



### The Ten Commandments

*Exodus 20:3-17*

- I Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
- II Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.
- III Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
- IV Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- V Honor thy father and thy mother.
- VI Thou shalt not murder.
- VII Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- VIII Thou shalt not steal.
- IX Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
- X Thou shalt not covet.

## Happy Valentine's Day

# John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

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## Being there is why I'm here.

See article on Page 7

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See on Page 8

MY Dunndead Gazette

"Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."  
Hebrews 11:1

## Have You Heard The Voice Of God Lately?

**Dr. Dan Coffin**  
Pastor, River of Life Church

I am sure you have even if you may not have recognized it. God speaks in so many ways. The Bible tells us that all of creation reveals the glory of God and declares His greatness. The mountains sing and the trees clap their hands and the oceans roar with praises unto him. Even the invisible things of God are clearly seen in the visible creation that declares His eternal power (**Romans 1:20**).

Recorded in the scriptures are the many ways God speaks to us. Dreams, visions, angels, animals, a loud thunderous voice, and sometimes a small voice as soft as a whisper. The heavens, the heights, angels, sun, moon, stars of light, mighty creatures, oceans depths, fire, hail, snow, clouds, stormy wind, mountains, hills, fruitful trees, cedars, beasts, cattle, creeping things, and flying fowl, kings of the earth, princes, judges, young men, maidens, old men, and children all are voices praising God and speaking of His greatness (**Psalms 148**). Jesus said, "he that has ears to hear let him hear what the

Spirit says..." (**Mark 4:9**)

Jesus is called the Word of God. He is the voice of God. Jesus said, "The words I speak are not my own but what I hear the Father say..." (**John 14:10**). The Book of Hebrews tells us that God spoke to people by the prophets, but now He is speaking to us by His Son and describes him as the "brightness of God's glory and the express image of His person (**Hebrews 1:1-3**).

Are you paying attention to His voice? God said the children of Israel got into trouble when they stopped listening to God's voice but made their own voices loud. Jesus is "the Word made flesh." (**John 1:14**) In other words, the life of Jesus spoke not only with words but everything Jesus did revealed who God is and His love for all humanity.

Why don't people hear what God is saying? Jesus said they have closed their eyes and ears and "Their minds are dull and slow to perceive, their ears are plugged and are hard of hearing, and they have deliberately shut their eyes to the truth. Otherwise, they would open their eyes to see, and open their ears to hear, and open their minds to understand. Then they would turn to me, and I would

instantly heal them." (**Matthew 13:15 TPT**)

Man's inability to hear God's voice is often because of the many other voices that demand his attention or even the purposeful "loudness" self-imposed through the radio or stereo to drown out any silence that would give him the opportunity to hear God. It is amazing to think that man's opinion of God is so intimidating that man would purposefully attempt to not hear the very voice of love and forgiveness we see so plainly in the life and words of Jesus.

Do you have ears to hear? Who are you listening to? Why not seek a place of silence where you can open your ears and your heart to hear the "good news" God has for you?

Dr. Dan Coffin and his wife Dianne co-pastor River of Life Church at 410 E. Chapman Rd. in Lutz, FL. 33549, (813) 949-9931, [www.roltampa.org](http://www.roltampa.org) We would love to invite you to visit River of Life Church.

Our lively worship begins at 10:30am on Sunday. We are a non-denominational, spirit-filled ministry. Please honor us with your visit. We would love to have you!

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# Happy Valentine's Day!

from Dunndead Publications

## GFWC Lutz Flea Market

GFWC Lutz-Land O'Lakes Woman's Club is pleased to announce its ANNUAL SPRING FLEA MARKET to be held at the Historic Old Lutz School at 18819 US-41 N. in Lutz. The clubwomen will begin preparing for this large indoor & outdoor event in mid-February and the Flea Market Sale dates will be Saturday, March 2nd and SUNDAY March 3rd, 2024 from 8am to 2pm.

The club welcomes donations from the community of antiques, art/décor items, crystal, china, household items, small appliances, kitchen wares, clothing, shoes, kids' stuff, books, toys, tools and furniture, etc. All donations must be clean and in working order. Large appliances and sleeper sofas cannot be accepted.

Please help the hardworking "Green Shirt Ladies" raise funds through your donations for this very popular Flea Market, proceeds of which will ultimately benefit our communities through the club scholarship fund, its many projects and contributions to and in support of local charitable groups and non-profits. Stop by to find the BEST treasures at the very BEST prices anywhere!!

### Community Donation Drop-Off Dates & Times:

Mon. 2/19/24 & Wed. 2/21/24 – 9am to 12pm

Fri. 2/23/24 9am to 12pm, Sat 2/24/24 10am to 12pm

Mon. 2/26/24 thru Fri. 3/1/24 – 9am to 12pm

Call Pamela at 813-838-2974 for more information or visit [gfwclutzlandolakeswomansclub.org](http://gfwclutzlandolakeswomansclub.org) or its Facebook page.



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## Tax Collector Receives 2023 National Animal Care and Control Association's Bill Lehman Memorial Award



Pasco Board of County Commissioners' resolution presentation & Mike Fasano and his dog Seaver

On January 23, 2024, the Pasco Board of County Commissioners adopted a resolution honoring Pasco Tax Collector Mike Fasano for receiving the "2023 National Animal Care and Control Association's Bill Lehman Memorial Award." In a presentation ceremony at the county commission chambers in New Port Richey, Tax Collector Mike Fasano was given the resolution by the county commission as well as the national award by Pasco's Director of Animal Services Mike Shumate.

The resolution lists many of his accomplishments in the field of animal welfare and protection including legislation he filed as a State Senator known as "Dexter's Law," which would have created a statewide animal abuse registry. While this bill did not pass, Pasco County and several other counties in Florida based their own registries on the language in Tax Collector Mike Fasano's legislation. Additionally, the resolution mentions fundraisers held at the Pasco Tax Collector's Office to support Pasco County's Animal Services department.

In addition to county run programs, Tax Collector Mike Fasano's charitable giving arm Pasco TC Gives has raised for and donated to over two-hundred thousand dollars to such diverse animal services organizations as the Pasco Sheriff's K-9 Foundation, the Humane Society of Pasco County, the SPCA of the Suncoast, Southeastern Guide Dogs, Cindy's Pets, CARES Pet Project and the Runaways Animal Shelter.

"I was honored to be given the 2023 National Animal Care and Control Association's Bill Lehman Memorial Award," commented Tax Collector Mike Fasano following receipt of the award and resolution. "I accepted this National Award on behalf of all our employees at the Pasco Tax Collectors Office. Through their help, we have raised over \$200,000 to help Pasco's animals and their owners along with encouraging adoption and spreading public awareness of shelter and animal welfare initiatives."

