

Week Ending: June 28, 2019

Witte Thoughts for the Commission

Busy week in Lake Helen next week. Lake cleanup to continue this weekend. Paving of Pleasant, Ohio, Water and Macy Avenue is set for today and through the weekend (finishing Monday). Thursday will be our 4th of July Celebration. Friday City Hall and Public Works will be closed/limited staff.

"Courage can't see around corners but goes around them anyway."

Mignon McLaughlin

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Saturday, June 29, 2019 at 9:30am
VIP Breakfast for the Newly Renovated
Halifax Humane Society

Saturday, June 29, 2019 at 7:00pm
NAACP Banquet at Center at Deltona

Thursday, July 4, 2019
4th of July Celebration

- Parade at 10:00am (set up at 9am)
- Presentation of Awards at Eq Center (after parade)
- Food Trucks and Music at Royal Park at 6pm
- Fireworks at 9pm

Sunday, July 7, 2019 at 2:00pm
Celebration of Life for Nan Roberts
American Legion, Lake Helen

Thursday, July 11, 2019 at 7:00pm
City Commission Regular Meeting

Lake Helen Lake – Sorko Service

Sorko Service was on Lake Helen Lake clearing the vegetation on Monday. Another **BIG Thank You** to the Committee to Save Lake Helen Lakes!



New Chairman to the Historic Preservation Board

Congratulations to Chris Williams who was appointed as the Chairman to the Historic Preservation Board on Tuesday!

Paving!

P&S paving will be paving Pleasant Street from Ohio to Michigan, Water and Macy from Euclid to Washington and Ohio Avenue from Pleasant to Orange Ave. Thank you Rick for your hard work with this. It's going to look fantastic!

Credit Card Lease Update

On Wednesday I spoke to the company for the Credit Card lease. The lease can be paid off for \$1,671.60. I also spoke to our representatives at Tyler and the machine will not be compatible with our software. I will bring to you on the 11th.

Lake Helen in the West Volusia Beacon

https://www.beacononlinenews.com/news/what-does-it-take-to-save-a-lake/article_48040714-9860-11e9-96ac-6bde629e58b8.html

WEEKEND
June 27-30, 2019
beacononlinenews.com

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Vol. 27 No. 59

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What does it take to save a lake?



Major progress made in Lake Helen cleanup

BY ELI WITEK
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Lake Helen has made major progress in its citizen-led effort to clean up the city's namesake lake.

The Committee to Save Lake Helen Lake, whose members are concerned citizen volunteers, has steadily gained ground this year in an effort to clear the lake of invasive vegetation, making it safe for recreational activities and improving the health of the water body.

A big boost for the effort came June 25 when Mayor Daisy Raisler announced that Gov. Ron DeSantis had signed into law a bill that provides \$43,500 to clear a land bridge that has restricted the lake's natural flow.

The Florida Legislature ended its session in early May, and the bill was still alive after the dust cleared, an achievement in its own right. Fewer than 200 bills out of thousands filed by legislators made it to the governor this year.

While the appropriations bill awaited an uncertain fate on the governor's desk earlier this month, the Lake Helen committee organized volunteers every weekend to manually remove invasive vegetation that had died off in the lake after the

Please see LAKE, 8A

CITY
It's an election year in Lake Helen **6A**

Citizen kicked off hospital district advisory board

BY ANTHONY DEFELO
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It has been a challenging few weeks for the West Volusia Hospital Authority.

The authority, which collects taxes to fund and manage programs that provide health care for poor people, recently voted to kick a member off of its Citizens Advisory Committee for allegedly violating Florida's Sunshine Law.

The Hospital Authority also got turned down for a tax exemption from Deland's Downtown Community Redevelopment Agency, which would have been worth more than \$58,000 a year for the Hospital Authority.

And, the recent tumult comes on the

PHOTO BY ANTHONY DEFELO/FLYING CAT DRONENOWS

Volusia League of Cities Meeting/Dinner

108 RSVP's have been received for the Lake Helen Volusia League Meeting/Dinner on July 25th. Many great comments on the dress code (thanks Commissioner Connell). The giveaway packets are finished – thanks Crafty Ladies and Mayor Raisler's idea. Mayor will be working with the Crafty Ladies on the center pieces soon.

Blake Christian Academy – Right of Way Permit Approval

The Right of Way on Main Street was approved this week. The following Planning Items are still needed.

1. Final Survey
2. Final exterior approval from Ariel Faith, Historic Design Consultant
3. Final Septic approval
4. Release from county for impact fees (Beth Branton at Volusia County)
5. Final approval from SJRWMD
6. Completion of sidewalk from car lane to school per Development Order.
7. Parking plan showing entire site parking. This can be part of your final survey.

I wanted to keep you informed on this project.

Decker's LH Grill Update from Meeting:

Grease Trap Maintenance Update

Staff asked for quotes again on the Grease Trap pumping at the CAC.

- Dixie: \$750
- Alan's Plumbing: \$700
- Larry Mills (current): \$600

All 3 companies recommended at least quarterly pumping.

Property Appraiser Update:

City Attorney Scott Simpson will provide more on July 11th.

Due to the lease 8% taxable. This was calculated by taking the square footage of the restaurant area (1,070 s.f.) divided by the total square footage of all buildings (13,675 s.f.).

Most municipal properties that are leased usually have the tenant pay the taxes, but I'm not sure if that's the case here. The property was leased to a different restaurant in 2016, which is where the restaurant square footage came from. The full city exemption was reinstated in 2017 as the restaurant was no longer in operation. For 2018, the partial exemption was put back on as the restaurant area was once again leased. At the time, Jason Yarborough informed me that the square footage of the leased restaurant was still the same.

Jan Cornelius, C.F.E.

Chief Deputy Property Appraiser

School Board Planning

School Board Planning Technical Review Committee was on Thursday. We discussed the Smart Growth Planning Initiative from the Elected Officials Roundtable and provided input to Clay Ervin (Volusia County Growth Management). They discussed the importance of concurrency, impact fees and development review. I think we will be discussing these topics a lot over the next several months.