

ARCADIA THE COMMUNITY

JUNE 27, 2024



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Local

WERTZ-STRICKLAND HONORED WITH HOME RULE HERO AWARD



STEVE KNAPP

sports@peacerrivershopper.com

DESOTO COUNTY SPORTS

PAGE 4



CAROL MAHLER

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Photos provided

Council Member Judy Wertz-Strickland was recognized as a Home Rule Hero by the Ridge League of Cities.

The Florida League of Cities (FLC) honored Council Member Judy Wertz-Strickland with the 2024 Home Rule Hero Award for her diligence and advocacy during the 2024 legislative session. She worked to promote "local voices making local choices," protect the Home Rule powers of Florida's municipalities, and advance FLC's agenda.

"The dedication and effort of these local officials who tirelessly advocated for local decision-making was a difference-maker this legislative session," said FLC Chief of Legislative Affairs Casey Cook. "On behalf of the League and its legislative team, we're proud

to recognize each of them and thank them for their service."

"Home Rule" means that a city may use local solutions to deal with local problems with minimal or no State interference. Home Rule Heroes are elected and non-elected local government officials "who consistently responded to the League's request to reach out to members of the Legislature and help give a local perspective on an issue."

A life-long resident of Arcadia and DeSoto County, Wertz-Strickland is a member of DeSoto High School

SEE HONOR PAGE 14 >>

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INSIDE!

GOVERNMENT MEETING SCHEDULE

CITY

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

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

JULY 4 DESOTO COUNTY INDEPENDENCE DAY

CLOSED County Office Closed

JULY 9 DESOTO COUNTY REGULAR COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

TUE 9A Administration Building
201 E. Oak Street, Suite 103
Arcadia, FL 34266

JULY 9 DESOTO COUNTY BUDGET WORKSHOP

TUE 1P Administration Building
201 E. Oak Street, Suite 103
Arcadia, FL 34266

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

Realtor Showcase

See page 11

DESOTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ARREST REPORT

See page 13

SALES INQUIRIES:
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223 E. OAK ST. STE. 1
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COUNCIL INVITES COMMENTS AT CRA WORKSHOP



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Photos provided

After the presentation of an assessment for a Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) by Kevin Crowder of BusinessFlare at the June 18 meeting, the Council voted to set a public workshop to discuss forming a CRA at 6:00 p.m. on Mon., July 8, in the Margaret Way Building, 23 N. Polk Ave. The workshop is open to the public, and the Council invites comment and discussion.

Crowder said that the City “was the best candidate we’ve seen in a long time” for a CRA. Although he did not specify which ones, he said that of the 15 criteria required by Florida statute, only two must be present for a “finding of necessity” to form a CRA. His preliminary study identified six criteria in downtown, eight in Southwest Arcadia, and four in the Historic District. If the Council votes to proceed with the formation of a CRA, the timeline that Crowder drafted has operations beginning in Oct. 2025.

Traditional CRA projects may include the following: building renovations, facade upgrades, flood control, neighborhood parks, new building construction, parking lots and garages, sidewalks, streetscapes and street enhancements, street tree plantings, water and sewer improvements, and more. Potential projects suggested for Arcadia ranged from streetscape and facade upgrades to signs and more open spaces.

Such projects are funded by tax increment financing that leverages public funds to promote private sector investment in the targeted area. First, the dollar value of all real property in the CRA is determined as of a fixed date and is known as the base value. The City continues to receive taxes calculated on the base value; however, if the property value increases, the difference between the base and the increased value is deposited into a CRA Trust Fund to pay for projects in the CRA and may not be used for general government purposes.

The CRA is not a new tax, nor does it levy taxes. It does not charge any fees to residents or businesses. It does not formulate policy, nor does it have any regulatory or legislative authority.

The Community and Economic Assessment: Arcadia Economic Development Redevelopment Strategic Overview 2023-2024 is available online at arcadia-fl.gov. For more information, contact the City at 863-494-4114.

In Other Business

The Council approved Resolution 2024-07 ratifying Amendment No. 2 of the agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for additional changes because of “sloping” after the quote had been received for construction of the new T-Hangars. FDOT will increase the grant amount by \$13,208.00, or from \$1,906,906.00 to \$1,920,113.57.



