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Thursday, January 21, 2021 109th Year - No. 19

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Community News

Kumquat Festival postponed until March 27

Typically scheduled for the first Saturday in January, the 24th Annual Kumquat Festival has been pushed back to March 27 due to safety precautions.

➤ 4A

Deadline approaching for Spotlight on Talent

The deadline for Spotlight on Talent applications is Jan. 28. This year's competition will take place on March 6.

➤ 2A



Weather

Another week of seasonably mild weather, relatively speaking compared to many other areas of the country, is in store for us. While partly cloudy days are ahead for the next seven days, daytime highs will be in the low 80s to 70s. It will be mostly in the 50s in the evenings.

➤ 3A

Sports

Bulldogs sweep Pirates in girls basketball

Zephyrhills dominates rival Pasco with a 62-23 win in girls basketball in Dade City. The Bulldogs defeated the Pirates at home earlier this season.

Southport Springs Golf Course is open to the public

Southport Springs welcomes the public to its golf course, which has been upgraded in recent years. The course is located in a 55-and-older community off Chancey Road.

Mainstreet Billiards promotes game to kids

Local boys and girls can hone their skills in pool or learn the game at Mainstreet Billiards, which hopes to revive a youth league soon.

➤ 1B

Email Address

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SVB eyes adjacent property with grand plans



Aerial photo of the Sarah Vande Berg Tennis & Wellness Center.

COURTESY OF SVB

With business booming at the new tennis center off Simons Road, plans are starting to coalesce around and adjacent parcel

By ANDY WARRENER
News Reporter

Sarah Vande Berg Tennis & Wellness Center CEO Pascal Collard is no stranger to grand entrances. Collard packed city council chambers when SVB announced its grand opening with a chic video made together with Skydive City. Collard stepped in front of council on Jan. 11, this time, without the grand entrance.

In fact, Collard more just introduced Prakash Nair, an international design specialist and the founding president and CEO of Educational Design International

(EDI). Nair gave a slideshow/PowerPoint presentation, actually a full architectural design, presented as a slide show, that shined a light into the possibilities that await potential development on the 10-acre property that adjoins SVB.

"We have no contract with EDI but they are someone we really like," Collard said. "(Nair) is an internationally-known designer and we would love to work with his group. We are talking with his group to see if it would be a good financial match for us."

EDI does the front end schematic design and the interior design and has for 20 years in 52 different countries. If it is indeed EDI that's tapped for the project, they'll later hand off to a, likely local, executive architect, who will take on the construction administration and project management. What Nair, EDI and SVB brass are hoping for is a mixed-use athletic academy on that

➤ **ATHLETIC ACADEMY:** See Page 7A

Zephyrhills hires its first-ever public information officer

Stephanie Vazquez entrusted to upgrade city's social media platform and promote a positive image

By STEVE LEE
News Reporter

A look around Zephyrhills and the outlying areas reveals an abundance of growth and development — residential as well as commercial. It has been that way for quite some time with no signs of slowing down any time soon.

Along those lines, city officials recently decided to add a position often found in most larger or expanding municipalities. Welcome Stephanie Vazquez, the city's first-ever public information officer.

"Zephyrhills is growing. I think everyone can see that," city manager Billy Poe said, adding that "I feel like we've reached a certain size and we thought it was important to get a full-time person to push out a positive message."

Vazquez, a Wesley Chapel resident, will be entrusted to promote city projects and spread information to the public while improving the city's social media platform.

"We're going to have her working on the web site, update information and freshen it up a little bit," Poe said. "She brings a fresh set of eyes and ideas to the staff."

Added Vazquez, "I think there are going to be some exciting changes to the web site and highlighting positive aspects within the city."

Vazquez, one of four finalists among nine applicants, began working at city hall on Tuesday. She has been vice president of the United States Institute Against Human Trafficking in Tampa for three years before taking on her new role.

"I've been wanting to get into local government," said Vazquez, who envisions a need for improved communications within the community. "It's finding ways to make people feel good about the community they live in."

Aside from working various roles in communications, which included time spent in the U.S. Air Force working in airfield management, Vazquez has a master's degree in entrepreneurship and applied technologies from the University of South Florida. She also briefly ran a magazine in Wesley Chapel.

➤ **INFORMATION OFFICER:** See Page 4A

YMCA helps train seniors to keep physically fit

Dozens of elderly people take part in the Silver Sneakers program offered at the East Pasco branch

By STEVE LEE
News Reporter

Now that the snowbirds have returned to Zephyrhills and the outlying areas, there are plenty of elderly winter residents seeking to maintain a certain level of activity and physical fitness. The East Pasco YMCA offers a fully equipped gym for some motivated people to work out on their own. For many others, however, there are numerous classes and clinics to help them keep physically fit.

