

Week in Review Newsletter In the City of Temple Terrace

Good things going on in the City

May 16 –22, 2023



CITY CELEBRATES NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

At last Tuesday's City Council meeting, Mayor Ross proclaimed this week as National Public Works Week in the City. Noting that public works professionals focus on infrastructure, facilities and services that are of vital importance to sustainable and resilient communities and to the public health, high quality of life and well-being of the people of Temple Terrace, the proclamation reminded us all that these could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals – the engineers, managers, and employees at all levels of government and the private sector, who are responsible for rebuilding, improving and protecting our nation's transportation, water supply, water treatment and solid waste systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities essential for our citizens.

Directors Ray LaBlanc and Troy Tinch accepted the proclamation on behalf of their respective departments.

CITY PROCLAIMS EMERGENCY SERVICES WEEK

This week is National Emergency Services Week. The 2023 theme is "EMS: Where Emergency Care Begins." The observance was declared in the City at the last City Council meeting, in recognition of the members of Temple Terrace Fire Department Firefighter/EMS Responders who provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Our Fire Department's EMT/Paramedics engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills. The proclamation was presented to Fire Chief Ian Kemp, along with Medical Director Dr. Brooke Shepard.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH

Historic preservation is an effective tool for promoting sustainable development, revitalizing neighborhoods, fostering local pride, promoting tourism and maintaining community character.

At this week's City Council meeting, Mayor Ross and the City Council designated the month of May as Historic Preservation Month with a proclamation presented to Danny Moody, a local historic restoration and preservation specialist.



TTFD CELEBRATES PROMOTIONS

On Friday, the Temple Terrace Fire Department celebrated the accomplishments of nine outstanding personnel as they gathered along with family and friends for a Promotional Ceremony. Congrats to all!

This is also an important milestone for the Fire Department as we have added the newly formed position of Battalion Chief to each shift assignment. This is allowing for greater logistical support for our shift personnel, adding more on-call and in-the-field support, and bridging the gap between Administration and Operations functionality.

For their promotion to the rank of Battalion Chief:

- Michael Brown
- Andrew Muzzy
- Michael Schaer

For their promotion to the rank of Captain:

- Robert Harrington
- Kevin McLafferty
- Enrique Santos

For their promotion to the rank of Lieutenant:

- Patrick Wemhoener-Cutie

For their promotion to the rank of Engineer:

- Michael Penny
- Gerald Young

OFFICERS FEATURED



Fox13 aired profiles of regional police officers last week to coincide with National Police Week. Two of our own – Captain Jacob Carlisle and Deputy Chief Rob Staley – were included in the 30-second long spots. The videos can be viewed on the City's Facebook page as well as on our YouTube channel.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

As noted, last week was National Police Week, an observance that offers honor, remembrance and peer support, while allowing law enforcement, survivors and citizens to gather and pay homage to those who gave their lives in the line of duty. In the US, 224 law enforcement officers died in the line of duty last year. Forty more have been killed in the line of duty in 2023.

Temple Terrace Police officers play an essential role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of the citizens of the City and unwaveringly serve all people, safeguarding lives and property, protecting our community against violence and disorder, the innocent against deception and the weak against oppression and intimidation.

Recognizing the contributions of our officers and law enforcement personnel across the country, Mayor Andy Ross and the City Council proclaimed last week of National Police Week to honor of those have made the ultimate sacrifice or become permanently disabled during the performance of their duty.



FROM CORPORAL TO SERGEANT MEHALOPOULOS

Temple Terrace Police Department Corporal Tandra Mehalopoulos was promoted to Police Sergeant in a ceremony presided over by Police Chief Ken Albano at City Hall this morning. Mayor Andy Ross, Vice Mayor James Chambers, Councilman Gil Schisler, City Manager Carlos Baía, Fire Chief Ian Kemp and many other City staff and Police and Fire personnel joined Sergeant Mehalopoulos' family and friends in witnessing her achieve this career milestone. Happily, she will continue working in her present assignment as the supervisor of the Department's Community Liaison Unit. Congrats Tandra!



GUEST SPEAKER SERIES

The next installment of the Temple Terrace Public Library's Speaker Series is on Thursday, June 1 at 6pm and will feature author Greg Neri. Mr Neri is a Coretta Scott King Author Award winner. He is the author of many books for young readers, including the picture book *Hello, I'm Johnny Cash*, and *Ghetto Cowboy* – a story about a displaced teen who learns to defend what's right — the Cowboy Way. Inspired by the urban riders of Philly and Brooklyn, this tale of latter day cowboy justice champions a world where your friends always have your back, especially when the chips are down. *Ghetto Cowboy* was made into a feature film called *Concrete Cowboy* starring *Idris Elba* and *Caleb McLaughlin*. Mr. Neri is a Temple Terrace resident who frequents the Temple Terrace Public Library.



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REGIONAL K-9 MEMORIAL HONORS 16 ADDITIONAL K-9s

Sixteen area law enforcement K-9s who have reached the end of watch were remembered in a ceremony last Thursday morning at Temple Terrace City Hall.

City Hall is the site of a Regional Law Enforcement K-9 Memorial, the result of a partnership between the City and the Nam Knights Westside Motorcycle Club. Dedicated last June, the centerpiece of the memorial is a bronze statue of Temple Terrace Police Department K-9 Aramis, which is surrounded by bricks engraved with other K-9 officers who have reached the end of watch. Those who died in the line of duty are marked with a gold star. The memorial began with 34 tributes.

The additional 16 bricks honor K-9s from the Sheriff's Offices in Palm Beach as well as Alachua, Collier and Hillsborough Counties, the Florida Highway Patrol and Police Departments in Lake Wales, Niceville and Plant City, most of whom were represented the event, which was presided over by Temple Terrace Police Chief Ken Albano.

Mayor Andy Ross (a former K-9 handler with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office), Vice Mayor James Chambers, Councilman Gil Schisler, City Manager Carlos Baía, Deputy Police Chief Rob Staley, Travis Wright, president of the Westside Chapter of Nam Knights, and many law enforcement officers from around the region, including our own, also were in attendance.

The event received advance coverage on BayNews9 and ABC Action News and Gordon Demsey, a Temple Terrace resident and photojournalist with News Channel 8, covered the ceremony. There also is a short video encapsulating the ceremony produced by the City's Marketing & Communications Office on the City's YouTube channel.



ANOTHER TINY TAKEOVER



There was a new Mayor in town last Tuesday - at least for a few hours. Mayor Andy Ross and the City were happy to host Etienne Dimacali, a fourth grader at Corpus Christi Catholic School, as Mayor for a Day.

Organized by the Marketing & Communications Office, Etienne (and his mom and younger brother) was treated to a guided golf cart tour of the City with Mayor Ross, got a demonstration of a sanitation vehicle (thank you Public Works!), met with directors and fellow Council members (and authorized the purchase of pizza!) before presiding over the CRA meeting and the beginning of that evening's City Council meeting.

Etienne recognized fellow students Lucas Ray, who served as Police Chief for a Day, and Garner Porter, who will act as Fire Chief for a Day this Wednesday, during the meeting and accepted a proclamation for his service.

Both ABC Action News and Channel 10 aired stories on the Mayor for a Day experience, working with the City's Marketing & Communications Officer to get video, photos and interviews.