Mayor Robert W. “Bob” Heine, Jr., read the Juneteenth Proclamation and presented it to the Rev. Valerie Gilchrist, Founder/President of the Desoto County Homeless Coalition, Inc.

Kevin Crowder with BusinessFlare gave a presented the assessment for a Community Redevelopment Areas (CRA) at the June 18 meeting.



Allen Reesor of Team Arcadia requested signage for McSwain Park as an “action item” for the Council: the park itself as well as the picnic area, playground, and public parking; plus dog waste stations at the Park and throughout the City.



During the public forum, the Council granted Glen Smith of Sky King Fireworks a special event permit to hold a seven-day tent sale for the July 4th holiday at 1400 E. Oak St. (the Save-A-Lot parking lot) by a vote of four to one, with Mayor Bob Heine opposed because the application was not received—due to a typographical error—in time for the agenda.

Two-year agreements, with two additional terms of one-year each, with Andrew Sitework, LLC, and Consolidated Productions Groups, Inc., for Emergency Water and Sewer Replacement, Repairs, and Rehabilitation Services as needed with cost “based on the unit pricing included in each contractor’s bid” were ratified by the Council.

With the resignation of Roseann Collins from the Planning and Zoning Board, the City now seeks two volunteers—who must reside within the City—to serve. Meetings are scheduled at 4:00 p.m. on the second Tues. of the month—as needed. Four advertisements published since the resignation of Luis Velasco in Feb. have yielded no applications; in addition, council members did not identify any candidates..

Consent Agenda

The Council approved two special event permits: Fisher and Roes Auctioneers to auction farm equipment and tools from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Aug. 10 and Nov. 16 at the DeSoto County Fairgrounds, 100 Heard St.; and Arcadia Main Street to hold Oak Street Markets from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the second Sat. of each month—Oct. 12, Nov. 9, and Dec. 14, 2024, and Jan. 11, Feb. 8, March 8, April 12, and May 10, 2025, at the Tree of Knowledge Park and in the Truist Bank parking lot.

Comments From Departments

Assistant City Marshal Gary Evans reported that the Arcadia Police Dept. acquired a new mobile surveillance

system for events at the park or during the DeSoto County Fair or even in a neighborhood experiencing several incidents of vandalism.

City Attorney T. J. Wohl announced an injunction for “Form 6”—the mandatory financial disclosure required for Florida’s city council and county commission members.

Code Enforcement Director Carl McQuay said he opened 151 cases in May and closed 79; of the 13 cases referred to the Special Master, five were dismissed and eight heard.

Finance Director Teresa Conerly noted 32.1% of revenues received and 31.4% of expenses paid, and no additional surplus items sold through Government Surplus Deals (GovDeals.com).

City Administrator Terry Stewart said he sent the sales contract to Land South for the property that the City may use for a reclaimed water “spray field” because Gov. Ron DeSantis had signed the State budget that included the purchase price, but he vetoed funds for the design work for the reclaimed water ponds. However, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Community Assistance (CA) program has funded the preliminary design. This is the first time ever that they have so funded a project, and Stewart credited the unusual move to work by the City staff. “Thank you, Beth [Carsten],” Stewart said. “You’re top-notch.”

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Kolton Bullard gets a big hit and lifts up Mike McDermott in a perfect tackle.

Big man James Ray listens to the coach before practice.



STEVE KNAPP

Sports Writer
sports@peacriver shopper.com

The Desoto 14U football team is a team that very little has been written about. They played a spring schedule and was an underfunded and undersized team that not many people expected great things from.

That's not what head coach Jamal Blanden thought. After winning the first game and losing 2 in a row, they added a few pieces to the team that turned them into a very good football team. They won 5 of their final 8 games to get into the playoffs.

They beat Hardee in the first round of playoffs and then squeezed out a 14-13 win to win the district championship. In their second round game they knocked off the Lakeland Wolfpack 33-7 to move into the third round on their way to the superbowl game. In the final step towards the Superbowl game, they were

beaten by a bigger and more explosive team from West Tampa.

They had a good team led by do everything Jamal Blanden, vocal leader Kolton Bullard, defensive stopper Adrian Cano and enforcer Madden Purvis.