**"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth." — 1 Corinthians 13:4-6**

## An Amazing View of Mt. Rushmore in Honor of President's Day

By Karen McBride



Nestled in the Black Hills of South Dakota lie 60-foot replicas of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln. Mt. Rushmore National Memorial is a tribute to our founding fathers and past presidents. It is an incredible experience to see the majestic profiles of our former presidents engraved in stone.

The Bible teaches us the importance of praying for our leaders.

**1 Timothy 2:1-2 (NIV): Pray for those in authority**

**"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people — for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."**

As we celebrate President's Day this year on February 19, please pray for our leaders both present and future. Take a moment to remember the brave people who have served our country, establishing it with a foundation in God.

Here is a little about the four men who have made such a significant impact on our country that their likenesses have been engraved in remembrance.

George Washington, the first President of the United States, led the colonists in the American Revolutionary War to gain independence from Great Britain.

Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence and third President of the United States. He also purchased the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803, which doubled the size of our country at the time.

Theodore Roosevelt was the 26th President of the United States. A few of his great accomplishments included negotiating the construction of the Panama Canal which linked the east and the west. He also worked to end large corporate monopolies and ensure the rights of the common working man. As an outdoorsman and conservationist, he preserved parks, forests, and wildlife.

Abraham Lincoln led the country through the Civil War. As the 16th President of the United States, his greatest accomplishment for the betterment of our society is the part he played to end slavery.

### The Artist Behind the Design

Sculptor Gutzon Borglum's artistic career began early in life when he painted a portrait of General John C. Fremont which gained him recognition and acclaim. He later moved to France and travelled throughout Europe honing his craft at the Julien Academy and the Ecole des Beaux-Arts.

When his interests turned to sculpting in bronze and marble, he created a bust of Abraham Lincoln. The artwork was displayed in a store window in New York where it was later purchased and donated to the people of the United States. It is displayed in the Capitol Building to this day.

Helen Plane, President of the United Daughters of the Confederacy saw the sculpture and contacted Borglum about creating the head of Robert E. Lee on the side of Stone Mountain in Georgia. His artistic mind saw that a single-person profile was much too small for such a large canvas, so he drew a large group including Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and Jefferson Davis on horseback followed by a column of soldiers.

The work on Stone Mountain was delayed due to World War I. Unfortunately, Borglum and the businessmen directing the project did not see eye to eye and he was dismissed from the project.

But this setback led him to Doane Robinson, State Historian of South Dakota. She contacted him about providing his artistic vision to a mountain carving in the Black Hills. Work began on Mt. Rushmore in 1927. Borglum remained with the project until his death in 1941, and then his son, Lincoln, carried on his father's vision to completion in 1943.

### Location and Visitor Information

Mt. Rushmore is located at 13000 Highway 244, Building 31, Suite 1, Keystone, SD 57751. Weather permitting, the grounds at Mount Rushmore are open every day of the year. The Information Center, Visitor Center, Gift Shop and Carvers' Cafe are open every day except December 25th. The hours may vary, so be sure to check the website before you go

<https://www.nps.gov/moru/index.htm>

### Learn More About Biblical Citizenship

As the country celebrates Presidents' Day, we should take the time to learn how our government and our country was founded on God's Word.

There is a great program that will take you through the history of our government and how it was formed with God at the center. Politicians were devoted to making the country a better place, willing to put their lives on the line, and not just in it for the money. Remember John F. Kennedy's famous line "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." It is time we had politicians with this belief again.

Rick Green, of Patriot Academy, teaches Biblical Citizenship with Kirk Cameron, David Barton, and other speakers, including Rick Green's children. The lessons teach us the importance of knowing our constitutional rights and the responsibilities we hold as citizens to keep our country One Nation, Under God, Indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for All. To read more about it and to find out how you can host a study in your home, visit <https://www.patriotacademy.com/biblicalcitizenship>.

## Love Your Neighbor As Yourself?

**Samantha Taylor, Health & Fitness Expert**



When Jesus said in Mark 12:31, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is none other commandment greater than these." what does that mean and why did He say that? I think one reason He said it is because He knew that to truly care for others, we need to have love and care for ourselves. Because how are you going to really be able to do that at the fullest capacity for others, if you don't know how to love yourself?

Some believers have a hard time with this because they think that taking care of themselves and their life is selfish, yet Jesus commanded us to do it. It wasn't just a suggestion, it was a commandment and He said it's greater than any other commandment (along with the other commandment He referred to before that one, which was to love God with all your soul, mind, and strength).

So taking care of your health, your fitness, and your mental wellness is not selfish... when it's in balance and not an obsession. Taking care of your body is honoring God and following what God says. He even says that "If you love Me, you'll keep My commandments." John 14:13-15. When we take care of our health, this honors and respects the body that God gave us as a gift, that He gave us to take care of as His temple.

And it shows care and concern for others when we take care of our health. When you think about it, it's more selfish not to take care of our health because if we are not healthy, we aren't at our best for our family or even our career. It's the things we do have control over that I am referring to, for I understand not all things with our health are under our control.

When we aren't healthy, we are tired, not as happy, and tend to have more medical issues which can cause more stress and loss of quality of life. Life is just more difficult and sometimes our family can suffer too. I believe that God specifically put that commandment in the Bible so that we would realize the importance of taking care of ourselves in this life as well as loving our neighbors.

It's not selfish. It's not ungodly. I think that Jesus said that commandment to remind us because He was very adamant about our body being His temple. If you would like to see a message that I gave on that subject, go to [www.SamanthaTaylor.com/temple](http://www.SamanthaTaylor.com/temple)

It's a good idea to take an inventory on how well we are doing with the gift that God has given us. Since you are the CEO of your body, how are you doing taking care of what God gave you? This is not about condemnation or guilt, it's about taking an honest look at our lives and seeing where we need to improve. The consequences are so negatively impactful when we don't take care of our body, but the beautiful part as a believer is that you have access to the power of God that can help you succeed in this area. The new program I have developed is an online program called "Faith Driven Weight Loss". It's all about how to activate your spirit, mind, and body in your weight loss experience so that you can have victory and enjoy the process. And as you lose the weight, you grow stronger in your faith. If you'd like to see more details, go here to set up a free Transformation Call with me at [www.SamanthaTaylor.com](http://www.SamanthaTaylor.com)

So for Valentine's Day, think about the people you care about and love but don't forget about you too. You are the only person you're going to be with until the day you die, so taking care of you is very important, Jesus even said so Himself. God put you here with a purpose and a destiny and taking care of your body, helps you be stronger, healthier, and happier to fulfill that plan. That not only affects your life but the people around you too. Happy Valentine's Day!

## Loving Our Hearts Isn't Just About Our Physical Health

February has become the month associated with the heart and with love. But what about your own heart? What makes your heart sing with happiness? What brings your heart peace, contentment, and bliss?

