



MARC VALERO/STAFF

A Sebring Community Redevelopment Agency Selection Committee will meet at 2 p.m., Sept. 29, in the City Council Chambers, to review nine proposals for the disposition of the property at 305 Circle Park Drive that previously housed Shoemaker Plumbing.

CRA committee to review 9 proposals for Circle property

By **MARC VALERO**
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — The Sebring Community Redevelopment Agency received nine business proposals for its 305 Circle Park Drive and 250 Wall Street properties. The properties were

purchased this year for \$109,000.

A CRA Selection Committee will meet at 2 p.m., Sept. 29, in the City Council Chambers, to review the responses received for the disposition of the property on the Circle that previously housed Shoemaker

Plumbing.

“We received nine proposals for 305 Circle Park Drive,” and 250 Wall Street, CRA Executive Director Kristie Vazquez said. “It’s a package deal. Both of those properties were a part of what we acquired. They have two different addresses and

strap numbers with the county, but we purchased them as a whole.

“There is the potential that an applicant could utilize the building or they could say they don’t need it for their usage.”

CRA Board Chairman

CIRCLE | 4A

County’s community garden has plots for rent



COURTESY//HIGHLANDS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Garden plots are now available at the Highlands County Community Garden, at \$10 for six months and \$20 for a year.

Spaces in time for fall vegetable planting

By **PHIL ATTINGER**
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — It will soon be fall, and in Florida, that’s the time to plant your vegetables.

The Highlands Soil & Water Conservation District has 15 to 20 open plots at the Highlands County Community Garden off West George Boulevard, when you’re ready to plant.

“It became a hot item when COVID came out,” said Susie Bishop, executive director of the Soil & Water Conservation District.

Over the summer, the 45-plot garden gained a number of vacancies for various reasons, including people moving away or taking new jobs. Bishop thinks she can fill them quickly at \$10 for a six-month rental and \$20 for a year.

“We’ve got them all in shape,” Bishop said of the vacant, overgrown plots. “They got out of control in the summer.”

Now that it’s cooling down, people can start their winter vegetable gardens, she said. Tomatoes and peppers are most popular, but people have been growing green beans, English peas, okra and squash. Some, over the years, have grown sunflowers and other specialty crops.

“People can grow anything, as long as it’s legal,” Bishop said.

Corn has been a bit of a challenge, Bishop said, mostly because it’s hard to control the pests. However, the garden has irrigation lines, fresh compost to fertilize the beds and tools on hand to till the soil further. It even has a shaded picnic area.

The garden first started in September 2014, and it has stayed successful with green-thumbed growers every year, Bishop said.

“Gardeners share ideas,” she said. “We have a lot of avid gardeners.”

Anyone who doesn’t have the space or property to plant a personal garden can find space at the Community Garden. They can rent the 25-by-12-foot plots by contacting Bishop at the Highlands Soil & Water Conservation District by calling 863-402-7020 or emailing sbishop@highlandsswcd.org.

Knotty Girl T-shirts are back

Sebring Firefighters raising funds again for Knotty Girl, cancer research

By **PHIL ATTINGER**
STAFF WRITER

SEBRING — Get ready to support breast cancer awareness.

The annual Sebring Professional Firefighters T-shirt sale will begin soon, once organizers have their website ready to take orders. Last year, the sale raised \$1,010 for the Knotty Girl Foundation and its education and awareness campaigns.

This year, firefighters hope to double that amount to \$2,020, said Sebring Firefighter/EMT and Senior Engineer Anthony “Tony” Perez with the Sebring Fire Department. They have ordered 300 shirts in men’s sizes: small to 3XL, selling for \$20 each, through sfdlocal3210.com.

“We hope the website will help out a lot,” Perez said.

There will be a small fee if you order online, however. Perez said the cost of the domain name will make an online card payment \$22. People can pay by cash or check, however. They can select that option at checkout, Perez said, and pay when they pick up their shirts.

Shirts ordered through Oct. 5 can be picked up 3-7 p.m. on Oct. 6 at Turn2 Brewery, 4496 Tanglewood Drive in Sebring. All proceeds will go to Knotty Girl Loves Inc., Perez said, the non-profit brainchild of Diana Albritton, which works to get the word



COURTESY GRAPHIC/KNOTTY GIRL LOVES INC.

Knotty Girl Loves Inc. uses funds raised from various sources to get out public information campaigns on breast cancer awareness and detection.

out on self-examinations.

Albritton, a cancer survivor since 2002, has frequently said that the mammogram missed the first time she had cancer, but she could feel it. Her doctor ordered a sonogram and they found the cancer.

Albritton said financial help from organizations like Sebring Professional Firefighters Local 3210 makes sure she can continue to get out the word, even in trying times. The pandemic, she said, has made getting out in person more difficult.

“Once your immune system is violated, what do you do?” Albritton said of cancer survivors’ vulnerability to COVID-19. “We’re using social media. We’ve had a couple of appearances, but the pandemic has cut those back.”

One of those cutbacks has been the annual retreat, something that she did for cancer survivors to give them time

away and to celebrate them for being cancer free. COVID-19 has kept that from happening.

That’s fine, Albritton said. Her trademark is education.

“I need to go back to my trademark: education and awareness,” Albritton said. “We’ll save lives that way, men and women.”

Albritton said there are plenty of ways to make people feel loved as they go through cancer treatments. She still has cards and letters of encouragement that she can take out and read whenever she needs.

She also posts information and messages on the Knotty Girl social media, including “Just Talk with Justine,” a podcast for breast cancer “fighters, survivors, thrivers and supporters.”

SHIRTS | 4A



COURTESY GRAPHIC/SEBRING PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 3210

Shirts will soon go on sale to support breast cancer awareness.



Classifieds..... **B4-6**
Comics **B7-10**
Lottery **A2**

Sports **B1**
TV Listings **A7**

Viewpoints..... **A6**
Weather **A8**

Good morning To
Enrique Potts
Thanks for reading!

