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CRA Board Deadlocks Again

Hernandez Grant Request Stymied For Third Time

by Joe Potter

For the third time in three months the Community Redevelopment Agency was unable to reach a decision on a grant request from ANPM Enterprises.

Mayor Camille Hernandez's husband, David Hernandez, owns ANPM Enterprises and his company has a two-story building in downtown Dade City.

David Hernandez is trying to obtain \$9,550 to replace transom windows at 14131, 14133 and 14135 Seventh St.

He did not attend Tuesday's meeting. Members of the Dade City Commission sit as CRA board members.

The agency's purview consists of an approximately 1,700-acre area of the city that has been identified as blighted. There are two CRA districts in Dade City; the first was created

CRA • Continued on Page 6A

Sparklebration Adds Karaoke

You Could Be A Winner On The 4th

Staff Report

Every year the 4th of July Sparklebration delivers more smiles per contest than any other entertainment around.

Whether it's chomping hot dogs or watermelon, wiggling around in a hula-hoop or belting out Karaoke for prize money, it's almost as fun competing as it is watching the varied contests.

It wouldn't be Sparklebration without the fireworks and the Zambelli group will be blasting them above the Pasco County Fairgrounds a little after 9 p.m. on July 4, weather permitting.

"We're planning an old-fashioned celebration, with a little bit of modern added in," said Tracy J. Thompson, chairman of the event and director of the Pasco County Fair Association.

Sparklebration • Continued on Page 3A



Weather permitting, the fireworks display will begin a little after 9 p.m. at the Pasco County Fairgrounds. *File Photo*



Ayanna Bates, 3, of Lacochee, completed an obstacle course that involved balance, crawling through hoops, running and bouncing on a ball.

Photo by Richard K. Riley

Non-Profit Focuses On Family 'Color Me Abstract' Gives Parents A Night Out

by Keri McAlpine

One of Pasco County's up and coming non-profit organizations, Color Me Abstract, made their east Pasco debut last weekend at the Pioneer Florida Museum & Village.

They hosted a family field day across the museum grounds, complete with relay races, kids' obstacle courses, bounce houses and more.

Founded by Handy and Junise Belizaire, the organization usually hosts two social events side by side – one for parents and one for the children. The events are designed for parents to have a fun night out (like a 1980s-themed dance or a fashion show) while the kids are

watched for a small fee right next door, with a similarly themed evening of fun.

"Some events are really for the couple to kind of get a little break from the kids and have fun, like our couples' game show night. But some events are for the whole family," like last weekend's field day, Handy Belizaire said.

After noticing many attendees at the central Pasco events travelled from Dade City to attend, Color Me Abstract wanted to host a free event for the whole family to attend.

About 200 people turned up last Saturday to participate in the scheduled activities.

Abstract • Continued on Page 5A

Families Faced With Eviction Scramble

Some Residents Finding Shelter

by Joe Potter

Restored Hope is trying to provide housing for three of the nine families who will be evicted from Lazy Breeze Mobile Home and RV Park on Friday.

Arrangements are being firmed up to house those families for a week at the Rainbow Fountain Motel north of Dade City, Kathy Hunt of Restored Hope said Tuesday.

Hunt is the executive director of the Dade City-based nonprofit organization that helps homeless people find permanent lodgings.

Restored Hope has contacted the

Evictions • Continued on Page 6A



Evicted families of Lazy Breeze Mobile Home and RV Park in Dade City must vacate the premises by July 1. Local charitable organizations are working with families to relocate them. *Photo by Richard K. Riley*

INSIDE: Pg. 3A - Committee Set To Review City's Charter
Pg. 7A - Volunteers Provide Help At Bayfront Health

Pg. 1B - Pasco Athlete Masters Two Sports
Pg. 1B - SLU Golfer Earns National Honors

Pg. 4B - City Honors Father Dan For Service
Pg. 7B - Annual Picnic Held At Linden Cemetary

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Dade City Police Report

Man Faces Battery, Negligence Charges

Pedro Luis Molina, 24, of 37236 North Ave., was arrested by Dade City police on June 13 on charges of felony battery and felony culpable negligence in an incident involving a five-month-old baby girl. Molina allegedly caused the baby to sustain a lump on her forehead and a swollen lip, police said. The incident reportedly occurred when Molina was in a verbal argument with his wife in the kitchen about food being cooked. Molina allegedly shoved her while she was holding the baby in her arms, causing her to drop the baby to the ground. He then reportedly left the residence and began walking northbound on 17th Street where police stopped him. He was transported back to the scene for investigative purposes and was then placed under arrest. Molina said post Miranda that he had not placed his hands on anyone. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail.