Among the more popular sessions are Silver Sneakers, which takes place five mornings per week (Mondays through Fridays) and routinely draws about 30 active, older adults. The classes focus on strength, endurance and flexibility, according to Ryan Pratt, the East Pasco branch's membership and wellness experience director.



➤ **SILVER SNEAKERS:** See Page 8A Many active, older adults regularly attend morning fitness classes at the East Pasco YMCA.

STEVE LEE

Zephyrhills News



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The Zephyrhills News

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Kayleigh Jibson



Spotlight on Talent competition deadline

Heritage Arts Center Producers want to make sure that talented students and their families in the area know that the popular "Spotlight on Talent" competition will indeed happen in 2021, just in a different form. Because of the COVID virus a one day competition will be held on March 6. Applications have been sent out and are still available online at heritagearts.org. The deadline for applications is Jan. 28.

Participants will still be able to prepare and perform their acts in front of a panel of paid, professional judges. They will receive valuable feedback and scores from those judges. There will still be a award of \$4,000 in cash and trophy prizes, and a \$1,000 scholarship to the high school senior from Pasco County with the highest judges scores.

The important difference is that there will be no large audience, only immediate family members may attend, social distancing and masking will be required, and the contestants will only come for their age category performances and awards, and then leave.

As in the past, this is the area's version of "America's Got Talent," a regional performing arts competition for students up

through high school seniors. All types of talents are welcome. There are several age categories for solos and one or more group categories. A student may enter as a solo and with a group. Application fees are \$40 for a solo, and \$5 for each addition group contestant, to a group cap of \$85. Participants are judged primarily on talent with additional points for stage presence and appropriate appearance.

Community sponsors have always allowed them to generously reward the young people for their hard work in developing their talents. This year because there won't be an income from audience tickets, and they are not increasing the application fee, it is more important than ever for generous sponsors to step forward. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, email Barbara Friedman at spotlight@heritagearts.org or call (352) 567-1720, and the newly launched web site will have a "donate now" button.

The application deadline of Jan. 28 is approaching, don't miss this opportunity to let your talent shine.



Tax collector Mike Fasano and staff raise \$8,727.38 for memorial



Staff and leaders from the Pasco County Tax Collector's Office, the Pasco Sheriff's Office, the Fallen Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and Pasco's Back the Blue.

During the month of November 2020 Pasco County Tax Collector Mike Fasano's five offices highlighted the Pasco Fallen Law Enforcement Officers Memorial as the Charity of the Month. During the campaign, which began pre-COVID and was rescheduled to November due to the pandemic, a total of \$8,727.38 was raised by the Pasco Tax Collector's Office for this important memorial.

Each year Pasco County holds a memorial service to honor law enforcement officers who were killed in the line of duty. However, Pasco County is the only county in Florida without a permanent memorial that can be visited year-round. Local attorney Craig LaPorte heads the drive to raise funds to build such a memorial and asked Fasano to assist in bringing the project to the finish line.

At the check presentation held in December 2020 Fasano and members of the Pasco Sheriff's Office were joined by Bob George and members of Pasco's Back the Blue, an organization created to help support law enforcement officers. Together they presented the check from the tax collector's office as well as a check raised by the members of Pasco's Back the Blue to LaPorte and representatives from the Pasco Fallen Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

"On behalf of the board of directors of the Pasco County Fallen Law Enforcement Officer Memorial and Benefit Foundation we want to extend our sincerest thanks to Mike Fasano and his entire staff for making our foundation the beneficiary of the Pasco County Tax Collector Charities," said Craig LaPorte. "He was kind enough to select us for the April 2020 Charity of the Month, but unfortunately as COVID-19 jumped into our lives he was forced to close

in-person office visits for a time. So, in order to help us realize our goal of constructing a permanent memorial to Pasco's Fallen Law Enforcement Heroes, he put us back on his queue for November. Thanks to the generosity of Pasco's citizens and Mr. Fasano and his charity, we raised enough funds to put us "over the top." As a result, we are now in the process of the final stages leading to the construction of the memorial in front of the Pasco County Historic Courthouse in Dade City."

