

PUBLIX: Gulf Breeze fits perfectly in business plan

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to open in about eight weeks. ReMax on the Coast, Marble Slab Creamery and Catch of the Day seafood grill and sports restaurant are known to be eventual tenants. Others include Gulf Breeze Eye Care Center; Life is Good Neighborhood Shoppe; Guglielmo's Italian Grill, Emerald Turtle, Smoothie King, New Balance, AAH Salon and Spa and Elite Nail Spa.

One of the shoppers Wednesday was Gulf Breeze resident Dorothy Semaine, 79, who worked 39 years at Allen Davis' Shell Shop, which was razed to make way for the new Moulton Properties development.

"I've been anticipating this opening for days," Semaine said. "I've seen a lot of grocery stores come and go in Gulf Breeze. I've never shopped at a Publix before, but I've heard they have wonderful produce and a great bakery. It's really impressive."

Equally impressed with Publix's produce was Ann-Marie Bowyer, a Gulf Breeze resident and retired Pensacola Junior College instructor. Joined by her mother-in-law, Olive Bowyer from Bakersville, N.C., Ann-Marie was scouting for fruits and vegetables to stock her yacht for a regatta from Pensacola to Mexico that was to set sail Wednesday.



Joe Culpepper/Gulf Breeze News

Publix bakery attendants help a customer as shoppers wind their way through the deli section during the grocery store's grand opening May 7.

"I've been excited about having a Publix close by," Ann-Marie Bowyer said. "The other Publix (in Navarre) is eight miles past me, and I don't go east very often. It's been a little more trouble getting down there because of the price of gas lately. I'm definitely going to be using this Publix."

Pittman said Gulf Breeze perfectly fits the Publix business model in the Panhandle. He said the city's affluence and proximity to the beach make it

a prime location for the super-market chain, which has been a staple in South Florida for decades.

"Gulf Breeze is a bed-and-breakfast type community," Pittman said. "It's an affluent, seasonal community that has a lot of tourism. It fits right in with what we do."

Publix stocks a number of food brands unavailable at other area grocery stores. It features an abundance of natural, organic products, a large line of fresh-

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cut fruit, fresh-baked goods and gourmet items, artisan breads and specialty desserts.

Shawn and Sara Phelan of West Pensacola were shopping for organic foods with their two young children. They said the 15-minute drive from their home was well worth it.

"Organic foods are very important to us," Shawn Phelan said.

"We love Publix," Sara Phelan added. "We've shopped at Publix all over Florida, and other states have them now. We always go to them, and now we have one."

The complex's architecture was designed to complement the Andrews Institute of Orthopaedic Science, which opened a year ago next to Gulf Breeze Hospital.

Publix will be open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Pittman said closing hours will be extended to 11 p.m. during the high-traffic summer months.

Calendar & Events

Thursday, May 15

Gulf Breeze Area Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours 5:30 p.m., CyberTech Computer Services, 3041 Gulf Breeze Parkway

Institute Performance & Research Pavilion

Santa Rosa County Emergency Services Advisory Committee 2 p.m., County Administrative Center, 6495 Caroline Street, Milton

Friday, May 16

Gulf Breeze Area Chamber of Commerce Network for Northworth Power Lunch 11:30 a.m., Tiger Point Country Club

Santa Rosa County Tourist Development Council Meeting 3 p.m., Santa Rosa County Chamber of Commerce, 5247 Stewart Street, Milton

Monday, May 19

Santa Rosa County Commission Committee 9 a.m., County Administrative Center, 6495 Caroline Street, Milton

Santa Rosa Island Authority Committee Meetings 5 p.m., 1 Via de Luna, Pensacola Beach

Gulf Breeze City Council 6:30 p.m., Gulf Breeze City Hall, Council Chambers, 1070 Shoreline Drive

Thursday, May 22

Santa Rosa County Commission 9 a.m., County Administrative Center, 6495 Caroline Street, Milton

Tuesday, May 20

Santa Rosa County Impact Fee Workshop 9:30 a.m., County Administrative Center, 6495 Caroline Street, Milton

Santa Rosa County School District 3 p.m., 5086 Canal Street, Milton

Wednesday, May 21

Gulf Breeze Chamber of Commerce Monthly Breakfast 7 a.m., Andrews

Santa Rosa County Commission Special-Rezoning Meeting 6 p.m., County Administrative Center, 6495 Caroline Street, Milton

Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office Report

Information provided by the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office.