- What is one thing that you can do today that will touch your heart?
- Call that friend you've meaning to call for weeks (months)?
- Buy yourself some flowers?
- Take time to read a book?
- Turn off the TV/news/social media for a day?
- Listen to music – old songs you love, something new, even sounds of nature?
- Take that luxurious bath or do a facial?
- Get a pedicure? Or, better yet, get a reflexology treatment?

What is one thing you can do today to make you laugh? Laughter is the cheapest form of therapy. It heals the soul and the body.

"No matter what your headache might be, laughing helps you forget for a few minutes."

— Red Skelton

"As soap is to the body, so laughter is to the soul." — Jewish proverb

No matter what the weather might be, what the news might be, what is going on in your life, find a few minutes each day this month to smile, to laugh, to let the light shine on your heart. One thing that helps to get me through the day is the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. That image is one of True Love, Pure Love. No judgment. He taught us about unconditional love, no matter what. When others do things that we disagree with, it is not our job to judge. We must merely bless them, then release it, and love them anyway. Remember, His love is what has Saved us! This is what comes to mind when I see the image of The Sacred Heart, and we must love others unconditionally, in the way that He taught us. This is what creates a true Loving Heart.

Take care of your heart physically and emotionally. If you can do it for a month, you will have established a new habit that you can do every day. And please remember that you can call on me when you feel the need for some Reflexology, a caring touch delivered through the feet.

Here's to your heart and your health!

Louise Richardson, Certified Reflexologist



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## Protect Your Child's Health With The Proper Immunizations

**By Karen McBride**

Dr. Michele Johnson-Towson, Pediatric Place of Tampa, is a board-certified pediatrician with 30 years of experience in caring for children ages newborn to 21 years old. Same-week appointments are available for school physicals at Pediatric Place of Tampa. It is important for their immunizations to be up to date, and to have their hearing and vision tested regularly.

Dr. Johnson-Towson and her staff are dedicated to keeping patients both healthy and educated on changes in children's health care. Pediatric Place of Tampa offers Urgent Care hours to accommodate sick children after work, school, and/or daycare. Urgent Care hours are available Monday – Friday until 7pm and Saturday 8am until noon. The practice accepts all insurances as well as self-pay patients. New patients are always welcome! Pediatric Place of Tampa is conveniently located at 1338 W. Fletcher Avenue in Tampa. Call today at 813-264-2288 to schedule an appointment for school physicals, checkups, and flu shots.

I heard about this woman Kathy who had a heartbreaking, horrible divorce. Many years had passed and one day in her old age, she passed away and found herself standing at the pearly gates. The Lord said, "Welcome Kathy, you're just in time. But before I can open the gate to let you in, you must spell a word." So she asked, "What word is it?" He said, "The word is love." "Oh, that's an easy one. L-O-V-E." And the pearly gates opened. He said, "I have some work to do in the back, so if you don't mind, can you guard the gate? And when someone walks up new just have them spell that word." As she was waiting, off in the distance she could see walking up to the pearly gates was her ex-husband. He said to Kathy, "How did you get in?" She said, "I only had to spell a word." He said, "What is the word?" She said, "Czechoslovakia." *Say it like you mean it. Joel Osteen*

**"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him."**  
— 1 John 4:7-9

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### Kidz Korner: Junior Cotillions



Hi! My name is Harley, writer of the monthly Kidz Korner column. Each month, this article has a specific topic, and this one is exciting because if you're a parent with a rambunctious child that you don't know what to do with, just read on!

“Cue suspenseful music”

Nowadays, people just don't have manners.

The National League of Junior Cotillions helps out with that.

In the sessions at Cotillion, the middle school students walk inside the building into the classroom.

After us ladies find our gloves, and everyone fills out trivia questions on the sign-in table and then sits down, we learn things like: ballroom dancing, proper etiquette, and other manners, like where all the oysters and sherry and four kinds of fancy spoons are placed on the table,

and how to properly compose a note of gratitude.

But mostly we learned the dancing.

I might have been born in 2012, but there are times that I like old-timey things, like black-and-white TV shows, fancy dresses, and all the pleasantries. The olden days can be exciting because they're different than today.

Finally, after several monthly classes, one of our balls had arrived! Of course, it wasn't the Grand Spring Ball, but everyone was thrilled. The ladies wore dresses and white gloves that resembled that of Minnie Mouse. And the guys' suits were required, too. All the attendees were in tip-top shape.

When the ball officially began, they lined up all the boys on one side of the lobby and the girls on the other. Then we were paired up “in escort position” and walked inside. Being introduced to some of the chaperones was exciting, but - long story short - my name got to be “Emily” Smith for the night. Seating arrangements were girl-boy-girl-boy, according to their escorts.

After everyone had entered and been seated in the ballroom, we were given “mocktails” (punch) in fancy glasses and told to “mingle.” It was an interesting interaction. And the dancing, of course! The meringue, salsa, waltz, and other dances were super fun. The candid pics from the music were my favorites from the photographer that night. All the children played Hot Potato, too. That was unexpected but added a fun element to the ball!

Near the end of the evening, awards were handed out for Best-Dressed and something similar to Most Fun Dancing. Then, we left with great memories, pictures, and dreams of the Grand Spring Ball. All in all, I enjoy being on the receiving end of chivalry. The amazing work of the National League of Junior Cotillions is a terrific reminder of how God calls us to love and care for each other. I thank God for Cotillion and my friends there all the time.

Well, I hope you learned a lot and will come back next month! If your interest is peaked after reading the above, then you can check out njlc.com to find a Cotillion chapter near you!

Harley Isabel Smith is a homeschooled 6th grader who has been featured on TV as a philanthropist, has a heart for evangelism, and writes monthly for the Gazette's Kidz Korner. Visit online at <https://harleyisabelsmith.com> where she is constantly adding written and video content to entertain and educate children.

Matthew 19:14 Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

### Life Connections

Amy Green, Ph.D., a Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) and a School Psychology Resident at LCCC, provides comprehensive psychoeducational testing and evaluation services and skill building for students in Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade.

The challenges facing youth today are great and can often feel overwhelming. These challenges can feel especially daunting for students with learning disabilities, attention problems, or social, emotional, or behavioral difficulties. Through the provision of comprehensive testing and evaluation services, Dr. Amy works with families to identify areas of strength and opportunity and to provide relevant and useful information to achieve positive outcomes.

In addition to testing and evaluation, Dr. Amy works with students and parents in both group and individual settings to provide education and skills training aimed at building capacity to overcome challenges in school and at home. Dr. Amy's approach to skill building focuses on the identification of specific needs and the provision of evidence-based services and supports to meet these needs.

