



Newcomers

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO
THE ZEPHYRHILLS NEWS



Guide

JANUARY 2023

As a resident or visitor, we invite you to visit *The Zephyrhills News* for a complimentary copy of our 111-year old weekly publication upon your arrival. As an informative resource of local news, events and activities, our goal is to bring you community connection and promote the values of local businesses eager to serve you.



Why Buy From

Jim Browne AUTOMOTIVE

CHEVROLET • BUICK • GMC • CHRYSLER • JEEP • DODGE • RAM
DADE CITY

- ★ All-time online reputation score of 4.7 out of 5.0 Stars with over 5,500 online reviews.
- ★ Over 750 New & Used vehicles available
- ★ Guaranteed Market Value for Your Trade In.
- ★ Nationwide Lifetime Warranty
- ★ Recipient of the Customer First Award for Excellence
- ★ Certified Collision Center on US 301 between Dade City & Zephyrhills



Remember that's Jim Browne with an "E"

Shop online at

JimBrowneAuto.com





Welcome newcomers and winter residents

This Newcomers Edition provides you with news and various events you may have missed when you were gone.

In a return to normalcy, several traditional events were resumed or continued in and around Zephyrhills.

A highlight for the area is Pigz in Zhills. The 12th annual barbecue and music festival took place last March but has been moved back to January this year.

Other longstanding events this past year were the Pioneer Florida Museum's Farm Festival and Quilt Show, along with cane syrup making. Also in nearby Dade City, attractions that lured folks to the area were the Pasco County Fair and Kumquat Festival.

Don't forget parades. Zephyrhills hosted one on Veteran's Day with parades in Dade City and Zephyrhills for Christmas. Plus, a Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day at the Zephyrhills Museum of Military History once again proved to be a major attraction.

New to the area this year was the Florida Senior Games with the Sarah Vande Berg Tennis and Wellness Center, Pln Chaser's Bowling Center and the Zephyrhills Shuffleboard Club hosting events for athletes refusing to quit.

Residential and commercial projects continue. Ace Hardware came to the Big Lots Shopping Center, a veteran's clinic off Eiland Boulevard near U.S. 301 is nearly complete and road projects are ongoing. State Roads 54 and 56 are the primary areas, but work also is under way further west in Wesley Chapel and north in the Cypress Creek area. Plus, the Two Rivers remains the largest community development project in the area.

The Zephyrhills News celebrated its 111th anniversary in 2022 with reporters Steve Lee and Andy Warrener still here.

Publisher/editor Jan Linville remains committed to providing the best local news coverage. Sales manager Theresa LeBlanc helps advertisers promote their businesses and products. Josephine Light handles classified ads, Cindy DeMatteo is the accounting manager and James Bannon is over the circulation department. Thanks for supporting the best source for local news.

Quick Resource Guide

AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Greater Dade City 352-567-3769
Greater Zephyrhills 813-782-1913

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT and SERVICES

Better Business Bureau 703-276-0100
Career Source Pasco/Hernando 813-377-1300
Main Street Zephyrhills, Inc. 813-780-1414

CITY GOVERNMENT

City of Zephyrhills (Main) 813-780-0000
Code Enforcement 813-780-0020
Fire Department 813-780-0035
Municipal Airport 813-780-0030
Police Department 813-780-0050

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE (211)

AARP (Free Tax Preparation) 888-227-7669
American Red Cross 800-733-2767
East Pasco Meals on Wheels 813-782-2793
Gulfside Hospice Thrift Store 813-788-5461
HPH Hospice Thrift Store 813-355-4830
Make A Difference 352-437-3466
Neighbor Care Center 813-780-6822
Restored Hope 352-437-4815
Sunrise of East Pasco 352-521-3120
The Pregnancy Care Center 813-780-6885
The Samaritan Project 813-810-8670
The Salvation Army 352-521-3126

GOVERNMENT OTHER

Drivers License/Auto Tags (Dade City) 352-521-4360
IRS (Tampa) 844-545-5640
Social Security Office (Dade City) 866-562-1325
U.S. Post Office (Zephyrhills) 813-715-0149

HOSPITALS

AdventHealth Zephyrhills 813-788-041
AdventHealth Dade City 352-521-1100
VA Zephyrhills Patient Clinic 813-780-2550

LIBRARIES

County Library at New River 813-788-6375
Zephyrhills City Library 813-780-0064

MUSEUMS

Zephyrhills Museum of Military History 813-780-0078
Zephyrhills Depot Museum 813-780-0064

RECREATION / COMMUNITY HALLS

Alice Hall Community Center 813-780-0000
Skydive City 813-783-9399
YMCA of East Pasco 813-780-9622
Zephyrhills Parks & Recreation 813-780-0022 x3563

TV / PHONE

Frontier 855-972-2614
Spectrum 855-757-7328

UTILITIES / SERVICES

Duke Energy - Power Outage 800-228-8485
East Pasco Waste Transfer Station 352-521-0500
Nestle/Zephyrhills Bottled Water 813-783-1959
Pasco County Utilities 352-521-4285
Pasco County Recycling 888-522-5794
Tampa Electric & People's Gas 888-223-0800
Withlacoochee River Electric 352-567-5133
Waste Management 866-381-9369
Zephyrhills Water Department 813-780-0015

STAY CONNECTED TO THE COMMUNITY

The Zephyrhills News 813-782-1558
\$25.00 Annual Subscription
38333 5th Ave., Zephyrhills, FL 33542

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Main Switchboard 352-521-4274
Animal Services 813-929-1212
Board of Education 813-794-2000
Health Department 813-780-0740
Pasco County Sheriff 352-518-5000
Property Appraiser 352-521-4433
Supervisor of Elections 352-521-4302
Road Repair (Pasco County) 813-996-2411
Tax Collector 813-235-6020x1330

EAST PASCO FAMILY YMCA

Basketball and racquetball courts, Olympic-size swimming pool, day camps. Group exercise, swimming lessons, exercise equipment, organized sports teams and exercise programs. 37301 Chapel Hill Loop

ZEPHYR PARK

Located on a lake and features lighted tennis courts, fishing, picnic shelters, grills, a playground, horseshoe pits, and a fitness trail. The Alice Hall Community Center may be rented for inside events at the north side of the park.

**Celebrating Life,
One Family at a Time**

WHITFIELD
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES

With over 40 years of experience our passion for helping families is the heart of Whitfield Funeral Home.

"Our Hometown Family Serving Your Family"

Gene Whitfield, LFD, Ernestine Whitfield,
Tim Whitfield, Amy Whitfield, LFD,
Kylie, Jake, Delanie, Sadie Grace and Sawyer

OUR FUNERAL HOME PROVIDES:

- Traditional Funerals • Cremation Services • Transfers North
- Veterans Internment and Cremation Plans,
- Preplanning & Prefunding Arrangements

**5008 GALL BLVD., ZEPHYRHILLS
(813) 783-9900**

**Representative
Randy Maggard**

**Florida House of
Representatives, District 54**

**Creekside Center
35358 SR 54 Zephyrhills
Florida 33541
(813) 780-0667
(813) 780-0669 Fax
randy.maggard@myfloridahouse.gov**

WELCOME BACK!

**Gene Whitfield - Mayor
William (Billy) Poe, Jr. - City Manager
ZEPHYRHILLS CITY COUNCIL**

**Jodi Wilkeson - President
Lance A. Smith - Vice President
Kenneth M. Burgess - Councilman
W. Alan Knight - Councilman
Charles E. Proctor - Councilman**

Animal Services (Pasco County) (813) 929-1212
Building/Code Enforcement (813) 780-0020
Fire Department (Pasco County).....Non-Emergency (813) 929-2750
.....Emergency: 911
Library (813) 780-0064
Main Street..... (813) 780-1414
Planning/Zoning..... (813) 780-0002
Police Department.....Non-Emergency (813) 780-0050
.....Emergency: 911
Public Works (Fleet, Parks, Sanitation and Streets) (813) 780-0022
Utilities..... (813) 780-0029
Utility Billing Questions (813) 780-0015

5335 8TH STREET • ZEPHYRHILLS • (813) 780-0000

www.ci.zephyrhills.fl.us



Cane syrup making attracts visitors from near and far

Pioneer Florida Museum and Village kicks off 2022 events calendar with traditional cane-making festival

By Steve Lee
January 13, 2022

Part of the attraction of the Pioneer Florida Museum and Village is that no matter what events that are attended you are bound to run into those visiting for the first time and others who make a habit of showing up for many of the activities at the historical preservation site off U.S. 301 in Dade City.

Such was the case at last Saturday's Cane Making Festival on the grounds which opened in 1975, but had previously been located at the Florida State Fairgrounds. Visitors included those who traveled near and far to witness the village's first event of the 2022 season.

Among those who came from quite a way out of Pasco County were Bill Hillis and his wife Carolyn from Winter Garden. The first time they came to the village was for the annual Christmas event. They enjoyed it so much they decided to return last weekend.

"I've helped cut (cane stalks) and run it through the press," said Bill, who grew up in a rural area of Tennessee. "It's good for me to come back and look at the old stuff. It's nostalgic."

Added Carolyn, "This just reminds me of when my grandmother made cornbread and we put molasses on it."

Traversing across the county from the Anclote area, a West Pasco enclave just north of Tarpon Springs were Marion and Erick Calderon. They found out about the event on social media and welcomed the opportunity to trek to a place they had never been to.

"This place is so authentic," said Marion, relishing the taste

of a syrup sampling. "It looks like they have plenty of other events too."

Steve Melton, president of the Southern Syrup Association whose family history includes farming and ranching in the county dating back to the 1950s, was on hand to explain the sugar caning process to visitors.

He told folks how sugar cane stalks from the museum's property as well as surrounding areas were pushed through a grinder to initiate the process. The juice was squeezed out into metal buckets and then put into a vat and brought to a boil. Melton explained that it takes roughly 70 gallons of juice to make seven gallons of syrup.

"This is our heritage," he said, adding that "100 years ago this was a staple sweetener."

As the cane was boiled in a large wooden shed, volunteers Jeanene Fisher and Marlene Beck made biscuits and beans at nearby kettles over fire.

"We're just showing (visitors) a little outdoor cooking and making cornbread," Fisher said.

After tasting syrup on the cornbread, the Calderons ventured over to a circle of musicians in chairs to listen to music of days gone by played by the Old Time Barking Dogs. They were among several clusters of people gathered round to listen to the music.

Just east of that gathering was the history center with longtime volunteer Margir Portain welcoming guests.

"A lot of people walk in and they say, wow," she said. "There's so much to look at and they come back."

Familiarity attracted Jeremy Rogers, his wife Jamie and their 3-year-old granddaughter Harper. Jeremy's great-uncle and aunt, J.H. and Lily Couey, donated the Trilby building at the museum. They reminisced with Don Andrus, of the Morse Telegraph Club, talking among other things about Lily, Trilby's former postmaster.

"It's just history," said Jeremy, adding, "I've sat on the porches and heard the old-timers talk."



Above: Dan Andrus of the Morse Telegraph Club, chats with longtime east Pasco residents Jeremy and Jamie Rogers. Jamie is holding her 3-year-old granddaughter Harper.

