

**FCC announces school field trip programs**

- ▶ *Winter/Holiday Stories* Katie Adams Make-Believe Theatre
  - ▶ *Journey to Africa* Kuumba Dancers and Drummers
  - ▶ *Steel Drum Magic!* Hammerhead Steel Drums
- See page 2 for more information and dates



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# THE OBSERVER NEWS

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## Organizers plan for CareFest SouthShore



Volunteers at a recent day of *Somebody Cares Tampa Bay* helped paint, yard cleanup and home repairs according to their particular skills.

■ By PENNY FLETCHER  
penny@observernews.net

RUSKIN — Norman Blanton means it when he says he cares.

Blanton, who has been the pastor of the Ruskin Foursquare Church since May, worked to bring ‘Somebody Cares Tampa Bay’ to Plant City (as ‘Somebody Cares Plant City’) when he pastored a church there. Now he’s doing the same for residents of South County.

“We held the event there for six years,” Blanton said. “It was a real joy, not just for the people who received help, but for the volunteers as well.”

A native of Plant City, Blanton lives in Dover and now that he’s working in Ruskin, he’s organizing ‘CareFest 2012’ under the umbrella of ‘Somebody Cares Tampa Bay’ for this area on Saturday, September 29.

As the self-appointed area coordinator of the event, Blanton has gathered a core group of volunteers to identify people who need some sort of assistance with home repairs or cleanup; keep track of

See CAREFEST, page 3



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

The Tampa skyline, still fully intact after the RNC. While it might have been the butt of more than a few jokes, it turns out the Tampa Bay area is a pretty cool place after all.

## Welcome to Tampa Bay!

## Yes, the prison fences are gone

■ By Mitch Traphagen  
mitch@observernews.net

The normally quiet and relatively happy lives of Minnesotans were altered with tear gas canisters and mass arrests during the first week of September in 2008. Well over 10,000 protestors turned out for the Republican National Convention, held at Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul, and things got ugly. In addition to tear gas, law enforcement resorted to mass arrests, rounding up protestors and the journalists working to cover them alike.

Few people — from the Republican Party, to news organizations, the city, and law enforcement itself — were happy with the results.

Four years later, many were expecting the worst as the RNC came to Tampa. If normally peaceful and successful St. Paul could be so rocked, just think of what could happen in normally insane Florida? In the end, perhaps the insanity was part of the success.

Last week as candidates, party officials, thousands of delegates, guests, members of the media, and protestors left the city after the RNC drew to a close, nearly everyone had something complimentary to say about Tampa. Even the protestors were happy, perhaps even stunned, at how they were treated during the convention. As the *Tampa Bay Times* reported last week, upon hearing that some protestors were low on funds as well as on food, law enforcement officers visited their camp, dubbed Romneyville, with sandwiches and ice-cold bottles of water. One man told the newspaper that he had never experienced anything like that in 28 years of protesting political conventions.

In the end, there were no garbage dumpsters-turned-to-flaming-tanks (all the wheels were locked down), no obscene vandalism of city statues (they were boarded up), no defacing of buildings (most were fenced off with prison-quality fencing) and not a single tear gas canister

See TAMPA BAY IS INTACT, page 14

## Area volunteers report on changes for inmates moved from HCI

■ By PENNY FLETCHER  
penny@observernews.net

SOUTH COUNTY — While they were at Hillsborough Correctional Institution in Riverview, women inmates had access to many programs started and maintained by approximately 400 South County mentors and volunteers.

When the local prison was closed March 29, the inmates were transferred to Lowell Reception Center in Ocala. Since then, many South County volunteers have visited and received letters from those they formerly visited and mentored, while others who can’t drive the distance call each other and ask about these inmates’ new lives.

The reports are varied, depending on the experience of each particular inmate.

The Riverview facility was “Faith and Character Based,” which was a new premise at a women’s facility under the Florida Department of Corrections. It has been reported by both inmates and visitors that although staff at Lowell is trying to make adjustments to allow for dorms of “Faith and Character Based” inmates, many of them say their lives are just not

the same.

The general opinion of everyone interviewed, and also from the letters sent by inmates and one former inmate, now living in Tampa who spoke anonymously,

See RELOCATED HCI INMATES, page 7



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

### Riverview Chamber reaching out to businesses

2013 honorary mayor candidate Elijah Heath of Edward Jones poses with chamber director Tanya Doran and Deb Peters of DP Fitness & Wellness. More on page 12.



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Hammerhead Steel Drums

## Firehouse Cultural Center hosts school field trip programs

Public schools, private schools and home schools in south Hillsborough County have some great field trips in store for them this school year at the Firehouse Cultural Center. In cooperation with the Arts Council of Hillsborough County and Hillsborough County Public Schools, the Firehouse presents top-tier singers, dancers, drummers and storytellers in two shows per day – all with solid curriculum connections to what the kids learn at school.

In December, just in time for the season, Katie Adams, presents *Winter Holiday Stories*. A mesmerizing storyteller, Adams engages active audience participation and imparts a sense of being “right in the middle of things.” Her costumes, puppets, and colorful props are fascinating. In this show, Adams unwraps gifts to segue into three stories. The Little Snow Girl is a Russian version of Frosty the Snowman. The Magic Pomegranate is a Jewish adventure story about the true meaning of giving. The Shoemaker and the Elves, from old England, finds elves helping a poor shoemaker and his wife. Adams’s material includes character development as well as language arts, social studies and music.

Well known throughout Florida for their exciting performances, Kuumba Dancers and Drummers and a master storyteller take students on a fully participatory *Journey To Africa* in February. Some of the best African drumming around complements gorgeous costumes and highly accomplished dancers in this program of music, dance and storytelling from the four corners of Africa. Dance leader Natalie Jackson, lead drummer Myron Jackson, and storyteller Uwezo Sudan connect to language arts and social studies curricula, as well as music and dance.

The Hammerhead Steel Drums are popular regulars at Busch Gardens and Adventure Island. Hammerhead will bring Steel Drum Magic to the Firehouse in May. Great timing, Hammerhead! Testing is over; teachers are winding up the school year, and kids are looking forward to summer! Hammerhead’s leader Mark Jenkins loads his narrative with social studies and history. Hammerhead drummers are polished professionals with lots of pizzazz and contagious enthusiasm. Students and teachers alike respond with a thousand percent involvement.

The Firehouse Cultural Center, in its second year of operation, is a renovated facility with new restrooms and air-conditioned theater. With the comforts in place, the Center is ready to go for the school year 2012-13.

### Firehouse Cultural Center School Field Trip Programs

Winter Holiday Stories  
 Katie Adams Make-Believe Theatre

Thursday, December 13, 2012.

Show times 10:15 a.m. and 11:45 a.m., grades K-5.

Journey to Africa  
 Kuumba Dancers and Drummers  
 Uwezo Sudan, Storyteller.

Thursday, February 7, 2013. Show times

10:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., grades K-5.

Steel Drum Magic!  
 Hammerhead Steel Drums  
 Thursday, May 2, 2013. Show times 10:15 a.m. and 11:45 a.m., grades K-12.

Admission for all shows is \$5.50 per person. Reservations for Public Schools is at <http://www.artsinedu.com> (click on “Search Field Trip Performances,” click the drop down menu next to “Venue” and scroll to Firehouse Cultural Center. Reservations for private and home schools contact the Firehouse Cultural Center directly at [firehousecultural@gmail.com](mailto:firehousecultural@gmail.com) or call 813-645-7651



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO



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# Organizers plan for CareFest SouthShore

■ Continued from page 1

people with specific skills like carpentry, plumbing and other aspects of construction and home maintenance; and to ask for donations of materials including paint, building supplies and bottled water.

The first thing Blanton did was to contact other area pastors and enlist help from the churches. He has also approached several businesses and is in the process of making the group's needs known to area chambers of commerce.

Pastor Jerry Lubrano of Destiny Church, 2322 11th Ave. S.E. in Ruskin (south off State Road 674 between Ruskin and Sun City Center) has donated the use of his church for the event because he has the facilities to accommodate it. Groups and individuals will gather there the day of the event (Sept. 29) at 7 a.m. for a "kick-off" and registration.

The organizers hope to have advance notice of all who plan to volunteer but extra people may show up at the site if they find they can help at the last minute.

"Volunteers from all religious denominations, businesses, organizations and neighborhood groups will work side-by-side doing simple home repairs and yard work for homeowners in the community who are legitimately unable to do the work themselves. This year's theme is 'Bee Caretagious!' (and uses the symbol of a bumblebee)," said Dana Perrotto of Apollo Beach, who has taken on the job as public relations coordinator for the event.

"Single moms, the elderly, the disabled, and low income families often have difficulty maintaining and repairing their homes. Needs such as exterior and interior painting, simple carpentry, plumbing and electrical work, yard cleanup, landscaping, and more may be submitted for consideration by anyone. The need will be evaluated and if approved, adopted as a CareFest project," she explained.

Dana's husband Trent has taken on the job of project evaluator and

will work closely with Howard Roshaven, who will be acting as volunteer coordinator.

People with ideas and names for projects may call Trent Perrotto at (813) 454-9244 and prospective volunteers- or those with questions about volunteering- may call Roshaven at (813) 642-9645.

Both say if a machine answers to leave names and numbers and they will call back.

Meanwhile Blanton is available for general questions about the event at (813) 309-3558.

Volunteers in groups headed by these persons will check out suggested projects and evaluate the time and materials necessary to perform them. Volunteers with special construction or maintenance skills will be matched with projects, and all others will be assigned where they are needed.

The earlier projects are identified and volunteers enlisted, the smoother the event will be.

"We have to know the project is doable within a 4-to-5 hour time period," said Blanton. Every volunteer is asked to show up dressed in work clothes and bring tools of their trade; or for yard work or whatever they think they may need.

After the registration, volunteers will spend until 1 p.m. and then return to Destiny Church where they will be treated to lunch, music and a celebration of the day's events.

Both volunteers and recipients will be served and asked if they would like to speak about their specific experience.

The only specific qualification



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO

The core group of volunteers plan CareFest South Shore, under the umbrella of Somebody Cares Tampa Bay. From left are Pastor Norman Blanton, Howard Roshaven, and Trent and Dana Perrotto.

(besides being really in need of help) is that they own the property and sign "owner releases of liability" so that no lawsuits can be filed against any helper organization or volunteer.

"This is a great way for kids to earn community service hours," Dana Perrotto said. These hours can be ordered by the court for juvenile probation or voluntarily done to be used toward Bright Futures Scholarships. As reported earlier this year in *The Observer News* and *Riverview Current*, the amount of volunteer hours now required for these scholarships has been substantially raised for the graduating class of 2013.

Preteens as young as 12 may work alongside adults with signed parental permission, and Blanton said the events he held in Plant City were well-attended by youth groups. Anyone 18 or older may work as an adult once he or she is matched with a project. There is no upper age limit, although Blanton reminds volunteers that a lot of the necessary work will be

done outdoors.

"It's mostly things like plumbing leaks, painting and yard cleanup," he said, which led into a story about an elderly couple in Plant City when the husband had cancer. "He'd been a junkman, and had a lot of things in his yard. When he fell ill, the city cited him with \$100 a day fine. We went in and cleaned it up spotless, front and back."

View a CareFest promo video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qebpOLDSqtk> or log onto [www.carefestusa.com](http://www.carefestusa.com). Both these websites will give people the opportunity to view what happens at these events, but remember they give telephone numbers for "Somebody Cares Tampa Bay" (at 727 exchanges) so South County residents are asked to call the local numbers given in this story instead.