Throughout her career, Dr. Amy has dedicated herself to helping children and families succeed. As a practitioner and researcher, she has worked with children and families from many diverse backgrounds, published numerous articles in peer reviewed scientific publications, and taught undergraduate and graduate level courses in psychological sciences and child and adolescent behavioral health.

Dr. Amy holds a B.S. in Psychology from Stetson University, an M.A. in Psychological Sciences from James Madison University, a Psy.S. in School Psychology from Nova Southeastern University, and a Ph.D. in Public Health/Behavioral Health from the University of South Florida.

As a pastor's wife and mother of three teenagers, she considers it a true blessing and great joy to use both her personal and professional experiences to serve children and their families.

**Dr. Amy offers a free, brief phone consultation (15 minutes) to discuss areas of concern and evaluation procedures. For a consultation, call or text (813) 485-6524 or email [agreen@lc-online.org](mailto:agreen@lc-online.org).**

*Amy Green, PhD, NCSP, is supervised by Katherine McKinney, PhD, Florida Licensed Psychologist & Qualified Supervisor (PY7132).*




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## Tax Collector Mike Fasano Announces An Exciting New Service for Customers!

"It is my pleasure to announce that our staff and the state have been working together to make a vehicle registration renewal kiosk available to our customers," Tax Collector Mike Fasano announces as Pasco's first-ever self-serve kiosk for processing vehicle registration renewals becomes operational. "We understand that many times the only transaction a customer may have is the annual renewal of their vehicle registration. The kiosk will allow them to dash into the grocery store either during a regular shopping trip or just while out running errands, thus saving the time of driving, and waiting at one of our offices. It is exciting that this new service may save our customers time, gasoline and potentially the inconvenience of travelling far to one of our full-service locations."

The kiosk is in the Publix Supermarket at Collier Commons, 2121 Collier Parkway, Land O'Lakes FL 34639. We have placed the kiosk inside the Publix Supermarket at the entrance near the customer service counter and the pharmacy to make the transaction safe and secure. The kiosk is available to the public during store hours.

Vehicle registration renewals are the only transaction the kiosk is currently designed to complete, saving customers a visit to their local tax collector's office. If you are interested in renewing your vehicle's registration at the kiosk you must bring the following information with you:

- PIN from registration renewal notice or license plate number and first Registrant's date of birth.
- Registrations in a business name can only be renewed with the PIN since there is not a date of birth linked to the record.

Accepted form of payment: American Express, Discover, Mastercard, & Visa. \*\*Debit/Credit Card ONLY\*\*

The new registration and decal will be printed at the kiosk once the customer has entered their information. If there is a driver license stop, toll stop, or insurance stop, the customer will receive a message from the kiosk. If the kiosk is unable to process the transaction and the registration is not able to be issued, the kiosk will notify the customer.

The kiosk charges a 2.3% fee for use of a credit card AND a \$3.95 flat fee for renewing at the kiosk. Customers can still make a voluntary donation to one of the many authorized charities just as they are listed on the back of the renewal notice. The kiosk does ask the customer to verify the vehicle and plate they are renewing as well as the fees before the transaction is completed. It also asks the customer if there are any address changes, if they answer yes, the transaction cannot be completed. If they answer no, it continues. If the registration qualifies, the kiosk does offer a 1-year or 2-year renewal to the customer.

If a customer has a question or problem, they may contact the Kiosk Customer Care Number which is: 1-833-939-1572.

"It is our hope that for those interested in using this service," comments Tax Collector Mike Fasano, "that the kiosk will prove to be an easy and efficient way to complete this necessary task in a quick and convenient manner

**IMPORTANT:** The following registrations are NOT eligible to be renewed at the kiosk:

- Registration renewals that require an address change.
- Registration renewals that replace a license plate.



- Personalized plate reservations.
- Parking permit or placard renewals.
- Registration renewals that have insurance, driver license, or toll suspensions.
- National Guard license plate renewals.
- Vessel(boat)registration renewals.
- Autonomous vehicles
- Mobile home registration renewals.
- Government vehicles
- Heavy trucks that require a Florida Certificate of Insurance
- IRP Registrations or IRS Heavy Vehicle Use Tax "2290"

**"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love only with words but with actions and in truth."**

— 1 John 3:16-18



## GFWC Donates to Sunrise Shelter

GFWC Lutz-Land O'Lakes Woman's Club members Gail Howard and Roseann Lange delivered 34 gift bags of Christmas presents for each mother and child resident of Sunrise of Pasco County Domestic and Sexual Violence Shelter. The ladies also left candy and cookies for all the residents as well as additional gifts for newly arrived families during the holidays. Domestic violence cases sometimes spike with stress and anxiety within families during these holidays. For more information on this community service organization, please visit [fwclutzlandola-keswomansclub.org](http://fwclutzlandola-keswomansclub.org) or its Facebook page.

(L-R) members Roseann Lange & Gail Howard in green shirts with 2 Shelter staff members in center

## Tax Collector Mike Fasano & Staff Raise \$15,949.35 for the Florida Breast Cancer Foundation



Tax Collector Mike Fasano, administration, and staff from the Pasco County Tax Collector's Office pose for a photo with the ceremonial check

During the month of October 2023 Pasco County Tax Collector Mike Fasano's five offices partnered with the Florida Breast Cancer Foundation to help raise funds and awareness of breast cancer, its symptoms, and treatments. October, which was national Breast Cancer Awareness Month, was the perfect time to feature the sale of the Foundation's "End Breast Cancer" specialty tag. Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women in Florida (excluding skin cancer). It is estimated that 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer at some point in their lives. Men can also fall victim to this disease.

The five branches of the Pasco County Tax Collectors Office promoted the sale of the "End Breast Cancer" specialty license plates as well as the voluntary check-off donations on automobile registrations. All totaled, \$15,949.35 was raised to help "End the Suffering Caused by Breast Cancer."

"The Pasco County Tax Collector's Office continues to overwhelm us here at Florida Breast Cancer Foundation as their support grows year over year," comments Tracy Jacim, President & CEO of the Florida Breast Cancer Foundation. "This year, the Pasco County team under the leadership of Mr. Mike Fasano garnered a donation nearing 16 thousand dollars—money that will be used to help even more people undergoing breast cancer treatment who need ancillary support. Thank you, thank you, thank you...from us and the many people who will benefit from your generosity!"

"It has always been a great honor to work with The Florida Breast Cancer Foundation each year to assist in raising awareness of the needs of breast cancer patients, educate the public on the importance of early detection and to help fund organizations that are working to find better treatments and ultimately a cure," states Tax Collector Mike Fasano. "The Foundation encourages regular screenings to detect breast cancer in its earliest stages, for both women and men. Thank you to a very generous community that once again supported our efforts to help find a way to end a disease that afflicts so many."

