban. We’re rural,” Greenlee asserted. “We want to stay that way a couple of decades more” without the encroachment of little cities right next door.

As for ejection of the Sundance contingent from the planning process, Greenlee indicated the group is laying low but not laying off. Meetings with county leaders are taking shape, he added, noting that no legitimate planning process can be undertaken when a substantial chunk of the planning area and people actually living in it are excluded from the table. It is, he concluded, a fact recognized in professional circles.

In other words, some sort of mediation aimed at patching up the “shaky” marriage” of small and large land holders at least long enough to protect their “progeny,” a workable Phase II plan, yet may be in the offing.

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Word to the wise

Just want to let everyone know that there’s a new kid in town. He/she stopped by behind my house long enough to have a lovely lunch of squirrel meat. Time to start keeping a very good watch on your small animals. I was so in awe of the majesty that I ventured out my back door to snap a photo. I thought it was really something with our great horned owl last year, but this one really took me by surprise. My neighbors said they had never seen one here before so I felt really special. I don’t think I could ever take our wildlife for granted. I was a city kid and if anyone told me that one day I would pick up a turtle to keep him from becoming road pizza, I would never have believed it!

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Plan your course to avoid drifting

A friend told me that although he had worked hard all his life, he and his wife felt they weren't getting anywhere. I asked him to define "anywhere." He said, "Bill, you know what I mean. We're not getting ahead." I asked what he meant by "ahead." He sputtered a few more words and then looked at me in frustration and said, "You know what I mean." Maybe in general terms I did know, but I certainly didn't know where "anywhere" was for him and his family, or what "getting ahead" meant. I asked him to define where he wanted to go and how he planned to get there. He didn't know the answer to either question. The truth is, he is not much different than most people. Most of us drift from day to day hoping at a very minimum to find safe passage. It is only those who have picked a star to guide them and who have a sense of direction who will end up in a port of choice.

For most of us, life is a balancing act. We have to balance all our needs—family, physical, spiritual, career, financial and educational—just to mention a few, and each of these can be broken into sub-areas. Write down what would make you happy if you could achieve it in each of the major areas of your life. Be as specific as possible. You can do this for each of the major needs. Let's take physical needs as an example. Instead of saying, "I'd like to lose about 10 pounds," subtract 10 pounds from what you weigh now to set a specific weight goal. The problem with a goal of losing 10 pounds is that you may forget where you started. Looking ahead to a specific goal is always better.

Specific goals are one thing, but a definitive amount of time should

be established in which to achieve your destination. If you plan to lose a pound a week to reach your goal, establish a date 10 weeks out as the time to reach your destination. If June 1 is 10 weeks from now and your goal is 125 pounds, then your statement should be, "On June 1, I will weigh 125 pounds."

The final phase is how you are going to get there. You have a destination and a specific time in which to reach it but it is important, in order to change this from fantasy to fact, that you establish an action plan. Will you exercise each day? Will you change the foods you eat? Will you seek medical assistance? Will you simply diet? Will you take vitamins? All of these can be a part of your action plan. Put in writing specifically what you will do to achieve the goal of weighing 125 pounds on June 1. When you do this, I will assure you that you will make progress. There is one caveat. You will make progress only if you review your plan on a daily basis and do what you said you would do.

But weight may be only one sub-area of your physical needs. A physical need could also be the shape you want your body to be. It could be the amount of muscle tone you have. It could be the ability to lift weights. It might even be the ability to walk around the block. You would approach each of these goals in the same manner as you did your loss of weight.

I think you can see that meeting our needs and establishing a direction in our lives is not an

easy task. It takes time, energy and thought. But most of all, it takes persistence. George Bernard Shaw said, "The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man." With planning, you can adapt the world to your dreams and desires.



Positive Talk
By William Hodges

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

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APRIL EVENTS

Friday, April 20

A finale Gala is planned to close Sun City Center's year-long 50th Anniversary Celebration that began last May. The evening will include dancing with music by **FLASHBACK** (below left), a presentation of photos from the special events during the past year, hors d'oeuvres fitting for such a grand occasion by Fun With Food, and a closing ceremony.

CA Community Hall, S. Pebble Beach. 7 to 10 p.m. Open to public. Tickets (\$20) are available for **SCC CA members ONLY** on March 26 at the SCC Community Association office 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Ticket sales to public start March 27. Dress is casual, but the committee is encouraging '50s/'60s styles to represent the era when SCC was started. Info: Judy Schings 642-2001.

IN UNIFORM



TREVOR C. CALDWELL

Air Force Airman Trevor C. Caldwell graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, TX.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Caldwell is the son of Christine Patterson of Tulip Flower Drive, Riverview, and brother of Jordan Caldwell of Coppertree Circle, Brandon.

He is a 2009 graduate of Riverview High School.

JOHN D. SEYMORE

Army Reserve Pfc. John D. Seymore has graduated from One Station Unit Training (OSUT) at Fort Leonard Wood, Waynesville, MO, which included basic military training and advanced individual training (AIT).

During basic military training, the trainee received instruction in drill and ceremony, weapons qualification, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army doctrine, history, principles and traditions.

During AIT, the soldier completed the military police specialist course to acquire skills to provide combat area support, conduct battlefield circulation control, area security, prisoner of war operations, civilian internee operations, and law and order operations. The trainee performed as a team member in support of battlefield operations, installation law and order operations and security of Army resources and installations. Additional training included providing peacetime support to the military community through security of resources, crime prevention programs, and preservation of law and order.

Seymore is the nephew of Eric and Katina Hankerson of 98th Avenue, Tampa.

He is a 2011 graduate of Riverview High School.

Honey Bee seminar to be held

The Tampa Bay Beekeepers Association will host a honey bee seminar from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 28 at Upper Tampa Bay Park, 8001 Double Branch Rd., Tampa.

Everything a beginner beekeeper needs to know including hive construction, starting a hive, honey extraction, bee transport, queen bees, nectar sources, wax rendering, apitherapy, looking inside the hive, and more.

There will be door prizes. Registration includes seminar and lunch at \$15 per person before Friday, April 20 and \$20 per person the day of the seminar. There is also a \$2 park entry fee per vehicle.

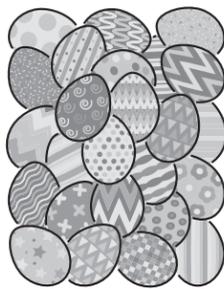
For more information, call (727) 249-3621 or (727) 688-9069 or visit www.tampabaybeekeepers.com.

Inexpensive ways to decorate Easter eggs

OK, so the kids noticed on the calendar that Easter is approaching and they want to make a huge production of dying eggs. In the past, the little stickers you bought at the store sufficed, but now they want the real thing. Here are some old standards with a few new ideas for you from <http://www.LivingOnADime.com>.

Before you decorate Easter eggs, cover the entire table with newspaper. Keep a huge roll of paper towels or rags handy for messes. Have each kid wear one of dad's old (now disposable) tee shirts. To make egg stands, cut toilet paper roll cores into one inch cylinders and use for egg stands. Decorate with stickers or paint.

Decorating eggs: The traditional method.



Hard boiled Eggs: Fill several mugs with boiling water and add 1-2 tsp. vinegar. Place a few drops of desired food coloring in each mug. Place eggs in mugs for several minutes until the eggs reach the desired shades. Remove with a spoon. Place on a paper towel to dry. When dry, polish with a small amount of shortening on a paper towel. Buff until glossy.

You can draw or write on the eggs with a light colored or white crayon before dipping. The drawing will remain white after

the egg is dipped. To clean out the mugs, put a little bleach water in the cups and soak for a few minutes.

Glitter Eggs: Place 1 tablespoon each of glue and water in a cup. Stir the mixture and then paint the eggs with it. Sprinkle with glitter. This can also add sparkle to already dyed eggs!

Crepe Paper Eggs: Wet a white or dyed egg. Dab torn pieces of colored tissue paper or pieces of pretty colored napkins on the eggs. When the paper dries, the paper falls off and leaves the color behind on the egg.

Decoupage Eggs: Tear small pieces of wrapping paper, napkins, stickers, or clip art. Mix equal amounts of glue and water. Paint egg with glue mixture. Place paper on top and then cover with more glue mixture. Let dry.

Spotted Eggs: Place 1 tsp. of cooking oil in dye. Dip the egg. The oil will cause the dye to make an irregular pattern on the egg.

Waxed Eggs: Dip a portion of the eggs in melted paraffin or candle wax. Then dip them in the dye. Remove from dye. Dry and peel off the wax. The egg will be white on one half and colored on the other half. You can also dip in dye before waxing to get two colors.

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, March 22 — Bar Bingo at 6 p.m. MAVFW Meeting at 7 p.m.

Friday, March 23 — Fish Fry from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Music by Suncoast Band from 7 to 11 p.m.

Saturday, March 24 — Turkey Shoot at 1 p.m. Music by You 2 Kan from 7 to 11 p.m.

Sunday, March 25 — BINGO BASH from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Music by Bert & Sassy from 5:30 to 10 p.m.

Monday, March 26 — Fire in the Hole from 6 to 8 p.m.

Tuesday, March 27 — Games in Lounge from 1 to 4 p.m. Kitchen open from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Bingo at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, March 28 — Open.

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.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!!

Students plant valuable salt marsh grasses

Burns Middle School students planted valuable salt marsh grasses to restore the shoreline of Cockroach Bay Aquatic Preserve on March 21. This hands-on project is part of the Bay Grasses in Classes (BGIC), an award-winning program, sponsored by Tampa Bay Watch, a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Tampa Bay estuary and its natural wildlife.

Tampa Bay Watch initiated BGIC in 1994, in this program, salt marsh wetland nurseries have been established at fifteen bay area schools, monitored and maintained by middle and high school students. Coordinated with school science teachers and their ecology and science clubs, the nurseries provide a source of native wetland plants for use in community habitat restoration projects. The program also provides students with valuable hands-on experience in habitat restoration activities while promoting science education and the value of maintaining a healthy environment.

Of the four aquatic preserves in the Tampa Bay region, it is the least developed and is in the most pristine condition. The preserve begins in the mouth of the Little Manatee River, including the river to U.S. Hwy. 301, and continues southwest past Cockroach Bay to the Manatee County line, extending 2,000 feet from the shoreline. There are various restoration phases throughout the Cockroach Bay Habitat Restoration area which are all interrelated based on site conditions. Ecosystems on the property transition from upland to wetland habitat, followed by salinity gradients of freshwater to estuarine wetlands.

The planting of *Spartina alterniflora*, salt marsh or smooth cord grass protects and stabilizes low lying coastal lands and provides protection and food sources for estuarine and coastal fishery food chains of many species of fish and marine mammals. Salt marsh and other coastal habitat populations have declined more than 80% over the past 100 years -- due mostly to the dredging, construction and waste water discharges. This loss has damaged a crucial link in the bay's food chain for fish and wildlife resources, significantly impacting the bay's fisheries. Visit www.TampaBayWatch.org for more information on this collaborative project.

Tampa Bay Watch is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) stewardship program dedicated exclusively to the charitable and scientific purpose of protecting and restoring the marine and wetland environments of the Tampa Bay estuary encompassing over 400 square miles of open water and 2,300 square miles of highly-developed watershed. Tampa Bay Watch involves more than 10,000 youth and adult volunteers each year in hands on habitat restoration projects. For more information, visit www.tampabaywatch.org, or call (727) 867-8166.

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, March 22 -- Bar Games at 3 p.m.

Friday, March 23 — Feather Your Nest Game at 6 p.m.

Saturday, March 24 — Pulled Pork Dinner by Becky at 5 p.m. Music by Fatu from 6:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 25 — Feather Your Nest Game at 6 p.m.

Monday, March 26 — Bingo at 6 p.m.

Tuesday, March 27 — Come on down and socialize.

Wednesday, March 28 — 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 your way to a fitter new you

Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Department offers a great way to have fun, get in shape, and gain confidence. Zumba, often referred to as an exercise in disguise, is offered at the following Hillsborough County recreation centers.

Apollo Beach Recreation Center

664 Golf & Sea Blvd. in Apollo Beach • (813) 671-7635
Mondays at 6:30 p.m.; Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
\$6 per class • Instructor: Erika Rivere

Gardenville Recreation Center

6219 Symmes Rd. in Gibsonton • (813) 672-1120
Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. and 7:45 p.m.
Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. and 7:45 p.m.
\$6 per class • Instructor: Erika Rivere

Providence West Park

5417 Providence Road in Riverview • (813) 635-7452
Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.
\$5 per class • Instructor: Lolita Ortiz

Riverview Community Center

11020 Park Drive in Riverview • (813) 671-7600
Tuesdays and Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
\$5 per class • Instructor: Lolita Ortiz

Ruskin Recreation Center

901 6th Street S.E. in Ruskin • (813) 672-7881
Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.
\$6 per class • Instructor: Erika Rivere

For more information, call Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation at (813) 635-3500, or one of the above recreation centers.



Collins Elementary Terrific Kids announced

February Terrific Kids at Collins Elementary sponsored by the SCC Kiwanis Club, Casper's McDonalds, and SweetBay were: Zariana Avila, Ashlee Rosales, Jenin Abel, Isabel Schulz, Seth Ahern, Amaya Shannon, Dylan Allen, Gabriel Themar, Lily Bowley, Diego Torres, Ethan Arias-Johnson, Nicole Usbeck, Mekayla Baker, Jayden White, Bricelyn Bedenbaugh, Lilly Whitehurst, Julian Broco, Kailey Wilgus, Kaitlyn Brown, Jessica Wilson, Austin Buelna SanJuana Zertuche, Katly Burden, Climarion Calvin, Madelyn Caruthers, Megan Colon, Hailey Cooper, Hailey Deforest, Hannah Deforest, James Deluca, Karyss Elledge, Kenna Fallacaro, Emmelie Frias, Isabla Gonzalez, Alex Guillory, Danangely Hernandez, Freddy Hoekstra, Abeba Jahmai, Cheyanne Jenkins, Devyon Joyce, Mikayla Malnar, Samya Mason, Becky Meier, Ellie Mullikin, Tyler Myers, Katherine Nelson, Jared Olea, Lexie Pack, Giovanni Ramirez, Areeya Reneau, Isabella Resto, Joseph Rodriguez, and Sophia Rogan.

Girl Scouts celebrate 100th anniversary

Have you spent any time as a Girl Scout or Girl Scout Volunteer? Share your experiences and memories to celebrate 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouting from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 19 in an English Tea Setting at St. John the Divine, Sun City Center Campus, Del Webb Blvd. There will be a \$5 discounted alumnae lunch price, RSVP to Cyndee Arruda at 813-245-3226 by May 1.

