

# ARCADIA THE COMMUNITY

MAY 2, 2024



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# Local

## SLAUGHTERHOUSE DENIED SPECIAL EXCEPTION USE



**STEVE KNAPP**  
sports@peacerrivershopper.com

**DESOTO COUNTY SPORTS**

PAGE 4



From left, Luis Rivero of Miami, Christopher Haywood of Fort Myers, and Gabriel Mejia of Naples applied for a "Special Exception Use" for a slaughterhouse/food processing plant and meat market on property located on Airport Rd. during the April 23 public hearing.



**CAROL MAHLER**

Independent Contractor  
carolmahler22acl@gmail.com  
Photos provided

At the April 23 public hearing, the Commissioners denied a special exception use to allow within the Agricultural-5 (A-5) zoning district, a 30,592 sq. ft. animal slaughterhouse/food processing plant with associated improvements on an 11.88-acre property located at 2587 SE Airport Road, designated on the Future Land Use Map as low-density residential. The Development Director and Planning Commission had recommended denial.

The Commissioners were in favor of the project—an United States Dept. of Agriculture (USDA)-regulated slaughterhouse that buys animals from local farmers and provides a retail meat market; however, they did not think the proposed location was appropriate for such an operation.

"The only problem I see is that this doesn't seem like the right place for it," Commissioner J.C. Deriso said. "... It's a brilliant idea, and I hope you guys find

a way to do it."

Expressing admiration for the applicants' "ambition, drive, and willingness to take a risk," Commissioner Steve Hickox said, "Location is key . . . I've always considered [south Airport Road] a residential area."

Commissioner Elton Langford said, "This is a wonderful concept . . . There is a place in DeSoto County for this operation, but not [the property on Airport Road]."

They asked the applicants to find a more suitable property for their venture, and Commissioner J.C. Deriso noted that a former slaughterhouse property on McIntyre Road was for sale.

The Commission also passed on second reading an Ordinance Amending the Land Development Regulations (LDR) Sections 20-759 Nonconforming Structures and 20-1499 Conditions and Safe-Guards, and on first reading an Ordinance Amending LDR Sections 20-538 parking area design and development

SEE FAMILY FUN PAGE 2 >>



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## GOVERNMENT MEETING SCHEDULE

### CITY

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS OCCUR THE 1ST AND 3RD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED

Margaret Way Building  
23 N. Polk Ave., Arcadia, FL 34266

<b>MAY 14</b>	<b>DESOTO COUNTY</b> <b>REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING</b>
<b>TUES 9A</b>	<b>Administration Building</b> 201 E. Oak Street, Suite 103 Arcadia, FL 34266
<b>MAY 24</b>	<b>DESOTO COUNTY</b> <b>GRADUATION/RECORDS DAY</b>
<b>FRI</b>	
<b>MAY 27</b>	<b>DESOTO COUNTY</b> <b>COUNTY OFFICES CLOSED</b> In observance of Memorial Day
<b>MON</b>	

Active dates and times are subject to change.  
County: <http://desotobocc.com/calendar>  
City: <https://arcadia-fl.gov/events/>

**ATHLETE(S) OF THE WEEK**  
See page 5

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**GAME OF THE WEEK**  
See page 6

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## FAMILY FUN

FROM PAGE 1 »

standards; 20-126 through 20-143 adding electric substations use, and 20-136 through 20-140 adding affordable residential use.

## IN OTHER BUSINESS

At the request of former Commissioner Jim Selph, the Commission adopted a resolution “declaring that the Peace River Soil and Water Conservation District (PRS&WCD) is a testament to the region’s commitment to environmental conservation needs and plays a pivotal role in safeguarding natural resources for future generations.” Established in 1944, PRS&WCD has “promoted sustainable land management practices among local farmers and land owners.” Partnerships with the Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services as well as the Natural Resources Conservation Services have “facilitated the development of comprehensive conservation plans, benefiting the local ecosystem and the community’s well-being.”

A contract with Phillips and Jordan, Inc. (P&J), for the Natural Resources Conservation Services-funded Emergency Watershed Protection Debris Removal Services was ratified. From May through Sept., P&J will remove hurricane debris from stream channels and ditches.



The Commissioners proclaimed May as Mental Health Month and encouraged residents “to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental health and the steps our citizens can take to protect their mental health.” Commissioner Steve Hickox presented the proclamation to, from left, Amanda Finsel, Activities Coordinator at The Selby House, 513 E. Hickory St., (facebook.com/DeSotoPsych/), and Gina Wynn, Assistant Vice President of Community Services for Charlotte Behavioral Health Care in Punta Gorda (cbhcf.org).

