

ARCADIA THE COMMUNITY

JULY 11, 2024

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Local

SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE GRADUATES NEW LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS



(front, left) Brody Waters, Brian Zachary Rhoton, Robert Michael Smith, Jason Lee Tomblin;
(back, left) Blanca Juliana Serapio-Vivanco, Julianna Marie Harrison, Carol Saskia Suarez



AVON PARK, Fla. – June 5, 2024 – During a ceremony on Thursday, May 30 on the Highlands Campus in Avon Park, South Florida State College’s (SFSC) Basic Law Enforcement (BLE) Academy Class 272 graduated seven cadets.

BLE Class 272 graduates who received Career Certificates were: Julianna Marie Harrison, Brian Zachary Rhoton, Blanca Juliana Serapio-Vivanco, Robert Michael Smith, Carol Saskia Suarez, Jason Lee Tomblin, and Brody Waters.

During the ceremony, special awards were presented to cadets. Brody Waters was honored as class leader, Julianna Marie Harrison as executive officer, and Jason Lee Tomblin for top academics.

Guest speaker for the graduation was Detective Alice Fletcher of the Hardee County Sheriff’s Office. SFSC’s Basic Law Enforcement Career Certificate

program trains students to become law enforcement officers in Florida. By successfully completing the program, they are eligible to take the state certification examination to become certified law enforcement officers. The program runs 770 contact hours or approximately five months full-time or approximately 10 months part-time.

The SFSC Criminal Justice Academy also offers a Corrections to Law Enforcement (Crossover) Career Certificate program that trains currently employed corrections officers to become law enforcement officers in Florida. Upon successful completion of the program, graduates are eligible to take the state certification examination to become certified law enforcement officers. The program runs 515 contact hours or approximately 10 months part-time.

For more information about these Criminal Justice programs, visit southflorida.edu or call SFSC’s Criminal Justice Academy at 863-784-7285.

JULY DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULE
PAGE 15

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GOVERNMENT MEETING SCHEDULE

CITY
CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS OCCUR THE 1ST AND 3RD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED
Margaret Way Building
23 N. Polk Ave., Arcadia, FL 34266

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
JULY 11	DESOTO COUNTY NOCATEE FOOD PANTRY
TUE 11:30A-1P	Nocatee Elementary School 4846 SW Shores Ave. 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

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SW ARCADIA HISTORIC DISTRICT MAY BE LISTED IN NATIONAL REGISTER



CAROL MAHLER
Independent Contractor
carolmahler22acl@gmail.com
Photos provided

At the July 2 meeting, the Council approved the submission of an application for a SW Arcadia Historic District to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); however, the Council specified that the new district would not be subject to the rules of the City’s Historic Preservation Ordinance.

In 2022, the Florida Department of Historic Resources (FDHR) awarded a grant to the City of Arcadia to survey the historical assets in SW Arcadia as they had not been included in 1982 survey that led to the subsequent formation of the Arcadia Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places since 1984. The new survey revealed many historic assets as well as others lost to decay and neglect. Based on those findings, the FDHR awarded the City a grant to expand the original Arcadia Historic District to include the newly identified historic assets.

Many residents of SW Arcadia—and others—spoke at the Historic Preservation Commission’s public workshop on June 6. Some expressed a desire to form the SW Arcadia Historic District and list it in the National Register of Historic Places to represent Florida’s history to the Nation. Others did not want the honor or the protection of historic assets provided by the rules of the City’s ordinance.

The Council’s vote is an important first step in the process. Now the application may be completed and submitted to FDHR, and then FDHR will submit it to the NRHP. First the State and then the Federal review committees may reject the application or return it for revisions.

PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD

The Council discussed two vacancies on the Planning and Zoning Board (P&ZB), and City Attorney T. J. Wohl was not present to answer the question of whether Board members have to be City residents. Although Linda Luppino had filled out an application to serve, the Council voted to table the discussion until Wohl answers the residency question.

A member of the P&ZB with Chairperson George Whitlock, Vice-Chairperson Mike Pooser, Marilyn McConnell, and Pat Moore, Allen Reesor spoke on Luppino’s behalf and praised her work to buy and restore historic homes within the City. Although both Deputy Mayor Keith Keene and Council Member Judy Wertz-Strickland said that Luppino would be a good member of the Board, they both wanted to wait as they knew of other candidates for the positions if residency is not required. The matter was tabled until the July 16 meeting.



This slide from the Jr. Golf Association Summer Camp presentation shows campers having fun as they learn to play golf. The next Summer Camp will be July 22- 26. For more information, call 863-494-4223 or check online at golfarcadia.com. Photograph provided.

PRESENTATIONS

Making the presentation for Team Arcadia, Allen Reesor thanked the City for providing and installing the parking signs at—and for directing Florida Power and Light (FPL) to turn the street light to illuminate—the parking lot adjacent to the McSwain Center. He announced a partnership with the Sheriff’s Office—as well as assistance with fundraising—for “Harmony in the Streets” from July 8 to 15.

He invited volunteers to help on Sunday afternoons with the Family Homework Project—an eight-week opportunity for “parents to learn how to help their kids.” He also noted that Team Arcadia is working to match volunteers—especially winter residents—with local non-profit organizations by soliciting job descriptions of the work needed. Finally, he looks forward to “personal enrichment classes” at the Center taught by retired professors who are willing to teach college-level courses for less than college-level wages.

Chelsea Palmer reported that more people are visiting Team Arcadia’s Friday Farmers Market, and a new vendor is selling micro-greens

RESOLUTIONS

The Council adopted the following Resolutions for projects funded by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s (FDEP) State Revolving Fund (SRF):

- 2024-08 for Phase 2B of the Sanitary Sewer Improvements—a loan application for \$10,800,000.00 with principal forgiveness of \$8,640,000.00;
- 2024-09 for Phase 1B of the Water Distribution System Improvements—a loan application for \$7,040,625.00 with principal forgiveness of \$6,336,580.00; and
- 2024-10 for Sewer Collection Construction Phase 2A finalizing

Municipal Golf Course Director Jeff Gibson introduced his new assistant Bob Gaillard, who used to work at Streamsong Golf Resort, built on land reclaimed from phosphate strip mining (streamsongresort.com). Photograph courtesy of Carol Mahler.



that the project cost \$5,228,689.00 and the principal forgiveness is \$3,873,102.95, so the 30-year loan with 0% interest is \$1,355,586.05, with a semiannual loan payment of \$24,336.00 and a loan service fee of \$104,574.00.

In addition, as a “walk-on” item, the Council approved the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Signal Maintenance Compensation Agreement of \$73,631.68, and under the consent agenda, the special event permit for the DeSoto County Sheriff’s Office block party with closure of N. Volusia Ave. from East Cypress St. to East Hickory St.

COMMENTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

Assistant City Marshal Gary Evans reviewed the June statistics: 543 complaints; 20 traffic accident reports, 70 traffic and 33 warning citations; arrests—five felony, 0 juvenile, 1 warrant, 10 misdemeanor, and two traffic; criminal investigations—four open and six closed.

Municipal Airport Director Shelley Peacock reported 42 aircraft attending Taco Tuesday plus plenty of “drive-ins”—meaning people traveling by vehicle to attend the event. Recent rains flooded the usual luncheon area, so the food trucks relocated. She also noted that all repairs from Hurricane Ian damage are complete plus construction continues for the shade hangars and T-hangars.

Municipal Golf Course Director Jeff Gibson spoke about 20-23 children attending the Junior Golf Association Summer Camp and how they not only learned the sport, but they also enjoyed presentations by the fire department, police dept., and City Administrator Terry Stewart. Course Operations Manager Ann Applegate sent a photograph presentation of the camp. Keene, whose granddaughters attended, said, “What you’re doing for the kids is outstanding—thank you.”

Stewart reminded the Council of upcoming dates: July 8 is the Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) public workshop; July 11 is the budget workshop; and then on July 16, the Council must set the millage rate, and from then it may be lowered but not increased. In response to a question from Keene, Stewart noted that Wohl will check with County Attorney Don Conn about the property adjacent to the airport. Also, the City is purchasing the property on Jordan St. necessary to construct the new wastewater plant and—with State funding—the land on Livingston Ave. to use as a reclaimed water spray field.

Council Member Judy Wertz-Strickland gained a consensus to allow Arcadia Main Street to purchase and install some pet waste stations downtown, and Stewart will ask Wohl about adding pet waste pickup to the pet leash ordinance.

LARGO GUN SHOW

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SATURDAY 9AM-5PM & SUNDAY 9AM-3PM

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SARASOTA

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COMMISSION APPROVES ANOTHER PRIVATE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT



CAROL MAHLER
 Independent Contractor
 carolmahler22acl@gmail.com
 Photos provided

At the June 25 public hearing, Commission Chairperson Jerod Gross, Vice-Chairperson J.C. Deriso, and Commissioner Judy Schaefer voted to approve a private wastewater treatment plant for the Planned Unit Development (PUD) known as Bridlewood of Arcadia. Commissioners Steve Hickox and Elton Langford were opposed.