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JOIN US FOR OUR
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 Sunday, **March 25th**
 The Ladies Auxiliary VFW 6287 • Ruskin Post 813-645-2935
 5120 U.S. 41 South • Ruskin, FL
Play up to 18 cards for \$25
All games pay \$50 with (3) \$250 Jackpots
and a \$500 Pull Tab Jackpot
 Included in your pack:
 ★ All regular games
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FREE LUNCH Sloppy Joes, Macaroni Salad and Pickles ★ **DOOR PRIZES** ★
 Sold on the Floor:
 ★ Extra sheets for Speedys ★ All \$250 Jackpots ★ Pull Tab Jackpot Game
 ★ Doors open at 10:30
 ★ Lunch served from 11 a.m. to noon
 ★ Non-smoking • Smoke breaks
 ★ Adult beverages available
 ★ Early games start at 12:30, regular session follows
 ★ Must be 21 ★ ATM available ★ Tipping allowed
LIMITED SEATING - Get your ticket early!!

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

Science & Technology Active Round Table will meet from 7:30 - 9 p.m. on Monday, April 9 in the Caper Room, Atrium Building, N. Pebble Beach Blvd Robert Johnson will discuss, "Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food."
 No cost. Everyone who is interested in science and technology subjects is invited.

NARFE to meet

The NARFE monthly luncheon meeting will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 28 at the Plaza Club at Freedom Plaza. The lunch is \$12. The guest speaker will be Dr. Amanda Smith who will update attendees on Alzheimer research. Reservations are due by Friday, March 23. For more information call Joyce at 813-938-5279.



February Kindergarten Citizens of the Month

February Kindergarten Citizens of the Month at Collins Elementary, sponsored by the SCC Pizza Hut were: Brianna Aguilera, Brittney Beals, Ianna Borrero, Genesis Gaviria, Jaylen Growe, Sabiha Sharif, Avery Smith, Arianaliz Valentin, and Julia Weisberg.

It's Spring Training!
Crowd the Plate at the AMOB after a game!
HAPPY HOUR EVERYDAY • 11AM-5PM & 8PM-CLOSE
FREE Margarita On Us!
 With purchase of an entree & this coupon. Limit one per person, per visit. Expires 4/30/2012. Good at all 3 Restaurants.
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Customer Appreciation Day!!

BUSINESS NEWS

Flo and Tim Vachon Join Keller Williams Realty

Team Leader, Gary Kaukonen has announced that Flo and Tim Vachon have joined the Keller Williams Office in Sun City Center. Mr. Kaukonen said, "I'm extremely proud to welcome Flo and Tim to our South Shore team. Last year, they sold more homes than anyone else in Sun City Center, averaging more than 1 sale per week. In addition, Flo was REALTOR® of the Year and is a past-president of her Board of REALTORS® in Maine."

Flo said, "As a REALTOR® with 25 years of experience, I was very particular about selecting a new affiliation for my real estate business. The Keller Williams Office in Sun City Center was a perfect fit for us since they already have a great group of real estate profes-

sionals, the latest in technology, and they share 45% of the profits with their sales team. I have a natural enthusiasm for real estate, and now Tim and I can utilize all the support systems here so we can continue to help buyers and sellers achieve their real estate goals."

Kaukonen went on to say, "Besides her sales success, Flo has distinguished herself by earning the ABR, CRS, GRI, LTG, PMN, SFR, RRC, e-Pro, and C-CREC designations and is an Accredited Staging Professional. Tim has earned the SFR designation and works as a buyer agent. I was also pleased to see that Flo is actively involved in many local community organizations. She is president of Feline Folks and song leader of the Rotary

Club of Sun City Center. I look forward to working with Flo and Tim for many years to come."

Founded in 1983, Keller Williams Realty Inc. is the second-largest real estate franchise operation with 700 offices and more than 75,000 associates in the United States and Canada. The company promotes an economic model that rewards associates as stakeholders and business partners. With an agent-centric culture that emphasizes access to leading-edge technology and a comprehensive education program, the company also provides specialists in luxury homes and commercial real estate properties. To learn more about Keller Williams Realty, call Gary Kaukonen at 813-641-8300.

You, Me, and Business

SCC Chamber News

While the calendar tells us yesterday was the first day of Spring, to be honest it's been spring-like around here for quite a while. When it's 80 degrees and humid in February, it's difficult to get a sense of the change in seasons. In fact, it's been feeling downright summer-ish all month.

Traditionally, I've used the weekend just before Easter as the time I fold up all my sweaters, corduroy pants, boots and scarves and put them away. Out come the tank tops, shorts, sandals and sundresses! The lap blankets, dark throw pillows and such are exchanged for vivid colors and fresh flowers. It's a weekend I look forward to all winter.

I made that exchange the end of February this year. Unbelievable!

Florida's favorite pastime is reminding frozen relatives and friends Up North how sunny and warm it is down here. This year, New Yorkers and Chicagoans alike were sending down photos and YouTube video links showing them sitting on snowmobiles atop green, green grass.

Yesterday I saw a small caravan of Winnebagos heading north on I-75, way earlier than the usual migration. And while I won't miss the two-hour wait for a table at Little Harbor, we will all miss the revenue the Snowbirds generate for us.

Hopefully, with the early heat will come some early rains to reduce the threat of wildfires. I'm equally hopeful this argument for global climate change doesn't signal an especially active hurricane season for our area (or anywhere else, for that matter). The past few years have been lucky for us.

All that being said, there's still something about it being officially Spring that gives us an emotional boost and a desire to get moving again. If you're already in the mood to add flowers and grasses to the garden area or replace outdoor lighting fixtures, this is the time to get it done. If these few improvements in curb appeal are on your mind, we have several handymen, landscapers and pressure-washing companies we can recom-

mend to you so you can hire them with complete confidence. Or you might just want to take a short vacation before the really brutal heat kicks in. If so, take a little stroll over to SCC Travelworld or to AAA Travel, and book a trip to some place you've never been. It doesn't have to be far away. Maybe up to the Suwanee River, east of Tallahassee or to St. Augustine.

Time for the dog to get sheared for the summer? We have several doggie salons and mobile groomers who will make Phydeaux look sassy! (If it's time for YOU to get groomed and pampered to get rid of your "winter" pallor, check out Celeste Day Spa at Club Renaissance. It's open to the public!)

Now that it is officially spring, it's time to get things done. So remember, whenever you need a butcher, a baker or a candlestick maker, lawyer, doctor or driveway paver. No matter what you're looking for, call the Chamber first. We check out all of our members and make sure they provide you with the excellent service you deserve and expect. Summer's on its way, but that doesn't mean you have to get burned!



You, Me & Business

By Dana Dittmar

My mom needs more care than I can give to her at home. Memory Care at Sun City Senior Living is best for both of us.



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Kids' Program/Event Highlights March 22-28

Teen Night: Game Zone*

Thursday, March 22 • 5 to 7 p.m.

For middle and high school students. Get in the zone and join your friends for gaming fun on the Xbox 360 and Nintendo Wii with games such as Band Hero, Guitar Hero 5, Smash Brothers Brawl and more!

Family Story Time

Thursday, March 22 • 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.

"Pee Wee Artists": Let's Create!*

Monday, March 26 • 10:30 to 11 a.m.

"Pee Wee Artists," ages 3 through 5, will have a fun morning creating an art project with an Art Instructor. Adult must be present. Limit 15. Registration required at the Information Desk or by calling 273-3652.

Baby Time

Monday, March 26 • 1:35 to 1:55 p.m.)

Tuesday, March 27 • 11:35 to 11:55 a.m.

Wednesday, March 28 • 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.

Puppet Show: Rumpelstiltskin*

Monday, March 26 • 7 to 8 p.m.

For children in grades K through 5. Join them as the Prince travels to the end of the world. Will he learn the little man's name and save the day? After the tale, audience members will make their own Rumpelstiltskin puppets to take home. Presented by Bits 'n' Pieces Puppet Theater.

Toddler Time

Tuesday, March 27 • 10:05 to 10:25 a.m. and 10:35 to 10:55 a.m.

Wednesday, March 28th • 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, March 27 • 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, March 28 • 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.

*Funding is provided by

the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library

Preventing injuries around boats

Let's admit it. We've all made mistakes. And when it comes to boating goof-ups that can cause a little pain, the folks at BoatUS Marine Insurance have seen them all, handling hundreds of claims each year. So here's a look inside the claims files for some of the more preventable mistakes that cause injuries around the boat yard every springtime, and some tips to avoid them:



1. Don't overload the ladder: At any marina each spring, ladders are as common a sight as channel markers on the ICW. Up. Down. All day long, boaters scramble on ladders to bring up supplies, fix things and prep their boat. Carrying heavy things, however, sometimes causes ladders to buckle. Lesson: have your own ladder and know its safe carrying load. It is also good to never face forward or have two persons on

one at the same time, and understand that loose footwear such as flip-flops can snag on a ladder rung quicker than dragging a treble hook over Grandma's shag carpeting.

2. Jack stand missing: Painting the bottom of the boat to prevent marine growth is a common task for coastal boaters. However, there's always a section on the hull where you can't paint, usually where the jack stand supports the hull. Removing the jack stand to finish the paint job, however, almost always leads to an unstable boat, and using your shoulder to hold up the boat will get you to the emergency room pretty quickly. Lesson: Have the yard put the boat in a sling to finish the last few spots, or ask to have them add extra stands first (do not do this on your own).

3. Trailer tires not blocked: A trailer boater was working on his boat at home in the driveway when the trailer suddenly lurched forward due to the man's weight shifting on deck, causing him to fall – ouch! – to the pavement below. Lesson: Block the wheels every time, all of the time.

4. All come tumbling down: Every boater likes a shiny, waxed boat. What we don't like is to have to constantly move the ladder while using a heavy buffer on the gel coat. So we reach, we stretch, we lean so far out that the unbalanced ladder now tips sending us tumbling down, resulting in broken bones. Lesson: It's worth the extra time to ensure the ladder is always on a solid footing and secured to the boat, and don't overextend.

Driver safety program now in Apollo Beach

AARP is proud to welcome Century 21, Beggins Enterprises, 6542 U.S. Hwy. 41 in Apollo Beach as their newest sponsor of the Driver Safety Program. Thanks to Century 21, Apollo Beach residents will now be able to take the AARP Driver Safety Program in this beautiful, close to home facility!

Have you ever wondered why good, experienced drivers would take this course? Participants learn defensive driving techniques and updates on new traffic laws. It covers strategies to help adapt to changes in cars, roads, and ourselves.

Best of all, Florida participants over 50 qualify for a discount in their auto insurance rate! That equals a win/win program. For just \$12 for AARP members or \$14 for non-members, you can update your driving skills and save money, too.

The first class will be from 9:30 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 21. Class is limited to 25 participants.

To register or for more information, call (813) 645-8481.



Community grants awarded

Projects expected to inform up to 450,000 people in Hillsborough County about water conservation and water quality issues were recently awarded Community Education Grants from the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

This year the District awarded 12 grants Districtwide for a total of \$50,319. This is the 15th year Community Education Grants have been available. These grants currently help fund projects that provide communities an opportunity to learn about water resources.

The overall goal of the Community Education Grant program is to actively engage adults in water-related issues including conservation, protection and preservation. The program motivates communities to get involved in protecting their water resources through various educational activities.

The Florida Section of the American Water Works Association received a \$5,000 grant to create and distribute 300 soil-test kits. The kits will be given to Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful cleanup volunteers. The goal is to improve understanding about the connection between fertilizer use and water quality.

The Camp Bayou Learning Center received a \$4,595 grant to host an open house event at Camp Bayou in Ruskin to increase awareness about water resources and issues impacting water quality. About 300 people are expected to attend the event and up to 400,000 are expected to be reached through advertisements leading up to the event.

The Hoffman Environmental Research Institute and Karst Conservancy received a \$4,946 grant to create an interactive website that will provide information on ground-water issues and karst geology. The site also will feature a forum for community discussions and a calendar of water-related events. About 50,000 people are expected to be reached through direct-mail advertising for the site.

Applications for the District's 2013 Community Education Grant program will be available online at www.WaterMatters.org/CommunityGrants on April 1. For more information, call the District's Communications Bureau at 1-800-423-1476 or (352) 796-7211, ext. 4757.



Photo by Hazel Martin

Standing: Dean Mahin and Patricia Ann Leyden. Seated: Dr. Michael Deeb.

Community Church College offers Speakers Bureau

The Community Church College, 1501 La Jolla Ave., offers the services of a Speakers Bureau for your programs, groups and clubs. All speakers are experts in their fields. The topics are varied, very interesting. Either no fee is charged or a modest amount.

Just to list a few of the presentations: Medical Insurance, Estate Planning, U.S. History, The Financial Market, Event Planning, Eastern Religions, Estate Planning, China, Planning For Your Pet's Future, Metaphysics, Is My Memory Change Normal? and many more. They all sound great!! For a listing of the speakers, their topics and fees, email the College at tri-c@verizon.net or call the College at (813) 634-8607.

For more information, call Hazel Martin at (813) 642-9020.

Need 2 Run and Fun Run

Parks, Recreation and Conservation are sponsoring a 2012 Need 2 Run and a 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run on Saturday, April 28 at E.G. Simmons Park, 2401 19th Ave. NW.

1-Mile Fun Run begins at 8:30 a.m. and is free. The 5K Race also begins at 8:30 a.m. Adult registration is \$20 and \$15 for 18 years and under. T-shirts guaranteed to the first 75 registered runners.

Registration can be done by mail or at 6:30 a.m. the day of the event. Checks should be made payable to BOCC.

For more information, call (813) 672-7881.

Workshops offered on financial wellness

CredAbility is one of the nation's leading, nonprofit counseling agencies. It provides free, bilingual counseling services 24/7. Services include foreclosure prevention, confidential budget and bankruptcy counseling, and debt management programs.

FIRST-TIME HOME BUYERS WORKSHOPS

Saturday, April 21 • 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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RSVP: (800) 251-2227

Learn the ins and outs and helpful tips for buying your first home. Have important questions answered about securing a loan, available tax credits and more.

FINANCIAL EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

Money Management Tools and Tips

Tuesday, April 3 • 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Basics of Banking Services

Tuesday, April 10 • 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Using Credit to Your Advantage

Tues, April 17 • 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Protect Yourself Financially

Tuesday, April 20 • 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Metropolitan Ministries, 2001 N. Florida Ave., Tampa 33602
Reservations are not required.

Knowing and slowing

Old people don't screw around when they are traveling. Taking a trip north on I-95, we stopped at a freeway-side motel and we planned to hit the road early. At least we thought it was early. Old people with license plates from New Jersey, Ontario, Quebec, New York and Pennsylvania were already leaving in droves by the time we stumbled out of our door on Sunday morning. The snowbird migration is in full swing. They know what they want and they know how to get it.



Observations
By Mitch Traphagen
mitch@observernews.net

Harold is a soft spoken, slow speaking, middle-aged man who lives in Dunn, North Carolina. He knows an awful lot about trains. My wife and I met him on a Saturday night in downtown Dunn while waiting for the Auto Train to pass. We have ridden the train in the past and would do so soon again, but now we wanted to see what it looked like from the outside. It blasted through Dunn about 9:30 p.m. — exactly as Harold

predicted it would. He knows his trains, but is more interested in the frequent freight trains than in the Auto Train that passes through town twice each day.

