

Art/

from B1

The rooms will give the nonprofit and its art instructors a place to continue serving residents in the North Port area.

“Larry Arth with Nailed It Home Services and Richard Zavali, a NPAC volunteer, buffed and painted the floor; Pedro Pita with North Port Lowe’s single-handedly trucked tables and chairs to Room 200 to accommodate 12-plus students in the large classroom,” Gale West stated in a news release.

West is the volunteer executive director of the center.

“A smaller room has (also) been set up to provide The Art of Relaxation with Sound Therapy.

Victor Gartner will provide Scratchboard classes at LMCU in June,” West said.

West and leaders at the Art Center have said the intention and desire of the Art Center is to return to the location they are having to leave.

City officials have been receptive to the idea, but it will be the Art Center’s responsibility to raise the money that is needed.

At a community meeting in April, West said the Art Center has a new conceptual Art Center that would cost around \$5 million for construction. It would include classrooms, a gallery, a garden plaza, meeting spaces, a gift shop, lobby and more.

“The NPAC is expected to return to the current Sam Shapos Way location

with a destination arts center in the future after a successful capital campaign which could take a couple years to complete,” West said in the news release. “In the meantime, the NPAC is seeking board members, volunteers and donors to ensure a healthy, dynamic arts culture in the North Port area.”

Questions about taking up those roles and more can be sent to the Art Center at npac@npartcenter.org

West said the Art Center is also set to have a meeting with the North Port City Commission on June 2. At the meeting, a slideshow will be presented.

To learn more about the North Port Art Center, visit northportartcenter.org

NONPROFIT

On course

‘Golf with Us’ program gives young golfers more opportunities on the links

STAFF REPORT

ROTONDA WEST — Four region courses are among those taking part in an affordable golf program in a project underway with Bank of America and nonprofit Youth on Course.

Through the “Golf with Us” program, children taking part can play \$5 rounds of golf at more than 2,200 participating courses nationwide.

“Through Golf with Us, BofA is showing young people — including many here in Southwest Florida — what is possible in golf, and in life, when they work hard to achieve their goals,” Bank of America Southwest Florida President Gerri Moll stated in a news release. “By offering new opportunities for Southwest Florida kids to play golf here in our backyard, we are empowering them and creating a positive impact in our community through the transformational power of sports.”

Rotonda Golf and Country Club, at 100 Rotonda Circle, Rotonda West, is among the four region courses.

Other courses include:

- Coral Oaks Golf Course, 1800 NW 28th Ave, Cape Coral
- River Hall Country Club, 3500 River Hall Pkwy, Alva
- Myerlee Country Club, 1380 Myerlee Country Club Blvd, Fort Myers

The partnership takes place because leaders realize “this sport often sits in the rough when it comes to accessibility, with greens fees putting it out of bounds for many families,” the news release stated.

It notes benefits of golf, including the fact that golf “doesn’t require exceptional



PHOTO PROVIDED

Four region courses are among those taking part in an affordable golf program in a project underway with Bank of America and nonprofit Youth on Course including Rotonda Golf and Country Club, at 100 Rotonda Circle, Rotonda West.

speed, strength, or a particular physical build to excel — making it a perfect match for all kids.”

And it’s good to be outside.

“The benefits of golf extend well beyond the scorecard: walking the course provides aerobic exercise, and practicing that perfect swing enhances hand-eye coordination. Young golfers also develop patience, focus, and strategic thinking as they navigate each hole,” it states.

It’s also a way to make new friends, build self-confidence, learn about following rules and learn about being persistent, it states.

The membership also includes a registered handicap index with United States Golf Association’s Golf Handicap Information Network and ongoing learning opportunities, it states.

“This nationwide program creates incredible access to what has traditionally been considered a more exclusive sport,” it states.

Those interested should sign up by May 24.

For more information or to register, visit www.BofA.com/GolfwithUs

Manasota/

from B1

“would do that to us.”

“You don’t owe the billion-dollar person anything,” he said.

Abby Feller said she chose the community for its charm, green space and environmental protection efforts, which would be threatened by the road.

It needs sound barriers, traffic calming, a lower speed limit and green space, she said.

“Let’s take the time to do this right,” she said.

Donna Carroll had a different concern.

The road extension would pass between houses and the reservoir from which their irrigation water is drawn. They

would need access to it, and they could encounter higher costs in the future if they have to replace pipes buried under the road.

Susan Spafford read a letter she said was from a traffic engineer who lives in Sarasota National. In it, he says that a straight alignment of an extension would make more sense and be better for the environment, as well as his neighbors.

The county should explore other options, he says.

The Commission approved Neal’s proposal based on a cost of \$24.7 million and a two-year time frame for a 2-mile extension, compared to roughly double the cost for extending Keyway Road later.

It fits in with Wellen Park’s plan to connect Manasota Beach Road to the future West Villages Parkway in Wellen Park, where a long segment of road is already called Manasota Beach Road.

It would also reduce traffic for Wellen Park High School, set to open in August 2026, and has the support of North Port officials.

The Commission will consider a funding plan at a later meeting.

