



THE OBSERVER NEWS

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MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS

It's Christmastime in the city

Leftover Thanksgiving turkey may still be on the menu but Christmas and the holiday season is already in full swing around the Tampa Bay area. At left, the Apollo Beach Beautification Committee has been hard at work putting up Christmas and holiday-themed decorations and wreaths along Apollo Beach Blvd. Above, a large Christmas tree is on prominent display at Centro Ybor in Ybor City.



South County residents easily pick their best trash collection option

By MELODY JAMESON
mj@observernews.net

RUSKIN – County officials came here Saturday seeking citizen input on new options for trash collection in South Hillsborough and some 60 area residents obliged.

By a large majority, they asserted they want what they now have – at reduced cost.

With current contracts for trash collection throughout unincorporated Hillsborough expiring in September, 2013, public utilities administrators are considering a variety of different approaches to the complexities of refuse pick-up and disposal. On the residential collection side, they are forecasting savings to consumers in the 20 to 30 percent bracket.

They have cut the large unincorporated county area into five collection districts, issued requests for proposals covering several different scenarios and received responses from six large-scale trash haulers, including the three currently handling residential and commercial trash pick-up.

From these proposals, they distilled new data, combined it with known factors based on recent experience and presented

four possible options for assembled South County residents during the community meeting Saturday. It was the second of such meetings scheduled around the county.

If the present contracts with the current haulers simply were to be extended, the projected 2014 collection contractor cost is \$139.56, billed annually to residents and customarily arriving as part of the solid waste handling charges appearing on their property tax statements each fall, John Lyons, county public utilities director, told the group. This figure does not include charges for the other but closely allied aspect of solid waste management – disposal fees – which are yet to be considered.

That 2014 projection for residential collection could drop by \$39.21 to \$100.35 under the first of four options envisioned as part of the new approach to the service provided by any of the six interested haulers, Lyons said. Option 1 is based on continued manual handling of trash containers placed by home owners along roadways for pick up by passing trucks. It also continues the twice weekly garbage

► See TRASH COLLECTION, page 10

After the bombs hit my ship...

One man's story of Pearl Harbor and the months that followed

By PENNY FLETCHER
penny@observernews.net

SUN CITY CENTER — The boat to shore was due to arrive around 8 a.m. but Ed Socha had forgotten his wallet and was going back to the ship.

So Ed saw the first bomb hit Pearl Harbor from a different vantage point than he would have from the smaller boat, which he said narrowly escaped the bombs and had to turn back.

Ed remembers the details of that day, and the months that followed, in great detail.

The 20-year-old Apprentice Seaman had recently been transferred from the USS West Virginia to the USS Maryland. Some of his things still remained on the West Virginia, including a clarinet he'd left in the storeroom.

Although he was listed as dead in at least one newspaper because paperwork still had him assigned to the West Virginia which was sunk, Ed says his family knew better because he had already notified his mother of the transfer.

Historical records show that all eight US Navy battleships anchored at Pearl Harbor Naval Base were damaged, four being sunk, although two were later raised and repaired. The attack was intended as a preventive action to keep the US Pacific Fleet from interfering with military actions taking place in Southeast Asia. The base was attacked by 353 fighter planes, bombers and torpedo planes in two waves launched from six aircraft carriers. It was the event that pushed the United States into World War II, Dec. 7, 1941.

"It was a Sunday morning. Everything was quiet. I was going back to get my

► See AFTER THE BOMBS HIT MY SHIP..., page 6



U.S. NAVY PHOTOGRAPH, NATIONAL ARCHIVES COLLECTION
The USS West Virginia during the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Ed Socha's first ship assignment. He was transferring from it to the USS Maryland, which was also bombed.



PENNY FLETCHER PHOTO
Ed Socha, above, enlisted in the Navy in 1939 right out of high school and was stationed on the USS Maryland at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Dec. 7, 1941 during the historic bombing of that base.

The months that followed took him to China, sometimes behind enemy lines, and that was just the beginning of Socha's long and distinguished military career.

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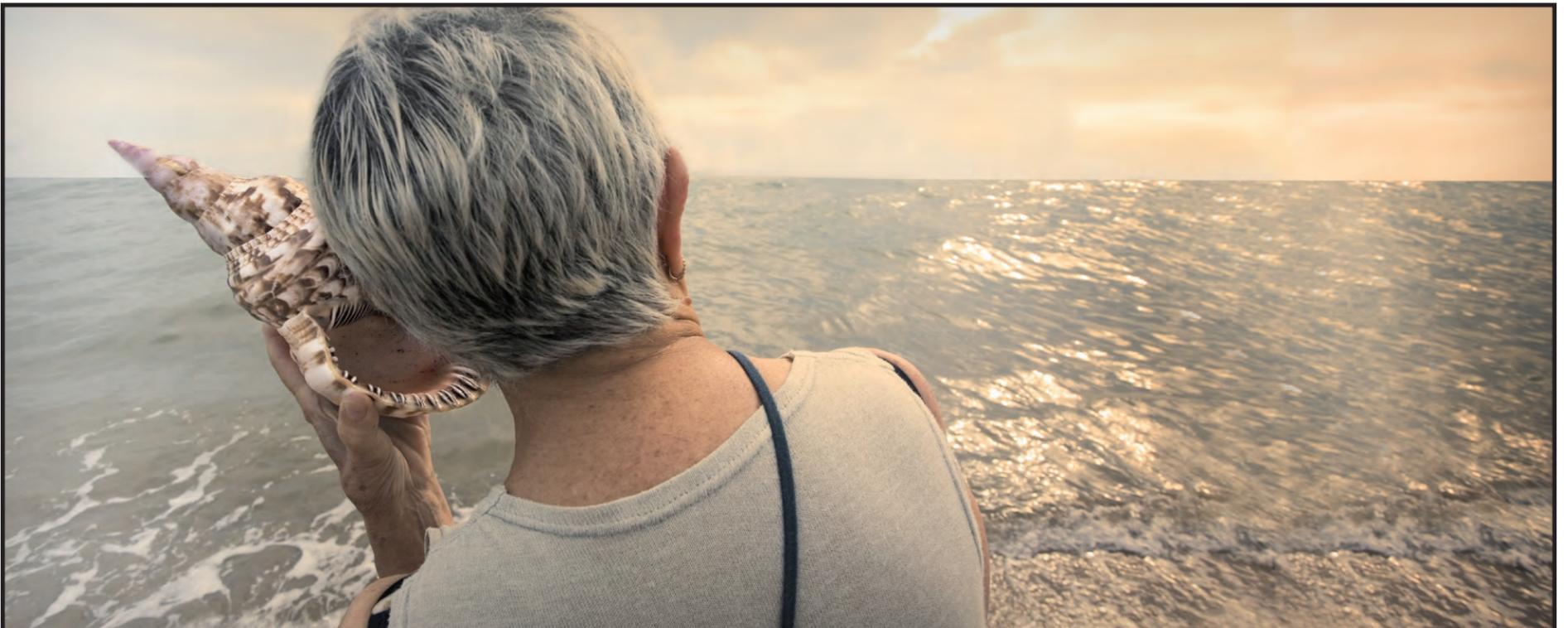
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Cancer became catalyst for a changed life

■ By MELODY JAMESON
mj@observernews.net

SUN CITY CENTER —Drifting through a desultory life, she was in an unsatisfactory marriage, driving herself each day to a job she detested, equipped with a useful degree but lacking direction.

Even though today she is the exuberant executive director of this community's chamber of commerce, Dana Dittmar 20 years ago was in her early 30s, unsettled, chronically out of sorts, by her own admission not a happy person.

Then, out of the blue came the diagnosis. Against all odds, she had an aggressive form of breast cancer. It would be at first life threatening, then life altering, soon life affirming and finally life inspiring.

Come Saturday night, she'll be celebrating those two intervening decades, sharing in her typical high energy manner with friends, neighbors, colleagues, other survivors the reawakening that her bout with cancer has wrought.

Dittmar grew up in North Carolina, earned a degree in mass communications from North Carolina State at Raleigh, worked in radio and television, starred in commercials, even dabbled for a bit with the role that then was known as the station "weather girl."

And, she had the looks for it, she acknowledges with a grin today, "a tall skinny blonde with legs up to here."

She also was unanchored, she says, simply taking life as it flitted by, no concrete planning, no definite goals. By the time she was 34, she was married and a DINK — double income, no kids — working in the mortgage insurance industry, she recalls with

a grimace.

But the company did provide periodic "lunch and learn" programs for employees. One of them focused on identifying breast cancer, complete with soft-material breast molds encasing nodules mimicking tiny tumors. The women practiced finger tip examination of the molds to detect the tumors.

That night, at home, Dittmar says she conducted a fingertip breast exam for real. And she found something supposed to be suspicious; a very, very small knot. Not much concerned, she did the prescribed thing; she called an appropriate doctor, kept an appointment, underwent an examination and biopsy, then left on a weekend trip. After all, she was still youthful, she was not sick, there was no history of any cancers in her family, and only one in every 100 tumors actually was malignant. Anything but a clean bill of health was unimaginable. The odds were with her.

On Monday, following the weekend get-away, she called the doctor's office as promised, fully anticipating their good news, cheerfully relayed.

"I was blown away, just flat blown away," she says today. The report was ominous. An especially aggressive type of cancer, fed by estrogen. "I'd only been married a year; I no longer could take any birth control medication and I certainly could not become pregnant, the hormonal changes would be disastrous."

She and her husband at the time reviewed the options. She was leaning toward at least one radical mastectomy, maybe two. He was strongly opposed, favoring a less invasive approach. "I was

scared," she admits freely, "this was mortality." He, on the other hand, had married a complete woman, she suggests, and was not prepared for anything less. "He was supportive," she says, but nonetheless determined.

And, her male surgeon echoed her husband. They argued for a simple lumpectomy, followed by regimens of chemo and radiation. She remained ready for at least one breast removal. "I could live without that part of the anatomy," she asserted then, questioning whether she would live with it. And, in 1992, there not yet were the advanced blood tests that can pinpoint a genetic proclivity for breast cancer. Ultimately, she capitulated.

The little tumor was removed with minimal surgical procedure, she underwent both radiation on five consecutive days for seven weeks and chemo for six months. She packed on pounds, lost her hair, fought through the extreme fatigue to keep up with two bowling leagues and leadership in her chapter of Business and Professional Women, plus gained the almost imperceptible but permanent tattoos that mark a place on the body subjected to radiation. "Those tattoos hurt," she still recalls.

As she continued her recovery, she also did an about face. She began reading Deepak Chopra, studying the mind-body connection, practicing what she was

learning. "I'd repeatedly watch 'Cool Running', the story of a very game Jamaican bobsled team competing in Canadian snow. On television, I watched nothing but comedies, I asked people to tell me their corniest jokes," she says, looking back, remembering that she deliberately laughed at every opportunity.

"I had dis-ease," she emphasizes, motioning with her hands to

demonstrate that as she sees it her mind and body were out of sync when she was younger. The disturbingly dissatisfying life she was leading, characterized by a lack of direction, created a fertile field for rooting the cancer, she believes.

Her solution was to take firm control of her life and reorder it. Her first marriage ended. She returned to school and obtained a Master's Degree in Cultural Studies, a field of scholarship which encompasses subject matter long of interest, including comparative religions. She invested some \$6,000 in training with a competent professional job coach.

Among the outcomes: she went from a \$30,000 a year job to a much more satisfying position in the medical field paying \$65,000 a year; she remarried; she found her way to more fully utilize her education and experience, she embarked on a journey designed to take Dana the mature woman to a better lived life and a happier place in it, she indicates.

Along the way she learned of a philosophy originated in Hawaii and known as Ho Oponopono which she practices every day, without fail. Now, "every day I say 'I'm sorry' for whatever I do wrong, every day I ask for forgiveness, every day I express my gratitude and say 'thank you', every day I say 'I love you'."

This practice, coupled with healthy food choices and the kind of supplements everyone takes, is the simple combination that supports her cancer survival, Dittmar says, adding with irrepressible good humor "and I don't think much about cancer any more. I'm not a cancer victim." Eliminating such thoughts from the mind precludes fostering "dis-ease" in the body, she suggests.

Looking ahead, Dittmar declares "many of my female relatives lived into their 90s, one even reached the age of 104. So, I plan to be around a long, long time."

In the meantime, there's a party planned for the chamber banquet hall Saturday, beginning around 7 PM, as its executive director celebrates a cherished life made possible by cancer.

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MELODY JAMESON PHOTO

It took a life-altering bout with cancer 20 years ago to inspire Dana Dittmar, Sun City Center Chamber of Commerce executive director, to reorder her life and priorities for the better. This week the high-energy chamber leader celebrates two decades as a breast cancer survivor and shares her journey from an unhappy, dissatisfied thirty-something to a grounded, directed fifty-something who lives the principles inherent in the mind-body connection and practices the Hawaiian philosophies of Ho Oponopono.

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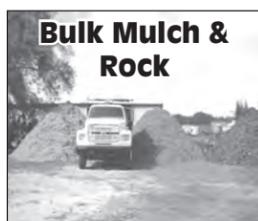
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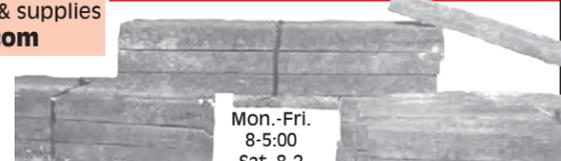
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Positive Talk: Take time for yourself

At a conference I attended, one of the presenters, Steve Drewry, told a very interesting story—one that touched home with me because I saw in it a moral to which many of us should pay attention. Some of the most giving people I know rarely take time to take care of themselves, and his story brought that fact home loud and clear. Steve's story went like this.



By William Hodges

Once upon a time there was a very caring and loving woman, Mary, who found she had a great talent for making soup. From far and wide, people had praised her soup. One day she decided she would try to feed some of the people in her area who were indigent, homeless or lonely.

On the first day, Mary made a kettle of soup and invited people to come and eat. As she ladled out bowl after bowl of soup, the aroma tantalized her taste buds, and she thought to herself, "This smells good. I'll have to have a bowl when I have fed everyone else." But at the end of the day when she went to ladle out a bowl of soup, there was none left. Mary went to bed hungry that night, but in her heart she had the happiness of knowing she had fed so many.