Harold wishes it were 1996. In that year, he had four buddies who would sit out with him to watch the trains. One died from a disease (he couldn't remember what the name of the disease was). Another fell off a ladder and broke his neck. And yet another is still around but, apparently, is no longer interested in watching trains with Harold.

Harold normally doesn't wait around for the Auto Train, but tonight he would. Tonight, we were his buddies. He pointed to a forlorn patch of cement where the town's train station once stood. Today it is an empty space. Trains don't stop in Dunn; they blast through at a speed fast enough to blow your hair back.

We told him we'd be back



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

My wife Michelle and our new friend Harold waiting for the Amtrak Auto Train on Saturday night in Dunn, North Carolina.

through on the train on Wednesday and that we'd be looking for him. This will go to press before then, so I can't say if he'll be on that dark and lonely downtown block.

If I see him, I'll wave; but we'll be passing through so fast there is almost no way he'll even see us, let alone wave back. For some reason, I have a feeling he'll be there — even though he likes freight trains best and doesn't care much for the engines used by Amtrak.

"They are too square and boxy," he said. Harold knows what he likes and he knows what he wants, even if time travel is impossible. But since we invited him, I suspect Harold will see it as an obligation. He is a gracious man from a different time.

We waited for him to complete sentence after sentence in a polite and slow drawl. When he asked if I had a computer, his eyes lit up when I replied that I did. He talked about a program on a disk that lets people drive trains on the computer. I didn't tell him my computer doesn't take disks and that few people use such things anymore.

Michelle and I took this trip to celebrate our upcoming 15th wedding anniversary. A decade and a half blew by faster than a freight train through Dunn, North Carolina. For this trip, Dunn was just a stop on the way to Washington, DC — one of our favorite cities.

This year I'll turn 50 and I've been moping about with the realization that I'm still trying to figure out what I want to do when I grow up. And the realization is sinking in that I may be too late on that. The old people in the freeway-side motel seem to know what they wanted and they were in a hurry to get it. Many would be home later that night in New Jersey, New York or Pennsylvania. I'm in a hurry, too, but I don't know what I'm hurrying towards.

It was good that I met Harold. He talked about riding in the engine of a freight train once all the way down to Florence. He talked about things in Florida, all involving trains, but I'm pretty sure that Dunn was his universe. I think he's happy there; happy with the small town and happy with the trains that pass through. He knows what he wants and is in no hurry at all. I think my heart rate slowed down just due to the slow pace of the words that came out of him. I think it was good that I met him because hanging around with happy people is a good cure for mopey-ness.

On Saturday night, at least, I have a feeling Harold was happy. He was watching the trains pass with his buddies. I hope it was almost like 1996.

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The Auto Train blasting through Dunn.

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From left to right: Harry Porter 2nd Flight, Bo Dahlgren 1st Flight, Vid Valiusaitis White Tee Club Champion, Marty Leahy Falcon Watch Golf Professional, Jim McClafferty Green Tee Club Champion, Hank Smythe 3rd Flight and Mike Sekol 4th Flight

THE SAVVY SENIOR

Exercises That Can Help Ease Arthritis Pain

Dear Savvy Senior,
Can exercise help seniors with arthritis? I have osteoarthritis and have read that certain exercises can help ease the pain, but I don't know where to start, and I certainly don't want to make it any worse than it already is. What can you tell me?
Sedentary Sally



The Savvy Senior
By Jim Miller

Dear Sally,
Lots of seniors who have arthritis believe that exercise will worsen their condition, but that's not true. Study after study has shown that exercise is actually one of the best treatments for osteoarthritis. Proper and careful exercises can help reduce joint pain and stiffness, strengthen muscles around the joints and increase flexibility. It also helps manage other chronic conditions that are common among seniors with arthritis, such as diabetes, heart disease and obesity. Here are some tips to help you get moving.

Exercises for Arthritis
Determining exactly which types of exercises are best for you, depends on the form and severity of your arthritis, and which joints are involved. It's best to work with your doctor or a physical therapist to help you develop an exercise program that works for you. The different types of exercises that are

most often recommended to seniors with arthritis include:

Range-of-motion exercises: These are gentle stretching exercises that can relieve stiffness as well as improve your ability to move your joints through their normal range of motion. These exercises should be done daily.

Strengthening exercise: Calisthenics, weight training and working with resistance bands are recommended (two or more days a week) to maintain and improve your muscle strength, which helps support and protect your joints.

Aerobic exercises: Low-impact activities like walking, cycling, swimming or water aerobics are all recommended three to five times per week to help improve cardiovascular health, control weight, and improve your overall function.

It's also important to keep in mind that when you first start exercising, you need to go slow to give your body time to adjust. If you push yourself too hard you can aggravate your joint pain, however, some muscle soreness or joint aching in the beginning is normal.

To help you manage your pain start by warming up with some simple stretches or range of motion exercises for five to 10 minutes before you move on to strengthening or aerobic exercises. Another tip is to apply heat to the joints you'll be working before you exercise, and use cold packs after exercising to reduce inflammation.

If you're experiencing a lot of pain while you exercise, you may need to modify the frequency, duration, or intensity of your exercises until the pain improves. Or you may need to try a different activity – for example switching from walking to

water aerobics. But if you're having severe, sharp or constant pain, or large increases in swelling or your joints feel hot or red, you need to stop and see your doctor.

Exercise Resources
To help you exercise at home, there are a number arthritis exercise DVDs you can purchase to guide you through a wide variety of activities. Collage Video (collagevideo.com, 800-819-7111) sells several at prices ranging between \$10 and \$25, as does the Arthritis Foundation Store at afstore.org or 800-283-7800.

Also see go4life.niapublications.org, a resource created by the National Institute on Aging that offers a free exercise DVD and book that provides illustrated examples of exercises you can do to improve your condition. You can order your free copies online or by calling 800-222-2225.

If you need some motivation or don't like exercising alone, ask your doctor about exercise programs in your area for people with arthritis. Hospitals and clinics sometimes offer special programs, as do local health clubs and senior centers. The Arthritis Foundation also conducts exercise and aquatic programs for people with arthritis in many communities throughout the U.S. Contact your local branch (see arthritis.org/chaptermap.php, or call 800-283-7800 for contact information) to find out what may be available near you.

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



From left to right: Rick Lanese, Council President; Dr. Allen Witt, Campus President; Holly Swanson, Council Vice President; and, Bob Black, Council Secretary

HCC Presidential Advisory Council to hold spring meeting

At 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 29 in an effort to meet our community's demands and deliver the classes and programs you want to see, Dr. Allen Witt, Campus President, Hillsborough Community College, SouthShore, has initiated the Hillsborough Community College Presidential Advisory Council. The Advisory Council meets periodically and is open to everyone in the community and is designed to serve as a forum for commercial and residential members to come together and discuss any suggestions to add to or improve the classes currently being offered. Ours is an unique community and with the current economic climate, the College wants to ensure it is keeping up with specific demands for educational needs. Rick Lanese, CPA, Cohen Florida, located in The Villages at Cypress Creek, facilitates the discussions as President of the Council.

RSVP is required to [kjacob@hccfl.edu](mailto:kjacobs@hccfl.edu) or 253-7000, extension 5728 HCC SouthShore Campus: 551 24th Street Northeast, Ruskin

Congressman sets up local satellite office

Congressman Dennis Ross' Office will be holding mobile office hours from 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the Sun City Center Chamber of Commerce at 1651 Sun City Center Plaza. No appointment is necessary. A Constituent Services representative from Congressman Ross' Office will be present to answer your questions if you're having trouble contacting or hearing back from a federal agency such as the Veterans Administration, Social Security, Medicare, IRS, etc...

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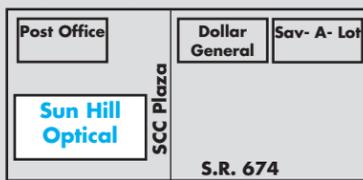
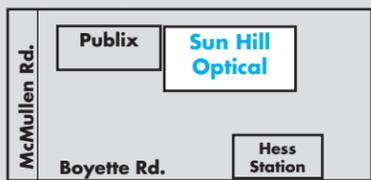
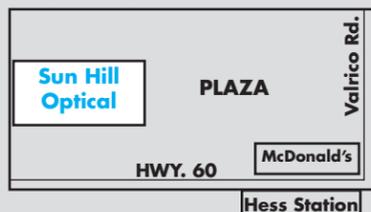
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Violators

Continued from page 1

and resulting alleged violations would be insignificant. Hillsborough's Board of County Commissioners imposed a moratorium on residential backflow citations almost two years ago when Florida's Department of Environmental Protection began rewriting the applicable state code. Hillsborough, like other Florida counties, has been waiting for the state regulation regarding residential sites to be established before bringing county ordinance into line with it. In the interim, the county has been citing only violations found on commercial properties.

But, the Council Drive property, while the long-time home of the Brewer family, also is the location of two master meters recording house and irrigation water usage

by 14 homes in the Skyview Homeowners Association. And WRS now is classifying groups of homes on a master meter as commercial sites under its interpretation of the ordinance provisions. The HOA and its 14 homeowner members are actual recipients of the non-compliance notice.

The department is relying on provisions of the ordinance, now in its third version since originating in 1994, which consider five or more residences together on a single meter a commercial property. It is an interpretation that is emphatically disputed by others.

The Skyview HOA was given 90 days from the January 13, 2012, date of notice or until April 12 to come into compliance. If compliance is not made, the

ensuing process involves issue of a citation by the department which can be appealed. If an appeal is lost and compliance still is not made, the ordinance allows levy of a fine or cut-off of water service or jail time or a combination of the penalties. No such penalties ever have been pressed by the county.

On February 27, at the quarterly meeting of the county's unsalaried volunteer cross connection control advisory board, Dan Martis, president of the Skyview HOA, sought answers to members' questions. He wanted to know, among other things, how an ordinance first written in 1994 could be applied to homes built and plumbed in the 1960s - 30 years earlier. Should not the Skyview HOA houses be "grandfathered in," he asked.

The water department personnel,

commercial plumbers and others that comprise the board listened politely to his overview of the HOA's positions, Martis said this week, but were of little help in assisting his membership toward a workable resolution of their dilemma.

That dilemma, he added, includes paying for a backflow prevention device installed on the potable water line that serves the 14 homes in the HOA which has been estimated to run about \$5,200.

That figure sounds "a little on the high side," Rich Cummings, a water services manager, told *The Observer* this week during discussion of the situation. Plus, he indicated, something might be worked out if the HOA cannot handle the backflow device installation all at one time, no matter what the cost.

Beyond that concession, though, Cummings was adamant that the collection of private homes in the HOA constitutes a commercial site and that it currently is in violation of the prevailing ordinance.

Asked how the Skyview HOA got onto the WRS inspection radar, Cummings suggested that an inspector may have been driving the street, noticed no water meters in several yards but then found a yard with two meter vaults, signaling several homes served by the same water line running through a master meter. The inspector recognized it as a qualified commercial site under the ordinance and proceeded to conduct an inspection, Cummings posited.

When asked if the Skyview HOA is one among others or the only such collection of private homes on a master water meter in the retirement community to be inspected for ordinance violation, Cummings replied that he did not know and that research would be required to determine the answer. A cost would be attached to such research, he added, estimating it to be in the \$200 range. "And you probably wouldn't like it; it wouldn't be what you're looking for," he noted.

Then, when it came to the issue of enforcing an ordinance on properties built long before the ordinance was enacted, Cummings seemed to contradict his own support of the WRS inspections and the department's interpretations of county ordinance.

In a written statement to Martis two weeks ago, Cummings himself wrote that "Implementation of Ordinance 03-6 is not retroactive. The Ordinance, and its predecessor Ordinances, only require installation of particular devices from the effective date of the Ordinance forward."

In addition, it has been widely established in cases and courts around the country that municipal ordinances are effective from the point of enactment forward; they are not legally enforced on a retroactive basis or applied after the fact to situations occurring before enactment unless they contain specific language embracing retroactive enforcement. Hillsborough's ordinance contains no such statement.

Based on Cummings' written remarks, it would seem the Skyview HOA composed of homes built and plumbed decades before the ordinance was drafted the first time is not subject to the ordinance

today, said Dave Brown, SCC resident and long-time community advocate who has strenuously opposed Hillsborough's mandated backflow devices. He also is a citizen member of the cross connection control board.

Brown, who attended the HOA officers' meeting this week, emphasized, too, that typically "Commercial premises means premises where there is a multi-family apartment building or condominium or a business enterprise." Since the Skyview HOA does not include any apartments or condos or townhomes and none of the members is conducting a public business on any of the property, their homes do not qualify as a commercial site according to typical definition, he suggested.

Brown also asserted that the Hillsborough County Health Department has never once recorded a single incident of sickness attributed to backflow contamination and that no one ever has died in Florida due to a backflow incident. On the other hand, he added, "the most common cause of an unintentional backflow incident is when a county fire truck pulls water from a hydrant and creates a vacuum that draws water from a house back into the main water lines." County fire hydrants do not have backflow valves.

The advocate, who repeatedly has demonstrated the vulnerability of the RP backflow valve that county ordinance mandates, also pointed to the ease with which a valve can be opened and a toxin added to the potable water supply which WRS is obligated to protect yet jeopardizes by requiring a faulty device. "The valve that Skyview HOA is being forced to install violates a number of federal and state terrorism and water quality acts because it provides direct access for contamination of the public drinking water supply," he said.

Cummings responds to Brown's assertions by noting that the danger of developing health problems exists "in the private property area" after water has left the closed public distribution system which "is safe and secure because utilities have legal and sanitary control of the system and the end product."

As for potable water contamination through a fire hydrant, the WRS manager pointed out that "maintenance personnel and firemen are authorized, trained and licensed to know how to properly use a hydrant."

Martis, a retired law enforcement officer, said this week he can see no imminent danger to anyone in the Skyview HOA through the existing water supply system. But, he added, the HOA officers would seek formal bids for the backflow prevention that WRS is demanding.

On the other hand, he indicated, the group would not be in a hurry to install something so expensive that seems so unnecessary since the HOA is only a collection of small 50-year-old neatly kept homes on a quiet street in a senior community far outdating the ordinance being used to label it.

The *Observer* also contacted four county commissioners who represent Sun City Center for comment on the matter but received no responses before publication deadline.
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South Bay Church BBQ reaches neighbors

RIVERVIEW — Members of the South Bay Church Youth Haiti Missions team welcomed neighbors to their fundraiser chicken barbecue last weekend and successfully raised nearly \$3,000 for their trip to Haiti this summer.

Communities united as support came from local and slightly further churches including Simmons Loop Baptist, also in Riverview, and First Apostolic Church in

Ruskin, to enjoy the \$5 meal of barbecued chicken and sides. Residents of Sun City Center made the trek up US 301 to support this worthy cause as well.

Many were blessed by this event as surplus meals were taken to shut-ins in the Brandon and South County areas, as well as the homeless nearby.

