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Photo submitted by United Way of St. Lucie County

The United Way presents Diamond Litty and staff members with a special trophy award for their efforts in organizing the Public Defender's Annual Golf Tournament fundraiser. The 19th Circuit Public Defender's Golf Tournament raised over \$21,000 for people in need. Pictured, left to right, are Linda Evans, Sharon Kelly-Brown, United Way of St. Lucie County Board Chair, Karen Knapp, CEO of United Way of St. Lucie County, Susie Hatch, Tournament Co-Chair, Diamond Litty, Public Defender, and Gabby Rothman, Tournament Co-Chair.

Public defender's golf tournament raises more than \$21,000 for United Way

FOR HOMETOWN NEWS

The nineteenth circuit public defender's golf tournament, held at The Legacy Golf and Tennis Club in Port St. Lucie to benefit United Way of St. Lucie County, raised over \$21,000.

The tournament began with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. on Aug. 11.

Following the round of golf, the 144 attendees who turned out for the

annual event were treated to lunch at the Legacy Clubhouse, where the prizes were awarded.

In addition to golfing, there was a live auction, various raffle and door prizes, a 'hole-in-one' contest, and a 'Beat the Pro' contest. A 'barrel of cheer' donated by United Way Board Chair Sharon J. Kelly raised over \$900.

"Partnering with an organization like the Public Defender's Office

increases our ability to make a difference in people's lives and create sustainable change in our community," said Karen Knapp, CEO/President of the United Way of St. Lucie County.

"We are so grateful that they support us year after year," she said.

For more information on how to become one of the thousands of people who volunteer and invest in the community, call (772) 464-5309 or visit www.unitedwayslc.org.

Volunteers wanted for Ginn Classic

FOR HOMETOWN NEWS

The St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce and the Ginn Classic at Tesoro is recruiting volunteers for the PGA Tour event being held in Port St. Lucie Oct. 22 through Oct. 20.

Chamber volunteers will serve as greeters for all those attending the tournament. Volunteers will also tell the visitors to our area about all of the

things to do and see in St. Lucie County as they ride the trolley from parking to the tournament entry gates.

Benefits of volunteering include: one golf shirt, a hat, visor or straw hat, one volunteer badge valid for tournament entry all seven days whether you are working or not, volunteer parking pass, three extra "Good Any Day" tickets for your friends and family, and a lunch voucher for all work days.

Additionally, any volunteer working more than 15 hours will receive a free round of golf with lunch at the private Tesoro Golf Club following the tournament.

There is a fee of \$15.00 that the Ginn Classic is charging; all of these monies will go to a local charity to be determined by the tournament.

To participate, please register online at www.GinnClassic.com and request to serve as an Ambassador.

WEEK IN REVIEW

Women with children in tow charged with thefts at Wal-Mart

Wal-Mart personnel summoned the police about shoplifting that was in progress on Aug. 27 at approximately 8 p.m.

When a police officer arrived at the store, located at 11855 South U.S. Highway 1 and contacted Wal-Mart's loss prevention agent, he was shown the video of three females shoplifting as a team.

Two of the women and their children with them. The children were 1-year-old and an infant less than 3-weeks old.

The group was arrested as they tried to exit the store with merchandise totaling \$570.48, including baby supplies, infant clothing, shoes and ladies undergarments.

Charged with felony grand theft were Emmanuel Desirivres, Valarie Carrietta and Rose Desirivres, all of Port St. Lucie.

City Council makes it easier to request street lighting

In a 3-2 vote at the Port St. Lucie City Council meeting on Aug. 27, the process of requesting street lighting in neighborhoods was made a bit easier.

The vote eliminates the need for petitions containing the signatures of a majority of homeowners in a given neighborhood.

Instead, a single homeowner may now apply to the city clerk for street lighting. The clerk then sets boundaries, or a district, for the area and sends the request to city council. Council, in turn, will schedule a mail-in election for those who own property in that district.

A simple majority is then needed for the district to receive the street lighting. Each property is allowed one vote.

If approved, the street lighting is expected to cost each property owner approximately \$20 per year.

County accepts grant applications from schools for driver education classes

St. Lucie County Commissioners began accepting grant applications from private and public schools for driver education safety programs.

The county awards those grants from proceeds of the \$3 fee it attaches to each civil traffic penalty. The fee is a provision of the Dori Slusher Driver Education Safety Act.

The money goes to schools through a competitive mini-grant process, county officials said.

Administrators consider applications based on several criteria, including a provision that the driving programs require students to spend at least 30 percent of the course "behind the wheel," gaining practical experience.

The county limits awards to \$50,000.

To apply, go to the "Hot Topics" section of the county's Web site, at www.stlucieco.gov.

Applications can be mailed to the Office of Management and Budget, St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners, 2800 Virginia Ave., Port Pierce, FL 34982-3662.

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