At the July 25, 2023, meeting, the same three Commissioners had approved a resolution to authorize a private, for-profit wastewater utility owned and operated by Ni Florida, a subsidiary of SouthWest Water, to serve the Oak Stone project in Lake Suzy.

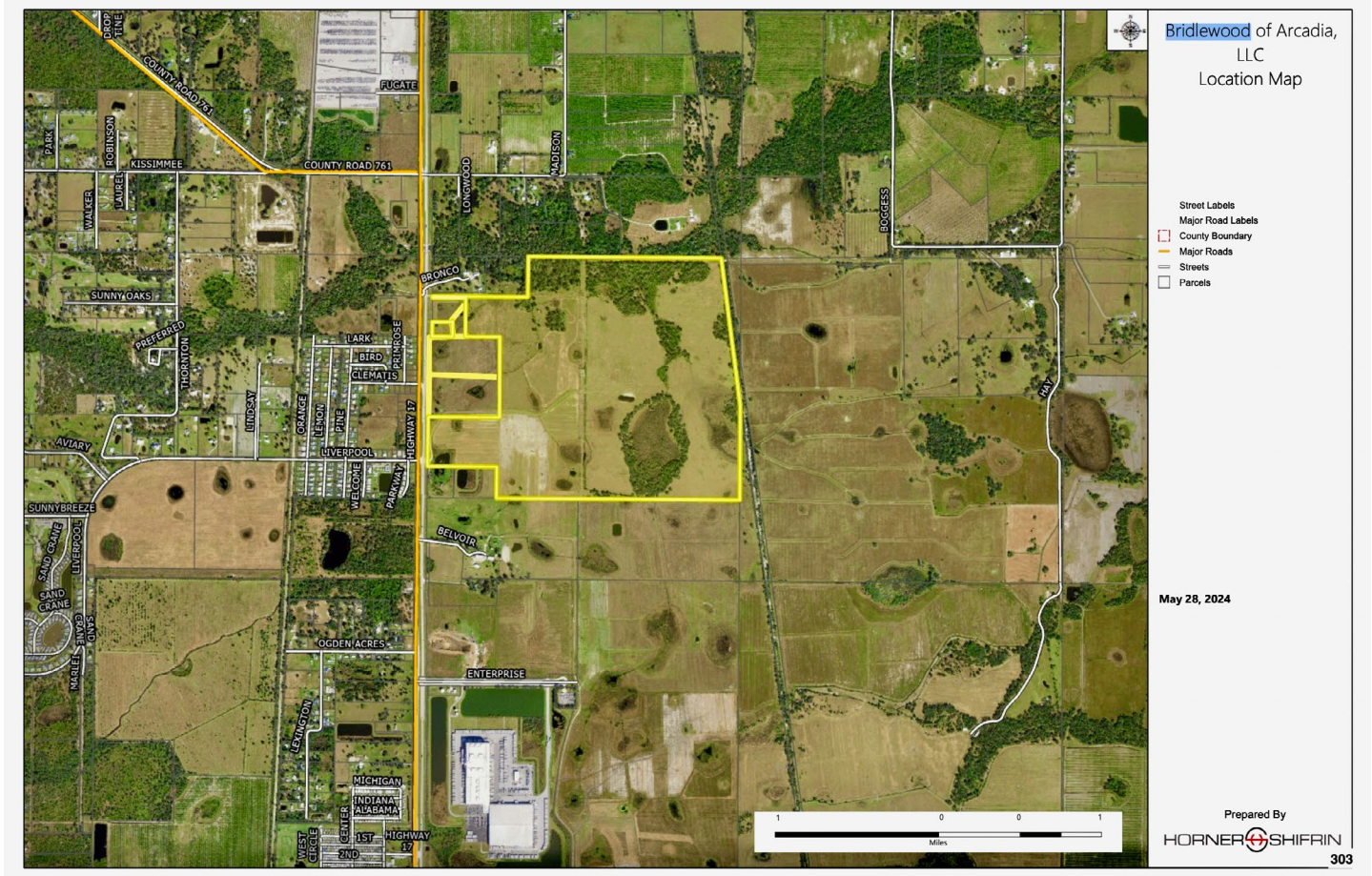
In the Bridlewood of Arcadia project, the utility will be built by the Community Development District (CDD), established by a 2022 Ordinance. (A 2019 Ordinance established Oak Stone CDD, the County's first CDD.) A CDD

may be a "cost-effective tool to develop, finance, and manage infrastructure systems and services to develop new communities." Elected by the landowners, a Board of Supervisors governs the CDD, and the CDD may "finance, fund, plan, establish, construct, or operate" such services and facilities as detailed in Florida Statutes (F.S.) 190.012: bridges, culverts, roads, street lighting, parks, school buildings, sewerage and wastewater management, waste collection and disposal, and more.

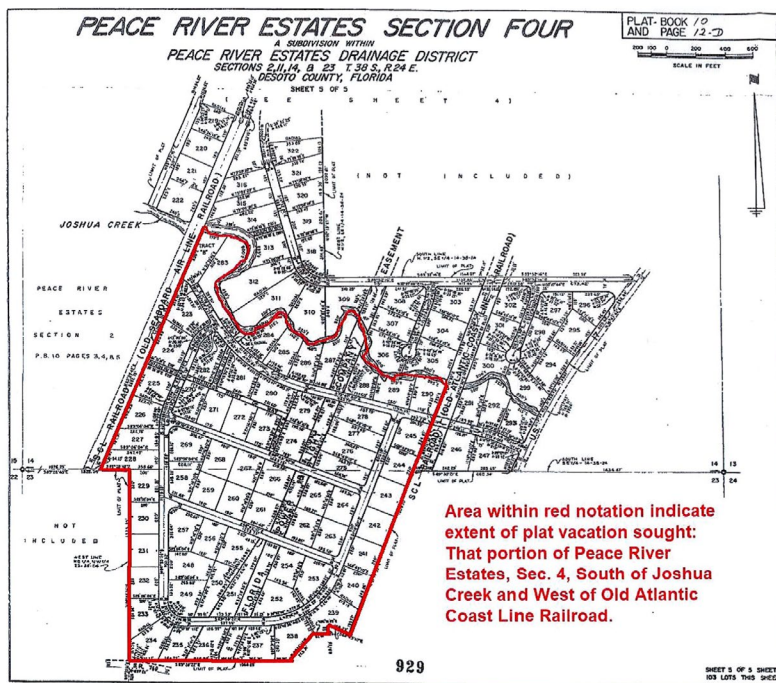
Speaking on behalf of Bridlewood, Alexis Crespo Vice-President of Planning for RVI Planning and Landscape Architecture, said that this request is to "amend our PUD solely to allow for a private onsite wastewater treatment plant . . . utilities were one of the intended reasons to pursue the CDD." She noted that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has already permitted the initial phase of the private wastewater utility.

Neil Montgomery, attorney for Bridlewood, said, "We fully intend to connect to the county's potable water system."

In 2019, the Commission approved the Bridlewood PUD on 411 acres east of U.S. Highway 17 and north of the Walmart Distribution Center #7023, 6785 SW Enterprise Blvd. Crespo also noted that Bridlewood is a large project, "a true mixed-use, live-work community." Not only will the development have 1500 residential units but also 150,000 sq. ft.



The Commissioners approved a private wastewater treatment plant for Bridlewood of Arcadia, located east of U.S. Highway 17 and just north of the County's southern boundary. Image provided.

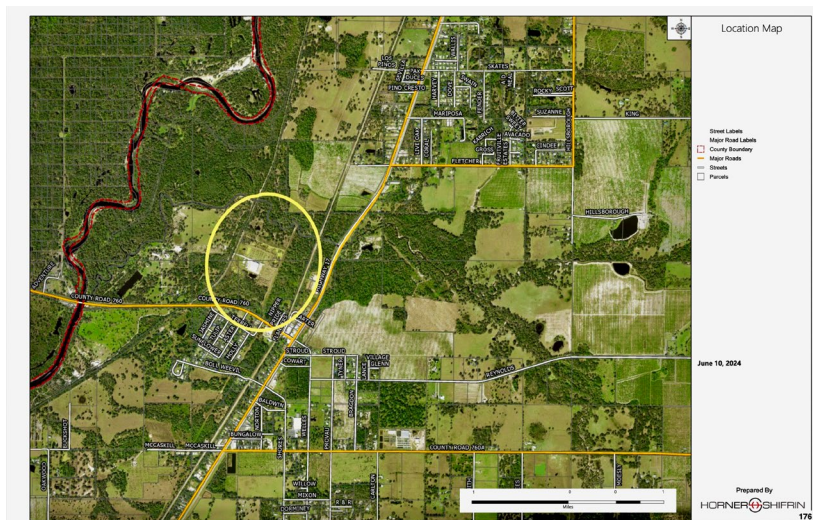


Area within red notation indicate extent of plat vacation sought: That portion of Peace River Estates, Sec. 4, South of Joshua Creek and West of Old Atlantic Coast Line Railroad.

of commercial space (divided equally for office and retail space) plus 1.5 million sq. ft. of "industrial uses, supportive infrastructure, and accessory uses." Thus, residents may live and work without leaving the development.