STEVE LEE



Above: Cane syrup making entails skimming bubbling liquid off the top from a large vat in a barn. Left: Volunteers and some local farmers helped pile up cane stalks to be run through a grinder before being turned into syrup.

Find Your Sunnier Side at One of Our Three Amazing RV Resorts.



Active 55+ RV Resort • Pets Welcome!

- NEW HOME SALES
- PRE-OWNED HOME SALES
- VACATION RENTALS
- RV SITES up to 40 ft.



Enjoy warm hospitality and small-town charm at one of our Resorts located in historic Zephyrhills. Surrounded by more than just sunshine, our ideal location is centrally located with a short drive to Hillsborough State Park, Tampa, beaches, and the attractions of Orlando without having to pay the high prices of staying there.



MORE SOCIALIZING...
Pickleball • Shuffleboard • Volleyball
Horseshoes • Pool • Library • Crafting
Bingo • Game Nights • Outings
Motorcycle Bike Nights and more!



LET'S PLAY BINGO!

DOORS OPEN AT 4:30PM
• Southern Charm — Mondays and Wednesdays
• Sweetwater — Thursdays
• Settler's Rest — Tuesdays

UPCOMING BIKE NIGHTS

SETTLER'S REST • 6PM-10PM
• Saturday, 1/28 — BYOB, DJ, 50/50
• Saturday, 2/4 — BYOB, DJ, Cornhole, 50/50, Hotdogs/Hamburgers \$\$
• Saturday 2/25 — Live Music with APRIL RED, Bike Contests, Trophies, Cornhole, 50/50, Hotdogs/Hamburgers \$\$



Southern Charm RV Resort
37811 Chancey Rd., Zephyrhills 33541
(813) 783-3477



Settlers Rest RV Resort
37549 Chancey Rd., Zephyrhills, 33541
(813) 782-2003



Sweetwater RV Resort
37647 Chancey Rd., Zephyrhills 33541
(813) 788-7513



Kumquat Festival is a 25-year-old tradition in Dade City

Annual event brings folks from near and far to sample different versions of tart and tasty treats

By Steve Lee
February 3, 2022



Above: Ice cream was one of the many ways kumquats were used.

Below: People stand in line on a chilly afternoon in downtown Dade City to buy slices of kumquat pie.

Thousands of people braved a chilly, windy Saturday with morning temperatures dipping into the high 40s, venturing to downtown Dade City for a longstanding tradition. Locals and snowbirds alike came from near and far for the 25th Annual Kumquat Festival.

The festival, a primary fundraiser for the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce, took place in March last year due to organizers having to deal with restrictions stemming from the coronavirus pandemic.

This year, it returned to the original time frame, which always has been the last Saturday in January.

This year's festival was a bit more spread out than in years past and featured 315 vendors that set up tents in the downtown area. That is more than last year's 250 but still lower than the roughly 400 vendors in recent years.

"It's better spread out," said John Moors, the chamber's executive director. "It gives people a little bit more space. We're trying to bring people into Dade City so they can shop and see the town."

At the tables under the awnings where the famous kumquat pies were sold and served were a handful of volunteers from the St. Anthony's Catholic Church Woman's Club. That group has been making and selling pie slices since the festival's inception.

"It's our one and only fundraiser," said Betty Schambeau, who along with several family members have been a part of the festival every year. "It's kind of a family thing. It's our survival."

Among those purchasing a slice of kumquat pie were Apollo Beach resident Vicki Collins and Carolyn Solberg, her friend from Wisconsin. Solberg and friend Ken Pearson of British Columbia are visiting and came to the festival for the first time.

"I come to it every couple of years," Collins said. "I had to bring them. This kumquat pie is delicious. It keeps me coming back."

Added Solberg, who tried kumquat pie for the first time, "I like the tang. It's kind of a cross between key lime and meringue."

Nearby, two little girls and two adults enjoyed kumquat ice cream. Kirk Moats and his children — Alexis, 7, and 3-year-old Brianna — came to the festival with his girlfriend, Sheila Hiatt.

"They love it," Moats said of his girls enjoying the ice cream.

A block away from the kumquat pie area was the well-known Kafe Kokopelli, which served kumquat cocktails and beer. Four Palm Harbor residents — Don Jones and his wife Teleane, their daughter Casey and her boyfriend Maclean Gill — came for the cocktails as they have in years past.

"I look forward to these every single year," Teleane Jones said.

One couple, who walked up and down the streets and stopped to check out various arts and crafts, has been coming to the festival for six years since moving to Florida from New Jersey. Rick Chyczewski and his wife Jeanna from Spring Hill brought their collies, 11-year-old Titan and Winter, who is a year old.

"It's a good thing to do on a Saturday," Rick said. Jeanna added that she tried the kumquat ice cream for the first time, "I like it."

While there were many ways to enjoy kumquats at the festival, four first-timers held up the tiny fruit and bit into their own at the same time to try it out. That group included Nick and Ashley Leonard, a married couple from Zephyrhills, Courtney Cullen and Connor Rux.

Rux said they enjoyed coming out to the event.



Above: Downtown streets in Dade City were filled with people and vendors.

STEVE LEE

Dedicated Expertise for Your Whole Health

When you need lifesaving, life-changing, or everyday care, AdventHealth is here with nationally recognized expertise and a connected network of convenient locations to help you feel whole®.

Find an AdventHealth location close to you at [AdventHealthPasco.com](https://www.adventhealthpasco.com).



Pioneer Florida Museum hosts 33rd Annual Farm Festival



Above: Jim Grover of Connecticut lines up Spec and Gus for a pull in the heavyweight division.

STEVE LEE



Left: Fans of the Southern Draft Horse Association competition gather on the hillside in lawn chairs.

Below: Organizers claim that several thousand people came to Saturday's event.



Horse pulls, homemade quilts are part of a down-home country festival that lures visitors and competitors alike

By Steve Lee
February 10, 2022

The 33rd Annual Farm Festival and Quilt Show turned out to be what so far has been the largest turnout since the Pioneer Florida Museum and Village began hosting events following brief closures stemming from the coronavirus pandemic.

Stephanie Black, executive director of the museum and village, estimated several thousand came out for Saturday's event. Jane Hancock, the museum's president, concurred.

"We've had a glorious day," said Hancock, who welcomed visitors to the quilt show in the Mabel Jordan Barn. "The parking lots full. The horses are magnificent and draw people, but (earlier in the day) there were so many people in here you couldn't stir them with a stick. It is truly the best day of the year out here."

Two visitors taking time to venture into the old red barn built in 1987 were not so much interested in the quilts draped over large wooden stands in rows. For Meredith and Elroy Kocur, snowbirds from Maine staying in Plant City, it was all about checking out the old-time farm equipment along with the vintage buggies and carriages.

"My grandparents used to ride around in one of those old buggies," Meredith recollected.

In all, Hancock said 65 quilts were entered in a contest to be judged, another 20 were part of a Kumquat Challenge. Not part of the contest was a section in the barn for Bonnie Hunter Mystery Quilts. Kathy Comer, who has taken part in the quilt show since relocating from Thonotosassa to Dade City in 2013, displayed her nine quilts of that style.

"They love the quilts," she said of comments from people stopping by her table. "Some of them don't understand the concept, but they just appreciate the results."

During a break in the Southern Draft Horse Association's lightweight and heavyweight competitions, people walked along the main paved pathway to stop by various vendors. Others visited the historical grounds featuring the cane syrup mill, which has its own festival that took place last month, buildings like the Old Lacoochee School, John Overstreet House and Trilby Depot.

"Every time we come here the boys have to climb on that big train," Juanita said of her sons, 6-year-old Javier and Juan, 5. Her family from Webster often comes to events at the village. Her husband Pedro made sure they found a patch of grass on the hill to watch the horse pull.

Indeed, for most people who came out on Saturday the main draw was the horse pull competitions.

"I like to watch them come down in a line from the parking lot. That way you get to see all the horses before they start pulling," said Lakeland's Samantha Clark, who along with her husband Darryl comes to the horse pull every year.

First up were the lightweights with the title going to Tom Brown and Randy Lawson of Pennsylvania with draft horses Duke and Junker. Brown said his team has competed in the Dade City event for the past six years and has won three championships.

"This probably right here holds the record," Brown said of the top pull at 4,300 pounds. "They wanted to pull and they were feeling good."

"Stout horses," Lawson added.

In the heavyweight class, the winners were Chris Yoder and Terry Hatfield, along with their horses Pistol and Rowdy. They won at 4,700 pounds.



Above: Local quilter Kathy Comer chats with visitors at a section for Bonnie Hunter Mystery Quilts.

Exclusively Delicious!

Village Inn
vi

Open 7 Days
6am -9pm

**ALL YOU CAN EAT
FRIDAY FISH FRY \$12.99**

Every Friday from 5-9pm
Hand-battered, golden-fried white fish, served with seasoned French fries, fresh coleslaw and tarter sauce.

**Kids Eat Free
EVERY MONDAY
& TUESDAY**

FREE PIE WEDNESDAY

Enjoy a slice of pie with the purchase of any regular priced adult entrée. The hardest part is deciding which slice will be yours to enjoy this week!

ORDER YOUR PIES FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

Breakfast
SERVED ALL DAY

Lunch

Dinner

5214 Gall Blvd., Zephyrhills • (813) 782-9556

Take Your Cabinets Far Beyond Simple Storage

ADD A MODERN LOOK TO YOUR
KITCHEN

INCREASE STORAGE SPACE TO YOUR
BATHROOM

REFRESH YOUR
LAUNDRY
SPACE

Since 1972, 3-generations of skilled cabinetmakers providing quality second to none!

- Wood and Laminate Cabinets
- Many Cabinet Door Selections
- Countertops: Quartz, Granite & Laminate

**KITCHEN & BATH
RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL**

MERRILLAT CABINETRY

FREE In-Home Measurement & Design Consultation

38535 PALM GROVE DRIVE • ZEPHYRHILLS • (813) 788-3856
(off Highway 301, Southside of Zephyrhills)

www.swcustomcabinets.com



Above: People lined up for barbecue at numerous stands during the 12th Annual Pigz in Z'hills BBQ & Blues Festival.

Below: A crowd gathers in front of the stage for musical entertainment.



Above: People line up for barbecue at The Smoking Pig stand.

Zephyrhills tradition continues with great-tasting barbecue and music

*12th Annual Pigz in Z'Hills
BBQ & Blues Festival
accommodates BBQ competitors
by moving to March*

*By Steve Lee
March 10, 2022*

The venue adjacent to the Zephyrhills Municipal Airport was the place to be Saturday with barbecue and musical entertainment highlighting the Zephyrhills Chamber of Commerce's largest fundraiser of the year. Proceeds benefit youth and educational programs.

A chamber of commerce day with plenty of sunshine helped lure people from the city, surrounding areas and even out-of-state to the 12th Annual Pigz in Z'hills BBQ & Blues Festival. Activities included a sanctioned state barbecue championship, live entertainment, an automobile show, cornhole tournament, kids fun zone and various vendors.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the festival was cancelled last year with only a concert taking place at the community venue adjacent to the Zephyrhills Municipal Airport. Last weekend was the first time the festival took place in March and it will be the last, according to Melonie Monson, the chamber's executive director.

Traditionally held in January, the schedule change was made to accommodate those competing in the 2022 Florida State BBQ Championship. That change, however, might have adversely affected attendance, although Monson did not have an official number by Tuesday afternoon.

