



Tourism Tidbits

JULY 2011

visitpasco.net

8731 Citizens Dr. Suite 340
New Port Richey, FL 34654

727-847-8129 / 1-800-842-1873
tourism@pascocountyfl.net



in Dade City July 4th



DADE CITY - The Pasco County Fairgrounds will host Sparklebration for the sixth year on Monday, July 4. The festivities include hot dog, apple pie and watermelon eating contests, followed by a spectacular fireworks show performed by the legendary Zambelli family. The fireworks begin at 9:15 p.m. with the gates opening up at 4 p.m. This year's featured entertainment includes local artists Ashley Shannon and Lara Dewees. A full list of the festivities and entertainers are available at:

<http://www.pascocountyfair.com/sparklebration.htm>. Admission is \$5 for adults; children 12 and younger are free. Parking is available on site for \$5.

JULY EDITION

1 Sparklebration

Grant Deadline Nears

Baby Giraffe Born

2 Pasco Media Expanding

Suncoast Senior Regional Bowling Tournament

3-4 July & August Events

email your event to:
tourism@pascocountyfl.net

Grant Applications Due July 15

NEW PORT RICHEY - The deadline is fast approaching for those organizations who want to apply for a Special Event Grant from Pasco County. Friday, July 15, 2011 is the deadline set by the Pasco County Tourist Development Council (TDC) to receive applications for Fiscal Year 2011-12 grants. As in the past, the funds allocated to support the grant program are in conjunction with the County's Tourist Development Plan 2010-14 and are provided by the TDC on behalf of the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners. While the TDC makes recommendations regarding distribution of the funds, the Board approves the final grant award amount. If you have questions regarding the application process, please call our office at (727) 847-8129.

Tourist Development Tax Collections

Month	2010	2011
MARCH	\$78,940	\$76,501
APRIL	\$82,782	\$90,124
MAY	\$58,418	\$62,585
TOTALS	\$220,140	\$229,210

Baby Giraffe Born On Ranch

DADE CITY - Giraffe Ranch Farm Tour welcomed a newborn giraffe to its growing herd on June 16. The "baby" giraffe is a boy and weighs 125 lbs. and is 6' tall. The giraffe has not been named and the tour operators are requesting giraffe fans to post their suggestions to Pasco County's Tourism fan page on Facebook.



A baby giraffe joined the herd on Giraffe Ranch. Photo by George L. Johnson ©2011



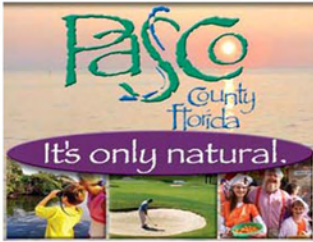
August 27, 2011

www.coteemantriathlon.com



Visit Florida, the state's official tourism marketing arm, is offering all Florida tourism businesses a free listing on the agency's website, go to www.VISITFLORIDA.org/free or email our office at tourism@pascocountyfl.net





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Pasco County Tourist Development Council

The **Hon. Ann Hildebrand**,
Chairman
Pasco County Commissioner

The **Hon. Scott Black**
Mayor, City of Dade City

Toby Caroline
Paradise Lakes Resort

Gail Cushman
Days Inn & Suites, Port Richey

The **Hon. Judy DeBella Thomas**
City Councilwoman
City of New Port Richey

James Johnson
Pasco-Hernando Community College

Karen King
Homewood Suites, Port Richey

Jack Phethean
Wells Fargo Bank, Zephyrhills

Gregory R. Riehle
Saddlebrook Resort, Wesley Chapel

Office of Tourism Staff

Eric Keaton
Public Communications Manager

Ed Caum
Public Communications Specialist

Colleen Conko
Sr. Secretary

Next TDC Meeting: July 20, Dade City



Suncoast Senior Regional Bowling Tournament

HUDSON- The 34th Annual Suncoast Senior Regional Bowling Tournament is scheduled to welcome nearly 600 bowlers from across Florida. Held at the Hudson Bowl, the event is open to both men and women, 55 or older. The tournament is scheduled from July 23 to August 14, 2011.



Event coordinator Mickey Maxwell said there is more than \$15,000 in prizes to be awarded. Prize money will be distributed upon a ratio of one prize for every eight entries in each event. Entry fee per person is \$19 per event.

Tourism Expanding Web Presence



Blogger - The Office of Tourism Development is working on bi-weekly series of articles that focus on Pasco as a destination for visitors. If you have events and stories you want to share please send them to us and we'll consider posting it on our tour blog. <http://www.visitpasco.net/Blog.aspx>



Facebook - Since the first of the year we have been posting events and activities to our *Pasco County Tourism* social media page. Almost 400 of you have liked us and receive our news feed. We will continue to post events as they come to our attention.



Youtube - We have been on this medium the longest and need your help to beef it up. If you have captured the beauty or activities of Pasco on video, please send them to us so we can share your adventures and travels. <http://www.youtube.com/user/pascotourism>



QR Code- The funny looking box to the left is a "quick response" code that is readable with a *SmartPhone* app. Like a barcode on products you buy at the market or favorite store it has information stored within the box. Scanning this code will direct your phone to VisitPasco.net. This technology has been added to our print advertising in order to meet our customers and visitors' needs.