The Commission approved a contract amendment for HVAC Maintenance and Repair Services with D&D Mechanical Services doing business as Myakka Heating and Cooling extending until May 2025 the current contract, established 2020, with three one-year renewals—two of which have been used. The third

renewal will include a five percent mark-up for parts and materials costing less than \$500.00, seven percent mark-up for parts costing \$500.00 or more, and an additional \$10.00 per hour for labor rates both regular and after hours for the Contractor and General Laborer.

## CONSENT AGENDA

On the Consent Agenda, the Commissioners approved the following items:

- Addendum to the Central Florida Regional Planning Council’s DeSoto Interlocal Agreement updating “target deliverable dates” for the county-wide Vulnerability Assessment funded through a Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) grant;
- Authorization to negotiate an agreement for design services with Kimley-Horn & Associates for three sidewalks—on County Road 760 from S.W. Highway 17 to S.W. Aster Ave.; S.E. West Ave. from S.E. Maple Dr. to S.E. Esmeralda Dr.; and S.W. Kingsway Circle from S.W. Egret Circle to S.W. Egret Circle—funded by the Florida Department of Transportation’s Federally Funded Local Agency Program (LAP);
- Reassignment of Contract and Contractor Renewal for Generator Maintenance and Repair with GenServe doing business as LJ Power, Inc., under the contract established in April 2022, using the second of three one-year renewals with no changes in pricing; and
- Tourism Marketing Matching Grants of \$2,287.50 to Arcadia Main Street for Bike Fest and \$2,500.00 to the Padgett Ranch for Ranch Festival.

## ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

As proposed by County Administrator Mandy Hines, the Commissioners agreed

to the following dates for upcoming workshops:

- 1:00 p.m., May 29, to consider allowing the use of golf carts and/or All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) on County roads in neighborhoods;
- 1:30 p.m., June 11, “Planning 101” or an explanation of the planning process;
- 1:00 p.m. July 9, 23, Aug. 13 and 27 for budget workshops—as needed.

She thanked Daniel Sutphin and Sondra Guffey of the Economic Development Dept. for the “What’s Going Up” feature on the County’s website—“for keeping it current and putting it together.” She also passed on praise from the public for a job well done in the following departments: Kathy Heitman and Laura McClelland in Planning and Zoning; Morgan Ray in Utilities; and Alison Shuman in Building.

## COUNTY ATTORNEY’S REPORT

County Attorney Don Conn reported the following:

- In the Reardon Case, Judge Don Hall dismissed the County’s rejection of the Special Master’s recommendations but has asked the County to “show cause” for denying the rezoning based on the evidence presented at the Feb. 2022 hearing;
- The County was awarded custody of four dogs, so they can now be adopted;
- The house at 12774 S.W. Kingsway Circle was sold and \$30,600.00 in liens was paid; and
- The Treworgy family has evicted the squatters from 11212 S.W. Cedar Ave., so now the bank may now proceed with foreclosure, and the family’s attorney now represents the property owner.

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# LAFOND'S NO-NO GIVES LADY BULLDOGS 15-0 WIN



**STEVE KNAPP**

Sports Writer  
sports@peacerrivershopper.com

Natalie Lafond struck out 9 Red Devil hitters in 4 innings of work and didn't allow a hit in the 15-0 win over Avon Park. It was no contest early as the Bulldogs put 11 runs on the board in the first inning on three singles, a double, 5 walks, 2 hit batters and a bevy of wild pitches and passed balls.

DeSoto added single runs in the second and third innings and put up 2 more in the fourth to put an end to the blood bath.



Bulldog pitcher Natalie Lafond puts the tag on a baserunner who was caught in a rundown. Outfielder Kendal Hanshaw (26) backs up the play. Lafond's no hitter gave the Bulldogs the win.

Marina Morales is excited getting to third base in the 15-0 win over Avon Park.



Vianey Vargas and Allie Hall pose for a quick photo before the game.



Emily Berini slides into second with a stolen base.



Juliette Wolcott holds down the first base position for the Bulldogs. At the end of the season she got the call-up to the varsity where she got on base in both at bats, stole a base and scored the only run.



Nevaeh Zamora slides safely into third with a stolen base in the 15-0 DeSoto win over Avon Park.



Shortstop Emily Berini fields the ball in the 15-0 win over Avon Park.





DESOTO COUNTY

# ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



## DESOTO COUNTY VARSITY BASEBALL TEAM

The Desoto County baseball team showed what can be accomplished with perseverance and hard work and has earned this week's Athlete of the Week award.