"We were looking for between 5,000-6,000 people, but it looks like we had about 4,000 or 4,500," Monson said, citing other events last weekend such as a boat show in Tampa and seafood festival in Manatee County. "It just ended up not being a good time for our area. It'll be in January next year."

As for the barbecue competition, which featured 56 entrants competing for \$10,000, the grand champion was Accutech BBQ of Sarasota with Hot Wachulas BBQ of Bartow as the reserve champion.

"On that side of it we were thrilled," Monson said. "Everybody wanted to be part of a state championship."

Among the local entrants competing in the backyard division, Bahr's BBQ was fourth and Coleman's BBQ fifth. Both are from Zephyrhills.

For a second straight year the festival included a Kidz Grillin' competition. Devin Brown won, Aryan Coleman was the runner-up and Daniella Gutierrez placed third.

"It was just so much fun," Monson said, adding that "the mentors (five pitmasters) had a blast."

Safety always is a concern around large gatherings and law enforcement was out there with members of the Zephyrhills and Dade City police departments as well as the Pasco Sheriff's Office watching over the grounds.

Pasco County Fire Rescue also was on hand as was the Zephyrhills Volunteer Fire and Rescue. Longtime civic leader and community resident Bob Winters, a Lt. Col. with the county's fire department, was thrilled that there were no calls to treat anyone with injuries or illnesses.

"If we can put that many people through this place and not have a single incident, I'm pretty happy with that," he said. "I think we had a very good crowd. We could've handled a lot more people."

Bands entertained a crowd gathered around the AdventHealth stage with people surrounding the area in lawn chairs and many getting up to dance in the grass. Among those dancers were sisters Adelia and Amelia Phillips. Jolelia and Rodger Phillips, parents of the 4- and 2-year-old respectively, have been to the past four Pigz in Z'hills festivals.

"The music," was Rodger's simple answer as to why they keep coming back.

Others, though, come mostly for the ribs, pork, chicken and brisket.

"Sure, the lines are long, but the best ones have the long lines," said Marie Belanger, a Plant City snowbird from Maine who came with her husband Curtis.

"She likes her ribs sweet. Me, not so much," Curtis noted.



Above: The Jimmy Griswold Band was the second of four groups to take the stage.

Keeping your pet on the path to wellness.

**LOW COST SPAY & NEUTER
WELLNESS & VACCINES**

Surgery by Appointment:
Drop off time 8am
Clinic Hours: 9:30am - 2:00pm

EXPRESS VACCINATION
Zephyrhills - Tuesday
Wesley Chapel - Friday

**WELLNESS CLINIC /
VACCINATION**
Zephyrhills
Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat.
Wesley Chapel
Mon., Tues., Wed., Thur.

Grooming Available at Both Locations



Est. 2010

"Dedicated to providing a high quality, high volume spay and neuter program that meets or exceeds current veterinary standards of care."

ZEPHYRHILLS
Mon.-Sat. 8am-5pm
37815 SR 54 West
(3/4 mile W. of Zephyr Park)
(813) 779-7000

WESLEY CHAPEL
Mon.-Fri. 8am-5pm
33931 SR 54 West
(2 buildings W. of Pasco County Library)
(813) 524-6400

www.plannedpethoodpasco.com

LOW-COST ULTRASOUNDS
Available in **WESLEY CHAPEL**
by Appointment



*Our Savior
Lutheran Church, LCMS*

REV. TOD A. SHOUSE
PASTOR

..... invites you to join us

5626 20th Street
Zephyrhills, FL
33542
813-782-1369

SATURDAY 5:30 P.M.

**MARCH 25TH FINAL SATURDAY SERVICE FOR THE SEASON
SUNDAY (LIVE STREAM) 10:00 A.M.**

LENTEN / EASTER SCHEDULE:

Ash Wednesday, February 22 - Holy Communion & Ashes (Live Stream) **5:30 p.m.**
Mid-Week Lenten Services - Wednesday, March 1,8,15,22,29 (Live Stream) **5:30 p.m.**
Palm Sunday, April 2 (Live Stream) **10:00 a.m.**
Maunder Thursday, April 6 - Holy Communion (Live Stream) **6:00 p.m.**
Good Friday, April 7 (Live Stream) **6:00 p.m.**
Easter Sunrise - Holy Communion **7:00 a.m.**
Easter Divine Service - Holy Communion (Live Stream) **10:00 a.m.**

Masks are optional in the building, and sanitizer is located at the entry ways.



After Easter Our Savior will resume with the Summer Schedule:
Sunday Mornings at 10:00 a.m. in person and Live Stream
<https://www.facebook.com/OurSaviorLutheranChurchOfZephyrhillsFL/>
oursaviorlutheranzephyrhills.org • ochurch@tampabay.rr.com



CALL TODAY FOR A FREE QUOTE! (813) 783-2686

SPECIALIZING IN:

- Tile & Grout
- Furniture & Upholstery
- Carpet
- Stain Removal
- Smoke & Pet Odor Elimination

AND MORE!

"Delivering an unparalleled level of clean since 1992"



Residential and commercial developments are ongoing

Zephyrhills and the outlying area continue its recent growth spurt as projects remain under way

By Steve Lee
April 7, 2022

Countless parts of Florida, ranging from municipalities to the rural fringes, have witnessed growth spurts in recent years. Count Zephyrhills and the outlying areas among those with residential and commercial developments that have the state booming in population growth.

Indeed, Florida surpassed New York in 2020 and with 21.5 million people now ranks as the third most-populated state in the nation. Only California and Texas have more people than those who live in the Sunshine State.

Zephyrhills lists 17,194, according to the 2020 census. By comparison, neighboring Wesley Chapel, a boom town for the past 20 years, lists a population of 64,866. Just north, Dade City has 7,375 residents and has not experienced growth anything like Zephyrhills and Wesley Chapel.

City planner Todd Vande Berg and his department have been extremely busy of late with no signs of the area's growth spurt slowing down any time soon.

"We'll probably never catch up with Wesley Chapel because that's such a large area," he said of the unincorporated part of central Pasco extending from Zephyrhills to Land O' Lakes highlighted by thoroughfares of Interstate 75 as well as State Roads 54 and 56. "Percentage-wise, we're growing. We're becoming more diverse."

Among the top three residential developments are the Hidden River tract with 220 homes, the 550 homes being built in Zephyr Lakes and Abbott Square, with 560 homes, the latter

being a combination of single-family, townhomes and villas.

Vande Berg can appreciate the variety available in Abbott Square.

"We're looking for that," he said, noting that some developments with single-family homes as the only option rules out a certain percentage of people desiring other options. "It kind of leaves out the middle people who can't afford (new single-family homes in the \$300,000-\$500,000 range)."

Two other neighboring communities are nearly built out with The Oaks and Links of Calusa totaling nearly 200 homes and bordering the Silverado Golf Course. Just across Simons Road, dormitories are going up as part of an expansion of the Sarah Vande Berg Tennis and Wellness Center.

While city and county planners did not deal much with affordable housing in Zephyrhills in the past it is coming to the forefront more of late.

As for housing, Vande Berg noted that "most of those projects are coming to fruition."

Other projects recently opened or about to open later this spring are in the commercial sector. There is a new Ace Hardware next to the Big Lots in a shopping plaza off Allen Road. Near the intersection of Eiland and Gall boulevards, a veterans clinic and marijuana dispensary are about to open.

North on Gall Boulevard near the Walmart, work is ongoing for a large Radiant car wash and inside the Walmart there is a change for fast food. Charleys Philly Steaks have replaced McDonald's at some Walmarts, as is the case for the one in Zephyrhills.

"We are excited about this opportunity to partner with Walmart and to bring smiles to our guests with an updated and whimsical environment," said Brian Hipsher, chief marketing officer for Charleys.

Just north of the Walmart, The Hungry Greek will open soon. It is sandwiched between Game Stop and Capri Pizza & More.

Lastly, on the south side of the city, a Dollar General is under construction at the corner of Gall Boulevard and C Avenue.

While there are plenty of project still under way, not to



mention the industrial corridor out by the Zephyrhills Municipal Airport, that remains in the planning stages, Zephyrhills is filling up.

"The amount of undeveloped land in the city has decreased in the last decade," Vande Berg said.



Above: Charleys has replaced McDonald's at Walmart.

STEVE LEE

Above: Ace Hardware, in a plaza next to Big Lots, is among several new businesses opening in Zephyrhills..

Left: The veterans clinic off Eiland Boulevard is nearly completed.

TREASURED FRIENDS GIFT SHOP

Valentine's Day ~ February 14th

Home Decor ... Garden Flags ... Jewelry ... Fashion Accessories

12329 HIGHWAY 301, DADE CITY (352) 437-4866
Located next to Big John's Janitorial Supplies

Need a *Spiritual Uplift?*

Visit *Enchanted Triple Moon* Metaphysical Store

EVOLVE FOR INNER PEACE...
Visit our showroom today!
Incense • Candles • Herbs • Gems • Essential Oils • Stones • Crystals
Salt Lamps • Smudging Supplies • Jewelry • Books and so much more!

INTUITIVE READINGS
Oracles • Tarot • Medium
Hours:
Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 6pm
Sunday 12pm - 5pm
813-355-4795
38367 CR 54 EAST
ZEPHYRHILLS 33542

Annette Brooks Owner
Cami
Laura

It's about **time.**

January Watch **SALE**
SAVINGS on all in-stock time pieces

TISSOT

Fine Jewelry Sales
GIA Graduate Gemologist
Appraisals
Registered Master Valuer
Jewelry & Watch Repair
Gold, Silver & Diamond Buyers

CITIZEN

BOYD JEWELERS

32793 EILAND BLVD., WESLEY CHAPEL
(Located in Summer Tree Plaza by Home Depot & Publix, on the corner of Eiland Blvd. & SR 54)
(813) 788-8800
www.boydjewelers.com



Memorial service pays tribute to fallen law enforcement officers

Right: Reggie Roberts, a former Zephyrhills Police captain now with the Pasco Sheriff's Office, was the master of ceremony. He speaks in front of a symbolic wreath for fallen officers.

STEVE LEE



Above: Col. Jeff Harrington salutes the plaque for the late Bo Harrison.

Somber ceremony takes place on the footsteps of the old historic courthouse in Dade City

By Steve Lee
May 12, 2022

Law enforcement personnel, their families and supporters gathered for a somber ceremony last Friday at the steps of the old historical courthouse in Dade City. They were there for the 2022 Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Service.

In a longstanding tradition that began in 2005, representatives from the Pasco Sheriff's Office, as well as police departments in the county's other municipalities of Zephyrhills, Dade City, New Port Richey and Port Richey, were on hand to laud fallen officers for their dedication and sacrifice.

They are never to be forgotten. Reggie Roberts, formerly a Zephyrhills Police Captain who now is an inspector of community and talent development for the Pasco Sheriff's Office, was the master of ceremony. He opened the service with some heartfelt words and later concluded it with a stirring rendition of the song, "Proud to be an American."

"We must continue to remember the fallen law enforcement officers and the survivors they've left behind," he said. "Thank you for honoring all our heroes."