They weren't through with their season yet. They added some players and coaches from Hardee and Avon Park and entered the National All Stars tournament. Hardee coach Ashley brought Gaige Kendrick, JT Thomas and Xavier Robinson to the DeSoto team. Avon Park's coach Bubba Kendrick brought Javier Richardson and Camaruian Stokes into the mix.

In their first game of the tournament, this group of players from three small towns in central Florida faced off against the Edmonton Golden Bears from Canada. The Golden Bears had an 18 game winning streak and had amassed at least 35 points in every game along with over 400 yards in offense in each of their games.

Desoto held the team to just 25 yards



Mike McDermott slows down Kolton Bullard in a tackling drill.

of offense but lost a tough defensive struggle 2-0. Desoto went on to win their next two games in the tournament against Haines City and St. Pete.

The team had fallen short of their big dream, but showed that hard work and small town heart can get them to places nobody ever thought possible.



Adrian Cano was a strong defensive star for the DeSoto team.

Kolton Bullard was the vocal leader for the DeSoto team.



Players worked on their agility running through the horizontal ladder.



An unidentified player makes a good hit on the tackling dummy.

Tackling drills were worked on in practice every day for the DeSoto 14U team.



RAYS TAKE "COACH-PITCH" CHAMPIONSHIP



The Rays took the championship posting a perfect 12-0 record.



A closeup view of the championship rings.



The Rays show their championship rings.



Braves



Marlins



Red Sox

GIVING GIRLS THE CHANCE TO PLAY FOOTBALL



STEVE KNAPP

Sports Writer
sports@peacerevishopper.com

Cameron Mcquay along with other coaches put on the first flag football game for girls in Desoto County earlier this month. Mcquay said, "I've had lots of girls who wanted to play football but there wasn't an opportunity for them unless they joined a league with boys on the teams. There are some girls here who played on the boys team, but many of the players today haven't ever played in an organized flag football game. I just wanted to give them the chance to play and give them something to do this summer."

The girls played 3 games on a warm Saturday morning. After each game they picked new teams. With a combination of ages playing there wasn't an age specific group just all on two teams.

"We're hoping next year to have enough players to make teams in each age group. This is the first year that we've done this and had about 20 players sign up to play," said Mcquay.



JUNETEENTH EXHIBIT DISPLAYED AT LIBRARY



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Photos provided

Hosted by the Southwest Florida Sisterhood (SFS), a Juneteenth Exhibit was displayed from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the DeSoto County Library, 125 N. Hillsborough Ave., on June 19—also known as “Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Black Independence Day, Juneteenth Independence Day or just Juneteenth. No matter what this day is called, it’s a reminder for all of the United States of America citizens to unite and celebrate the experience of freedom for all, regardless of race or nationality.”

On June 19, 1865, when U.S. Major General Gordon Granger and his regiment arrived in Galveston, the state capital of Texas, the last Confederate State to surrender, he announced that slavery had been abolished. On June 19, 1866, the first official Juneteenth (an elision of June 19th) celebration was held in Texas and its observance has spread across the United States from then to the present time.

Since 1999, Juneteenth has been a “holiday of observance” in Florida, and on June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed into law a bill making Juneteenth a federal holiday, uniting our country in celebrating freedom for all.

Displayed in the middle of the Library, the Juneteenth exhibit included historic photographs, books, informational panels, musical instruments, jewelry, quilts, flags, dolls, and many more items provided by SFS members. They asked those enjoying the exhibit to complete an evaluation of the exhibit to help SFS plan future activities and events.



From left, Jaida Lee and Ericka Lee stand on one side of an informational panel at the Juneteenth Exhibit, and on the other side are Dezerene Jackson, Gloria Kendrick, and Vera Rogers.



Mabel Johnson, left, poses beside a life-size image of the 44th U.S. President Barack Obama (2009-2017) and Jannie Brazell.

The Southwest Florida Sisterhood hosted a Juneteenth Exhibit at the DeSoto County Library on June 19.



Enjoying each other’s company at the Juneteenth Exhibit were, from left, Brenda Lee, Deborah Clifton, Jannie Brazell, and Barbara Hall.

Shalette Bassett, center, listens while Deborah Clifton, left, who organized the exhibit, talks with Alicia Hall about the Juneteenth exhibit.