The team struggled in the first half of the season and lost their first 11 games. In that span they scored less than 2 runs a game with just 19 total runs. They allowed 106 runs in those 11 games.

After they recorded their first win at Imagine High School, the team turned their season around winning 7 of their final 13 games. They scored an average of 6 runs a game and gave up 80 in those 13 games.



## RED SOX AND RAYS IN LITTLE LEAGUE ACTION



The Rays entry in the minors Little League division.



The Braves Little League team of 2024.



Aaron Sanchez gets back to the bag before Brysen Bautista can get the tag on him.



Rays catcher Aaron Sanchez comes up with the ball but not until the Braves Issac Morales scores.



Santiago Hernandez gets hit on his hands on an inside pitch.



Braves hurler Gael Hernandez fires to the plate for the Braves.

Braves third baseman Alessandro Perez puts the tag on Colt Graves to end the inning.



Jacob Castillo can't make contact with this pitch on the corner.





DESOTO COUNTY

GAME OF THE WEEK

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# EXCITING COMBACK GIVES BULLDOGS A MUCH NEEDED WIN



**STEVE KNAPP**

Sports Writer  
sports@peacerrivershopper.com

A 7 run outburst in the bottom of the 6th inning put the Bulldogs ahead of Frostproof and gave DeSoto an important 9-8 win. That gave the Bulldogs their third win in the past 4 games and 6 out of their past 10 games.

The importance of that victory didn't lock up a district championship or even get the team up to the .500 mark. What it did was to show them that they can come back from a 6 run deficit late in the game and pull out a win. If everybody does their job and puts the ball in play, big things sometimes can happen.

DeSoto gave up single runs in the first two innings and cut the lead in half on an error at third as the throw went into left field and Will Joens easily scored. Frostproof put 4 on the board in the 4th on a couple of big two out hits.

DeSoto responded in their half of the fourth inning as Corbin Gilmore led off with a double for the Bulldogs' only extra base hit of the game. After Owen Roe was hit by the pitch for a team high tenth time this season, the next two hitters fanned. Freshman sensation Trenton Alley singled in Gilmore to make the score 6-2.

When the Bulldogs came to bat in the bottom of the 6th they were trailing 8-2 and it looked like it may be another loss for the Bulldogs. That's when the magic happened.

DeSoto sent ten men up to bat and scored 7 times. Again it was Gilmore who got the inning started with a base knock. Roe followed with a single and Joens was hit by a pitch to load the sacks. After a little tapper in front of the plate forced Gilmore at home, Alley came through with a big bases loaded hit.

He reached out on an 0-2 pitch and slapped it down the first base line between the first baseman and the line. That scored Roe and Joens to cut the lead in half at 8-4. Cooper Hancock was hit by a pitch to reload the bases. That brought the top of the order back up.

Hagen Bryan singled in Camden Iglehart and Obi Strader who was running for Alley. With the Dawgs down by two they weren't finished yet. Logan Adkins bounced out to score Hancock to bring the Bulldogs to within a run at 8-7.

Abel Nedley, who pitched 2 and 2/3 innings in relief of Iglehart, singled in Bryan to tie the game at 8. With Nedley on second and Gilmore up to bat with a perfect night of getting on base in every at bat going for him, the senior popped it straight up. Usually a corner infielder will take the ball but the pitcher called them off.

Nedley was hustling and rounded third and was midway to the plate when the ball popped out of the pitcher's glove. He threw



Owen Roe rips a single in the 9-8 win over Frostproof. Roe scored a run and was on base twice.

to first to get Gilmore but it was too late. As Gilmore was trapped in a rundown, Nedley scored what turned out to be the winning run.

Most runners would just cut it down and round the bag thinking the inning was over. Nedley was running like Usain Bolt and that great hustle forced the pitcher to make the late throw to first. On Gilmore's end, most hitters would be upset at just popping it up in front of the mound, but Gilmore ran hard to first and beat the throw. Those two acts of hustle and good base running contributed to the win.