Another local representative was among those who spoke reflectively during the service. State Senator Danny Burgess, a Zephyrhills High graduate who once was the city's youngest-ever mayor, led a handful of significant speakers.

"These moments invoke some passion and some thought," he said. "Today, we remember their names, we honor their stories and we commend their service."

Burgess recalled the story of Pasco Deputy Sheldon Nicks, who was fatally shot as he accompanied his father Henry Nicks,

then the town marshal of Fivay, to serve a warrant.

Burgess noted that Nicks, along with other fallen officers, "were putting others first and the community above self."

In 2021, 604 law enforcement officers perished in the line of duty nationwide. That includes Pasco Deputy Raymond O' Williamson, who died from complications after contracting Covid-19.

"It's just sad to see his plaque up here," said Pasco Sheriff Chris Nocco, who espoused the importance of faith and staying united to get through trying times.

The annual memorial service always has taken place at Dade City's courthouse. The significance of that location stems from federal prohibition agent John Waters and Pasco constable Arthur Crenshaw being shot and killed while investigating illegal stills.

The service for those heroic officers brought the late J. Edgar Hoover, the first director for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to Dade City.

Another tragedy that hit close to home was the deadly shooting of Pasco Lt. Charles "Bo" Harrison while on surveillance near a nightclub in Lacoochee.

Those fallen officers were memorialized by nine plaques on two tables at the footsteps of the courthouse with a large symbolic wreath in between.

"My only prayer is that there never will be another plaque on these tables as long as all of us are here," said State Senator Ed Hooper, filling in for State Senate President Wilton Simpson who was called away by the governor.

Other tributes during the annual memorial service included the national anthem, sung by Pasco Sheriff's Cpl. Jamie Garcia, taps and "Amazing Grace" played on the bagpipes by Tampa Airport Police Officer Beth Baucom.

Additional parts of the event were a three-volley salute, taps, a riderless horse, flyover and end of watch radio message. Rev. Clyde Carter of Friendship Baptist Church gave the invocation and Rev. Mike Moore of Grace Family Church delivered the benediction.

Words on the back of a program for the service put it into proper perspective: It is not how these officers died that made them heroes, it is how they lived.



Above: State Senator Danny Burgess delivers a heartfelt message to the crowd.

Welcome Back

HOLDING...our Largest Inventory Ever in 38 Years!

WE HAVE IT. THEY DON'T.

"Comfort and Quality From Our Family To Yours"

LAZBOY®

UNBEATABLE PRICES!

BEST SELECTION EVER!!

0% FINANCING*

SEE STORE FOR DETAILS

IMMEDIATE PICK UP. DELIVERY AVAILABLE

HUNDREDS IN STOCK!

LOVESEATS SOFAS

Flexsteel
America's Seating Specialist

UNBELIEVABLE SELECTION OF DINING SETS

• ROUND • SWIVEL • ADJUSTABLE • CASTOR • RECTANGULAR • SOLID WOOD

CLIMB INTO A DREAM EVERY NIGHT!

VARIETY OF COMFORT LEVELS TO CHOOSE FROM!

EAST PASCO'S LARGEST INDEPENDENT FURNITURE DEALER

14147 U.S. 98 BYPASS, DADE CITY • 352-567-0030

Mon.-Fri. 10am-5pm; (Corner of E. Pasco Avenue and the Bypass) *Photos for illustration purposes only.
Sat. 10am-3pm Not responsible for typographical errors.
All sales are final. 0% financing offer through Syndrinity with approved credit.

...Travel Through Florida's History

VISIT OUR GIFT SHOP for an exciting variety of old-fashioned Children's toys, commemorative souvenirs such as: t-shirts, hats, mugs, novelty candies and Florida inspired books.

OPEN TUESDAY - SATURDAY DURING REGULAR MUSEUM HOURS.

UPCOMING 2023 EVENTS:

- Jan. 28 Florida Civil War Living History Presentations 11am-4pm**
- Feb. 4 Farm Festival and Quilt Show ..10am-5pm with Southern Draft Horse Pull..... Noon**
Local Quilters on Display
Quilts & Supplies Sale
- March 4 Cracker Cowboy Day 10am-4pm**
Cowboy Poetry, live entertainment, cow whip making, wood plank branding, head and heal roping, petting zoo, vendors, craft demonstrations, great food. All museum buildings open.
- March 25 Jelly Bean Fling..... 10am-4pm**
Easter Egg Hunt, games, crafts, free family photos, pony rides, petting zoo, live entertainment, model train room open, blacksmith.

EVENT INFORMATION:

Admission: \$10 adults / \$5.00 students
Children under 5 - FREE / Free Parking

- No Coolers or outside food
- Lawn Chairs permitted
- No Pets, service dogs only.

(352) 567-0262

15602 Pioneer Museum Road, Dade City, FL 33523
(1 mile North of downtown Dade City, off U.S. Hwy. 301)

www.pioneerfloridamuseum.org



State Appropriations greenlight municipal projects in Zephyrhills

Governor Ron DeSantis's pen approves a trio of appropriations coming to Zephyrhills

By Andy Warrener
June 23, 2022

The City of Zephyrhills is receiving \$12.04 million in state appropriations for three infrastructure-related projects, as part of the 2022-23 Florida state budget. Governor DeSantis signed the budget into law on June 2 and the city stands to benefit.

"We try to foster relationships with our local legislators and not just when we're in Tallahassee, asking for things," Zephyrhills City Manager William Poe Jr. said. "Fortunate is an understatement. They see what we are trying to do in Zephyrhills and they want to help us."

The first appropriation, in the tune of \$6.6 million, is slated for the Zephyrhills Municipal Airport. Projects at the airport are ongoing. Phase I started as part of a \$5.9 million, 2018-19 state appropriation that did three things: one - it extended Runway 119, two - it extended the taxiway connected to Runway 119, and three - it built an access road on the south side of the airport, off Alston Avenue.

The second project or Phase II was a \$3.2 million, 2021-22 state appropriation for "interent parking" or jet parking in the northern portion of the airport, just south of the terminal. The airport is turning a grassy area into a concrete or asphalt paved area where jets can park. With that project, the design is complete and it is ready to go out to bid. Poe expects the project to be completed in the next 12 months.

The 2022-23 state appropriation that just passed is designed to: re-build the FBO or terminal, extend Taxiway F and build two box hangars. The Fixed Base Operation or FBO is fancy airport lingo for the "terminal." Currently, it's just offices for staff with minor amenities. The project would create an 8,000-square-foot terminal, either a stand-alone structure or an addition to the current structure.

"The original plan was to build an entirely separate building but with the economy the way it is with cost of materials, labor and lead times, we are looking at the possibility of adding to the existing building," Poe said. "It's fluid how exactly we're going to build the FBO but with the appropriation, we can actually start planning now."

Taxiway F will extend roughly 1,700 feet and connect to the access road built during the Phase I project. The two box hangars will be built to accommodate 16-20 person corporate jets. The city and airport hope to attract more of that type of traffic. Poe mentioned well-known football coaches and politicians that have used the airport in the past and recently. The city wants to attract more of that type of GA or General Aviation.

"Our goal is to be the best GA airport in the area," Poe said.

The second state appropriation provided \$3.5 million to the city for a water and sewer main line extension. This money piggybacks on an earlier phase of the project. Phase I was funded by the federal Build Back Better bill passed in the 2022 legislative session. The \$1.5 million will enable running a sewer main along Otis Allen Road, starting at Wire Road and extending east. Construction has not yet begun. The city is in the design phase right

now and will put the project out to bid once the designs complete. The new state appropriation allows the city to embark on Phase II.

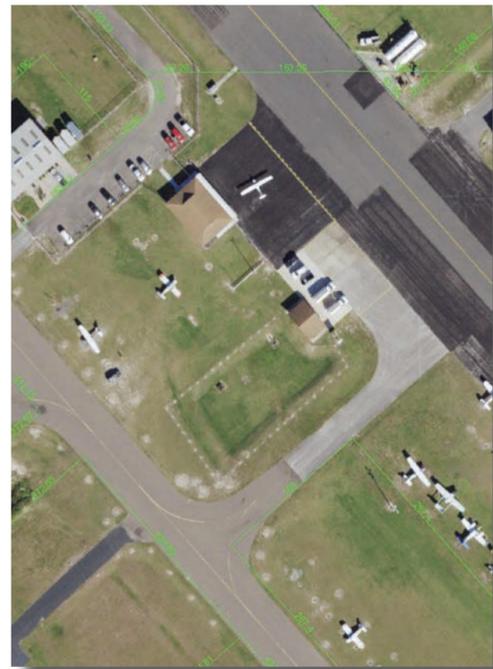
Phase II will run a water line for approximately 4,000 square feet from Green Slope Drive (behind the Walmart), west toward Fort King Road. The plan is to tie the new line into an existing one in order to create a "loop" system. A "loop" system allows utilities to provide service to area residents, even when there is a main break somewhere. It equates to fewer customers having an interruption in their service. Several fire hydrants will be added along the water main line. The sewer line will run along Kossick Road from U.S. Highway 301 to Fort King Road - east to west - and from Phelps Road to Simons Road - north to south. The sewer line could take as many as 400 existing septic tanks out of use, connecting them to the municipal line.

The last appropriation provides \$1.9 million for an entrance road connecting the new National Guard facility. The Florida National Guard recently received a \$25 million state appropriation to purchase land and build a training center. They have selected a parcel north of 6th Avenue and South Avenue on the south side of town, north of the airport. The city will use their \$1.9 million to acquire right-of-way land to build the access road, construct the road itself, and install or extend existing water and sewer lines to the subject property.



Above: The subject property where the National Guard facility is headed is just north of the airport, near 6th Avenue and South Avenue.

Below: The current Fixed Base Operation or FBO at Zephyrhills Municipal Airport and where the new terminal will be built.



Above: The area west of Zephyrhills Commons where the new water and sewer lines will be built.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

Plant City Strawberries are HERE!
Sweet, Juicy & Delicious!
Shannon's
FARM FRESH PRODUCE

"Offering the largest selection of farm-fresh vegetables, fruit and seasonal produce in East Pasco" **AND SO MUCH MORE!**

- FULL LINE OF CITRUS
- SWEET CORN
- FLORIDA TOMATOES
- COMPLETE LINE OF AMISH PRODUCTS
- WINTER SQUASH
- ASSORTED HERBS
- INDOOR / OUTDOOR PLANTS & FALL ANNUALS

HOMEMADE!
• Jellies, Jams
• Dressings
• Local Honey
• Pickled Items

FRESH BREAD AVAILABLE ON FRIDAY & SATURDAYS!
• Cuban
• Pita
• Bagels
• Ciabatta

OPEN 6 DAYS! Mon. - Sat. 8am - 6pm; CLOSED SUNDAYS **813-782-9455**

LOCATED ON DEAN DAIRY & EILAND BLVD. (S.R. 54 WEST BYPASS) ZEPHYRHILLS

WANT THE BODY YOU ONCE HAD?

WE ARE YOUR COMPLETE COLLISION AUTO REPAIR SERVICE

"Written Lifetime warranty on all workmanship & paint!"

WE NEVER PROVIDE ANYTHING LESS THAN PROFESSIONAL, HONEST WORK!