"It has been such an honor to work with the fine men and women of our law enforcement community to help raise the funds that will help construct this long-needed memorial," said Fasano. "For any one law enforcement officer to die in the line of duty is one too many. Unfortunately, many good officers have been killed in Pasco over the years. This memorial will honor their sacrifice and the good work they did protecting our county from lawbreakers of every sort. A very generous community stepped up to show their support for the members of our law enforcement agencies. Thank you."

For more details regarding charitable promotions or services provided by the Pasco County Tax Collector's Office contact Greg Giordano, assistant tax collector for communications and special projects at (727) 847-8179 or visit www.pascotaxes.com. For more information about the Pasco Fallen Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and how you can support its efforts contact Craig LaPorte, Attorney-at-Law at (727) 863-1553. For more information on Pasco's Back the Blue reach out to Bob George at https://www.facebook.com/Pasco-Backs-the-Blue-Rally-101381268352791/.

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THURSDAY
75|48
 Partly Cloudy
 SUNRISE: 7:21am MOONRISE: 12:37pm
 SUNSET: 5:59pm MOONSET: 1:05am

FRIDAY
75|57
 Partly Cloudy
 SUNRISE: 7:20am MOONRISE: 1:10pm
 SUNSET: 6:00pm MOONSET: 1:58am

SATURDAY
73|54
 Cloudy
 SUNRISE: 7:20am MOONRISE: 1:47pm
 SUNSET: 6:01pm MOONSET: 2:52am

SUNDAY
79|59
 Partly Cloudy
 SUNRISE: 7:20am MOONRISE: 2:28pm
 SUNSET: 6:02pm MOONSET: 3:47am

MONDAY
84|64
 Partly Cloudy
 SUNRISE: 7:19am MOONRISE: 3:15pm
 SUNSET: 6:02pm MOONSET: 4:43am

TUESDAY
81|57
 Partly Cloudy
 SUNRISE: 7:19am MOONRISE: 4:08pm
 SUNSET: 6:03pm MOONSET: 5:39am

WEDNESDAY
81|57
 Sunny
 SUNRISE: 7:19am MOONRISE: 5:06pm
 SUNSET: 6:04pm MOONSET: 6:33am

weather forecast

FOR ZEPHYRHILLS



MOON SET		
FULL	JAN. 28	2:17PM
LAST QTR.	FEB. 4	12:38PM
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Kumquat Festival moved to March 27

In the unprecedented times of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce and other Dade City officials have decided to move the 24th Annual Kumquat Festival to March 27. The festival, which is typically held the last Saturday in January, will now be held in the spring.

"We felt it prudent to exercise extreme caution and move the date of the festival to ensure the health and safety of our attendees, our vendors, and the hundreds of people it takes to make this annual signature event a success," said John Moors, executive director of the Greater Dade City Chamber of Commerce.

"Unfortunately, a few operational changes will also have to be made, including the cancellation of shuttle services to remote parking lots, and entertainment at the courthouse - but we will have hundreds of vendors spread out over downtown and our ever-popular Classic Car Show," continued Moors.

The festival will take place March 27, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in Downtown Dade City, around Pasco County's iconic historic courthouse. The chamber would like to extend their thanks for past support and your continued enthusiasm for the 2021 Annual Kumquat Festival. This year's festival's headline sponsor is once again AdventHealth. The festival is also sponsored by the Florida Sports Coast among other local and regional organizations.

As in years before, historic Downtown Dade City will be transformed into an open-air marketplace featuring local businesses, hundreds of specialty vendors, dozens of partner sponsors, and the friendly authentic old Florida experience that the Annual Kumquat Festival has come to represent. The festival is attended by tens of thousands of visitors each year.



Right: Stephanie Vazquez, newly hired as a public information officer, takes notes while discussing a project with city manager Billy Poe in his office at city hall.



Above: Shane LeBlanc, the city's public works director, is among the many department leaders who will be working with Vazquez on projects.

Left: Vazquez stands in front of city hall.

► INFORMATION OFFICER: From Page 1A

A public information officer is sure to be beneficial to the entire city, Poe noted.

"I think all of the departments are going to use this position," he said, adding, "I think the police department would benefit the most."

Lori Brightwell, the city's library director, welcomes Vazquez as well.

"We're excited that we'll be able to have somebody to update our web site and to promote our library programs; once we can have them again when this coronavirus crisis is over," she said.

An example of getting accurate information out fast to the public is a scenario Poe described: "If there's something like a water main break we can post that right away."

A goal is to reach more citizens with more posts, which in turn would lead to more followers of the city's web site.

Previously, Vazquez had not spent a lot of time in Zephyrhills. She did, however, recently try skydiving at the Zephyrhills Municipal Airport's Skydive City.