Felonies

05/07/2008

Johnson Jr., William Keirn, W/M, 27, 200 block of Pensacola Beach Boulevard, Gulf Breeze, fraud.

Strader, Travis Lee, W/M, 18, 2900 block of Ranchette Square, Gulf Breeze, burglary and larceny.

05/08/2008

Berry, Albert Mitchell, W/M, 47, 1800 block of Anderson Avenue, Gulf Breeze, larceny.

Pirello Jr., Paul Andrew, W/M, 41, 5300 block of Soundside Drive, Gulf Breeze, violation of probation.

05/09/2008

Foster, Tanner James, W/M, 19, 1800 block of Cotton Bay Lane, Navarre, sex offense.

Palmgreen, Clayton Eugene, W/M, 35, 2800 Lido Boulevard, Gulf Breeze, insurance fraud.

Umbel, Brandy N., W/F, 29, 9400 block of Pine Lilly Court, Navarre, obstruction of justice.

05/10/2008

Lynn, Christopher Andrew, W/M, 27, 3900 block of Spanish Moss Cove, aggravated battery.

05/11/2008

Collins, Nicholas Steven, W/M, 22, 7300 block of Manatee Street, Navarre, sex offenses and lewd and lascivious behavior.

O'Keefe, Kristi Kathleen, W/F, 43, 8200 block of Toledo Street, Navarre, smuggling contraband into a detention facility.

Vaca, Antonio, H/M, 46, 3300 block of Greenbriar Circle, Gulf Breeze, driving with a suspended license.

DUI

05/06/2008

Goyins, Josette St Clair, W/F, 40, 1300 block of Upland Crest Court, Gulf Breeze, DUI.

Cannella sentenced to 8 years prison

From Special Reports

Navarre resident Bruno Cannella pleaded no contest to charges of lewd and lascivious molestation of a victim less than 16 years of age, child abuse, and one count of showing obscene material to a minor and was sentenced 95 months in state prison followed by five years of probation.

Cannella, 39, was arrested in February 2007 and faced 28 charges related to his alleged relationship with a Navarre High School student.

Cannella must register as a sex offender. He will begin serving his sentence Monday, May 19.

ROOKIE: Fearon will celebrate his 1st wedding anniversary at D.C. Olympiad

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Breeze Middle is a great place to work. Everyone here is like a big family."

Fearon's wife of one year, Charlene, is a highly regarded Marine Science teacher at Navarre High School.

"Between the two of us, we keep our schedule outside the classroom pretty full," he laughed. "I have helped coach the middle school's Science Olympiad team both years I have been here. She helps coach the Science Olympiad team at the high school.

"Last year, the teams won a slot at Nationals, and we went. And this year, we will celebrate our one-year wedding anniversary by traveling to Science Olympiad Nationals again with a whole bunch of kids. But it is what we love doing."

This year, Fearon coached the Ecology and Mystery Architecture divisions of the Olympiad.

"Mystery Architecture is what I call duct-tape engineering," he said. "It is where they give you some materials like maybe duct tape, poster boards, or string, or whatever, and tell you to make a tower that will support something for 90 seconds - that kind of thing. It is fun."

Of course, there are fundraisers to get to Nationals that have to be manned and organized.

"We are always going several directions at once," he laughed. Fearon also has been serving on the school advisory committee, and last year came up with the idea of a tricycle race for the faculty.

"Kids would bring canned food for Manna Food Bank and

put it in the box of the faculty member they wanted to see race," he said. "We ended up raising about 1,000 pounds of food and had some good fun at the same time."

Fearon had lived around all over the world and settled in Gulf Breeze by accident. Enterprise happened to need someone here.

"My dad was a helicopter pilot, and we moved all over the world," he said. "I never really had one place to call home growing up. Then Enterprise sent me here. I am so lucky to be working here, at this school. People here really take care of one another.

"And when you see the light bulbs come on inside these kids' heads, it is great! I always say, you will never be wealthy doing this job, but you will always be rich!"

MERIT: Schaeffner's specialty is science, but she's also a very talented writer

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she says. "I had all my favorite teachers last year - Mrs. (Jeanne) Barnes in English, Mr. (Douglas) Mills in U.S. History, and in science (Leslie) Skinner and (Barbara) Atchison. It was a lot of hard work, but they are the best teachers."