For more details regarding charitable promotions or services provided by the Pasco County Tax Collector's Office please contact Assistant Tax Collector Greg Giordano, at 727-847-8179 or visit [www.pascotaxes.com](http://www.pascotaxes.com) For more information about the Florida Breast Cancer Foundation and how you can support its efforts please contact Cathy Cruz, Marketing Communications Manager at 305-631-2134 or visit [www.FloridaBreastCancer.org](http://www.FloridaBreastCancer.org)



## During the Month of November Tax Collector Mike Fasano's Offices Collected Over \$6,000 to Support St. Vincent de Paul CARES



During the month of November 2023 Tax Collector Mike Fasano's five offices featured St. Vincent de Paul CARES, an organization dedicated primarily to ending homelessness, especially among the veteran population.

A total of \$6,050.00 was collected and presented to St. Vincent de Paul CARES following the fundraising drive. These funds will be dedicated to finding homes for veterans who currently do not have a permanent place to live.

"On behalf of the entire staff of St. Vincent de Paul CARES," comments Merrell Dickey, Chief of Development, "thank you so much for the incredibly generous donation to support ending homelessness, and your partnership, which supports US Veterans, individuals, and families facing the trauma of homelessness with solutions-based programs that set them on the road to long-term success. Together, we are ending homelessness, making it rare, brief, and one-time."

"It was a blessing to feature St. Vincent de Paul CARES as our November Charity-of-the-Month," remarks Tax Collector Mike Fasano. "It is unacceptable that men and women who put on the uniform of the United States Armed Forces should one day find themselves homeless. Thankfully, organizations such as St. Vincent de Paul CARES are helping to address this problem with permanent solutions. With many thanks to a very generous community who donated to our efforts, we hope that those who sacrificed their time and safety to keep our nation safe and free will no longer find themselves living in the woods or on the streets."

For more information about St. Vincent de Paul CARES please contact Merrell Dickey, Chief of Development at (727) 201-9875 or visit <https://www.svdps.com>

For more information about the promotional and charitable giving programs at the tax collector's office please contact Assistant Tax Collector Greg Giordano at 727-847-8179 or visit [www.pascotaxes.com](http://www.pascotaxes.com)



MAKING HOMELESSNESS  
RARE. BRIEF. ONE-TIME.

## Celebrating Valentine's Day in Mt. Dora

By Karen McBride

Are you looking for something special to do to celebrate Valentine's Day this year? Whether you are with your special someone, a family member, or a friend, Mt. Dora is the place to be. The quaint town is located one hundred miles northeast of Tampa. Just a short drive from the city, but it is far removed from what a typical Florida town resembles. The drive will take you through the country roads and rolling hills of central Florida. As you enter the town you immediately feel the stress dissipate as you view the beauty of Lake Dora.

The Bible tells us the importance of rest, and Mt. Dora is a great place to relax and unwind.  
*Matthew 11:28-30 NIV*

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

A Little About the History of Mt. Dora



Lake Dora was named after Dora Ann Drawdy, who lived in the area in the mid-1800's. Her warm and welcoming attitude was bestowed on the local surveyors, and they named the lake after her. The town was later named Mt. Dora (after the lake). The term "mount" refers to the fact that the town rests upon a plateau that is 184 feet above sea level, which is a mountain according to most Floridians!

As a popular destination for hunters, fishermen, and boaters, the town had a need for a hotel. The Alexander House, now called The Lakeside Inn, was opened in 1883. Famous visitors included Presidents Coolidge and Eisenhower, Thomas Edison, and Henry Ford.

### Lunch at the Lakeside Inn

The Lakeside Inn, with its beautiful waterfront views and large canopy oak trees is the perfect getaway spot for couples and families. The porch is lined with rocking chairs overlooking the lake and is a favorite spot among the guests for meals throughout the day.

The restaurant within the Lakeside Inn has the most delicious chicken pot pie. The light and flaky crust and fresh chicken and vegetables make it an excellent choice on a chilly day.

Other options include Strawberry Spinach Salad, Lakeside Tomato Pie, Monte Cristo Sandwich, and more. The dinner menu offers a variety of delectable choices including blackened snapper, barbecued pork chops, slow roasted beef brisket, and Lakeside Chicken Florentine.

### The Donnelly House

In addition to the Lakeside Inn, Mt. Dora embraces its old-world charm with other buildings from the past, including the Donnelly House, which was built in 1893. John P. Donnelly built the Queen Ann style house for his wife Annie. The elaborately carved woodwork is representative of Steamboat Gothic architecture. You do not see this type of work in newly constructed homes anymore, and tours are available.

### Mt. Dora Has Something for Everyone to Enjoy

History lovers will enjoy meandering down the charming streets visiting antique shops along the way. Nature lovers can observe the local wildlife while walking on the boardwalk among the palm trees, live oaks, and camphor trees along the lake. Photo enthusiasts will find many locations

for the perfect photo while seeing the little red and white striped lighthouse at Grantham Pointe or sitting on one of the benches for the perfect sunset view.

### Premier Boat Tours

If you want more lake views and to really explore the beauty of it, make your reservations for a boat tour. There are several companies that offer boat rides. The one that we chose was Premier Boat Tours <https://www.doracanal.com>.

The two-hour tour on Lake Dora and the Harris Chain of Lakes takes you through the Dora Canal. You will see your fill of Florida wildlife including bald eagles, herons, and of course alligators!

The relaxing pontoon ride is narrated with the history of Mt. Dora and interesting stories of the homes you see along the way. Daily two-hour tours at 11 and 2pm are \$35 and a one-hour sunset tour is \$24.

### Upcoming Events

Mt. Dora is very community oriented and hosts events throughout the year. Here are a few of the upcoming events:

### Wednesday, February 14, 2024 – Movie Night

Enjoy free popcorn and curated classic films every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Community Room, 19955 N. Donnelly Street. The program starts at 7:00pm, with a brief synopsis of what makes it a classic film (pre-1970), followed by a traditional movie cartoon before the feature. Titles are subject to change and are not listed on the calendar.

To learn about the film scheduled for particular week, please call the Circulation Desk (352) 735-7180 (option 5). No registration is required for this free program.

### Friday, February 16-18, 2024 – Mount Dora Scottish Highland Festival

Visitors will enjoy listening to classic Scottish music on the pipes and drums, and other live music. Fun-filled activities include Re-Enactment Camps, the Society and Heritage Clan Village, Highland Athletics, and of course, Highland Dancing! The event will be held at Donnelly Park (530 N Donnelly Street) and Elizabeth Evans Park (100 N Donnelly Street). The cost for a 3-day pass is \$20 and VIP Experience is \$50.

We hope you have a blessed Valentine's Day and plan a day trip to this charming little town. Take time to rest to restore your soul so that you can continue to serve God. For more information on Mt. Dora, go to <https://ci.mount-dora.fl.us>.