High school and college age students from South Bay Church will be taking off for Haiti June 9 and return June 16. Students will stay on the grounds of the Haiti Gospel Ministries school and experience first hand the act of serving others.

For more information about the mission or about South Bay Church visit www.SouthBay.cc. The church is located at 13498 U.S. 301, Riverview, just south of Big Bend Road.



Left, Stephanie Simmons entertains some of the elementary kids. Right, Joshua LeLacheur painted faces at the event.

CHERE SIMMONS PHOTOS



Keith Garner makes balloon animals, swords, etc.



Fun Fest success



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTOS

As of Monday morning the Sun City Center Community Association still did not have an exact count but said approximately 7,000 people attended the Sun City Center Fun Fest Saturday, March 17 at the main Community Association complex on Cherry Hills Boulevard. There were so many golf carts and cars people parked in medians and shopping plazas and many still had to leave their cars at Community Hall on South Pebble Beach and take shuttle busses which ran from early morning until after 3 p.m. Clubs and groups showed their talents, wares and show pieces; bands played; people sang and danced; foods of all kinds were served; and causes explained and pleaded for. From babies in strollers to elderly riding on scooters, sidewalks and grassy areas were so full, people had to squeeze between bodies to get from place to place.



Many of the tables set up for display had people explaining to Fun Fest attendees about causes they support, like this one, decked out in green on St. Patrick's Day, but still concentrating on helping needy area children.

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Cherry trees surround the peaceful Tidal Basin with the Washington Monument in the background.

MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

National Cherry Blossom Festival

■ Continued from page 1

protocol and posture. The cherry blossoms are a reminder that all things can begin anew again. The pink and white trees, magnificent in beauty and scope, remind us that every year the nation itself can blossom anew.

National Park Service rangers and volunteers — some on foot, some on bicycle, and some with lanterns after the sun has set — mingle with thousands of visitors that gather around the Tidal Basin near the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. That the Tidal Basin in front of the Jefferson Memorial was selected as the site for the first two flowering cherry trees is most appropriate. The sakura as a symbol of transformation and renewal compliments Jefferson's sheer genius, foresight, and ideals in shaping the nation. His faith and optimism are enhanced by the sea of white and pink that visitors pass through on the way to the monument that holds his permanent legacy. Jefferson's own words on renewal can be found engraved on the southeast wall of his memorial:

I am not an advocate for frequent changes in laws and constitutions. But laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners

and opinions change, with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times. We might as well require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy as civilized society to remain ever under the regimen of their barbarous ancestors.

The cherry blossoms are visible throughout the city, including from the steps of the Capitol building looking out towards the National Mall. They bring life and provide comfort to the already beautiful, yet somber, war memorials. They bring striking, yet soft, color to the city built more than two centuries ago by a new nation — a city created as a powerful statement by people with the foresight to know that this was a nation of unlimited potential to renew itself through the ages. They serve as a vibrant reflection of the city itself.

During the first week of the centennial celebration of the gift of the flowering trees, the mood is joyous in the nation's capitol. Thousands of visitors, young and old, walk around the peaceful basin, stand in silent awe at the Jefferson Memorial, take his words etched on the walls to heart, and relax on the steps of the monument. In this place and in these moments, the city is at peace. It's a place where things begin anew and all things are possible.

If you go: The National Cherry Blossom Festival runs from March 24 to April 15. Washington, DC is not an inexpensive city, but the rates for lodging are generally based on proximity to the city — the farther out you go, the less expensive it can be. During the festival, the relatively few hotels in the city proper tend to run \$300 per night and higher. Hotels in nearby Arlington are less expensive, and Alexandria or the suburban areas towards Baltimore provide more options for the budget-minded. The city's metro system is excellent and a car is

not needed within the District (and is also not recommended as parking is extremely limited and can be difficult to find). On the other side of that coin, nearly all of the attractions — from the monuments to the Smithsonian — are free of charge.

For our trip, Michelle and I found a private apartment offered on the lodging website AirBnB.com. The one bedroom apartment was much less expensive than a hotel and was located in a beautiful old neighborhood of brick town homes and row houses just two blocks from the Capitol building.



Michelle among the cherry blossoms.



Visitors walking among the cherry blossoms at the Tidal Basin near the Jefferson Memorial.



Ruskin Elementary's Terrific Kids are compassionate

Ruskin Elementary held their Terrific Kids presentation for the character trait compassion. The program is sponsored by the Kiwanis members of Sun City Center who also came to present the awards. The following students were recognized: Kevin Miron, Emily Villavicencio Albertini, Adam Kelly, Jenedith Seguara, Katherine Price, Sean McAllister, Kennedy Randall, Carol Avonce Martinez, Mary Ann Vidal, Jose Cesario, Alvaro Claudio, Ruby Flores, Angel Alonzo Ortiz, Maxieli Hernandez, Haley Whitzel, Jordy Figueroa, Carolina Basave, Jessica Cormack, Eberlida Perez- Hernandez, Novice Cox, Brianna Conklin, Eduardo Lopez Barrera, Tyler Schaaf, Julisa Gallardo Ibarra, Dibanhi Reducindo, Melissa Arias, Jonathan Reyes, Cesar Barrientos, Itzel Montoya, Rigoberto Fuentes, Adriana Fernandez, Alexis Mosley, Aaliyah Neri, Mireya Martinez, Anna Delgado, Branden Giles, Jose Arias, Ivy Ramirez-Corona, Gage Monk, Daniela Linares, Amaris Fraga, Lizbet Gomez, Margarita Wiegand, Damien Vasquez, Kennett Luxana, Jordyn Strossner, Maria Avalos, Francisco Garcia, Molly Sanchez, Zachary Flannery, Darryl Page, Cynthia Masariegos, Efrain Rios, Ben Tran, Cheyanne Reyes. Also pictured are Rebecca Salgado, Assistant Principal Ruskin; Joe Nargawala and Charlene Wirick and Sun City Center Kiwanis members. Those students not present for the photo were: Alejandro Rohena, Esmeralda Suastegui, Shiva Andres, and Julian Monrial.

Everyday sign language class

The Hearing Loss Association of Sun City Center (HLA-SCC) will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 4 at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 1239 Del Webb Blvd. Membership is free, and all are welcome to attend. Coffee and donuts at 9:15 a.m.

Programming and Mapping: the Keys to getting the most out of your Hearing Aid or Cochlear Implant will be discussed by Lisa Tanner, Au.D.

Learn how to work with your hearing professional to obtain the best results from your hearing instrument.

CART (captioning) provided by Tess Crowder (Communication Access, Inc.), who also teaches an Everyday Sign Language Class at 10:45 a.m. For more information, contact Richard Herring at rhmann@tampabay.rr.com or Barbara Riley at (813) 634-1706.

Dollar Stretcher Tips



Rusty Tubs and Sinks

To remove rust spots from tubs and sinks, cover the rust spot with a few drops of hydrogen peroxide and sprinkle with cream of tartar. Let this sit for 30 minutes and wipe it off with a sponge.

Cyndi S.

Additional Dollar Stretcher Resource: More ways to remove rust stains from your bath at <http://www.stretcher.com/stories/00/000306b.cfm?ds0305>

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Upcoming Events

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riverviewmooselodge2158.org

- Wednesdays - WOTM Chef's Choice**
- Thursdays - Taco/Burgers**
- Fridays - Steak/Fish/Shrimp Dinners**
- Saturdays - Function Nights with Fabulous Dinners**
- Sundays - Wings 6 @ \$3**

Saturday March 24th
 Fish Fry at the Tiki Bar
 Sponsored by the Moose Riders

Saturday March 31th
 Riverview Moose Comedy Show
 Sponsored by Donnie Portice



Participants enjoyed complimentary classes.

Free classes given by SCC Ceramic Club

As part of its program to offer complimentary classes to the Community, the Sun City Center Ceramic Club held multiple classes between last October through January. Pictured above are some of the participants finishing the pieces they chose to work on.

This has proven to be a successful program and will be offered again in the fall of this year.

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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.

March 31 - Installation of new officers . Installation will take place at 4 p.m. with prime rib dinner at 5 p.m. Music by Bryan from 6-8 p.m. and the cost is \$15.

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.

Weight Watchers extend invite

Weight Watchers meets every Thursday at 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. at United Community Church 1501 LaJolla Ave. Don't miss out on free registration. Pay only meeting fee. For more information, email Sandy at samt1995@yahoo.com

Find your favorite stories and many others online at **ObserverNews.net**

Vacancies available for citizens advisory board

Hillsborough County Commissioners are seeking residents to serve on a new County citizen advisory board – the Economic Prosperity Stakeholder Committee. Residents interested in seeking appointment must be registered voters in Hillsborough County. These are voluntary positions, and members serve without compensation. Applicants may apply to more than one board, but may only serve on one board at a time.

The deadline for applying is March 26. Appointments will be scheduled for a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners in April, 2012.

Details on the committee are as follows:

Economic Prosperity Stakeholder Committee

The Committee will make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on changes to the Land Development Code, the accompanying process and other procedural improvements to eliminate duplication, reduce the permitting time, eliminate outdated and conflicting regulations, and improve customer satisfaction. A Technical Support Group will assist the Committee by providing data and other relevant information.

Five positions are available. Terms are for one year. Members appointed to this Committee represent the following: Contractor; Land Use Lawyer; Hispanic Community; African American Community; and Minority or Small

Business Owners (MBE/SBE). Members should have experience in site and/or subdivision, concurrency review, zoning, planned developments, Developments of Regional Impact (DRI), or related work in the land development or building process. Meeting schedule: Anticipated to meet for 2 hours, every 2-3 weeks for a period of 6-8 months.

Citizens interested in being considered for appointment must submit a completed Questionnaire for County Appointments, and a letter of interest describing experience in the related field and the qualifications in one of the five above mentioned categories. The Questionnaire is available in the Commissioners' reception area on the second floor of County Center, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd. in downtown Tampa; by calling the Boards and Councils Coordinator at 813-272-5826; or on the County's website at: www.hillsboroughcounty.org. Click on the "County Commission" link on the left-hand side of the page, then the "Advisory Boards and Committees" sublink. The "Application Questionnaire For County Appointments" is in the middle of the page.

The form can be filled out, and then scanned and emailed, faxed, hand-delivered or mailed. Forms must be signed and dated. Additional directions for submission are listed on the form.

For more information, contact Luann Finley, Director of Board Services, at 813-272-5826.



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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.



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BRING THE FAMILY TOGETHER THIS EASTER

WITH EASY, MEMORABLE RECIPES

FAMILY FEATURES

Easter is a time for honored family traditions. From Easter hats, egg hunts and meals shared with those you love, each celebration creates its own special memories.

Here are ways to bring some familiar flavors to the Easter table in a whole new way, including savory Slow Cooker Marmalade Pork Tenderloin, a family favorite from Tamie J. of Prosper, Texas, last year's Grand Prize Winner in the Spreading Smucker's® Traditions Recipe Contest; as well as sweet Citrus Apple Tart, a favorite dish from the Smucker family cookbook.

These easy, delicious recipes can be made or prepared in advance, leaving more time to enjoy your family's cherished traditions.

For more Easter recipes to help your family celebrate, visit www.smuckers.com.

Slow Cooker Marmalade Pork Tenderloin

Cook Time: 4 hours
Prep Time: 20 minutes
Yield: 8 servings

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 pounds pork tenderloin
- 1/2 cup teriyaki sauce
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 1 10-ounce jar Smucker's® Sweet Orange Marmalade
- 2 teaspoons fresh ginger, grated
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 3 cloves garlic
- 1 large onion, sliced
- 1 package fresh mushroom caps
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon red pepper flakes

Heat olive oil in skillet over medium-high heat. Brown tenderloin on all sides.

In blender, mix teriyaki sauce, chicken broth, orange marmalade, fresh ginger, brown sugar and garlic. Blend until a smooth sauce.

Put browned tenderloin into slow cooker. Slice onion and add to slow cooker. Add mushrooms, pepper, salt and pepper flakes. Cover with the teriyaki sauce mixture. Cook on high for about 4 hours.

Turn tenderloin a couple of times while cooking.

When done, remove the tenderloin and let rest for about 10 minutes. To serve, slice diagonally and pour sauce, mushrooms and onions over top.

Triple Berry Baked Brie

Prep Time: 20 minutes
Cook Time: 25 minutes
Yield: 12 servings

- 1 sheet frozen puff pastry, thawed
- 1/3 cup Smucker's® Orchard's Finest™ Northwest Triple Berry Preserves
- 8 ounces round baby wheel brie cheese
- 1/4 cup chopped hazelnuts or pecans
- 1 large egg
- 1 tablespoon water
- Assorted crackers, pear slices and/or apple slices

Heat oven to 400°F. Unfold puff pastry on a lightly floured surface. Roll gently to seal any cracks in pastry. Spoon preserves onto center of pastry. Place cheese on top of preserves.

Sprinkle evenly with nuts. Fold pastry up over the cheese to cover. Trim excess pastry and press to seal seams. Reserve pastry scraps.

Whisk egg and water in small bowl. Brush seams with egg mixture. Place seam-side down on baking sheet. Cut pastry scraps into decorative shapes and arrange on top, if desired. Brush with egg mixture.

Bake 25 minutes or until golden brown. Let stand 20 minutes before cutting. Serve with crackers and sliced fruit.



Strawberry Spring Salad

Prep Time: 10 minutes
Yield: 6 servings

- 1/2 cup Smucker's® Strawberry Syrup
- 2 tablespoons Crisco® Pure Canola Oil
- 2 tablespoons white vinegar
- 1 5-ounce package spring salad greens or other salad greens mix
- 4 green onions, thinly sliced
- 1 tangerine or small orange, peeled, seeded, cut into bite-size pieces
- 12 strawberries, sliced vertically
- 1/4 cup sunflower kernels
- 1/4 cup blue cheese, crumbled

Combine syrup, oil and vinegar to make vinaigrette. Whisk until blended.

Place salad greens, green onion, orange pieces, strawberries and sunflower kernels in a large salad bowl.

Add vinaigrette. Toss lightly. Crumble blue cheese over top. Serve immediately.



Citrus Apple Tart

Prep Time: 25 minutes
Cook Time: 1 hour, 5 minutes
Yield: 8 servings

- 1 9-inch single Classic Crisco® Pie Crust
- 4 medium Granny Smith apples (about 2 pounds)
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons butter, diced
- 1/4 cup Smucker's® Sweet Orange Marmalade
OR Smucker's® Organic Orange Marmalade

Prepare recipe for single crust pie. Roll out dough, place in a 9-inch tart pan with removable bottom. Press to fit without stretching dough. Trim edges even with tart pan. Chill until ready to fill. Heat oven to 350°F.

Peel and core apples. Cut in half, end-to-end. Slice apples crosswise into 1/4-inch thick slices. Combine sugar, cinnamon and salt in large bowl. Add apple slices and toss to coat. Randomly place about 1/2 of apples into bottom of crust in two layers, cutting apples as necessary to fill all gaps. Arrange row of apples lengthwise along outside edge of pan, overlapping the slices about 1/8 inch. Fill in center with smaller pieces of apples. Dot with butter.