"This is a way to honor the commands in the Bible to love God by loving your neighbor," Blanton said, citing several passages of Scripture.



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# Positive Talk: Thinking right

Every once in a while it is important for us to pause and look at the basics of a positive attitude. The premise of positive attitude is to expect the best of yourself and everyone around you. When you do this, you will begin finding the best. Here are some things you might look for in yourself.



By William Hodges

How healthy are you? Look for those things you are doing that will add years and energy to your life. Do more of them. One of the things I try to be more conscientious about is eating more fruits and vegetables and a little less ice cream because I know that one change will pay dividends in the future. I find it easier now because we are making an effort to have fruits and vegetables readily available for snacking.

Look for habits you might have which are causing you to be more productive. How can you build on these habits to make yourself even more successful in the future? For example, three days a week I am working out at our great neighborhood fitness center. It only takes about 30 minutes and I feel "powered up" for the remainder of the day.

Seek out people who are positive by nature and spend as much

time with them as possible. I just attended a meeting of Toastmasters International in Orlando and returned tremendously energized. It was a veritable "Who's Who?"

of positive attitude and motivation—almost 2,000 people dedicated to personal betterment in the art of interpersonal communications. A number of past international speech champions were among those attending, all of whom have great stories to tell and life-changing information to share. Take the time to find positive people and to cultivate them as friends.

Look at the fears you have overcome during the last year. There is a funny thing about fear. Once we have defeated it, it's hard to remember why we were afraid. Use the knowledge that you have confronted fear—and won—to challenge whatever other fears you have. Franklin D. Roosevelt was absolutely right when he said, "Let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself." Would that we had leaders today that would lift us up with courage rather than those who pound us down by preaching the gospel of terror. If we have faith in ourselves, we will not only survive but we will prosper.

Assess your style of living. What are you doing now that you were not doing a year ago that makes you happier, healthier or more productive? It might be you are going to bed earlier and getting up earlier. Maybe you are turning off the television and reading instead. Maybe you have updated your appearance with a new hairstyle or new glasses. What can you do to build on this new you?

I began this message with the statement that positive people look for the best in everyone, including themselves. What is the best in you? Only you know. I suggest you make a list of everything you like about yourself. Then build on your positive characteristics. Remember, graveyards are full of people who God is finished with on this earth; the rest of us are his works in progress.

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. (Bright House channel 950, Verizon channel 30) and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. (BH channel 949, Verizon channel 36). The shows can also be viewed at [www.hodgesvideos.com](http://www.hodgesvideos.com). Phone: 824-641-0816. Email: [bill@billhodges.com](mailto:bill@billhodges.com) Website: [www.billhodges.com](http://www.billhodges.com)

## Riverview Moose activities

Riverview Moose Family Center 2158/Chapter 1031, Loyal Order of Moose is located at 9000 Honeywell Road, Gibsonton. Visit the website at [riverviewmooselodge2158.org](http://riverviewmooselodge2158.org), or call (813) 677-7921 for more information. All events are open to qualified Moose members and guests.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Tuesday** • Hot dogs with all the fixin's - 5 to 7 p.m. Chili, cheese, onions, relish, etc.
- **Wednesday** • Chef's Choice, 5 to 7 p.m.
- **4th Wednesday of the month**, Linda's famous liver 'n' onions. Bar Games begin at 7 p.m.
- **Thursday** • Tacos/burgers night, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Blind draw darts at 7:30 p.m.
- **Friday** • Fabulous fish/steak/shrimp dinner, 5 to 7:30 p.m. Includes burgers and sides Karaoke Kat kicks off at 7:30 p.m.
- **Sunday** • Sport Sunday, bar games begin at 3 p.m. Wings from 3 to 6 p.m., 6 for \$3 BBQ, hot or mild, and there's always naked wings.
- **Sept. 9** • District meeting, North Hillsborough
- **Sept. 14-16** • Cocoa Beach Get-away, to the sounds of "South Shore 4."

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- Saturday Night .....5 p.m. Queen of Hearts Drawing  
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## SOUTHSHORE REGIONAL LIBRARY

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### Kids' Program/Event Highlights September 6 - September 12

#### Teen Volunteer Orientation

Thursday, September 6 - 6 to 7 p.m.

Prospective teen volunteers are invited to attend this informational session. Topics will include the application process, filling out school forms, shelving guidelines, and volunteer expectations.

#### Family Story Time

Thursday, September 6 - 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.

#### Teen Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, September 6 - 7 to 8 p.m.

For teens in grades 6-12. Join the Teen Advisory Board to get involved with the Library's teen programs or earn community service hours for graduation, scholarships and more. Refreshments provided by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library

#### "Pee Wee Artists": Let's Create\*

Saturday, September 8 - 2:30 to 3:15 p.m.

Monday, September 10 - 10:30 to 11 a.m.

"Pee Wee Artists", 3-6 years, will join Art Instructor, Tim Gibbons, for a fun afternoon creating an art project to take home. Adult must be present. Limit 15. Registration required at either the Information Desk or by calling 273-3652.

#### "Creative Artists": Let's Create\*

Saturday, September 8 - 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

"Creative Artists", 7-10 years, will join our Art Instructor, Tim Gibbons, for a fun afternoon creating an art project to take home. Limit 22. Registration required at either the Information Desk or by calling 273-3652.

#### Baby Time

Monday, September 10 - 1:35 to 1:55 p.m.

Tuesday, September 11 - 11:35 to 11:55 a.m.

Wednesday, September 12 - 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.

#### Amazing Animal Adventures

Monday, September 10 - 7 to 7:40 p.m.

For children ages 5 to 12. Travel around the world with fuzzy friends. Learn about Kinka the kinkajou from the rain forest, Pistachio the prairie dog from out west, and Benji the Bengal cat.

Funded by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library

#### Toddler Time

Tuesday, September 11 - 10:05 to 10:25 a.m. and 10:35 to 10:55 a.m.

Wednesday, September 12 - 10:35 to 10:55 a.m.

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

#### Story Time

Tuesday, September 11 - 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 12 - 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 for this program provided by the Friends of SouthShore Regional Library



Players are from back row left: Bryce Shinault, Nelson Vega, Jacob Eldridge, Zack Saumell, Logan Kitts, Keith Hardin, Miccah Pocopanni; From front row left: William Swantek, Danny Izquierdo, Tate Nipper, Tito Caballero, Brett Rutherford, Wyatt Buzbee, Manny Martinez.

## Riverview Cyclones spin in Cooperstown

The Riverview Cyclones, a local 12U travel baseball team, just returned from the Cooperstown Dreamspark Tournament in Cooperstown, NY. The team won the first place trophy in the "around the horn" skills competition at 23.56 seconds out of 104 teams that were at the tournament. The Cyclones were 6-2 overall in the tournament with 15 home runs including a grand slam! The team placed 22nd out of 104 teams for the week. The Cyclones play at East Bay Little League and are managed by Rick Nipper and Scott Rutherford.



## 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 MA-VFW on the 3rd Thursday each month.

**Thursday, Sept. 6** - VA Hospital visit 5:30 p.m. everyone welcome to go. Bar Bingo at 6 p.m.

**Friday, Sept. 7** - Fish Fry 4:30 p.m. Music by Eddie Shannon & Co from 7-11 p.m..

**Saturday, Sept. 8** - Music by TJ and Ella 7-11 p.m.

**Every Sunday** - Flea Market from 7 a.m. to noon. Breakfast from 7:30 -10:30 a.m. Chapel Duty District 12 at 8:30 a.m. and Bert & Sassy from 5:30-9 p.m.

**Monday, Sept. 10** - Planning meeting at 6 p.m. followed by House meeting at 7 p.m.

**Every Tuesday** - Games in Lounge 1-5 kitchen opens at 4:30 p.m. Bingo at 6 p.m.

## EBHS Class of '82 plans 30 year reunion

East Bay High School's Class of '82 announces their 30 year Reunion plans from October 26 -28.

Multiple events some to include family have been planned for the three day affair with a block of rooms reserved at a group rate at the Comfort Inn 718 Cypress Village Blvd. in Sun City Center.

RSVP is required by October 5. For more information email clogo2702@aol.com, missy.diehl@verizon.net or aa\_albritton@yahoo.com

## Cantorum selected to sing at RNC rally

On Sunday, August 26, the Cantorum, a highly competitive singing group from Clearwater Christian College, was invited to participate in the Faith & Freedom Coalition's rally at the Tampa Theatre starting off the opening weekend of the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Florida.

Jillian Blackwell from Riverview, was selected to participate in the event. She is the daughter of James and Joan Blackwell of Riverview.

"I was thrilled with the experience," said Dr. Pattye Casarow, director of the Cantorum. "It went very well. The audience roared with applause and appreciation. I'm so thankful to the Lord that our students can enjoy these very special types of opportunities that will be lifetime memories."

The Cantorum, consisting of students and alumni, sang a trio of patriotic songs that included I Hear America Singing by Andre Thomas, Who Are the Brave by Joseph Martin, and Patriot's Honor by Matt Morris.

Special guests at the Faith and Freedom Coalition rally included former U.S. Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker, Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi, and U.S. Senate candidate Ted Cruz of Texas among others.



## Dog Fest 2012 announced

Aliquity, a 501c3 Corporation is hosting their annual Dog Fest from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, October 6 at Circa Fishhawk, 5925 Village Center Drive in Lithia. The event site is the future home of the Fishhawk Dog Park and is located just east of Barrington Middle School, south of the Mosaic office building on Fishhawk Blvd.

The Dog Fest is a yearly event which brings local businesses and dog lovers together. Admission is free! The Dog Fest features several great contests: Cutest Puppy, Best Costume, Owner-Dog Look-a-like (\$5.00 entry fee per contest). There will be many vendor booths, training demonstrations, pet adoptions, a flea market, and a pet blessing.

Proceeds from Dog Fest 2012 will benefit local dog rescue organizations and other dog related charities. For more information about Dog Fest 2012, Aliquity, or other events visit www.Aliquity.com.

# You, Me & Business: Welcoming the newcomers

As I was setting out for work one day last week I met one of the new neighbors who just bought a condo in our association. I introduced myself and welcomed him to the area. His car battery had died and it seemed that had set the tone for his day. I sensed his frustration and asked if there was any way I could help him. He expressed he didn't know anything about where things were, what was what or how to get started living here.

After telling him I was president of the association and would be happy to answer any questions for him, I also told him to come by the Chamber and we would be happy to assist him with his larger questions.

Moving into a new community is way high on the list of things that stress us out the most (after the death of a loved one and the end of a relationship.) We think of scenarios where folks up North reach the age when they can retire, they pack up their things and they look

forward to moving to sunny Florida. Carefree life. No problems.

But often that isn't the reality of it. What if the house up North hasn't closed yet? What of their old things do they move here? Which bank should they move their assets to? What about transferring all of their medical data – how do they go about selecting a new physician/dentist/optometrist?

What if there's a problem in their new home? How do they find the best plumber/electrician/AC company?

This is where the Chamber of Commerce comes in. In the next weeks and months, many of our friends from Up North will make their annual pilgrimage to our fair community to ride out the winter. More than a few will be coming here for the first time.