The next morning when Mary started preparing soup, a line was already gathering outside her door. The goodness of her broth and her hospitality had spread beyond the neighborhood. Still hungry, she thought, "I'd better prepare a larger pot than yesterday, so there will be some left for me." But not unlike the day before, when the last person left her door, the pot was empty and there was no more. Mary, flushed with the glow of having helped so many people, silenced the grumble of her stomach by remembering the

smiles of those she fed.

The next few days passed quickly, the next not unlike the day before. No matter how large a pot of soup Mary prepared, there was always someone to consume it. She continued to give of herself without thought for self, until she fell ill from malnutrition. On that day, there was no soup—not the first bowl—and no one was fed.

Mary so loved the people around her that she was willing to give everything of herself so that the people in her community would survive and prosper. But she forgot that if she didn't take care of herself first, she would not last to take care of others later. If you, like Mary, tend to put everyone else first, it is important you understand you must take care of yourself in order to continue your contribution to others.

You can only help others if you are strong in body, spirit and mind. If you do not take time for proper rest, exercise and food, your body will not remain strong; and if you do not refresh your spirit, you will surely fade away. Look at what you are doing for others and then at what more could be accomplished if you used your mind and let it govern your activities. All of us have much to give, but we must do it in a manner that does not kill the proverbial goose that laid the golden eggs. Be sure to feed the goose and you will be able to help more people for a longer time.

By the way, in Steve's story, Mary died; but in my version, she realized what her mistake was, corrected her behavior and recovered fully. She is still making soup for others, but now she takes the first bowl so that she will stay happy, healthy and

productive. Have a bowl of soup and then get busy.

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. Phone : 824-641-0816. Email: bill@billhodges.com Website: www.billhodges.com



South Shore Toys For Tots Drop-Off Location

Weichert, Realtors - SouthShore has volunteered to help the U.S. Marine Corps as a local Toys for Tots drop-off location. The agency is collecting toys through December 7, at which time all the presents collected will be delivered for distribution by the Marines. Bring new, unwrapped toys to the office at 6160 N. US Highway 41 in Apollo Beach.



Christmas cards from Florida's kids

Growing up poor limits children's possessions, but not their imaginations.

That's proven every year when the children of Redlands Christian Migrant Association sit with their crayons and magic markers to create visions of a Florida Christmas. Oranges hang on Christmas trees. Strawberries bulge from stockings. Palm trees sport Christmas lights.

Those images, and many more, go on Christmas cards for sale to the public. All money raised helps RCMA enhance the early education it provides to some 7,000 preschool-age children in Florida farm areas. Even better, it's matched 16:1 through the State of Florida's School Readiness contract with RCMA.

"I know it is hard to think snow and standard Christmas when the temperature is in the 80s, but our kids have great imaginations!" says RCMA Executive Director Barbara Mainster. "And it has achieved lots of good for many years."

Every dollar raised helps prepare children in Florida's low-income farm communities to embrace school and seize its opportunities. Immokalee-based RCMA operates 71 child care centers, including 20 in the Tampa Bay area.

You can order RCMA Christmas cards online at www.rcma.org/holidaycards or by calling RCMA's Judy Brill at (800) 282-6540. Her email address is judy@rcma.org.

Anyone ordering 100 cards or more can choose an exclusive or specialized design by emailing Sonia Tighe at sonia.tighe@ffva.com or calling her at (813) 975-8377.

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Southshore Regional Library Kids program/event highlights

15816 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin • (813) 634-1396

Baby Time - Monday, Dec. 10, 1:35 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 11, 11:35 a.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 12, 10:05 p.m.

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

Toddler Time - Tuesday, Dec. 11, 10:05 a.m. & 10:35 a.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 12, 10:35a.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, Dec. 11, 11 a.m.
Wednesday, Dec. 12, 11 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.

Teen Night: Game Zone - Thursday, Dec. 13, 5 p.m.

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

Family Story Time - Thursday, Dec. 13, 7 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.

Membership with the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library helps provide the funding for free programs offered at the Library. If you would be interested in becoming a Member of the Friends of the Library, please call Jim Duffy at 813-634-1396; www.southshorefriends.com



Congratulations to Gibsonton Elementary's Terrific Kids

The following students showed their peers how to be Respectful: Mercedes Fernandez, Bryan Garza, Alexia Garrett, Esmeralda Suastegui, Michael Jarmon, Haili Garland, Tyler Davis, Thanddeus Farr, Angelica Sifuentes, Payton Browning, Anne Sandin, Shyanne Knox, Crystal Espinoza, Miguel Valdez, Amy Cantu, Jorge Huapilla, Jesse Flores, Arika Mitchell, William McIntyre, Jose Roque, Kody Nguyen, James Kalbach, Marisol Mendoza, Michael Boyer, Raymundo Flores, Reese Phelps, Lastat Goeddeke, Kevin Lommer, Jonathon Bailey, and Omart Pineda.

Festival of Trees is at SouthShore Regional Library this week

There are 20 Christmas trees, table-top trees and wreaths donated by local businesses — some decorated by students at both Doby and Ruskin Elementary — available at the SouthShore Library on Beth Shields Way in Ruskin. The trees and wreaths are being auctioned off and all proceeds will benefit both of the participating local schools.

There are lots of different themes, and the trees are quite beautiful. Some of the trees have actual products, gift cards, etc. on them, which enhance their value. Bidding sheets are next to the trees.

The bidding will end on Saturday during the Library's event from 5 to 8 p.m. Winning bidders do not have to be present to claim their tree on Saturday; they will be notified if their bid is highest.



South Shore Business Women hold holiday dinner

South Shore Charter Chapter American Business Woman's holiday dinner meeting will be on Monday, Dec. 17. There will be a "Holiday Theme Gift Exchange," and gifts should cost no more than \$15.

The event will have appetizers, desserts, beverages (including wine), coffee and lots of fun.

It's planned as a true networking evening of relaxation and laughter. Holiday jokes are welcome at this party.

Be sure to bring a friend and business cards for networking. All attendees will have a moment to introduce themselves and their business.

The holiday dinner will start at 6 p.m., with networking and sign-in starting at 5:30 p.m. The location is BMO Harris Bank (formerly M&I Bank), 5461 N. US Hwy 41 in Apollo Beach.

The cost is \$16, and includes all food and beverages (including wine); cash or checks accepted.

RSVP to Deb Adams at (813) 649-0400.

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After the bombs hit my ship...

One man's story of Pearl Harbor and the months that followed

► Continued from page 1

wallet and saw the first torpedo drop. There was a young officer running down the quarter deck, yelling to us about what was going on. I saw the red 'meatball' on the next plane that went over. It was close enough I could see the pilot clearly," Ed said.

Now 91, Ed had enlisted in 1939 after graduating from Niagara Falls Sr. High School in New York. It was the height of the Great Depression and people could not find work. But Ed stayed in the Navy for 27 years, reaching the rank of Ensign on Guadalcanal in 1944 and then attending Scout and Raider training – a Special Forces unit.

After Pearl Harbor, he remembers being attached first to a unit that built a mobile hospital, and then being transferred to write notes and correspondence for the Base Commander because he knew shorthand and could type.

From there he became an Admiral's Writer for the Pacific Fleet.

"Here I was, a little old fresh Seaman working for an Admiral," he said, laughing.

The next stop was Calcutta, India, where he somehow managed to locate his brother William who was stationed there in the Army.

"We walked the streets of Calcutta together talking about home," he said.

After India, Ed went to China, first to Chung King, and then was

one of six men assigned to survey and map the Yangtze River.

"It was a six-week voyage using all local boatmen and crafters. I was the one who held the money to pay them. They didn't know I was carrying \$10,000 in Chinese money in two sacks. If they had, I don't know if I'd have made it back. This was quite an experience. We lived on the local economy. I don't think I got to take a shower the whole time."

In places, the rapids were so bad the local help was afraid to proceed until Ed and the other Americans put on life jackets and jumped into the water to demonstrate how they worked.

Being in the boondocks in rural China was like taking a step way back in time.

"There were warlords with their own little armies following them that made their own weapons.

You'd hear a bugle, and they'd come riding out. I can't imagine how they made those weapons. How they could drill through metal with what they had (to work with). There are 40 different dialects in China. Somehow our interpreter, who spoke Mandarin, got us through."

For his service in WWII defending China's independence against invasion, Ed was awarded the SACO: Sino-American Cooperative Organization Commemorative Medal during a Veteran's Day ceremony in Sun City Center in 2006.

The medal was bestowed by his step-brother, Ret. Rear Admiral Richard Rybacki, of the US Coast Guard.

It was in July of 1945, while

setting up a base in Tung Hing Lake, using a crank generator to get the news, that Ed and his small group learned the war was over.

They made their way back to an American base in what had been the enemy's transportation: the wheels on trucks had been replaced with railroad wheels and trucks ran on rails like trains.

After the war Ed became the assistant to the Executive Secretary of Defense under Robert McNamara. This is the position he held the day President John F. Kennedy was shot.

Two years after that, in 1966, Ed retired from military life with the rank of Commander and took a position with the Lummus Company, a division of Combustion Engineering

Company, from which he retired in 1987, when he and his wife, Naomi, moved to Florida.

Ed and Naomi have two

children, five grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and as of this writing, another on the way.



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Michelle Halcomb, DDS

Dec. 7, 1941: The day these children learned the meaning of war

By PENNY FLETCHER
penny@observernews.net

SUN CITY CENTER — Seven-year-old Arnold Larson thought he was watching a fireworks show until his dad handed him a .22 caliber rifle and instructed him to “shoot to kill.”

Just four days past his sixth birthday, Ed Beck awoke to frantic conversation between his parents, jumped from his bed and stared out his window at the low-flying planes with the red “meatball” on the sides.

Meanwhile, down on Waikiki Beach, seventeen-year-old Shirley Gibbens (Engle) had just met two football teams that had arrived to play at the University of Hawaii. It was supposed to be her job to meet the buses and escort the players back to the school.

It was approximately 8 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941. The day President Franklin Delano Roosevelt later said was a “day which would live in infamy.”

The U.S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor had just been bombed.

The three “child survivors” of Pearl Harbor that were interviewed for this story all have different recollections of that day and the months that followed. Their memories come from different places, due to their age and circumstances surrounding the event.

“My father was career military. He had just gotten commissioned as an Ensign and we were outside in a recreation area that had a baseball field,” Arnold Larson said. “The enlisted people had their Christmas party on the 6th, and the officers were supposed to have theirs there on the 7th. Some of the grownups were taking guns to the shooting range and when

the planes came by, my father handed me a .22 rifle and my mother a .45 pistol. He told me to stay with my mother and shoot to kill.”

When the first bomb hit, Arnold’s first thought was that he was watching a fireworks show. The big boom, the tremendous splash of bright light.

“It took me a minute to realize the adults were scared,” he said. “My father was a gunner’s mate and I had already learned to shoot a weapon. In fact, the Saturday before, I had just shot a Thompson machine gun.”

The day Arnold was interviewed for this story, he commented that it was “serendipity.”

“I just sat down and was reading a letter from my father about combat action that was written on Dec. 6, 1942,” he said. “I can’t believe I got this call right now.”

Ed Beck remembers being unable to comprehend the unfolding tragedy despite his mother’s words.

“She held me up to the window so I could see the smoke and flames rising,” he said. “I thought it was some sort of super Fourth of July.”

Like Arnold, Ed thought only of fireworks. It took the child’s mind a while to wrap around the thought of fear.

He recalls fighter planes being low overhead.

“They were so close you could easily see the men’s faces, with goggles pushed up over their eyes,” he said.

Ed’s father was the Lt. Commander of the USS Phelps at the time. He later became a Rear Admiral. Ed thought it was funny to see him in dress uniform on what should have been a relaxing Sunday morning.

“He gave us one quick hug and he was gone,” he said. But unlike many others — his father did come back.

During the weeks that followed, Ed remembers the demands to keep absolute silence, the air raid warnings and gas mask training.

Finally the families were evacuated to California by ship. “They had to wait what seemed to be a long time and now I know it was because the government thought the enemy might torpedo the ship,” he said.

Once back in the States, Ed saw the adults donating junk cars and other metal items. He now knows it was to make weapons.

“My mother was touched when I donated my bike,” he said. “I had just gone from a trike to a regular bicycle. It wasn’t any big thing. But she said it was the principle behind it.”

Shirley Engle, then Shirley Gibbens, was 17 at the time of the Pearl Harbor bombing. Her father was in the Civil Service working at the Naval base.

“I grew up in Hawaii and had just started at the University. I was the youngest and the littlest, so I got the job of meeting two football teams that were coming in to play at the university. I got on the bus going to the beach, and a man said ‘I think we’ll be in a war by Christmas.’ At the time, I thought, that can’t happen! I have dates through New Year’s. Normal thoughts for a teenage girl.”

But what followed the bus ride to Waikiki Beach was anything but normal.

“I got to the beach before the second wave of bombing. The football teams got off the buses and I was with them. There was much activity, shells flying

USS Cassin & Downes



around, and we knew something drastic was going on.”

Military personnel started putting barbed wire around the beach. They expected the enemy to land and the Red Cross came and told us to be ready to help them prepare beds for the wounded,” she said. “It was horrific, seeing all the gorgeous ships in tatters. My father’s job was to estimate damage. He estimated damage for a long time after that.”

Shirley recalls living in complete blackout for a long time after the bombing. Everybody covered their windows tight with wood. There couldn’t be a speck of light anywhere after dark. If there was, they could become a target.

All three remembered learning the meaning of fear. None of them had ever seen their parents frightened before. In the months to come, the families lived through blackouts, rationing and wreckage.

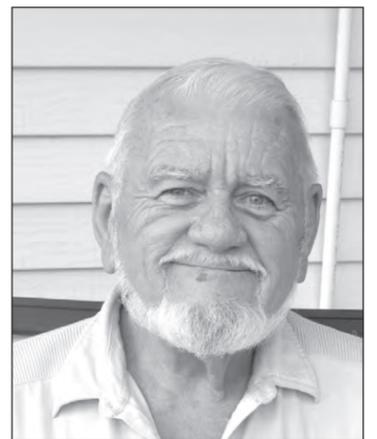
For them, and the other children who witnessed the event firsthand, life would never be quite the same.



SHIRLEY (GIBBENS) ENGLE
17 years old, was on Waikiki Beach directing a busload of football players to the University.