Bake 55 to 65 minutes or until apples are fork tender and edges of apples begin to brown. Cool on wire rack. Heat orange marmalade in small microwave-safe bowl on HIGH for 20 seconds; stir. Brush marmalade over tart.



Happy
Easter

Area Obituaries

George Basil Davis

George Basil Davis, 73, of Apollo Beach, formerly of Stamford, CT passed away on March 14, 2012. He was born April 25, 1938.

He was predeceased by his son, George B. Davis, Jr..

Survivors include his wife, Josie Davis; son, Tim Davis (Jen); daughters, Karen Sauerwein and Pam Diaz (Ralph); sisters, Barbara Sileo (Andy) and Claudia Milone (Ted); 6 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 17, 2012 at the National Cremation and Burial Society, 308 E. College Ave, Ruskin, FL 33570.



Jesse Kenneth Driggers

Jesse Kenneth Driggers, 87, better known to all of Ruskin as "Chief," passed away peacefully Monday, March 19, 2012 surrounded by loving family and the caring comfort of LifePath Hospice. He was preceded in death by his wife of 48 years, Margaret Madeline Ritchie Driggers and is survived by his five "Reds," Ronald Edwin, Rheda Elaine, Rachel Erma, Rex Earl, and Robin Emily, along with inlaws, numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A celebration of the life of this local icon, with military honors, will be held Saturday, March 24, 2012 at 4 p.m., "Double D Ranch" 3308 30th St. S.E., followed by a community pot luck dinner. For more information call Rachel at 645-5850 or Dean at 813-917-2819. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to LifePath Hospice, Sun City Center. Chief would like everyone to attend in bright cheerful colors. Please sign guest book at zipperersfuneralhome.com .

Arrangements are under the direction of Zipperer's Funeral Home.



Mary (Love) Hojnowski

Mary (Love) Hojnowski, a resident of Sun City Center, FL passed away on March 13, 2012 after a courageous battle with COPD in the home of her daughter, Patricia in Boxford, MA surrounded by family and friends.

Born in Rahway, NJ in 1928 Mary was pre-deceased by her loving and devoted husband Chester, her parents Arthur F. Love and Margaret Mary (Kavanaugh) Love, and her brother Thomas Love as well as many brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law.

Growing up in New Jersey she loved the shore, worked in New York City, and moved to Connecticut when she married. Mary spent most of her adult life as a resident of Bridgeport and later West Haven. Mary was employed by United Technologies (Sikorsky Aircraft) where she worked for over 35 years in a number of roles, retiring as a metrologist and inspector.

She moved to Sun City Center with Chester where she started "another page in her book" of life. Mary was actively

continued at top of page

Mary (Love) Hojnowski obituary continued

engaged in volunteerism as her motto was "to give back" as having gratitude for all the good things in her life. She was a first responder, a dispatcher, and helped to care for the ambulances at the Sun City Center Emergency Squad for over 15 years. She exercised the Seeing Eye Dogs in training at a facility in Parrish, FL; was a committed member of the transportation team at South Bay Hospital; assisted Chester with Knights of Columbus fundraising drives and was a member of many social and regional clubs including the New England Club, Polish Club and Ancient Order of the Hibernians. Mary was a parishioner at Prince of Peace Roman Catholic Church in Sun City Center.

Full of energy, Mary loved people, loved the beach especially Seaside Park, the West Haven walkway and Anna Maria Island in Florida where she and Chester spent many days. She loved to dance, sing in the follies and play the organ demonstrating a joie de vivre that was contagious to all around her.

Mary was a devoted and loving wife, mother, sister, aunt, cousin, and friend. She is survived by and will be missed beyond words by her children, Patricia Hojnowski-Diaz (Spouse -Robert) of Massachusetts and Kevin Hojnowski of West Haven, CT; her twin sister, Margaret (Love) Fuchs of Toms River, NJ ; her sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Regina and Edward Vrabel of Stratford ,CT; sister-law-law, Margaret Short of Yorktown Heights, NY ; several cousins, nieces, nephews, grand nieces , grand nephews and her wonderful friends both up north and in Florida.

A calling hour will take place on Saturday, March 31, 2012 from 11 a.m. to noon at St. Rose of Lima Church, 12 Park St. Topsfield Center, Topsfield, MA, followed by a funeral mass at noon. Interment will be private at Bushnell Military Cemetery, Bushnell, Florida. In lieu of flowers please forward donations in honor and celebration of Mary's life to the Sun City Center Emergency Squad, 720 Ray Watson Drive, Sun City Center, FL 33573. Arrangements by the Solimine, Landergan and Richardson Funeral Home, Lynn, MA. Directions and guestbook at www.solimine.com

Edward N. Lucking

Edward N. Lucking was born in Detroit, Michigan to Mary Ellen and Henry Lucking on October 13, 1918. Following graduation from Visitation High School, he attended University of Detroit and graduated Magna Cum Laude in June 1939.

He received a scholarship to attend Harvard University School of Business Administration and with waiting tables and borrowing from the University, he graduated in June 1941.

After a short time in the war industry in Detroit, he enlisted as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy. He served as disbursing officer with expenditures of \$1,000,000 monthly to Navy personnel in Hawaii.

His post war assignment was as a contract termination officer with responsibilities for settling 700 production contracts held by 100 manufacturers. He retired from the U.S. Navy in the mid 60s as a First Lieutenant.

He was a professor of Management and Personnel at the University of Missouri and later at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

In 1976 he established his own business in the oil and gas business.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother Dan. He is survived by his loving wife, Elsie. He was the father of Edward, wife Cindy; Nora Retter; and Kate, husband Keith; and stepfather of Jeffrey, wife Karen; and of Jay, wife Kim. He is grandfather of 12: Stephen and Daniel Lucking; Michael and Matthew Retter; Thomas and Dylan Brown, Jennifer and Joyce Johnson, Keith and Craig Johnson, (Twins), and Quinlan and Lukas Johnson.

Ed and Elsie retired in 1982 and moved to Venice, Florida. They traveled throughout the United States and Europe taking numerous cruises and attended 16 Elderhostels. They were involved in numerous responsibilities in the communities where they resided.

continued at top of page

Edward N. Lucking obituary continued

In 2000 they made their home in Aston Gardens North, Sun City Center.

Edward was a member of Prince of Peace Catholic Church.

Remembrances can be directed to Sun City Center Lifepath Hospice, 3725 Upper Creek Drive, Ruskin, FL 33573 or to Prince of Peace Catholic Church, 702 Valley Forge Blvd., Sun City Center, FL 33573.

Helen Perdue (Hansen) McDaniel

Helen Perdue (Hansen) McDaniel, 94, formerly of Sun City Center, Florida, passed away in Bluffton, South Carolina on Friday, February 24.

She was born November 22, 1917 in Logansport, Indiana; graduated from Logansport High School and moved to South Bend, IN, where she worked as a bookkeeper at Gilbert's Department Store. In June of 1940 she married Russell R. McDaniel (b. 1914 in Chicago IL, d. 1989 in Sun City Center FL), and after his wartime service, they began a family.

The McDaniels owned Russell's Supermarket, a South Bend fixture spanning three decades and known for the finest quality meats and service. They were members of the United Methodist Church, Elks Club, Masonic service organizations, and avid golfers and bridge players. In 1984 they moved full-time to their winter home of Kings Point, Sun City Center, Florida, where they enjoyed many years of retirement, friendships, and travel. Helen served as President of several golf leagues and as President and Treasurer of a bridge club at Kings Point.

Helen had a bold and straightforward personality, an ability to make friends quickly and an unreserved opinion. She managed great personal tragedy during her lifetime through the loss of her firstborn infant son John, the death of her younger son James in early adulthood following a paralyzing accident, and the extended hospitalization & near-death of her daughter Karen, all through her considerable inner strength drawn from faith.

Helen is survived by her daughter and her husband, Karen McDaniel Bartlett (Fred) of Bluffton SC; two grand-children, Elizabeth Helen Richards of Chicago IL and Russell Gorton of Grand Rapids MI; three great-grandchildren, William, Catherine & Thomas Richards; and a niece, LuAnne Lumbirt of Indianapolis IN. In addition to her husband and sons, she was preceded in death by her sisters Geraldine and Virginia.

A memorial service for Helen Hansen McDaniel will be held this spring at Sun City Center Funeral Home; please contact them for further information if you would like to attend. Donations in Helen's memory may be made to Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center at 1275 York Ave, New York, NY 10065. We would like to thank Helen's many friends in Florida, and the staffs at Aston Gardens (Sun City Center) and NHC (Bluffton) for their help and support.



Barbara Rhoads Talbott

On March 23, 2012, Barbara Talbott's inurnment with her late husband will be at Arlington National Cemetery. Beloved friend of many in Sun City Center; mother to Maureen Stehr and Michael Jones; mother-in-law of Joseph Stehr and Maria Jones; sister of John Rhoads; sister-in-law of Helen and Janet Rhoads; grandmother of Michael, Brian and Caitlin Jones and aunt to a host of nieces and a nephew. Barbara loved her life in Sun City Center.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Wounded Warrior Project, www.woundedwarriorproject.org or The Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, www.michaeljfox.org/

Area Places of Worship

Ruskin United Methodist Church

First Street & 4th Ave. NW, Ruskin (behind Suntrust Bank)

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10 a.m. Sunday School

11 a.m. Worship Service

7 p.m. Wed. Bible Study



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Rev. Dr. Peter Stiller, Pastor

Telephone: 813-634-1292 • Website: [sccredeemer.org](http://www.sccredeemer.org)

Worship Services on Sunday 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.

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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 • www.uuofsc.org

In all churches, individuals are better than their creeds.

— William Ellery Channing

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 Gibsonton, FL 33534

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 *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"

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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.

Dr. Samuel (Sam) A. Roach, Pastor

UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH - United Church of Christ

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A Caring Church United in God's Love Serving Our Community

All Are Welcome!

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Welcome to the: South Hillsborough Church of Christ

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SERVICES: Sunday.....9:30 & 10:30 a.m.; 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

EVERETT TATE, MINISTER



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship: Blended 8:00 a.m.

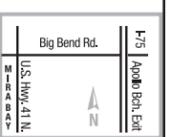
Contemporary 9:40 a.m.

Traditional 11:15 a.m.

Nursery Provided
 Pastor Jack R. Palzer

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Minister - DR. DAVID CAMPBELL

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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

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The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center
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<http://www.sccumc.com>

Come Belong Grow & Serve
 The United Methodist Church

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)

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 Bookstore 633-8595

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

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 Morning Worship.....8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.
 Evening Service.....6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday Night Service.....7:00 p.m.
 Awana7:00 p.m.

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 Sunday Morning Worship10:55 a.m.
 Sunday Evening Service.....6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday Evening Service7:00 p.m.
 Thursday Morning Prayer.....10:00 a.m.

Dan Collis, Pastor
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Sunday Service.....10:00 a.m.
 Sunday School10:00 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.standrewatssc.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 Friday8:00 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.

IN MEMORIAM
Phillip J. (P.J.) Combs
 March 24, 1986 - June 12, 2004
 Happy 26th Birthday
 Love always Mom, Travis and family.



Easter Sunrise Service planned

The sixth annual gathering for the Community Easter Sunrise Service will be held from 6:45 - 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 8 by the lake at the Rotary Camp Florida, 1915 Camp Florida Road, Brandon.

The service is being hosted by the Tampa Bay Area Emmaus Community.

Before the sun rises worshipers will rejoice in song, plunge into scriptures, and meditate. Participants should wear warm clothing for the chilly lake breezes and bring lawn chairs for seating.

For more information email info@fumcbrandon.org

New SouthShore Church gathering labeled successful

The Crossing Church of Tampa announces that a gathering held at Lennard High School the first Sunday of March was successful. "We wanted to see how the community would feel about expanding into the SouthShore area, and the turnout certainly proves it," said Campus Pastor Joey Adkins, a Ruskin resident. "We had 347 people turn out to hear what we had to say, and that's not even including the 47 children that came along."

"Despite very stormy weather this morning, we had a great showing. I always said we would be back here and now the time has come," said Pastor Dumas. "We're very grateful for all the volunteers and for Casper's local McDonald's who generously donated coffee and breakfast items to show their interest in the community."

The church has two services planned for Easter at Lennard High School, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. on April 8. For more information, email info@crossingonline.org, or call (813) 626-0783.

Men and Women's Bible Studies

Visit www.SouthBay.cc to register online and for more details.
 Childcare is available by reservation, call 677-0721.

MEN:
 Every Tuesday 7:00 p.m. Beginning March 13
"Every Man's Battle"

WOMEN:
 Tuesdays 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Beginning March 27 (6 week study)
"The Virtuous Woman: Shattering the Superwoman Myth" by Vicki Courtney. Workbook \$10.
 Tuesdays 7 p.m. Beginning March 27 **"Experiencing God"**

SOUTH BAY CHURCH Sunday Services: 9 & 11 a.m.
 13498 US 301 S. • Riverview, FL 33578 • 677-0721
www.southbay.cc • Pastor: David Speicher

Visit SouthBay.cc for details on Celebrate Recovery Training; Youth/Kids Summer Camp; much more

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EXP. 3/31/12



Previous performance of the South Shore Symphony Orchestra at Saint Anne Church.

Symphony Orchestra to perform at St. Anne Church

The South Shore Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Dr. Susan Bailey Robinson, will present its fourth concert of the 2011-2012 season at Saint Anne Catholic Church in Ruskin at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 23. The performance will include Academic Festival Overture by Brahms, Capriccio Espagnol by Rimsky-Korsakov, October by Whitacre, and Polovtsian Dances by Borodin.

Tickets are \$20 (\$10 for children ages 8 - 16 with proof of ID) and may be purchased at the Sun City Center, Ruskin, and Apollo Beach Chambers of Commerce or the Saint Anne Catholic Church Office. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$21.

Saint Anne Catholic Church is located at the intersection of US 41 and 11th Ave NE in Ruskin.

Men In Black Dinner-Dance

Several local Knights of Columbus councils will offer a dinner-dance to honor local Catholic clergy and to support vocations to the priesthood and religious life at 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 28 at Prince of Peace Church on the corner of S.R. 674 and Valley Forge Blvd. in Sun City Center. Main course choices: either ham or chicken cordon bleu plus pasta, salad and dessert. A variety of drinks will be available. The cost is \$20 per person, semi-formal dress requested. Tickets on sale in the St. Anne church office or call Mike Sutko 813-672-3201.