Longtime friend Jennifer

Cannizzo, who Vazquez knows from their time spent with the chamber in Wesley Chapel, joined her in that tandem jump with an experienced skydiver. Let's just say it was an item on Vazquez's bucket list.

"I loved it, but I don't want to do it again," Vazquez said.

Vazquez, a Florida resident for the past seven years who grew up in Illinois and Michigan, has lived in small towns so is well-versed in the community spirit that often flourishes in such environments. Zephyrhills is no different and Vazquez is eager to enjoy such events as the local parades and the annual BBQ and Blues Fest that was recently postponed.

"I look forward to getting to know the people of Zephyrhills and being able to tell their stories," she said. "I'm very excited about it."



CHURCH NEWS

AdventHealth Zephyrhills receives the 2021 Women's Choice Award

AdventHealth Zephyrhills was named one of America's Best Hospitals for Heart Care by the Women's Choice Award, America's trusted referral source for the best in healthcare. This award signifies that AdventHealth Zephyrhills is in the top one percent of 4,542 U.S. hospitals offering heart care services.

"This is the fifth year in a row AdventHealth Zephyrhills has been named One of America's Best Hospitals for Heart Care," said Deborah Moore RN, MSN, RCIS, director of cardiovascular services at AdventHealth Dade City and AdventHealth Zephyrhills. "Consistently earning this distinction year after year demonstrates the commitment of our staff and cardiologists to provide life-saving heart care to our community."

According to the American Heart Association, heart disease is the No. 1 killer of American women, causing 1 in 3 deaths each year—approximately one woman every minute. What's often thought of as a "man's disease" strikes more women than men and is more deadly than all forms of cancer combined.

"With such strong prevalence of heart disease in women, we empower her to find the best cardiac care to ensure a better chance

of beating the disease," said Delia Passi, founder and CEO of The Women's Choice Award. "We help women by conducting evidence-based research and by recognizing the hospitals that could one day save their lives."

The methodology used to select AdventHealth Zephyrhills as one of America's Best Hospitals for Heart Care is unique in that it evaluates:

The number of cardiac/vascular services offered. Recognized hospitals must offer at least six of the following services: cardiac catheter lab, cardiac rehabilitation, cardiac surgery, carotid stenting, coronary interventions, electrophysiology, vascular interventions, vascular surgery and coronary intensive care (CCU).

30-Day mortality and readmission rates for heart attack and failure

Patient recommendation ratings on the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) Survey

Primary research about women's healthcare preferences

For more information about the America's Best Hospitals for Heart Care, visit <https://womenschoiceaward.com/best-hospitals-for-heart-care>.

OBITUARIES



Frank L. Cahill

CAHILL, Frank L., 90, of Zephyrhills passed away peacefully at home Jan. 5, 2021. Born Feb. 27, 1930, in Rochester N.Y., son of William and Rosina Cahill. He was united in marriage to Anita Hancock (Nichols), on April 23, 1960, who survives. Frank and Anita moved to Zephyrhills in 1998 from Whitesville, N.Y. Frank was a man of deep faith, he was the Visitation Pastor at First United Methodist Church of Zephyrhills for many years until his passing, A Veteran of the United States Marine Corps, a loving family man and a proud Irish American. He had many passions, hunting, golfing and carpentry but his family and faith always came first. He enjoyed supporting his grandchildren in sporting and school activities, he operated the 4th of July fireworks display for many years in Andover N.Y., letting his grandchildren pick the colors each year. He is preceded in death by his parents and his siblings, William F. Cahill, Marie T. Hassis, Kathleen Lagasse and Virginia Quandt; grandson, Scott Handcock; daughter, Wendy Schaumberg; and son, Rick Handcock. In addition to his loving wife, survivors

are, daughter, Cindy Mullen and son-in-law Ed Mullen of Brandon; son-in-law, Michael Nobles of Zephyrhills; grandchildren, Jenee McNatt, Melanie Hancock, Erik Mullen, Kasi Schaumberg and Kelly Schaumberg; great-grandchildren, Mikayla, Cameron, Evan, Kameron and Kierslyn; and many nieces, nephews. Funeral services to be held at First United Methodist Church in Zephyrhills on Jan. 21 at 11 a.m., burial to follow at a later date. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that any donations be made to the First United Methodist Church of Zephyrhills.