Not only can we refer them to vetted service providers, tradespeople and specialty businesses, we can also give them our free

Golf Cart Handbook and Community Guide. We can give them directions to Busch Gardens when the grandkids come to visit and tell them when to put the recycling bins out to the end of the driveway.

We have bus schedules and Bucs schedules. We have hurricane info and Lightning info. We have restaurant guides and fishing guides.

Sun City Center has plenty of resources for local information – we are just one of them. Both the Community Association and the Kings Point Federation do a wonderful job of orienting new residents, and the Information Center has brochures on everything, including the history of our area and all of the clubs, organizations, charities and associations that make Sun City Center what it is.

So if you see someone new here, introduce yourself. Welcome them to the area. And tell them to visit one of the various places around town designed to help them get acclimated. You might speed up the process to them having that care-free life. With no problems.



By **Dana Dittmar**, Executive Director SCC Chamber of Commerce



## Ruskin Branch Library Adult program/event highlights

Ruskin Branch Library is located at 1 Dickman Drive S.E., Ruskin.

■ **PowerPoint: Introduction • September 6 • 3 p.m.** - Learn the basics of slide design and layout to create a professional-looking presentation. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended. SummerTech!

■ **PowerPoint: Text Boxes, Clipart and AutoShapes • September 6 • 4 p.m.** - Adding text boxes, clipart and AutoShapes to your presentation. Previous experience with Microsoft PowerPoint is recommended.

■ **PowerPoint: Effects and Transitions • September 7 • 3 p.m.** - Learn about adding effects and transitions to your presentation. Previous experience with Microsoft PowerPoint is recommended.

■ **Craigslist: Introduction • September 11 • 3 p.m.** - Learn how to become a member, browse, search, and buy items on Craigslist. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended.

■ **Craigslist: Listing & Selling • September 11 • 3:45 p.m.** - Learn how to create a listing, and sell items on Craigslist. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended. Computer Tutor • September 12

• **5:30 p.m.** - Tutoring in Microsoft software, email, and the Internet.

## Casting call

**PALMETTO** — The Manatee Village Historical Park and the 1850 Manatee Burying Ground will host the outdoor drama *Spirit Voices from Old Manatee* which will be held October 12-14 and 19-20. Auditions for parts will take place Friday, Sept. 7, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; and Saturday, Sept. 8 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. For character types, ages, etc., call Christine Brown at 941-741-4075.

## South Hillsborough Elks Lodge #2672 Upcoming Activities



**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, Sandwiches, and a Chef's Special for all Elks and their guests from 5 to 7 p.m. Karaoke by Bryan from 5 to 8 p.m.

**Monday, September 3** - 5p.m. Blue Plate Special, Menu: Build your own hamburger, baked beans, homemade potato chips, and dessert for \$7, only 50 tickets will be sold.

**Monday, September 17** - 5p.m. Blue Plate Special, Menu: Kielbasa w/kraut, potatoes, and dessert for \$7, only 50 tickets will be sold.

The South Hillsborough Elk's Lodge is a clean, smoke free environment located at 1630 US Hwy 41 S., Ruskin, Telephone (813) 645-2089.

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# Area volunteers report on changes for inmates moved from HCI

■ Continued from page 1

is that the volunteers in South County who regularly visited HCI made a huge difference in these women's lives and their efforts — even if separated — will never be forgotten.

"But it's all different now," said Myrna Persinger on August 31. "My husband used to teach a Bible study while I volunteered doing other things, but now he drives me up there and sits in the car while I see the women I mentor."

This is because the male-female visitor rules there are different, she explained.

"I used to go out there several times a week," Myrna said. "But Ocala is a long way."

Sharon Whiddon, head of the prison ministry for Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Sun City Center, held chaplain status at HCI so the chapel could remain open when the prison chaplain was not with them. A retired psychiatric nurse, she also supervised a mentoring program.

"There has been a lot of confusion, with rules changing and not all the staff understanding the difference in philosophy with a faith-based program," Whiddon said.

She explained that not only does the "faith-based status" mean inmates are treated more as individuals and not talked to in derogatory terms, but they also had a lot of betterment programs to choose from at HCI that had been created and were being kept up by volunteers.

"The inmates were greeted (at Lowell) with mass confusion and chaos and items that had been

provided at HCI by volunteers — as simple as footies — were taken away from us," said a former inmate who spoke anonymously in a telephone interview Sept. 1. "Many of the inmates who were already there treated us as though we thought we were better than they were and said we'd been spoiled."

This sentiment was echoed in many of the letters received by Whiddon and Persinger.

"The friend I visit there says she can't relate to the staff-appointed peers who sit as leaders in programs that replace volunteers," said Kathleen Danco. "Let's say you're in an anger management group. Are you going to say the same thing knowing it could get out to everyone in the place that you would have said privately to a volunteer you've grown to trust?"

Despite the reported confusion and loss, some inmates want their long-time South County volunteers to know there have been some changes for the better recently.

Sun City Center resident Nancy Williams has visited the women several times and is working with Warden Robin Smith and Katherine Van Zant (wife of Florida House of Representatives Charles Van Zant) to begin hosting programs there.

Williams visited Lowell as recently as Aug. 28 and said what she found was very encouraging.

"They've brought in a beekeeping program and many books. Crafts classes have been started and the women have made tote bags for Joshua House and quilts for the VA. I plan to have



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO

**Myrna Persinger and Sharon Whiddon read portions of letters Whiddon has received from women who were transferred out of Hillsborough Correctional Institution in Riverview when it was closed in March. Persinger said she has almost that many letters and others who volunteered are also getting mail. Most of the ones they read aloud said the inmates wished they were back "home" and want the volunteers in South County to know how much they miss them.**

a Tennis Fun Day some time this month. I had one in the spring, but then I went up North for the summer," Williams said.

When HCI was open, Williams was very active in volunteering, starting with inspirational programs in her 'Fruit of the Spirit' classes that covered things like anger management, music, creative writing and Bible study. She later developed sports programs there with the help of many volunteers.

"I've been asked by the warden (at Lowell) if I can coordinate a sports program there," Williams said. "Things like this just take time."

Meanwhile, one way the volunteers and inmates can keep

in touch is by letters and cards.

"Nobody knows just how much it means to the women to know their volunteers still care and have not forgotten them," said Danco, who has also been to Lowell as a visitor recently. "This means the world to them."

Many lives were changed as inmates began to look at themselves — and others — in a whole new way under the faith-based program at HCI.

The volunteers interviewed said they had bonded with those they mentored just like family.

"I miss the women at HCI very much and am writing letters to 12 of them who were in the Crafts and Convictions program," said Sun City Center resident Barbara

Gingrich. "They seem to love getting the letters and tell me how much they miss the volunteers that kept them focused."

At first — in May and June — most of the letters were cries for help, Gingrich said. They did not like the new facility and missed the glimpses of freedom offered to them at HCI. But now she said, some report how they are adjusting.

"There are new rules. The crafts room is much smaller and only accommodates half of the ladies who previously worked there. But just last week I was told they have crocheted more than 50 caps for women who are undergoing chemotherapy, made quilts for wounded veterans and journals and cards for school children."

Gingrich collects (blank) cards and stamps to send the women she visits so they will be able to send them to their friends and families.

"And I continue to mentor the young lady I have grown to love and cherish, only now I do it by letter," she continued. "I have visited her twice since she moved and it means so much to her — and to me. I miss my volunteering at the prison and wish I could do more."

This continues to be the sentiment of all the volunteers interviewed for this story.

To find out more about the Lowell Reception Center and its visitation and gifting rules, visit <http://www.dc.state.fl.us/facilities/region3/368.html>.

Information about contacting inmates and/or staff is available at <http://www.dc.state.fl.us/orginfo/contact.html>.

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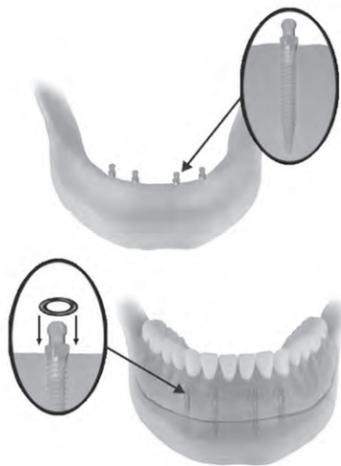
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## Charity event blasts cancer

In its first annual charity golf tournament, "Rockets Hit Back Against Cancer," the Rockets Organization donated a total of \$4,000 out of the proceeds raised in the golf tournament to benefit the 1 Voice Foundation, a 501 c(3) non-profit corporation whose mission is to support children with cancer and their families by connecting them with financial, emotional, and educational care while funding research for tomorrow's cure. The Rockets Organization deserves special recognition and congratulations for all of its hard work and dedication to this very special community service project.



## Anglers gear up for HCC Fishing Tournament

Avid anglers from the Tampa Bay area will team up with renowned captains to fish for a cause at the second annual Hillsborough Community College (HCC) Hawks, Line, & Sinker Inshore Fishing Tournament, Friday, September 14, 2012, at the Westshore Yacht Club in Tampa.

The catch and release tournament benefits HCC scholarship recipients and features three species categories—snook, trout and red fish—with prizes for the longest three fish of each species and the Grand Slam, largest total of the three fish by any one angler.

The event kicks off with a Captain's Dinner featuring a silent auction on Thursday, September 13 at the Westshore Yacht Club. All sponsors, anglers and their guests are invited to attend.

All net proceeds from the HCC Hawks, Line & Sinker Fishing Tournament fund HCC Foundation scholarships for students who need extra help getting through college. During 2011-2012, the HCC Foundation awarded \$1.4 million in scholarships to 1,400 deserving HCC students.

For more information, visit [hccfl.edu](http://hccfl.edu) and click on the Fishing Tournament icon.

## Attention citizens 60 years or older

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

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

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

## National POW-MIA Recognition Day celebrated

The Hillsborough County Veterans Council will be conducting a POW-MIA Recognition Day Ceremony at 11 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 14 at the Veterans Memorial Park and Rear Admiral LeRoy Collins Jr., Veterans Museum located at 3602 U.S. 301 N Tampa, one half mile south of the Florida Fairgrounds. The purpose of this ceremony is to recognize the sacrifice of those service members who remain as Prisoner of War or Missing in Action. The motto: "You Are Not Forgotten" still stands today. The Joint Communications Support Element (JCSE), MacDill AFB will present the colors and the Alonzo High School JROTC Color Guard and Cadets will participate in the ceremony. The master of ceremonies for this event is Maj Dick Arens USAF (RET). Former Prisoners of War will be featured as guest speakers. Also participating in this event is the Men's Auxiliary, VFW Post 8108 and Marine Corps League Detachment 1226 from Riverview. In addition a solemn POW/MIA Empty Chair Ceremony will be conducted by the host organization, Rolling Thunder, Florida Chapter 11. This ceremony is open to the public. For more information call Council President Walt Raysick at 813-653-4924 or email [wraysick@verizon.net](mailto:wraysick@verizon.net)



## AMERICAN LEGION Alafia Post 148 • 7240 U.S. Hwy. 301 (813) 677-6529

### MEETINGS

Legion Riders	1st Monday	6:30 p.m.
Legion General	2nd Monday	7 p.m.
Sons (SAL)	1st Thursday	7 p.m.
Auxiliary	3rd Thursday	7 p.m.

### MEALS (Public Welcome)

Fish Fry	Every Friday	5 to 7 p.m.
Breakfast	2nd and 4th Sunday	9 to 11 a.m.