Saundra Peacock and Debra Richardson show shelves full of books and other materials on display as part of the Juneteenth Exhibit.



COMMISSIONERS PURSUE SETTLEMENT IN FORECLOSURE CASE



CAROL MAHLER

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Photos provided

At the June 11 meeting, the Commissioners agreed to the proposed settlement in the Treworgy foreclosure case presented by County Attorney Don Conn, with the following terms if agreeable to the property owner and the mortgage holder.

- the County provides an updated title search to the property owner and the mortgage holder;
- the property owner conveys to the

County a Warranty Deed for the property and provides a Bill of Sale for the mobile home and any remaining personal property;

- the mortgage holder releases any claims to the County;
- the County will prepare the property for sale and release code enforcement liens and claims against property owner; and
- the County will sell the property and pay unpaid ad valorem taxes, reimburse the County for cost of clean-up, and split the remaining funds with the mortgage holder.

Conn also reported that the code citation hearing was canceled for the property on NE Masters Ave. as it is now in compliance; however the hearing will take place for the property in SE Joshua Estates. In addition, the County now waits for Judge Don Hall to issue a ruling in the Paradise Islands and Reardon cases.

In addition, Conn presented three related agenda items, all approved by the Commissioners except Commissioner Steve Hickox who was absent: Harbour Lakes Phase 2 Wastewater Utility Service and Conveyance Agreement (USCA) and amendments to the Cayman Lakes Phase 1 Water and Wastewater and Phase 2

Wastewater USCAs.

For Harbour Lakes, approximately 278 acres south of SW Liverpool Rd., zoned Planned United Development (PUD), the Commissioners approved 930 Phase 2 Wastewater Equivalent Residential Units (ERUs) with D. R. Horton and Charlotte Harbor Landings, LLC, including a transfer from Cayman Lakes of 47—plus 883 new—ERUs.

For Cayman Lakes, located on SW County Rd. 769 (aka Kings Highway) and formerly known as Island Walk, two amendments to the USCAs with D. R. Horton, Inc., and King Kraiz Farms,

SEE FORECLOSURE PAGE 13 >>



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RECENT GRANTS SUPPORT ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK'S FOOD DISTRIBUTION EFFORTS



Funding totaling \$47,000 from foundations, charitable organizations bolster various programs to benefit neighbors experiencing hunger.

SARASOTA/DESOTO COUNTIES, Fla. – All Faiths Food Bank (AFFB) recently received \$47,000 from four area funders in support of its work to end hunger. Grants received this spring and programs to which funding is to be designated - include Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, \$25,000, Backpack program; Bank of America, \$15,000, Mobile Pantry program; Venice Yacht Club Charitable Foundation, \$5,000, Campaign Against Summer Hunger; and Florida Winefest & Auction, \$2,000, Backpack program.

Through AFFB's Mobile Pantry program, truckloads of fresh produce, meat and groceries are delivered and distributed in high-need areas in Sarasota and DeSoto counties. AFFB operates 40 Mobile Food Pantries with an average of 53 distributions monthly. Seven of the pantries are Mobile Farm Markets, which exclusively distribute fresh fruit and vegetables. AFFB Mobile Food Pantries can serve as many as 300 households in approximately two hours, making it one of the most effective and efficient food distribution programs for the organization.

Nearly 50% of Sarasota County and 100% of DeSoto County students



Thanks to generous grants from area funders, families like the Suttons can enjoy fresh produce, meats and groceries available at All Faiths Food Bank Mobile Pantries throughout the summer. Provided photo/All Faiths Food Bank

rely on free or reduced cost meals at school. When the weekend comes, during holidays and breaks from school, children lose access to this critical nutrition. To help fill the hunger gap, AFFB's Backpack program provides pre-packed "backpacks" for weekly distribution to students for weekends and during holidays/school breaks – including over the summer. The program is targeted toward children who are living in households that are at risk of food insecurity. In 2023, more than 320,000 meals were distributed which was an 8% increase over the previous year.

Another program operated by AFFB to fill the summer hunger gap is the Campaign Against Summer

Hunger. Now in its 11th year, the Campaign supports efforts to feed children during the summer months when they no longer receive those meals – as well as school pantries, which also provides nutritional assistance throughout the school year. AFFB leaders expect to serve nearly 40,000 students and siblings through the Campaign this summer.