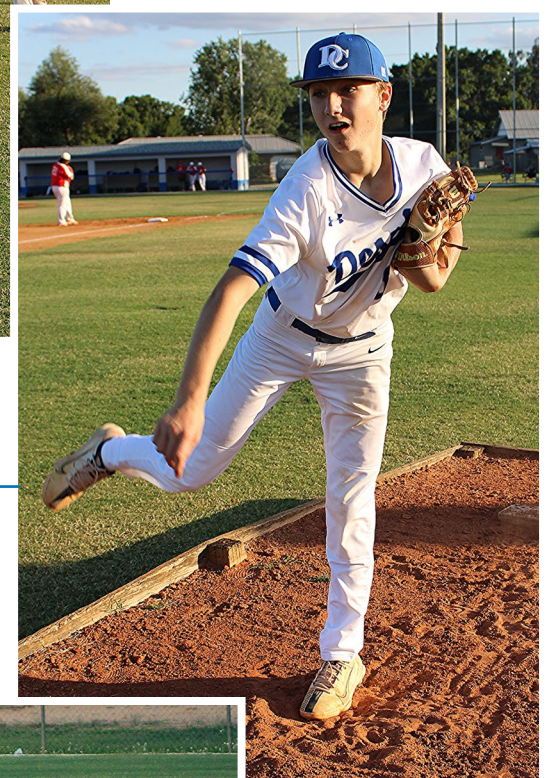
Iglehart pitched his longest stint of the season working into the 4th inning giving up 4 hits and 4 runs before Nedley came on in relief. Nedley, who got the win and scored the winning run, also ate up some innings allowing 2 earned runs.

With Desoto up by a run in the 7th inning, coach Matt Martin went to his ace and brought in Gilmore to shut them down.

The last inning was pretty sad for Frostproof. Gilmore threw 10 pitches and 9 of them were strikes as he struck out the side. He showed a nasty curve that broke a couple of ankles and then he simply threw some heat that nobody could catch up with and that was the end to a great 9-8 comeback win for the Bulldogs.



The Bulldogs work on their lead from first in pregame drills.



Camden Iglehart pitched into the 4th inning in his longest outing this season.



Abel Nedley takes a lead off first after getting hit by a pitch in the first inning. Nedley started at first and came on in relief to get the win and scored the game winning run.



# PROM 2024 IS OVER - GRADUATION NEXT MILESTONE



Christian Bautista and Laynee West-Iglehart were named 2024 prom king and queen.



A group of beautifully dressed ladies enter the prom.



Esmeralda Cardenas-Garza and Ivan Perez went to the prom together.



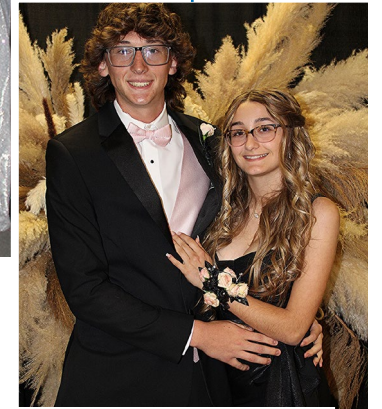
Isabelle Zolkos leads this group of dancers at last Saturday's prom.



Lane Fullerton and Kali Patton, 2023 prom King and Queen, were on hand to crown the 2024 king and Queen.



There were several areas to sit and talk at the 2024 prom.



Baseball player Logan Adkins and golfer Emily Cline pose for a photo.



There was plenty of dancing at the Desoto High School prom last Saturday.



The ladies danced until the 2024 prom ended last Saturday night.



Soccer stars JJ Buenrostro and Vanessa Villafuerte pose in one of the photo op areas.



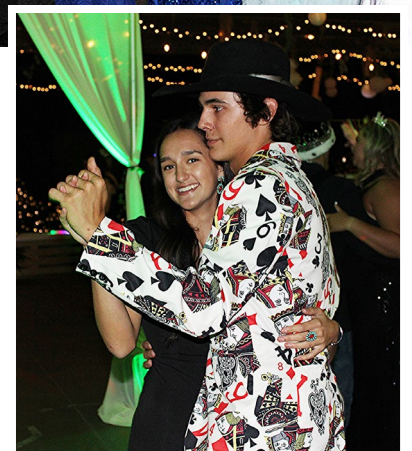
Emery Skinner and Evan Roe enjoyed the prom at the Turner Center.



More of the 2024 prom attendees last Saturday at the Turner Center.



Jared Gross and Wes Roe served up drinks and slushies to the prom guests.



Samantha Hershberger and Brady Adams dance at the prom.



# “CHICKS WITH STICKS” AWARDS TWO SCHOLARSHIPS



**CAROL MAHLER**

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Photos provided

Southwest Florida Ladies Golf Association Chicks With Sticks awarded two \$1,580.00 scholarships to Natalee Butts and Harley Cross last Thurs. at Paradise Golf Course, 8135 S.W. Sunnysbreeze Rd. The two high school seniors and their parents attended the League’s Closing Luncheon at the Paradise Palms Restaurant.