### EVENTS

Bake Sale	Sunday, September 9	9 to noon
Bar Poker	Tues. / Thur.	4 to 7 p.m.
Bingo and Food	Wednesdays	6:30 p.m.
Entertainment	Fridays	7:30 to 11 p.m.
Steak Shoot	Saturdays	2 p.m.
Flea Market	Sunday	7 a.m. to noon
<b>Hearts and Heroes</b>	Sat. September 29	noon to 4 p.m.

*Presentation of 911 Flag to wounded Veteran with Pig Roast and entertainment. Cost is \$15 and includes poker hand.*



## Busy on the Bayou

The next couple of months will be busy at Camp Bayou Saturdays in September are filled with the Coastal Module of the Florida Master Naturalist Program. Field trips include Emerson Point, Wolf Branch Creek and Cockroach Bay Preserves. Registration required- room is still available for just a few more students. Register at [www.masternaturalist.org](http://www.masternaturalist.org).

On Saturday, September 22 there will be a Night Hike, starting at 7:30 p.m. The hike is about 1 mile in length with no flashlights! The hike ends at the campfire, with s'mores and stories about the moon from around the world. This event is part of International Observe the Moon Night, 'Under the Same Moon'. Register at [www.campbayou.org](http://www.campbayou.org), maximum 20 participants. A \$5 donation is requested to help cover the cost of supplies.

The Camp Bayou Photo contest will be accepting entries until October 20. Photos will be judged by artist Bruce Marsh. Contest rules are available at the Nature Notes blog- <http://campbayou.blogspot.com>- or at the Visitor's Center. The winning photos will be on display at the Fall Open House on Saturday, October 27 from 9am-1pm.

Details for the Fall Open House are still being finalized. The theme is 'Out of the Dark', with activities to highlight some of Florida's less cuddly creatures, Hands-on activities include 'Going Buggy' with Dr. George, 'Snake Spotlight' with Bettina and Xerxes, and a favorite 'down-under', Cockroach Races! Critter mask making will be ongoing throughout the morning and children are encouraged to wear their creations, or give their Halloween costume an early debut, during the Species Walk. More family friendly activities are in the works including some healthy treat alternatives at the Snack Station. Watch for updates on the blog or on the Camp Bayou Facebook page.

Camp Bayou is neither a campground nor a summer camp. It was an RV park before the County's ELAP program purchased the land but it is now open for day use only, open to the general public. Through volunteers, donations, membership and grants, the RCDF offers pre-scheduled programs to schools, youth groups, adult groups and families plus it's open from Thursday- Saturday from 9am-2pm for passive recreational pursuits such as wildlife watching, nature photography and trail walks. General admission is still free.

The Camp Bayou Outdoor Learning Center is a public- private partnership between Bayou Outdoor Learning and Discovery, Inc. (BOLD), Ruskin Community Development Foundation, Inc. (RCDF) and Hillsborough County Parks, Recreation and Conservation. Camp Bayou is located 3 miles south of SR674 at the end of 24th St SE in Ruskin. More information is on the web at <http://www.campbayou.org/> or call 813-641-8545.

## Volunteers Needed

The local C.A.R.E. no-kill Animal Shelter is in need of several volunteers to help answer office phones and do light office work. Volunteer schedules are Tuesday through Friday between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. They also are looking for volunteers to help open the kennels and cat facility each morning, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. C.A.R.E. is a non-profit, all volunteer dog and cat rescue, rehabilitation and adoption center, located at 1528 27th Street S.E. in Ruskin, just off Highway 674, west of Interstate 75. If you love animals and may be interested in volunteering, visit and see for yourself what volunteering at their non- traditional shelter is like. For more information email [volunteercare@aol.com](mailto:volunteercare@aol.com) or call 813-645-2273.

# THE SAVVY SENIOR

## Paying for Nursing Home Care with Medicaid

Dear Savvy Senior,  
What are the eligibility requirements to get Medicaid coverage for nursing home care?  
Looking Ahead



By Jim Miller

Dear Looking, The rules and requirements for Medicaid eligibility for nursing home care are somewhat complicated and will vary according to the state you live in. With that said, here's a general, simplified rundown of what it takes to qualify, along with some resources you can turn to for help.

**Medicaid Rules**  
Medicaid, the federal and state joint program that covers health care for the poor, is also the largest single payer of America's nursing home bills for seniors who don't have the resources to pay for their own care.

Most people who enter nursing homes don't qualify for Medicaid at first, but pay for care either through long-term care insurance or out-of-pocket until they deplete their savings and become eligible for Medicaid.

To qualify for Medicaid, your income and assets will need to be under a certain level that's determined by your state. Most states require that a person have no more than about \$2,000 in countable assets that includes cash, savings, investments or other financial resources that can be turned into cash.

Assets that aren't counted for eligibility include your home if it's valued under \$525,000 (this limit is higher – up to \$786,000 – in some states), your personal possessions and household goods, one vehicle, prepaid funeral plans and a small amount of life insurance.

But be aware that while your home is not considered a countable asset to determine your eligibility, if you can't return to your home, Medicaid can go after the proceeds of your house to help reimburse your nursing home costs, unless your spouse or other dependent relative lives there. (There are some other exceptions to this rule.)

After qualifying, all sources of your income such as Social Security and pension checks must be turned over to Medicaid to pay for your care, except for a small personal needs allowance – usually between \$30 and \$90.

You also need to be aware that you can't give away your assets to qualify for Medicaid faster. Medicaid officials will look at your financial records going back five years to root out suspicious asset transfers. If they find one, your Medicaid coverage will be delayed a certain length of time, according to a formula that divides the transfer amount by the average monthly cost of nursing home care in your state.

So if, for example, you live in a state where the average monthly nursing home cost is \$5,000 and you gave away cash or other assets worth \$100,000, you would be ineligible for benefits for 20 months (\$100,000 divided by \$5,000 = 20).

**Spousal Protection**  
Medicaid also has special rules for married couples when one spouse enters a nursing home and the other spouse remains at home. In these cases, the healthy spouse can keep one half of the couple's assets up to \$113,640 (this amount varies by state), the family home, all the furniture and household goods and one automobile. The healthy spouse is also entitled to keep a portion of the couple's monthly income – between \$1,838 and \$2,841. Any income above that goes toward the cost of the nursing home recipient's care.

**What about Medicare?**  
Medicare, the federal health insurance program for seniors 65 and older and some younger people with disabilities, does not pay for long-term care. It only helps pay up to 100 days of "rehabilitative" nursing home care, which must occur after a hospital stay.

**Get Help**  
Again, Medicaid rules are complicated and vary by state, so contact the local Medicaid office (call 800-633-4227 for contact information) for eligibility details.

You can also get help from your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), which provides free counseling on all Medicare and Medicaid issues. To find a local SHIP counselor visit [shiptalk.org](http://shiptalk.org), or call 800-677-1116.

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

## Patriots Day Remembrance Ceremony planned

The Hillsborough County Veterans Council will be conducting a Patriots Day Remembrance Ceremony at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, September 11 at the Veterans Memorial Park and Rear Admiral LeRoy Collins Jr., Veterans Museum located at 3602 US Highway 301 N Tampa, one half mile south of the Florida Fairgrounds. The purpose of this ceremony is to honor the courage and heroism of the victims of 9/11, the first responders and emergency personnel at the World Trade Center, the military and civilians at the Pentagon, the passengers tragically lost on United Airlines Flight 93, and the members of our Armed Forces who are still fighting the Global War on Terrorism around the world. Keynote speakers will feature Thernell (Chip) Shields, a Fireman, serving as a member of the Hillsborough Fire Rescue, Yngrid Garcia, whose sister Marilyn del Carmen Garcia died in the Twin Towers on that fateful day and Ronda Storms Florida State Senator, Military Affairs, Space and Domestic Security Committee. The Tampa Bay Fireman's Piper Band will perform and Rabbi Debrah Shenefelt will do the invocation and the benediction. The Joint Communications Support Element (JCSE) Honor Guard will conduct Colors and the Buffalo Soldiers of the Woods & Wanton Chapter, Inc. will cross swords for designated people to pass under on their way to the Table of Honor for the people who passed away on 9/11. Marine Corps League, Detachment 1226 from Riverview will conduct the Rifle Salute and TAPS. This ceremony is open and the public is invited to attend.

For more information call Mary Ellen Harlan at 813-245-5261.

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# Observations: Excuse me? I hope this isn't radioactive...

A few weeks ago, for the first time in my life, I felt disabled. On a Friday night, I was covering an outdoor event and it was humid, I was sweating, and there was occasional light rain. One of my hearing aids died. At the time, I wasn't too worried about it. My hearing aids have been in two hemispheres, two oceans, back roads and alleyways, thunderstorms, tropical storms, and I once accidentally jumped into the shower while wearing them. For such tiny and fragile-looking electronics, they have taken a beating and have kept on working.

But this time, it didn't come back to life and I began losing contact with the outside world. My hearing loss is significant. On my audiogram, the graphical results of my hearing test, there is a line that shows where normal hearing should be along a scale of sound frequencies. I don't have a single point that reaches the line, much of it is far, far below it. In 2006, when I got my first set of hearing aids I was suddenly hearing things that I hadn't heard since I was a child.

I'm not quite sure how they managed to do this but most insurance companies have separated hearing from health. Very few people have coverage for hearing disorders and hearing aids aren't cheap. Six years ago, HearX in Sun City Center, my hearing care provider, found a federal/state program that helped

pay for hearing aids for people who needed to hear to work. As a reporter, I easily fit into that category. I was grateful for the financial assistance — my hearing aids cost \$5,800 back then.

When my hearing aid died, however, I found out just how closely hearing is indeed related to health. My hearing aids are so powerful that wearing just the one working aid was a nightmarish experience with sound blasting into one ear and next to nothing coming into the other. I literally felt as though I had lost my balance. Even sleeping was impacted as I began to have recurring nightmares of being old and disabled. I would then wake up feeling tired, old and disabled — because, at least for the latter, I was.

The simple act of going to a grocery store presented a challenge that seemed insurmountable. People would invariably say things to me that I would not understand. There is very little patience for a hearing disorder in this world because it is an invisible disability. Generally, I've found there is a three strikes rule — I can say "Excuse me, I didn't hear that," three times before the person talking will give up. I can only hope they aren't trying to tell me I'm on fire or holding something radioactive.

The program I used to buy my hearing aids in 2006 is gone in the more austere era of 2012 and when my hearing aid died, I wasn't in

a position to immediately spend thousands of dollars on a new pair. Fortunately, Michelle found a very nice family in Riverview selling a five-year-old set that had been owned by a hearing-impaired relative. Since they were programmable, I simply needed to go to a hearing center to have them programmed for my hearing loss. But that turned out to be not so simple.

For six years, HearX has been wonderful. After my initial purchase, I never paid for anything again including new hearing tests and the resultant adjustments to my hearing aids. They would have helped with the new used hearing aids, even though I didn't buy them there, but they didn't have an account with that manufacturer, nor the software to program them. That didn't seem to be a problem, though, as the manufacturer's website listed an authorized hearing care center right here in South Hillsborough.