ED BECK
6 years old, watched the bombs fall from his bedroom window. He clearly remembers the “meatball” on the side of the planes.



AARON LARSON
7 years old when he saw the bombs fall on Pearl Harbor. He thought it was fireworks.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed: December 7, 1941 as “a date which will live in infamy”

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South Hillsborough Elks Lodge #2672 Upcoming Activities



Every Tuesday – Jam Session – 3 p.m. - 5ish, No Charge for all Elks and their guests.

Every Wednesday – Best Spaghetti in Town - \$7, All You Can Eat, for all Elks and their guests. Music by Bryan from 5 to 8 p.m.

Every Friday - Seafood, 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, Dec. 10 - Blue Plate Special for all Elks and their guests, \$7 a person, Menu: Breaded Pork Chop with all the trimmings and dessert, only 50 tickets will be sold.

Saturday, Dec. 15 - Holiday Anniversary Dinner Dance for all Elks and their guests, Appetizers 5-6 p.m., Dinner Menu: Roast Beef with all the trimmings, 6 p.m., Dancing to the Buddy Young Orchestra, 7 p.m., only \$15 per person, Attire – Dressy Business.

Join S. Hillsborough Elks Lodge Eastern Caribbean Fund Raiser Cruise - Jan. 13 to 20, 2013, contact Howard Elkin at Discover Travel for details and reservations.

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



November Students of the Month at Apollo Beach Elementary

Ryan Auciello, Grace Benigni, Katie Bulso, Mikayla Canterbury, Kayla Combs, Madeleine Cook, Hayley Degulis, Eddie Delgado, Darian Difede, Britt Finelli, Ashlyn Gale, Sarah Haynes, Isabella Hellman, Miguel Hernandez-Valdez, Nicoya Hopkins, Xavier Jones, Naia Kilcoyne, Cory Kruger, Dylan Lamkin, Alyssa Leger, Macy Longenecker, Jaiden Lozuke, Lauren Mercer, Madeline Orr, Krupa Patel, Nevaeh Rodriguez-Alfaro, Jocelyn Shourds, Christian Stibich, Connor Sutton, Alexis Weston, Madison Widisky, Savana Woods, Daniel Wright, Ashleigh Wykes, and Patrol, Talon Buzbee.



Beth Shields Middle School: Jazmin Ruiz 8th Grade; with Anna Volda, Principal



Cypress Creek Elementary: Jed Wingrove 4th Grade; with Roy Moral, Principal.

Kids' art helps support library programs

Once again, the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library put area elementary and middle school students to work. The Friends organized an art contest during September and October in which students at participating schools could submit their artwork.

The competition for this 4th Annual Holiday Art Contest was open to students at Beth Shields Middle School, Cypress Creek, Reddick, Ruskin and Wimauma Elementary Schools.

Ten students from all participants were selected as winners.

Their designs were transformed into Holiday Greeting Cards by Ruskin-based M&M Printing Co., and the cards are being sold through December at the SouthShore Regional Library, 15816 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin.

A bundle of ten cards costs \$5. Proceeds from the sale will supplement Library programs offered to the public for free.



Reddick Elementary: Lizette Vazquez-Vizueth, 5th Grade; Georgette Garcia Sorria, 4th Grade; Detzy Hernandez-Santiago, 2nd Grade; Cipriano Mejia, 2nd Grade; with J. Thomas Roth, Principal, and Susan Turpyn, Art Teacher.

South Shore Singles announces its December events

The South Shore Singles, a ministry of the SCC United Methodist Church, has announced its lineup of December events.

Saturday, Dec. 8, 7-9 p.m. Game Night. Bring a favorite game to share with others at John Harter's SCC home. Needed are two people to bring a snack, and two others to bring a dessert. Call Patti at 813-634-7171 to make reservations.

Friday, Dec. 14, 6 p.m. Movie Night. *The Christmas Shoes* will be shown at 6:30 p.m. in Creason Hall at the United Methodist Church, 1210 Del Webb Blvd. W.

Friday, Dec. 14, 6 p.m. Christmas Party at Circles in Apollo Beach. There will be a \$10 gift exchange; do not put the donor's name on the gift so that people will be able to choose another gift if the first one can't be used. Bring a gift appropriate for both men and women. Call Patti or Mary Jo at 813-383-7535 to make a reservation.

Tuesday, Dec. 11. Special Meal held in Creason Hall. The cost is \$6-8. Seating is limited, so pick up tickets early at the church office.

Saturday, Dec. 22, 5-8 p.m. Dining & Dancing at the Alpha House in Apollo Beach. Music by Thor Stevens. For reservations, call John Wilkins at 813-349-7553.

Thursday, Dec. 27, 6-9 p.m. Karaoke Dinner Dance at the Renaissance Golf Club in SCC. For reservations or information about the meal, call Jerry Harter at 813-633-9522. Reservations must be made no later than 48 hours before the event.

Monday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m. New Year's Eve Party at Jerry Harter's home. Volunteers are needed to bring snacks (four or five), and three for desserts. Call Jerry at 813-633-9522 or Mary Jo at 813-383-7535 for reservations.

The South Shore Senior Singles Group was organized for those age 50+, in the whole South Shore area, to provide a non-threatening atmosphere for singles to meet and have fun.

Tampa Bay History Center to offer free visitor parking

Guests to the Tampa Bay History Center, 801 Old Water St. in downtown Tampa, will not have to pay for parking, thanks to a partnership between the History Center and the Tampa Bay Lightning. Museum visitors paying for gallery entry will receive a parking token if they park in the Tampa Bay Times Forum East Lot, located directly adjacent to the History Center. The change went into effect on Oct. 1.

Parking tokens are valid daily during the museum's regular operating hours, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Members of the Tampa Bay History Center will also receive an allotted quantity of parking vouchers as a member benefit depending on their membership level.

The Tampa Bay History Center, which opened its 60,000 square-foot facility in 2009, includes three floors of permanent and temporary exhibition space focusing on the history of the Tampa Bay area. The History Center features a museum store, the Witt Research Center (a branch of the Hillsborough County Public Library System), and the Columbia Cafe.

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- Tuesday Night 6 p.m. Bar Games.
- Friday Night Feather Your Nest. Food available.
- Saturday, Dec. 8 5 p.m. Steak Dinner.
- 6:30 p.m. Music by Nickles & Dimes
- Sunday Feather Your Nest. Free hotdogs during games.

For more information, call (813) 645-2922.



Observations: Reflections on the living room wall



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

Is she going home for Christmas? I have no idea, but I hope so.

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In the early morning darkness, I could see the flashing lights of the police car parked outside my house reflecting on the walls of our living room. I was a skinny 15-year-old kid, still reeling from a scene in the middle of the night that I don't need to discuss, my Mom was sitting at the kitchen table, a police officer was standing beside her until he took me aside to say, "You have to be a man now. You have to take care of your mother."

My Dad died a few hours later from the heart attack he experienced while sleeping. For the next three years until I left for college, my Mom never again managed to get a full night's sleep. Before I would turn in, usually at some stupidly late hour, I would always poke my head into her bedroom to ask her some inane question about whether or not the cat was inside for the night. What I was really doing was checking to make sure she was still alive.

I've never forgotten that moment from nearly 35 years ago, of course, but I've thought about it more lately due to circumstances with my Mom's health and because I received a letter from an elderly man who carried a good bit of anger towards me. He did not have the strength of conviction to sign his letter with his name, thus preventing my ability to reply. His bottom line message was, however, that I need to "man up." Perhaps he is right, but clearly, we differ on at least one element of what that means. Anonymity is easy.

None of us knows what someone else is going through at any given time. Some people walk around with cancer, some with clinical depression, some with unseen disabilities, some suffering from loss, some with worries about money, children or parents, and others, of course, with joy. But if I've learned anything in life it's that I need to be fairly slow to judge someone. I have not walked the miles in their shoes.

This column contains a lot of "I" and "me" in it. It's a personal column so that is often a necessity by default. I can't possibly claim to speak for you, to try to describe what you or anyone else thinks about anything. What I do try very hard to do, however, is to present things in life that may cause a few people to say, "Yeah, I know how that feels." I don't write about things I may or may not do for people because I don't believe in blowing my own horn. I won't even admit to having a horn. My intention is not to be a narcissist, but rather someone with questions that I suspect others may have as well. In writing this column, I have to believe that I'm not the only one with those questions, and I firmly believe people are out there with, if not outright answers, then at least wisdom they can share with others. I'm quite certain I fail at that objective now and again — maybe more than

that. But I've also seen evidence of it working. Besides, in an age of vitriol and 140 character tweets, a little introspection isn't the worst thing in the world.

My brother lives in the same town as my Mom, both of my sisters live in the same state. I'm 1,700 miles away and have been for the better part of 15 years. They don't need my help. My Mom probably doesn't need anything I can offer her. But my Mom and I spent



By Mitch Traphagen
 mitch@observernews.net

three years alone together after my Dad died, trying to figure out, sometimes separately, sometimes together, where life would lead in his absence.

I thought I became a man back then, but now I'm not so sure. I've lived my life trying to be a decent one, but now I'm wondering what I've really been doing and what I've become. I've missed so many things with my siblings and their wonderful children, all adults now and all people I am proud to know. So, the only thing that makes sense right now is the thought that it's time to take care of my Mom for a little while. That is largely selfishly for me, but it's also for her... I hope, anyway. A little extra time up there means that I wouldn't have to just rush in to say hello and then rush out saying goodbye. But the reality is, I let a lot of better years slip away and I want to stop the slipping. Even if it's just for a week or two.

Christmas is approaching. Maybe you are blessed to have your family nearby; perhaps they are coming to you in the winter paradise in which we live. Perhaps you are going somewhere far away to see them or spending the holiday with your family via Skype. Christmas is a time for togetherness, love, compassion and reflection. This Christmas, I can see the reflections of the police lights and I can hear the words of a police officer from long ago.

It's time to go home.

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Santa, I know exactly what I want for Christmas!
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MELODY JAMESON PHOTO

More than 60 South County residents took part in a community meeting Saturday on prospective approaches to trash collection as Hillsborough County considers seven-year agreements with new garbage haulers. The session was led by John Lyons, public utilities director (standing), who reviewed four collection options and explained uses of collection containers. The 95, 65 and 35-gallon containers (from left) would come into play if collection processes were to be automated at the truck. The 32-gallon plastic "can" represents what most homeowners use today in the manual pick-up process.

Trash collection options for South County

► Continued from page 1

collection schedule, with once weekly pick up of recyclables and yard waste.

Keeping the same collection schedule under Option 2, but going to automated handling by the haulers' trucks of the new trash containers that would be required is projected to bump up the annual collection cost to consumers from \$100.35 to \$111.65, thereby reducing the potential savings from \$39.21 to \$27.91, Lyons explained. The increased cost is the \$16.80 for two specifically designed containers that the county would purchase in bulk and supply to its solid waste customers, he added.

Option 3 also is based on automated service at the truck using the necessary containers but reduces trash collection, along with recyclables and yard waste, to one time per week. The projected cost to consumers, including charge for required containers, is \$104.21, Lyons said. This option produces an estimated collection savings in 2014 of \$35.35.

The greatest projected savings in the new contract year - \$41.79 - would be expected under Option 4 which calls for trash and yard waste pick up once each week, but reduces collection of recyclables to every other week at an annual cost to consumers of \$97.77. This scenario also is based on automated handling of the special containers at the truck.

While one area resident spoke enthusiastically of the advantages found in automatic handling of trash containers, others found faults in the several options, suggesting that lower costs often equate to lower levels of service, that automation may mean loss of jobs at a time when employment levels are particularly important and that the larger containers needed for automated systems will represent more difficulty for the infirm in both the retiree and general populations.

By a show of hands, the 60 or so citizens taking part in a "straw vote" then overwhelmingly chose Option 1 which utilizes the current collection schedule without new containers or their automated pick up by especially-equipped trucks. According to administrators' projections, this option would reduce the annual cost passed through to consumers by nearly \$40 and put the annual collection portion of solid waste handling charges included on their property

tax bills at slightly over \$100 - only a few dollars difference compared with the automated, reduced service of Option 4.

Community meetings on the subject were continuing around the county this week, Lyons said, adding that information gleaned from the citizen sessions and particulars supplied by the six interested collection haulers would be provided to county commissioners in time for a workshop on the subject in early January, 2013, as the board considers collection options and addresses issues related to disposal of what is and is not collected.

It is anticipated that seven-year contracts can be hammered out in late January, the utilities director noted, leaving sufficient time before present contracts expire for administrators to order new trash containers, if required, and giving new haulers time to gear up with additional personnel and equipment as needed to meet their obligations.

Meanwhile, Lyons said administrators remain particularly interested in hearing from residents at this time concerning all aspects of the trash collection situation. A telephone survey of about 20,000 solid waste collection customers is planned to develop statistical data on the subject and residents are encouraged to weigh in, he added, by email at talktrash@HillsboroughCounty.org, by text or verbal message at 813/704-0181, by joining the blog through www.hillsboroughcounty.org/talktrash, or by addressing the county's Communications Department at 601 East Kennedy Blvd., 16th floor, Tampa, FL 33602.

"It's the customers' opinions," Lyons concluded, "that count in my mind."