Having played on the golf team for four years, Butts serves as captain and the “number one seed for the Varsity team.” Also a member of the National Honor Society and Delta Omegas, she is editor of the high school yearbook and works at the First Baptist Church of Arcadia daycare. She wants to earn her Doctor of Medicine degree in dentistry.

A member of the golf team for three years, Harley Cross will graduate with her Associate of Arts degree from South Florida State College. The Historian of her class, she wants to study healthcare administration. “I plan to continue playing golf throughout my life, because it is a wonderful opportunity to fellowship with friends and coworkers,” she wrote.

Gretchen Stoughton organized the fundraiser for the scholarships with assistance from Diana Radcliffe. The golfers themselves—or businesses they asked—donated items so that a record-breaking nine gift baskets could be assembled. (Leftover gifts were used as door prizes for those golfers who attended the luncheon.) Selling raffle tickets for the baskets to themselves and their friends, the ladies raised \$3,160.00.

Butts and Cross took turns drawing the raffle tickets from the basket, and the winners were the following: Roxane Angotta, Rob Anderson, Sam Costner, Rita Dickie, Cheryl Dowdel, Vee Kramarski, Stella Miller, Sherrie Tobin, and Sue Watson.

Playing through the summer, the Southwest Florida Women’s Golf Association “Chicks With Sticks” League welcomes new members who may sign up through the Website [swflawgachickswithsticks.com](http://swflawgachickswithsticks.com).



Winning scholarships from Southwest Florida Ladies Golf Association Chicks With Sticks are DeSoto High School seniors—and members of the DHS golf team—Harley Cross and Natalee Butts.

From left, Natalee Butts, Gretchen Stoughton—who organized the scholarship project, Harley Cross, and Diana Radcliffe—who assisted with the scholarship project.



Winning first prize in the Southwest Florida Ladies Golf Association Chicks With Sticks Seasonal Year-End Tournament are, from left, Joanne Flood, Linda Riley, Kath Troubridge, and Cheryl Dowdell.



Winning a gift basket is Southwest Florida Ladies Golf Association Chicks With Sticks member Rita Angotta with Scholarship Recipients Natalee Butts and Harley Cross.



Winning one of nine gift baskets, Southwest Florida Ladies Golf Association Chicks With Sticks Member Sue Watson poses with Scholarship Recipients Natalee Butts and Harley Cross.

Southwest Florida Ladies Golf Association Chicks With Sticks Member Rita Dickie won a gift basket when her ticket was drawn by Scholarship Recipients Harley Cross and Natalee Butts.







Cheryl Dowdel, a member of the Southwest Florida Ladies Golf Association Chicks With Sticks, holds her gift basket with Scholarship Recipients Natalee Butts and Harley Cross.



Scholarship Recipients Natalee Butts and Harley Cross stand with Southwest Florida Ladies Golf Association Chicks With Sticks member Stella Miller and the gift basket she won.



Paradise Golf Course Manager Mike Gray; Owner Kath Troubridge, Jeff Neal of Xude Hospitality, Paradise Palms Restaurant Manager Tracy Rasch, and Mary Payne pose for a moment before the awards ceremony started.

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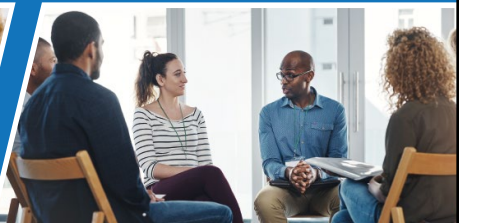
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Pursuant to Sections 193.122 and 197.323, Florida Statutes, David A. Williams, Property Appraiser for DeSoto County, Florida hereby gives notice that the final certification for the 2023 DeSoto county Tax Roll was made to the Tax Collector on April 25, 2024.

David A. Williams, CFA  
DeSoto County Property Appraiser



**DESOTO COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER**  
*David A. Williams, CFA*

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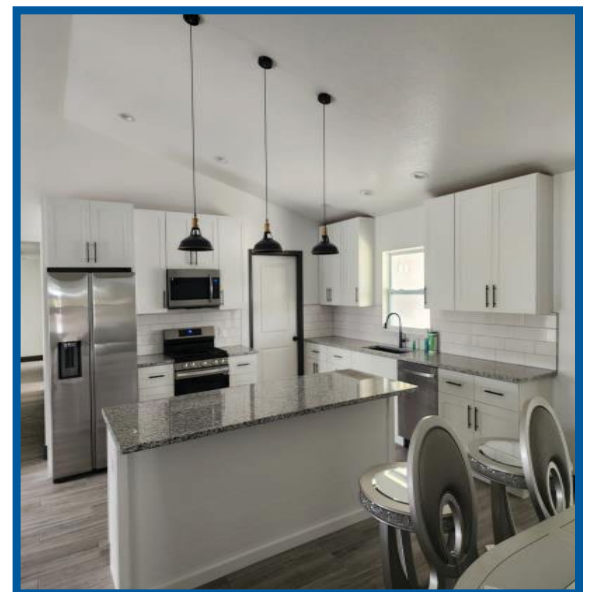
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# CITY BREAKS GROUND FOR 12TH AVENUE