But it turned out to be not so simple. That hearing care center refused to program them because I didn't buy the hearing aids from them. In other words, I was a patient in need of help; they had the means to help, but refused to do so since I hadn't dropped \$6,000 on them. Everyone, including hearing centers, has to pay the rent so I fully expected to pay for their service — but they weren't interested in little money, they wanted big money. And they weren't interested in helping me. No, I won't mention the name of the place — suffice to say,



By Mitch Traphagen  
mitch@observernews.net



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

Dr. Scott Sims of Physician's Choice Hearing & Dizziness Center in Sun City Center. Dr. Sims made it possible for me to hear the world again.

you'll never encounter me in their waiting room.

HearX recommended I contact Dr. Scott Sims of Physician's Choice Hearing & Dizziness Center in Sun City Center. As a backup, Michelle called other area hearing centers, most said they could program the hearing aids, all were surprised to learn that any hearing center would refuse to do so.

A few hours later, I was in Dr. Sims office while he downloaded old software to program my somewhat elderly hearing aids. Programming them wasn't easy — technology had moved on — but he didn't give up. He knows how important hearing is and that hearing and health are one and the same. He missed lunch to do it, but an hour or so later I left his office hearing most of what the world had to say. A few days later, I was back to get them adjusted and to

turn on the option that allows them to work with a telephone. Again, he had to suffer through using older, glitchy software, and again he didn't give up.

Hearing aids aren't just for old people. In the U.S., 36 million adults report some form of hearing loss. According to a 2010 study in the Journal of the American Medical Association one in five adolescents in the U.S. had some evidence of hearing loss. Personal music players with ear buds blasting in the latest tunes are at least partially to blame. Regardless of the reasons, the problem is significant and growing. For everyone, but particularly for young people, hearing loss could well affect everything from their employment opportunities, to their social life. The full impact of this silent but growing health crisis may not be felt for years to

See OBSERVATIONS, page 11

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## Week 1 prep football scores



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

### Prep football results

East Bay (1-0) defeated Lennard (0-1) **43-9**

Riverview (1-0) defeated Spoto (0-1) **24-17**

Bloomington (0-1) fell to Chamberlain (1-0) **13-27**

Brandon (0-1) fell to Armwood (1-0) **0-55**

**Games this week (Sept. 7 at 7:30 p.m.):**

Lennard at Gibbs High School  
East Bay hosts Steinbrenner High School

Bloomington at Strawberry Crest High School

Riverview — Bye week  
Spoto — Bye week

## Observations

■ Continued from page 10

come and in that time, it may still not be well heard. The time to do something about it, however, is now. Parents, please get your children's hearing tested. Don't wait, do it now.

Dr. Sims said his sister is a speech pathologist and he, too, wanted to work at something that would help people. "I want to make a difference," he said.

Speech therapy is a godsend for those who need it, but the results can take months or years to see. As an audiologist, Dr. Sims can enjoy the benefit of helping someone almost immediately. As I now know all too well, hearing aids can mean the difference between enjoying the world and being isolated from it. Hearing is very definitely a health issue.

It took him an hour and a half to adjust the old hearing aids but

when he was done, I was hearing better than ever. I pulled out my credit card to pay for the second adjustment but Dr. Sims waved it away. I paid once, and for that, he wanted to make things right. "I'm more interested in building long-term relationships," he said.

I started my car to drive home and became aware that the brake pedal made a click when I released it. I had never heard that before. I had never realized that my car stereo beeped when I changed songs. Suddenly, I was hearing life with all of its beeps, clicks and whooshes. I was amazed at just how much sound I was suddenly hearing.

Dr. Sims did exactly what he set out to do — he not only gave me back my hearing, a gift of infinite value to me, but I was able to watch him fulfill his own life goal. Dr. Sims made a difference.

## The green anole is no chameleon

■ By JESSICA BASHAM

Green anoles, a type of American lizard, are often called American chameleons because they can change color, but they are not chameleons at all.

These anoles are the only native lizard in the southeastern United States that changes color, but it is only from bright green to brown or gray. Usually their change in color is due to stress but also to temperature and mating. Males extend a bright pink dewlap (a piece of skin that unfolds from its throat)

when looking for a mate or when warning other males to back off. Their head-bobs are like pushups and show the female and other males that they are strong.

Mating season starts in the beginning of April and continues throughout the summer months. In South Florida, the mating season is a little longer. If you see a green anole bobbing up and down and showing his dewlap, look around; there may be a female nearby. A female lays one or sometimes two eggs every two weeks, usually in dirt or debris at the base of a plant.

The green anole is the only native anole in the Southeast and is found from North Carolina west to Texas and throughout Florida.

True chameleons, however, live in Africa, Madagascar, Portugal, Spain and parts of Asia. At least two species have been introduced into Florida. They can change to every color of the rainbow because of mood, temperature, habitat, stress, anger and defense. They often blend easily into their surroundings by changing color.

Chameleons hold on to branches with their feet and coiled tails. Their long, curled tongues shoot out like arrows to catch prey.

Anoles are small, long and slender. Like the chameleon, they have the ability to cling to objects but only because of a sticky pad on the underside of their toes. Their tails are not coiled but long and thin and can break easily. This is so they can escape predators. When caught by the tail, the lizard squirms until its tail breaks and it can escape to freedom. The confused predator is left with only the tail and wondering where its lunch has gone. Lizard tails will grow back a little.

In southwestern Florida, the dewlap may be gray, white or light green. These populations are a different subspecies or race of green anole.

Watching green anoles is easy. Around homes, they hang from walls, scurry across sidewalks and driveways and climb shrubs, branches and trees. A little anole visits me daily. He perches on a railing outside my office window and bobs his head up and down, showing off his bright pink dewlap. Anoles generally have a territory, so chances are you'll see one in the same place, day after day. The one I see is missing his tail.

Another anole in Florida that is not native is the brown anole from Cuba. Many times they are confused with the native green anole when the green anole has turned brown. But brown anoles have obvious patterns on their backs and sides. Green anoles typically have no pattern, although a female may have a slightly wavy whitish stripe down her back.

For more information, you can visit [http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Anolis\\_carolinensis.html](http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Anolis_carolinensis.html).

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A male green anole shows off his bright dewlap in an effort to attract a female. Males will also do head bobs or push-ups to show how strong and robust they are.

PHOTO BY KEVIN ENGE

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MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

### Hundreds turn out for Riverview Chamber luncheon

Hundreds of business owners and representatives from Tampa Bay area businesses turned out for the monthly membership meeting and luncheon for the Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce on August 28. The meeting was held at the Regent community center near the Winthrop Town Center. The event was sponsored by the Law Office of George Hunter, P.A. and featured Florida Supreme Court Justice Peggy A. Quince as the keynote speaker. Also during the meeting, Molly Blanton representing the Boy Scouts of America - Gulf Ridge Council, Mary Boyd of C1 Bank and Elijah Heath representing the FishHawk-Riverview Rotary Club were introduced as candidates for the 2013 Honorary Mayor of Riverview. In addition, nearly a dozen new members were also welcomed to the chamber. The September meeting will be held on Sept. 25. For information about sponsoring that meeting, contact the chamber at 813-234-5944 or via email at info@riverviewchamber.com.



Greater Riverview Chamber of Commerce executive director Tanya Doran smiles as she greets chamber members in attendance at the monthly membership meeting luncheon.



Florida Supreme Court Justice Peggy A. Quince was the keynote speaker for the event.

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# Tampa Bay is still intact after the RNC



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

**Touted as the only free Cuban land in the world, visiting Cuba is as easy as driving to Jose Marti Park in Ybor City.**

Continued from page 1

had been fired. When protestors moved the show to Apollo Beach with three people chaining themselves to fixtures at TECO's Big Bend power plant, officers from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office simply cut the chains and told the protestors that if they choose to stay and keep doing this stuff, someone was going to jail. They decided against jail. It was something Andy Griffith might have done in Mayberry, and it was in stark contrast to mass arrests at many previous conventions.

There are, no doubt, many explanations for how the Tampa Bay area so well handled the RNC and for the peace that was kept during the week. It may have been the threat of a hurricane, it may have been the heat and humidity that kept people from getting too wild, it may have been that downtown Tampa looked like a modern day equivalent of Berlin preparing to be stormed by the Soviets. The real reason for the peace, however, may have simply been that law enforcement in Florida is used to dealing with crazy people, from the button-downed arrogant (not that the Republicans were) to the outright lunatics (not that the protestors were). Fifty thousand people coming to the convention is what law enforcement calls "Spring Break" around here. It was nothing new, and nothing they couldn't handle. They know that treating people with decency and respect beats arresting them whenever possible. It worked.

Everyone, law enforcement in particular, should be happy the week ended without the city going up in flames. Except for the whole hurricane thing, it was August in Florida after all, things could not have been better. Yet while praise is deserved, not everyone is happy.

Many restaurants and merchants across the Bay area reported their sales actually declined during the RNC. It seems the delegates had delegate-stuff to do rather than time for shopping and eating out. And, of course, there were

complaints about the weather and other things that make Florida... well, Florida.

Jon Stewart brought his *Daily Show* to Tampa's Straz Center during the RNC and, when one audience member asked him to say something nice about Florida; he responded by saying how insecure people are in this city. He also mentioned that Florida could use a hug. His first correspondent was set in front of a (fake) abandoned and foreclosed home for his "live report," his second was shown in the clutches of a gigantic flying cockroach (which, according to the correspondent, locals referred to as a "juvenile Palmetto bug").

Gail Collins from the *New York Times*, in an article on Sunday with fellow columnist David Brooks said, "Lovely people in Tampa, but all I could think was: this is what happens when you put the city of Des Moines in an asparagus steamer."

Really? Des Moines is a nice and beautiful little city but it's no Tampa (and vice versa — for which both are probably grateful). In fact, there are more people in the Greater Tampa Bay area than in all of Iowa. Besides, Iowa has its share of humidity in August — the only difference is the asparagus is a lot fresher since it comes from a farm field just down the road from downtown.

Here are just a few things delegates could have done in Tampa but not Des Moines (besides, of course, patronizing the overly publicized strip clubs):

They could have visited another country without leaving the city. According to the Hillsborough County Property Appraisers Office, *Cubano Estado* (the Cuban State) owns Jose Marti Park in Ybor City. Yes, the small park is owned by Cuba and is referred to as the only free Cuban land in the world. Except it really isn't all that free because it is only open during certain hours and is otherwise locked up tight with heavy fencing and a big padlock.

Speaking of things Cuban, by just strolling a few blocks outside

of the RNC security perimeter, and for mere pocket change, they could have visited Cafe Perara and resolved the war of words between Tampa and Miami about which city owns the Cuban sandwich. Or better yet, they could have come to Ruskin to visit the Ybor Grill (either way, Tampa wins).

Had they been so inclined, our guests could have visited one of the best beaches in the nation at Ft. Desoto, a county park, and they could have met mermaids in Weeki Wachee. They could have visited the original Hooters restaurant, along with a handful of other restaurants that began here as Mom and Pop places only to go national.

They could have called up some of the best distorted lead guitar Christmas music from the Trans Siberian Orchestra on their iPods and hit the bars of Ybor where the group got their start.

They could have strolled along Bayshore Boulevard, one of the most beautiful roads that any city could lay claim to, in peace. The weird sewage smell from the bay was resolved decades ago, the egg-throwing teenagers had been busted by the Tampa Police months ago, and the new palm trees that fell over during Tropical Storm Debbie had been righted weeks ago.

They could have canoed alongside alligators, swam with dolphins and manatees and gone to Pinellas in search of the Mystery Monkey of Tampa Bay.

