

OUR TOWNS

QUESTIONS? Contact Editor Cindy Casey at 386-681-2756 or cindy.casey@news-jrnl.com

YOUR PHOTOS

Email your photo to mycommunitynews@news-jrnl.com as an attachment and a jpeg image. Include information about what's going on in the picture and identify everyone from left to right. Pictures must be at least 800KB.

YOUR NEWS

Email news about your clubs, organizations and church groups to mycommunitynews@news-jrnl.com. We will run them in print and online at news-journalonline.com.

YOUR EVENTS

Submit your event announcements for free at mycommunitynews@news-jrnl.com. Include the event description, date, time, cost, address and phone number to be published. Items must be sent 14 days before the event.

AROUND TOWN

SPCA pet shot clinics

There will be two pet shot clinics sponsored by the SPCA animal rescue on Sunday, Aug. 16. The first clinic will be from 9-11 a.m. at Big Lots, 122 N. Nova Road, Ormond Beach. The second clinic is 12:30-2:30 p.m. at Big Lots, 3818 S. Nova Road, Port Orange. All vaccinations are administered by a licensed veterinarian; the clinic is licensed and permitted. Cash only for the shots, no appointment needed. For information, call 386-748-8993.

Distortion Made Easy with Colored Pencil

A colored pencil art class will be held 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Monday and Thursday, Aug. 17, 20, 24 and 27 at the Ormond Memorial Art Museum, 78 E. Granada Blvd. Led by Bill Shoemaker, this intermediate level four-session class will explain and demo how water distorts objects. Open to students 18 and older who have taken Shoemaker's beginner colored pencil class. Students are responsible for supplies; a supply list will be provided when registering. The fee is \$88 for members and \$96 for nonmembers.

Democrats to meet at Red Lobster

The Democratic Club of Northeast Volusia County will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Red Lobster restaurant,

2625 W. International Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach. There will be a special menu and time for camaraderie beginning at 5 p.m. All Democrats, including visitors and tourists are invited. For more information, call 386-265-5084.

Tomoka Poets presents Colleen O'Leary

New Smyrna Beach poet Colleen O'Leary will be at Java Jungle coffee shop 7 p.m. Tuesday at 2450 S. Ridgewood Ave., South Daytona. A poetry open mic will precede O'Leary's program. The event is open to the public and admission is free. For information, call 386-761-7272 or 386-441-1839.

Mah Jongg tourney to benefit Making Strides

The Ormond Beach Mah Jongg Club will host a charity Mah Jongg tournament 11 a.m. Sept. 26 at the Aberdeen Club House, 50 Allwood Green Blvd., Ormond Beach. Entry fee is \$20 which includes lunch. Pre-registration required. No walk-ins. Seating is limited. Proceeds of the tournament to benefit The American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. For information and to register, call Rhoda Ulas at 386-275-1340 or Janice Muccilli at 386-256-4037.

Gardening days at HOPE House

DAYTONA BEACH – Throughout the month of July, Food Brings Hope volunteers worked together to revitalize the backyard area of the Eric Christopher DeVriese, Jr. HOPE House, a residence for unaccompanied and homeless teens.

Volunteers worked alongside residents of the house and the house manager to provide current and future residents with a peaceful outdoor retreat for studying and unwinding.

A group of eight volunteers dedicated three Saturdays in July to weeding, digging and planting so the area can be used for future HOPE House celebrations, such as resident birthday and graduation parties.

Michael Weremay, owner of MJ Weremay Design LLC, led the volunteer gardening project. On top of volunteering his time and landscaping skills, Michael's company donated plants, shrubs, mulch, etc. for the month-long gardening project.

"While I have often sought out opportunities to give back to those who may need the same help today, Food Brings Hope, I discovered, offers help to those living under conditions so similar to mine when I was their age," said Weremay. "I was immediately blessed



HOPE House residents and volunteers prepare the area of the future garden. PHOTO PROVIDED

and grateful for being asked, literally out of the blue, to help, and remain grateful to have had an opportunity to help build the outdoor gathering space at Eric Christopher DeVriese, Jr. HOPE House."

Day one was dedicated to weeding and prepping the ground and space for the future garden. On day two, more than 30 plants and flowers were placed in the ground for fertilization. On the third and final Saturday, volunteers and residents finalized the project with a layer of mulch and then sat down at the kitchen table of the HOPE House for a hearty breakfast catered by the residents and house manager.

"I was pleasantly surprised when I saw the transformation of the backyard at the house," said Forough B. Hosseini,

FBH founder and chair. "Our objective at the HOPE House is to provide these teens with a safe and stable home so they can focus on their goal of obtaining a high school diploma. Our volunteers have helped us transform the backyard so the residents can enjoy

the outdoors. Working alongside the volunteers, HOPE House residents were inspired to overcome their challenges and do better for themselves and their community."

The Eric Christopher DeVriese, Jr. HOPE House is a Food Brings Hope initiative. The HOPE House provides unaccompanied and homeless youth enrolled in Volusia County high schools with a safe and stable living environment, ensuring that its residents become productive members of the community. In addition to providing shelter, other services provided to help the residents prosper include mentoring, transportation, nutritional training, higher education counseling and medical services.

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