Prince of Peace to host choral concert

The Prince of Peace Catholic and United Methodist Church of Sun City Center Churches are proud to present a joint choral concert on Sunday, April 1 at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary of the Methodist church located at 1210 Del Webb Blvd. West. Conducted by Jeff Jordan, Minister of Worship Arts at SCCUMC, and accompanied by Keith Rasmussen, Coordinator of Music and Organist at POPCC, the concert will feature Dubois' Seven Last Words of Christ, perhaps the most well-known and oft-performed Holy week choral masterwork. The chorus of approximately 80 will be joined by local soloists, Patrice Rasmussen (soprano), Dan Dunn (tenor) and Paul Barrientos (baritone), each of whom are active professional soloists. Mr. Rasmussen will also be performing Robert Elmore's contemporary work Pavane and Louis Vierne's Carillon de Westminster at the Rodgers pipe organ. The audience will also be invited to sing several season appropriate hymns. This concert is the first of several planned joint presentations by the two churches.

The churches are anticipating a large turnout for this event, so concert-goers are encouraged to come early for the best seats. For more information call Jeff Jordan at 813-634-2539.

See the current issues of **The Observer News**, as well as past issues, classified advertising, advertising information, and much more!
www.ObserverNews.net



From left to right: Chris and Jim Davis, Senior Pastor Dr. Ron Churchill, and Ron and Sarina Watts.

Trinity Baptist ordains new Deacons

Trinity Baptist Church, in Sun City Center, recently ordained James Davis and Ronald Watts as Deacons. They, along with the other deacons, assist the pastors in watching over the spiritual and missionary interests of the church. They also assist in the observance of the Lord's Supper and minister to the sick and needy of the church. For more information about the church call 634-4228.



John Wilbur, (L), Senior Gifts Officer for Chapters Health System, is shown receiving checks from Jim Butner, Worship Leader for NCWS (Nondenominational Christian Worship Services) totaling \$1785.

NCWS Exceeds Pledge Goal

NCWS pledged \$1000 a year for the next 5 years. Butner said, "I'm so thankful that our attendees see the importance of donating to local non-profit organizations that provide such valuable services to the community. LifePath Hospice of SCC completely fits that criteria. We were delighted to donate our February love offerings to LifePath AND to have exceeded our pledge goal by \$785." Call Jim Butner at 634-3114 for additional information regarding NCWS.

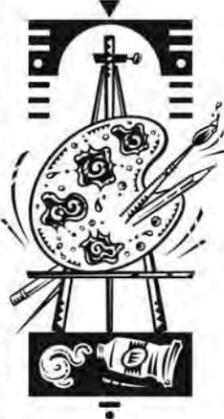
Local artists showcase their work

Local artists of Sun City Center will showcase their distinctive drawings and paintings from 1 to 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 25 at the 'All Paths to God' Church, following their Sunday service from 11 a.m. to noon. The church service, led by Reverend Sue Meixner, will be held at the SCC Chamber of Commerce, located at 1651 Sun City Center Plaza.

Participating artists will be Michael McGoldrick, Shirley Patterson, Gail Poe, and Rose Neltlett.

Join them at the 11 a.m. service and enjoy the art and refreshments afterwards. A portion of the art sales will be donated to 'All Paths to God' Church.

For more information, call Shirley Patterson at (813) 633-0909 or (941) 228-5158.



USF Chamber Singers come to Sun City Center.

USF Chamber Singers to be in concert

The University of South Florida Chamber Singers, directed by Dr. James Bass, will present a concert of secular and sacred selections at 3 p.m. on Sunday, April 1 at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 1239 Del Webb Blvd. West, Sun City Center.

This special program will be St. Andrew's final presentation of the Fine Art Concert Series for 2011-2012. Tickets 'at the door' are \$9. Season tickets and the concert schedule for 2012-2013 will be available at the concert and also at the church office at (813) 634-1252.

The Fine Arts Concert Series Committee at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church would like to sincerely thank everyone who has supported the Fine Arts Concert Series this year and looks forward to a marvelous and exciting 2012-2013 season of wonderful music.

Learn about 'Sew Much Comfort'

On Thursday, March 22 the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of SCC, is proud to present Bonnie Wine, the Florida Regional Director of Sew Much Comfort. Sew Much Comfort is a nationally recognized non-profit organization which provides adaptive clothing to support the unique needs of our wounded service members from all branches of the military and national guard. SMC hopes to aid in recovery and provide an added measure of comfort and dignity as they recover from their injuries and return to everyday life. The clothing sewn is simple construction with side seams fastened with a velcro closure system. All garments are designed to be completely opened on either right side, left side or both sides (double). This clothing gives medical personnel and service members the ability to have ready access to their injuries utilizing the adaptive openings in our clothing. Last year, Sew Much Comfort provided over 16,000 pieces of adaptive clothing— notably T-shirts, athletic shorts and boxers. That brought the total to more than 111,000 pieces since the organization began in 2004. About 98% of donations received by Sew Much Comfort are spent to produce and ship the adaptive clothing. It has earned the "Best in

America" designation by Independent Charities of America. Letters of appreciation received by SMC are often poignant. Having "real" clothes to replace a hospital gown is a great boost to the morale of a recovering veteran. Volunteers remain the driving force behind SMC's success. Their continued dedication and effort in producing and delivering adaptive clothing enables them to continue to accomplish their mission. The need for adaptive clothing continues to grow as American military members continue to be injured serving in current conflicts. The adapted clothing allows injured service members to have their clothing appear the same as normal civilian attire; an attribute which helps facilitate a more natural and comfortable recovery.

Come and join us for coffee and conversation 7 p.m., in the Social Hall at 1115 Del Webb Blvd. East, Sun City Center. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. Visitors are welcome. For more information call 813-633-2349

On Thursday, March 29 the Annual Meeting and Election of Fellowship Officers will take place. Meeting starts at 6 p.m. with written reports and oral presentations. Regular programming resumes in April.

PET TIP: A swelling under your dog's or cat's eye may not be an eye problem at all. An abscessed tooth can cause swelling below the eye.

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A Mitzvah for everyone

"It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no [person] can seriously help another without helping [themselves]."

—Charles Dudley Warner, 1873

Mitzvah Day is once again here. April 22 is a day designed to enrich our obligations to help others. Members of the temple of all ages will be able to take part in this annual event, as well as members of the community who wish to help. This is a great bonding experience for the whole family. All will get together at the temple at 9 a.m., where a send-off breakfast will be available. Afterwards groups will be formed for the various projects which are being planned for late morning and afternoon. More information will be available in the temple lobby. You will be able to sign up for the project in which you would like to help. They have had great turnouts during the last several years and fully expect that the numbers will be increased this year.

The following projects are those which are available as of this date:

A Kid's Place, Hillsborough County Foster Family Association, Walking the greyhound dog, Emeritus Assisted Living Facility— singing with the residents and members of the choir, Delaney Senior Lodge— help the residents to play BINGO, Scarves for the homeless, Sunday is also earth day an activity is planned, and a Blood Drive.

For more information call Phyllis Newman, Social Action chair—813-671-1707 or phyll-new@verizon.net

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."
John 15:12-13

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813-645-7653
2212 E. College Ave. • Ruskin (S.R. 674)
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.



February Perseverance Students at Collins Elementary recognized

February Perseverance Students at Collins Elementary sponsored by MiMi's Café, McDonalds, and Ruby Tuesdays were: Armaree Armstrong, Christian Salazar, Brianna Beals, Deshawn Sanders, Melia Butler, Sierra Shumake, Marcelina Cadrecha, Austin Sides, Olivia Cadrecha, Rebecka Smith, Christopher Carter, Denise Torres, Mia Cervetti, Dalilah Villegas, Breanne Christiansen, Lindsey Westcott, Kumite Clavizzia, Anthony Williams, Devin Cooper, Shane Williams, Ariyanna Debriz, Carter Wingo, Kierstin Doll, Karenah Dupree, Idalys Echevarria, Kristina Elliott, Alannyz Esquillin, Junia Ferguson, Nick Fleck, Kayla Garcia, Jonah Gonzalez, Alex Grinion, Victoria Harris, Emely Hernandez, Michael Honarvar, Morgan Hussey, Nazaru Jahmai, Sherman Johnson, Kaitlyn Jorden, Jesse Lambert, Jon Langlois, Anthony Lee, Payton Madill, Christina Martinez, Eddie Martinez, Alexis Mitchell, Hailie Morandi, Jason Muse, Kazembe Myrie, Christian Ocasio, Jocelyne Patterson, Ethan Reyes, and Olivia Reynolds,

AARP safe driver classes offered

AARP safe driver classes will be offered:

Saturday, April 14 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Kings Point S. Social Room, Main Clubhouse.

Thursday, April 26 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Caper Room.

To register for a class, call (813) 634-8001.

Search the archives of The Observer News to catch up on your favorite writers work. While you're there,



check our deadlines, browse the photo gallery or submit your press release.

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ObserverNews.net



Sun City China Club Members from left to right are: Martha Klos, Peg Kenny, Marion Stephens, and Diana Young.

Sun City China Club makes impression at State Fair

Four Sun City China Club Members won ribbons at the 2012 State Fair in the porcelain painting category. Martha Klos won many ribbons including Best of Show. Peg Kenny, Marion Stephens and Diana Young represented Sun City Center well at the State Fair this year in their respective categories. Displayed in the picture are all the hand-painted china pieces which won ribbons. The winning pieces are in the display window of the China Club on Cherry Hills Dr.

New Cardiovascular disease treatment approved

Can the painless, non-invasive EECF therapy replace most of the drugs and surgical procedures currently used to treat cardiovascular disease?

FDA-cleared treatment gently squeezes patient's legs to open narrowed arteries and create new blood pathways to the heart – 35 one-hour sessions enable most individuals diagnosed with angina and heart failure to live active, healthy and pain-free lives

A painless, non-invasive medical procedure for treating heart disease called EECF therapy (Enhanced External Counterpulsation) has been cleared by the FDA and is now being used on heart patients in leading hospitals and medical centers around the country including the Mayo Clinic, Duke University Medical Center, Cleveland Clinic, University of California at San Diego, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and the Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia.

The painless treatment, done on an outpatient basis, has the patient recline on a padded table while three sets of inflatable cuffs are wrapped around his calves, thighs and buttocks. Triggered by a computer program wired to ECG sensors monitoring the patient's heartbeat, the cuffs are inflated with air during the heart's resting phase (diastole), gently squeezing the lower body and pumping extra blood throughout the body, especially to the heart and coronary arteries. The cuffs are deflated during the heart's pumping phase (systole), thereby significantly reducing the heart's workload.

"After having been applied successfully to several thousand patients, EECF treatment had been cleared by the FDA for the treatment of stable and unstable angina, cardiogenic shock, congestive heart failure and acute myocardial infarction (heart attack)," says Dr. Ozlem Soran, Associate Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at the University of Pittsburgh.

EECF creates additional blood flow through the arteries, which stimulates the endothelial cells lining the vessels, improving arterial health and actually reversing arterial inflammation, constriction and hardening of the arteries associated with cardiovascular disease.

EECF is covered by Medicare and private insurers

For those wanting more information about EECF therapy, Dr. Soran suggests the book "Heal Your Heart with EECF" by Dr. Debra Braverman.

EECF patient and physician testimonials are available at www.eecp.com.

Team Terrell's
Sunday Tour of Homes

You can view up to 6 homes on Sunday, March 25th In Sun City Center

1 TIME 1:00-1:20	2 TIME 1:30-1:45	3 TIME 1:55-2:10
634 Oakmont Avenue * 2 bed, 2 baths, 1 car carport * No HOA fees * Updated GE appliances * Well-maintained home \$79,900	1004 Bluewater Dr. * 2 bed, 2 bath, 2 car garage * Duplex * Twintree Model * Great waterfront view \$125,000	424 Smithfield Lane * 2 bed, 2 baths, 2 car garage * SHORT SALE * Woodgrain-look ceramic tile * Lots of upgrades \$92,000
4 TIME 2:20-2:35	5 TIME 2:45-3:00	6 TIME 3:10-3:25
303 S. Pebble Beach Blvd. * 2 bed, 2 baths, 2 car garage * Waterfront with a dock * FABULOUS view * "Cushy" carpeting \$179,900	2218 New Bedford Drive * 3 bed, 2 baths, 2 car garage * Great golf course view * Large open rooms * In Wedgewood III comm. \$239,000	1811 S. Pebble Beach Blvd. * 3 bed, 2 baths, 2 car garage * Angled walls * Golf course and water view * ON CUL-DE-SAC \$190,000

The **Sunday Tour of Homes** is a great way to preview homes in your price range without any pressure or hassle. Meet us at any home on the tour at the time stated. Don't be late, because there will be other buyers on the tour, so **times are exact**. A second private showing can easily be scheduled for you. *See you this Sunday!*

Century 21 BEGGINS ENTERPRISES
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<http://www.teamterrellproperties.com> to register

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Historians live-tweet a century-old tragedy

By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
mitch@observernews.net

On April 15, 1912, the pride of the White Star Line, the RMS Titanic, struck an iceberg and sunk in the North Atlantic in a tragedy that claimed the lives of 1,517 people. Now, a century later, historians from The History Press, a UK publisher, are live-tweeting the life and death of the storied ship — live-tweeting plus 100 years, that is.

#captain Sea trials commence in just 18 days, that day simply cannot come soon enough.
@TitanicRealTime via Twitter

Nearly 38,000 people are following the Twitter stream, @TitanicRealTime. The tweets sometimes include actual photographs involving the final finishing of the ship, including the enormous anchor that was fitted.

#crew In the case of emergency Titanic keeps suitable lifeboats. I've tried out the 25ft emergency cutter myself.
@TitanicRealTime via Twitter

The tweets will continue to focus on construction and outfitting until the April 10 launch of the ship. From there, historians will tweet what they describe as accurate accounts from the captain, crew and passengers from the beginning of the maiden voyage to the disaster itself.

Although it may appear morbid on the surface, many followers have hailed the tweets as a way to illustrate a historically significant event from the eyes of the past to those of this high-tech, modern

era. It provides a means for people to experience in real time some of what it was like, from the excitement of seeing a majestic ship take shape and launch to the nearly indescribable heartbreak of witnessing the loss of life as she sank into the cold waters of the North Atlantic.

TheHistoryPresshasalso released an iPad app to commemorate the 100th anniversary. The publisher has dubbed the app "the definitive interactive Titanic experience."

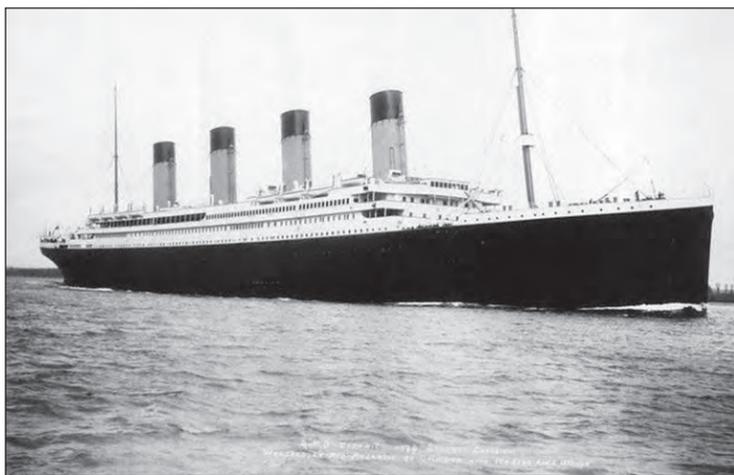
#photographer Just taken a picture of the public walking the

deck, I am sure they will want some lasting memories.