Edwin Ballester Jimenez Jr., 36, of 37641 Church Ave., was apprehended by Dade City police on June 21 on a Pasco County warrant charging him with violation of probation – obtain property in exchange for worthless check. He was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrant.



Quatavia Moreel Merriweather, 23, of 14142-3 Wilson St., was arrested by Dade City police on June 13 on charges of felony battery and domestic violence/battery by strangulation after he allegedly choked his girlfriend because of a post she had made to Facebook. The couple, who live together as a family, became involved in a verbal argument and Merriweather allegedly would not leave the victim alone until she deleted the post. He allegedly took her cell phone away from her but was not able to get into it without the pass code and she refused

to give him the pass code. Merriweather then allegedly grabbed her by the throat and began to choke her. He allegedly covered her mouth with his hand when she tried to scream for help, making her unable to breathe. She was able to get away from Merriweather who fled prior to officers arriving at the scene. He was later located and was booked into the Pasco County Jail.

Florida Highway Patrol troopers arrested a Broward County man on June 25 following a hit-and-run accident on Prospect Road. **Francisco Munoz Diaz**, 40, of Coconut Creek, was driving a 2008 Dodge Avenger eastbound on Prospect Road east of Handcart Road at 11:35 p.m. His car drifted left of the center lane and into the westbound travel lane. Emily Alvarez, 18, of Wesley Chapel, tried to avoid a collision by driving her 2007 Ford Escape off the roadway. Diaz's car



collided with the left side of Alvarez's vehicle. Diaz then allegedly left the scene but was located a short distance away stopped in the roadway. He was arrested for leaving the scene of an accident with property damage, driving under the influence, DUI property damage and driving without a license. Neither driver sustained any injuries as a result of the crash, the FHP said.

Hermelinda Bonilla, 32, of 38407 Lowell Harris Way, was apprehended by Dade City police on June 21 on a Pasco County warrant charging her with contempt of court – perjury by contradictory statements. She was booked into the Pasco County Jail upon confirmation of the warrant.



The information provided in the Dade City Police report is taken from public record. All parties are considered innocent until proven guilty.

County Offices Closed For Independence Day

Pasco County Government offices, including the Constitutional Offices and the Courts, will be closed on July 3 and July 4 in observance of Independence Day. All government offices and the Courts will reopen on July 5. The Pasco County Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources' Offices and Recreation Complexes will be closed July 3-4; however, the parks and beaches will remain open to the public from dawn to dusk.

Pasco County Public Transportation will provide holiday schedule service (limited service) on all fixed routes and paratransit service on July 3; however, PCPT administrative offices will be closed July 3-4. Bus services will not run on July 4. The Pasco County Animal Services Administration Office, Adoption Center, Intake/Reclaim Shelter and Field Services will be closed July 3-4. An Animal Control Officer will be available for emergencies only.

The Pasco County Resource Recovery Facility, West Pasco Class III and the East Pasco Transfer Station will be open to the public on July 3. Both facilities will be closed to the public on July 4; however, they will be open to Pasco County licensed, commercial haulers. All Pasco County Libraries will be closed July 3-4. The Pasco County Tax Collector's Office will be closed on July 1 and July 3-4.

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Committee Set To Review City's Charter

Changes Regarding Length Of Time, Eligibility Could Be Recommended By November

by Joe Potter

When Dade City was incorporated nearly 120 years ago, its founders drew up a charter that laid out the rules for the day-to-day operations of the city.

"The charter is the rules we live by," said Billy Poe, city manager.

The city fathers also decided the charter should be reviewed every 10 years.

Recent charter reviews were done in 2007 and 1998, Poe said.

Dade City is now in the very early stages of having its charter reviewed by a seven-member committee.

Some of the items the city's charter covers include the powers of the city and of the city commission and the mayor; the length of terms city commissioners serve; eligibility requirements to run for office; and how vacancies are filled on the commission when a member dies, resigns, no longer lives in the city or is convicted of a felony. Also, a member of the city commission may not hold another elected office while serving as a commissioner, and a city commission member may be removed from office if they have unexcused absences for three consecutive commission meetings.