They could have taken in a concert at the I-800-ASK-GARY Amphitheater because, well, really, who else has one? They could have hung with some very cool showmen in Gibsonton or any number of professional wrestlers who call Tampa Bay home.

They could have visited the beautifully distinct Sacred Heart Church, tucked in next to a skyscraper or the former St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church (now renovated as an apartment complex) where both Dr. Martin Luther King and Bill Clinton have spoken from the pulpit. They could have visited any number of synagogues, mosques (hopefully not getting confused with the spires at the University of Tampa) and yes, even a Tibetan Buddhist temple or two.

It turns out that, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, Hillsborough County is a much closer representation of American demographics than even the heartland city of Des Moines. Who knew?

Des Moines is a great place, but I'm not sure either city deserved Collins' (admittedly humorous) quip. So yes, visit that city, have some fresh asparagus and see what a happy and prosperous burg it is. For that matter, visit St. Paul — it, too, is a great city. But then come on back to Tampa Bay. If you give us a hug, we just might get a mermaid to serve up one of the world's best Cuban sandwiches while alligators, dolphins and manatees frolic in the water to the strains of heavy metal disguised as Christmas music. Yeah, it could happen — nowhere else but here.

*You can try to keep up with the Mystery Monkey of Tampa Bay via his Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/MysteryMonkeyOfTampaBay](http://www.facebook.com/MysteryMonkeyOfTampaBay).*

*The Trans Siberian Orchestra is scheduled to play two shows at the Tampa Bay Times Forum on Dec. 15. Tickets are now on sale for fans registered on the website [trans-siberian.com](http://trans-siberian.com).*



You won't find mermaids in Des Moines, but you will find them just up the road in Weeki Wachee.



The beautiful Sacred Heart Catholic Church in downtown Tampa is one of the city's oldest churches, constructed in 1905.

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## RUSKIN Moose Lodge #813 UPCOMING EVENTS

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

### WEEKLY EVENTS

Every Wednesday 5-7 p.m. Chef's Special by Moose Legion  
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

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, September 7 7-11 p.m. Bert and Sassy  
Saturday, September 8 7-11 p.m. Karaoke with Kim Mullins  
Friday, September 7 7-11 p.m. Bert and Sassy  
Saturday, September 8 7-11 p.m. Karaoke with Kim Mullins

All events are open to qualified Moose members and guests

## Tell your story

There's still time to register for the "Write Your Life Story!" course which begins at 10 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 7 at Hillsborough Community College/SouthShore, 551 24th St. N.E. on Shell Point Road in Ruskin. Create an important legacy for your heirs in eight sessions as you learn to write interesting stories about your life and times. Class size is limited and you must register in advance. For more information check it out on the HCC/SouthShore Lifelong Learning catalog on line at <http://tinyurl.com/27b4bxg> or call 813-259-6010.

## Beta Sigma Phi to meet

Laureate Zeta Kappa will hold its first meeting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 6. There will be no program; instead "Welcome back... and what did you do this summer?" For more information call 813-634-9774.

## Crafters and vendors wanted

Craft vendors are needed for the Eagles Auxiliary Craft and Yard sale to be held on November 3. The price is a \$10 donation for each table. For more information or to reserve a table call Barbara at 813-767-4189.



## Happy 70th Birthday

Sharon Pyche will be celebrating her 70th birthday today, Sept. 6, 2012, with her family and friends. Sharon's mother Grace Grant was born on April 26, 1922, while Sharon was born in 1942, her daughter, Lynn Johnson on May 21, 1962 and her granddaughter, Sheri Carty on March 19, 1982. All four generations were born 20 years apart.

## Are you a collector?

Questers International invites collectors to an informative open house at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 11 at the Southshore Regional Library, 15816 Beth Shields Way in the computer room. They have a range of activities geared towards collectors to include field trips, local treasure spots, restoration and preservation of historic sites and monthly programs.

For more information call 633-9171.



Luke Stanley Stillwell.

## Precious Baby

Luke Stanley Stillwell was born on August 7, 2012, weighing in at 9 lbs. 2 oz. at a length of 19.5 inches. He is the baby boy of proud parents Adam and Kristen Stillwell of Valrico. He also happens to be part of the *Observer News* extended family, as the grandson of sales representative Vilma Stillwell.

# We Welcome Another Specialist.

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Anita Shane to our **Bradenton** and **Sun City Center** offices. Dr. Shane is a board-certified and fellowship-trained Retina Specialist with expertise in:

- Macular Degeneration
- Retinal Diseases, Tears, Detachments & Surgery
- Diabetic Retinopathy

Dr. Shane earned her medical degree from the renowned Baylor College of Medicine, and completed a residency and fellowship at the prestigious Bascom Palmer Eye Institute where she was head of trauma.



**Dr. Shane is now accepting new patients!**

\* Ranked #1 eye hospital in the country by U.S. News & World Report 8 years in a row.



Anita Shane, M.D.  
Retina Specialist & Vitreo-Retinal Surgeon

813-633-3065 • [YourEyeDoctors.com](http://YourEyeDoctors.com) • Call today to schedule an appointment.

## Welcome Marie, Nail Tech, to our staff



**REFER A FRIEND**  
Both of you will get 20% Off  
Must mention ad. Expires 8/31/12.

## Annette's Beauty Salon

**FULL SERVICE SALON**  
for Men and Women  
Corner Hwy. 301 & S.R. 674,  
Suite #108  
in Village Plaza (next to Copper Penny)  
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**634-5422** Tuesday - Saturday  
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**SUMMER BINGO**

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

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Early Birds  
6:30 p.m.

Regular Games  
7:00 p.m.

**FOOD! FUN!**

# ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

(Ages 5 and up)



## Family Medical Care of Riverview, P.A.

Welcome our new physician **SONIA TRZMIELINA, M.D.** Dr. Trzmielina specializes in Women's and Community Health and is now accepting new patients.



- Minor Surgery • Lab • EKG • Immunizations
- Preventative / Routine Care

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[www.RiverviewDocs.com](http://www.RiverviewDocs.com)

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Mon. - Thur. 7 a.m. - 10 p.m. • Fri. 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. • Sat. 8 a.m. - close  
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George R. Cheesman III, M.D. • Nektarios S. Demetriou, D.O.  
Frederick M. Malibiran, D.O. • Sonia Trzmielina, M.D.



## Friday Night • Entertainment by Fletcher Organs • 5:30-8 p.m.

# Bella Cucina

Family Italian Restaurant

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Buy 1 Entree, Get 2nd Entree of equal or lesser value...  
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**FREE**  
Complimentary Glass of Wine with Entree Purchase.

*Wednesday Special*  
Buy 1 Entree, Get 2nd Entree of equal or lesser value...  
**1/2 OFF**  
WITH COUPON

*Early Bird Special*  
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# Area Obituaries



## Edgar Hadfield Hannum

Edgar Hadfield Hannum passed away peacefully Sunday, August 26, 2012, at the age of 90 in Sun City Center, Florida, with his wife and daughter at his side.

Born in 1921 in Berwyn, IL, to Ralph and Libbie Hannum, he was preceded in death by his sister Jeanne Hannum Hansen.

Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Lucille Havlik Hannum; daughter, Diane Hannum; sons, Scott (Debi), Ralph, and Doug (Nancy); grandchildren Jeremy, James, Kristen, Nicki, Ford and Mackenzie Hannum; and great-granddaughter Marlee.

Edward worked for international Harvester, and Hercules Engines of Canton, OH, where he retired as Vice President of OEM Sales. He was a Dive Bomber Pilot as a Lieutenant in the Navy during World War II. He was a graduate of the University of Illinois with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Edgar was an avid sailor who loved the water, making sure all his children were proficient swimmers. He was a devoted husband and father and will be missed by all.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to LifePath Hospice at Sun City Center or International Essential Tremor Foundation.

## Kenneth L. Ketcham

Kenneth L. Ketcham of Sun City Center, formerly of Kansas City, MO, and Shenandoah, IA, died peacefully at LifePath Hospice House on August 26, 2012. He was a loving husband, son, father and grandfather.

He is survived by his wife, his mother, his two brothers, his two sisters, his two sons, his stepson and stepdaughter and all their respective families.

Memorial Services will take place on Saturday, September 29, 2012 at St Andrew Presbyterian Church in Sun City Center.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be given to the Ken Ketcham Sound Equipment Fund c/o St Andrew Presbyterian Church, 1239 Del Webb Boulevard West, Greater Sun Center, FL 33573.

## Barbara (Bobbi) Stopyra

Barbara (Bobbi) Stopyra, a 26-year resident of Sun City Center, died peacefully at home on Saturday, August 18, 2012.

Bobbi was an avid bridge player, serving for many years as a director of the SCC Duplicate Bridge Club. She also enjoyed traveling and nearly covered the globe, beginning with an educational trip to Greece and Italy in 1965 to enhance her lessons as a history teacher.

She was predeceased by John, her husband of 55 years, and a grandson, Mark Wormser.

Left with fond memories of Bobbi are son, Jack Stopyra and his wife, Mariann, daughter, Dottie Wormser, grandson, Kevin Wormser and great granddaughter Destiny.

Find the stories that matter to you online at **OBSERVERNEWS.NET**



## Ethel B. Whitmore

Ethel B. Whitmore, 94, formerly of Jacksonville and Coral Gables, FL passed away peacefully in Ruskin, Florida on August 17, 2012.

When she was 9 years old, a family tragedy occurred in Jacksonville; her mother, Florence, and brothers Charles and Stafford were killed when their car was hit by a train. Her father had died a few years earlier. Ethel and her sisters (Hilda and Lillian) were raised by loving family members. She graduated from Landon High School in 1934 and married her high school sweetheart, the late Warren B. Whitmore. At Landon, Ethel was the first leader of the Landon Lionettes precision marching team and Warren was captain of the football team. They were married for 65 years.

In Jacksonville, Ethel was an officer in the South Jacksonville Woman's Club, the Southside Garden Club as well as a PTA president and a Girl Scout leader. They relocated with National Airlines to Coral Gables in 1963 where she became an officer in the Coco Plum Woman's Club and the Hammock Garden Club and also a Cub Scout leader. She received an AA degree from Miami Dade Community College, wrote poetry and became a published author. An avid world traveler, for her 88th birthday, she crossed Canada on the Trans-Canadian train. Ethel is survived by two children Sherry Gagnon (Gerry), Ruskin, FL and Brad Whitmore (Bobbi), Rockledge, FL. Grandchildren Dietrick Lamade, Chesapeake, VA; Lynn Maready, Richmond, VA and Warren Whitmore III, New York. Her great-grandchildren include Amanda and Leah Maready, and Daytona and Steele Lamade. She leaves many nieces and nephews. Known to all as a proper lady in the truest sense, she was a loving and steadfast matriarch, who touched many lives in immeasurable ways. Private services will be held in Jacksonville. Memorials can be made in her name to the Wounded Warrior project, 4899 Bellfort Rd, Suite 300, Jacksonville, Florida 32256. Arrangements by Sun City Center Funeral Home, Sun City Center, FL.

*Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.*  
Deuteronomy 6:5

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# In Memorium

## Brent Bennett

June 8, 1989 – September 8, 2007

From the first time we held you, To the last time we said goodbye, To each time you come into our thoughts...

