

## Mall gets a sporting addition

By TIMES STAFF  
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BRANDON

### **Mall gets a sporting addition**

Dick's Sporting Goods has joined the lineup of stores at the newly expanded Westfield Brandon mall. That store and another at Westfield Citrus Park will hand out goodies on Saturday to the first 500 customers, who will have face painters and jugglers to keep them company. Call 661-6255 for more information.

### **Lining up the dining**

Locals will soon be lining up to chow down at the Taste of Brandon. More than 20 restaurants have signed on for this year's event, including Jaymer-Que Southern BBQ, Mojitos Grill, Shells, Buffalo Wild Wings, and Cheddar's Casual Cafe.

Exhibit spaces are \$200 for chamber members and \$300 for nonmembers.

This year's event is from 3:30 to 8 p.m. May 17 at the Special Events Center of the Florida State Fairgrounds. Call 689-1221 or register online at [www.brandonchamber.com](http://www.brandonchamber.com).

### **Community service nominations**

Alice Tompkins was a reporter and editor for the Brandon News in the 1960s and 1970s whose community activism generated enough goodwill to christen an award.

The Presidents' Roundtable, a civic group responsible for local events such as the annual Fourth of July Parade and Brandon's Honorary Mayor contest, is accepting nominations for its annual Alice B. Tompkins Community Service Award.

Nominees should live in the Brandon area and have an outstanding record of giving to their neighbors through time, talent or financial contributions.

Nomination forms are available at the Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce or by calling Billie Smith at 661-2438. Entries must be received by April 30.

The winner will be honored on May 24.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

### **Studying transportation needs**

All dreams start with an idea and, for weary commuters, the idea of a regional transit system has sounded pretty good. Now the state Department of Transportation has announced plans to embark on a planning journey to lighten the load for west-central Florida, where the population has jumped 30 percent in 15 years.

Traffic delays cost businesses and individuals an estimated \$865-million a year, or \$772 a commuter.

The DOT is working on plans to sketch out a tentative transportation network that would serve the area for at least 50 years.

Now, all experts have to do is figure out what kind of vehicles would do the transporting, how to build a system and how much it would cost.

Players such as the Tampa Bay Partnership, a consortium of business interests, have endorsed the idea of a versatile transit system.

Planners have identified several key traffic patterns that a transit system would emulate. Here are five key areas they are studying:

- Downtown St. Petersburg to St. Petersburg's Gateway area, Tampa's Westshore area, Lakeland and farther east.
- St. Petersburg to Bradenton and Sarasota.
- Downtown Tampa to the University of South Florida, eastern Pasco County and Brooksville.
- The Westshore area to northwestern Hillsborough, central Pasco and Brooksville.
- Downtown St. Petersburg and the Gateway area to northern Pinellas and New Port Richey.

For more on transportation ideas, call 975-6060, or visit the DOT online at [fdot-srtna.c-b.com](http://fdot-srtna.c-b.com).

LITHIA/RUSKIN

### **Two parks need lifeguards**

The county is looking for lifeguards ages 16 and older for E.G. Simmons and Lithia Springs parks. Applicants must have a lifeguard training certificate from the American Red Cross. Lifeguards start at \$9 an hour.

E.G. Simmons Park is at 2401 19th Ave. NW in Ruskin. Lithia Springs Park is at 3932 Lithia Springs Road, Lithia. Call 903-2260.

SUN CITY CENTER

### **Club toasts its anniversary**

The South Shore Toastmasters club celebrated its third anniversary earlier this month by honoring four members who

had completed 10 presentations and received the Competent Communicator award.

The club meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at Trinity Baptist Church, 702 W Del Webb Blvd. The public is welcome. Call 633-1523. The members are Bob Smithwick, David Owen, club president John Nelson, Francine Webb, and Jack Baker.

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