The charter also outlines the powers and duties of the city manager that may be hired or fired by a simple

majority vote of the five-member commission.

The charter requires that the city manager, city clerk, finance director and city attorney report directly to the commission.



Billy Poe

When the city needs to hire a new police chief, the city manager recommends who should be hired and the commission votes on that recommendation. The city manager does not need the commission's approval to terminate the police chief or any of the other department heads that report directly to them.

The charter also requires the city manager to provide a preliminary budget to the commission by Aug. 1.

Each of the city's five commissioners made one appointment to the charter committee and the remaining two members are at-large appointees.

They began their work on June 1 and the review will likely be completed by November.

The charter review committee meets on the first Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in city commission chambers. The next charter review committee meeting is scheduled for July 6 and these meetings are open to

the public.

Committee members may recommend changes to the city's charter or may recommend keeping it as it is, Poe said.

If any changes are recommended, the commission will hold two public hearings during two regularly scheduled commission meetings.

Members of the public will have the opportunity to provide input regarding the proposed changes during those public hearings.

The commission would then decide whether to approve any of the changes that might be recommended, Poe said. The next step would be for the city attorney to help the commission to prepare ballot language for the recommended changes.

That language would then be sent to the office of the Pasco County Supervisor of Elections so it could be put on the ballot for the municipal election scheduled for April 10, 2018.

Registered voters in Dade City would be able to vote on any recommended changes at that time.

The most recent revision to a city charter in east Pasco occurred in 2013 when more than 62 percent of the 886 people who cast ballots that year in Zephyrhills approved a proposal to establish three-year term limits for city council members.

Sparklebration • Continued from Page 1A

Gates will open at 4 p.m. and admission is \$5 for adults and free for children ages 12 and younger. Parking is \$5 per vehicle.

Sparklebration will officially get underway with the opening of the All-American Food Court and feature festival foods, including: corn dogs, kettle korn, lemonade, barbecue, ice cream and boiled peanuts. There will be Cajun and Mexican food as well.

Featured entertainment includes The Dennis Lee Show at 7 p.m. and 8:40 p.m.; and Billy "Elvis" Lindsey will take the stage at 6 p.m. and 8:05 p.m.

"Both of these artists appeared last year, and the crowd loved them," Thompson said.

New to Sparklebration will be "The Plant Guy." This interactive Plant Character will talk to you and pose for pictures with you. Also on hand for entertaining the guests, will be the Fritzy Brothers - One Man Circus, and Fran Goh, the living statue.

A Karaoke Contest is new to Sparklebration this year. It will start at 7:15 p.m. and is limited to the first 15 people to sign up; sign-up starts at 6 p.m., in the Dan Cannon Auditorium. There will be three

prizes awarded: First Place - \$100, Second Place - \$75, and Third - \$50.

The hotdog and watermelon eating contests will both take place in the Dan Cannon Auditorium. The hotdog competition starts at 5:15 p.m., and the watermelon event follows an hour later. Entry into the contests is free but limited to the first 25 in each of three age divisions. Signups for the contest will be the day of the event.

There will be a Hula Hoop Contest with demonstrations around the grounds. All ages are welcome to join the fun. Bounce

houses, jumpers and children's games will be available throughout the evening. Wristbands are \$10 for unlimited play. There will be pony rides and a petting zoo; pony rides are \$5 and the petting zoo is \$2.

Sparklebration will culminate, weather permitting, with the Fireworks Extravaganza at 9:15 p.m. with fireworks by Zambelli.

"We have one of the best fireworks shows in the state of Florida, Zambelli is top-notch," Thompson said.

Call (352) 567-6678 or visit www.pascocountyfair.com for information.

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East Pasco Events

June 26-July 1 – Christmas in July at Solutions Thrift Store – Come check out the displays and awesome deals at 35535 S.R. 52. This whole week, everything will be 25 percent off. Come in wearing an ugly Christmas sweater and allow us to post it on our Facebook page for a 50 percent discount. We have shoes, clothes, furniture, decor, purses, housewares, etc. and a store full of new and gently used merchandise. Call (352) 521-3000 to have donations picked up. All proceeds benefit the programs and services offered by Sunrise Domestic and Sexual Violence Center.

June 29 – Guns and Coolers Bash – Hosted by Ducks Unlimited and Al's Famous Pizza, funds raised will go towards wetlands preservation. Doors open at 6 p.m. at 11931 Curley St. in San Antonio. Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased at the pizza shop. Raffle prizes include six different guns, seven YETI coolers and a Swarovski optic scope. Call Steve at (813) 503-5094 or Heath at (813) 714-3837 for information.