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## GFWC Donates to St. Vincent de Paul



Club members in green shirts with Food Pantry staff



Club members enjoying brunch after delivering food to St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry

GFWC Lutz-Land O'Lakes Woman's Club members donated and delivered 517 pounds of food to St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry in Land O'Lakes on the January 15th National Day of Service. The food will be distributed by the pantry to those in the area who are facing food insecurity. For more information on this community service organization, please visit [gfwc.lutlandolakeswomensclub.org](http://gfwc.lutlandolakeswomensclub.org) or its Facebook page.

## GFWC Volunteer of the Year



GFWC Lutz-Land O'Lakes Woman's Club members have chosen their Volunteer of the Year – Faith Sincich, a long-time member, spanning 3+ decades of her outstanding commitment of time and endless energy, serving her club and the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC). Ms. Sincich has been tireless in her service and well-deserves this honor. She will now move forward to District and then State GFWC competition to hopefully win the title of GFWC Florida Volunteer of the Year.

## Realtor Donates to Liberty Manor



Lee Ann Carr, with FLORIDA LUXURY REALTY, INC. 24646 STATE ROAD 54 # 101, LUTZ, FL, 33559 has made a commitment to donate a percentage of her realty commissions to a list of charities that her customer chooses. Such was the case with her clients Courtney Lemus-Halpern and Jonathan Halpern. What a great humanitarian effort! Lee Ann Carr can be reached at 813-992-7788 or [FloridaPropertyForYou@gmail.com](mailto:FloridaPropertyForYou@gmail.com).

The mission of Liberty Manor for Veterans; Inc. is to promote the developmental and social needs of disabled and honorably discharged veterans who have fallen victim to homelessness providing transitional; supported housing and establishing objectives designed to attribute to self-sufficiency. Anyone interested in assisting this meritorious initiative please contact Connie Lindsay (813) 900-9422, or Liberty Manor for Veterans (a 501c3 non profit organization), website <http://www.libertymanor.org>, 10015 N 9th Street Tampa, FL 33612; or the mailing address P.O. Box 274081 Tampa, FL 33688-4081. Veterans are certainly worthy of our help. EIN #02-0775720.

## Will You Pray For Our Nation?



In the face of widespread insecurity, fear, and hopelessness, our nation desperately needs your prayers.

Today we are surrounded by the effects of forgetting—even forsaking—God, both as a nation and as individuals. The problem is too big for human effort. Our nation has a heart problem, and only God can fix it. Will you join us in prayer as we ask God to heal our land?

We have a promise from the Lord: **"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."** (2 Chronicles 7:14, NIV)

### The First Valentine

You may not be aware that Valentine’s Day was originally a religious holiday. Pope Gelasius I established the holiday in 500 AD to commemorate the death of one or more early Christian martyrs named Valentine.

The first recorded association of Valentine’s Day with romantic love was by Chaucer in 1382. Not until the mid-19th century were valentine cards mass-produced and sent to commemorate the love we feel for people who are special in our lives.

But none of these mark the first valentine offered. John 3:16 notes God so loved the world that he gave his Son to it and for it. The first valentine came in the form of the life of Jesus Christ.

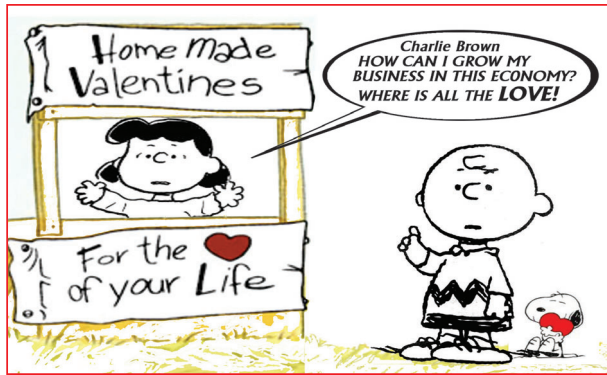
Most of us can recognize the cross, with Jesus’ suffering, death and resurrection as God’s gift of love to us. It is the most powerful symbol we have to remind us how much he cares for us and desires to be in relationship with us.

We also need to realize that the life Jesus lived is also part of God’s valentine to us. Jesus said he had no place to lay his head. So he can identify with and love the homeless. He often went without food and other necessities. So he can identify with and love the poor. He worked as a carpenter for most of his life. So he can identify with and love the working class.

He spent his time with those who were looked down upon by others. So he can identify and love those outside of the “in crowd.” He was tempted by wrong, so he can identify with and love those struggling to get their lives “right.”

He suffered the ordinary trials and tribulations of life, so he can identify with and love those going through them today. He suffered abuse, so he can identify with and love those abused by loved ones, strangers and even our culture.

His life is the greatest valentine you will ever receive. His suffering and death are the greatest symbols of love that exist. I pray you will take the time to meditate upon this wonderful act of love and experience His love afresh in your heart. Happy Valentines!



### Enter to Win!

Find the verses in the paper!

Enter to win tickets to the Bay Area Renaissance Festival 2/17-2/31 Weekends in Dade City

1. Dear friends, let us love one another, \_\_\_\_\_

2. Love is patient, love is kind. \_\_\_\_\_

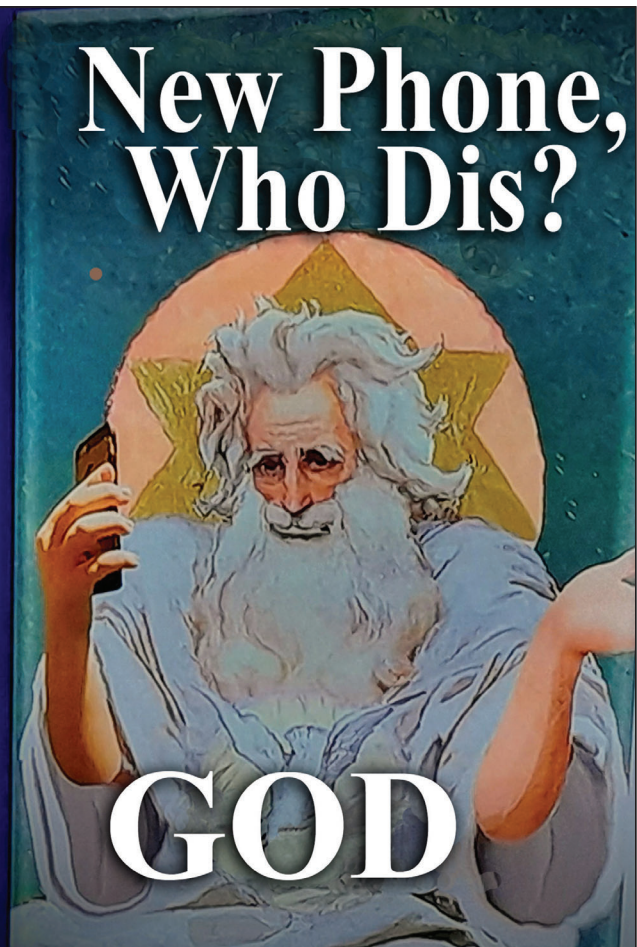
3. This is how we know what love is: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Be imitators of God, \_\_\_\_\_

Mail the entry to the address below and enclose a self-addressed envelope:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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## What Do You Look Like?