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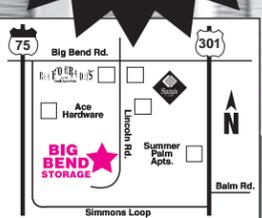
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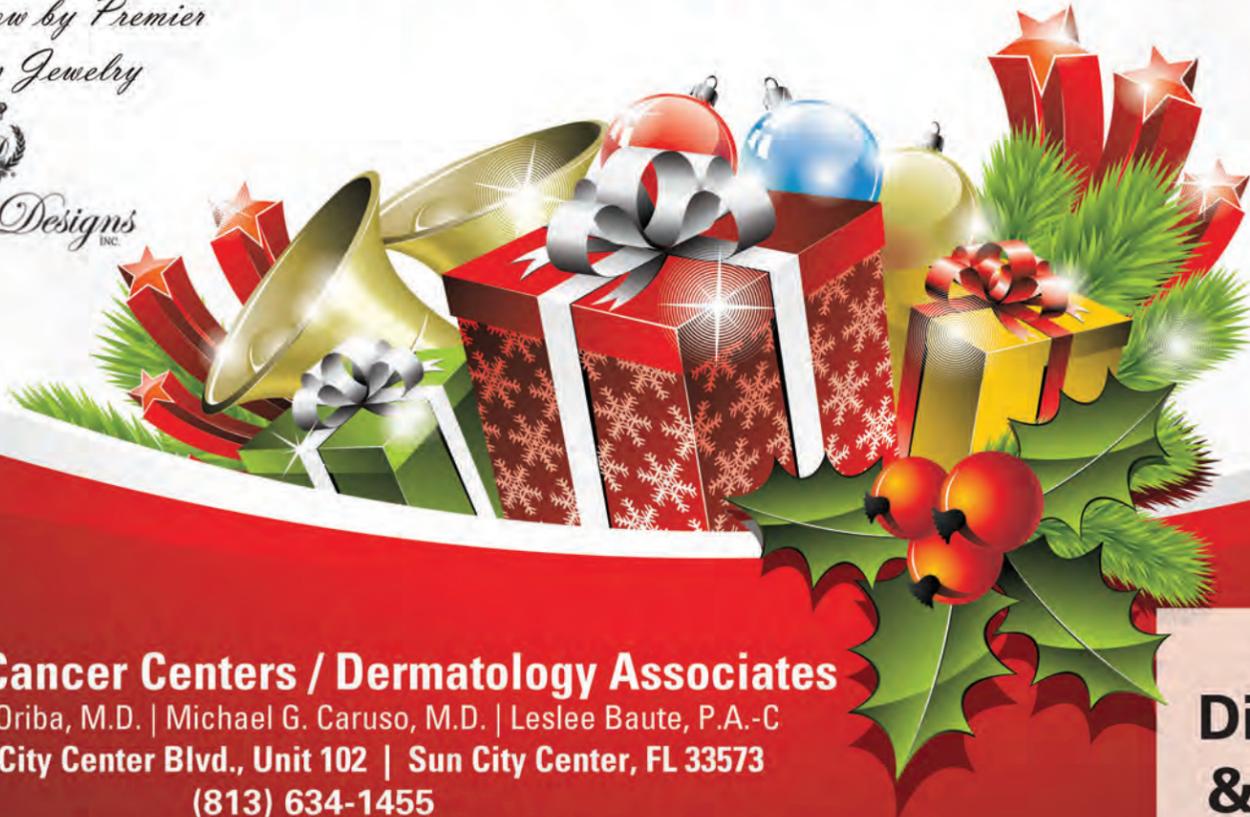
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HCSO heats up the holidays with chili cookoff



MICHELLE TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

The judges react to the samples while HCSO District 4 Commanding Officer Major Ron Hartley seeks out votes.



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

With a Christmas tree in the foreground, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office kicked off the holidays with their annual chili cookoff. The contestant chilis are lined up at right.

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office District 4 office opened their doors on Saturday for their annual holiday Chili Cook-Off. Officers and staff cooked up 11 different chili recipes with the winners decided by a panel of independent judges (full disclosure, I was one of them). All of the offerings were considered winners and this year voting was true to form in recent Florida elections. Out of a total possible 165 votes, District 4 Commanding Officer Major Ron Hartley's unusually colored but tasty concoction somehow came in with 50,148 votes. After less than a second of controversy, the true winners were declared with Deputy Thomas Bosley, Deputy Nikki Smith and Lt. Howard Wooden, in a mutual effort, taking the top chili prize for 2012. The event included officers and their families, volunteer first responders from Sun City Center and members of the public from around South Hillsborough.



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

Major Ron Hartley with the 2012 HCSO Chili Cookoff winners Dep. Nikki Smith and Dep. Thomas Bosley. Winner Lt. Howard Wooden is not pictured.

At right, bounce houses provided lots of color and activity for the kids. Santa also showed up to give each child a toy and listen to their wish lists.



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

Although chili had top billing, the stars of the event came from the BBQ around back of the building, providing a steady stream of delicious food for the many dozens of visitors.



MELODY JAMESON PHOTO

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16:	GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	3 to 4:15 pm
19:	GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	3 to 4:15 pm
21:	LINE DANCING*: Beginners or Advanced (Classes Limited to 30 ppl)	11 am to Noon; 12:15 to 1 pm
23:		Closed
26:	GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	3 to 4:15 pm
28:	LINE DANCING*: Beginners or Advanced (Classes Limited to 30 ppl)	11 am to Noon; 12:15 to 1 pm
30:	GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	3 to 4:15 pm

DECEMBER UPCOMING EVENTS

03:	GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	3 to 4:15 pm
05:	LINE DANCING*: Beginners or Advanced (Classes Limited to 30 ppl)	11 am to Noon; 12:15 to 1 pm
	HOLIDAY EATING TIPS	2 to 3 pm
06:	HOLIDAY PARTY with Dr. Theo Carroll, 7-time Ironman World Championship Competitor!	2:30 to 4 pm
07:	GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	3 to 4:15 pm
10:	GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	3 to 4:15 pm
12:	LINE DANCING*: Beginners or Advanced (Classes Limited to 30 ppl)	11 am to Noon; 12:15 to 1 pm
14:	GENTLE CHAIR YOGA	3 to 4:15 pm

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RVHS and Newsome team up to present Oklahoma!

According to the Wall Street Journal, if ever a show has earned an exclamation point, it is Oklahoma! Opening on Dec. 13, Riverview High School and Newsome High School will team up to present the iconic production at the Riverview High School auditorium. The show will play Dec. 13, 14 and 15 and again on Dec. 20, 21, and 22. The two schools have combined students from their theater and chorus departments to produce the Broadway sensation at RVHS. Set in a Western Indian territory just after the turn of the 20th century, the high-spirited rivalry between the local farmers and cowboys provides the colorful background against which Curly, a handsome cowboy, and Laurey, a winsome farm girl, play out their love story. Although the road to true love never runs smooth, with these two headstrong romantics holding the reins, love's journey is as bumpy as a surrey ride down a country road. That they will succeed in making a new life together we have no doubt, and that this new life will begin in a brand-new state provides the ultimate climax to the triumphant Oklahoma!

The Newsome and Riverview high school presentation of Oklahoma! is directed by Daron Hawkins and Arron Washington with musical direction by Jeffrey Bogue. Tickets are \$10 general admission for all performances, with the box office opening at 6:45 p.m. Showtime is at 7:30 p.m. Partial funding for the show comes from The Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center "Hadley and Helen Hill Fund".



Director Daron Hawkins during rehearsal at Riverview High School on Saturday.

MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTOS



On Saturday, the cast of Oklahoma! began working through full run rehearsals. Dress rehearsals begin this week with the show opening on Dec. 13 for six performances.



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CAROL MACALISTER PHOTO

Music feeds the soul

Crowds flocked to the special breakfast during SCC's Holiday Walk, while listening to music from Verna King, member of the Organ & Keyboard Club, which provided entertainers from 7 a.m. to noon.

South Bay Church announces Christmas schedule of events

South Bay Church is gearing up for the Christmas season with several special events.

► **Sunday, Dec. 23**, during regular service times of 9 and 11 a.m. South Bay Church will feature a Christmas Gala with worship led by Dave Fitzgerald and Temple Veil. Pastor David Speicher will deliver the Christmas message. The children's area will be open for infant to four-year-olds. All other children are encouraged to attend the service in a special area in front of the stage where there will be blankets and couches set up with an open area for dancing and singing along.

► **Christmas Eve, Monday, Dec. 24**, there will be three services themed as *Christmas Through the Generations*. Join them for a special message celebrating family and the birth of our Savior. Music from all generations will be featured by the every-age praise team of 4-year-olds and up.

Both events are open to the public and the community is encouraged to attend.

South Bay Church is located at 13498 U.S. 301 South, Riverview, FL 33578. Call 677-0721 for more information or visit www.SouthBay.cc.



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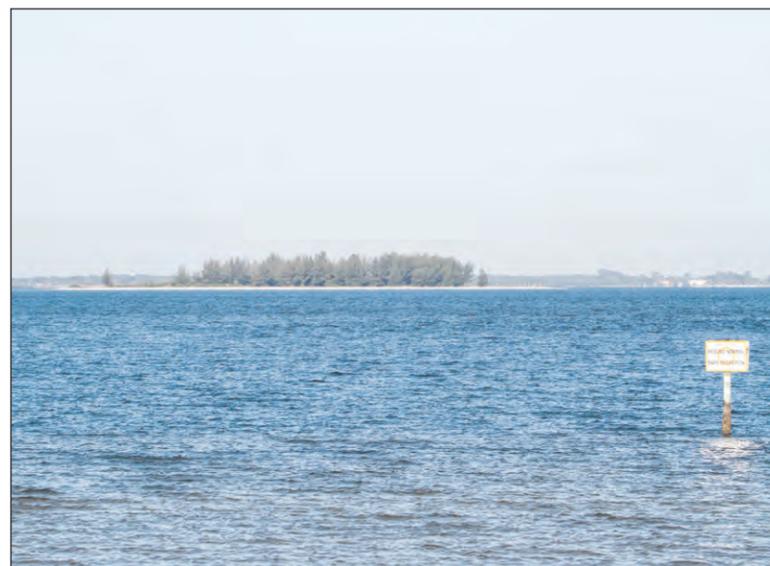
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One dead in helicopter crash off Apollo Beach



MITCH TRAPHAGEN PHOTO

Pine Key, just off Apollo Beach, was the scene of a fatal helicopter crash on Friday afternoon.

■ By MITCH TRAPHAGEN
mitch@observernews.net

APOLLO BEACH — John Lawrence Ward, 60, of Tampa, perished in the crash of a small helicopter in Tampa Bay just off Apollo Beach. The crash occurred at approximately 3 p.m. on Friday near Pine Key, better known as Beer Can Island. Officers and divers from the Hillsborough County Sheriff's office began search and rescue efforts in the relatively shallow water. Assisting in the search were officials from Hillsborough County Fire Rescue, Tampa Fire Rescue, the U.S. Coast Guard and the Florida Wildlife

Commission. Ward's body was found early Saturday morning and was taken ashore and turned over to the Hillsborough County Medical Examiner's Office where an autopsy will be performed to determine the official cause of death.

According to Det. Larry McKinnon, HCSO Public Information Officer, the HCSO and other agencies handled the search and rescue efforts but the still ongoing investigation of the crash has been turned over to the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board.

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Stormy

Stormy is a beautiful little girl who was rescued from a storm drain just in the nick of time. Luckily she missed all the rain that has fallen this week because she had enough rain in her life. She is high and dry on the cat tower or playing with the other kittens of C.A.R.E. now. Please take home Stormy to her forever home. As part of her adoption she has been brought up to date on her shots, spayed and microchipped.

DOB: March 5, 2012.



PHOTOS MARLENE GREENBERG

Hope

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Fish Tales: Kingfish are still hanging around

This past week, I was asked some questions about kingfish: Why are they still in the bay? They are out there, why? I have my thoughts on how could they be in our bay waters during December. We have had warm, then hot, no cold, some mild, wonderful weather, and the kingfish don't know that it's winter and they are not going south. I know that they had a "Spring Run," and a "Fall Run," but they haven't started their "Winter Run." They are just staying around relaxing in our warm waterways. Many Decembers in the past, they were through our waterways months earlier. Another reason is our waters are full of bait fish and they can eat without searching.



By Jonie Maschek

Mullet are jumping again in our rivers and canals. They are not in their prime but are slowly returning to our waterways. Trout is a fish that is a great table fare and can be caught in our waterways. They are a fish that adapts to temperature changes well, hot or cold. They survived our hearty freeze in 2009, when the snook were almost wiped out. Look in the grass flats for them as they feed. Another grass flats feeding ground fish is the redfish. In the

early morning or late evening, you may see many standing on their heads as they eat with their tails going back and fourth in the air. "Redfish Tailing," is a sight to see. Turn off your motor, glide in among them. If you leave your motor on, they become spooked and will scatter in all directions. Legal take is not less than 18" or more than 27". Put a circle hook on a 25 pound test line and spend the afternoon

catching flounder. It would be well worth your time, since this flat fish has lean white meat, making a great fish to grace the best of dinner tables. They are a lazy fish. If you can't get them off the sandy bottom, try catching them as they surface to eat at high or low tide. They stay on the bottom so long that the bottom side of them is pure white.

Not all of the tarpon have migrated to the south. Many smaller tarpon are still flipping in the air around our bay. Lakes and fresh water rivers are teeming with pan fish, bass and fresh water catfish. Have fun, leave a float plan, and always fish with a buddy.

RD Tackle focuses on local fishing needs

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RD Tackle stocks combos, rods and reels for both fresh and salt water, as well as cast nets for baitfish to mullet to crabbing. In addition, they have lead: from split-shot to 8-oz. egg sinkers, trolling weights, dipsies, pyramids and bank sinkers in all sizes.

RD Tackle is located in the Village Shoppes Flea Market, 431 19th Ave. NE in Ruskin, open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am. to 5 p.m.

'Election 2012' is focus of South Shore Democratic Club meeting

The South Shore Democratic Club will meet on Thursday, Dec. 13 at the South Shore Regional Library, 15816 Beth Shields Way in Ruskin.

The featured speaker this month is Dr. Susan MacManus, Distinguished University Professor, Department of Government and International Affairs, USF. Dr. MacManus is a widely recognized political analyst who frequently appears on WFLA-TV (NBC) and can also be heard on WFLA-NEWS Radio. Her topic will be "Election 2012: The Past and the Future." Her focus will be mainly on Florida.

At this meeting the group will also hold a Silent Auction which will afford members the opportunity to locate and bid on a "treasure" or holiday gift among the lovingly used and new items donated by our membership.

Join them for an educational and fun meeting. The meeting begins at 1:30 p.m., refreshments at 1 p.m. All Democrats and Independents are welcome.

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Maddie: 1-year-old tri-color spayed female Beagle mix, knows basic commands, loves to play, crate trained, friendly, full of energy.

Holiday hounds offered for \$65 adoption donation

Napier's Log Cabin Horse & Animals Sanctuary, inc. is a not-for-profit 501 (c) 3 no-kill Florida corporation in Bradenton that is offering a holiday dog adoption for just a \$65 donation. All animals are spayed/neutered, current on shots including Rabies, heartworm check and on heartworm prevention, have a take-home packet of brochures, and food sample with coupons, microchipped for ID, crate-trained and come with 30 days of free pet insurance.