**CAROL MAHLER**

Independent Contractor  
carolmahler22acl@gmail.com  
Photos provided

On April 22, the City held a “ground breaking” for 12th Ave.: to construct and pave the road from State Road (S.R.) 70 to Gibson St. with a Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) grant.

George F. Young designed the two-phase project, and Andrew Sitework (ASW) won the bid for the construction. The Council approved the construction amount that was \$600,000.00 more than the grant. City Administrator Beth Carsten asked FDOT if the grant could be increased to help cover the shortfall, and—in an “unheard of agreement,” FDOT funded an additional \$300,000.00, leaving the City responsible for a matching amount.

City Of Arcadia Utilities Operations Manager Mike Keller said, “We’re happy to work with ASW” because the City has successfully worked with them previously.

City Administrator Terry Stewart was pleased that the project—starting with a grant application in 2019—“had finally come to fruition.” He noted that it will take the pressure off Turner Ave. He praised the Council for their “support and trust” in what the City is doing and has been trying to do.”

Mayor Robert “Bob” Heine, Jr., said that although the project was a “long

time in coming,” the City “will eventually be repaid for all of it.”

When asked if he knew why the street had never been completed, Deputy Mayor Keith Keene said that it was probably not needed in the past. In fact, the 1956 Arcadia City Directory lists 11th Ave. as the “City Limits.” By the time the 1958 directory was published, one house had been built on 12th Ave.

Keene also noted that the new road will give the school buses better access to their depot as well as open additional lots for residences. He thanked Stewart for his leadership on these projects and the Council for working together and recognizing “what needs to be done to move us forward.”



The City held a ground-breaking for 12th Ave. on April 22: from left, Brian Crowl of DRMP providing Construction Engineering & Inspection (CEI) Services for the project; Chad Baker, Project Manager for Andrew Sitework; Assistant City Administrator Beth Carsten; Public Works Director Steve Underwood; Deputy Major Keith Keene, Mayor Bob Heine, Jr., and City Administrator Terry Stewart.



From left, Luis Rivero of Miami, Christopher Haywood of Fort Myers, and Gabriel Mejia of Naples applied for a “Special Exception Use” for a slaughterhouse/food processing plant and meat market on property located on Airport Rd. during the April 23 public hearing.