Owner Michael "Mike" LaMelza said that the factory he had constructed to manufacture the houses was destroyed in Hurricane Ian, and following that, he had medical problems. With his health restored and ready to start again, he must have guaranteed wastewater treatment for the planned 1500 residences to secure funding. He said that the unusual houses are built using steel studs that fit so tightly that energy costs average \$52.00 per month. He expects the homes to sell for \$250,000.00 to \$300,000.00.

County Administrator Mandy Hines had offered the County's available 500 Phase-1 Wastewater ERUs, but she said that the Phase 2 Wastewater Treatment expansion could not supply the additional 1,000 ERUs needed to complete the development. (Utilities Director Greg Harris said that he anticipated the expansion to be online in the fourth quarter of 2026.)



The Board of County Commissioners approved the vacation of the plat for Peace River Estates, Section 4, as requested by Jacobshire, LLC, the property owner.

Jay Ryals, whose property is adjacent to Bridlewood, spoke against the private utility: "If the County isn't in charge of it, so to speak, then the County can't protect the rest of us." Rogelio Capistran, a local contractor, spoke in favor of the utility although he added, "I do wonder what is the benefit for the rest of the community?"

In addition, the Commissioners approved a resolution to revise the Utility Capital Charges for Water and Wastewater as required by F.S. 163.31801 (6) with a 90-day notice as in F.S. 163.3101 (4) (d). The current Water Capital Charge of \$1,910.00 per ERU will be increased in equal amounts of \$136.00 per year over a four-year period to \$2,454.00 per ERU in Year 4. The current Wastewater Capital Charge of \$4,140.00 per ERU will be increased \$282 over a two-year period to \$4,703.00 per ERU in Year 2.

These changes are based on Stantec Consulting's Water and Wastewater Capital Charge Study accepted by the Board on Feb. 27. The Study recommended that the Capital Charges "be revised to reflect current costs to operate the County utility system, sustain

financial stability of the utility system, and ensure that new development pays its own way."

HAWTHORNE CREEK SOLAR ENERGY CENTER

The Commissioners approved the Resolution for the development plan modification to expand an approved photovoltaic solar energy center by adding eight additional parcels (660 acres) to the 12 parcels approved in 2023 for a total of nearly 2004 acres. The Resolution had received a tie vote at the May 28 public hearing after Deriso recused himself because of "any possible or perceived conflict of interest." He recused himself for this vote as well.

FPL Senior Project Manager Meredith Frey of Florida Power and Light (FPL) presented the request and noted that although the County's Land Development Regulations (LDRs) require 2.4 trees and 20 shrubs per 100 feet of buffer, FPL hired Sandhill Native Landscaping to plant three trees and 33 shrubs (native, drought-tolerant species). About 24 months after planting the buffer is

2ND ANNUAL FREEDOM FEST & FIREWORKS A BLAST IN DESOTO COUNTY



The summer heat didn't stop families from celebrating the Fourth of July Thursday in DeSoto County.

The 2nd Annual Freedom Fest & Fireworks celebration at the Turner Agri-Civic Center kicked off around 11 a.m. following the annual Independence Day parade downtown. Hosted by DeSoto County, with support from sponsors Wet & Wild Party Rentals, Preferred Real Estate Arcadia, and Florida Power & Light, the indoor and outdoor Independence Day event was a blast!

By 5 p.m., hundreds of families joined the free admission event, which included bounce houses, foam parties, water slides and more for all ages, as well as live

music, professional wrestling and multiple food and activity vendors.

This is the second year DeSoto County, Wet & Wild and other sponsors have hosted the all-day Freedom Fest & Fireworks event. Freedom Fest concludes with fireworks behind the Turner Agri-Civic Center – a long time tradition in DeSoto County that typically begins around 9 p.m.

By 5 p.m., around 1,500 people had been registered to join the celebration. Those numbers continued to grow throughout the night.



LINKS TO SUCCESS AWARDED \$7,500 GRANT FROM THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SARASOTA COUNTY TO SUPPORT PARENT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



Funding supports an inaugural program to promote child well-being and success in DeSoto County.

Arcadia, Fla. – Links to Success is thrilled to announce the launch of the Parent Leadership Academy (PLA), a groundbreaking program designed to empower parents and families in DeSoto County. Funding for the Parent Leadership Academy is provided by the Parent

Leadership Grant Fund of the Community Foundation of Sarasota County.

The Parent Leadership Academy is a comprehensive program aimed at providing parents with the essential knowledge, skills, and resources they need to advocate effectively for their child's education, health, and overall well-being. Through a series of free workshops, the PLA will equip parents with the necessary tools to become proactive and informed advocates for their children.

The generosity of the Community Foundation allows Links to Success to

host six dynamic workshops for DeSoto parents throughout the 2024-25 school year. Topics include resiliency training, career opportunities, advocacy skills, nutrition education, and communicating with teenagers. These two-hour sessions will accommodate up to twenty parents, and include free child care during the session. Registration for the workshops will be made available in the Fall of 2024.

Carrie Fuller, Director of Strategic Initiatives for Links to Success, expressed her enthusiasm for the new program, stating, "The Parent Leadership Academy is a vital addition to our efforts in

supporting DeSoto County families. We believe that by empowering parents, we can create a ripple effect that will benefit the entire community. We are deeply grateful to the Community Foundation of Sarasota County for their support in making this program a reality."

The funding from the Community Foundation of Sarasota County will enable Links to Success to deliver high-quality workshops, engage expert facilitators, and provide essential resources to participating families.

About Links to Success:

Links to Success is a nonprofit organization in Arcadia, Florida. For over a decade, Links to Success has worked to ensure that youth in DeSoto County graduate with the education and life skills needed to access post-secondary educational opportunities. With a strong emphasis on education, community service, and leadership, Links to Success empowers youth to pursue post-secondary opportunities by providing them with the essential skills, knowledge, and habits necessary for success in their chosen paths. For more information, email links2success@yahoo.com

About the Community Foundation of Sarasota County:

The Community Foundation of Sarasota County is a public charity founded in 1979 by the Southwest Florida Estate Planning Council as a resource for caring individuals and the causes they support, enabling them to make a charitable impact on the community. With assets of \$488 million in more than 1,580 charitable funds, the Community Foundation awarded grants and scholarships totaling \$40 million dollars last year in the areas of education, the arts, health and human services, civic engagement, animal welfare and the environment. Since its founding, the Community Foundation has been able to grant more than \$435.8 million to area nonprofit organizations in our community thanks to the generosity of charitable individuals, families, and businesses. For more information, visit www.CFSarasota.org or call (941) 955-3000.

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ENJOY WRITING WORKSHOP AT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING



CAROL MAHLER
*Independent Contractor
carolmahler22acl@gmail.com
Photos provided*

Christopher Parent, Community Partnership Specialist with Empath Health/Tidewell Hospice serving DeSoto and Charlotte counties, will lead a Personal Legacy Writing Workshop from noon until 1:00 p.m., on Mon., July 15, at the Historical Society meeting. In the McSwain Room of DeSoto Memorial Hospital (DMH), 900 N. Robert Ave., the event is free and open to the public.

At 11:30 a.m., lunch is available for purchase in the DMH cafeteria. At noon, Society Pres. Adrian Cline will introduce Parent. With a B.A. in Fine Arts from Indiana University, he recently became certified as a Laughter Yoga Leader. He will give a free workbook to each attendee plus tips on how to get started with writing your own personal legacy or to help you encourage others to write theirs.

The Society will also have a workshop to document and preserve the history of Hurricane Charley that roared through DeSoto County twenty years ago on August 13, 2004. Between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., on Sat., Aug. 3, you may bring your photographs, documents, and artifacts to the DeSoto County Library, 125 N. Hillsborough Ave., so they may be scanned/recorded. You do not need leave your personal items, but you may donate them if you like. The history gathered



A Community Partnership Specialist with Empath Health/Tidewell Hospice serving DeSoto and Charlotte counties, Christopher Parent will present a Personal Legacy Writing Workshop at the July meeting of the DeSoto County Historical Society.

during the workshop will be on display along with other items in the Hurricane Charley 20th Anniversary Exhibit at the library during regular hours from Aug. 10 to 31.