In addition to the dogs in the photos, the following animals are available:

Annie: 2-year-old spayed Pit Bull Terrier female saved from a high-kill shelter due to age, space and time.

Bernard: 5-year-old dark-red neutered male Lab mix, knows basic commands, loves to play, crate trained, OK with children but can be protective if he doesn't know you.

Chase: Approximately 6-year-old yellow neutered male Belgian Shepherd/Lab mix, saved from a high-kill shelter - had a growth on head - has been removed and he's ready for a new home, very loving and good natured.

Rocco: Approximately 6-year-old tri-color neutered male Jack Russell Terrier, very loving and good natured, does not like new dogs at first, energetic.

Rocky: 4-year-old black and tan with blue merle patches on his chest neutered male Rottweiler/Cattle Dog mix (very pretty & unique!), loves to play and go for walks, saved from a high-kill shelter due to heartworms (received treatment), and food aggression (would be best in an only dog household).

Simba: Approximately 5-year-old yellow-with-white neutered male, mixed with Boxer (?) and Pit Bull Terrier (?). Good with other female dogs.

Napier's Log Cabin Horse & Animals Sanctuary relies on the generosity of the community to survive, and receives no government funding or grants. Anonymous cash donations can be made at any Bank of America to the Horse & Animal Sanctuary Fundraising Account.

Mission statement: To provide a temporary home to homeless animals until a permanent adoptive home can be found. To provide a permanent home to animals that can not be adopted. Also to help educate the public about adopting and taking care of homeless animals to help the county in becoming a "no-kill" community where no adoptable animal is euthanized just for lack of space and time.



Mandy: 5-year-old dark-red spayed female Lab mix, knows basic commands, loves to play, crate trained, friendly.



Teddy: Approx. 5 year old yellow with white neutered male Chihuahua. Good with other dogs, best with no children.

Visit www.NapierFamilyFarm.com. Mailing address: 20010 East SR 64, Bradenton, FL 34212 or call (941) 750-8185. Hours are by appointment only. 100% of donations go to caring for the animals and are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Farm Share Holiday Food Giveaway set for Dec. 14

The annual Farm Share Holiday Food Giveaway will be held on Thursday, Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. to noon.

The giveaway, which includes fresh food donated by Florida's farmers, will be held at Redeemer Community Church located at 9230 Ridge Road in New Port Richey. All needy families are welcome.

Every year, more than 500 families are provided with food and other items they need to have a complete holiday dinner. In addition to food from Farm Share, donations from



Publix, AT&T and other individuals and organizations make the event possible.

For more information about the giveaway, contact the office of Representative Mike Fasano at (727) 848-5885.

Southshore Regional Library

Adult program/event highlights

15816 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin • (813) 634-1396

Internet: Introduction and Google - Thursday, Dec. 6, 12:12 p.m.

Introduction to the Internet and related terminology. Learn how to use Google to find information and tips for evaluating what you find. Basic mouse and keyboarding skills are recommended. Limit: 20

No-Fuss Foods: Holiday Appetizers- Friday, Dec. 7, 11 a.m. & Monday, Dec. 10, 6 p.m.

Cooking delicious and nutritious meals does not need to take a lot of time or cost a lot of money. Join Rowena Sjovall of No-Fuss Foods as she demonstrates a budget-friendly holiday appetizer recipe that is sure to wow friends and family. Free samples! Seating limit: 20. Register in advance at the Information Desk or call 813-273-3652. Funding provided by the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library

Adult Writing Workshop - Monday, Dec. 10, 1 p.m.

Connect with local writers to discuss all aspects of the writing process. Inspire, encourage, and exchange ideas. Opportunities to share writings and receive feedback will be available. If you've ever wanted to be a writer, this is the group for you! All levels of writers are welcome.

Windows 7: Introduction and Computer Basics - Tuesday, Dec. 11, 12:15 p.m.

Learn the parts of a window, how to navigate in the Windows environment, and file management. Learn about the parts and basic terminology of computers. Also covers basic purchasing considerations. Limit: 20

eBooks for Tablets & SmartPhones - Wednesday, Dec. 12, 10:15 a.m.

Learn how to check out and download free library eBooks to read on a Android, Blackberry, iPad, iPhone or Windows 7 devices using a free app. Learn how to register for a free Adobe ID to wirelessly check out and download library eBooks to an electronic tablet. Presented by the Tampa Bay Library Consortium Limit: 20

Hottest Tech Toys for the Holiday Season - Wednesday, Dec. 12, 3 p.m.

Need help sorting through the hottest technology this holiday season? Get an unbiased look at the latest phones, computers, gaming systems and more. This is a Web-based program available at SouthShore Library or by login from any remote location with Internet access. Presented by LearnSurge.

SouthShore Needle People - Wednesday, Dec. 12, 6:30 p.m.

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

Teen/Adult Acrylic Painting - Wednesday, Dec. 12, 6:30 p.m.

Teens and adults will join art instructor Cory Wright and explore some techniques with acrylic paint. Limit 22. Registration required at either the Information Desk or by calling 813-273-3652.

Internet: Viruses, Spyware, Phishing Scams and More! - Thursday, Dec. 13, 12:15 p.m.

Learn how to surf the Internet while avoiding common scams and pitfalls that can compromise your security. Learn about different types of malicious software, how they get on the personal computer, how to remove them, and precautions to take when using the internet. Limit: 20

Florida Wildlife Series - Friday, Dec. 14, 4:30 p.m.

Meet a Park Ranger from Lettuce Lake Park and learn more about Florida's wildlife. This month's topic is Alligators and Other Florida Reptiles.

Membership with the Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library helps provide the funding for free programs offered at the Library. If you would be interested in becoming a Member of the Friends of the Library, please call Jim Duffy at (813) 634-1396: www.southshorefriends.com.

Learn about Reserve Responder Program

An open house is scheduled for those interested in applying for the Reserve Responder Program. This recruitment event will be held on Saturday, Dec. 15, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Hillsborough County Fire Rescue Headquarters, 2709 E. Hanna Ave. in Tampa.

The Reserve Responder Program will be effective January 1, 2013. The highlights of the program include:

- ▶ fostering of volunteerism in fire rescue
- ▶ building a pool of eligible candidates for future employment
- ▶ opportunities for promoting workforce diversity
- ▶ full accountability with consistent staffing, training levels and experience
- ▶ enhanced safety and effectiveness through the addition of reservists to existing career crews

Through the Reserve Responder Program, volunteers who meet the minimum criteria are eligible to be a Reserve Firefighter I; Reserve Firefighter II; Reserve Firemedic I; Reserve Paramedic; Reserve Fire Officer; Reserve Specialist; or sit on the Reserve Advisory Committee.

The full Fire Rescue Volunteer Transition Plan is available online.

This plan is the result of a Task Force was assembled after a Performance Audit report was presented to the Board on Sept. 19, 2012, to help shape a future volunteer model, evaluate the current program, and to propose options for the future. The committees of this Task Force included representatives from three volunteer associations, County staff, and other subject-matter experts.

Hillsborough County Fire Rescue started as an all-volunteer organization in the 1950s, and hired its first full-time career firefighters in 1973. Since then, the department has steadily evolved into one of the largest, most progressive departments in the state, answering more than 80,000 calls per year. Currently, Fire Rescue maintains 42 fire and one rescue station, and equips more than 890 career firefighters and paramedics, in addition to approximately 175 volunteer firefighters.

Experience millions of Lights at Sarasota Jungle Gardens

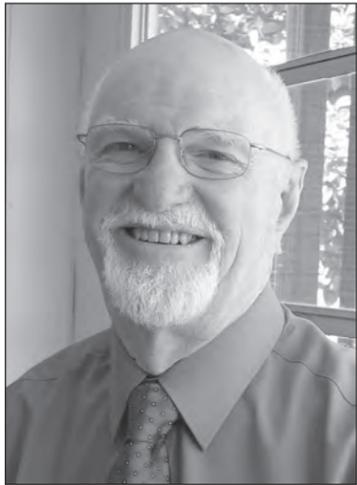
Sarasota Jungle Gardens kicks off the holiday season with its 11th annual Holiday Lights celebration, *Millions of Lights Magical Nights*. Opening night is Friday, Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. and the celebration continues through Dec. 9 and then again Dec. 14 through Dec. 24.

The traditional family-friendly event brings holiday joy to the jungle. Guests can decorate cookies, take a stroll down Candy Cane Lane, a new event feature, and roast s'mores and hot dogs around one of the many holiday fire pits.

Master magician Nathan Coe Marsh will take the stage twice each night, at 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. Santa will be on hand for fun family photos and the Cory Music Show will perform live holiday songs and sing-a-longs.

Adult admission is \$11 and children 3-12 are \$6. Children under age 2 are free. All prices are plus tax. Coupons, discounts or other offers are not valid for special events. Visit SarasotaJungleGardens.com for a complete schedule.

Area Obituaries



Robert Barrows Gardiner

Robert Barrows Gardiner, Jr., 77, of Sun City Center, FL, died peacefully on November 27, 2012 at LifePath Hospice with his devoted wife, Jacqueline (Lynn), and his Border Collie dog, Charles, by his side. He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert Barrows Gardiner and Dorothy (Jenner) Gardiner (Storrs, CT) and sister Dorothy Lackman (Ashford, CT).

Bob was born on August 29, 1935 in Willimantic, CT and raised in Storrs, CT on Maple View Farm. As a young man, he worked on the family farm delivering milk in the early morning hours before school. He often regaled the family with funny stories of the many interesting characters who found their way to the farm seeking employment during the Depression Years. He was captain of the football team, wearing number 32 as center at Windham High School. There he met his first wife, Dianna Volle. They married shortly after graduation in 1952, and together raised four children in Storrs, CT. Bob operated the 300-acre family dairy farm from 1953-1967. He earned a B.A. in history from the University of Connecticut in 1971, and attended Western New England School of Law for two years. He obtained a CT real estate broker's license in 1967. He then pursued, as his passion, a 45-year career in real estate. He opened his first real estate agency on High Street in Willimantic, CT in 1972. He moved to Florida in 1982, and expanded his real estate activities in 1983 by opening an office in downtown Tampa for Gardiner Appraisal Services, Inc. He was a Florida State Certified Residential Appraiser from 1990-2004. He appraised over 8,000 homes, condos, apartments, and land, many in the Greater Tampa Bay Area, during his 30 years of appraising in both CT and FL. He held both CT and FL real estate broker licenses for many years. Bob's second wife, Lorraine Prevost, was his partner in life and in real estate for 21 years; she predeceased him in 1997. He was Broker-Owner of RE/MAX First Realty located in the South Shore area of Hillsborough County from 1992 to 1996.

Bob's love of selling homes was evident throughout this life. He said he especially liked to work with homebuyers because he felt he had a special ability to know exactly what homebuyers wanted after talking with them. Selling homes made him happy. He was continually striving to provide the best representation possible to all his customers. At the time of his death, he was proudly associated with the Flo Vachon Team at Keller Williams Realty South Shore in Sun City Center, FL. He married his beloved wife, Jacqueline (Lynn) in 1998, with whom he shared a deep love of animals and literature. Together they traveled to national parks and other beautiful regions of the country, creating many treasured memories. Bob loved watching sporting events on television and reading about the events and personalities of World War II.

Bob was an avid sports fan — especially of the UCONN Huskies and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers — and never missed a Bucs game. He was also a passionate soccer fan, serving as a college soccer referee for the University of Connecticut and other schools throughout New England during the 1970s. He was business manager and part-owner, with good friend Paul Ingram, of the Connecticut Wildcats,

the first major league Pro-Soccer team in the state from 1971 to 1973.

Bob acquired a private pilot's license during the 1970s, and he often said flying was the "most fun" thing he ever did.

He received an award as Rotarian of the Year 2001-2003 from Rotary International - the South Shore Rotary Club.

He was a man of deep religious faith whose membership with the Ruskin United Methodist Church in Ruskin, FL., and the First Baptist Church of Mansfield in Storrs, CT brought many kind people, warm memories and spiritual comfort to his life.

Bob was also a member of the choir at Ruskin United Methodist Church.

He is survived by his loving wife Jacqueline (Lynn) of 14 years, his 4 children and their spouses: Robin and David Gooch of Coventry, CT, Bill and Beth Gardiner of Gilroy, CA, Andy and Kris Gardiner of Storrs, CT, Catherine and Charlie Fenech of San Francisco, CA; his sister Shirley Corcoran of Mansfield Center, CT; his sisters-in-law Stephanie Coppola of Wyckoff, NJ and Victoria Spain of Sun City Center, FL; plus 10 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, many cousins, nieces and nephews.

His children would like to express special thanks to his wife, Jacqueline (Lynn), for her unwavering devotion — especially in his last weeks — and also for the remarkable care and comfort provided by Flo and Tim Vachon, Reverends Richard Nussel, Hal Jeffery and David Looney of Ruskin United Methodist Church, and the dedicated professionals at South Bay and Brandon Regional Hospital and the Sun City Center LifePath Hospice House.

After cremation, internment will be in the family plot at Spring Hill Cemetery in Mansfield, CT. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you remember Bob by making a donation to the Ruskin United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 745, Ruskin, FL, or the First Baptist Church of Mansfield, 945 Storrs Rd., Storrs, CT 06268.

A memorial service will be held on December 18th at 11 a.m. at the Ruskin United Methodist Church in Ruskin, FL.

Lloyd W. Miller

Lloyd W. Miller, loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather passed peacefully on October 31, 2012 at the hospice center, Liza's Place, in Wheeling, WV, near his eldest daughter's home.

He was born in June, 1923 to Susan and Harry Miller of New Kensington, PA. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Gail Jones.

He is survived by his wife Gloria; four children, Cheryl Sprague (Gary), Loyette Mathias (David), Lloyd Miller (Sally), Baron Miller (Mary); 13 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Lloyd was a WWII Navy veteran, serving active duty on the USS Oberon in both the Atlantic and Pacific invasions and he was the recipient of six bronze stars.

Upon retiring from Dowty Meco in 1986 as a sales engineer, he moved to Sun City Center, Florida, where he was actively involved with the Emergency and Security Squads. He enthusiastically participated in the sport of lawn bowling and enjoyed traveling with his wife and spending time with his family and friends.

Lloyd was put to rest at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies on Friday, November 23, 2012.

Memorials can be made to: Life Path Hospice, 12973 N. Telecom Parkway, Suite 100, Temple Terrace, FL 33637.