**Dr. Dan Coffin**  
Pastor, River of Life Church

Your daily routine may include spending time in front of your bathroom mirror which is usually followed by spending time in front of your full-length mirror. One is to scrutinize your face while

the other is to determine if what you are wearing is going to be satisfactory to either hide this or that or maybe highlight the better parts. If we are really serious, we have one of those 4x's or 10x's magnification mirrors so we can see every little detail and deal with the faults the best we can. Mirrors are usually agents of torment that remind us of our imperfections, but did you know the Scriptures have something to say about mirrors?

**"Don't just listen to the Word of Truth and not respond to it, for that is the essence of self-deception. So always let his Word become like poetry written and fulfilled by your life! If you listen to the Word and don't live out the message you hear, you become like the person who looks in the mirror of the Word to discover the reflection of his face in the beginning. You perceive how God sees you in the mirror of the Word, but then you go out and forget your divine origin."**

Here the Apostle James is showing us that when we look into the Word of God it is like looking into a mirror and the reflection we see is how God sees us. Many people think that God looks on them with great disapproval and is always pointing out the things that are not yet right with them. They are constantly living in condemnation feeling like they don't measure up and have failed to please God. Although this idea is common it is not true.

God has already forgiven us. He does not remember our sins and transgressions anymore. All our sin, guilt, shame has been removed from us, washed away to restore us to carry His image. Jesus did all the work. He carried the judgment for our sin on the cross to restore us to God. Now God lives in us. God has given us new clothes to wear. He tells us to take off the old garments of sin and shame and put on the new clothes of the new person he has made us to be. We are supposed to look like Him. When we look into the mirror of the Word of God we are to see the one who made us in His image and likeness. Then we are to carry that image throughout our day.

You may not yet have discovered how God sees you; How much He loves you and His purpose and desires for you. You may have a distorted image of yourself, but I have good news for you. I know where you can find the image of the glory of God. You see the knowledge of the glory of God is found in the face of the Lord Jesus Christ and as we look into the mirror of God's Word we are changed into the same image by the Spirit of the Lord.

(Scripture references: Jms. 1:22-24 TPT; 2 Cor. 4:6; 2 Cor. 3:18)

Dr. Dan Coffin and his wife Dianne co-pastor River of Life Church at 410 E. Chapman Rd. in Lutz, FL. 33549, (813) 949-9931, [www.rloftampa.org](http://www.rloftampa.org)

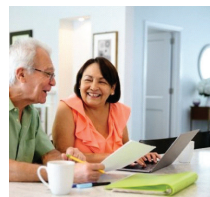
We would love to invite you to visit River of Life Church. Our lively worship begins at 10:30am on Sunday. We are a non-denominational, spirit-filled ministry.

**"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."**  
— Ephesians 5: 1-2

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## General Enrollment Period For Medicare Part B By Javier Morales, Social Security Public Affairs in South Florida



If you did not apply for Medicare Part B (medical insurance) within three months before or after turning age 65, you have another chance each year during the General Enrollment Period. The period runs from January 1 to March 31 every year.

If you don't enroll in Part B when you're first eligible for it, you may have to pay a late enrollment penalty for as long as you have Part B coverage. Your monthly premium will increase 10% for each 12-month period that you were eligible for Part B but did not sign up for it. Your coverage starts the first day of the month after you sign up.

To learn more about Medicare, please visit our Medicare Benefits page at [www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare). You may also read our publication at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10043.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10043.pdf). Please share this information with your friends and loved ones who may need it.

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## Religion or Reality? Are You A Fan or a Follower?

I was reading a book the other day and came across the following statement: "So the way of Jesus is not about religion; it's about reality." I know that is a simple statement. One I've seen before. But this time when I read it, it seemed to explode in my mind and heart.

Jesus said, in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." When he said this, he wasn't comparing various religions, but talking about life. He was saying, "Look at me! My life is the truth. This is the way you should be living. This is what life was meant to be." He wasn't comparing his "way" with another "way." He was comparing his life with our lives. He was saying your life and my life could be like this. This is life as the Father intended.

Somehow, we have turned Jesus' teachings into a religion and it has stopped being reality. It has become another part of our lives (something we add to what we do). It no longer redefines our lives (changing everything we perceive and how we react to life around us). A discussion about Jesus' life and teachings is not a philosophical discussion comparing the pros and cons of a belief system. Instead, it is a discussion about what is real, what is true, and about what is important in how to live our lives.

This is what it means to be "a follower of Christ." It is allowing His life to become the pattern for our lives. A follower looks at how Jesus lived life, then tries to live the same way. It changes everything about us: how we see ourselves, how we respond to others, how we determine the priorities of our lives. His way becomes our way. His truth becomes our truth. And his life becomes our life. Following Christ means everything to us or it means nothing.

Either Jesus' life demonstrated reality or it did not. If it did, then we must decide if we are willing to base our life on his. Do we see our following Christ as a religious choice or as a decision on what is the reality of life? There is a big difference between the two. Ask yourself today: "Has Jesus become a religion for me or does he define reality for me?" This is an important question. Even more important is your response.

**What price are you willing to pay?**  
One Nation Under God  
With Liberty & Justice For All

Are you a follower or just a fan?

## Pasco Tax Collector's Office Will Spotlight Special Olympics of Pasco in February

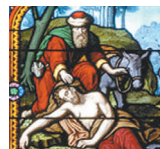
Special Olympics of Pasco will be the featured charitable giving organization at the Pasco County Tax Collector's office in February. Special Olympics of Pasco is a sports and training program for people with intellectual disabilities. In Pasco, 1500 students participate in Special Olympics. Training in almost two dozen different sports is provided free of charge to participants.

Funds raised in a prior year helped the Pasco team attend the 2022 National Special Olympics USA Games in Orlando. The Pasco County flag football team, the Dolphins, won gold. All funds raised during this charitable giving effort will support the improvement of athletic programs for participants, including updating uniforms, and will help offset costs of trips to Special Olympics games.