- Professional Collision Repair & Painting
- Work with all Major Insurance Companies
- Minor Mechanical Repairs
- Uni-body & Full Frame Straightening
- Computerized Laser Measuring Frame & Repair
- Major Fleet Service Collision Repair
- Motorhome Repair & Painting
- 24/7 Towing Service
- Rental Car Agency available in moments notice
- Pick-up & Drop-off Service
- FREE Computerized Estimates

Reutimann COLLISION REPAIR

ASSET PROTECTION
Like Us on facebook

GOLD CLASS 100% COLLISION REPAIR
"Family Owned & Operated"

HOURS: MON.-FRI. 7:45AM - 5:30PM

DADE CITY
14343 8TH STREET
(352) 437-3200

ZEPHYRHILLS
37529 TALL PINES DR.
(813) 782-4152

www.ReutimannCollision.com

Get local help with your Medicare questions.

I'm Al Frederick, a licensed sales agent in Zephyrhills. When it comes to Medicare, it's important to consider all of your options. What works well for your neighbor may not be the best fit for you. I know the ins and outs of Medicare, and I'm ready to answer your questions and help you find a plan that fits your needs.

It's time to take advantage.

Al Frederick
Licensed Sales Agent
813-758-9149, TTY 711
alfrederick@gmail.com
UHCMedicareSolutions.com
Sí, hablo su idioma.

Plans are insured through UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company or one of its affiliated companies, a Medicare Advantage organization with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in the plan depends on the plan's contract renewal with Medicare. ©2022 United HealthCare Services, Inc. All rights reserved.
Y0066_23SPRJ55189_C

United Healthcare
SPRJ55189



Fireworks light the night sky in Zephyr Park



Above: The Brown family got into the spirit of Fourth of July by donning red, white and blue shirts. Andy and Jessie Brown, along with their children, Bennit and Baylie, watched the fireworks on the banks of Zephyr Lake.

Below: People walked up and down an aisle of vendors in the front parking lot of the Alice Hall Community Center.

Seventh Annual Zephyrhills Summerfest draws hundreds for a Fourth of July celebration

By Steve Lee
July 7, 2022

An Independence Day festival is becoming quite a summer tradition that residents, visitors and community leaders alike look forward to. For the second year in a row, after missing a year due to the coronavirus pandemic, hundreds of people showed up at Zephyr Park on Saturday for the Seventh Annual Zephyrhills Summerfest.

The festival was a joint effort between the City of Zephyrhills and Florida Penquin Productions. Admission was free.

The day-long event, which began at noon, featured live music, tents for vendors who sold arts and crafts, jewelry and face paintings among other things, local food trucks and cold refreshments.

"She loves getting her face painted. She did it at the last parade downtown," Dade City resident Cheryl Cole said of the red, white and blue design on the cheeks of her 6-year-old daughter Allison.

Cole then took some time to check out some of the jewelry and various patriotic items before meeting her husband Ray in the park near the swing sets.

In between the Alice Hall Community Center and Zephyr Lake were plenty of activities for youngsters. There was a petting zoo with bounce houses and water slides, various games with small prizes at stake and a sand building station. Some of the kids were content to climb on the monkey bars or enjoy the swing sets.

"I can't keep them off the swings," said Zephyrhills' Kiersten Webb, whose 11-year-old daughter Kaylan swung with her 9-year-old sister Natalie.

Draw 4, a band of musicians from Pasco and Hernando counties, got the crowd dancing in front of the bandstand by playing popular patriotic songs as well as traditional country favorites. It actually marked the second straight year the band played for a Fourth of July event only last year it was named Fast Forward.

"They're really good," said Julia Santiago, who came from Lakeland with her husband and their 9-year-old son Mario. "We were here last year and liked that it was on a Saturday. Monday would not have worked for us."

Dancing in front of the bandstand worked out very well for two little girls, who both were 2, and their fathers. They were Land O' Lakes' Anthony Bolin and his daughter Haisley, and William Boyington and his daughter Sadie, the latter of whom were from Thonotosassa.

"It's amazing," Boyington said of the festival. "The band was good, the food was good and people were nice; fireworks and all."

There was some rain in the afternoon, but not enough to dampen the spirits of those who turned out for various aspects of the festival and, of course, the fireworks. Before Draw 4 took the stage, DJ Express provided the musical entertainment.

As the evening got later and darkness began to fall, the crowd along the banks of Zephyr Lake increased. By the time it reached the 9 p.m. deadline for the 30-minute fireworks show to begin, there were very few empty spaces on the grassy embankments as people settled in on their blankets and in lawn chairs. Many had coolers.

"My parents sat near the little bridge (near the Winters Park Mobile Home Park) and kept a place for us," said Jenna Doucette, whose family numbered six including grandparents, her husband and two children.

"We got here right before it really started getting crowded," said Paula Campbell, who settled on a blanket and in lawn chairs with seven family members. "This is our first time here."



Above: People gathered near the bandstand to hear music played by Draw 4, a band of musicians from Pasco and Hernando counties.

STEVE LEE

JIM CRANDELL Golf Cart Sales & Service

SPECIALIZING IN CUSTOM & REMANUFACTURED CARTS
GAS • ELECTRIC • EFI • SCOOTERS • ACCESSORIES

FOR ALL OF MY DOG SHOW FRIENDS... TAKE YOUR

CRICKET WITH YOU!

LIGHTWEIGHT, PERFECTLY PORTABLE AND FUN TO DRIVE!

CRICKET SX-3
COMPLETELY LOADED WITH MATCHING WHEELS AND REAR FOLDING SEAT.



STARTING AT
\$4,950

Senbo Golf Cart Distributor



VIVID EV

- ✓ 8 YEAR LIMITED LITHIUM BATTERY WARRANTY
- ✓ 4 YEAR LIMITED CART WARRANTY
- ✓ STREET LEGAL PACKAGES
- ✓ 4 SEATERS & 6 SEATERS
- ✓ LIFTED & NON-LIFTED
- ✓ COMES IN A VARIETY OF VIBRANT COLORS

0%
FINANCING*
FOR 24 MONTHS

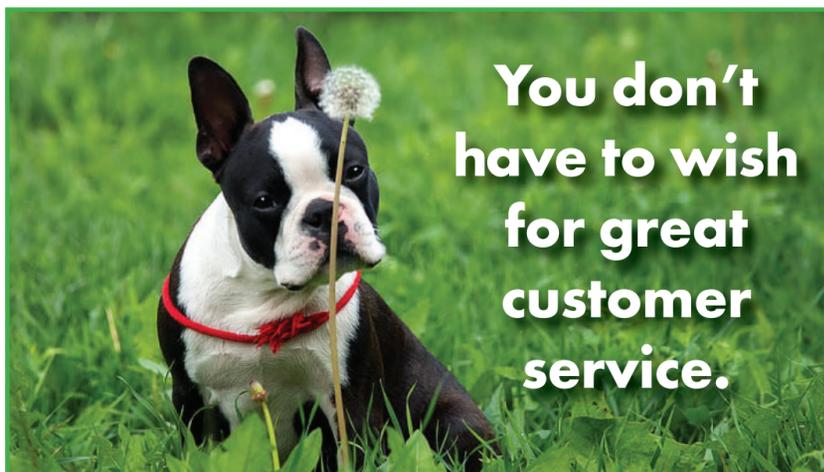
COMING SOON!
JCRV CARTS

FEATURING 10-YEAR WARRANTY ON LITHIUM BATTERY AND 5-YEAR WARRANTY ON CART.

10634 NORTH U.S. HWY. 301 • DADE CITY, FL 33525
(ACROSS FROM SONNY'S APPLIANCES)

813-779-3333 or **813-629-3333**
HOURS: M-F 8:30-5:30PM; SAT. 8:30-2PM

*WITH APPROVED CREDIT / MODELS 11 YEARS OLD OR NEWER



You don't have to wish for great customer service.

Your agent makes the difference!

Clifton & Lewis Insurance

...Locally owned & operated for the person-to-person service you deserve!

We make it easy:

We are partnered with 26 insurance companies ready to provide you the dependable coverage you need. Protect what matters most with a **LOCAL AGENCY** who works for you! We will take the time to listen and understand your needs and provide you with service levels most companies' only dream of!

WE LOVE TO INSURE MOBILE HOMES!
AUTOMOTIVE • MOTORCYCLE • HOME • COMMERCIAL
RV'S • GOLF CARTS • BOATS

ZEPHYRHILLS
38232 5TH AVE.
(813) 452-5382

DADE CITY
14507 7TH ST.
(352) 521-3893

Email: Cynde@cliftonlewisins.com



The Backyard is coming to Zephyrhills

The outdoor gathering place will try and connect 6th Street and Main Street as pedestrian friendly, as well as feed and entertain

By Andy Warrener
July 28, 2022

If you've spotted the modest sign at the corner of 8th Street and 6th Avenue, you might have wondered just what is going on with that tiny, one-quarter of a city block, just across from the brick edifice of city hall. The space is going to be called, "The Backyard" and it's going to be pretty cool.

Wind the clock back to 2019 when the new city hall was under construction. Then-contractor D.A.B., yes that D.A.B., was working on the project and they needed space. They needed storage space for materials and they needed space for the mobile offices that accompany any building project on that scale. So the city bought that small parcel. Well, when city hall was finally finished, no one knew what to do with that tiny patch of land that was later sodded with grass.

"Originally, we wanted a developer that would build a two-story, live-work space," CRA Director Gail Hamilton said. "But then there was the problem of lacking parking. With no parking, no developer was interested. We started to throw ideas around."

Hamilton got a flash of inspiration while spending time at Sparkman's Wharf at Channelside in downtown Tampa.

"It is a model outdoor venue," Hamilton said. "There were kids playing, a baseball game on TV, people talking, families. I thought that if this works here, we could do a version of that."

One of the big rages in public space design these days is shipping containers. Also known as Conex containers, these very versatile containers are used both in overseas shipping and transcontinental trucking. There's also plenty of them to be had. That became kind of the kick off point for the concept behind The Backyard.

Next, Hamilton took her ideas to Aaron Banks of Furr-Wegman & Banks. The architect began working on some designs. The city used its Facebook page to test the public and see if they liked the designs.

"There were no negative comments," Hamilton said. "They were overwhelmingly, 'yes' responses."

So the amenities began to take shape. It's hot in Florida, so one of the design amenities included "Swamp Fans," large fans that blow air over cold water. They aren't going to turn a 90-degree day into a 70-degree day but it will probably feel pretty good to sit in front of one. The Backyard will feature shade structures with seating underneath. These will be highly visible structures with color changing LED lighting. Most of the rest of the seating area will also be shaded.

Want to eat and drink and listen to some music? Welcome to The Backyard. A covered performance stage will be situated on the west end of the area with a concrete wall covered by a mural. The wall is to give a little bit of a hedge between the Pasco County fire station, just across the alley.

A seating area in front of the stage will be set with artificial grass so residents can bring their picnic blanket or lawn chair.

Left: A view of The Backyard looking west along the south side of 6th Avenue.



Food trucks will be encouraged to setup along 6th Avenue, even with electric power stations to plug into. The Conex containers will be on the southeast side and will likely serve as retail or food service space. More covered seating is situated along the east portion of the area.

The project is more than just the space, too. It's part of a larger effort to make downtown Zephyrhills more walkable, more interconnected.