For more information, contact the Society at 863-266-5774 or online at desotocountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

On Aug. 13, 2004, Hurricane Charley broke the John Morgan Ingraham House, 300 N. Monroe, and swept it off of its foundation, and this photograph shows the damage at the start of restoration. The Society invites you to document and preserve your photographs, documents, and memories of that disaster for a 20th anniversary exhibit at the DeSoto County Library.



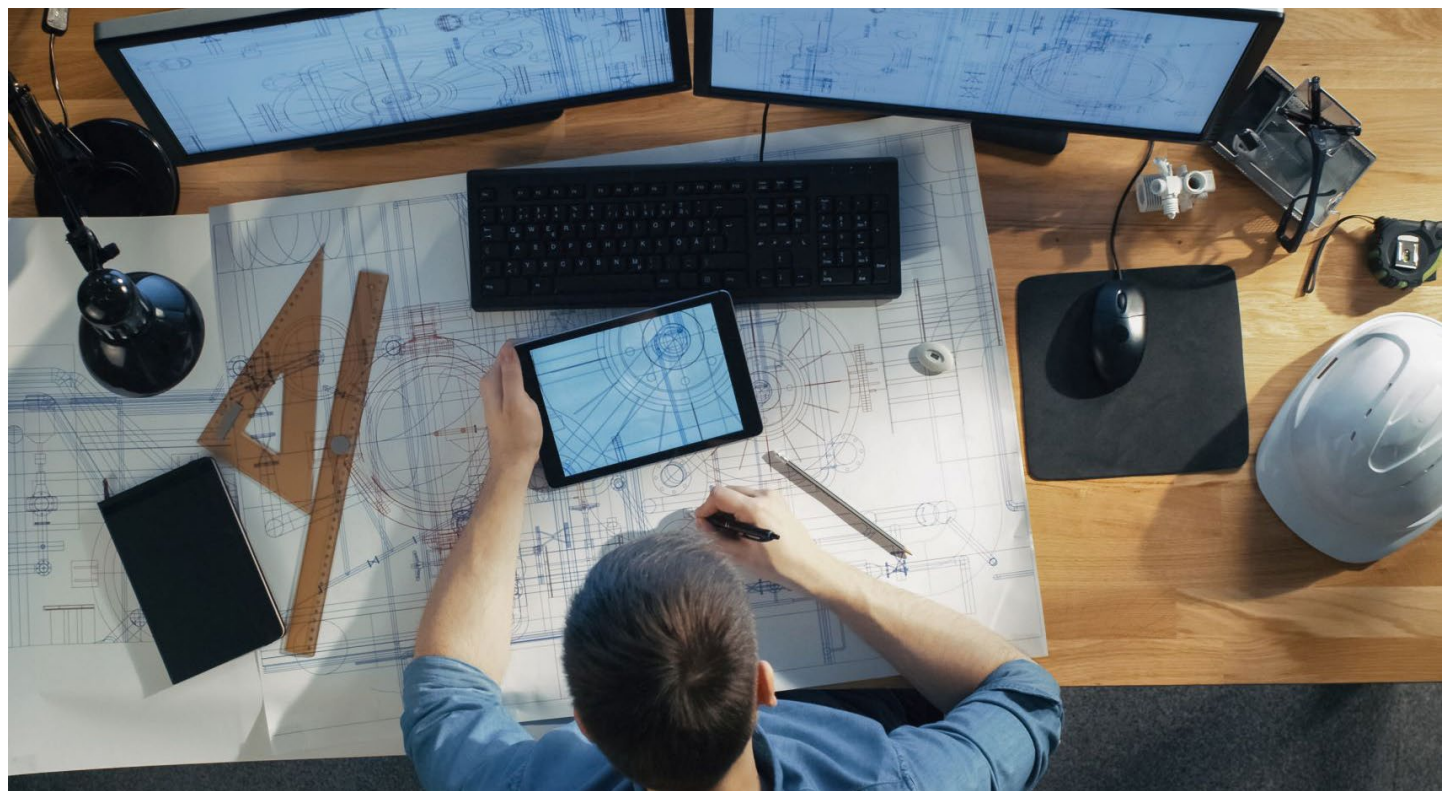
SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE INTRODUCES DRAFTING PROGRAM FOR FALL 2024



AVON PARK, Fla. – June 11, 2024 – South Florida State College (SFSC) is now enrolling students for its new Drafting program that will be housed on its Hardee Campus in Bowling Green, Fla. for fall 2024.

The Drafting Career Certificate is 1,500 contact hours, or 50 career credits, and will include architectural, civil, and multidiscipline drafting. Students will design houses and buildings in 2D and 3D, create digital and manual models, and develop parts and assemblies for machines and electronics. They will also be able to draw up property plans complete with structures and other dwelling and building features. Students will train on architectural software including CAD and other 3D platforms.

“Local businesses reached out to the College requesting a drafting program, which we previously offered but discontinued in 2008 due to



decreased demand as a result of the Great Recession,” said Tom Bush, department chair for technical and industrial education at SFSC. “Now that there’s a local economic upturn and real estate development is on the rise, local employers have expressed a need for

qualified drafters in the local job market and throughout Florida. We are excited to bring this program back and support the regional economy.”

Graduates of the Drafting program can pursue careers in architectural and civil drafting with an average annual salary of

\$60,000 in Florida.

To learn more about the Drafting program at SFSC or to enroll, call 863-784-7061 or email AdvisingHardee@southflorida.edu. Financial aid is available for those who qualify.

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES

WHAT DOES GOD WANT YOU TO DO?

DAVID VANAMAN

*Retired Pastor and Teacher
DeSoto Ministerial Association*

The Bible gives a number of instructions as to what God wants His children to do. Let's look at two of them.

Preach. In Mark 16:15, Jesus tells his followers go everywhere and preach to everyone. This is a proactive command to all believers. Not every believer can personally go everywhere on the face of the earth. However, every believer can, and is expected, to preach as they go. Every believer should think of their personal daily activities as the "everywhere". They should be preaching the Gospel in the grocery store, the mall, the park, at school activities... wherever you go!

You may hesitate, "I don't want people to think I'm some kind of Holy-Roller or a religious nut". You may think, "When someone asks me, I'll tell them". Remember, it was and still is a proactive command. All believers are to actively preach the Gospel. Now, it might help you if you understand that the word preach does not mean give a sermon. Preach simply means to testify, to tell, to talk about... Let others know your relationship to God is not just about going to church and praying before you eat.

Memorize some verses that have been helpful to you and apply them to public situations. You don't have to "preach" to witness to the person fixing your car or serving your meal. Prayerfully ask God to guide you and speak through you. Ask Him to help you to testify.

Study. Before you can properly represent your Savior, you need to know something about Him and this is where many believers fall short. Some may recall what the pastor said last Sunday, but few can recall what Paul said to Timothy. Paul said every believer is to be a student of the Word! You are not required to get a degree in theology, but 2 Timothy 2:15 requires us to personally read, study, and know what God said.

We should endeavor to put time into our relationship with our Savior. Firstly, 1 Peter 3:15 instructs us to sanctify the Lord God in your heart, i.e., set Him apart as special. I have been married 45 years now. Christine is not just some woman I married. She puts up with me, forgives me, helps me, loves me; she is special and set apart from every other woman. God is to be set apart in your life from everything else. Secondly, Paul instructs us to always be ready to give an answer. This instruction relies on us taking 2 Timothy 2:15 seriously. Second Timothy 2:15 states, "Study to shew thyself

approved unto God" – not your pastor, priest, or Sunday-school teacher. God is our approving authority. Thirdly, Paul instructs us to say what we believe and why we believe it. You won't know if you don't study. Fourthly, Paul instructs us to testify in meekness and fear, i.e., with humility and respect. Time spent in the Word with God prepares us for speaking with others.

Here's how I frequently respond to "How's your day?" I say, "Peachy, God is

good every day and twice on Tuesdays". This usually gets a chuckle. Then I add, "You know, that's Biblically true. Read Genesis chapter 1 and see for yourself. God says 'it is good' twice on the third day of the week, Tuesday. And we have Taco Tuesdays!" It often opens the door for meaningful response or discussion. What does God want you to do? Preach and study. Learn about Him and tell others.



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SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE ANNOUNCES NEW ENROLLMENT MARKETING CAMPAIGN



AVON PARK, Fla. – July 2, 2024 – South Florida State College (SFSC) created and launched a new enrollment marketing campaign that focuses on the needs and concerns of its students and prospective students. The new campaign features the many faces and programs at SFSC, and its tagline is: It's Possible.