"The level of support we have enjoyed from area foundations, charitable organizations, and the business community continues to humble and amaze us," said Nelle S. Miller, president and CEO of All Faiths Food Bank. "We are so grateful to the Virginia B. Toulmin Foundation, Bank of America, Venice

Yacht Club Charitable Foundation, and Florida Winefest & Auction for their continued support of our neighbors who are experiencing hunger. We are proud these fine organizations have chosen to invest in our work and our community."

To learn more about All Faiths or to find a schedule of food distributions, visit allfaithsfoodbank.org or call 941-379-6333.

ABOUT ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK

All Faiths Food Bank is the only food bank and largest hunger relief organization in Sarasota and DeSoto counties, providing millions of meals each year in collaboration with more than 300 agencies and programs throughout the community. All Faiths works not only to end hunger today, but also strives to end hunger – forever – by helping families and individuals gain long-term food security, enjoy better health outcomes, and achieve self-sufficiency. All Faiths is rated four stars by Charity Navigator and is a partner of the Feeding America and Feeding Florida networks. For more information, visit allfaithsfoodbank.org.

SUDOKU

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| | | 4 | | 1 | 5 | | | |

Level: Advanced

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Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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| 9 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 8 |

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**Congratulations to Leadership DeSoto Class XIV
on their recent graduation!**

These class members spent eight months focused on different community topics and learned more from leaders and businesses throughout DeSoto County. We're proud to have a graduating member and to support the DeSoto County Chamber of Commerce as they educate, challenge and develop leaders who live or work in the County!

Learn more and apply at DeSotoChamberFL.com





OBITUARIES

BETTY DARLENE BARRICK



Betty Darlene Barrick, 91, of 566 Gloria Ave, Arcadia FL, passed away on June 7th, 2024 in Naples, Florida. She was surrounded by her loving family and under the care of Avow Hospice.

Betty was born on September 10, 1932 in Mason County, Illinois, to parents Hazel and John Baker. She was a devoted daughter, sister, and mother. Betty is survived by her four daughters: Lynn Matheny (Joe) of Davenport, Iowa; Karen Potter of Naples, Florida; Cheryl Barrick of

Arcadia, Florida; and Patricia Keith (Larry) of Washburn, Illinois. She also leaves behind seven grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Betty's sisters Loretta Hindahl (Montana) and Zoe Buchanan (Illinois) survive her. Betty was also preceded in death by her sisters Mary Becker (Illinois), Clara Reynolds (Illinois), and Shirley Wineburner (Florida).

Betty had a deep love for her daughters and grandchildren, and she found great joy in spending time

with her family.

One of Betty's favorite pastimes was working in her yard and tending to her flowers. She could often be found outside, enjoying the beauty of nature and taking pride in her green thumb.

A Celebration of Life will be held in honor of Betty on Friday, June 28th at the Ponger-Kays-Grady Funeral Home, 50 N. Hillsborough Avenue, Arcadia, FL 34266 between 5pm – 7pm.

SUEANN LOLLEY WEST



SueAnn Lolley West, 51, passed into the arms of our Lord on June 5, 2024 at her Soddy Daisy, TN home with her family by her side. She was a graduate of DeSoto County High School, Class of 1990. She received her Master's Degree in Social Work in 2019 from Southern Adventist University, College Dale, TN. She was a dedicated therapist and advocate for those with special needs.

SueAnn is survived by her husband, John West and son David

West of Soddy-Daisy, TN; her father, William (Debra) Lolley, sisters Leslie Lolley of Arcadia and Beth (Benjamin) Arthurs of Oconomowoc, WI. She is also survived by her mother, Linda (Alfonso) Quezada, her brothers, Quisto (Stephanie) Quezada and Kevin Quezada of Arcadia and grandmother, Roma Portra of North Port.