Ellen Louise Olson

OLSON, Ellen Louise, 72, of Dade City passed away Jan. 5, 2021. She was born May 28, 1948 in Astabula, Ohio to Clayton and Imogene (Fetters) Piper. Mrs. Olson was a member of Fellowship Baptist Church. She enjoyed working at the church, feeding the needy and moving the golf carts to and from cars. She is survived by her husband, Wilman "Willie" Olson; three stepsons, Melvin of Michigan, Kurt of Michigan and Justin of Largo; brother, Walter Piper of Pennsylvania; and a sister, Arlene Kohta of Ohio. The funeral service was Jan. 12 at Fellowship Baptist Church.



Theresa Blackburn

BLACKBURN, Theresa, 93, of Zephyrhills, passed away Jan. 10, 2021. She is survived by son, Brian; and grandchildren, Ashleigh, Bethany, Amanda and Justin.



Robert L. Perry

PERRY, Robert L., 84, of Zephyrhills, passed away Jan. 7, 2021. He was born Dec. 30, 1936 in Philadelphia, PA. to Samuel and Madeline (Collins) Perry. Mr. Perry was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church and a member of the Knights of Columbus in Zephyrhills. He is survived by his children, Theresa Bates of Dade City, Wayne Liszewski of Tampa and Carol Tustison of Illinois. Mr. Perry was preceded in death by his wife, Frances Perry and three children, John Perry, Gene Perry and Patricia Pisa.



Obituaries are available in The Zephyrhills News. Information is due Monday before noon in order to appear in the same week's publication. For pricing call the office at (813) 782-1558.

First Baptist Church of Zephyrhills, 38231 5th Ave., invites you to Sunday services with Pastor Rob McKinney.

Joe Arvieu will be in concert Feb. 14, 10:45 a.m.

The teen TRUTH ministries, is Wednesdays at 6 p.m., with youth leaders, Carla Berger and Paul Warner. Bus transportation is available.

The children ministry, TeamKid, is Wednesdays at 6 p.m. with director, Lorraine McKinney, and teachers, Carol Arnold and Sarah Lutz.

The Sunday services are: Sunday school for all ages, 9:30 a.m.; worship service, 10:45 a.m.; and evening service at 6 p.m. Wednesday mid-week service, 6 p.m. and choir practice is at 6 p.m. For more information, call the church at (813) 782-5574.

Crystal Springs Worship Center, 2155 Paul Buchman Hwy. is an Assembly of God Church. Adult Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. followed by the morning worship at 10:30 a.m.

The Ladies of Light Ministry Bible Study meets on Tuesdays 9:30 a.m. Wednesday night service starts at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (813) 788-1612.

Our Savior Lutheran Church, 5626 20th St., invites you to Saturday worship service at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday worship services at 9 a.m. at 11 a.m. Reservations are required. Maximum will be 90 for each service. Masks are required to enter the building and must be worn at all times, as well as social distancing. Hand sanitizer is located at the entry ways.

You can also watch live streamed on Sunday at 9 a.m. <https://www.facebook.com/OurSaviorLutheranChurchOfZephyrhillsFL>. For more information, call (813) 782-1369.

Dade City Grace Bible Church, 15000 U.S. Hwy. 301, Dade City Business Center, Suite 403, will meet 9:30 a.m. for fellowship. The Song and Devotional Bible Thought for the Week begins at 10 a.m. along with Pastor Willard L. Sessoms preaching the morning Grace Bible Study message. Youth Bible study lesson, for ages 6-10 years old, is during the morning Message Hour.

The church provides a Tract and Literature Ministry at the Webster Flea Market on Mondays during the season. For more information, visit www.BibleTruthForToday.com or call (352) 567-3955.

The Church at Chancey Road, 34921 Chancey Rd., and Pastor Tim Mitchell invite you to Sundays at 10:15 a.m. and Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. for worship, Bible study and communion. Nursery and kids programs are available at all services.

The Abundant Blessings Food Pantry is open, Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. For those in attendance at either the Sunday 10:15 a.m. or Wednesday 6:45 p.m. services the Food Pantry will be open after each service.

For more information on the ministries of the church visit: www.thechurchatchanceyroad.com and you can also watch live on Facebook www.facebook.com/tim.mitchell every Sunday and Wednesday.