You remain our Precious Angel. Forever in our Hearts, Dad, Mom and Ryan

"...even those tedious little things that annoy us to death sometimes, those things as well, should be praised and remembered as a small part of this intricate puzzle we call life." From Brent ~ August 30, 2006



We can't believe it has been 5 years since that terrible day that you were taken away from us so quickly. The days fly by so fast, but we think of you everyday and miss you terribly, but we know that our family will be complete again one day.

Love, Poppy, Uncle Ron, Aunt Kimmy and Krisi

## Healing the Heart

Sam Rorer, retired Air Force chaplain and respected leader at the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, will facilitate a new GriefShare Group beginning at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 19, at the church.

GriefShare is designed to lead those suffering pain from hurt or loss on their road to recovery. Each of the thirteen sessions includes a video featuring personal stories of those grieving a loss with expert insights to promote healing. The video is followed by a time of group sharing. Each participant will receive the workbook "From Mourning to Joy" filled with prayers, reflections and Scripture verses reflecting strength. Those who have previously attended GriefShare have praised this course as a meaningful life experience. For more information or to register, call Pat Hill, Director of Ministries (813) 634-2539 or email pathill@scumc.com.

# Area Places of Worship

## Ruskin United Methodist Church

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

ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME AND WORSHIP WITH US:

**SUNDAY MORNINGS:** Nov. - April..... 8:30 a.m. **Day Care Available**  
Rev. Richard Nussel and All Year..... 10:45 a.m. Mon. - Fri.  
Phone: 645-1241 Sunday School..... 9:30 a.m. 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
call 645-6198

## Friendship Baptist Church

**Rance Good, Pastor** (Southern Baptist)  
1511 El Rancho Dr.  
Sun City Center, FL 33573  
Phone/Fax:  
813-633-5950

WEEKLY SERVICES:

**Sunday**  
9 a.m. .... Bible Study  
11 a.m. .... Bible Study  
10 a.m. & 6 p.m. .... Worship  
**Wednesday**  
6 p.m. .... Prayer Meeting/Bible Study

## Ruskin Foursquare Church

106 7th Ave. N.W. *A place where you are...* 10 a.m. Sunday School  
Ruskin, FL 33570 11 a.m. Worship Service  
email: ruskin4sq@yahoo.com • loved • accepted • forgiven 7 p.m. Wed. Bible Study  
N. Blanton (813) 309-3558 2 p.m. Sunday En Español

**EXPERIENCE JESUS THIS WEEKEND**

## REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

701 Valley Forge Blvd. • Sun City Center, FL 33573-5354

Rev. Robert G. Wiley, Interim Pastor

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

Worship Services on Sunday 10 a.m.

Holy Communion First & Third Sunday • Bible Class Thursday 10 a.m.

## Unity COMMUNITY OF JOY

Spirituality Rather Than "Religion"

Henry Gibson Social Hall, Beth Israel Synagogue Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.  
1115 Del Webb E. • Sun City Center, FL 813-298-7745  
[www.unitycommunityofjoy.com](http://www.unitycommunityofjoy.com)

## First Baptist Church of Gibsonton

"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19  
Traditional Worship Service \*Sunday School 9:30 A.M.  
Old-Time Gospel Hymns \*Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Nursery Available Sunday Evening 6:00 P.M.  
\* Interpreter for the Deaf Mid-Week (Wed.) 7:00 P.M.  
9912 Indiana St. • Hwy 41 & Estelle Avenue Malcolm S. Clements, Pastor  
Gibsonton, FL 33534 813-677-1301

## Prince of Peace Catholic Church

702 Valley Forge Blvd., SCC, FL 33573  
Phone: 634-2328 • Fax: 633-6670  
[www.popcc.org](http://www.popcc.org)

**Masses:**  
Sunday ..... 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., Noon  
Saturday Vigil ..... 4:00 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"

1301 U.S. Hwy. 41 N., Ruskin, FL • 645-1121 • [www.nbcor.org](http://www.nbcor.org)

Sunday School (all ages)..... 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship .... 10:45 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.  
Wednesday (all ages) ..... 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Samuel (Sam) A. Roach, Pastor

## UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH - United Church of Christ

1501 La Jolla Ave., Sun City Center, FL 33573-5329  
A Caring Church United in God's Love Serving Our Community  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**  
Rev. Dr. Louis D. Leone • Worship Service 10:00 a.m.  
(813) 634-1304 • [www.uccinscc.org](http://www.uccinscc.org)

## Welcome to the: South Hillsborough Church of Christ

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

## CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship: Blended 8:00 a.m.  
Nursery Provided Contemporary 9:40 a.m.  
Pastor Jack R. Palzer Traditional 11:15 a.m.  
Assoc. Pastor Derek Hoven  
5309 U.S. Highway 41 North • Apollo Beach  
(across from MiraBay) [www.calvarylutheranchurch.net](http://www.calvarylutheranchurch.net) 645-1305

## The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center

1210 Del Webb Blvd West • 634-2539  
<http://www.sccumc.com>

**Come Belong Grow Serve**  
The United Methodist Church  
**Pages of Life**  
Bookstore 633-8595 FREE  
Nursery Provided

**WORSHIP SERVICES: 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)  
11:00 a.m. .... Hispanic Worship  
4:00 p.m. .... Hispanic Worship

Senior Pastor: **Dr. Warren Langer**  
Assistant Pastor: **Rev. Robert Chaple**

## Expanding Services?

Advertise in the Observer News, a trusted publication for over 50 years.  
813-645-3111

## Area Places of Worship

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



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

**New Thought Church Religious Science/SOM**

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**INVITES YOU TO SERVICES AT OUR NEW LOCATION**  
**1707 33rd Street SE, SCG/Ruskin • 813-938-4955**  
 10:30 a.m. SUNDAYS

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 of RUSKIN, FL

**CELEBRATING our 75th ANNIVERSARY**

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**645-6439**

www.fbcfruskin.org • A Resource for Families

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



Dr. Barry Rumsey  
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 K-2 Through 12th Grade

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

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

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

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

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

**All Are Welcome**

**St. Andrew Presbyterian Church**  
**Sunday Services 9:30 a.m.**  
**Contemporary 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 between Services.*  
*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 Friday ..... 8:00 a.m.  
 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.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY VERN ELARTH

Trinity Baptist Church member Gerald Yentes teaches his Sunday School class.

### Sunday School classes offered

A new series of Sunday School classes at Trinity Baptist Church are being offered in September and are open to all. Some of these classes will focus on "Living through tough times" and "The Church: transforming lives in a changing culture," while other classes will study various books of the Bible. All the classes are offered from 9-10 a.m. on Sunday mornings prior to the worship service, which begins at 10:30 a.m. For more information call 634-4228.

### New member welcomed

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church welcomes a new member to the congregation, Apollo Beach resident Robert Joseph "Joey" Davis, Jr. The church is located at 1239 Del Webb Boulevard West in Sun City Center. The church offers two services each Sunday, a traditional service at 9:30 a.m. and a contemporary service at 11 a.m.

For more information, call the church office at 634-1252.



Robert Joseph "Joey" Davis, Jr.

### First United Methodist Church of Brandon offers bible studies for women

**Mondays, at 6:45 p.m., beginning September 10** - Daniel: Life of Integrity, Words of Prophecy, by Beth Moore

Join Beth Moore in a faith-building 12-week study of prophecy, and learn how to live with integrity in today's self-absorbed society. Just as the prophet Daniel faced unbelievable pressures to compromise his faith, to live in a hostile culture, and confront temptations and threats, today's believers face many of the same trials.

**Wednesdays, at 9:30 a.m., beginning September 12** - Nehemiah: A Heart That Can Break, by Kelly Minter

Nehemiah had to have a heart that could break so he could restore a wall that was broken. In this seven-session Bible study, Nehemiah's heart for the oppressed, suffering and poor is a beacon whose light shines on the current call of the church to be the hands and feet of Jesus. In addition, this study addresses teamwork, integrity, generosity, truth in culture, God's compassion, and much more. Free on-site child care is available for the Wednesday morning study with advance notification. To register, or for more information, call 689-4161.

**Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m., beginning September 25** - Missing Pieces: Real Hope When Life Doesn't Make Sense, by Jennifer Rothschild

Does God care? Is He fair? Is He even there? Although you may know all the right answers, they don't always feel right. Explore these and other questions in this realistic, seven-week, look at the messy, mysterious uncertainties of faith. God's ways don't always make sense, but He is trustworthy.

For more about any of these studies, email info@fumcbrandon.org or call 689-4161.



**Beth Israel**  
**The Jewish Congregation of Sun City Center**  
 1115 Del Webb Blvd. East (634-2590)

**High Holiday Services:**

<b>Rosh Hashanah</b> Eve Day 1 Day 2	<b>September 16-7:45 PM</b> <b>September 17 - 10:00 AM</b> <b>September 18 - 10:00 AM*</b>
<b>Yom Kippur</b> Kol Nidre Day	<b>September 25 - 7:45 PM</b> <b>September 26 - 10:00 AM</b> <b>Afternoon service 3:00PM</b> <b>Yiskor service 4:30PM</b>

**Tickets for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur**  
 All members' spouses, parents, children and their spouses and grandchildren and their spouse there is no charge.  
 (Call Joanne Sudman for tickets at 813-633-3106)

For extended family members—\$50 for each of the two Holidays  
 Non-members -\$100 for each of the two Holidays  
 Military and college students are welcome at no charge.

**Rabbi Philip Aronson**  **Cantor: Sam Isaak**

## Affordable Care Act dissected

The Chai Chapter of Hadassah will host a 'New Member Tea' from 1:30 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, October 7 at Beth Israel of Sun City Center, 1115 E. Del Webb Blvd, Sun City Center.

They are honored to have Dr. Suzie Prabhakaran, a local authority on the Affordable Care Act speak at their tea. Dr. Prabhakaran is the Medical Director of Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida and Deputy State Director of Doctors for America (a national organization). Dr. Prabhakaran will speak about and explain what the Affordable Care Act does and does not do, without referring to any political party or agenda.

This event is free to the public. You must R.S.V.P. by September 30 to attend. Contact: Carol at monkeyandwife@yahoo.com or call 813-829-7227

## Remove the don't from I don't know

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center youth group, *Under the Cross*, is introducing a new study hall program: "Taking the Don't Out of I Don't Know." It is free to area youth, grades 6-12 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. The program is designed to help students gain academic success and confidence. Volunteer tutors are available to help the youngsters with homework questions in all subjects.

The United Methodist Church's *Under The Cross* youth group meets Wednesday evenings from 5:30-7:30 p.m. with a free meal, fun activities, youth based Bible study and real talk about what is going on in the lives of our younger citizens. *Under the Cross* is open to all youth grades 6 through high school. For more information about the youth group, call Tiffani Martinez at (813)-634-2539. To learn more about the United Methodist Church of Sun City center, visit www.sccumc.com.

## Adult Bible Studies presented

Northside Baptist Church of Ruskin is beginning a new series of studies aimed at adults on Wednesday, Sept. 12. They will be offering three very different breakout sessions. "Fundamentals of the Faith" is a study by John MacArthur which is designed to help us discover why we believe as we do. This study will be led by Dustin and Mary DeVos. Dustin says that this study is really an exploration of the foundations of faith. A second option is entitled, "Obsessed, Making Jesus the Desire of Your Heart" according to teacher, Dr. Richard Dominguez, will challenge and confront obsessions through scripture. Finally, "Honor Begins at Home," led by Brian and Trish Hutchinson, this is a study based on the resolutions from the movie, *Courageous*. The main goal of both the movie and this course is aiding parents in building families that last. Anyone interested in exploring any of these subjects in depth, is invited on Wednesday evenings beginning with dinner and fellowship at 5:30 p.m. If you can't make it for dinner, the study sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. Northside Baptist Church is located at 1301 US 41 N, in Ruskin. For more information, call the church office (813) 645-1121; during office hours Monday to Thursday, 9-5 p.m and Friday, 9 a.m.-noon.