July 2 – Family Fun Day – Dade Battlefield Historic State Park is hosting a Patriotic Family Fun Day from 4-8 p.m., located at 7200 Country Road 603 in Bushnell. Park entry is free during the event. Stop by for old-fashioned games including corn hole toss, croquet, badminton, stilts, horseshoes and more. An old-fashioned game competition starts at 5 p.m. A pet parade with prizes begins at 6 p.m. Call (352) 793-4781 for information.

July 4 – Sparklebration – Held at Pasco County Fairgrounds, 36722 S.R. 52, with gates opening at 4 p.m. Parking is \$5 and entry for adults is \$5. Children 12 and under are free. Live music, watermelon eating contests, food vendors, games and a nighttime fireworks display will be featured. A kids zone offers a \$10 all you can play wristband. Call the Fair office at (352) 567-6678 or visit www.pascocountyfair.com for more information about Sparklebration.

July 7-8 – Painting Class – Paint along with Josephine, a certified Bob Ross instructor. A free preview will be held July 7 at 7 p.m. A summer special offers the class for \$100 on July 8 from 1-4 p.m. Class size is limited to eight people. Needed for the class: a Bob Ross kit available from Hobby Lobby or Michael's, four 12x16 stretched canvas and a roll of paper towels. Contact Josephine at (727) 808-7718 for more information. Call Pati at (352) 518-5252 to register and for future class dates. Held at Makers and Shakers, 13841 Seventh St.

July 8 – Farmers Market – Held in the San Antonio City Park from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Offering fresh produce, hand-crafted wine, yard art, plants, jams and jellies, dog treats, honey and bee products, repurposed glass items, dried herbs and herbal products and baked goods. Hot dogs, popcorn, coffee and sodas available for purchase. Vendor spaces are available for \$25. Contact Winnie Burke at (352) 437-5161 or rotarysanantoniofl@gmail.com for information.

July 11 – Habitat for Humanity Charity Bingo – The Brass Tap Dade City is hosting a Charity Bingo Night from 7-9 p.m. to benefit Habitat for Humanity of East & Central Pasco County. Please join Habitat for Bingo, prizes and fun. Contact lweightman@habitatpasco.org or (352) 567-1444 for information.

July 12 – Stronger Bones, Safer Homes – Tips for preventing home injuries so you will stay out of rehab. Held from 1-2 p.m. at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills' Creation Health Wellness Center, 38233 Daughtery Road. Call (813) 779-6476 for information and required reservations.

July 13 – Bingo in the Creation Café – Bingo is open to everyone and will take place from 2-3 p.m. at Florida Hospital Zephyrhills, 7050 Gall Blvd. There is no charge to participate. Sonia Yaksich, RN and FHZ's Women's Health Navigator, will speak on signs and symptoms of a heart attack in women. Many times, these warning signs are different than those for men. A few games of Bingo will be played for small prizes and cheesecake and coffee will be provided. Reservations are required by calling (877) 534-3108.

July 15 – Christmas in July – An art walk hosted by the Dade City Merchants Association in downtown Dade City from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. rain or shine. Appreciate artists from the sidewalk to the shops as well as children's sidewalk art. Sales and promotions will be featured at participating shops signified by a pink flamingo. Visit the Merchants' Facebook page for a list of artists. Call (352) 424-0601 for information.

July 15 – Mud Endeavor "Under the Lights" – The course is illuminated with neon lights, so as you endeavor mud and obstacles, you experience a mud run like nothing you expected. Held at 6 p.m. at the Pasco County Fairgrounds, 36722 S.R. 52. Visit www.mudendeavor.com for information and to register.

For more events visit www.pasconewspubs.com

Commentary



First Things First

Greg First



File photo

Get Ready To Sparkle

Independence Day is this coming Tuesday and the countdown has begun. Celebrations all around the county will be taking place in recognition of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence 241 years ago on July 4, 1776, by the Continental Congress. As a result of this signing the original 13 colonies became independent of the British Empire and the United States of America was born. This is the time of year when patriotism comes to the forefront and here in east Pasco County and surrounding areas is no exception.