"The idea is to connect 5th avenue and 6th avenue," Hamilton said.

Hamilton also sees it as an opportunity to have fewer closures on 5th Avenue (Main Street). Oftentimes for events downtown, 5th Avenue, at least portions of it, are closed to vehicular traffic. The Backyard is also an effort at connectivity. Trees along 8th Street will be lit to encourage foot traffic. The alley between the fire station and The Backyard that extends all the way to 5th Avenue is going to be re-done and only for pedestrians.

The tie-in exists in style, too. The Backyard features brick work on the facade and in select places in order to match the motif of the city hall building. Planters brought in for The Backyard will match the handsome planters that have recently bedecked 5th Avenue. Concept designs were completed in March, engineering designs were completed in June. It won't be long until ground breaks in The Backyard. Bids are going out the end of August.



Above: View of the performance space, looking just about due west.



Left: View of The Backyard facing southwest.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Welcome Back

Zephyrhills
COMMUNITY PHARMACY

FREE DELIVERY Every Day

Come in and Meet Your Trusted Pharmacist SAM

Rapid Antigen & RT-PCR COVID TESTING
Walk-ins Welcome!
Various Vaccinations Offered!

OPEN 7 DAYS
Monday-Friday 8am-8pm
Saturday 9am-4pm
Sunday 10am-3pm

We Accept Most Major Insurances
813-395-6161

6242 GALL BLVD., ZEPHYRHILLS

Across the street from Kaufman Eye Institute
www.zephyrhillspharmacy.com

Get a Little Sunshine in a Bottle

Offering Your Favorite Labels Since 1992!

WE KNOW YOU HAVE A CHOICE. THE TEAM AT ROBBY'S THANKS YOU FOR CHOOSING US!

Shop Our **EVERYDAY LOW PRICES** on Bacardi, Smirnoff, Crown, Jack, Captain Morgan, Jim Beam and more!

Special Orders Accepted • Keg Orders Available
35+ Micro Craft Beers

Robby's Liquor

Family Owned & Operated

2 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS IN ZEPHYRHILLS

5046 GALL BLVD. NEXT TO DOMINOS PIZZA (813) 782-7878 36548 SR 54 WEST IN SHOPPING CENTER BEHIND AMSCOT (813) 783-8380

MON.-THURS. 8AM-9PM • FRIDAY & SAT. 8AM-11PM • SUNDAY 11AM-8PM

Welcome Back!

B&N LENZ ENTERPRISES, LLC

ACCOUNTANT - Business / Individual

PROVIDING FLEXIBLE, EFFICIENT, ON-DEMAND EXECUTION OF YOUR FINANCIAL PROJECT.

- Tax Planning Preparation
- Bookkeeping
- Business Start Up Counseling

Are you having problems with the IRS?
Enrolled Agent • Qualified to Practice Before the IRS

Call today! **(813) 782-9491**

Nils R. Lenz,
MBA, EA

39104 3RD AVE.
ZEPHYRHILLS, FL 33542-5264

Welcome Back

New Patients Welcome!

From Cleanings and Fillings to Crowns, Dentures and Implants, we have the skills and expertise to improve and maintain your oral health.

Dental Repairs and Quick Turnaround

Denture Repair and Reline Service
Call (813) 788-0451 today! There's no need to travel to Tampa or Lakeland for an emergency dental care provider.

CareCredit® Patient Payment Plans

Matthew S. Bryington D.M.D. M.S.
GENERAL & IMPLANT DENTISTRY

37153 STATE ROAD 54 ZEPHYRHILLS, FL 33542
(813) 788-0451



Wharton-Smith tapped for Hercules Park greenlight

The engineering firm and construction manager are set to break ground on the much-anticipated public park

By Andy Warrener
August 4, 2022

Hercules Park harkens back to an idyllic time in Zephyrhills. In August of 1946, the Hercules Powder Company selected an 80-acre tract of land just north of what then was Zephyrhills city limits to start their operation. What became known as Hercules Powder Company Camp Number 39 began to develop. Hercules Powder Company had a processing plant in Brunswick, GA. that made all sorts of compounds like: paints, varnishes, adhesives, asphalt, emulsions, even gun powder and dynamite. Camp Number 39 was designed in order to remove first-growth pine stumps from land cleared in a 25 to 30-mile radius. At Camp 39, the stumps would be trimmed to a standard size and shipped, usually by rail, to Georgia.

It was never meant to be a permanent operation. Even Hercules representative E.C. Mann Jr. said in 1946, that the operations might last 15 years. It lasted 16 years. Yet the company would leave a legacy both material and immaterial. They built between 60 and 80 prefabricated homes for the employees to live in while the camp was in operation and housed 150 people. A culture grew up around it, even after the pine stump operation packed up. Softball teams, community cookouts, it became a social hub. Harriett Morton Weicht from an Aug. 5, 2010 interview by Madonna Jervis Wise and Clereen Brunty recalled a more simple time, growing up in the area.

"It was a different era—a time of safety in which you felt as though you had multiple sets of parents watching out for you. Your houses were left unlocked and keys in your car. It was a very secure place and a wonderful location to grow up."

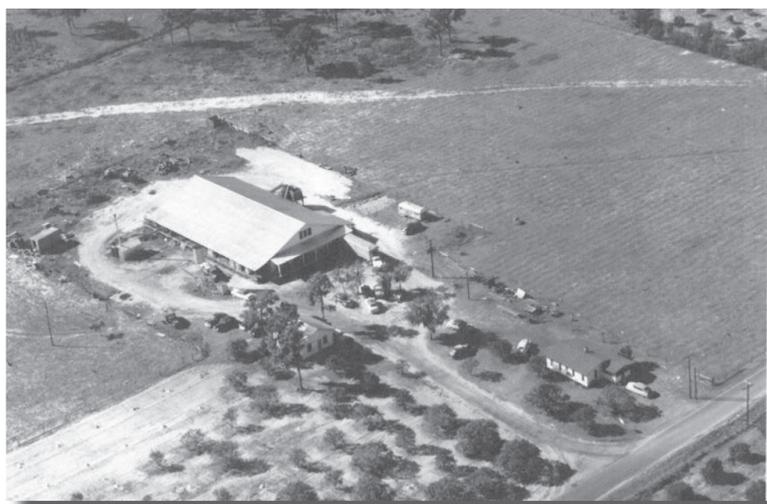
The plant closed in 1962 but the legacy endured. Zephyrhills High School was built on the property in 1975 and Woodland Elementary in 1978. Ownership of the land bounced around between the Pasco County School Board and the City of Zephyrhills. Ideas floated and sank. It now looks as if the remaining property is going to be developed into a community park. Don't roll your eyes. For real this time. The City of Zephyrhills has tapped construction manager Wharton-Smith, Inc. and engineering firm Kimley-Horn & Associates to design and build what will be known as Hercules Park.

The new park will feature a playground area, a 1-acre open play field, a more than 5-acre biking and walking trail, as well as a perimeter or "shell" trail going around most of the park. The choices to design and build the park were not arbitrary. The City of Zephyrhills has a professional services contract agreement with Kimley-Horn. Locally, Wharton-Smith has relevant experience with recreational park projects in the City of Clearwater, City of Sanford, City of Casselberry, and Seminole County. Meanwhile, the firm handled the 25,274-square-foot Woodland Elementary School addition, remodel and renovation.



Right: Concept plan for Hercules Park.

Below: Crew of the Hercules Powder Company dating back to 1946.



Above: Ariel view of Hercules Powder Company in 1959.

PHOTOS PROVIDED



It's High Tide for Coastal Design
Visit **Hudson Square**
Coastal Furniture & Mattress
Family Owned & Operated

Our showroom offers a great selection of quality furniture and accents to reflect your own personal style, and let us help you bring the ocean inside your home.

- Living
- Dining
- Bedroom
- Mattresses
- Mirrors
- Lanai
- Rocker Recliners
- Sofa Sleepers
- Entertainment Centers
- Adjustable Beds
- Wall Décor
- Lighting and more!

HOOURS: Mon.-Sat. 9am-6pm; Closed on Sunday

ACCEPTED HERE
PROMOTIONAL FINANCING AVAILABLE

NO INTEREST FOR 18-MOS.*
(*Subject to credit approval. See store for details.)

813-395-5920
4904 ALLEN RD., ZEPHYRHILLS
(NEXT TO BIG LOTS, OFF S.R. 54 WEST)

WELCOME TO Premier STORAGE
MAKE A RISK-FREE RESERVATION TO LOCK IN YOUR LOW RATE!

ASK ABOUT OUR SPECIALS!
35% OFF
Select Units
With this ad. See manager for details!

PREMIER STORAGE ONE
38841 County Road 54 E.
Zephyrhills, FL 33542
813.782.6854

PREMIER STORAGE TOO
37625 State Road 54 West
Zephyrhills, FL 33542
813.715.2910

ALLEN ROAD MINI STORAGE
4740 Allen Rd.
Zephyrhills, FL 33541
813.788.7825

SECURE! CLEAN! CONVENIENT!

BEEF 'O' BRADY'S
GOOD FOOD, GOOD SPORTS™

Dine-in • Take Out & Catering
Every Neighborhood Should Have One!

• Big Screen TV's • Party Room • Full Liquor Bar • Free Wifi • Kids Zone

352-567-4136
17136 7th Street,
Downtown Dade City

Sunday-Thursday
11am-10pm
Wednesday-Saturday
11am-11pm

813-780-7717
7833 Gall Blvd.
Zephyrhills

DADE CITY TAP HOUSE & SPIRITS
Est. 2021

Wednesday Dang Yo Trivia from 7-9pm
Thursday Karaoke 8pm-midnight
\$5.00 Drink Specials all night!
Ladies Night 50% off select Drafts & House Wine
Saturday Live Music 7:30-11:30pm

• Beer Garden • Whiskey Bar • Wine/Spirits • Premium Cigars

352-437-4887
37916 Pasco Ave.
Downtown Dade City
@dadecitytaphouseandspirits

Wed.-Thurs. 2pm-12am
Fri. 2pm-1am
Sat. 12pm-1am
Sunday 12pm-11pm



Coming soon, a distillery near you

Dunamis Premium Spirits has selected Zephyrhills to open up shop and they will be serving the area as early as Nov. 1

By Andy Warrener
September 8, 2022

Zephyrhills has the reputation of being the City of Pure Water. It also has a climate of growth and development. It also has a craft beer house called Zephyrhills Brewing Company. It also has great vehicular access from U.S. Highway 301, State Road 54 and 56. Access to fine adult beverages in Zephyrhills has never looked so good.

"Every great spirit starts with a great water source," Founder and CEO of Dunamis Premium Spirits Victor Young said. "Zephyrhills is a city on the move. It has substantial growth, the political climate is that of growth, it's easy to get into. The elected officials here seem to welcome business and understand growth."

Young has always been a connoisseur of spirits, particularly bourbon and whiskey. He invested in a distillery years ago but found his access to quality control limited.

"I knew that if we were going to attain the highest level of excellence, we would have to do it ourselves," Young said.

Young branded the business Dunamis Premium Spirits. Dunamis is a Greek word for "the highest level of excellence." Dunamis launched in 2020. The Covid-19 pandemic delayed the move into operational status but by February of 2022, Young and Dunamis were back at it. In fact, they already have a production facility established at 3885 Correia Dr., near the airport.