The campaign focuses on the understanding that students have worries and preconceived ideas about college that lead to the hesitation to enroll or pursue their personal or professional goals. At SFSC, we want to dispel these myths and let prospective students know that there are options for them.

"At SFSC, we work to serve our tri-county region, its residents, and the unique and significant challenges they face every day," said Melissa Kuehnle, director of institutional communications at

SFSC. "I am proud to announce our new marketing campaign that puts the needs of our students at its heart. This campaign respects and understands the obstacles that our students face but lets them know that we are here to support them and offer them the resources and education that they need to build a successful and prosperous future. We want our students to feel seen, heard, and valued as members of the SFSC family."

In the coming months, print, outdoor, digital, and social media advertising will appear on platforms throughout DeSoto, Hardee, and Highlands counties to project the message that an individual's goals, dreams, and opportunities are possible. Through its academic programs, student services, and employment training, SFSC offers answers and comfort where prospective students only see questions and confusion.

For more information about SFSC, call 863-784-7447, email recruiter@southflorida.edu, or visit southflorida.edu.

IT'S POSSIBLE TO AFFORD COLLEGE.

SOUTH FLORIDA State College

southflorida.edu

SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE RECEIVES \$1.9 MILLION IN STATE FUNDING TO UPGRADE DENTAL CLINIC



AVON PARK, Fla. – June 18, 2024 – South Florida State College (SFSC) is grateful to Governor Ron DeSantis for approving \$1,975,000 in legislative funds to upgrade the Dental Education facility and equipment on the Highlands Campus in Avon Park.

"We thank Governor DeSantis, Representative Tuck, Senator Grall, and the entire legislature for their dedication and focus on education in Florida," said Fred Hawkins, president of SFSC. "As a result of this funding, our students will be better prepared for careers in modern dentistry."

The state funding will support the purchase of equipment to outfit 13-15 operatories, focusing on ergonomic design, which increases the Dental Clinic capacity by 25%. An upgrade to technology will include up-to-date 3D technology and digital clinic and lab operations, such as printing, scanning, X-rays, and intra-oral cameras. The purchase will also incorporate patient simulators, student workspaces, debriefing spaces, student computers, and technological accessories.

"South Florida State College is a



shining star in Central Florida's own backyard," said Dr. Steven M. Guelff, DMD, an orthodontist with offices in Lake Wales and Sebring, Fla. "The nearly \$2 million grant for the Dental program is a game changer."

SFSC will creatively expand and enhance the learning opportunities available to students in its Dental Education programs to prepare for the

increasing complexities of the healthcare environment that students enter upon graduation. Dental training requires a setting that mirrors contemporary dental practice, and these funds will provide the resources needed to modernize and update the 20-year-old Dental Education clinic and lab spaces to provide a holistic healthcare setting.

SFSC's Dental Clinic provides patient

care to community members. It allows for student clinical competency attainment through screenings, dental hygiene therapy, X-rays, fluoride treatments, sealants, and patient education.

For more information about the Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting programs at SFSC, call 863-784-7225 or email healthsciences@southflorida.edu.

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 To participate as a Community Contributor, email: editorial@peacerrivershopper.com

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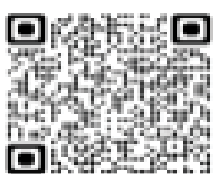
**Walk-in interviews
every Wednesday 9am-noon**

*Wellpath Recovery Solutions/Florida Civil Commitment Center
13619 Hwy 70 Arcadia, Florida 34266 (10.5 miles east of Walmart)
(863) 491-4800 To apply please visit [Wellpathcare.com/careers/](https://www.wellpathcare.com/careers/)*

We have jobs and careers in security (\$21), nursing (\$23-38), direct care (\$15-16), mental health therapist, maintenance, food service and more...

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Florida Civil Commitment Center

13619 SE Hwy 70, Arcadia FL 34266 (863)491-4800

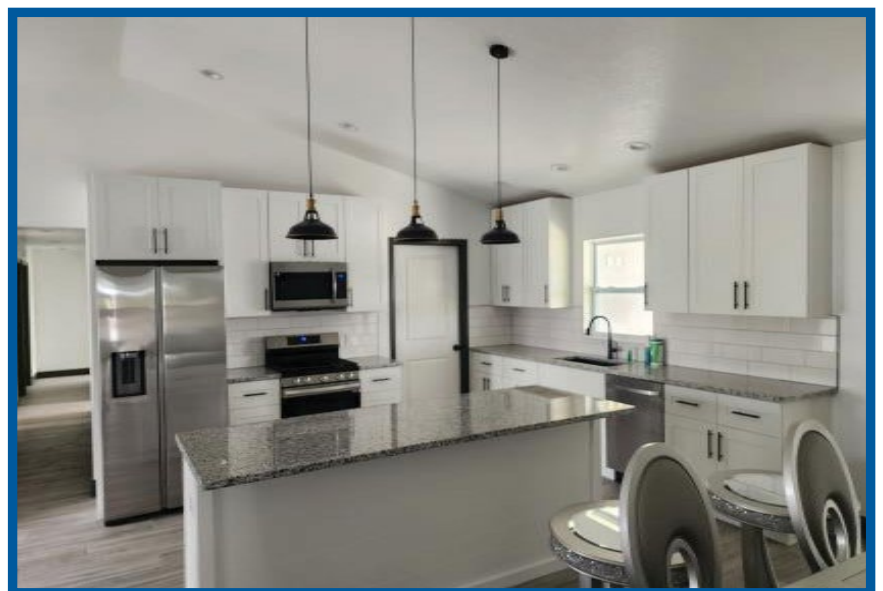


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PUBLIC NOTICE

Requesting Public Comment

Arcadia-DeSoto County Habitat for Humanity (DeSoto Habitat) is requesting public comment about DeSoto Habitat's application for a "Section 533 Housing Preservation" grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The grant will be used to repair homes of low to very-low income families in rural DeSoto County, Florida. This project involves the rehabilitation of one to twenty homes in rural DeSoto County, Florida. Typical DeSoto Habitat projects could include roof replacement, bathroom repair, kitchen repair, window repair, flooring replacement, safety issues, etc. All comments should be sent to Jennifer Bowser, Arcadia-DeSoto County Habitat for Humanity, P.O. Box 2096, Arcadia, FL 34265 by July 27, 2024.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Requesting Public Comment

Arcadia-DeSoto County Habitat for Humanity (DeSoto Habitat) is requesting public comment about DeSoto Habitat's application for a "Section 533 Housing Preservation/ 2022 Presidentially Declared Disaster Areas" grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The grant will be used to repair Hurricane Ian storm-damaged homes of low to very-low income families in rural DeSoto County, Florida. This project involves the rehabilitation of one to five homes in rural DeSoto County, Florida. Typical DeSoto Habitat projects could include roof replacement, interior and external repair, window and door replacement, flooring replacement, safety issues, etc. All comments should be sent to Jennifer Bowser, Arcadia-DeSoto County Habitat for Humanity, P.O. Box 2096, Arcadia, FL 34265 by July 27, 2024.



OBITUARIES

PATRICIA JUNE GILLIARD GUNTER



Our beloved momma and nana, Patricia June Gilliard Gunter, went home to be with the Lord on June 21, 2024. She was 74.

Pat leaves behind three daughters: Tammy (David) Albritton, Kimberly (Lawton) Davis and Jackie (Michael) King; six grandchildren: Billy "Bubby Boy" (Jessica) Taylor, Jaclyn "Tootie" (Russell) Rizzo, Brandon (Karl) Taylor, Lawton "Wud" (Shelby) Davis, Lillian "Sunny" (John) Brown and Shelby Taylor; sixteen great-grandchildren: Joni, Bailey "WooWoo", Kylee, Alyssa (Sass), Phillip, Ryder, Braxton,

Carson, Lawton "Chip", Kymberlee, Kinleigh "Fance", Cameron, Bryson "Brother", Leighton, Aidan "AJ", Brynleigh and many other family members and friends who loved her and will miss her tremendously. Pat also leaves behind ex-husband Jackie Gunter.

Pat was preceded in death by her parents James "Luddie" and Wilma "Sug" Cross Gilliard, two brothers James "Jimmy" Gilliard and Rodney Gilliard. She missed them so much, we know she is happy and excited being able to see them again.

Pat was known for her love of family and her kind heart. She was the heart of our family, and she will be dearly missed. Pat enjoyed celebrating the holidays, cooking and working in her yard.

For twenty five years Pat ran a home day care, loving and caring for our towns little ones. Each child held a special place in her heart.

Our family extends an invitation to all who want to celebrate Pat's life. The celebration will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 17th, 2024 at Fort Ogdan Baptist Church with lunch to follow.