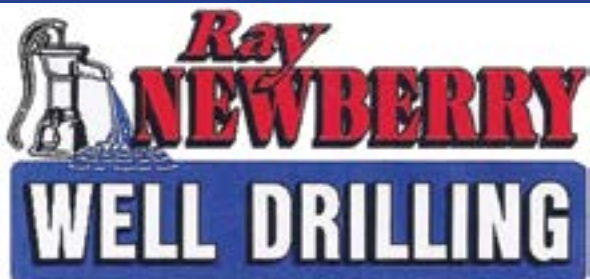
She was predeceased by her grandfather, Val Lolley of Alabama, her grandmother, Annie Mae Lolley of Arcadia, her sister Teresa Lolley

Morton of Lufkin, TX; her maternal grandfather, Norbert Portra of Froid, MT.

Our family is forever grateful to those who supported SueAnn and surrounded her in love and prayers during her final months.

SueAnn will be missed by her family and all those who loved her. There are no services planned at this time.

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Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in earth,
As it is in heaven.

Give us this day, our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen.



While I Breathe I Hope

DESOTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



ARREST REPORT | 6/14/24 - 6/20/24

Alejo-Benitez, Miguel Angel:
Aggrav Battery - Cause Bodily Harm Or Disability

Castellano-Madonado, Rafael:
Trespassing - Fail To Leave Property Upon Order By Owner

Dipirro, Kevin Edward:
Retail Theft (Value \$100 Or Less) 1St Ofns - Pursuant To 812.015

Drymon, Kellie Dawn:
Battery - On Person 65 Years Of Age Or Older (X2)

Erskine, Billy Jack:
Burgl - Unoccupied Dwelling
Unarmed, Larc - Grand Theft 10K Less Than 20K Dols, Damage Prop-Crim Misch - 200 Dols And Under, Veh Theft - Grand Theft Of Motor Vehicle, Property Crimes - Possess Vehicle With Altered Numbers, Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Drive While Lic Susp 1St Off

Fitzgerald, Malorie Ruth:
Burgl - Unoccupied Dwelling
Unarmed, Larc - Grand Theft 10K Less Than 20K Dols, Damage Prop-Crim Misch - 1000 Dols Or More

Hearns, Earnest Lee:
Disorderly Intox - Disorder Intox Public Place Cause Disturbance, Resist Officer - Obstruct Wo Violence

Hutson, Tammy Rane:
Drugs-Possess - Cntrl Sub Wo Prescription, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use

Ledford, Jason Paul Larau:
Fail To Reg As Crim Reg - Convicted Felon Fail To Register

Little, Brandon Andrew:
Fraud-Illeg Use Credit Cards - Use More 2 Time 6 Ms Obt Gds Mney 100 Dol More, Larc - Petit Theft 2Nd Degree 1St Offense, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use, Drugs-Possess - Cntrl Sub Wo Prescription

Maloney III, Charles Calvin:
Out Of County Warrant

Miller, Carli Ellen:
Failure To Appear - Written Promise To Appear

Miller, Kristen Caroline:
Aggrav Battery - Person Uses A Deadly Weapon, Damage Prop-Crim Misch - 200 Dols And Under

Nelson, Cycron:
Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Drive While Lic Susp 1St Off

Peterson, Dontavious:
Stalking - Follow Harass Cyberstalk Another

Phillips, Wade Allen:
Sex Offender Violation - Fail To Register As Required

Pierre, Stevenson:
Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Drive While Lic Susp 1St Off

Poles, Oxy:
Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Attach Registration License Plate Not Assigned

Reaves Jr, Jerome Calvin:
Battery - 2Nd Or Subsq Off, Aggrav Battery - Cause Bodily Harm Or Disability, Aggrav Asslt - Weapon - W Deadly Weapon Without Intent To Kill, Damage Prop-Crim Misch - 1000 Dols Or More

Richardson, Janari Naquay:
Out Of County Warrant

Sanchez-Jiminez Jr, Ramiro:
Veh Theft - Grand Theft Of Motor Vehicle, Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Drive While Lic Susp 1St Off

Stivers, Felicia Nicole:
Out Of County Warrant

Tanios, Ashraf hokrey:
Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Drive While Lic Susp 1St Off

Torres-Ortiz, Luis Alberto:
Simple Asslt - Commit Domestic Asslt

Torres, Gabriel:
Trespassing - Fail To Leave Property Upon Order By Owner

Valdez, Sophia Lynn:
Battery - Touch Or Strike

Zambrano Alvarez, Jesus Asdrubal:
Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle Wo Valid License

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

FORECLOSURE

[FROM PAGE 7 >>](#)

LLC: reducing and transferring 47 of the 350 Phase 2 Wastewater ERUs already approved; and allocating to the existing 277 ERUs an additional 52 Water and Phase 1 Wastewater ERUs with capital charges of \$314,600.00 and payment of monthly reservation and maintenance charges.