Thank you, St. Jude, for the hope you offer to all who believe in you. AMEN. Prayers answered. JSN

The Two Shortest Verses in the Bible

Jesus Wept (John 11:35)—Before the Cross
Rejoice Evermore (1 Thessalonians 5:16)—After the Cross

WHY DID JESUS WEEP? Lazarus was sick and he died. His sisters Mary and Martha had sent for Jesus to come and heal their brother, but Jesus delayed his coming that he might show unto them the power and glory of God. Jesus is the resurrection and the life. If they believed, they would see the glory of God. Mary and Martha believed along with some of the Jews, but many did not. Christ raised Lazarus from the dead and did many miracles among the people, but they went about seeking how they might put him to death. Israel was to repent of their sins because their kingdom was at hand. Christ was to be their Redeemer-King. **"JESUS WEPED"** because of Israel's unbelief.

Jesus came into the world. The world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, the Jews, who were to be the light to the other nations, and they received him not (**John 1:11-14**). Jesus said in **Luke 13:34**: O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not! In "time past" God gave up on the Gentile nations of the world because they did not want to retain God in their knowledge. Now, Israel rejects Christ and their kingdom and they crucify him.

BUT AFTER THE CROSS AND BY THE CROSS, GOD makes known his secret plan for man's redemption. This plan was hid in himself from before the foundation of the world until HE REVEALS IT UNTO THE APOSTLE PAUL. IT IS A NEW MESSAGE OF HIS GRACE FOR ALL NATIONS. **It is a free gift unto all who believe that Christ died on the cross to pay for our sins, he was buried, and he rose again the third day according to the scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). DO YOU BELIEVE GOD?**

"REJOICE EVERMORE." This is the second shortest verse in the Bible. Because the debt and penalty for sin has been paid in full by God, himself, in the person of his Son, the LORD JESUS CHRIST from heaven, we can NOW BE **"REJOICING EVERMORE."** Christ's righteousness can be imputed unto all and upon all who believe the gospel (**Romans 3:21-24**). God gave his Son to be a ransom to pay for our sins (**1 Timothy 2:5-6**). NOW again, the question still is: **FOR YOUR PERSONAL SALVATION, DO YOU BELIEVE GOD?**

JESUS WEPED because of man's unbelief. Jesus will not weep again! The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (**Romans 6:23**). Man has two choices:

1) BELIEVE GOD and receive grace and peace from God today, and THEN BE REJOICING BECAUSE YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN AND YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY TO HEAVEN OR...

2) DIE IN YOUR OWN SINS, and then be cast into the TORMENTS OF HELL, WHERE THERE WILL BE WEEPING FOREVER because of your unbelief. **THE CHOICE IS YOURS!**

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. ...The Lord is at hand." For Prayer, Comfort and Rejoicing—Read Philippians 4.

- YouTube link is: **Dade City Grace Bible Church**
- Email us at: Dadecityfellowship@bibletruthfortoday.com
- KJV BIBLE – STUDY AND RIGHTLY DIVIDE ACCORDING TO 2 TIMOTHY 2:15
- www.BibleTruthForToday.com

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A Call To WORSHIP

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 5521 23rd St.
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 Pastor Isaiah McCarthy
 Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.
 Morning Worship.....10:45 a.m.
 Evening Service.....6 p.m.
 Wednesday Service.....6 p.m.

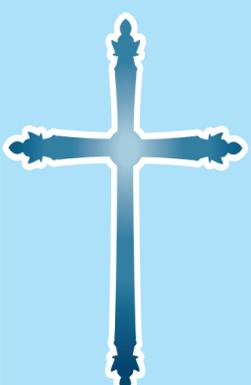
FIRST UNITED METHODIST
 38635 5th Ave.
 (813) 782-5645
 Senior Pastor Steve Ezra
 Sunday Services
 Contemporary.....9 a.m.
 Traditional.....11 a.m.
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CRYSTAL SPRINGS WORSHIP CENTER
 2155 Paul Buchman Hwy.
 (813) 788-1612
 Pastor Linda Davis
 Sunday
 Adult Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
 Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m.
 Tuesday
 Ladies Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.
 Wednesday
 Evening Service.....6:30 p.m.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
 5510 19th St.
 (813) 782-7412
 Pastor Denise Lay
 Sunday
 Worship.....10 a.m.
 Sunday School
 (Nursery/Grades K-12).....10 a.m.
 Adult Study.....8:30 a.m.
 Coffee fellowship after worship
 Wednesday
 REFRESH Supper.....5:30 p.m.
 REFRESH Youth Group.....6 p.m.
 Adult Bible Study.....6 p.m.
 Choir Practice.....7 p.m.
 Second Saturday King's Men
 (in fellowship hall).....9 a.m.
www.firstpcz.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ZEPHYRHILLS
 38231 5th Ave.
 (813) 782-5574
 Pastor Robert McKinney
 Sunday
 Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
 Worship.....10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.
 Wednesday
 Service.....6 p.m.
 Choir Practice.....6 p.m.
 Children's Activities.....6 p.m.
 TRUTH teen ministries.....6:15 p.m.

