

# Hometown News

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**PLANNING A TRIP?**

'Touring with the Townies' features reader-submitted photos from travels. Let's see how many places we can go! Send in your picture or questions to [newsfp@hometownnewsmediagroup.com](mailto:newsfp@hometownnewsmediagroup.com)



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**TWO OF THE BEST**

These two friendly felines can be your new best friends with adoption opportunities through the Humane Society.



PET OF THE WEEK

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**VIKING HOMETOWN**

This weeks travelers took their copy of Hometown News all the way to the North Atlantic.

TOURING

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**BIG CATCH**

This weeks trophy catch comes from a father and son duo

CATCH OF THE WEEK

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## Community calendar

MONDAY, MAY 6

• **IRC Library Friends Meeting:** The Friends of the North Indian River County Library will meet on Monday, May 6th, at 11 a.m. in the small conference room. This will be the final meeting of the season to wrap up loose ends and begin plans for the 2019/2020 season before the next meeting in September.. The Library is located at 1001 Sebastian Boulevard, three miles west of U.S. 1 in Sebastian. For more information call (772) 589-1355.

SATURDAY, MAY 11

• **Brews and Bringo:** On Saturday, May 11th, H.A.L.O. No-Kill Rescue will host their first ever "Brews & Bingo to the Rescue!" at Walking Tree Brewery, located at 3209 Dodger Road in Vero Beach, to support no-kill animal rescue. With the goal of creating an event where all residents of Indian River County are able to attend, tickets are \$25 and include five (5) games of bingo, dinner and one (1) drink ticket. The evening's festivities will begin at 6:00 where guests can sip on a craft brew or carefully selected wine and bid on fabulous raffle prizes provided by generous local businesses. A delicious hometown dinner will be provided with an

See CALENDAR, page 7

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## Sowing the seeds



Sebastian's Natural Resources Board hosted an Earth Day & Arbor Day celebration on Saturday, April 27 at Riverview Park in Sebastian. Here, Tristan Jamison, 3, plants a seed for Keep Indian River Beautiful.

Anthony Inswasty staff photographer

## Free oak trees, planting advice now available

By Mike Winikoff  
[mwinikoff@hometownnewsmediagroup.com](mailto:mwinikoff@hometownnewsmediagroup.com)

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — Last month The Pelican Island Audubon Society and the Environmental Learning Center launched an ambitious effort to plant 100,000 native trees in Indian River County over the next 15 years. Res-

idents can participate by planting free oak trees, with all training and instruction provided.

On April 25, Pelican Island Audubon Society held the first tree-planting class of the program. Approximately 15 people attended to learn how to plant trees and receive a free live oak tree to take home.

See TREES, page 8

## City of Fellsmere manager resigns

By Mike Winikoff  
[mwinikoff@hometownnewsmediagroup.com](mailto:mwinikoff@hometownnewsmediagroup.com)

FELLSMERE — Jason Nunemaker, Fellsmere City Manager, has submitted his resignation, effective May 10. He is taking a new position in Broward County as chief administrative officer with the city of Plantation.

According to comments from Mr. Nunemaker and City Council members, the move is for family reasons. His wife and young daughter live in Broward, and the City Council has been aware that he was considering a move to avoid the long commute to be with them.

"We knew this was going to happen. I was just hoping you'd wait until she started school," Vice Mayor Sara Savage told Mr. Nunemaker at the April 18 council meeting. "We know we're good, and you're going to miss us," the Vice Mayor joked, drawing laughs from the audience.

"It's been a pleasure working with you, Jason," Vice Mayor Savage said. "We learned to work together, you were always very professional, and when I pitched fits and wanted something, you somehow figured out a way for me to get it. You spoiled us. I'm glad you're going to be close to home. And I'm really proud of the father you've become."

Mr. Nunemaker has been Fellsmere City Manager since 2005. Prior to coming to Fellsmere, he was Town Manager of Lake Park. Before that he held three positions in Dania Beach, Assistant to the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and Interim City Manager.

