

from the front page

Lady Lake Contemplates Plans for New Community Building

Town will send out survey to get residents' thoughts on what they want out of a new facility.

By SARAH WILSON
Daily Sun Senior Writer

LADY LAKE
Residents of Lady Lake will get a chance to let the town commission know what they'd like to see inside a new community building in an upcoming survey.

Members of the Lady Lake Town Commission agreed in a workshop Monday to let residents weigh in on what they'd like to see built as part of a proposed new community building.

"You want to make sure when you're building something like that that it's going to be used," Commissioner Ruth Kussard said.

Commissioners agreed during the workshop that the new building should be constructed on existing city-owned property on Old Dixie Highway.

Parks and Recreation Director Mike Burske said the 35-year-old existing community center no longer meets the needs of the town's residents with its one meeting room.

Town Manager Kris Kollgaard said the new facility could provide additional meeting space for groups or classes as well as wedding receptions and family reunions.

Kollgaard said a survey will be sent out to residents, along with an upcoming utility bill, so they have a platform to offer their preferences on what sort of services the facility should provide. That, she said, will lead to many more discussions with the commission regarding the building before it ever starts coming out of the ground.

"It's not a quick process," Kollgaard said.

In other developments:
» During a separate workshop Monday, the commission approved waivers for both parking and landscaping for the proposed development of a 19,320-square-foot mixed-use project composed of an indoor gun shooting range, gun store, general retail and RV storage. The project is set to be built on U.S. Highway 27/441 just north of Griffin View Drive. The approved waivers will allow the developer of the project to place its 96 parking places in front of its buildings instead of behind, and to use planters instead of in-ground landscaping along the front walkway of the building.

Sarah Wilson is a senior writer with The Villages Daily Sun. She can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5401, or sarah.wilson@thevillagesmedia.com.



Max Gersh | Daily Sun

Lovini performs with a glowing bow for students at The Villages Charter Middle School.

VIOLIN

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the violin, from Beethoven to Ed Sheeran," Lovini told the students at the beginning of the workshop.

After playing a few songs, Lovini instructed the students to take out their own violins, and the room soon filled with the sound of bows swiping strings.

"Practice can be kind of boring," Lovini said. "When I was a kid, I'd leave the case of my violin open and when I walked past it, I'd play a few

scales. Sometimes I'd practice up to 40 times a day."

After showing the students various practice and warm-up methods on their instruments, the workshop turned into a question-and-answer session.

Hands shot up and Lovini answered questions such as: "Have you ever performed with any famous music groups?" "What countries have you visited?" "Have you played in Antarctica with the penguins?" "What do you do in your free time?" "How long do you practice?" and "Have you been to Universal?"

Lovini is from England but

is currently living in Celebration. He spoke about traveling on the cruise ships he performs on, meeting Queen Elizabeth II and his work with other artists.

"He took a hobby and made it into a career," said ninth-grader Stephanie Nguen. "He made violin unique and more appealing to the new generation."

"Yeah, not everyone likes Beethoven!" joked seventh-grader Marissa Couture.

The light-up violin bow was the best part for many of the students, but the workshop also showed them the good things

that can happen with practice.

"I've played since kindergarten, and it's a big dedication,"

Nguen said. "But I still try to practice even though now I'm busy with high school. This definitely inspired me to practice more."

Lovini will perform for the entire community at 7 p.m. on Saturday at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

Tickets, which range in price from \$20 to \$45, still are available online at thevillagesentertainment.com or at any Villages Box Office location.

"The workshop was amazing," said Buffalo Strings director Janis Pascarella. "The kids loved it, they were engaged, and I think they got lots out of it. Now I hope they go home and practice. I hope a lot of them will go to the concert on Saturday because they'll learn even more."

Kristen Fiore is a senior staff writer with The Villages Daily Sun. She can be reached at 352-753-1119, ext. 5270, or kristen.fiore@thevillagesmedia.com.

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