THE CHURCH AT CHANCEY ROAD
 34921 Chancey Rd.
 (813) 317-4975
 Pastor Tim Mitchell
 Sunday
 Worship.....10:15 a.m.
 Worship, Bible Study and Communion
 Monday
 Prayer and Bible Reading.....12 p.m.
 Overcomers Bible Study.....6 p.m.
 (12 step program)
 Tuesday
 Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.
 Wednesday
 Fellowship Dinner.....6 p.m.
 followed by Bible study for all ages at 6:45 p.m.
 Thursday
 Heart Dance Ladies Group.....10 a.m.
 Friday
 Prayer and Bible Study.....7:45 a.m.
www.thechurchatchanceyroad.com



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 (813) 782-2813
 Reverend Allan Tupa
 Sunday
 Mass.....7, 9, 11 a.m.
 Saturday
 Mass.....4 p.m.
 Weekday Masses
 Monday.....8 a.m.
 Wednesday.....8 a.m.
 Friday.....8 a.m.

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 5626 20th St.
 813-782-1369
 Reverend Tod A. Shouse
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 Sunday
 Worship Services.....9 and 11 a.m.
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 Ricardo Barrife, Associate Pastor
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 Worship Service.....10:45 a.m.
 Thursday
 ALNON.....7 p.m.
 Ladies Bible Study.....7 p.m.
 Friday
 Alcoholics Anonymous.....10 a.m.
 Overeaters Anonymous
 Monday, 5:30 p.m. and Friday
 11:30 a.m.
 Narcotics Anonymous
 Sunday, Wednesday and
 Thursday, 6:30 p.m.
www.eastpascoadventist.com

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH
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 (813) 973-2211
 Pastor Scott Lindner
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 Sunday
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 Communion.....10 a.m.
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CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH
 5434 7th St.
 (813) 783-2727
 Pastor Stephen R. Lamb
 Sunday
 Adult Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.
 Coffee and Donut Fellowship.....10:30 a.m.
 Morning Worship.....11 a.m.
 Evening Worship.....6 p.m.
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 Pastor Willard L. Sessoms
 Fellowship.....9:30 a.m.
 Sunday Service.....10 a.m.
www.bibletruthfortoday.com



COURTESY OF SVB

Above: Front of the Sarah Vande Berg Tennis & Wellness Center.

Left: An aerial rendering of the proposed athletic complex next to SVB.



COURTESY OF EDI

Above: A wider view of the front of the proposed athletic complex.

Below: The rear face of the athletic complex with swimming pool.



Above: Rendering of the exterior of the proposed, 30,000-square-foot indoor tennis facility.

► **ATHLETIC ACADEMY:** From Page 1A

site. SVB, in partnership with private investors, has already acquired the 10-acre parcel, adjacent to the tennis center. They are unofficially calling it the Magnolia Project and there are big plans for it, plans beyond even the athletic complex.

"Most (planned) communities are fragmented," Nair said. "The housing, the commercial, the entertainment are all broken up. The opportunity here is to create a sense of community for the students. If they move there, they don't just go to school, their housing is next to community gardens, a fitness center, a more holistic and mixed-use development."

The renderings presented that Monday were eye-popping and drew near universal enthusiasm from the dais. It certainly helps that SVB has leapt off to a roaring success, even in the face of a global pandemic. Recent pickle ball and padel tournaments at the Senior Games drew hundreds of competitors from all over the region. SVB hosts a \$10,000 prize tennis tournament in February, has over 200 members and employs 47 people. Now, on to phase two. No, seriously, on to Phase II.

Phase II is a scheduled tier of opening for the grand plan at SVB. Phase II includes additional parking for the tennis center and adding more hardcourts. SVB is limited in the scale of tournaments they can host, as they need a certain number of uniform playing surfaces. Indoor hardcourt doesn't count for an outdoor one and vice versa. Adding some iteration of a boarding athletic academy is part of Phase II and if the state appropriation comes out the way Collard hopes, there will be funds for a 30,000-square-foot indoor facility. The indoor facility would house four indoor tennis courts and double as a multi-purpose indoor facility.

"Imagine having an indoor venue in Zephyrhills where you can have weddings, graduations, mini concerts, beer festivals - you could create a village of vendors in that space," Collard said. "It also opens the door for indoor sports like soccer and hockey."