Tucker to address Fellowship

On Thursday, Dec. 6, at 7:30 p.m., the guest speaker at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sun City Center will be the Rev. Dr. Robert P. Tucker, PhD., Minister Emeritus of the U.U. Congregation of Lakeland.

In preparation for honoring Hanukkah, his sermon topic will be "The Lights of Freedom."

The Fellowship meets in the Henry Gibson Social Hall of the Beth Israel Synagogue, 1115 E. Del Webb Blvd. All are welcome.



J.A.M. recently performed at Aston Gardens Courtyard.

J.A.M. celebrates community Christmas

J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) Children's Performance Choir of the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, recently performed at Aston Gardens Courtyards and the Kiwanis Club's Christmas Party, ringing in the Christmas season.

They also appear in *Wall to Wall Christmas* at the Rollins Theater.

J.A.M. was formed in February to support the music/worship arts component of Kidz Klub at the church. The children perform during worship services the second Sunday of each month.

For further information, contact Pat Hill, Director of Ministries, at the United Methodist Church, (813) 634-2539.

Thank you



Ruth Healan

4/30/17 - 11/10/12

The family wishes to extend their heartfelt thanks to the staff of the

Sun Terrace Health Center for their tender, compassionate care of our dear Mother.

We will remember always.

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Ron Healan
& family

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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 Goad, 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

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: scredeemo.org
Worship Services on Sunday 10 a.m.

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

Unity COMMUNITY OF JOY
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Henry Gibson Social Hall, Beth Israel Synagogue
1115 Del Webb E. • Sun City Center, FL
www.unitycommunityofjoy.com

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

813-298-7745

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
Gibson, 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

Masses:

Sunday 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., Noon
Saturday Vigil 4:00 & 6:00 p.m.
Daily 8:00 a.m.

Confessions:

Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. and Sat. 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

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Sunday Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
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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. Jean M. Simpson • Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
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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 645-1305

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center

1210 Del Webb Blvd West • 634-2539

<http://www.sccumc.com>

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Pages of Life

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

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Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of SCC

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Thursday, 7:00 PM • Call 633-0396 • www.uuofsc.org

Without the abundance of the heart nothing great can happen. — Paul Tillich

Changing Services? Having a special event?

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Just call (813) 645-3111 and ask to speak to a sales representative.

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

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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.



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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.

Come join us to learn about God's Word and salvation in Jesus Christ

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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.

Musical events highlight the season at St. John the Divine Episcopal Church

St. John the Divine Episcopal Church has an array of musical events planned to celebrate the Advent Christmas season at the church's Sun City Center location:

► **Saturday, Dec. 8** - South Shore Symphony Orchestra presents "Celebrate the Season" at 3 p.m. In addition to Chanukah and Christmas holiday music, there will be raffle prizes and a bake sale. Tickets are \$12, available at the church office, at the door or at www.thesso.org.

► **Wednesday, Dec. 13** - 11 a.m. The Women of St. John the Divine hold their annual Christmas program, with Chuck Wirick presenting a Christmas program titled "A Pioneer Christmas," followed by a Christmas luncheon with the Women of St. John the Divine at the SCC campus.

► **Saturday, Dec. 15** - Christmas dinner at 6 p.m., followed by music from the Redemption Band with Christmas Specials.

The Sun City Center campus of St. John the Divine Episcopal Church is 1015 Del Webb Blvd.

Friendship Baptist gets set for the holidays

The folks at Sun City Center's Friendship Baptist Church have filled their calendar with events for the month of December:

Saturday, Dec. 8, 11 p.m. - Memorial service for Ellouise Forte, the church organist, who joined her Savior in her new life in November.

Sunday, Dec. 9, 6 p.m. - The choir, directed by Robin Marshall, will present a Christmas Cantata.

Saturday, Dec. 15, 5 p.m. - The church Christmas Party, to be held at the Lawn Bowling Room. "Girls bring girl gifts; men bring men gifts." Gifts should not cost more than \$10.

Friendship Baptist Church is located at 1511 El Rancho Dr. in SCC. For information, call Thelma Crosby at 813-642-0911.

Holiday Concert at United Community Church

The community is invited and welcomed to "A Tribute to the Holiday Classics," at the United Community Church, 1501 La Jolla Ave.

The concert will feature some of Sun City Center's own talent: Vocalist Bill Barker will be accompanied by Robert Winslow on keyboards and Michael James on percussion. They will be joined by Jo Winslow, Troy Coman, Al Spatola, and talented newcomer to our town, Eileen Valentino.

Enjoy a delightful afternoon of well-known holiday songs on Sunday, Dec. 9 at 3 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person.

For further information, call the church at (813) 634-1304.

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Trinity Baptist Church members and friends recently gathered to decorate the church for the Christmas Season. Under the direction of Paula Conners, the group spent the morning putting up the Christmas trees, wreaths, etc., both inside and outside the church.

Multimedia Christmas celebration at Trinity Baptist

The Trinity Baptist Church music ministry presents "Prophecy and Atonement Fulfilled," a multimedia Christmas celebration and sing-along, at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 9.

All are invited to join as they explore music and the Bible for the answer to why Christians celebrate the birth of a Jewish baby born 2,000 years ago.

Trinity Baptist is located at 702 Del Webb Blvd W. in SCC. Admission is free and all are welcome. Call 813-634-4228 for more information.



United Methodist Church to perform 'A Thrill of Hope' choral cantata

The Chancel Choir, Praise Team, Handbells and Instrumental Ensemble from the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center will be performing the new Joel Raney cantata entitled "A Thrill of Hope" on Sunday, Dec. 9 at 9 a.m. and again at 10:55 a.m.

Based on the line from the well-known Christmas song, "O Holy Night," this extended choral work weaves together almost two dozen holiday carols and songs in four movements. "A Thrill of Hope" will be performed by the Church's

fine 60-voice Chancel Choir with handbells, flute, oboe, horn, violin, cello, piano, narrators and imagery.

Prior to the presentation of the cantata, there will be a time of worship led by the OASIS Praise Team, and Kathy Straub will be singing her special rendition of "O Holy Night."

The services will conclude with the singing of "O Come, All ye Faithful."

For additional information about this and other special community events at the United Methodist Church of Sun City Center, contact Jeff Jordan, Director of Worship Arts, at (813) 634-2539 or (813) 260-0153.

The United Methodist Church is located at 1210 Del Webb Blvd. West.

Listen to the sounds of Christmas at Prince of Peace

The Prince of Peace Concert Series continues with its third concert of the season, featuring the joyful sounds of Christmas, on Sunday, Dec. 16 at 4 p.m.

The concert will feature the joint choirs of Prince of Peace Catholic Church and SCC United Methodist Church.

The choir will be conducted by Jeff Jordan with Keith Rasmussen as organist. Included in the musical selections will be the Vivaldi *Gloria* and other Christmas favorites.

The concert is open to the public and free of charge. A free will offering will be accepted, however.

Prince of Peace Catholic Church is located at 702 Valley Forge Blvd in Sun City Center.

For more information, please visit www.popcc.org or call (813) 634-2328.

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For questions or help to get started using any of the free library services, call 813-273-3652 or visit hcplc.org.

Dear EarthTalk: What are the new nutrition standards for school lunches that have some students boycotting their cafeterias and discarding the food?

-- Melissa M., Trenton, NJ

Indeed, some 31 million American kids participating in the federally supported National School Lunch Program have been getting more whole grains, beans, fruits and vegetables in their diets—whether they like it or not. The change is due to new school meal standards unveiled by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) last January, per the order of 2010's Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act. The new standards are based on the Institute of Medicine's science-based recommendations, and are the first upgrade to nutritional standards for school meals since 1995 when low- and no-fat foods were all the rage.

The non-profit Environmental Working Group (EWG) believes the new standards represent an important milestone in efforts to improve the dietary habits and health of increasingly obese American kids. "Schools' misguided reliance on processed foods for speedy, low-labor cost production, industry's \$1.6 billion in child-targeted advertising and a lack of faith in our children's dietary curiosity [have] created a generation of 'picky eaters' with dull palates," reports the group. "With nearly 17

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percent of America's children now clinically obese and a staggering 32 percent overweight, the time is long past to address the unhealthy food environments our children live in."

The new standards limit calories per meal to 850 for high school meals, 700 for middle school and 650 for elementary and more than double the mandated minimum servings of fruits and vegetables while reducing the sodium, saturated fats and trans fats in school kids' diets. Whole-grain foods, beans and dark green and orange vegetables such as broccoli, spinach, carrots and sweet potatoes have replaced things like pizza and French fries as staple items in schools that follow the program.

Of course, not everybody likes the changes. Lunch strikes, Facebook protest pages, Twitter campaigns, YouTube parody videos and other means have been utilized coast-to-coast to voice opposition to the healthier meals. Some affected cafeterias blame the new smaller portions and healthier fare for causing as much as a 70 percent drop-off in school lunch program participation since the new standards took effect.

Psychologists understand that kids may not come around to new foods right away but will eventually eat them—so the federal government and most participating schools are sticking to their guns. And the USDA says that if a school "encounters significant hardships employing the new calorie requirements, we stand ready to work with them quickly and effectively to remedy the situation with additional flexibilities."

The benefits of the new standards far outweigh the costs. "School meals can help children develop healthy eating habits—or they can prime them for a life of poor health and unnecessary suffering," says EWG.

EWG lauds the new standards for significantly expanding access to and appreciation of nourishing food. Whether they can help shift eating norms across the country remains to be seen, but regardless millions of American kids will likely now get their healthiest meals of the day on a tray in their school cafeterias.

EarthTalk® is written and edited by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss and is a registered trademark of E - The Environmental Magazine (www.emagazine.com).



Creative Gift Boxes

Regarding the "how" of getting free or low-cost gift boxes, here's a great idea that I read about just last night in a book on gift-wrapping. Use spray paint on ordinary boxes that food and consumer goods are packaged in to hide any lettering, logos, etc. that may be on the outside.

You can apply embellishments like stenciling, sponging, stamping, charms, stickers, decorative painting, yarn, small toys, fabric scraps, snippets of lace, silk flowers, ribbon roses, old greeting cards, etc. to make your gift package look even prettier and to camouflage any damaged areas on the box.

Not only will you be spared the expense of buying those expensive, store-bought gift boxes, but also you're helping the environment by recycling what would normally end up in a landfill into a gift box that's truly distinctive and one-of-a-kind!

Lynn

Holiday Table Settings

If you are having a larger crowd for a holiday dinner, etc., having nice dinner plates for your table is possible. Just watch for pretty or bone china plates in thrift stores. Each can be purchased for about \$0.50, and the different patterns will make your table look beautiful. This is a great idea for people just starting out with new households. Also, the plates can be used for gifts filled with homemade candies, baked goods, etc.

Dru T.

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You, me and business: Tis the season for a parade

It's beginning to look a lot like the holidays at the Chamber of Commerce! The front porch and the banquet room are festooned with giant wreaths decorated with bows and blue and silver ornaments. And there are trees in various places, lights twinkling and branches overloaded with birds, balls, seashells and anything else we found to go on them.

The Golf Cart Parade is my official kick-off of the holiday season. The entire community is either in the parade, or lining the streets watching all the carts go by. There are plenty of "Santas" and elves abounding, and it's hard to tell which Mrs. Claus goes with which Mr. Claus. And did I mention the reindeer antler headbands?



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

Here and there, on bookcases and table tops, we have garlands and candle displays. Even the fishbowls are dressed up with ribbon.

Tis the season to put out the "good stuff" including those special plates and crystal glasses. No plastic for the next four weeks!

The Dittmar condo looks neglected by contrast. I haven't had time to buy lights for the yard, let alone put them up! If nothing else, I want to get a wreath for the front door so the neighbors don't consider me a total Bah-Humbug!

Most of our energy this week is being expended decorating a golf cart for this weekend's Golf Cart Parade in Sun City Center. We wanted something special this year, so we roped in some retired builders to design a frame which will hopefully transform a plain cart into Santa's sleigh. Keep your fingers crossed. Right now it looks more like the framework for Noah's Ark.

The more volunteers we bring into the project, the more it takes on a life (and shape) of its own. Hopefully we won't be laughed off the streets.

I'm expecting to see lots of floats with seashells, dolphins and manatees. Maybe even a palm tree or two with tinsel and strands of popcorn. It's the perfect theme for our area. After all, it looks a little odd having snowmen and snowflakes when it's 80 degrees and we're still wearing shorts and flip-flops.

They've expanded the route this year and Minto, our local developer, has ponied up \$5000 in prizes for the best decorated carts. That's plenty of motivation for our residents, clubs, businesses and organizations to put out their best!

After the parade, I'm going to celebrate a personal achievement—surviving breast cancer for twenty years. This milestone anniversary is this weekend, and I think I deserve a little whoop-de-do to commemorate the occasion! If you feel like it, hoist a glass of something in honor of someone you know who was diagnosed with the Big C and give them a shout-out. They've earned it.

Meantime, I'm heading to the store hoping to find that wreath and some lights. Wish me luck!



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Workshops, classes offered by Manatee County Extension Services

The Manatee County Agriculture and Extension Service is offering a variety of free educational classes for December, 2012.

Registration instructions

Unless otherwise noted, all classes are free and are held at the Manatee County Agriculture and Extension Service, 1303 17th St. West in Palmetto. Minimum workshop size is required; workshop size is limited. Register in advance online via website at <http://manatee.ifas.ufl.edu> or call 941-722-4524 for all workshops.

■ **Saturday, Dec. 8, 9-11 a.m. - Extension Master Gardener Plant ID Tour:** Stroll through

De Soto National Memorial and Riverview Point Preserve to learn more about Florida's native plants and inhabitants of a coastal habitat. Suitable for all ages. The hike begins in the parking area of the De Soto National Memorial Park at 8250 DeSoto Memorial Highway, Bradenton, and enters into the Riverview Preserve. Call the Extension Master Gardeners to register.

■ **Tuesday, Dec. 11, 6-8 p.m. - Clean It Green:** Many commercial cleaners are not only hard on your wallet, they also contain harsh chemicals that can harm the environment. Learn how to make

inexpensive, effective, and environmentally friendly cleaners for your glass, floors, and more from a few simple products you may already have on hand. Presented by Samantha Kennedy, Extension Agent.