Donations can be made at any of the five tax collector locations in Pasco County. For those who would like to give online, the tax collector's office's charitable giving arm Pasco TC Gives has a webpage through which donations for the Special Olympics of Pasco (Charity of the Month) can be made: <https://www.govhub.com/fl-pasco/tc-gives/donate>

For more details regarding the charitable giving program, or services provided by the Pasco County Tax Collector's Office, please contact Greg Giordano, Assistant Tax Collector at 727-847-8179 or visit [www.pascotaxes.com](http://www.pascotaxes.com). For more information about Special Olympics of Pasco please contact Amy Selvey, Pasco Special Olympics Director at 727-492-8413 or visit [www.specialolympicsflorida.org/westcoast](http://www.specialolympicsflorida.org/westcoast)

## An Act of Kindness: The Good Samaritan



Jesus answered, "A certain man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who both stripped him and beat him, and departed, leaving him half dead. By chance a certain priest was going down that way. When he saw him, he passed by on the other side. In the same way a Levite also, when he came to the place, and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he travelled, came where he was. When he saw him, he was moved with compassion, came to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. He set him on his own animal, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, and gave them to the host, and said to him, 'Take care of him. Whatever you spend beyond that, I will repay you when I return.' Now which of these three do you think seemed to be a neighbor to him who fell among the robbers?"

He said, "He who showed mercy on him."

Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

— Luke 10:30-37, World English Bible

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Today is a gift,  
Tomorrow is a mystery,  
That's why it's called  
the present!**

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**Happy Valentine's Day**  
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**The Great Florida Outdoors: Fox Squirrel**  
Dr. Robert Norman, Clinical Professor, Dermatology, Nova Southeastern University



I was biking through J. B. Starkey Wilderness Park along a stretch of longleaf pines recently and saw a fast moving creature bounding up a tree. With an extra long tail, I was not sure what I had just witnessed. About a mile later I saw another similar species and stopped to take a video. I suspected it was a fox squirrel, although I had rarely seen one in the wild. After I studied the video and investigated, my suspicion was correct.

The fox squirrel, also known as the eastern fox squirrel or Bryant's fox squirrel, is the largest species of tree squirrel native to North America. In Florida they are often named the southern fox squirrel. Fox squirrels are larger and heavier than gray squirrels.

It can reach a length up to 27.6 inches and a weight between one to three pounds. This species has an overall color that varies from black to brown with a black head, white ears, and a white snout. Fox squirrels are known for their long bushy tails and their strong hind legs which enables them to leap far.

**Behavior**  
Fox squirrels are strictly diurnal, non-territorial, and spend more of their time on the ground than most other tree squirrels. They are still, however, agile climbers.


They construct two types of homes called "dreys", depending on the season. Summer dreys are often little more than platforms of sticks high in the branches of trees, while winter dens are usually hollowed out of tree trunks by a succession of occupants over as many as 30 years. Cohabitation of these dens is not uncommon, particularly among breeding pairs. The southern fox squirrel typically has two breeding seasons each year. The winter breeding season is from October to February and the summer breeding season is from April to August. Most nests are made of Spanish moss, pine needles, twigs, and leaves, while a few nests are made within tree cavities. Females average one litter per year with an average of 2.3 offspring per litter. Young are weaned at 90 days and sexual maturity is reached at about nine months.

The diet of southern fox squirrel primarily consists of longleaf pine seeds and turkey oak acorns, but they will also eat fungi, fruit, and buds. Fox squirrels will form caches by burying food items for later consumption. They like to store foods that are shelled and high in fat, such as acorns and nuts. Shelled foods are favored because they are less likely to spoil than non-shelled foods, and fatty foods are valued for their high energy density.

Fox squirrels are most abundant in open forest stands with little understory vegetation and are not found in stands with dense undergrowth. Ideal habitat is small stands of large trees interspersed with agricultural land. The size and spacing of pines and oaks are among the important features of fox squirrel habitat. The actual species of pines and oaks themselves may not always be a major consideration in defining fox squirrel habitat. Fox squirrels are often observed foraging on the ground several hundred meters from the nearest woodlot. Fox squirrels also commonly occupy forest edge habitat.

**Threats**  
The main threat to the southern fox squirrel population is the destruction of their habitats. Habitat loss has been significant as it is estimated that only 10-20% of original southern fox squirrel native habitat is still intact, most of it having been logged, converted to pasture, degraded by lack of fire, or used for agriculture, commercial and residential development. Improperly burned longleaf pine communities also affect the fox squirrel's population as it prevents longleaf pine seeds from properly reproducing in the bare ground. This species also has an increased chance of getting hit by a vehicle due to their typically slow gait (locomotion).

Where can you find this amazing creature—the southern fox squirrel?  
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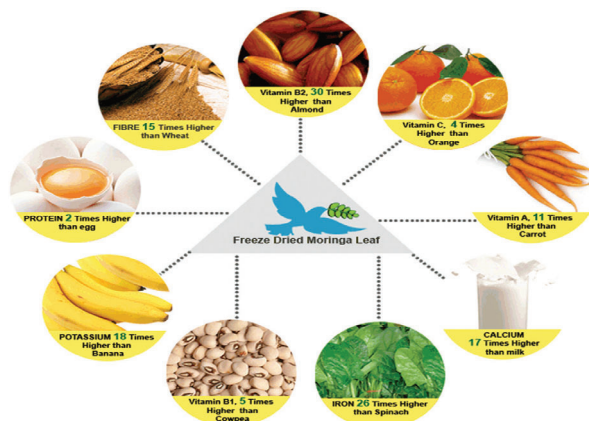
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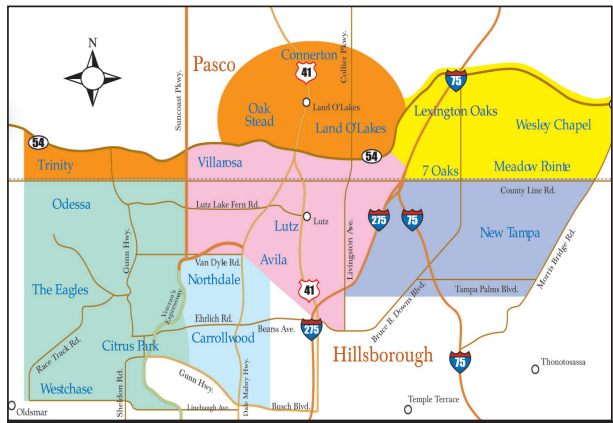
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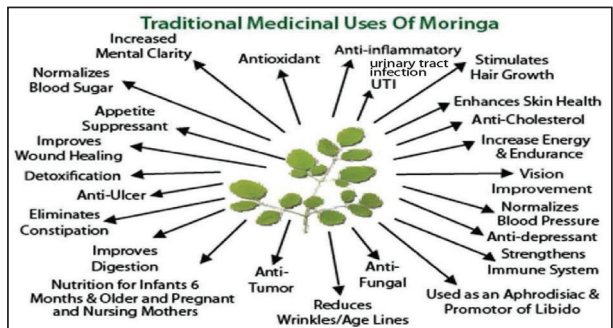
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