JULY

- JULY 2** **FRESH MARKET AT WIREGRASS** - The Shops at Wiregrass, 28211 Paseo Drive, Wesley Chapel, (813) 994-2242, www.theshopsatwiregrass.com. Expect to find a variety of local, certified organic, hydroponic and conventional produce, Florida grown plants, herbs, flowers, organic garden food/supplies, locally made take-home foods such as jams, jellies, salsa, dips, seasonings, sauces and oils, local artists showcasing their creative efforts and eco-friendly products. 10 am - 3 pm.
- JULY 2 - 4** **JULY 4TH WEEKEND AT Z-HILLS** - Skydive City, 4241 Sky Dive Lane, Zephyrhills, (800) 888-5867, www.skydivecity.com. Come out and watch the skydivers night jump. Sweat it out at the Sunset Bar, enjoy a beautiful Florida sunset and have a great weekend at the 'Hills.
- JULY 3 - 4** **SPARKLEBRATION** - Pasco County Fair Grounds, 36722 State Route 52, Dade City, (352) 567-6678, www.sparklebration.com. Continuous live musical entertainment, all American food court, carnival, skydiver drop-in, food eating contests and so much more. Gates open at 4 pm on Sunday.
- JULY 9** **CRUISIN' AT WIREGRASS CAR & TRUCK SHOW** - The Shops at Wiregrass, 28211 Paseo Drive, Wesley Chapel, (813) 994-2242, www.theshopsatwiregrass.com. Enjoy nearly 200 antique and classic cars along with live music as these rare beauties line the streets of Wiregrass. 3 pm - 9 pm.
- JULY 9** **WERNER-BOYCE SALT SPRINGS STATE PARK - KAYAK EVENT** -9120 Old Post Road, Port Richey, (727) 816-1890, www.facebook.com/pages/Salt-Springs/195746893804444 or for reservations [email cso.saltsprings@gmail.com](mailto:cso.saltsprings@gmail.com). The Salt Springs Alliance will be holding a Designated Interpretive Paddle (DIP) for all levels of paddlers. This is a 2-mile paddle with a route through Werner-Boyce Salt Springs State Park. Cost is \$5 for all non-members, while CSO members may paddle for free. Sign in begins at 7:30 am and launch time is 8 am. Please bring a kayak or you can rent a kayak from Makai Kayak at (727) 534-1336.
- JULY 16** **FRESH MARKET AT WIREGRASS** - The Shops at Wiregrass, 28211 Paseo Drive, Wesley Chapel, (813) 994-2242, www.theshopsatwiregrass.com. Expect to find a variety of local, certified organic, hydroponic and conventional produce, Florida grown plants, herbs, flowers, organic garden food/supplies, locally made take-home foods such as jams, jellies, salsa, dips, seasonings, sauces and oils, local artists showcasing their creative efforts and eco-friendly products. 10 am - 3 pm.
- JULY 16** **BIKE NIGHT** - The Shops at Wiregrass, 28211 Paseo Drive, Wesley Chapel, (813) 994-2242, www.theshopsatwiregrass.com. The Shops at Wiregrass invites motorcyclists from all over to show off their bikes and admire others. The Wiregrass streets are lined with bikes on display as live entertainment performs. 5 pm - 9 pm.
- JULY 23** **SATURDAY NIGHT CRUISE** - Downtown Zephyrhills, (813) 780-1414, www.zephyrhillschamber.org. Classic cars, entertainment, music, food, vendors and much more. 4 pm - 8 pm.
- JULY 23** **WINE CLASS** - Florida Estates Winery, 25241 State Road 52, Land O'Lakes, (813) 996-2113, www.floridaestateswinery.com. Join Florida Estates Winemaker, Ron Hunt, as he shares his experiences and educational knowledge of wine in a detailed wine class. It's a lot of fun and a great way to learn something new about wine. Cost is \$25 prepaid in advance or \$30 at the door. Price includes wine tasting, snacks, dessert and logo wine glass. 2 pm - 5 pm.



JULY

JULY 23 - 24 **SUNCOAST SENIOR REGIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT** - Hudson Bowl, 14523 US HWY 19, Hudson,
JULY 30 - 31 Mfmmouser@aol.com. Hosted by the Hudson Bowl and Days Inn of Port Richey, participants must be
AUG 6 - 7 55 years of age to complete. This event is held on four consecutive weekends starting July through
AUG 13 - 14 August.

AUGUST

- AUG 6 **FRESH MARKET AT WIREGRASS** - The Shops at Wiregrass, 28211 Paseo Drive, Wesley Chapel, (813) 994-2242, www.theshopsatwiregrass.com. Expect to find a variety of local, certified organic, hydroponic and conventional produce, Florida grown plants, herbs, flowers, organic garden food/supplies, locally made take-home foods such as jams, jellies, salsa, dips, seasonings, sauces and oils, local artists showcasing their creative efforts and eco-friendly products. 10 am - 3 pm
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- AUG 27 **SATURDAY NIGHT CRUISE** - Downtown Zephyrhills, (813) 780-1414, www.zephyrhillschamber.org. Classic cars, entertainment, music, food, vendors and much more. 4 pm - 8 pm.
- AUG 27 **COTEE MAN TRIATHLON** - New Port Richey Recreation Center, 6630 Van Buren Street, New Port Richey, (727) 847-2424, www.coteemantriathlon.com. A course that will have you run through the city of New Port Richey, swim 150 yards at the Recreation Center and bicycle 3.1 miles around the center of New Port Richey. Also new for 2011, there will be a Corporate Cup Relay Challenge; classes will include city and county departments, businesses and schools.