Last Saturday kicked it off early in Citrus County with the annual Homosassa River Fireworks and Poker Run. Every year they celebrate ahead of the busy Fourth of July holiday. Scallop season starts July 1 so it makes total sense to me why they do that. They have the usual patriotic celebration Homosassa style. The poker run is not on motorcycles but in boats with stops at various spots along the river. They have a free shuttle that takes visitors to the Riverside Resort if you park on the other side of the river as many do. They also have a red, white and blue beer belly contest at The Shed and even a ping-pong twerk contest at the Monkey Bar. At 9:15 p.m. the fireworks are launched from barges as thousands watch from boats and

along the banks of the river. It is always great fun.

Also last Saturday was the Zephyrhills Summerfest with proceeds benefitting the Samaritan Project of Zephyrhills. This family friendly event had lots of great things going on in Zephyr Park with plenty of local vendors. The night was complete with a fantastic fireworks display high above Zephyr Lake.

This Tuesday we can all head up to the Pasco County Fairgrounds and celebrate at Sparklebration. You could be the winner and receive bragging rights at the hot dog eating contest. You can even save a life by donating blood during the event as a bloodmobile will be on site. If you like to sing you just might win a cash prize at the Karaoke contest. I suggest getting a free face painting before you perform (it might help your chances on winning or maybe not). Also the Dennis Lee Show and a salute to Elvis with Billy "Elvis" Lindsey will be there for your enjoyment.

Here in this area we don't take anything for granted and we appreciate the little things in life. This is America at its best. This is where most of us call home and we wouldn't change it for the world. All of us at Pasco News Publications wish you a happy and safe Independence Day.

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Commentary

Nation's Birthday Celebration Should Give Us Pause



The Rest Of The Story

Dave Walters

I remember my favorite Fourth of July. I was just young middle school tike in Pennsylvania in 1976 at the ripe old age of 11 and being a kid for the Bicentennial was pretty cool.

As soon as the ball dropped in Times Square to kickoff the Bicentennial year, it was like every teacher of every subject in school based their curriculum around the 200th birthday of our nation.

By the time we finished school in June, we were taught everything we could possibly know about the birth of our great nation. There were field trips, plays, music and a whole lot of reading.

Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence, inspired me to be a writer. His words were more than a mere government document. They were one of the first pieces of great American literature.

The phrase that rang true with me when I was a kid was the early line, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among

these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

As a young boy, I read this in its most simple form. I have the right to live, to be free, and to be happy. That was something I was absolutely on board with. What could be better than that?

Consider how we are able to freely choose what to do next Tuesday.

We get to spend time with family. We can enjoy time at home, at the beach or anywhere else. Do you know why? Because we have the right to a life of liberty and pursuit of happiness.

While we're pursuing happiness, take the opportunity to celebrate our independence with Sparklebration, east

Pasco's longest running Fourth of July party.

The Sparklebration fireworks show at the Pasco County Fairgrounds is something to behold. The fireworks are set to go off at approximately 9:15 p.m., but there is plenty to do before you set your lawn chair up in your favorite vantage point.

Gates open at 4 p.m. with admission of \$5 and children 12 and under free. Parking is \$5.

Bounce houses, pony rides and face painting will keep the kids busy. There is plenty more to do. There will be hot dog and watermelon eating contests and even hula-hoop contests.

Abstract • Continued from Page 1A

"We're very happy with everybody coming out and with it being our first event in Dade City. The goal was to get families to come and spend time with one another ... I think we accomplished that goal," Belizaire said. "We had dads competing against their kids in our relay race which was awesome."

A boys-against-girls tug-of-war, beach ball races and a grass bowling area kept families busy in between food vendors and exploring the museum's attractions.

Donations of canned goods, clothes, shoes and toiletries are collected at every Color Me Abstract event to supply local organizations Sunrise of Pasco County Domestic and Sexual Abuse Center and Bright H.O.P.E.S.

"We filled several, four or five, totes full of things that were donated. We were very impressed and thank God that the community showed up like they did," Belizaire said. "They really came through."

After Saturday's successful turnout, Belizaire said they would love to host another event in east Pasco.

Visit www.icolormeabstract.com for more information on the organization and a list of upcoming events in Pasco County.



Val Elder, one of the docents for the Florida Pioneer Museum, describes how the different buildings were acquired and preserved for future visitors. Photo by Richard K. Riley

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CRA • Continued from Page 1A

in 1998 and the second, much smaller, district was established in 2009.