PENNY LYNN RODRIGUEZ



Penny Lynn Rodriguez, 62, a resident of Cape Coral, FL for the past 40 years, formerly of Arcadia, FL, passed away Thursday, June 6, 2024 in Cape Coral. She was born December 11, 1961 in Rockledge, FL.

Penny attended DeSoto County High School and graduated class of 1980. She moved to Lee County after high school and began modeling while also earning her cosmetology degree. She has also earned a degree as a medical assistant and worked in that field for many years. Penny then went on to work in a multitude of different

industries including food service, hospitality, and retail.

Penny was well known for the beautiful cards she sent family and friends on special occasions. In each card was a shiny new penny.

She is survived by her loving fiancé, Jerry Cavey of Cape Coral; father, James "Jim" Louis Myers (Rita) of Arcadia, FL; son, Ryan Rodriguez (Joy) of Fort Myers, FL; sisters, Pam Lamp (Mike) of Sebring, FL, Pat Backer (Tim) of Arcadia, FL, Peggy Newberry (Ray) of Arcadia, FL, and Patience Davis (Gary) of Arcadia, FL; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Penny was preceded in death by her mother, Deloris Cox Myers.

A Celebration of Life was held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, June 15, 2024 at North Hillsborough Baptist Church, 253 N. Hillsborough Ave, Arcadia, FL 34266.

Friends are invited to send condolences via the on-line guest book which can be found at www.MullinsMemorial.com.

Mullins Memorial Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Cape Coral, is entrusted with final care.

CROSSWORD

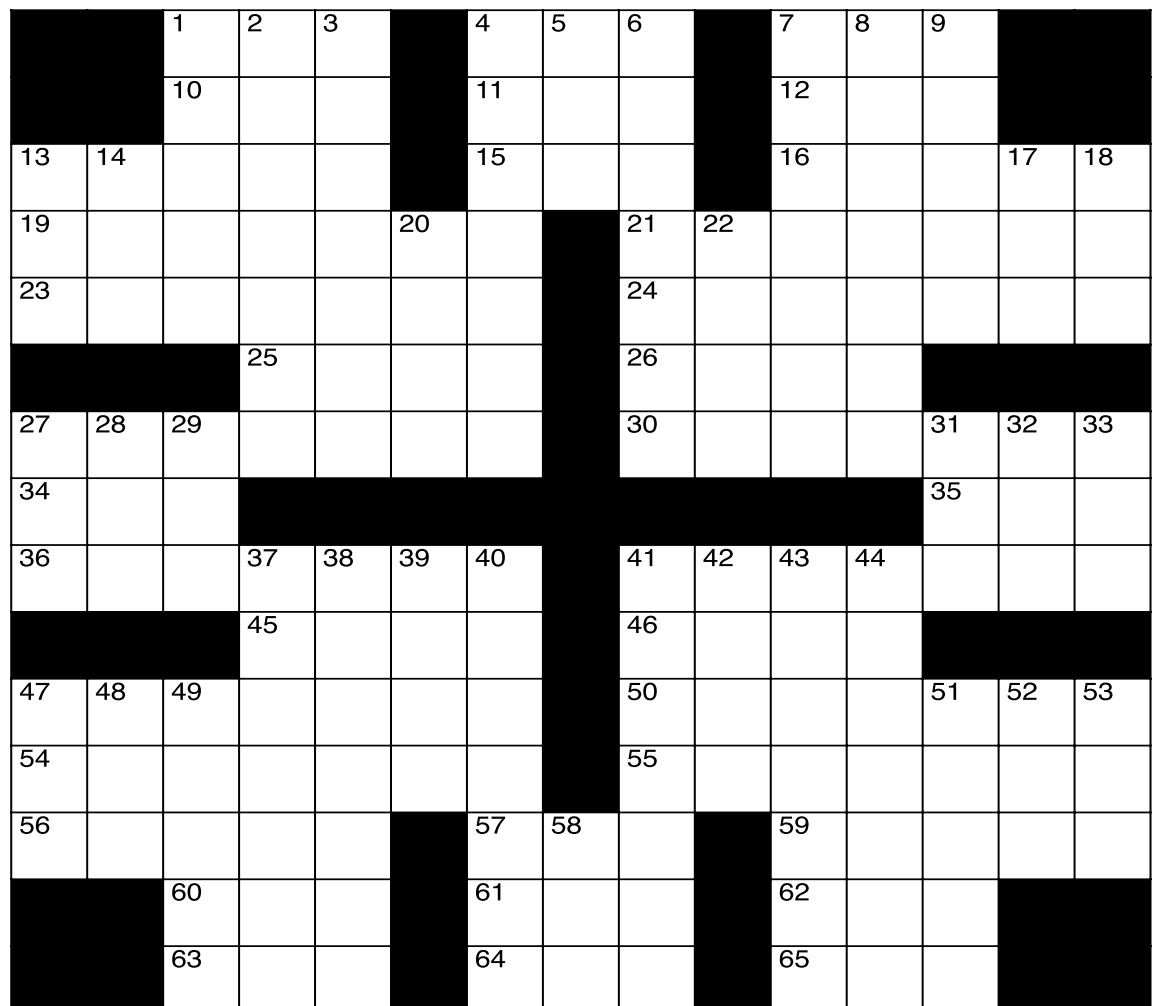
CLUES ACROSS

1. Midway between south and southeast
4. For each
7. Airborne (abbr.)
10. Photographs
11. They __
12. It's important in respiration (abbr.)
13. Monetary unit
15. Cool!
16. A son of Jacob
19. Cut off
21. Devour
23. Agent of one's downfall
24. Best
25. Network of nerves
26. Partner to 'oohs'
27. Origins
30. Sewing utensil
34. Alias
35. Swiss river
36. Greek mythological figure
41. Type of whiskey
45. Lay to rest
46. 'Rule, Britannia' composer
47. Select jury
50. Feeling
54. Action regarded as morally wrong
55. Makes angry
56. Act incorrectly
57. Defensive nuclear weapon
59. Class of escort aircraft carrier

60. To what degree
61. Buzzing insect
62. The human foot
63. 'The Leftovers' actress Dowd
64. A place to stay
65. Sun up in New York

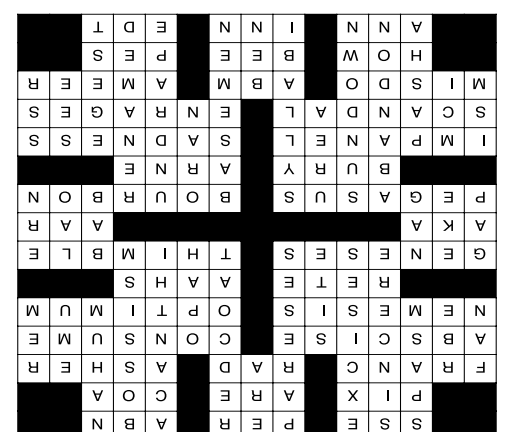
CLUES DOWN

1. An involuntary muscular contraction
2. Earnest
3. Cuts out surgically
4. Can't move
5. Baseball stat
6. British soldier
7. Traditional medicine plants
8. Political party controlled by managers
9. Hebrew prophet
13. Supporter
14. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
17. Liberty Mutual mascot
18. Georgia rockers
20. A place where building is done
22. Large, deep-bodied fish
27. Clothing retailer
28. Supplement with difficulty
29. Annoy constantly
31. Founder of Babism
32. Indigenous person in parts of Asia
33. Sea eagle



37. Leave behind
38. Time of day
39. Colorless crystalline compound
40. They lay out course requirements
41. A diamond has three
42. Algerian coastal city
43. Remove cover
44. Rechristened
47. Distinctive practice
48. Defunct phone company

49. Turkish officer of high rank
51. Eliminate from the body
52. Witness
53. Soviet Socialist Republic
58. Founding Father Franklin



DESOTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



ARREST REPORT | 6/28/24 - 7/4/24

Apple, Gary Lee:

Prob Violation

Carrino, Alexander James:

Prob Violation

Kosto, Michael:

Out Of County Warrant

Wilson, Devonte Renard:

Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Drive While Lic Susp 1St Off, Out Of County Warrant

Bailey, Sedecky Kiron:

Marijuana-Possess - With Intent To Sell Mfg Or Deliver Schedule I, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use (X2), Cocaine-Possess - With Intent To Sell Mfg Deliv Etc Schedule Ii, Cocaine-Possess - Wit Sell Etc Wi 1000Ft Worship/Busn Sch Ii (X3)

Choreno, Marcos J:

Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Drive While Lic Susp 1St Off

Martinez, Felix Perez:

Out Of County Warrant

Wilson, Williard Joseph:

Disorderly Intox - Disorder Intox Public Place Cause Disturbance

Barrios, Selvin Emiliano:

Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Operate Motor Vehicle Wo Valid License

Dennis, Branda Christa:

Aggrav Battery - Person Uses A Deadly Weapon, Marijuana-Possess - Not More Than 20 Grams, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use

Opsahl, Brayden John:

Resist Officer - Obstruct Wo Violence

Palafox, Alexis Abraham:

Battery - Touch Or Strike, Drugs-Possess - Cntrl Sub Wo Prescription, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use

Richardson, Sarah Jean:

Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Drive With Suspended Revoked License

Blanc, Junior:

Flee/Elude Police - Fail To Obey Leo Order To Stop

Johnson, Jeremy Michael:

Prob Violation

Simmons, Matthew Ward:

Out Of County Warrant

Byers, Andy:

Burgl - Unoccupied Dwelling Unarmed, Larc - Grand Theft 5K Less Than 10K Dols, Veh Theft - Grand Theft Of Motor Vehicle, Stolen Prop-Deal In

Kilpatrick, William Edward:

Cocaine-Possess - Possess Cocaine, Marijuana-Possess - Not More Than 20 Grams, Drug Equip-Possess - And Or Use, Nonmoving Traffic Viol - Drive While Lic Susp 2Nd Off

Vieira, Jairson Lima:

Failure To Appear - Written Promise To Appear (X2)

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.