It is not open to the public yet but on Nov. 1, the production facility will open as a tasting room from Thursday to Sunday, 12-7 p.m. If the airport is too far of a hike, Dunamis is already getting into the former Suntrust bank building at 5435 Gall Blvd. That facility won't be ready until November of 2023 but when it is, it's going to be one of the swankiest places in town.

The new facility will boast full tours. Patrons sitting at the bar will have full view of the lab, the production space, bottling and canning of spirits. The large bar will seat 30 people. There will also be a 32-seat area for people to relax after tours and sample flights of distilled liquor. An event space will be built upstairs that can accommodate 150 people and be rented out for weddings, parties, corporate events and the like. A small VIP space that accommodates 25 people can also be rented out for smaller, private events.

Bourbon and whiskey are Dunamis's specialties. They also make what are called, "white" spirits - vodkas, rums, gins but the caramel color in bourbon and honey color of whiskey take time; at least three years, to be precise. To qualify as a bourbon, a spirit must have a 51 percent corn mash and it must be aged in virgin white oak, charred barrels for no less than three years. While the white spirits are readily available the bourbons and whiskeys take time and there's no way to shortcut the process.

"We want to have something everyone can buy off the shelf and then we want to have some things that you only bring down off the shelf for special occasions," Young said.

It doesn't stop at spirits, either. Dunamis will have a handsome cigar room with renowned cigar manufacturers JC Newman and Arturo Fuente. They have actually helped Young design the humidor that will be in the new facility. There will also be a retail store where customers can purchase spirits, torches, cigar cutters and the like. Additionally, Dunamis is interested



Above: Dunamis has already begun distilling operations in Zephyrhills with an outlet near the airport.

in partnering with other groups and individuals that, like Dunamis, strive for excellence. Young stated that Dunamis would be interested in sponsorships, event hosting and other types of partnerships with excellence in the community.

Can't wait to go? You'll have to wait at least until Nov. 1. The tasting room by the airport will be ready by then. It's okay. You can't rush a good thing.

"When aging a spirit, you can't do anything to change time," Young said.



Above: Dunamis is the Greek word for the highest level of excellence.



The former Suntrust building on Gall Boulevard will open in the future as a distillery.

Our Practice Is Your Solution

"A full-service Law Firm with dedicated attorneys combining over 100 years of legal experience who get results."

MANDER LAW GROUP
A Full Service Law Firm

David J. Murphy
Daniel L. Dwyer
William C. Anderson
Bobbi Madonna
Christina Lamaida
Shannon Clark

AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS • PERSONAL INJURY
WRONGFUL DEATH • DUI • CRIMINAL LAW
DIVORCE & CHILD CUSTODY • REAL ESTATE • BUSINESS
PROBATE • WILLS • POWER OF ATTORNEYS

www.manderlawgroup.com

14217 3RD STREET, DADE CITY, FL 33523
(352) 567-0411

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK!

Why no glass? When glass breaks it becomes a contaminant to the materials in the overall recycling stream.

Keep America Beautiful By Taking Care of the Environment and Living Sustainably!

- NO** Plastic Bags
- NO** Milk or Juice Cartons
- NO** Tangles
- NO** Trashed or Bagged Recycling
- NO** Styrofoam
- NO** Glass

- NOTHING** Bigger Than a Cat Litter Container

NO GLASS RECYCLING REMINDER.

For questions, please email us at: pubworks@ci.zephyrhills.fl.us or call our office at **(813) 780-0022**



Brew with the Blue at Starbucks

Chief Brewer serves customers at the drive-through in public outreach event at the Zephyrhills coffee house

By Steve Lee
September 15, 2022

Members of the Zephyrhills Police Department, led by Chief Derek Brewer, showed up last Thursday morning at the Starbucks off U.S. 301. There were no public speeches, agendas or arrests for that matter at the public outreach event.

Simply put, Brew with the Blue was all about coffee and conversation.

Best of all, the chief worked the drive-through window with a long line of vehicles around the building for most of the morning. He handed out orders and took payments alongside an employee.

"It was a great opportunity just to have normal conversations about everyday life," Brewer said, adding that working the drive-through "was a little hectic at first but I really enjoyed it. The goal there was to interact with the public. The time flew by."

That it did as he and other department staff members took part of the inaugural event. Brewer, a frequent customer at Starbucks, planned Brew with the Blue with store manager Ana Reyes.

"He's a regular customer and one day we were talking about community events," Reyes recollected. "He asked how we can do something together and I said my store is your store."

While the local police are not always appreciated throughout their various endeavors, such was not the case at Starbucks. For Reyes, it was "a way to tell them thank you because they do so much for the community. They got to be my baristas."

One of the drive-through customers stopped her car after

getting her order and said she has experienced law enforcement at a coffee house before.

"I worked at a Starbucks drive-through and a horse (with a Pinellas Park officer) came through," recalled Katie Montes, who has since relocated to Zephyrhills. "I got to feed the horse."

Inside and outside were several police officers and department staff. Some helped out as volunteer workers while others greeted and chatted with customers.

City councilman Lance Smith stopped by, as did mayor Gene Whitfield.

"I think it helps to build relationships," said Whitfield, an avid supporter of the local police department as well as the Pasco Sheriff's Office. "They're talking about every couple of months doing this, so it's got to catch on. They do a lot of things in this community that people don't recognize."

Also inside was Yvette Klausch, managing funeral director for the Zephyrhills Chapter of Coastal Cremations.

"I love it," she said of the Brew with the Blue concept. "I think it's great to see everybody because I never see some of these people."

Outside the coffee house in the parking lot facing U.S. 301 was a large police van with an awning and table out front. Officer Steve Walker and detective Bill Carmer met with people passing by. Walker also noted that the department is hiring and welcomed those wanting to pursue a job.

"We've got open positions and we're just doing community relations," Walker said.

While there were no police dogs on location, one local resident brought her dog to chat with officer at the outside table. Zephyrhills' Zoja Kubiak had her dog Sadi, a shepherd breed



Above: Members of the Zephyrhills Police Department met Starbucks customers in last week's community event.

who is in training, on a leash.

"I brought her out here to see the uniform," Kubiak said. "It's training for her so she knows cops are the guys to help."

One man who came and appreciated the event was a former police chief in the United Kingdom who preferred not to be named.

"This type of event is building up the reputation of the community," he said.



Above: Officer Steve Walker meets with Zoja Kubiak and her shepherd Sadi.



Above: Zephyrhills Police Chief Derek Brewer and store manager Ana Reyes planned the public outreach event.



Above: Chief Brewer hands out an order.

STEVE LEE

Bank with Your Neighbors!

San Antonio
Citizens Federal Credit Union
Your Future. Our Community. Together.

Your community partner for:

- Classic Checking
- High Yield Deposit Accounts
- Auto Loans
- Personal Loans
- Online and Mobile Banking
- Mortgages and Home Equity Loans

San Antonio ♦ Dade City ♦ Zephyrhills ♦ Wesley Chapel
www.SACFCU.org 352.588.2732
Insured by NCUA

Welcome to the Sunshine State!

Our exceptional designs are guaranteed to meet all local and State of Florida Building Codes and will comply to wind code designs for your specific area.

RANDY WATSON
DESIGNS INC

Depend on our skills and 30 years experience to create unique ideas for spaces ranging from 1,000 sq.ft. to well over 12,000 sq.ft.

- Custom new homes, renovations and additions
- Custom wood decks
- Garage and storage buildings
- Pole barns, horse stables

CALL TODAY FOR A PERSONAL CONSULTATION!
352-523-2077
www.randywatsondesigns.com

All Around Health Care, All Around Convenience

URGENT/PRIMARY CARE

- In-office labs/testing
- Cold/Flu Strep
- Rash • Sutures • UTI • EKG

WELLNESS EXAMS

AUTO ACCIDENTS
Personal Injury Claims / Emergency Medical Condition

- Whiplash • Muscle Strain • Bruising
- Cuts & Lacerations
- Broken Bones • Back Pain • Headache

DISEASE MANAGEMENT

FEMALE HEALTH EXAMS

- Pre-menopausal
- Post-menopausal

MEN'S HEALTH EXAMS

THERAPEUTIC PROCEDURES

- Homeopathic Injections
- Osteopathic Manipulation
- Bio-identical Hormone Therapy

DERMATOLOGIC PROCEDURES

COSMETIC PROCEDURES/SERVICES

WEIGHT LOSS / WEIGHT MANAGEMENT

HORMONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY

"Experience the Lifetime Difference!"

Lifetime Urgent Care
Zephyrhills

6755 Gall Blvd.
Zephyrhills, FL 33542
(2 Buildings S. of Golden Carrol)
(813) 395-0244

HOURS: Mon.-Thurs. 8:30am-5pm
every other Saturday 8:30am-3pm

Alternative Therapies Traumeel Pure PRP CERTIFIED MARIJUANA DOCTORS



Pasco votes, Pasco decides

The 2022 midterm elections took the pulse of Pasco County on Tuesday

By Andy Warrener
November 10, 2022

Starting from the top of the ballot, Florida voters selected U.S. Senator Marco Rubio to return to Washington DC. Rubio has held the position since 2011 and currently serves as vice chair of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. Rubio defeated Democratic challenger Val Demings with 56.3 percent of the popular vote to Demings's 42.7 percent. The Associated Press called the race at 8:21 p.m. Eastern time with 78 percent of precincts reporting. No-Party affiliation candidates Steven Grant and Tuan Nguyen, as well as a Libertarian candidate Dennis Misigoy all garnered less than one-half of a percent of the popular vote. In Pasco County the disparity was even higher, Rubio tallying 64.4 percent of the vote to Demmings's 34.22 percent.

U.S. Congressional candidates for District 15 were Republican Laurel Lee and Democrat Alan M. Cohn squaring off. The former Secretary of State Lee was declared the winner by the Associated Press by 8:23 p.m. Eastern time with a margin of 58.5 percent to Cohn's 41.5 percent and 97 percent of precincts reporting. Again the disparity in the county was wider with Lee coming in at 61.6 percent to Cohn's 38.4 percent. Not in Zephyrhills but U.S. Congressional District 12 encompasses part of Pasco County. There, Gus Bilirakis was re-elected over Kimberley Walker.

Governor Ron DeSantis will be serving another term as governor of Florida as he defeated challenger Charlie Crist. The Associated Press called the win for DeSantis at 8:26 p.m. Eastern time with 80 percent of precincts reporting. DeSantis held a 58 percent to 41.4 percent margin with no-party candidate Carmen Gimenez garnering 0.4 percent and Libertarian Hector Roos 0.2 percent. Again, that disparity was greater in Pasco County, 66.33 percent to 31.67 percent.

The race for state Attorney General took longer to call but ultimately Republican Ashley Moody defeated Aramis Ayala 59.5 percent to 40.5 percent, called at 9:35 p.m. Eastern time by the Associated Press.

Republican incumbent Jimmy Patronis held off Democratic challenger Adam Hattersley 59.1 percent to 40.9 percent. Former Senate President Wilton Simpson will take over his new position as Commissioner of Agriculture after defeating challenger Naomo Esther Blemur 59.33 percent to 40.67 percent. Incumbent State Attorney Bruce Bartlett held off a challenge from assistant public defender Allison Miller 59.22 percent to 40.78 percent. In State Senate District 23, incumbent and former Zephyrhills mayor Danny Burgess held off challenger Mike Harvey 63.49 percent to 36.51 percent.