■ **Thursday, Dec. 13, 2:30-4 p.m. - Manatee Energy Efficiency Project (Meep):** Would you like to learn how to be more energy smart? Then sign up now! Topics include: Energy & Money; The Home Envelope; Biggest Energy Wasters; How Can You Be More Efficient?; and Energy Incentive Programs. Participants will receive a free Energy Conservation Kit - \$200 value! (One per household, please). Presented by Samantha Kennedy, Extension Agent.

■ **Saturday, Dec. 15, 9-11 a.m. - Extension Master Gardener Plant ID Tour:** Stroll through Emerson Point Preserve to learn more about Florida's native plants and inhabitants of a coastal habitat. Suitable for all ages. Tour begins at tower parking area at 5801 17th Street West, Palmetto. Call the Extension Master Gardeners to register.

■ **Saturday, Dec. 15, 9-11 a.m. - Flatford Swamp Preserve Naturalist Hike:** Be adventurous and slog through a wetland habitat slough with Lisa Hickey, Certified Master Naturalist Instructor. Wetlands and freshwater habitats are vital natural systems that filter pollutants before they reach our surface and groundwater supply, support many wildlife species, and which are diminishing every year. Find out more intriguing facts while walking through Flatford Swamp in eastern Manatee County. Meet in the Preserve's parking area located at 39450 Taylor Road, Myakka City, approximately 25 miles east of I-75. Then as a group, we leave the parking area and drive south on Wauchula Road, 2 miles. We will be entering the south end of the preserve and hike into the wetland habitat areas. Call the Extension Master Gardeners to register.

■ **Sunday, Dec. 16, 9-11 a.m. - Extension Master Gardener Plant ID Tour:** Stroll through Robinson Preserve's salt marshes to learn more about Florida's native plants and inhabitants of a coastal habitat. Suitable for all ages. Tour begins at parking area near main entrance at 1704 99th Street Northwest, Bradenton. Call the Extension Master Gardeners to register.

■ **Wednesday, Dec. 19, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program Volunteer Training - Landscape Assistance Program:** Share the "9 Florida-Friendly Landscaping Principles" (FFL) with interested people. Help with in-office landscape consultations with homeowners wanting to create a Florida-Friendly landscape. Staff FFL booths at area events. Presented by Michelle Atkinson, Florida-Friendly Landscaping Coordinator.

■ **Manatee County Master Gardeners Open Educational Gardens:** Located on the Extension Service grounds at 1303 17th St. West in Palmetto, the educational gardens are designed to showcase the different ways Manatee County residents can be more successful gardeners and make their yards more Florida-Friendly. The different gardens feature growing vegetables in small spaces and salad tables, recycling fountains for herbs, bird and butterfly attractors, backyard fruit trees, conserving water with native plants, low-volume irrigation, rain barrels, and various composting bins display how to recycle yard waste. The Master Gardeners invite you for a tour! To ensure that a Master Gardener can walk you through the gardens, make an appointment by calling 941-722-4524. Staff may not be available for impromptu visits.

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Hillsborough County's Code Enforcement wins prestigious national award

Hillsborough County's Code Enforcement Department has received the American Association of Code Enforcement (AACE) Award for Outstanding Achievement in Code Enforcement Techniques for its innovative Operation Fight the Blight cleanup campaign.

Operation Fight the Blight consists of quarterly cleanup projects lasting from a week to 30 days. Hillsborough County Code Enforcement Officers partners with several other County agencies, including Affordable Housing Services, Animal Services, Public Utilities Department, and Parks, Recreation and Conservation, along with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office and Tampa Electric Company workers to launch a multi-agency task force which takes direct aim on vacant buildings, trash, overgrowth, junk vehicles, abandoned properties, and other factors that make neighborhoods unsafe and unsightly.

The four Fight the Blight campaigns targeted the USF area, Grant Park, Orient Park, and Ruskin. Since it began in 2011, the teams have:

- Collected nearly 1,900 discarded tires
- Inspected more than 1,000 properties
- Boarded up or demolished nearly two dozen abandoned homes
- Issued nearly 400 citations
- Cleaned more than 500 square feet of graffiti
- Filled nearly 100 dumpsters with almost 200 tons of trash and debris

"Our unique ability to partner with internal and external agencies makes Operation Fight the Blight work," said Dexter Barge, Director, Hillsborough County Code Enforcement. "Our residents and property owners reaped the benefits of this campaign. I'm extremely proud to be a part of this initiative that continues to improve the overall public safety of our community."

County Code Enforcement also won the AACE Award in 2010 and the 2010 Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for its innovative Law Enforcement Liaison program.

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Fifth Annual Christmas Madrigal Dinner

The United Methodist Church of Sun City Center presented *A Christmas Madrigal Dinner V, "The Golden Years"* November 30 and December 1 at the church located at 1210 Del Webb Blvd. West, Sun City Center. This traditional Elizabethan madrigal dinner is an evening of dinner theater in which diners join a 16th century English court in its celebration of Christmas dinner. The emphasis, as always, was on silliness, slapstick comedy, good music and period food.

PHOTOS BY MELODY JAMESON



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Thurs., Dec. 6 • 10-11 a.m. • **"De-stress your December Holidays"** presented by Kathy Laurenhue, author of MindPlay Connections. Laugh and learn as Kathy provides you with games and guidelines to help you enjoy the season!

Thurs., Dec. 6 • 3-4 p.m. • **Aging Gracefully Support Group.** This is a support group for individuals who are learning to live with the effects of aging in a graceful, healthy manner. Facilitated by Kay Coburn Dyer, Geriatric Care Manager.

Wed., Dec. 12 • 2:30-4 p.m. • **Diabetes Support Group.** Please join Judy Naugle, RN from Nurse on Call Home Health Care as she facilitates our support group "Everyday Basics of Diabetic Care".

Thurs., Dec. 13 • 11 a.m.-1 p.m. • **"Winter Wonderland"** with Rudy Rosa! Enjoy spiked eggnog and hot Irish coffee while listening to the music of the holiday season. Be sure to RSVP for this popular event!

Thurs., Dec. 13 • 2:30-4 p.m. • **Mental Wellness Support Group** facilitated by Edmond Dubreuil MSW, RCSWI mental health professional. Supported by: South Shore Coalition on Mental Health & Aging and United Methodist Church of Sun City Center.

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The Skin Cancer Centers / Dermatology Associates
Howard A. Oriba, M.D. | Michael G. Caruso, M.D. | Leslee Baute, P.A.-C.
4002 Sun City Center Blvd. Unit 102 • Sun City Center, FL 33573 (One Block West of the Hospital)



Order NOW for Christmas!

Packed with Navel Oranges, Christmas Tangerines and Red Grapefruit ... over 30 lbs, ripe and ready for Christmas enjoyment!



Sunshine Tree-O
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Order Gift # 3RTN \$59.99 *

* Plus shipping charge. All Gift Packages are guaranteed and will arrive fresh and good in time for Christmas enjoyment!

SHOP at HOME! It's so EASY to Order! 800-522-6411



Citrus Bouquet
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A Friendly Florida Voice will be happy to help you select that PERFECT Holiday Gift! Call Anytime between 9am-5pm

www.dooleygroves.com
813-645-3256
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Sweet Surprise Basket
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Need MORE fruit?
Add a tray of fruit to this gift for only \$10.00 more!
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Come to the Grove! It's just a short drive out in the country



Country Farm Market in the Grove



The Original Grove Store Location
1651 Stephens Road
Old Sun City, Florida
(some folks call it Ruskin)

Open Monday- Saturday 9am - 5pm
Open Sundays through Christmas
10am - 5pm 645-3256

Directions

From Sun City Center / Riverview Area:
Travel WEST on S.R. 674 about 5 miles (past I-75) to U.S. 41.
Turn SOUTH (left) on U.S. 41.
Travel for about 3 miles to Universal-Stephens Road. (Riverside Club sign on left corner)
Turn LEFT and drive about 1/4 mile to Stephens Road.
Turn RIGHT onto Stephens Rd. Travel 2 miles.
Dooley Groves is on the left.
www.dooleygroves.com/directions.html

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.50 off

1/2 gal

Dooley Groves freshly-squeezed

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Dooley Groves
VOID after Dec 12, 2012
ON12121

coupon

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SAVE \$1.00 off tote bag



Citrus Fruit too small to pack and send up North, but GREAT for juicing!
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Candy Marmalades
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Cannot be combined with other specials
Shipping, fruit, cheese and juice excluded.



Dooley Groves
VOID after 12/12/12
ON12123

Classified Ads

and the BTD begin on
page 3B
of this section.

IN YOUR BACKYARD

DECEMBER 6, 2012

THE OBSERVER NEWS

THE SCC OBSERVER

THE CURRENT

www.ObserverNews.net

The holidays kick off with Winterfest at Winthrop Town Centre

Winterfest at Winthrop Town Centre in Riverview offered a great excuse for families to kick start the holidays under perfectly blue skies last weekend. The event, sponsored by the Greater Brandon Community Foundation, included games, hay rides, bounce houses, a Santa's workshop and offerings from area vendors. Proceeds from the three-day event were slated to benefit area charities.



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MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
<p>Snow Crab & Fried Fish</p> <p>ALL YOU CAN EAT</p> 	<p><i>Early Bird Special</i></p> <p>11 a.m.-6 p.m.</p>  <p>Pouring Corona Light 2 for 1 EVERY DAY!</p>	 <p>1/2 Lb. Angus Burger \$6.95</p> <p>\$2.50 Bud & Bud Light Bottles</p>	<p><i>Fajitas</i> starting at \$9.95</p> <p><i>All day</i></p> <p>With all the fixin's Featuring: Chicken, Beef, Shrimp or Mahi Mahi</p> <p>Corona Long Necks \$3.00 House Margaritas \$5.00</p>	<p>Chef's Special for Dinner</p> <p>7 to 11 p.m.</p> <p>Live Entertainment</p> 	<p>Chef's Special for Dinner</p> <p>7 to 11 p.m.</p> <p>Live Entertainment</p>	<p><i>Sunday Brunch</i></p> <p>8 a.m.-2:30 p.m.</p> <p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 4:30-8:30 p.m.</p> 

Artwork is for representation only.



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World Club Vacations is happy to present the most affordable travel and Vacations Show on Earth!

We've prepared a fun-filled hour, for 20 couples per show, to see and hear how our new **Cheap Is In Travel Plan** can enable couples to travel to marvelous destinations. (As low as \$179 per person for 4 day Bahamas Cruise.) Or rent condos for \$199 per week worldwide. Actually, you can travel the globe with our famous concierge trouble-free services.

Married couples must attend our Travel Show together. You must be present to win the Free Vacation Drawing at the end of the show.

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Dec. 11th & 18th

In the Sun City Chamber Building 2 Big Shows

10:30 am or 1:00 pm

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105 PERSONAL

Old strong helpful kind Dr (Rev) seeks wife who would like to help in small ministry. Many benefits Jack 813-642-0189, Thank you.

115 LOST & FOUND

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MERCHANDISE 300

310 GARAGE/YARD SALE

Community Yard Sale

Riverbend Dr., Ruskin. Friday & Saturday, Dec. 7 & 8, 8am-3pm. Furniture, clothes, baking dishes, too much to mention. Come check it out.

Saturday, 8am-1pm. Sunday 8am-11am. 3 family sale. 2052 Prestancia Lane, SCC. (off Del Webb E) Christmas, clothes, toys & more.

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

310 GARAGE/YARD SALE

Craft Sale

Saturday, Dec. 8
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Chula Vista Landings
1702 Gulf City Rd.
Ruskin

Lunch available
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

See you there!

Ruskin United Methodist Church THRIFT HOUSE

SPECIALS EVERY WEEK!

- Household Items
- Furniture
- Clothing
- Much, more

Open Fri. & Sat. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
109 W. Shell Point Road • Ruskin

Barn Sale

Furniture, tools, household, Christmas stuff, clothes, shoes & more. Friday & Saturday. Open 8am (all day). 1116 4th St., NW, Ruskin.

Saturday, 8am-noon. Household, books, clothing, linens, decorative, jewelry, Digital answer machine, w/ 3 phones, misc. & more. 3811 Cardenal Ave., (behind Home Depot)

Friday, Dec. 7th. Christmas items. Garage sale for charity. 8am-1pm. Emerald Lake Dr., SCC. Decorations & related items. Just in time for the holidays. Come stock up & support our community. South Shore Feline. Education & low cost spray & neuter organization

Driveway sale. Trash to treasurer. Soup to nuts. Friday 12/7 & Saturday 12/8, 8am-2pm. 1505 Allegheny Ave., SCC

Calvary's Angel Attic Thrift Store

Wed., Fri. & Saturday
9 a.m. - Noon

Dec. 5, 7 & 8

The Cooking Sale

50% off all kitchen items and glassware
Plus - the Secret Sale

1424 E. College Ave. • Ruskin
813-641-7790

Ministry of Calvary Lutheran Church

310 GARAGE/YARD SALE

Christmas Open House

1/2 price on all Trees, lights, decorations & huge sale. Furniture, 1/2 price on clothing & appliances. Helping Hands Thrift Shop, 2 miles south of SCC on Hwy 301 south. Thursday through Saturday 9am-2pm.

Dining screen tent, Barbie/ Ken, banjo, train, luggage, small Christmas tree & decorations, linens. Friday & Saturday. 2004 El Rancho, SCC

Huge Garage Sale

Everything for everyone. Clothes, furniture, toys, small appliance & more. Saturday, Dec. 8., 8am-noon. 8208 Carriage Point Dr., Gibsonton. (off Symmes Rd)

Christmas/ garage sale. 10am-2pm. Friday & Saturday, Dec. 7 & 8, 11106 Sailbrook (off Summerfield Dr & Big Bend) Riverview.

Moving. Friday & Saturday, 8am-1pm. New boxed kitchenware, tools, household misc. Also nice girls clothes, toys, bike & bedding. 2115 New Bedford Dr., SCC.

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rummage sale

Dec. 8 & 9
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Little Manatee Isles
2821 Gulf City Rd. • Ruskin

Something for everyone!

St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
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Christmas is coming!

Be Ahead of the Crowd,
Get Your Bargains Early

Brand-name clothes & accessories •
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1311 3rd St. NE • Ruskin
Behind St. Anne Church and next to Kenoco Mfg.