### Phil Provenzano & The Jazz Xperience to perform

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, 1210 Del Webb Blvd. West, welcomes back Phil Provenzano and The Jazz Xperience on Friday Sept. 7, at 6:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Phil's ensemble is a main-stream, straight-ahead jazz combo that was originally formed to perpetuate the West Coast jazz sounds of musicians like Gerry Mulligan and Chet Baker.

Concert-goers are encouraged to arrive early for a good seat as the group is gaining a larger and larger fan base in this area. A donation of \$5 is requested at the door. For more information call 813-634-2539 or visit [www.sccumc.com](http://www.sccumc.com).

### Have You Heard the News?

Unity in Brandon joyfully announces the arrival of its long-awaited Spiritual Leader, Toby Isaacson.

Toby comes from St. Petersburg, FL where she has lived for more than twenty years. She spent her adolescent years in the Great Lakes part of the country, beginning her life in Toledo, Ohio, playing in the lakes and parks of Michigan and Ohio.

In the early 1990s, Toby became aware of Unity. She began attending regularly and taking classes at First Unity. Unity's recognition of the Divine inherent in everyone and its acceptance of faith traditions around the world and across time aligned with the inner understanding Toby had come to know within herself for all of us: We are All One, from One.

Toby completed her course of studies through Unity Worldwide Ministries' Spiritual Education and Enrichment Program which recognizes her as a Spiritual Leader as well as a Licensed Unity Teacher.

She has been visiting with Unity in Brandon and delivering her uplifting spiritual messages of Unity on occasional Sundays over the past several months, consistently with high praise. Toby accepted the invitation to the Unity in Brandon spiritual family in August, 2012.



Cross bearer Bob Browning during Offertory Procession of the special Native American Mass at St. Anne Catholic Church.

### St. Anne celebrates Native American Heritage

Father John McEvoy celebrated a Native American Mass at St. Anne Catholic Church, Ruskin, on August 25. The liturgy of this Mass highlighted the many prayers, symbols and traditions associated with the Native American culture. Representatives of the Mohawk, Blackfoot, Choctaw, Cherokee, Pawnee, Iroquois, Mik-mag, Dakota, Mayan and Carib nations were in attendance.

"This year is very exciting for the Native American community," said Maureen Biebrich, a member of the Many Nations Kateri Circle. "Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, a Mohawk, will be canonized on October 21, 2012 in Rome, becoming the first Native American Saint."

St. Anne Catholic Church is located at 106 11th Avenue N.E. in Ruskin.

### Christian Women's Connection to meet

Christian Women's Connection will present their luncheon and program from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 13 at Club Renaissance, 2121 So. Pebble Beach Blvd., Sun City Center. Guest speaker Betty Smith, will share some of her experiences living on a Caribbean Island. The program will be Hangovers Boutique. Seating begins at 11 a.m. The menu is shaved roast beef sandwich, beverage and dessert or alternate meal of tossed salad with grilled chicken. If you desire this option, be sure to order it when you make your reservation. Cost is \$17 inclusive. Reservations are required. Call Pat Butler at 938-4320 or Tara Flood at 383-7540 or e-mail [aunt.butler@gmail.com](mailto:aunt.butler@gmail.com). Make reservations or cancellations before noon Monday, Sept. 10.

### St. Anne Catholic Church Faith Formation

Registration for St. Anne Catholic Church Faith Formation will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 9, in the church narthex and St. Joachim Hall or visit the Parish Office Monday through Thursday. St. Anne Catholic Church is located at 106 11th Ave NE Ruskin.

Classes commence on Sunday, Sept. 23.

All classes are held on Sundays  
Elementary Faith Formation  
8:30 a.m.-9:45 a.m.

Middle School Faith Formation  
3:30 p.m.-4:45 p.m.

High School Faith Formation  
3:30 p.m.-4:45 p.m.

RCIA Adults, Children and Teens  
11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

For more information call 813-865-8222.

### Friday night at the movies

The SCC United Methodist Church is showing *The Mighty Macs* at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 14, at 1210 Del Webb Blvd. W. in Creason Hall.

The doors open at 6 p.m. with the popcorn machine popping, coffee pot brewing, and the cookies and other beverages waiting.

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Big sale. 1918 N Pebble Beach, SCC. Sept. 6, 7, 8. 7am-? Reel mower, furniture, appliances, dishes, clothing, fabric, yarn, flower pots & much more.

Sept. 7, 8am-2pm. Golf cart, household items, desk, collectibles, clothes. 2318 E. Del Webb Blvd., SCC.

Ruskin: Electric Bike Shop. Clearance Sale. 25 miles top speed, 40 mile on a charge. Buy, sell, trade. Come & browse. 2112 US 41 S. or call 813-649-0213

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**PRE-OWNED HYUNDAI CERTIFIED SPECIALS!**

2009 HYUNDAI SONATA



**\$12,991**

2011 HYUNDAI SONATA



**\$17,991**

2010 HYUNDAI ELANTRA



**\$12,994**

2012 HYUNDAI ELANTRA



**\$17,991**

2012 HYUNDAI ACCENT



**\$15,991**

2009 HYUNDAI GENESIS



**\$23,991**

2009 HYUNDAI TUCSON



**\$17,991**

2011 HYUNDAI GENESIS



**\$24,891**

\*Based on EPA estimates for comparison only. Your actual mileage may vary with options, driving conditions, driving habits and vehicle's conditions. All leases are based on 36 months/12,000 miles per year, with 20¢ per mile thereafter with approved credit and \$2995 down (Tucson \$2699, Sonata \$3495). All offers exclude tax, tag, title, registration, destination charges and dealer fees. Must qualify for Hyundai Loyalty to qualify for pricing. \*\*0% APR financing for 36 months is \$27.78 per month per \$1000 borrowed with \$0 down payment and approved credit for well-qualified buyers. †Up to \$2,000 savings includes \$500 HMF Bonus Cash, \$1,000 Valued Owner Coupon (VOC) and \$500 HMA Consumer Rebate. Bonus Cash must be used with low APR program and is only available when financing through HMF. Must be applied as a down payment. \$500 consumer rebate can be combined with HMF low APR, but not with HMF lease offer. All used vehicle prices exclude tax, tag, title, registration and dealer fee. Photos may not depict actual vehicle. All used vehicles are subject to prior sale. See dealer for complete details. All images may not depict actual model. Offers expire end of day 9/9/12.



**HYUNDAI**  
 OF BRADENTON  
 A Gettel Automotive Dealership

2503 1<sup>st</sup> Street • Bradenton  
 On 1<sup>st</sup> Street, 2 Blocks South of Where 301 Meets US41  
**1-941-747-9262**  
 Monday - Saturday 9am-8pm • Sunday Noon-5pm  
**HyundaiOfBradenton.com**

HYUNDAI Assurance  
 America's Best Warranty<sup>®</sup>  
 10-Year/100,000-Mile  
 Powertrain Limited Warranty



On SR64 Just Seconds West Of I-75, Exit 220

# It's Football Season and They're Coming From Sarasota, Venice & Tampa to... **SCORE BIG!!**

FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY GET...

# 0% APR AVAILABLE!\*

**TOYOTA**  
of Lakewood

NOW MAY BE YOUR BEST TIME TO GET THE TOYOTA YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!

# UP TO \$7000 OFF

## ALL BRAND NEW 2012 TOYOTAS!†

\$3000 Toyota Cash + \$4000 Dealer Cash = \$7000 Total Savings!



**ToyotaCare**

When you purchase or lease a new Toyota, get **MAINTENANCE FOR 2 YEARS/25,000 MILES PROVIDED BY TOYOTA**

Includes Oil Changes & Major Services

Covers normal factory scheduled service for 2 years or 25K miles, whichever comes first. The new vehicle cannot be part of a rental or commercial fleet. See participating dealer for complete plan details. Valid only in the continental United States and Alaska.



- 12 Month/12,000 Mile Comprehensive Warranty from Date of Purchase
- 7 Year/100,000 Mile Limited Power Train Warranty
- Rental Car Allowance
- 1 Year Unlimited Roadside Assistance from Date of Purchase
- 160 Point Quality Assurance Inspection (174 Point for Hybrids)
- CARFAX® Vehicle History Report

<p>2008 TOYOTA YARIS <b>\$9791</b> <small>Sporty Hatchback, Great MPG's</small></p>	<p>2008 TOYOTA YARIS <b>\$10,991</b> <small>4 DR, Auto, Great For Back To School!</small></p>	<p>2009 TOYOTA COROLLA LE <b>\$13,292</b> <small>Price To Sell!</small></p>	<p>2007 TOYOTA RAV4 <b>\$13,994</b> <small>Economical and Roomy</small></p>	<p>2009 TOYOTA CAMRY CE <b>\$13,994</b> <small>America's Top Seller</small></p>	<p>2009 TOYOTA MATRIX S <b>\$14,481</b> <small>Hard to Find!</small></p>	<p>2007 TOYOTA PRIUS <b>\$14,991</b> <small>Just 37K Miles!</small></p>	<p>2008 TOYOTA PRIUS <b>\$14,994</b> <small>Leather, Navigation &amp; 50 MPG's!</small></p>
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**Why Buy Used Anywhere Else?**



1. Inspected and Certified
2. Industry-Leading Warranty
3. CARFAX® Vehicle History Report
4. Exclusive 3-Day Vehicle Exchange Program
5. Price Protection Guarantee
6. Unmatched Selection
7. Premier Financial Programs
8. Exclusive Discounts

<p>1999 TOYOTA TACOMA <b>\$6994</b> <small>Only 75K Miles! 5-Spd!</small></p>	<p>2002 TOYOTA CAMRY LE <b>\$8591</b> <small>Low Miles</small></p>	<p>2004 CHEVY MALIBU MAXX <b>\$8922</b> <small>Easy To Own</small></p>	<p>2004 TOYOTA COROLLA <b>\$8991</b> <small>Fits All Budgets</small></p>	<p>2006 NISSAN SENTRA <b>\$8991</b> <small>Economical &amp; Affordable</small></p>	<p>2002 TOYOTA CAMRY LE <b>\$9591</b> <small>V-6, Very Low Miles!</small></p>	<p>2003 TOYOTA SOLARA <b>\$9791</b> <small>Very Low Miles</small></p>	<p>2005 HYUNDAI TUCSON <b>\$10,993</b> <small>Priced to Move</small></p>
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†Example: New 2012 Toyota Tundra Crew Max Model#8374. Discount includes \$3000 Toyota Cash + \$4000 Dealer Cash = \$7000 Total Savings. All factory incentives and rebates to dealer. Discount excludes tax, tag, title, registration and includes dealer fees. \*With approved credit on select models for a limited term. All used car prices exclude tax, tag, title and registration. All prices are on in-stock units only, all vehicles are subject to prior sale. Offers cannot be combined. Photos are for illustration purposes only, may not be actual vehicle. All offers expire end of day 9/9/12.



**TOYOTA**  
of Lakewood  
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