@TitanicRealTime via Twitter

Lasting memories, indeed. Through the tweets from historians at The History Press, the memories remain alive even with the passing of 100 years.

To follow the live-tweeting of the Titanic, search for @TitanicRealTime in Twitter or visit The Observer News at www.observernews.net for a link. For more about The History Press and books on the Titanic, visit www.thehistorypress.co.uk.



Historians from The History Press are offering the world a new way to learn by live tweeting the century old story of the RMS Titanic, from the construction to the tragedy that claimed 1,517 lives.



Pebble Beach Club Champion Bob Ferguson.

It was a Battle of the Titans

Well perhaps not Titans, but the word aptly sums up the Lawn Bowling Pebble Beach Men's singles finalists.

The stage was set as Bob Ferguson, an established lawn bowler with many championship titles under his belt, took on Joe Mignogna who is relatively new to the sport.

On Feb. 27 the match was played in front of dozens of spectators; all other games scheduled for that afternoon had been cancelled so that everyone could watch.

Mignogna led the earlier stages of the match, after that is was very even, and the standard of bowling was very high. The game continued through a rain shower, the lawn bowlers did not allow it to deter. The eventual winner and Pebble Beach Club Champion was Bob Ferguson.

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PHOTOS BY
WARREN RESEN

Venetian Hotel at night.



Canal and gondola inside hotel.



Palazzo lobby



Trips worth taking

■ By WARREN RESEN,
International Food, Wine & Travel
Writers Association

Despite a recent promise to myself to forego the dubious pleasure of flying commercial airlines and the indignities to which air travelers are subjected these days, there I was seated in sardine class of an over-booked plane awaiting takeoff on my way to a conference in Las Vegas. However this trip turned out to be quite a different experience from my last visit when I was booked into more economical hotel accommodations.

Las Vegas had changed since my last visit many years ago but the glitz, glitter and neon lights that give this city its unique appearance and appeal were still there as were the street hawkers and shills, but in greater numbers than I remembered. The crowds at the airport and in the streets of Las Vegas gave lie to the headlines about financial problems in this country and the rest of the world. Hotels on "The Strip," with their unique exteriors beckon visitors, promising a memorable once-in-a-life time experience. But once inside many of the hotels, be they top end or moderately priced properties, the slots, poker and craps tables and roulette wheels are in your face.

Gaming is pervasive. It's unavoidable. But isn't that why most people supposedly come to Vegas? The shows and restaurants offer a bewildering choice of options for visitors but are certainly not the bargains they were in days past. People who just want to gamble can stay close to home and visit their local Native American casino. But visitors continue flocking to Las Vegas just because it is Las Vegas and has a mystique all its own.

Headquarters for my conference was the Palazzo Hotel, side-by-side and attached like a Siamese twin by a series of connecting passageways with the Venetian Hotel. These two hotels have

the same owner but are quite different in design. They share common amenities but offer guests differing atmospheres and a unique Las Vegas Experience.

While most properties on the strip bombard guests with their gaming operations as soon as they enter the lobby, the Palazzo and Venetian have a more subtle approach. Yes, both hotels have major casinos but they are not visible at check-in.

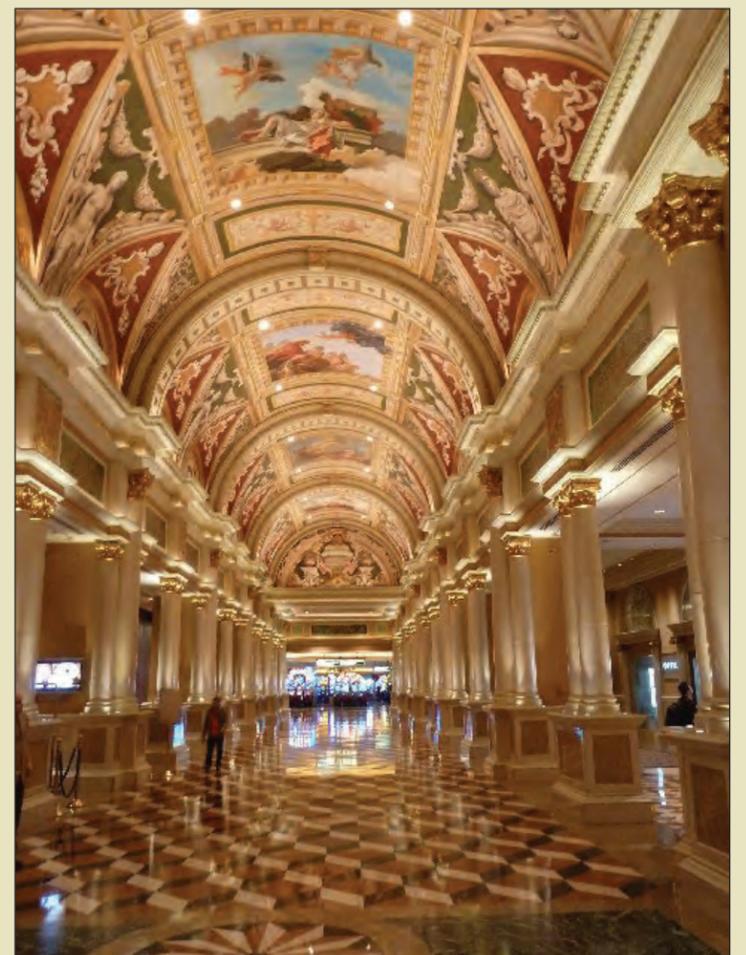
The Venetian and Palazzo hotels bill themselves as resort/casino destinations catering to conventions and conferences, and they live up to their promise. Though offering in excess of 2.3 million sq. ft. of meeting facilities, they are an oasis of calm in the heart of the glitz. You can spend days inside and never have to leave the properties

except to see shows at other hotels and view the nighttime Las Vegas neon glitter

These fraternal twins of Las Vegas are unlike anything else on the strip. The Palazzo's sweeping grand entryway is set back from busy Las Vegas Blvd. effectively putting space between it and the crowded street outside. The Venetian's entrance is reached after crossing the canals of Venice.

Covering 153 acres, they are built on the site where once the famous Sands Hotel held the Las Vegas spotlight. They offer more than 7,000 rooms between them. Even the smallest elegantly furnished suite is nearly twice the size of the average Las Vegas hotel room. They were fully booked the days

See LAS VEGAS, page 6B





Walking tour participants wait to visit the Palmetto Riverside Bed and Breakfast on a recent Palmetto Heritage Days walking tour.

Historic Walking Tour of Palmetto

The Palmetto Historical Park and Manatee County Agricultural Museum are hosting a walking tour of historic Palmetto on Wednesday, April 4 beginning at 10:00 a.m.

The tour leaves from the historical park at 515 10th Ave. West, Palmetto. This walk, approximately two hours long, will highlight some of the historic buildings in downtown and along the riverfront in Palmetto. It includes a tour of the Palmetto Riverside Bed and Breakfast, which was a Sears and Roebuck house, built by the town founder's son, J. A. Lamb. Wear comfortable shoes! The tour is free but reservations are needed as space is limited. Call 941-721-2034.

SouthShore Regional Library

15816 Beth Shields Way • Ruskin 33573
Adult Program/Event Highlights • March 22-28

Blogging: An Introduction Thursday, March 22 12:15 to 2:30 p.m.

Learn what a Blog is and how to create one. Learn to update your blog with articles and pictures. A valid e-mail address is required. Registration for this program is available when the library opens at noon.

Used Book Sale Saturday, March 24 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library Are Having a Used Book Sale! A Buk-a-Bag Used Book Sale will be held in the Library Community Room. Fill a plastic grocery bag with fiction, non-fiction and paperback books for only \$1. All hardcover books and paperbacks in the Book Sale Room will be half-priced. A table of special books will be priced from \$2 and up. You won't want to miss this Sale. Arrive early for the best selection!

Internet: Viruses, Spyware, Phishing Scams & More! Tuesday, March 27 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.

Intro to Genealogy Tuesday, March 27 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Learn about the types of records that are available for genealogical research and where to find them using the Library's resources in this beginner's class.

Email Attachments Wednesday, March 28 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.

Learn about sending and receiving attachments in your e-mail.

An existing e-mail address is required. Registration in person required when the Library opens at 10 a.m.

Deaf and Hearing Connection Telephone Distribution Wednesday, March 28 1 to 3 p.m.

Presented by Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. (FTRI). FTRI provides free specialized equipment and training to qualified Florida residents who are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired. The equipment enables them to place and receive phone calls.

SouthShore Needle People Wednesday, March 28 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!

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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 or call (813) 645-2273.



Scoppy

Scoppy is a very friendly boy who is partially gray with a lot of white who would like to find a forever home. He was brought in to the shelter quite suddenly and is adapting well even tho' he is a newcomer. Scoppy is a very sweet disposition cat. He was named by one of our volunteers after a kaleidoscope. Scoppy has been neutered and brought up-to-date on his shots and as part of his adoption will be micro chipped.

Est. DOB: 5/02/2011



Sweet Pea

Sweet Pea is a darling Dachs-hund mix who was found as a stray. She is affectionate and happy. She loves her squeaky toys and walks fine on a leash. She seems to like other dogs, as well. This little lady is a joy to be around! She would make a great companion for someone who needs some love and fun in their life. As part of her adoption, Sweet Pea will be spayed, microchipped, and brought current on her shots.

DOB: August 2, 2011

Are you a Burns and Allen fan?

Can you talk like a duck? You know, like 'Donald'?

Can you sing like George Burns or sound and act delightfully ditz, like Gracie Allen?

Do you sing 1940s songs like any of the era's top singers?

Are you interested in performing on stage at the Kings Point Borini Theater as one of the many characters who populated the Burns and Allen show on radio and TV?

If so, the Pelican Players may have the right part for you! Auditions for an original Pelican Players production, Burns and Allen, Together Again, written and directed by Ed Brown, will be held Wednesday, April 4, at 7 p.m. in Dressing Room 3 (Kings Point Clubhouse), and on Saturday, April 7, at 1 p.m., also in Dressing Room 3.

The show will be performed Nov. 9 and 10 at the Borini, with rehearsals starting in September.

For more information, call Rose at 813-633-1753, or visit www.pelicanplayers.org.



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FISH TALES

'Slow please, manatees in motion'

Since the Gulf oil spill, some restaurants are listing on their menu not only the kind of fish that they serve, but where it was caught. Some go as far as to list the website of the captain who made the catch.

I guess this is for those who are not eating fish, because they think they are still contaminated from the oil spill. This electronic age not only tells you where the fish are before you catch them, but also tells you where they come from before you eat them.



Fish Tales
By Jonie Maschek

summer weather for weeks. Our mild summer-like days, instead of winter weather, have made our largemouth bass very active and the bass anglers are having the time of their lives making daily catches in our area. They are not traveling to the east coast or to lakes far away, but are making catches in the upper fresh water of the Little Manatee and Alafia Rivers and some private local lakes.

I have seen lots of tripletail catches the past week. Some may call this fish sunfish. Average weight is 5 pounds. They prefer shady spots where the water is cooler and are often found around wrecks. They like shrimp or crabs, and are caught by still fishing. This is an edible fish. Legal size is 15" with two per harvest per day.

Redfish have invaded the flats in schools. This is a restricted catch, with one per person per day not less than 18" or more than 27". An excellent food value baked, stuffed with crab meat, broiled, or fried.

Cobia are on the run across our bay waters. They are schooling alongside the stingrays. They are probably chasing the rays for an

easy meal. Be sure you have a 20 to 50 pound test line if you cast into these schools. Cobia will give you a fight before you boat them. Legal size is 33" with one per harvest per day.

Some anglers live for kingfish season, and now it is in full swing. Catches were made in the deeper waters as well as in channel waters. They are part of the mackerel family. A great food fish, they migrate through our area, on their way south. Fish for them while they are here.

Don't overlook the Spanish mackerel, as they are here in mass. Legal size is 12" with 15 per harvest per day.

All of the fish in our waterways are hungry. We have so many different fish out there, it is hard to decide which to fish for. Do you use a light pole or a heavy pole, or lightweight line or heavy? Best you take more than one pole, so you're ready for either a large or small catch.

Sheepshead are a great catch for those fishing from piers or bridges. It is a white lean meat fish with a great food value. They are often called a convict fish because they are white with black stripes.

Our waterways are heavy with boat traffic. Drive with caution and be kind to our visitors.

Watch the weather and fish together.

Aleta Jonie Maschek is a member of Florida Outdoor Press.



Dick Tschida of Apollo Beach and his dazzling red '55 T-Bird. This '55 T-Bird is a Keeper

Dick Tschida of Apollo Beach has a thing for Thunderbirds. His latest acquisition, a dazzling red '55, is the March cruiser of the month for the Sun City Center Roamin' Oldies.

A long-time collector car enthusiast, Dick has owned four Thunderbirds. When a shoulder injury last year made manual shifting a painful chore, Dick said, "I called my friend Amos Minter down in Texas and told him I needed a nice T-Bird with an automatic." Minter, a top-tier Thunderbird restorer, showed him the red '55 with an automatic transmission, power steering and brakes, and a trade was made. "It's a really nice car," Dick said. "I think this one's the keeper."

The monthly Roamin' Oldies cruise-in is held from 6 to 9 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month in the Apollo Beach Winn-Dixie Plaza on U.S. 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.

Manatee RV park to host dance

The public is invited to socialize at the next dance hosted by the Manatee RV Park from 7-10 p.m. on Sunday, March 24. Ice will be provided BYOB the cost is \$4

For more information call 813-649-9150.

Online financial management webinars offered

In these tough economic times, we need good ideas in financial management. Hillsborough County Extension Service invites you to participate in two free online financial classes:

1. Four Steps to Building or Rebuilding Good Credit

Learn a four step process that can be used to build good credit.

When: March 22, 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Register at: <http://bit.ly/rWkuhx>
Cost: Free

2. Shopping for Loans

Learn how to evaluate loan terms and get the best deal possible when borrowing money.

When: April 26, 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Register at: <http://bit.ly/w1BjR7>
Cost: Free

For more information call Lisa Leslie at (813) 744-5519 x54143 or lesliel@hillsboroughcounty.org.