StaffWriter Chloe Nelson contributed to this story.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The DeSoto County Planning Commission will consider recommending approval of the below-described matters to the DeSoto Board of County Commissioners (Board). The resolutions/ordinances will be considered at regularly scheduled Public Hearings/ Meetings of the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners on the dates listed and at the times listed below, or as soon thereafter, as they may be heard on that date. All public hearings will be held in the County Commission Meeting Room 103, Administration Building, 201 E. Oak Street, Arcadia, Florida. Copies of the applications and staff reports are available at the Development Department Room 204, Administration Building, 201 E. Oak Street, Arcadia, Florida five days prior to the meeting dates and are available on the County’s website at www.desotobocc.com under Department News and News & announcements. Members of the public may appear and be heard on the matters to be considered. If you want to appeal any decision of the Planning Commission or Board, you may need to arrange for a verbatim transcript to be prepared.

PLANNING COMMISSION: (PC) Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 5:30
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: (Board) Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at 6:30 PM

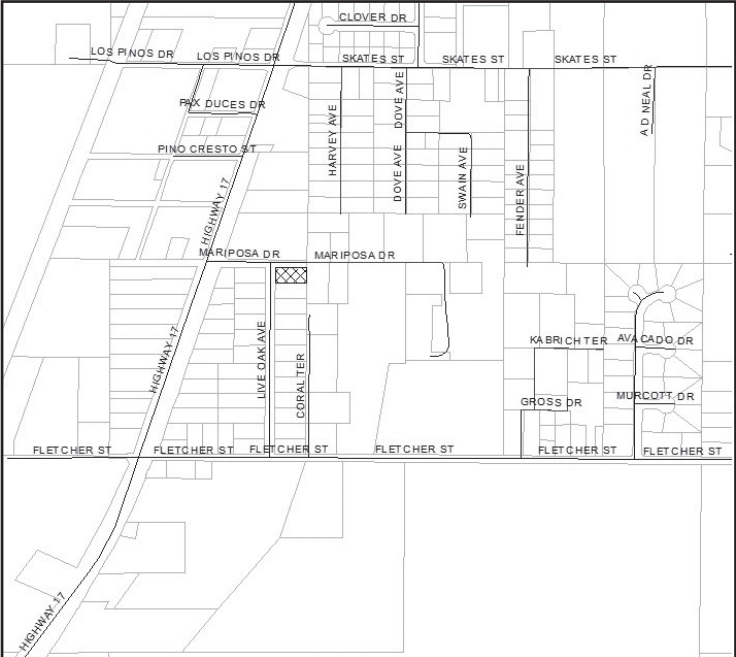
1. Resolution, Mark and Renee Graeve (USE-0182-2024) PC & Board

A RESOLUTION OF THE DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS APPROVING A SPECIAL EXCEPTION USE (USE-0182-20240) TO ALLOW COMMERICAL VEHICLE PARKING FOR THREE (3) VEHICLES ON A +20.3 acre parcel ZONED AGRICULTURAL – 5 (A-5) FOR MARK AND RENEE GRAEVE, WHICH PARCEL IS LOCATED AT 3481 SW ADDISON AVENUE, with parcel Identification Number 18-38-24-0000-0020-0030; incorporating the whereas clauses; and providing an effective date.



2. Resolution, Alfredo and Elva Gutierrez (Damaris Ramirez) (USE-0191-2024) PC & Board

A RESOLUTION OF THE DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS APPROVING A SPECIAL EXCEPTION USE (USE-0191-2024) WITH CONDITIONS FOR THE PARKING OF TWO (2) COMMERCIAL VEHICLES THAT EXCEED TWO TONS AND/OR NINE- FEET IN HEGHT AND/OR ARE MORE THAN 30- FEET LONG IN THE RESIDENTIAL MULTIFAMILY MIXED (RMF-M) zoning district, for ALFREDO AND ELVA C. GUTIERREZ, LOCATED AT 3268 SW LIVE OAK AVENUE, Property Identification Number 13-38-24-0221- 00A0-0010; incorporating the whereas clauses; and providing an effective date.



Sewer/

from B1

over four years.”

Frost was seeking direction from the commissioners on having the homeowners take care of it rather than the county.

“It takes the better part of three days for just one house to get completed,” he said.

Doherty agreed with Frost.

“It’s a mess, so I think my preference would be to stick within the public right of way,” Doherty said.

Constance also agreed.

“I’m leaning toward dissolving this,” Constance said. “I don’t really think we should be in this business.”

Commissioner Bill Truex agreed, to an extent, saying people with financial hardships should still be taken into consideration.

“I’d rather not get into that business, but I know there’s avenues in the private sector to do that,” Truex said.

The loan program will be discussed again at a special finance meeting with the commissioners.

SEPTIC-TO-SEWER

Tom Friedric, a senior consultant for Jones Edmunds, discussed the company’s analysis with commissioners.

The median household income in Charlotte

County is \$66,154, according to the 2023 U.S. Census. The sewer component of index is 2.5%.

Multiplying those two numbers together is the annual sewer affordability rate of \$1,654.

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch said the numbers used in the study are out of date.

“That excluded three years of pretty serious inflation to get us to today,” Deutsch said.

Doherty said some neighborhoods have suffered natural disasters back-to-back over the past two years, and that’s not factored into the study.


“I think we have to make it annually affordable, factoring all of these things,” Doherty said. “I can’t move ahead with this, not enough information in this analysis to look at the true household picture.”

Tiseo said county officials told the public that this process would have an element of affordability.

“To me, that is never going away,” Tiseo said.

Truex said that there isn’t one single formula, or method that can be used to calculate affordability for everyone.

“This is always going to be a moving target,” he said. “I think every one of them is going to have to be evaluated each and every time we come to the table.”




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