310 GARAGE/YARD SALE

Garage sale. Table saw, tools, glass end table, kitchen items, luggage, glassware & much more. Friday & Saturday, Dec. 7 & 8, 8am-2pm. 1810 Atrium Dr., SCC

Huge sale. Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 8 & 9, 8am-2pm. Household, clothing, misc. Too much to list. 306 Frances Circle, Ruskin.

Christmas decor, books, furniture, tools, lamps, clothes, much more. 9am-? Friday & Saturday. 2510 Shell Point Rd., Lot 113, Ruskin.

Yard sale. Beach Blvd. SCC Multi families. Golf cart, motor bike, wing back chair, tools, small appliances. Friday & Saturday, 8am-1pm.

Moving sale. All sorts of great stuff. Reasonably priced. Dec. 7 & 8, 8am-? 201 Sola Lane, SCC.

Moving sale. Everything must go. Furniture: Living room, bedroom, dining room, misc. Saturday & Sunday. 9am-3pm. 1301 Bayou Pass Dr., Ruskin. omi1229@gmail.com

ESTATE SALES

Estate sale. Dec. 8, 9am-2pm. 6521 Solitaire Palm Way, Apollo Beach. Majority of items from antique shop. Too much to list. Cash only.

**Wanda Say's
Don't Miss This One!!**

1141 Emerald Dunes, SCC. Antique harp, entrance tables, antique drum table, antique, gate leg table, antique chairs, rocker, bedroom set, beautiful Broyhill dining table, chairs, china cabinets & server & much more. Dec. 7 & 8, 8am-1pm.

Owner Estate Sale

Thursday- Saturday, 9am-3pm. 2307 Piper Glen Ct., SCC (off Winterbrook). Furniture, kitchen hutch, marble coffee table, sleeper sofa & sectional, Christmas items, patio furniture. No early birds.

Estates Sale

5228 West Gene Rice Ave., Wimauma. Saturday, Dec. 8, 8am-2pm. Sunday Dec. 9, 2pm-5pm. Furniture, household goods, jewelry, more.

Anne's Estate Sales

1905 Del Webb Blvd. West Sun City Center

Fri. & Sat. • 8 am - 1 pm

• PARK ON SIDE OF SALE ONLY •

(813) 758-7952 (813) 758-7954

Furniture: King Hickory sofa/ sleeper, lift chair, Queen bedrm suite, Fairmont dining rm suite, sofa, Queen brass bed, bar stools, armoire, entertainment center, bookcases, coffee & end tables, entry cabinet, modern floor lamp, office chair, TVs; **Appliances:** Stackable washer/dryer; **Collectables:** Royal Doulton china set, cup & saucer collection, Fenton, cut & pressed glass, jewelry; **Miscellaneous:** aluminum ladder, artificial tree, lots of artwork, lots of Christmas items, card table w/chairs; **Household:** kitchen & misc.

www.AnnesEstateSales.blogspot.com

312 ESTATE SALES

Home of Anne Koppehele, local artist, know in Eastern US & Canada. Hwy 674 pass Hwy 301, right on Kenilworth left on Glengarry right to 909 Ivanhoe Circle Thursday & Friday, Dec 6 & 7, 8am-2pm. Saturday, Dec 8th, 8am-4pm. Paintings, art supplies, art books, large massive twin compost, furniture, household, Pilgrims cranberry glass, large Christmas selection, large Halloween selection, tools, large Craftsman tool box, small clothes, antiques, yard items. House & land for sale: Listed by Sandy Tams/ Diane Randall, Century 21, Beggins Realty

Furniture, yard tools, antiques, costume jewelry, dishes, Think bike, vintage clothes, all must go. Dec. 7 & 8, 8:30am-? 217 North Brockfield Dr., SCC.

NETTIE'S ESTATE SALES Cell: (813) 382-7536

910 Golf Island Drive
Apollo Beach
Fri. & Sat, Dec. 7 & 8
7a.m. - NOON

Directions: From US 41, turn onto Miller Mac Rd., take a right onto Golf and Sea Blvd., take a left onto Eagle Ln., and take a left onto Golf Island Dr.
Follow the Signs.

Gorgeous House on the Water

With Florida Style Furniture, Beautiful Matching La-z-boy Sofa & Loveseat, Decorative La-z-boy Side Chair, Florida Style Dining Room Table w/Chairs & Matching China Cabinet & Server, Light Colored Queen Bedroom Set, TV Armoire, Bookcases, Coffee & Lamp Tables, Glass Top Table W/Chairs, Twin Bedroom Furniture (No Beds) Seasonal and Tropical Decor, Household Items.

**Don't miss our other sale
Thurs. & Fri., Dec. 6 & 7 at
1708 Cloister Drive
Sun City Center**

Please park on side of sale due to emergency vehicles.

turn the page for 2nd sale

DENNEY'S ESTATE SALES 1603 Brookton Green Dr.

Off W. Del Webb
Sun City Center
Friday & Saturday
Dec. 7th & 8th
7 a.m to 1 p.m.
(813) 477-1793

Sofa beds & Love seats, Recliners, Entertainment Ctr., Coffee & End Tables, Dining Rm Table w/G Chairs, Computer Desk, King Bed, Vintage Chestnut Bedroom Furniture, Lamps, Patio Furniture, Collectables (Avon, Fenton, Fiesta, Fitz & Floyd, Lenox, Spode, Toby & Rockwell Plates), Unusual Vintage Items, Collections (Angels, Bells, Danielle Steel Bks & Harvard Classics), A Christmas Room, Water Sports Equip., New Brinkman Smokers, Electronics, Jewelry, Men & Women's Clothing, Glass & Kitchenware, Garage Items - Plus a 10' Birch Bark Canoe & 1700's Flintlock Pistol - Ottoman Empire, working condition, hand carved, Damascus Barrel.

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Call Beverly
813-645-3111 ext.201

NETTIE'S ESTATE SALES
Cell: (813) 382-7536
1708 Cloister Dr. Sun City Center
THURSDAY & FRIDAY
Dec. 6th & 7th
7 a.m. - NOON

Please note date and time.
Contents Include:
Lenox Figurines, Boyds Bears, Wingback Chair, Sofa, Swivel Rocker, Coffee & End Tables, Curio Cabinet, Area Rugs, Rocking Chair, Silk Trees & Plants, Beautiful Buffet, Rattan Sleeper Sofa & Recliner, Extendable Table & Chairs, Entertainment Center, Patio Set & Lounger, Bavarian China, Glassware, Collectibles, Tools & Garage Items.
Please park on side of sale due to emergency vehicles.
Don't miss our other sale Fri. & Sat., Dec. 7-8 at 910 Golf Island Drive in Apollo Beach. See You There!

312 ESTATE SALES

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2 twin beds with mattress, box springs & bedspreads, dresser with mirror, desk w/ chair & nightstand. \$200 813-523-2412

331 APPLIANCES

GE refrigerator & range, white, 2-3 yrs old. \$350 for both, SCC. 813-633-7833

GE side by side refrigerator, coil top range, microwave, dishwasher, white, all excellent. \$800. Ralph Lauren king comforter, valances & shams \$60. 813-645-4429

360 GOLF CARTS

Golf carts wanted. Buy sell, trade. Chargers, parts all related. Ronny's Carts & Parts. 813-484-9855 or 813-645-4515

Used golf cart w/ covering & battery charger. Ready to drive. \$600. Good condition. 813-642-0211

99' Yamaha gas golf cart, low hours, new carburetor, gen, starter, new curtains. Just serviced. \$1,950. 813-938-4093

390 MISC. FOR SALE

Onkyo stereo surround home theater system \$350. Lighted, china cabinet solid Pecan \$145 firm. 27" RCA TV w/ remote \$60. Jeorge limited edition stain glass lamps \$350-\$1,800 each. Hand-made king size quilts sets \$100-\$300 per set. Movies, books, misc. Christmas items 50¢-\$70. Extra large deco mirror \$75. 813-716-7842

For sale: enclosed 2011 trailer, 12+ V, 6' wide, single axle, rear ramp door with tie downs. Like new condition. \$2,550. 813-641-8345

395 WANTED TO BUY

I buy pre-1965 kitchenware, fishing gear, pocketknives, tools, toys, books, cans, tins, Singer sewing machines & more. Jeff. 813-645-4337

395 WANTED TO BUY

Wanted

Oriental jade, coral & Ivory, fine old paintings, coins, currency, silver etc. 813-610-5824

MARINE 400

425 SLIPS OR STORAGE

Little Manatee Outdoor Storage. RVs, boats, trailers. All sizes. 2903 39th Ave., SE. Ruskin. 813-361-3725.

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456 TRUCKS AND VANS

2000 Dodge Van, 186K, runs great, new battery, good tires. \$1,150 obo.. Cell 561-281-0289

REAL ESTATE 500

510 WATERFRONT FOR SALE

Open House

Saturday, December 8th, 11am-1pm.. Waterfront. 6318 Wisteria Lane, Apollo Beach, Four bedrooms, two baths, nice canal and five minutes to the Bay, \$335,000, Mrs. Clean lives here and the home is a dream! Sharon Van Loan, Keller Williams Realty 813-765-0845 www.SharonVanLoan.com

2br/2ba mid century modern home with 133ft on deep water canal in Apollo Beach. For more info. call 813-892-8456

Classified Works

511 HOUSES FOR SALE

Open House

Saturday, December 8th, 9am-1pm. Golf front 6112 with beautiful view; 6112 Cacao Dr, Apollo Beach. Custom built home with large rooms and volume ceilings, nicely furnished and shows like a model home; \$196,000, Sellers say tell Buyers we are motivated! Sharon Van Loan Keller Williams Realty 813-765-0845 www.SharonVanLoan.com

Cathy Griggs

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WATERFRONT! This beautifully maintained and updated 3/2 in Ruskin with a covered boat lift is ready and waiting for you! Only minutes from Tampa Bay and no bridges between. This is a perfect location for the sailor or fisherman! **\$249,500**

BEAUTIFULLY MAINTAINED 3/2 MANUFACTURED HOME \$56,900

NEW ON THE MARKET — KING'S POINT 2/2 expanded Stuart model \$49,000

EXCEPTIONAL CONDO in Fairway Palms! Built in 2002 this lovely 3/2 home is light & open with vaulted ceiling and skylight. Enclosed Florida rm offers additional space **\$139,000**

■ **CUTE HOUSE IN RUSKIN:** 2BR/1BA well-maintained concrete block house, with attached utility room, central heat and air, and shed in backyard. A block from river, in peaceful area of Ruskin, close to everything. **\$59,900.**

■ **1.92 ACRES CLEARED LOT ACROSS FROM RIVER, RUSKIN:** With new septic, well and electric in place, property is ready for your dream home! Consisting of 5 lots, secluded, peaceful, with great view of nature and birds, lot is down the road from park and boat ramp. Survey in file. **\$84,500.**

■ **2 MOBILE-HOMES ON 2.3 ACRES, RUSKIN:** One M/H is 2BR/2BA, other 2BR/1BA, central heat and air, large screened porches and sheds. Cleared lot with few shady trees and large pond full of fish! Secluded, peaceful, very close to shopping, restaurant and hospital. No HOA, no flood insurance needed. **\$86,500.**

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2 homes on 1.39 acres on THE LITTLE MANATEE RIVER and a freshwater pond. 4BR/3BA home (2380 sq.ft) and a 1BR/1.5BA with 1731 sq.ft. and a boathouse. **\$289,900 CALL ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201 OR KAY PYE 361-3672**

GREAT COMMERCIAL LOCATION! 2052 sq.ft. building with a great location on busy Shell Point Road in Ruskin. Nice size lot (72x170) with a circular driveway and parking for 6-12 vehicles. Large reception area, 6 private offices, kitchen area, 1 full bath and 1 half bath. **\$150,000 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 OR ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

BUILDING LOT cleared with RCD- 12 zoning for residential or duplex **\$15,000 CALL ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

COMMERCIAL ACREAGE IN RUSKIN! 3.7 acres (MOL) with CG Zoning. The initial work has been done for office buildings. This property has a great location, on corner of 10th St SW and Woodland Estates. **\$324,900 CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 or ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

CARIBBEAN ISLES IN APOLLO BEACH! Very well maintained 3BR/2BA MH in gated waterfront community. Special features include: nice open floor plan with split bedrooms, extra large kitchen with tons of cabinets, wet bar, new insulated windows, new flooring & carpet, remodeled bathrooms, workshop, fruit trees and much more! OWNER FINANCING A POSSIBILITY. **\$79,000 CALL ROXANNE WESTBROOK 813-748-2201**

RUSKIN PROPERTY with water view boat ramp & dock for your use. Close to stores, interstate, churches. Cleared and ready to build! Duplex zoning! **\$42,500. CALL KAY PYE 361-3672 OR ROXANNE WESTBROOK 748-2201**

BEAUTIFUL LAKE FRONT LOT 1.6 acres to build your dream home and not be too near your neighbors. 123 acres of Lake and 900 acres of wetlands to enjoy everyday. Very well maintained 4BR/3BA Palm Harbor, POOL Home with 3+ drive-through garage! Special features include: nice open floor plan, wood burning fireplace, large kitchen with center island, inside utility room, water softener, security system, gorgeous landscaping and much more! Situated on 1.3 Acres (MOL) with 4 extra lots. **\$169,000**

TOWNHOMES FOR SALE! Relax and enjoy all the benefits of living in an almost new townhome. This nice open floor plan with 3BR/2.5BA (1,724 sq/ft) and an attached one car garage offers ceramic tile in the kitchen and bathrooms. Master bath has double sinks, combination tub/shower and a huge walk-in closet. **\$113,900 CALL ROXANNE WESTBROOK 813-748-2201**

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^Based on 2012 EPA hwy estimates. †Holiday wreath provided by Toyota of Lakewood. While supplies last. *2012 Camry MDL#2546, MSRP \$24,500. 2012 RAV4 MDL#4430, MSRP \$23,680. **2012 Prius Two MDL#1223, MSRP \$24,840. 39 month leases with \$999 due at signing including \$0 security deposit with approved credit for well-qualified lessees. All leases exclude tax, tag, title, registration and include dealer fees. Additional features and options from Toyota increase monthly lease payment. All used vehicle pricing excludes tax, tag, title and registration. Prices valid on in-stock units only. Photos are used for illustration purposes only, may not be actual vehicle. Prior sales excluded. All offers cannot be combined. See dealer for complete details. Offers expire end of day 12/9/2012.



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