Noticed many signs on the waterways in regard to our friend, the manatee. They read, 'Slow please, manatees in motion.' Obey posted speed laws; use a pole or paddle in heavy manatee traffic. There are an abundance of manatees in our waterways now, as we have had

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RUSKIN Moose Lodge #813 UPCOMING EVENTS

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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, 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
Friday, April 6	7-11 p.m.	Bert and Sassie
Saturday, April 7	7-11 p.m.	Beach Monkeys
Friday, April 13	7-11 p.m.	Southern Tied
Saturday, April 14	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim Mullins
Friday, April 20	7-11 p.m.	Red Neck Band
Saturday, April 21	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim Mullins
Friday, April 2	7-11 p.m.	Caribbean Cowboys
Saturday, April 28	7-11 p.m.	Karaoke with Kim Mullins

All events are open to qualified Moose members and guests

Calling all Poets

The Brandon Poets and Artists Guild invites all poets to join them the second Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble, Rte 60 (Brandon Blvd), one block east of I-75 at 122 Brandon Town Center on the right. Poets read their verses to a non-critical and receptive group, in a cozy, safe environment. Poets range from 'tweens to nonagenarians and everyone is welcome including those who just come to listen or aspiring poets who want to learn.

Poets come from Sun City Center, Riverview and Apollo Beach, as well as locations in Tampa and Brandon. For more information call Sue Morris at 813-689-1085.

Foundation receives national accreditation

The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay recently received notification that it has met the nation's highest philanthropic standards for operational quality, integrity and accountability. The notice comes from the Community Foundation's National Standards Board, a national accreditation organization based in Arlington, VA.

"This is similar to the Good Housekeeping Seal for community foundations," said Diane Miller, Manager, Community Foundations National Standards Board. "It says that the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay has demonstrated a commitment to operational quality, integrity and accountability."

The National Standards for U.S. Community Foundation's program requires community foundations to document their policies for donor services, investments, grantmaking and administration. With over 200 community foundations already confirmed in compliance nationwide, the program is designed to provide quality assurance to donors, as well as to their legal and financial advisors.

"This is critically important to our donors," said Gene Marshall, Board of Trustees Chair. "When people make a charitable bequest, establish a fund or set up an annuity, they are putting their trust in us. They are counting on us to manage the investment wisely, honor their charitable wishes and, in some cases, provide lifetime income to a loved one. The National Standards confirmation says our house is in order."

The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay offers a range of charitable funds, allowing donors to advance a cause such as education or the environment, support an individual organization, provide flexible support for community needs or recommend individual grants. In addition to affirming the organization's philanthropic services, the confirmation validates the Community Foundation's grantmaking practices for the non-profit community.

The National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations program is the first of its kind for charitable foundations in the United States.

About the Community Foundation of Tampa Bay

The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay was established in 1990 to build a better community through creative philanthropy, vision, and leadership. It is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization which administers funds established by individuals, corporations, private foundations and nonprofit organizations to support the charitable needs of the Tampa Bay area.

The work of the Foundation is enhanced through its divisions in Greater Sun City Center, Pasco County, Greater St. Petersburg, and Hernando County. The Foundation currently administers approximately \$150 million in assets, placing it in the top 100 of more than 700 community foundations nationwide.

The Community Foundations National Standards Board is a supporting organization of the Council on Foundations that administers and advances National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations by ensuring the integrity of the accreditation process and building the value of compliance. Visit www.cfstandards.org for more information about the program and organization.

Neighborhoods Conference planned

Don't Miss The Annual Hillsborough County Neighborhoods Conference from 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 24 at Hillsborough Community College, Dale Mabry Campus 4001 Tampa Bay Blvd. in Tampa

The cost for advanced registration is \$15 or \$20 at the door

The Ninth Annual Neighborhoods Conference scheduled for March 24 will bring together hundreds of neighborhood leaders and homeowners looking for ways to help make their communities safer, friendlier, prettier and more united. The Conference will be held from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Hillsborough Community College, Dale Mabry Campus, 4001 Tampa Bay Blvd. in Tampa.

This year, the Conference will offer 24 one-hour workshops including:

- Painting your home inside and out
- Building an outdoor garden
- Identity theft
- Safety and security inside a gated community
- Fire safety in your home
- Keeping your neighborhood informed through social media
- Making your Neighborhood Crime Watch program successful

Conference-goers can register early until March 22 for \$15. Registration at the door on the day of the event is \$20. The registration fee includes an official Conference tote bag, a continental breakfast, admission to the workshops,

access to Conference exhibits, and the awards luncheon. The 2012 Neighborhood Recognition Awards will be given at 1 p.m. at the luncheon.

Lowry Park Zoo will be giving away prizes, and conference-goers will have a chance to win a \$1,500 landscaping package for their subdivision from LMP Landscaping.

Pre-register for the Conference at the Neighborhood Relations website at www.hillsboroughcounty.org/onr or by calling the Hillsborough County Office of Neighborhood Relations at 813-307-3564.

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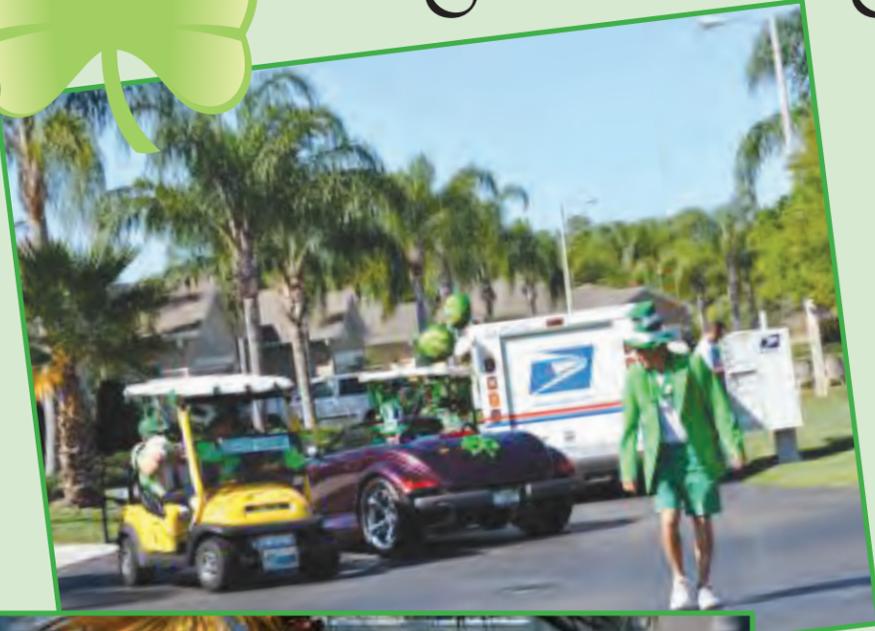
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Kings Point goes green!

Kings Point celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a Golf Cart Parade March 17. It was great weather for the 25+ cart procession. Each entry was brightly decorated and certainly in the spirit of the day.



DINE WITH THE DOCTOR



Treatments for Knee Arthritis

Presented by
Dr. Robert Maddalon,
Orthopedic Surgeon

If you are suffering from knee pain, come learn if knee arthritis is the cause and find out what you can do about it.

April 17th, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
South Bay Hospital Medical Auditorium
1901 Haverford Plaza, Suite 106, Sun City Center.
(Behind South Bay Hospital)



The Latest in Joint Replacement

Presented by
Dr. John Okun,
Orthopedic Surgeon

As we age, it is common to suffer from joint pain. Learn about the latest in surgical interventions and treatment options.

April 27th, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
South Bay Hospital Medical Auditorium
1901 Haverford Plaza, Suite 106, Sun City Center.
(Behind South Bay Hospital)

Free meal and giveaways provided to all attendees. To register for the seminars, call 1-888-685-1595.



Continued from page 1B

I was there. Inside is a veritable self-contained city with more than 30 top-of-the-line restaurants plus lounges and coffee shops located throughout the first three stories of the hotels. Three



Palazzo front desk lobby.

on-premises theatres present Broadway quality entertainment. Their world famous Canyon Ranch SpaClub at 134,000 square feet features every conceivable luxury expected of a high end spa including an unexpected 40 foot rock climbing wall.

Shopping, even just window shopping, the world's most exclusive luxury shops is a delight. The flagship Barneys New York department store at 85,000 square feet seems to go on forever. Everything is accessible to guests of both hotels who never have to venture outside.

Some of the older, formerly state of the art properties in Las Vegas are showing their age. The grandeur of the Venetian and Palazzo Hotels rival that of many of the grand hotels in Europe with their architecture, soaring marbled entrances, extensive art collections and attentive staffs.

The Venetian's canals, authentic gondolas and recreations of some of the most famous sights of the almost mythical of Venice, Italy, are truly a sight to behold. Its magnificent lobby rivals that of any of the famous hotels of Europe. The adjoining Palazzo nicely counter balances the grandeur of its partner with an elegantly tasteful soaring lobby, waterfalls and seasonal greenery. They easily surpass the older Las Vegas properties in the size of the suites and their amenities.

Convention facilities are located between the hotels and are easily gained access through connecting passages. Because of the layout, guests are not inconvenienced by the proceedings going on in any of the meeting rooms and exhibit

halls.

Restaurants and shops are everywhere adding excitement and convenience to any guest's casual stroll. This is not a staid, boring hotel environment.

The Palazzo and Venetian are rated in the list of the top 25 hotels in the Continental U.S. Staying here, dining in one or more of the highly rated restaurants featuring top chefs from around the world, seeing spectacular entertainment and enjoying its world-renowned spa is something you will remember

for a long time. These hotels are a destination by themselves inside the destination city of Las Vegas.

Rates are variable so check the hotels and booking agencies for special deals. Vans run frequently from the nearby airport to all Las Vegas properties with fares in the \$6 - \$7 range per person.

Go to the individual web pages for Las Vegas, Venetian, and Palazzo Hotels. There's a wealth of information available. Enjoy your trip and GOOD LUCK!



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MERCHANDISE 300

310 GARAGE/YARD SALE

Almost New Thrift Store. 10008 Indiana St., Gibsonton (1 block off US 41, 1 block north Gibsonton Dr.) Wednesday through Saturday, 9am-3pm. Clothing, furniture, lots misc. Ministry First Baptist Gibsonton. 813-671-0036 to donate

Garage sale. Friday 25, 1014 Augusta Dr., SCC. Furniture, TV, washer, glassware, women clothing, sport coats & suits & much more.

March Madness

Jewelry, vintage collectibles, kitchen items, VCRs & DVDs movies, tall dining table w/ chairs. 1009 Rickenbacker Dr, SCC. neat Wal-Greens. Friday & Saturday, March 23 & 24, 8am-?

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Moving /estate sale. Furniture, dishes, antiques, clothes, collectibles, books, Jeep, etc. Everything must go. 8am-noon. Friday & Saturday, 2440 Del Webb Blvd., East. SCC.

Garage Indoor Estate Sale: Apollo Beach, 6446 Lake Sunrise Dr., Friday & Saturday, March 23 & 24, 8am-1pm. Gorgeous furniture, kitchenware, pillows, crafts, boating & office supplies, printers, telephones, landscape tools, designer clothes, pottery, glassware, hardware & many items new.

Big moving sale. Saturday, March 24, Sundance. 3131 Long Rifle Dr., 8am-2pm. Bedrooms, patio furniture, misc. nice wood furniture. 813-633-3294

1305 Cherry Hills, Dr., SCC. Friday & Saturday, 8am-1pm. Down sizing home Big sale, nice things. Good prices. Lamps, bedspreads, kitchen, glassware, bath, decorating things, shoes, purses & more.

Garage sale. Multi households. Friday 3/23 & Saturday 3/24, 9am-2pm. Opal Lane, SCC. Tables, jewelry, kitchen & collectibles.

Garage sale. Multi family, 2006 Gardenia landings, off W. Del Webb, SCC. Thursday & Friday, March 22 & 23, 8am-noon. Nice scooter, good stuff, great prices.

Yard Sale. Ruskin, Saturday 24th. Multi family. Clothing, housegoods, furniture, etc. 8am-? 2303 33rd St., SE.

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Garage sale. 1704 Coco Palm Circle, SCC. Friday, Saturday. 9am-3pm. King size bed, clothes, furniture & much more.

Saturday, 8:30am-1pm. 6523 Solitaire Palm Way, Apollo Beach. Collectibles, McCoy, Weller, Griswold, Haeger, Blue Delft, fishing gear, tools, lamps, quilt rack, CD player & more.

Saturday, March 24, 8am-2pm. 733 Winterbrooke Way, SCC. Nice nearly new things, Kitchenware, microwave, furniture, comfort sets, clothes, treadmill, linens.

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Garage sale. (moving) Tools, horse tack, furniture clothes household & misc. 6913 Waterbrook Ct., Gibsonton (Kings Lake) Friday & Saturday, 9am-3pm.

Garage sale: Friday & Saturday 3/23 & 3/24, 8-1. 372 Club Manor Dr., SCC. Kitchenware, tools, fishing equipment, household goods, much more good stuff.

Neighborhood Sale
St. George Condos
South at Pebble Beach, left at New Bedford. Friday, March 23 & Saturday, March 24, 8 a.m.-?

SCC 2010 W. Del Webb
Everything must go! March 23 & 24, 8 am.-4 pm. Lots of miscellaneous, new & old. Follow balloons. 813-842-9664

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• AFFORDABLE RESIDENTIAL LOT in Ruskin: A block from the river, in peaceful area of town, it will be the perfect spot for your new house. \$290,000.

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M.H. HOUSING 550

565 M.H. IN PARKS

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RENTALS 600

610 WATERFRONT RENTALS

The Dolphin House, 768 Gran Kaymen Way, Apollo Beach, efficiency apartments on water. Boat docking /fishing. Pool, laundry. \$185 weekly, plus \$300 deposit, utilities included. No pets. 813-850-5217, 813-863-6123

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Two bedroom \$165 weekly, plus security deposit. R & M Mobile Home Park in Gibsonton. 813-236-9207

Ruskin, 1br/1ba MH for rent in quiet setting, 1-2 people. No smoking, no pets, references needed. Weekly rent \$150 includes utilities, \$300 security deposit, 6 month minimum. Call 649-1599 8am-4pm.

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631 M.H. LOT RENTALS

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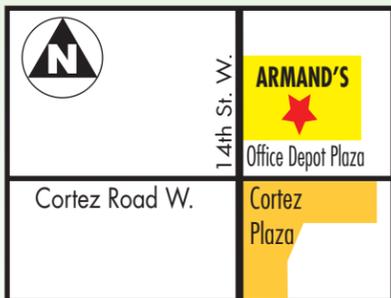


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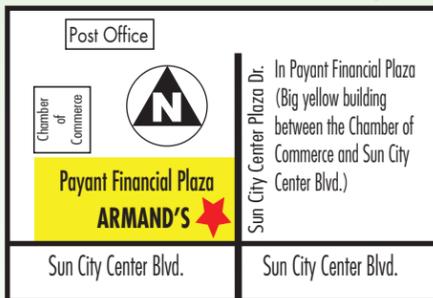
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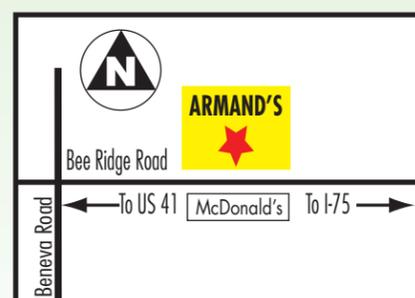
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