Locally, things were busy. Even with just a 53.75 percent voter turnout in Pasco County, the polls were humming. In the morning at Alice Hall in Zephyrhills, Jeff Hawes and Madeline Hernandez were out waving signs in support of State House candidate Randy Maggard and School Board candidate Al Hernandez, respectively. Madeline Hernandez certainly had a dog in the fight, her husband. Al Hernandez endured a residency challenge that actually removed him from the ballot, only to win the appeal and get placed back on the ballot. Hernandez would carry the non-partisan election with 65.08 percent of the vote to James Washington's 34.92 percent.

Local resident Rich Watkins found out that Alice Hall wasn't actually his polling place and had to hurry on over to his assigned polling place before work. "This election is about being fair," Watkins said. "There's too much criticism between parties." Waters was choosing DeSantis for reelection. "He (DeSantis) has done well for the state," Waters said. "The only thing Crist compares with is the abortion thing. I don't really support a ban. I think a woman should be able to do what she needs to do with her body and that no one should be able to judge that. I like DeSantis because he's here for the people. He doesn't take crap from

other politicians. He believes in what he needs to do and doesn't let anyone deviate from that."

Danielle of Zephyrhills, who wished not to give her last name, said that her biggest concern this election was inflation.

Even into the early sunset the polls were busy. Newly-re-elected State House District 54 candidate Randy Maggard was busy checking out the polls Tuesday night.

"It was crazy, democracy at its best," Maggard said. "I just left Alice Hall and people were standing outside in the rain to vote. Driving by Spanish Trails, there were cars backed up on 301. It was great to see."

Maggard would end up carrying the election 61.94 percent to 35.81 percent over Democrat Brian Staver. No-party candidate Ryan S. Otwell garnered 2.25 percent of the vote.

Maggard celebrated the win at Dade City's Kafe Kokopelli where he plans to take what is now some experience to Tallahassee.

"The experience of understanding the full gamut of being up there, realizing that you don't know what you know, dealing with 120 people, committees - it won't be as daunting this time," Maggard said. "It's like in high school when you're a freshman, you're just trying to figure out where the bathrooms are. By your sophomore year, you're starting to feel pretty confident. You're learning the system and how it works and you can achieve more for your district."

Penny for Pasco, the one-half cent sales surtax was renewed by Pasco voters 64.58 percent to 35.42 percent. None of the state constitutional amendments passed. Each required a 60 percent margin but none attained it.

The closest was Amendment 3, the Homestead Property Tax Exemption for Specified Critical Public Service Workforce at 58.6 percent.

Dade City resident, who was also attending Maggard's watch party Gino Simone was in favor of Penny for Pasco.

"I like that it's not going to administrative use but going toward infrastructure," Simone said. "We need more fire stations, police. It's also not a big deal with regard to a tax increase. It's a big deal that the money is going where it's supposed to go."



Above: Governor Ron DeSantis handily won his re-election bid on Tuesday.



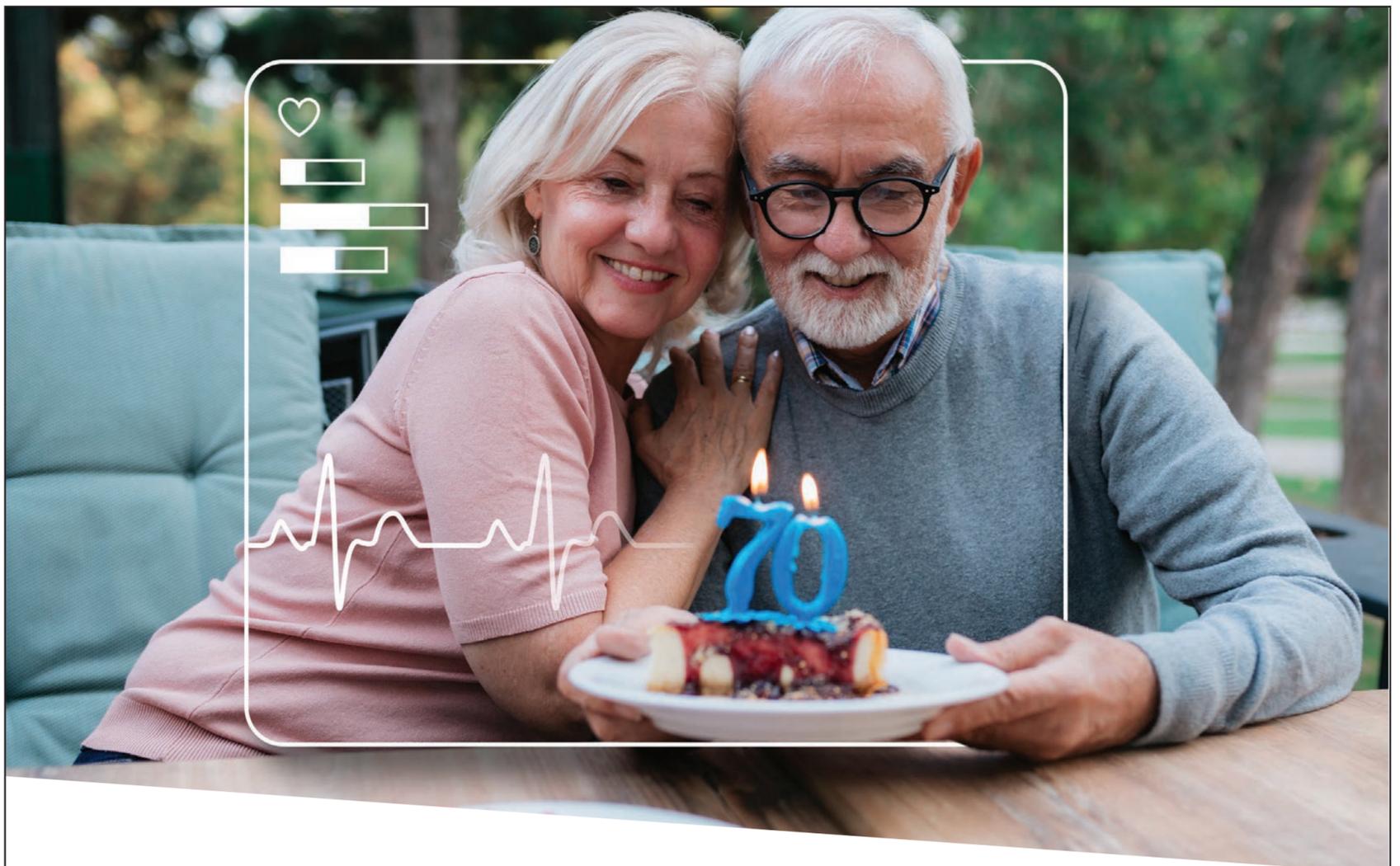
Right: Former State Senate President and new Agriculture Commissioner Wilton Simpson meets with constituents.

FILE PHOTOS



Above: Newly re-elected State Representative Randy Maggard celebrates the win with his family at Dade City's Kafe Kokopelli.

ANDY WARRENER



Primary care for all of your vital signs

Our primary care providers know there's more to your health than numbers on a medical chart. That's why we personalize your care in a way that's centered around your life — so you can enjoy all the vital moments of your life.

Online Scheduling. Same-day appointments. Extended Hours.
Virtual Visits. Over 25 local primary care locations.

Find a physician
813-544-4761 AHMG Tampa Bay.com

Advent Health
Medical Group



Downtown is the place to be for Christmas

Festival of Lights and Saturday's parade make for a day-long Christmas celebration in the heart of the city

By Steve Lee
December 8, 2022

The Festival of Lights and Christmas Parade drew hundreds of people to downtown Zephyrhills on Saturday and they weren't disappointed with the highlight at the conclusion of a day-long celebration.

The loudest cheers, as well as the moment all in attendance had been waiting for, was Santa Claus perched high in his sleigh at the end of the traditional parade.

Count the Kuhn family of Zephyrhills, who make it an annual ritual to attend the festivities.

"We like it," said 10-year-old Lucy, who made sure to be in the right spot when walkers and people on floats went by and tossed assorted candies into the crowd.

"We get to see Santa," added Lucy's mother, echoing the sentiment of nearly everyone lining the street along the parade route.

The storybook-themed float parade, which featured representation from 35 various community groups and organizations, began at 7 p.m. but the celebration lasted much longer than that. The festival in the historic downtown started at 4 p.m. with the festivities continuing until 9 p.m.

Aside from Santa Claus the most popular storybook character was the Grinch. That costumed character from the Dr. Seuss books, was visible in both areas with some people dressed up as the Grinch. And the floats in the parade had several Grinches.

As usual, Main Street Zephyrhills hosted the event, which has taken place for two straight years following a one-year hiatus in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. Last year's theme was a Candyland Christmas with 52 entrants in the parade and 66 vendors set up in the downtown corridor.

"I am thrilled with the turnout," said Erin Beasley, Main Street's director since taking over for Faith Wilson in August.

Beasley, who coordinated the event for the first time, also lauded "the community and the parade participants for their creativity."

Plenty of shops and downtown businesses welcomed the visitors on Saturday. As did people selling items in tents and booths along the south side of the median on 5th Avenue. Under one tent was CraffTay Creations of Zephyrhills. Handmade custom items included shirts, tumblers and key chains.

Mamie Relyea said the company chose to be a part of the festival, in part, because of "all the kids and seeing them smile."

As is the case for the various downtown parades that take place throughout the year, awards were doled out to some of the top participants. A panel of local judges who voted for the awards included city clerk Lori Hillman, Shane Barker of Vitis Realty in Dade City and Cindy Kingsley, co-owner of Florida Trailer Solutions.

The overall winner of the parade was a float by ReNewed Life Church in Zephyrhills.

Other prominent categories with the respected winners listed were: Best Club, 4H Building Legacy; Best Auto, Zephyrhills Sanitation Department; Best Walking Unit, Zephyrhills High School Marching Band; Most Original, Augusta Jane Evans Chapter; Best Theme, Zephyrhills Maintenance/Equipment; and Best in Show, Wee Care.

Serving as the parade's grand marshal were players and coaches from the East Pasco Stars. That team, consisting primarily of ballplayers from Zephyrhills and Dade City, won the 2022 Special Olympics North America Softball Championships this fall in Lynchburg, Virg.



Above: Shown is one of several floats from church groups that included characters from the Bible.

Below: Several members from Helen's Dance Studio twirled lighted batons.



Above: Some of the children on floats in the parade donned animal costumes while one child dressed as Jesus.





GATES OPEN AT 8:00 AM



SWAP MEET AND CAR CORRAL
February 16th - 18th, 2023

CLASSIC CAR AUCTION
February 18th • 10:00 AM on Saturday

\$10 Admission • Kids 12 and Under FREE

Interested in Being a Vendor? CALL JOE @ 813-312-4009
CONSIGNORS or BIDDERS CALL 727-233-9799

www.zhillscarsale.com • Check us out on Facebook 

2738 Gall Blvd. Zephyrhills, FL 33541

Powered by 