At West Elementary School,

LEADERS ARE

READERS!



At Florida Power & Light Company, it is an honor for our linemen and team members to mentor children as part of the Anna Maria Oyster Bar's Dive Into Reading program! Together, our goal is to make a positive impact on students' reading skills during the summer.

Thank you to the School District of DeSoto County, and all who mentor and support this important initiative!



WASTEWATER

FROM PAGE 4 >>

expected to provide 100% opacity.

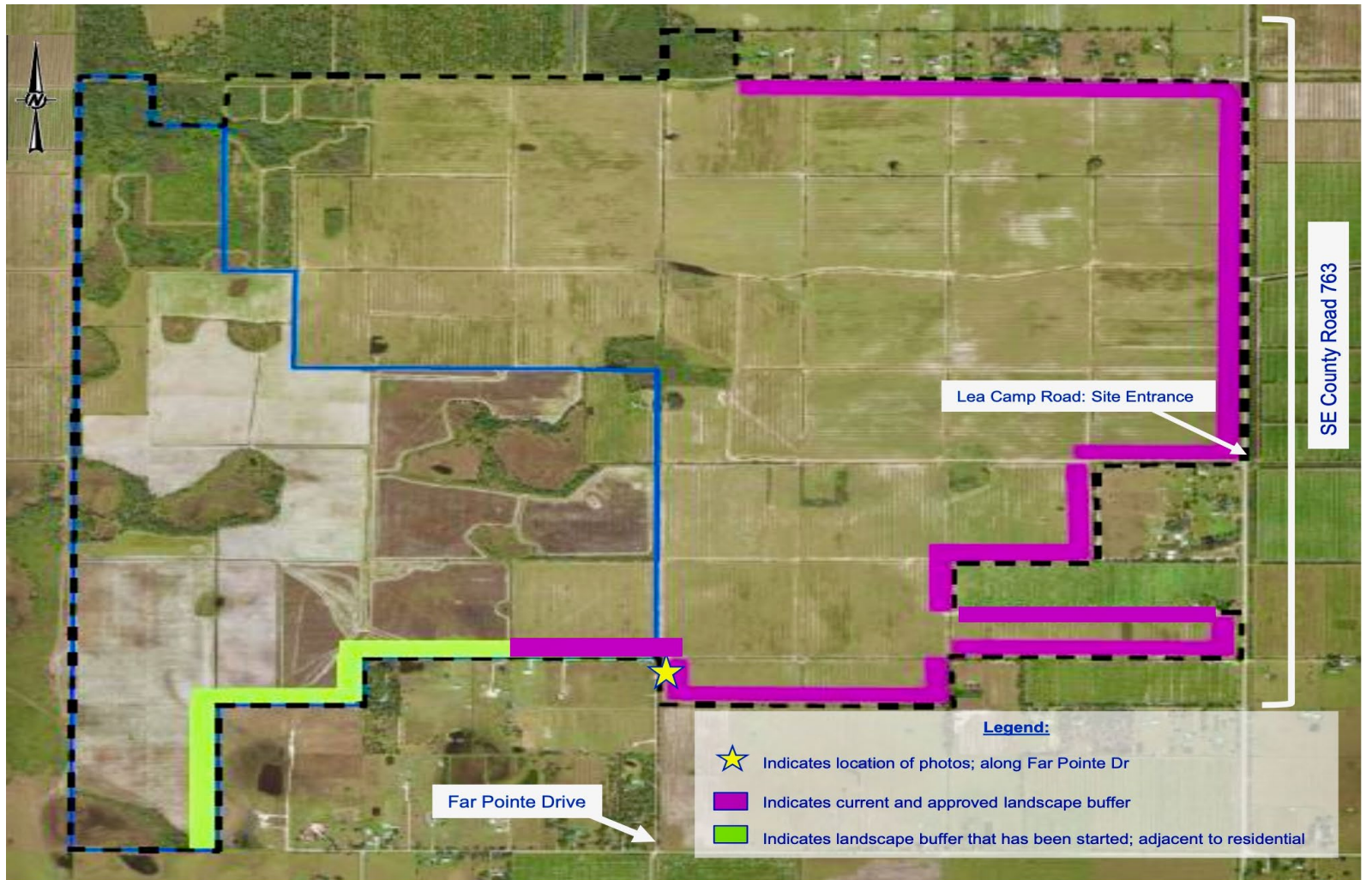
Landscape Architect Kristen Alexis said, "What this buffer can achieve is more of a naturalized buffer that you're used to seeing . . . along the sides of the roads out here where it creates that really thick, hard-to-see through buffer that you won't be able to see the [solar] panels through."

Living across McClelland Dr. from the Hawthorne Creek SEC, Dawn D'Amelia voiced her opposition to the expansion. However, a neighbor on Hog Bay Rd. (C.R. 763), Laren Harmon, said, "I've lived on that road for darn nearly 50 years, and I have good neighbors now, and they just happen to be solar panels. It's clean energy."

Langford, who opposed the expansion at the May 28 hearing, said, "I really don't like this, but it's been passed by the State. We have to kinda follow suit. If not, we're . . . breaking a law if we don't do it, but I do want folks out here to know that I will be lobbying on this pretty hard in Tallahassee to get this deal changed because I do not believe that the State should intervene in county business, and

that's kinda what they've done here by saying that we have to approve these solar arrays in these agricultural-land use categories."

The Commissioners also approved the second reading of an Ordinance / LDR Amendment for Sections 20-1650, 20-126 through 20-147, and 20-536 because "the regulation of solar facilities is mostly preempted by F.S. 163.3205 . . . [and] new solar facilities are allowable in all agricultural Future



With landscape buffers on the boundaries of neighboring residential properties, the 660-acre expansion of FPL's Hawthorn Creek Solar Energy Center was approved at the June 25 meeting.

Land Use designations and certain agricultural zoning districts . . . [plus] the buffer criteria may not exceed the requirements for similar uses involving the construction of other facilities that are permitted uses" in those categories and districts.

In addition, the Commission adopted the Resolution approving the vacation of

plat on the property (about 114 acres), owned by Jacobshire, LLC, located between Joshua Creek (to the north), the old Seaboard Air Line Railroad (to the west), old Atlantic Coastline Railroad (to the east), and C.R. 760 (to the south) within Peace River Estates, Section 4, in Section 02, 14, and 23, Township 38, Range 24 in DeSoto County.

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JULY 2024 USDA FOOD DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULE



SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Additional food assistance sites can be found at <https://www.allfaithsfoodbank.org/foodfinder/>

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services contracts with All Faiths Food Bank to distribute free U.S. Department of Agriculture commodities.

Eligible residents will receive nine to 12 free commodities.