Schaeffner will travel with the GBHS Science Olympiad team to compete May 30-31 at the Nationals in Washington, D.C.

"She is definitely a wonderful student. She is a student you will always remember as a joy to teach," Skinner says. "She has a real thirst for learning. She won multiple first place awards in the state competition of Science Olympiad."

But science is not her only

area of expertise.

"She is a great kid, very creative, and a wonderful writer," says Barnes, an AP English teacher, returning the favor. "She just always had that insight that the students need; they need a certain amount of worldly knowledge of current events to do well on the AP tests, and she did that. She got a 4 (out of five available points) on her language and comp test last year."

Barnes noted Schaeffner's good attitude and a willingness to learn as keys to her success, a sentiment confirmed by all her teachers.

Schaeffner is a self-reported chocolate addict and also says she loves sushi and French fries.

"I traveled after 10th grade with the foreign language

to 10 books at any given time. The Gulf Breeze senior plans to attend the University of Florida this fall.

classes to Paris, Florence, Rome and Pompeii," she says. "I look forward to traveling more in the future, and I'd love to visit Japan. My goal is to visit every continent."

When asked what habits she feels helped Meagan achieve such excellence, her mom, Sharon, places reading at the top of the list.

"She reads all the time, sometimes for hours. Her favorite place to read is out in the yard or out by the pool.

"She was in a gifted program in Key West, and I really think that helped open her mind," her father, Mike, credits.

"They did a lot of creative stuff and were constantly exposing her to more and more. I am sure that started this lifelong process of loving learning for her."

LIGHT: Tiger Trace homeowners concerned backed-up traffic will create problems

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the light at Whisper Bay, then a traffic light could be placed there."

The state has agreed to give Santa Rosa County \$750,000 to re-align the connector road and place the traffic light. The necessary right-of-ways have been donated at no cost.

"We would not have any money right now in the budget to purchase right-of-way anyplace else along that strip of Highway 98 that they might want to put a light," Broxson said.

Blaylock said the project will be constructed in three phases, with the first phase being to re-align Crane Cove and the second phase to build a connector road from Tiger Trace development to the new road.

The Tiger Trace residents raised the

concerns about drivers cutting through their development to avoid Highway 98.

"We already get many people from Villa Venyce who cut through back there," Gordor said. "If this project happens, the people who use the Villa Venyce traffic light won't even have to go onto Highway 98 to get to the theatre or The Club. That will bring even more people cutting through the neighborhood.

"We had asked about traffic calming tools, like speed bumps. But we were told that we had to have 75 percent of the (neighborhood) sign a petition for speed bumps or we had to pay for them ourselves, and we don't have that kind of money. And we will not get 75 percent of the people who live in here to sign a petition."

"Getting the money in the first place was a real miracle, and it was accomplished by one of our other commissioners. We cannot miss this window of opportunity."

— **John Broxson**
 Santa Rosa County Commissioner

The residents asked how long it would take to build the connecting road from Tiger Trace to the new road, and Blaylock said he could see Phase 2 being completed within two years.

"We should have the signal light and the re-alignment of the road done

sometime between nine to 12 months from when we start, and then they would work on the connecting road," Blaylock said.

"If the connecting road could be done right away, as part of Phase 1, then I can see not as much concern for us with the Highway 98 problem," Gordor said.

Some of the residents asked if this project could be put on hold while their homeowners group petitioned the state to do a study involving Tiger Trace and how this light would affect their development.

"If this project is put on hold, another project will rise immediately to the top of the list, and this money will be gone and no signal light will be anywhere along that section of road for several years, if ever," Blaylock said.

Blaylock also told the group that this money is only available until 2010.

Still, some Tiger Trace homeowners oppose the project.

"We will be doing this project," Broxson declared. "We need a light here, and it looks like we can just barely squeeze under the deadline to get the money from the state.

"Getting the money in the first place was a real miracle, and it was accomplished by one of our other commissioners. We cannot miss this window of opportunity."

The vote to approve moving ahead with the project was postponed last week so Broxson could meet with concerned Tiger Trace residents.

Commissioners are expected to approve the project during their upcoming May 22 meeting.