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# DESOTO COUNTY

## SHERIFF'S OFFICE



4/19/24 - 4/25/24

**Beaver, Dale Matthew:**Out Of County Warrant**Brock, Cory De Andre:**Moving Traffic Viol - Drive On  
Permanently Revoked Driver License**Bush, Shyian Nishai:**Failure To Appear - Written Promise To Appear**Campbell, Richard Lee:**Marijuana-Possess - Not More Than 20 Grams, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use, Out Of County Warrant**Canseco-Aragon, Jose:**Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle Wo Valid License**Carranza, Manuel Dejesus:**Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Drive While Lic Susp 2Nd Off, Traffic Offense - DUI Alcohol Or Drugs, Traffic Offense - Refuse To Submit DUI Test After Lic Susp**Corbitt, Jeffrey Lwenllyne:**Battery - 2Nd Or Subsq Off**Daniels Sr., Christopher M:**Resist Officer - Obstruct Wo Violence**Daniels, Darryl Cornelius:**Battery - On Staff Of Sex Viol Pred Facility**Drinnon, John Lane:**Failure To Appear - Written Promise To Appear**Fernanda, Maria Araujo Calderon:**Battery - Touch Or Strike**Fuhlman, Heath Lynn:**Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Drive While Lic Susp 3Rd Or Subsq Off, Failure To Appear - Written Promise To Appear**Gomez, Ervin Didier-Roblero:**Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle Wo Valid License**Grondin, Mari Ann:**Failure To Appear - Written Promise To Appear (X3)**Guerra-Gudino, Ernesto:**DUI-Unlaw Bld Alch - .15 Or Higher Or With Person Under 18 1St Off, Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle Wo Valid License**Harmison, James Allen:**Obscene Material-Possess - Poss Photograph Of Sexual Performance By Child (X71)**Hausman, Caleb James:**Lewd Lascv Behavior - Molest Child 12Yoa Up To 16Yoa By Less 18Yoa**Helmbright, Bernard L:**Intimidation - Send Written Threat Conduct Mass Shooting**Henry, Lucious:**Public Order Crimes - Use 911 Or E911 False Alarm Or Info**Lounsberry III, Jesse Joseph****John:**Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Drive While Lic Susp 1St Off**Mansfield, Haley Nicole:**Battery - Touch Or Strike**Melbourne, Tameka Lynette:**Fraud-Imperson - Use Possess Personal Id Of Deceased, Forgery Of - Alter Public Record Certificate Etc**Moore, Blake Allen:**Prob Violation (X3)**Padilla, Henry:**Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle Wo Valid License**Pelham, Christina Marie:**Veh Theft - Grand Theft Of Motor Vehicle, Prob Violation, Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle Wo Valid License**Perdomo, Terencio:**Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle Wo Valid License**Pina, Rafael Balbino:**Resist Officer - Obstruct Wo Violence, Failure To Appear - Written Promise To Appear (X14)**Quave, Jason Whidden:**Prob Violation**Ruiz Sanchez, Luciano:**Trespassing - Fail To Leave Property Upon Order By Owner**Sanchez, Miguel Gomez:**Trespassing - Fail To Leave Property Upon Order By Owner**Sanchez, Ramiro:**Veh Theft - Grand Theft Of Motor Vehicle, Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Drive While Lic Susp 1St Off**Steyer Jr., John Phillip:**Condit Release Violation - Violation Of Condition Of Release, Traffic Offense - DUI Alcohol Or Drugs 3Rd Viol W/In 10 Years, Traffic Offense - Refuse To Submit DUI Test After Lic Susp, Battery - 2Nd Or Subsq Off**Torres-Mercado, Marco Antonio:**Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle Wo Valid License**Umphries, Jessica Leigh:**Prob Violation, Fraud - Wilflly Defraud/ Attmpt Defraud Urine Drug Test**Vasquez, Guadalupe Perez:**Trespassing - Fail To Leave Property Upon Order By Owner**Verzani, Brenda May:**Veh Theft - Grand Theft Of Motor Vehicle, Larc - Grand Theft 5K Less Than 10K Dols, Damage Prop-Crim Misch - 1000 Dols Or More**White, Aaneshia Jeremese:**Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Drive While Lic Susp 1St Off

Information on this report is provided for informational purposes only from the public Inmate Records of the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office. While every effort is made to ensure that the posted information is accurate, it may contain factual or other errors. Arrest information may not reflect the current information. An arrest does not mean that the individual has been convicted of a crime. The information on this report should not be relied upon for any type of legal action. Unauthorized or illegal use of the information is strictly prohibited.





# CAVALRY BAPTIST BREAKS GROUND ON EXPANSION

On Sunday, April 14, Calvary Baptist Church broke ground on an exciting new expansion project. The surrounding community is growing and changing, and it has become necessary for Calvary to grow and change as well. The church is constructing a new entrance area that will face Turner Avenue. A new parking lot was recently completed on the north side of the campus, and additional parking will be added on the east side. Inside, new fellowship areas will provide better spaces for gathering together. A relocated nursery area will keep families and their children closer together during worship. A new kitchen will be constructed, and the sanctuary will be repaired and updated.

This expansion is the latest project to become part of Calvary's history. In 1962, a group of believers met for worship in Arcadia's National Guard Armory, deciding at that time to form Calvary Baptist Church. In April of the following year, Calvary dedicated its original chapel and meeting spaces on the current campus. In 1990, the Hollingsworth Auditorium was dedicated, which continues to serve as the church's sanctuary. The new expansion is part of a two-year initiative at Calvary called Completely Committed, which will fund the church's operating expenses as



well as the new construction.

Calvary Baptist Church is located at 48 North 15th Avenue in Arcadia. Lead Pastor is Chuck Poe, and Sunday worship services are held at 10:45AM. Services will remain on campus throughout construction. You may reach the church at 863.494.4345 or [cbcarcadia.org](http://cbcarcadia.org) for more information.