Distribution will be at these sites; *schedules are subject to change:*

NORTH SARASOTA COUNTY

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH:
THURSDAYS (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS),
3-4:30 P.M.
 1680 18th St., Sarasota, FL 34234
 941-955-8834

BOOKER MIDDLE SCHOOL:
JULY 1 & 15, 5-6:30 P.M.
 2250 Myrtle St., Sarasota, FL 34234
 941-379-6333

BRENTWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:
JULY 8, 5-6:30 P.M.
 2500 Vinson Ave., Sarasota, FL 34232
 941-379-6333

CHURCH OF THE PALMS:
MONDAY-FRIDAY (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS),
10 A.M. - 1 P.M.
JULY 12 & 26, 5-7 P.M.
 3224 Bee Ridge Rd., Sarasota, FL 34239
 941-924-1323

ED SMITH STADIUM: JULY 13, 9-10:30 A.M.
 2700 12th St., Sarasota, FL 34237 – 941-379-6333

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH:
JULY 22, 5-6:30 P.M.
 601 Honore Ave., Sarasota, FL 34237
 941-379-6333

FRUITVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:
JULY 17, 5-6:30 P.M.
 601 Honore Ave., Sarasota, FL 34232
 941-379-6333

GLASSER SCHOENBAUM CENTER:
JULY 19, 9-11 A.M.
 1750 17th St., Sarasota, FL 34234 – 941-379-6333

GRACELIFE FOOD PANTRY:
MONDAYS (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS),
12-1:30 P.M.
 1801 N Lockwood Ridge Rd., Sarasota, FL 34234
 941-539-9249

GULF GATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:
JULY 16, 5-6:30 P.M.
 6500 S Lockwood Ridge Rd., Sarasota, FL 34231
 941-379-6333

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:
JULY 25, 4:30-6:30 P.M.
 3131 61st St., Sarasota, FL 34243 – 941-355-4729

SALVATION ARMY TUTTLE:
FOOD PANTRY: MONDAYS/THURSDAYS
(EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS) 12-2 P.M.
SERVED MEAL: TUESDAYS (EXCLUDING
HOLIDAYS) 12-2 P.M.
 1701 S Tuttle Ave, Sarasota, FL 34239
 941-364-8846

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH:
SATURDAYS (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS),
9-10:30 A.M.
 2256 Bahia Vista St., Sarasota, FL 34239
 941-955-6479

ST. WILFRED EPISCOPAL CHURCH:
FRIDAYS (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS), 1-3 P.M.
 3773 Wilkinson Rd., Sarasota, FL 34233
 941-924-7436

THE HARVEST FOOD PANTRY: THURSDAYS
(EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS), 10 A.M. - 12 P.M.
 3650 17th St., Sarasota, FL 34235 – 941-953-3559

VAN WEZEL: JULY 27, 9-10:30 A.M.
 777 N. Tamiami Trl., Sarasota, FL 34236
 941-379-6333

SOUTH SARASOTA COUNTY

7TH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH:
JULY 9 & 23, 11 A.M. - 1 P.M.
 4330 S Biscayne Dr., North Port, FL 34287
 941-586-1436

ATWATER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:
JULY 25, 5-6:30 P.M.
 4701 Huntsville Ave., North Port, FL 34288
 941-379-6333

AWAKEN CHURCH:
TUESDAYS/THURSDAYS/SATURDAYS, 9 A.M. -
1 P.M.; WEDNESDAYS, 3-7 P.M.;
FRIDAYS, 9 A.M. - 12 P.M.
 4940 Pan American Blvd., North Port, FL 34287
 941-200-2739

ENGLEWOOD ELKS LODGE:
JULY 1, 10-11A.M.
 401 N Indiana Ave., Englewood, FL 34223
 941-379-6333

ENGLEWOOD HELPING HAND:
WEDNESDAYS & THURSDAYS
(EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS) 8 A.M. -1 P.M.;
JULY 3 & 17, 4:30-6:30 P.M.
 700 E Dearborn St., Englewood, FL 34223
 941-474-5864

FLY AWAY UNTO THE LORD INTERNATIONAL
MINISTRIES: JULY 13 & 27, 2-3 P.M.
 12450 Tamiami Trl. Unit F, North Port, FL 34287
 941-237-9286

GLENALLEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:
JULY 18, 5-6:30 P.M.
 7050 Glenallen Blvd., North Port, FL 34287
 941-379-6333

GOOD SHEPHERD:
JULY 3 & 17, 10-11:30 A.M.
 1115 Center Rd., Venice, FL 34292
 941-497-7286

LAMARQUE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:
JULY 10, 5:30- 7 P.M.
 3415 Lamarque Ave., North Port, FL 34286
 941-379-6333

LAUREL CIVIC ASSOCIATION:
JULY 3 & 18, 10 A.M. - 12 P.M. & 4-6 P.M.
 509 Collins Rd., Nokomis, FL 34275
 941-483-3338

NOKOMIS PARK COMM CTR:
JULY 10 & 24, 11 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
 234 Nippino Trl., Nokomis, FL 34275
 941-379-6333

SALVATION ARMY VENICE:
MONDAYS/TUESDAYS/THURSDAYS/FRIDAYS
(EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS) 10 A.M. - 12 P.M. & 1-3
P.M.
 1051 Albee Farm Rd., Venice, FL 34285
 941-484-6227

ST. NATHANIEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH:
JULY 18, 10-11:30 A.M.
 4200 S Biscayne Dr., North Port, FL 34287
 941-426-2520

THE CENTER OF HOPE: STARTING JULY
9TH EVERY TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS
(EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS), 8-11 A.M.
 2395 Shamrock Dr., Venice, FL 34293
 941-412-9044

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:
TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
(EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS), 9-10:30 A.M.
 4365 State Rd. 776, Venice, FL 34293
 941-492-6384

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:
MONDAYS (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS)
9 A.M. - 12 P.M.
 4285 Wesley Ln., North Port, FL 34287
 941-426-1734

TRINITY UMC CHURCH: JULY 3, 4:30-6 P.M.
 4285 Wesley Ln., North Port, FL, 34287|
 941-379-6333

VENICE MIDDLE SCHOOL:
JULY 11, 5-6:30 P.M.
 1900 Center Rd. Venice, FL 34292
 941-379-6333

DESOTO COUNTY

7TH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH:
JULY 18, 10-11:30 A.M.
 2865 SE Ami Dr., Arcadia, FL 34266
 941-379-6333

CATHOLIC CHARITIES DESOTO COUNTY
FOOD PANTRY: MONDAYS - PLEASE CALL
FIRST; WALK-IN ONLY.
JULY 5 & 19, 9-11 A.M. - LAST NAME (A-M)
JULY 12 & 26, 9-11A.M. - LAST NAME (N-Z)
 1210 E Oak St., Arcadia, FL 34266
 863-884-2134

DESOTO FOOD AND RESOURCE CENTER:
MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS
(EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS), 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.
THURSDAYS, 2-6 P.M.
 1021 E Oak St., Arcadia, FL 34266
 941-379-6333

SOUTH FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE:
JULY 9 & 23, 4:30-6 P.M.
 2251 NE Turner Ave., Arcadia, FL 34266
 941-379-6333

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FOR ALL POSITIONS, DAY AND NIGHT SHIFTS AVAILABLE.
APPLY IN PERSON



Join our Growing and Successful Team ... If you haven't heard, We expanded and built a 2ND PLANT!! Right here in Arcadia!

Competitive Wages, Guaranteed Overtime, Paid-Time Off, Holiday Pay, 401k, Medical, Dental and Vision Insurance. All positions of Hands-On Training. If you are selected for an interview; you will also be given a Plant Tour, please dress appropriately for the environment. (Closed Toe Shoes, No Shorts, No Tank Tops)

Day Shift **MONDAY - FRIDAY** 6:00AM - 6:30PM
Night Shift **MONDAY - FRIDAY** 6:00PM - 6:30AM

Batch Mixer Operator:

Mechanics install and inspect machines and electrical equipment and carry out preventive maintenance to ensure that industrial machines remain operational. Troubleshoot reported problems and resolve in a timely manner. Conduct repairs aiming for maximum efficiency and reliability. Excellent communication and problem-solving ability.

Rotary Kiln Operator:

Responsible for operating the industrial kiln that are used to dry, heat, and harden various materials. Monitor temperatures, conveyor settings, Maintain records and test data and communicate with Quality and Production managers. Basic maintenance, cleaning, and troubleshooting.

Forklift Operator:

Use equipment to lift heavy materials, goods, or equipment. Need to be skilled at maneuvering throughout the facility while adhering to all safety protocols. Basic maintenance, cleaning, and troubleshooting.

QC/Sealer Operator:

An important step in our manufacturing process, maintains the spray booth and associated equipment, and quality checks. Maintain records and test data and communicate with Quality and Production managers. Basic maintenance, cleaning, and troubleshooting.

Extruder Operator:

Responsible for setting up the machine that shapes the finished product. Mechanical skills are a must, and attention to detail. Maintain a clean work environment and follow safety regulations. Maintain records and test data and communicate with Quality and Production managers. Basic maintenance, cleaning, and troubleshooting.

Robotic Packer Operator:

Operating and basic maintenance of the packaging machine and ensuring that finalized products are ready for distribution. Meticulous attention to detail and the ability to troubleshoot minor problems. A solution-driven individual who can prioritize and time efficient. Maintain records and test data and communicate with Quality and Production managers. Basic maintenance, cleaning, and troubleshooting.

Apply in person at: **6018 SW Highway 72 • Arcadia, FL 34266**
Questions? Call Dawn McIntyre: **Human Resources, 863-993-4004 x108**