IN OTHER BUSINESS

The County had received a \$1 million Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) grant to design and construct on-site treatment and disposal of landfill leachate. "Jones Edmunds proposed an alternative project that uses evaporators," and FDEP had approved a pilot project using the evaporators. If they are effective, they will be purchased as part of the grant project, so Commissioners approved Grant Agreement Amendment 3 that includes the addition of Task 4: Project Management; extension of expiration date; renaming of Task 1 as "Pre-construction Activities" and language to allow for reimbursement of preliminary design from Jones Edmunds; revision of Project Timeline and Budget Detail; and addition of Exhibit A-1, a progress report form.

The Commissioners approved change order number two for Quest Construction and Property Management for the rehabilitation project at 1277 SE 1st Ave., Arcadia, including rerouting of electrical wires and plumbing lines after removal of the drop ceiling and mold remediation in the master bathroom. The additional cost of \$80,100.00 will be paid for by State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP) and Hurricane

Housing Recovery Program (HHRP). Faced with a new lease of \$90,000.00 per year with Arcadia Shoppes, LLC, for the space currently used by the Health Department Clinic, the Commissioners tabled the item and asked Conn to work with the owner to negotiate a lease at a lesser cost and for County Administrator Mandy Hines to request copies of leases with other tenants in the shopping center. The County's current lease for \$50,000.00 per year, with a 5% increase per year for five years, expired several months ago. Hines said that the 5% increase was never implemented.

She discussed the use of the Turner Center for the Poultry Show for students as requested by Dave Williams and Cindy Kinard. Last year's show used up the money in the Ag-Fest fund, so Hines suggested allowing any agricultural event—including the Poultry Show—to use the Turner Center at no cost during Farm-City Week. (Celebrated the third week in Nov., Farm-City Week recognizes the partnerships between rural and urban communities.) After reviewing the current fees for the Turner Center, the Commissioners agreed to allow use of the Turner Center for any agricultural event—including the Poultry Show—for a 50% fee during Farm-City Week (Nov. 20-27, according to the Florida Farm Bureau floridafarmbureau.org). Letters of interest must be submitted, and use granted as "first come, first served."

The Commissioners also approved Habitat for Humanity to pay only the utilities but not the rent from Nov. 2024 through March 2025 (except for the



During the public forum for non-agenda items, Travis Miller asked the Commission for permission to continue hauling yard debris from North Port and Port Charlotte to his property to compost and use as soil amendments for a citrus grove and pasture. He said that all the compost that he made from Hurricane Ian debris is gone. Photograph courtesy of Carol Mahler.

Arcadia Rodeo weekend, March 6-9) for up to five Turner Center camping spaces for volunteers working on building projects.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Commissioners approved the following items:

- Amendment No. 2 to Grant Agreement for \$500,000.00 with the Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, for change in scope and a budget revised according to the second highest-ranked firm's proposal as the highest-ranked firm was unable to secure a performance bond;
- Procurement Software Subscription Agreement for \$21,277.20 with OpenGov, Inc., for a pro-rated first year, July 1 through Sept. 30, including professional services and implementation of the software, with three additional one-
- yer renewals by mutual consent. Replacing an Excel spreadsheet that administration has used to track and record contracts and agreements, this software will provide "Enhanced Contract Management capabilities and increased vendor visibility and outreach via an online, public-facing, vendor portal with streamlined vendor registration and access to solicitation documents and information;"
- Change order of \$1800.00, paid for by SHIP, to Jesse Services, Inc, for an unforeseen need: a new pump and pressure tank for the well house at 1159 SW Deer Run Ave.; and
- Agreement with South Florida State College to use the DeSoto County campus as a Special Needs Shelter as has been done since 2006 with a renewal every two years.