Scott Black asked the mayor to remain for a couple of minutes prior to discussing the grant so he could make a statement. She had already declared a conflict regarding the matter because she is married to the person who is applying for the grant. The mayor had already passed the gavel to Eunice Penix, and was preparing to leave the room as she had during the two previous occasions the application had been discussed.

Black, who is the CRA's longest serving member, said David Hernandez's grant application has been more complex than others the agency has considered "because it involves one of our own members," referring to the mayor.

Black said because of a local TV investigative report aired in May, the issue has caught attention of the state legislature regarding the amount of CRA money David Hernandez has received since 2009.

Dade City had previously considered its CRA a success story, he said, but now a good economic tool has suffered damage.

Black voiced concern about the fate of CRAs statewide if the grant were to be approved.

"If our actions in regard to this application help

convince legislators that the CRA tool should be limited or even eliminated, we will have done a grave disservice to our city overall and to each of the other CRA property owners and merchants in Dade City who would no longer have the benefit of future improvements."

Black then encouraged Hernandez to use her influence to withdraw her husband's application "for the best interests of all others."

"As this building has been one of the largest, if not the largest, recipients of CRA funding, there should hardly be any hurt feelings if you can help make this judgment call," he said.

Hernandez left the room without making any comments regarding Black's request.

City Planner Michael Sherman said the \$9,550 ANPM is requesting would bring the total amount of grants it had received to \$20,000 – the maximum amount allowed in a three-year period.

Staff members have recommended approval of this grant request, Sherman said. City Manager Billy Poe also said staff had recommended approval of the grant.

Board members were told they had three options regarding ANPM's request – approve it, deny it or request additional information.

"There is a perception that there is a benefit to being on the board," Black said. "That perception of

being a board member or a board member's spouse is being looked at by the legislature. I also don't think the timing of this is good, either. We need to decide what is in the best interest of everyone," Black said.

Nicole Deese Newlon said it was incumbent upon her to say that more than \$800,000 has been taken out of CRA money for façade improvements since it was formed in 1998. She questioned whether that money is being used to address slum housing or blight, as state law requires.

"I have heartburn with the fact that ... Hernandez has received grant funds since 2009 and there is now suddenly a concern," James Shive said.

Penix said previous boards had approved grant applications and she doesn't understand why this board doesn't want to approve it.

Newlon then moved and Black seconded a motion to deny the application. Newlon and Black voted in favor of denial and Penix and Shive voted against denial.

ANPM's application request will remain as an unfinished business item and could be brought back up again at the July 25 CRA meeting.

City attorney Nancy Ann Stuparich said the board could not take any formal action on ANPM's application then unless a motion to reconsider the grant request passed by a 3-1 vote.

Evictions • Continued from Page 1A

United Way of Pasco County to see if they can provide funds for the three families to stay at the motel for an additional week.

Several residents at Lazy Breeze,

located at 38101 Willingham Drive, were notified June 15 they had to be out of their rental trailers by June 30.

Rob Works and his wife own the mobile

home park that is operated as Genesis Holdings.

Many of the residents were caught off guard when Works hand-delivered the eviction notices to them. Only a 15-day notice was required because the families were renting on a month-to-month basis.

Genesis Holdings was fined \$17,000 by Pinellas-Pasco County Judge William Sestak on Dec. 20, and assessed \$1,494 in court costs for 34 county code enforcement violations. The business was given until May 20 to correct the code enforcement violations. It could not be immediately determined if the company had met that deadline.

Restored Hope volunteers are meeting with Lazy Breeze residents this week to interview them and see if they qualify for assistance.

The organization has received several calls over the past few days from the residents asking for help, Hunt said. "They found out about us and started calling," she said.

Restored Hope will be able to provide food for the families who stay at the motel. Those family members may also do their laundry at Restored Hope's location at 13703 17th St., and volunteers will work with them to help them find permanent housing.

The organization can't help single people get rooms at the motel, Hunt said. Those people have been advised to contact A Helping Rock, which is a Zephyrhills-based transitional housing program.

A Helping Rock has 10 cabins on its 20-acre site off Forbes Road and also has tents available for people to stay in, their spokesman, Daniel Martin, previously told Pasco News Publications.

Two families contacted at Lazy Breeze

last week said they would probably be living in tents because they won't have any rent money available until the middle of July.

The Samaritan Project of Zephyrhills is another possible source of help for the Lazy Breeze residents.

It is a one-stop shop for people in the community who need assistance for past due rents, utilities and rapid re-housing and is a place to get referrals to other agencies that work in Pasco County.