Mr. Nunemaker has a PhD in Public Administration from Florida Atlantic University. See COUNCIL, page 7

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# Trees

From page 1

Nickie Munroe, Indian River County Environmental Horticulture specialist with the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, gave a one hour class that taught everything one needs to know about how to plant baby live oak trees.

Following the class, participants chose a free tree to take home. City Councilmember Laura Moss took a tree that she hopes to plant at City Hall, pending the approval of the rest of the council.

“Councilwoman Moss has been talking to me for over a year about how to put more trees on Vero Beach city property,” said Dr. Baker.

“I would like to plant a tree at City Hall,” Councilmember Moss told Hometown News. “I think that City Hall should set a good example, and in fact I want to plant more native plants at City Hall. We’ve been planning that for a while but it has not been implemented yet. Now the timing seems perfect to do it, and I appreciate what Dr. Baker is doing because not only does it provide physical beauty, it’s environmentally sound, and it also fosters a beautiful sense of community.”

“I might need a vote of City Council on this – I can’t speak for the whole council – but I would hope there would not be opposition to planting trees and native plants,” Councilmember Moss said. “I’ll water it and take care of it. I hope this tree at City Hall will start us towards more native plants. I give tours of City Hall to schoolchildren, inside. It would be wonderful to have more native plants and trees outside, so I can make it an indoor/outdoor tour for school-

children.”

Ms. Munroe told attendees that her office is available to provide free tree-planting and landscaping advice by phone, email, or in person.

“Half of the calls into our office ask why my plant is not living and thriving,” Ms. Munroe said. “It’s usually because you did not plant it properly.”

Ms. Munroe went through all the tips on how to plant, how to avoid harming your home foundation or driveway, and why not to plant too deep. She provided extensive details about oaks.

After the classroom portion of the morning, the group walked to Audubon’s new greenhouses to see a planting demonstration, ask questions, and pick our trees. We toured the greenhouse where trays were starting acorns. Once the acorns start growing, they are transplanted into one-gallon pots.

“We started without a greenhouse, and the squirrels got them all,” Dr. Baker said.

Ms. Munroe showed us how to plant a small tree, and it only took about 10 minutes. When pointing out some milkweed on the property, she spoke of how the butterflies love it. Throughout the talk, Ms. Munroe drew connections between the tree we were planting and the animals and other plants who will live around it, urging us to learn and understand as much as we could absorb.

The trees we took home to plant came from the Indian River Land Trust. According to Dr. Baker, Rock City Gardens got them started in pots from acorns. The next 1,500 trees that will be ready next fall came from acorns on the Audubon property, and donated acorns.

In order to receive the free trees, we had



Staff photo by Mike Winikoff

Nickie Munroe, Indian River County Environmental Horticulture specialist, demonstrates how to plant an oak tree.

to sign the Tree for Life pledge. Live oak tree recipients agree to plant it, care for it, and water it according to instructions provided. They also agree to allow PIAS to GPS the site of the tree on their map.

“We will GPS the trees so we have a map on our website where everyone can see how we’re progressing,” said Dr. Baker. “This is a citizen science project, a long term project. Many tree planting projects don’t work. We want to track these trees closely and make sure it works.”

All of the necessary instructions to plant one of the trees is provided on free PIAS handouts, including proper placement to avoid damaging foundations or overhead lines, how to prepare the hole and root ball,

and how to water and mulch.

“If everybody planted a tree, we could get rid of global warming,” Dr. Baker said. “The trees could solve a lot of our problems, get rid of the CO2, provide a healthy area for people to live in.”

To participate, either by planting trees at your own home, or helping others, or to donate, contact the Pelican Island Audubon Society at (772) 567-3520, or email [PIAudubon@yahoo.com](mailto:PIAudubon@yahoo.com).

For advice about trees or landscaping from Nickie Munroe, Indian River County Environmental Horticulture specialist, visit the UF/IFAS IRC Extension Office at 1800 27th St., Vero Beach, email [Lnmunroe@ufl.edu](mailto:Lnmunroe@ufl.edu), or call (772) 226-4330 ext. 4.

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