Nair presented renderings of the exterior of the proposed indoor facility. What it looks like in reality will depend greatly on the state appropriation amount afforded for the project. It's going to be a tight year for appropriations due to revenue shortfalls but it's a top priority of both the city and of state senators Danny Burgess and Wilton Simpson. Simpson is actually going to be the Senate president at the upcoming legislative session, and thus Collard, Nair, council members and the city at large are rooting for it.

The project will continue to move forward in any event. If there is no appropriation at all, SVB will move ahead with the athletic boarding complex. If there is some but not the full requested amount, the additional hard courts and parking shoot to the top of the priority list. If the full appropriation is received, the hard courts, parking and the indoor facility will all be green lit.

"It's going to change Zephyrhills, Pasco County and all of Tampa," Collard said. "There's not anything like that here. There are only two places in Florida that have indoor courts, IMG Academy in Bradenton and the USTA National Center in Orlando. We would be just the third facility in the state to have this. It could be huge for Zephyrhills."

The 2021 Florida State Legislature convenes on March 2.

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Above: Linda Higel and Ann Dantuma work out side-by-side, just as they always do during the weekday morning classes.

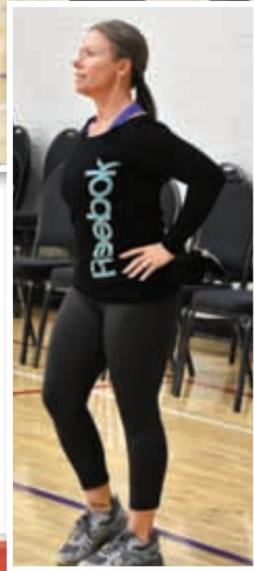


Right: As an option, chairs are placed on the basketball court during the fitness classes affiliated with the Silver Sneakers program. Some take breaks to exercise in the chairs while others use the chairs for their jackets or equipment.



Above and below: There are plenty of regulars who attend the workout sessions geared toward keeping the area's seniors physically fit.

Right: Kim Womack, who also is a swimming instructor, leads a recent class on the basketball court of the East Pasco YMCA.



STEVE LEE

SILVER SNEAKERS: From Page 1A

"It's all those things that seniors need to perform the things for daily living," he said.

Perhaps nobody knows that more than Barbara Gerrish, a volunteer assistant who often joins the classes and touts the benefits of following a fitness program. The classes are designed to adapt to the client's needs, she noted, with some men and women performing the various exercises to music while standing up and others with limited movement prefer sitting down.

"It's whatever they're comfortable with," said Gerrish, who was recently diagnosed with an arthritic hip. "They all have a different routine. I like the variety."

During the strictest time of lockdowns this past spring, the classes at the local YMCA off Eiland Boulevard were cancelled. They resumed in May and have steadily increased, most notably since the snowbirds began returning to the area this winter.

"They are coming back," Gerrish said. "They like what they're doing or they wouldn't be back."

"Last week was our busiest week since we reopened," said Pratt, citing a few days of more than 30 participants. "We're hoping that trend continues."

Aside from the physical benefits of the program, Pratt cited the social aspect that appeals to seniors.

"It's been challenging throughout this pandemic," he said, adding, "It's the social aspect they missed. The social isolation has hit that senior population really, really hard."

The Silver Sneakers sessions have three instructors — Kim Womack, Mark Simmons and Michelle Mack — who rotate throughout the week. Gerrish likes welcoming newcomers and introducing them to the instructors before helping them with equipment they need for certain exercises.

Gerrish's efforts are appreciated by Pratt as well as those who take the classes.

"We consider her an ambassador for the Y," Pratt said.

As for the instructors, Pratt said they all are well-versed in their ability to train others and that they have formed a bond with the participants.

"They obviously have a passion for health and wellness," he said of the trio of instructors.

For her part, Womack often hustles to the gym for the Silver Sneakers class after a morning instructional swimming session at the adjacent pool. She welcomes the busy schedule.

"I like doing back-to-back classes and it's totally different," she said of her sessions at the pool and in the gym. "Once you're energized, why not keep going."

Linda Higel and Ann Dantuma, longtime friends from



Zephyrhills who take the classes side-by-side, can think of no place else they would rather be on weekday mornings.

"I love it," Higel said. "It's fun. It gets you up in the morning and you make good friends."

Added Dantuma, "It keeps me away from a chiropractor."

While the local YMCA pays for the instructors, seniors can qualify for the Silver Sneakers program through their insurance.

"It's a great program," said Pratt, who often talks to seniors when they come in for the classes.

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