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# HIGHLANDS HAMMOCK ANNOUNCES APRIL CALIFORNIA TOE JAM CONCERT



Sebring: The California Toe Jam Band is scheduled to perform at Highlands Hammock on Saturday, April 20 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Concertgoers are sure to have a 'jamming good time' listening to this Heartland favorite in the final concert of this season's Music in the Park series. Approaching its 40th anniversary, the band now features founding member Harry Havery on guitar and vocals, T.J. Kinyon on bass and vocals, Jordan Terrell on keys, guitar and vocals and Sawyer Humphrey on drums. Newcomer Humphrey, who is 12 years old, is marking his first year performing with the band's veteran artists. Although the years have gone by, the music remains the same and many

enthusiastic Toe Jam fans will be moved to get up and dance. Park Services Specialist Carla Sherwin stated, "We are very happy that Harry was able to play to book a concert with the park this year, as they have missed a couple of seasons." Known for playing the best classic rock from the 1960s and 70s, California Toe Jam has a strong local following and is known for 'packing the park.' Park Services Specialist Carla Sherwin remarked, "Those planning to attend may wish to arrive early to beat the rush and stake out a special spot in the Music in the Park circle."

Concert admission is \$10 per adult. Accompanied children 12 and under are free of charge. Music in the Park concerts are sponsored by the Friends of Highlands Hammock State Park. All proceeds benefit park improvements. Bring blankets, lawn chairs, and

flashlights and enjoy an evening of music under the stars. Food and refreshments are provided by food trucks and the Hammock Inn. Park entry fees of \$6 per vehicle (up to 8 people) and \$4 per single occupant vehicle are waived after 6 p.m. on concert nights. Highlands Hammock State Park is located at 5931 Hammock Road in Sebring. Call the Ranger Station at 863-386-6094 for more information and check out the band's website at <https://californiatoejam.com>.



# FEW ATTENDED VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT PUBLIC WORKSHOP



**CAROL MAHLER**  
Independent Contractor  
[carolmahler22acl@gmail.com](mailto:carolmahler22acl@gmail.com)  
Photos provided

Although the Central Florida Regional Planning Council (CFRPC) invited the public to an "open-house" style workshop to learn about the DeSoto County Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment Including Arcadia, few people attended. In the middle of Florida's traditional "dry season," it might be difficult to remember the horrendous flooding that followed Hurricane Ian in Sept. and Oct. 2022.

However, well before that catastrophe, Governor Ron DeSantis had signed on May 12, 2021, Senate Bill 1954 into law to protect inland waterways, coastlines, and shores "as invaluable natural defenses against sea level rise." This effort is Florida's largest ever investment "to prepare communities for the impacts of sea level rise, intensified storms, and flooding. "For every dollar spent to make infrastructure more climate-resilient, "six dollars can be saved."

A vulnerability assessment considers the potential impacts of flooding from storms, rainfall, or both. It will predict how much flooding—plus how that flooding may impact a variety of assets and demographic groups. The assessment is the first step for building resilience—"the ability to anticipate, prepare for, adapt to, withstand, respond to, and recover rapidly from disruptions."

The County signed a contract with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for a Resilient Florida Planning Grant of \$200,000.00 for the Vulnerability Assessment. The

County also approved an inter-local agreement with the CFRPC to complete the Assessment's four tasks: acquire background data, conduct exposure and sensitivity analyses, and complete the final vulnerability assessment report including maps and tables.

Background data will cover critical and regionally significant assets, such as transportation and evacuation routes, "critical infrastructure, critical community and emergency facilities, and natural, cultural, and historical resources." Also included are topographic and flood scenario-related data—for example, precipitation amounts, groundwater levels, land use, and more.

Residents are necessary to the planning process to share their experiences and personal stories "not to correct the models," Knowles said, "but to add to the data."

CFRPC seeks additional members to serve on the steering committee to represent the following groups: Building and Housing; Community and Economic Development; Community Leaders or Champions; Education; Environment; Human & Social Services; Local Elected Officials; Non-Government Organizations; Planning; Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources; Planning; Public Safety; Researchers and Scientists; State and Federal Governments; Transportation; and Utilities.

The Steering Committee will meet four more times through March 2025. Although the Steering Committee had its first meeting, you may still join by sending a message to Knowles at [cknowles@cfrpc.org](mailto:cknowles@cfrpc.org) or call him at 863-534-7130, ext. 124.



Curtis Knowles of the Central Florida Regional Planning Council shares some information with the County's Department of Emergency Management: EM Coordinator Marc Purvis, EM Director Rick Christoff, and EM Specialist Christine Fankhauser at the Vulnerability Assessment Public Workshop last week.



Discussing the maps on display at the Vulnerability Assessment Public Workshop are, from left, Curtis Knowles and Jerri Sackett of the Central Florida Regional Planning Council, and Christine Fankhauser, Marc Purvis, and Rick Christoff of the County's Department of Emergency Management



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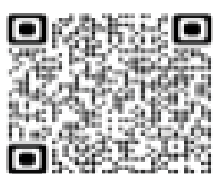
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