Lazy Breeze residents would have to apply for help, said Doug Higgins, president of the Samaritan Project's board.

Higgins does not know how much money the Samaritan Project may have available as it is up to the Homeless Coalition of Pasco County to approve and release grant money to his group.

More information about the Samaritan Project may be obtained by calling (813) 810-8670.

Dade City Manager Billy Poe said Tuesday the city does not have any funding available to help any of the Lazy Breeze residents who will be displaced tomorrow.

Dade City had an emergency shelter grant in 2015 and 2016 but didn't apply for the grant this year because the program had changed, Poe said. Dade City partnered with The Salvation Army in 2015 and with Restored Hope in 2016 when funding was available, he said.

It is also not known if Catholic Charities, based in Dade City, will be able to help any of the Lazy Breeze families. Anissa Muka, who directs Catholic Charities' homeless and rapid re-housing programs, was unavailable for comment at press time.

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Jane Devine, left, and Carleen Berthiaume, right, enjoy socializing with patients, visitors, and staff as they enter and exit the hospital. Their smiling faces and cheerful demeanor are both a nice beginning and end to a pleasant hospital experience.

Volunteers Provide Helping Hands At Bayfront Health Hospital Keen To Add To Team

Story and photo by **Emily Kochanski**

Doctors and nurses are an integral part of any hospital, but also vital are those members of the hospital staff who aren't trained in the medical field. The volunteers at Bayfront Health in Dade City are some of the most cherished and beloved members of the healthcare team.

Volunteers have played an important role in the hospital since it first opened in 1973. Members of the volunteer team carry out such duties as welcoming patients and visitors, transporting patients, making deliveries room-to-room, and running the gift shop.

The hospital currently has about 20 active volunteers, but Amy Fort, Bayfront Health's Volunteer Coordinator, is always on the lookout for more friendly faces to add to the team.

"Volunteers are such a vital part of our organization," said Fort. "Everybody loves the volunteers, both our junior and senior members."

Many of the volunteers are snowbirds from up north. When they return to Dade City they return to the friendly and welcoming environment of Bayfront Health as well. Marketing Director Kayla Howard, along with other members of Bayfront Staff, ensure that both new and returning volunteers feel appreciated and more inclined to keep offering their services to the hospital.

"[Volunteers] receive a volunteer meal

plan and recognition during National Volunteer Week," said Howard. "A lot of volunteers have been patients before that have had a great experience here at the hospital. They wanted to come back and serve and give back to the hospital that took care of them."

Volunteering has become a favorite activity for several retired local residents. Jan Devine, a former teacher, has been volunteering off and on at Bayfront Health for nearly 40 years.

"I live in Dade City and I feel like I should give back to Dade City," Devine said. "As you get older, you need some outside interest other than just yourself. The longer you can keep being involved with other people, not only does it help them, but it really helps you."

Devine loves the kindness she receives from the hospital staff, as well as the good feeling she receives from working with patients and alongside her fellow volunteers. She hopes to see some fresh faces join her Bayfront family.

Bayfront Health is currently seeking new volunteers of all ages. They have recently started a junior volunteer program, which is offered during the summer to students ages 14 to 18 who are in need of community service hours or interested in learning about the medical field.

To learn more about volunteering opportunities or to fill out an application, visit BayfrontDadeCity.com to see how you can lend a helping hand.

Sunrise Honors Volunteer Of The Year



Shown, from left, are Roxanne Wright, Richard Hamilton, Mike Mashke and Kelly Sinn. Photo Provided

Kelly Sinn, CEO for Sunrise Domestic and Sexual Violence Center, and Roxanne Wright, store manager at Solutions Thrift Store, have announced the Sunrise Volunteer of the Year award was presented to Richard Hamilton to recognize his dedication and work over the past two years at the Thrift Store. Board Treasurer Mike Mashke was on hand to offer his congratulations and his appreciation for the hours spent volunteering that Hamilton was able to do each week.

Wright spoke about Hamilton and his

willingness to help in all areas of the thrift store including donation pickups, sorting the dock area and helping with inventory. Hamilton, of Dade City, often travels to all the Sunrise locations to help with other tasks such as moving furniture to picking up recycling. Sinn added that she appreciated his time over the years and that he was so visible, staff members thought he was an actual employee and not just a volunteer.

Hamilton was appreciative of the honor and thanked the board for the recognition.

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