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES

WORSHIP PRACTICES FROM THE OLD AND NEW TESTIMATE

AMANDA REUTER

Chaplain, US Army Reserve
DeSoto Ministerial Association

Worship practices from the Old and New Testament apply to our present-day worship. In many ways, current-day worship is the same as the worship in the Old and New Testaments. From Scripture reading to singing to dancing and eating, worship of God is various, alive, and requires the whole self. Scripture states that men and women would sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God (Ephesians 5:19-21). They would sing God’s Word, his promises, his curses or judgments, his wisdom, etc. (Colossians 3:16). Yesterday and today, churches not only sing to offer worship to God, but they offer themselves through serving, dancing, preaching, testimony, washing of feet or dishes, caring for babies, supplying needs, etc. Worship in and out of the church is not given only to singing or the music ministry. Worship is a way of life for the Christian, for the benefit of the Christian and the Body of Christ. Jesus Christ calls his followers to

worship God by acknowledging the presence of God (John 15:4-5, 9-10). Being in the presence of God calls the Christian to worship Him.

In his work, One Thing Needful, Gary Mathena goes into detail how worship is done wholly to be holy. Breaking down what the heart, soul, mind, and strength are, he points out that Christians can “worship God with every fiber of” their being. Because the Holy Spirit indwells the believer, “every fiber” is energized by God, especially when used for his glory. Psalm 103:1 came to mind. King David begins this Psalm by acknowledging God’s presence; and his entire being worships God. “Bless the Lord, my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name” (International Standard Version). Whether Old Testament, New Testament, or today, worship involves the whole entire person being ready to serve, sing, sacrifice, give, go, and do.

HONOR

[FROM PAGE 1 >>](#)

Class of 1960, who earned her Bachelor of Liberal Arts degree from Florida Southern College in 1996. In addition, she completed three classes from the Institute of Elected Municipal Officials.

A member of the Ridge League of Cities (RLC) Board of Directors, she served as president in 2021 and is the second official from Arcadia so elected. (The first was Dr. Roosevelt Johnson who served in 1979.) Also for RLC, she serves as Chairman of the Scholarship Committee and is a member of the Advocacy and Nominating Committees. Established in 1949 and named for the Mid-Florida Ridge (aka Lake Wales Ridge), RLC helps to build thriving communities in 24 municipalities located in DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Hillsborough, Pasco, and Polk counties.

RLC also honored Wertz-Strickland with the Nettie Draughon Award in 2022, and she is one of four recipients from Arcadia: Margaret Way, Johnson, and Terry Stewart. Originally called the “Outstanding Municipal Officer of the Year” award to recognize public officials who contribute to their communities and the League, the award was renamed in 1994 for Nettie Draughon (1921-1998), who started working for Plant City as a clerk in 1940 and served as city manager from 1974 until her retirement in 1998.

Wertz-Strickland’s “vision for Arcadia is to establish a partnership with DeSoto County and find ways to stimulate the growth of the City of Arcadia. Her wish is for our development, redevelopment and revitalization challenges to be so effective that it will inspire people to reside here” (arcadia-fl.gov).

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THE CITY OF ARCADIA WILL BE HOLDING A COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA (CRA) PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Monday, July 8, 2024, at 6:00 P.M.
Margaret Way Building
23 North Polk Ave

The workshop topic is the potential creation of a Community Redevelopment Area (CRA). There will be an opportunity for public discussion and feedback.

THE POTENTIAL CRA AREA INCLUDES:
Downtown Core (covering Historic District)
The Southwest Neighborhood

FAQ'S ABOUT CRA'S:

WHAT A CRA IS:

- CRAs retain new revenues from existing taxes for use in the neighborhood where they are generated.
- CRAs increase the tax base to help fund quality-of-life improvements.
- CRAs fund streetscape and infrastructure improvements.
- CRAs build/enhance affordable housing.
- CRAs help create clean and safe places.
- CRAs help prevent crime.
- CRAs work to retain and recruit business.
- CRAs help enhance parks and recreation.

WHAT A CRA IS NOT:

- CRAs are not a new tax.
- CRAs do not levy taxes.
- CRAs do not charge any fees to members of the public or businesses.
- CRAs do not establish policy.
- CRAs do not have any regulatory or legislative authority.
- CRAs do not fund normal government operations or facilities.

For more information, go to the City of Arcadia website: www.arcadia-fl.gov for a link under "Latest News" to view the Community & Economic Assessment.