

Around Our Communities

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BAREFOOT BAY

Politicians, wives and authors scheduled.

The Barefoot Bay Democratic Club will host several political speakers on Thursday at 7 p.m. in Building D-E at the Golf Course.

Speakers scheduled include Jack Kennedy, who is running against Bob Bowman for the U.S. House seat held by Dave Weldon; Peggy Davis, wife of Jim Davis, who is running for governor; George Fouke, author and political analyst, who will read excerpts from his book "The Pied Pipers of Potholes."

Contact George Oertel at downeast_ggo@bellsouth.net.

PALM BAY

Advisory board to meet.

The city's Utilities Advisory Board will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday.

The board will discuss its water master plan and evaluate the credit risk management for its online payment program. The meeting will be held in the conference room of the utilities department, 1105 Troutman Blvd.

Democrat holds town hall meeting.

Jim Davis, a Democratic candidate for governor, will hold a town hall meeting at 11:30 a.m. Saturday in the activity center of Our Lady of Grace Church.

The church is located at 300 Malabar Road.

Palm Bay Parkway gets new name.

The much-discussed, much-planned Palm Bay Parkway has a new name.

Brevard County commissioners have yet to find the money to build it, but Tuesday they changed the name to the St. Johns Heritage Parkway.

The roadway planned for the western side of Interstate 95 would provide an alternate route from Grant to U.S. 192 and north to Ellis Road. The route affects Palm Bay, West Melbourne and Melbourne. County commissioners also want to discuss drawing the road further north, through Viera to Fiske Boulevard.

TITUSVILLE

Business tax tabled.

The Titusville City Council tabled a possible business tax increase Tuesday to wait for more information about how the money would be used.

The tax would have raised occupational license fees 5 percent, which would have amounted to \$5 on an average \$104 business tax bill.

The council approved the second half of the proposed ordinance renaming the municipal occupational license to local business tax because the Florida statute requires it.

VIERA

County claims victory in lawsuit.

A jury set a price of \$122,000 for the 32.7 acres the county wants to buy from Michael Blasky as a permanent mosquito containment area. Blasky wanted \$1.7 million. The county had offered \$86,000.

The decision has statewide implications for all lands used for mosquito control that are

threatened by development,

County Commissioner Ron

Pritchard said.

It would have hit Brevard's pocketbook extra hard if it had to buy mosquito control lands from private landowners at the higher price, County Attorney Scott Knox said. The county has 18,000 acres of mosquito impound, more than anywhere else in the world.

-- FLORIDA TODAY staff reports

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