



ATANAS KOBRYM

**Veterans in action**

The activities of veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces of Ukrainian descent and natives of Ukraine who reside in North Port and the surrounding communities of our state and vicino-friendly Southwest Florida, and their involvement, including all accepting leadership positions, in various local civic and veterans' organizations, are covered in this column. Most of these veterans are members of Cpl. Roman G. Lazar Post #6 of the Ukrainian American Veterans.

Being American first, proud of their service to their native (or adopted, for Ukraine natives) country, the Ukrainian American veterans nevertheless are sympathetic toward their ancestral country, Ukraine, not unlike other ethnic groups who celebrate Columbus Day, St. Patrick's Day, etc. UWV Post #6 members, led by post commander Ivan W. Hiron of Quincy, posted colors at the beginning of the community observance of the 20th anniversary of the restoration of Ukraine's independence on Aug. 20, and raised both the American and Ukrainian national flags in front of North Port City Hall on Aug. 24, the day observed as the "Ukrainian 4th of July" in Ukraine.

In addition to UWV members, watching the flag-raising ceremony were city commissioners and officials led by City Manager Jonathan Lewis and members of the local Ukrainian American community, many dressed in the traditional embroidered blouses and shirts. The American flag was raised first by post commander and Ukrainian American veteran while "The Star Spangled Banner" played, followed by the raising of the yellow and gold Ukrainian national flag by Cpl. Roman Rendak, USA (Ret.) and Viktor Morozka, USA veteran, while the national anthem of Ukraine played. Community activist and Post #6 post commander Marian Popchak of North Port coordinated the ceremony, which was followed by prayers by the Rt. Rev. Ivan Foryak, pastor of the local Ukrainian Orthodox congregation, and the Rev. Dr. Servey Kovachuk, pastor of the Ukrainian Catholic congregation.

Daria Tomashchuk, president of the Ukrainian American Club of SWFL and co-chair of "Ukrainian Independence Day" in North Port. Co-chair and UWV commander Ivan W. Hiron thanked commissioners for providing the proclamation and for their continuous support of the Ukrainian American community's endeavors, and Tomashchuk invited all to the second-floor reception.

While enjoying the goodies, including the large anniversary cake, the attendees were informed that commissioner Vice Chair David Carello and Lewis celebrate their birthdays Aug. 24. Both were surrounded by two

**More belt tightening**

**Commission green lights \$148,000 in more cuts**

By **EMIL SARONCZ**  
North Port Reporter/Editor

**NORTH PORT** — Next year's fiscal budget will include approximately \$148,410 in additional cuts agreed to by North Port city commissioners Tuesday.

City staff was not looking for commissioners to approve a motion, according to City

**Second-time vehicle rate increase by commissioners — page 5**

the Sept. 7 budget meeting. In all, commissioners OK'd seven of 20 proposed "adjustments" that were presented by Lewis

and another 10 he was not recommending.

The commission is expected to approve the final reading of next fiscal year's approximately \$118-million budget at the Sept. 7 meeting and again at the second reading on Sept. 21. Both meetings begin at 6 p.m.

Key changes include the elimination of the chief zoning inspector position for a

\$43,810 savings, and reallocation of some funding for the zoning plans examiner position to the Tree Fund, saving \$41,400.

Now that the Morgan Family Community Center is up and running, Lewis said, there is an expectation that \$25,800 can be realized in a reduction

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SUN PHOTO BY ELAINE ALLEN-CHIBOL, ealene@sun-herald.com

Daniel Steele, city of North Port groundskeeper, installs a decorative USF flag this week near the building along U.S. 41 and Pan American Boulevard. USF Sarasota-Manatee is celebrating its 50 new parking spaces along the access road near the college to accommodate students.

**More parking available for USF students in North Port**

By **ANNE KLOOSCHNEIDER**  
Staff Writer

**NORTH PORT** — Additional parking now is available for University of South Florida, Sarasota-Manatee students taking classes at the North Port campus.

The 50 additional parking spaces were approved by the city in 2010. Work took place over the summer months and the spaces are available now, although, according to city officials, the project is not entirely complete.

"We don't have the power hooked up yet to the street lights, and we don't have the crosswalk across Pan American Boulevard and pedestrian signals in," said Marc Ruzicki, city infrastructure engineer and project manager for the parking lot. "But the parking is done, the striping is done and the curb strips and landscaping is in."

Ruzicki said having the lighting finished is "outstanding on (Florida Power & Light), and that's in process."

"The other stuff is an agreement with the state, because the crosswalk is in the state



SUN PHOTO BY ANNE KLOOSCHNEIDER, annak@sun-herald.com

Although parts of the project won't be totally complete for several months, according to city officials, additional parking is now available for USF Sarasota-Manatee students near the North Port campus.

right of way," he continued. "That agreement needs to go before the North Port City Commission and is a couple of months out."

People can still park there, however.

Lara Rosen, an instructor and faculty coordinator at USF, called the new parking area, which runs adjacent

to the U.S. 41 service road between Pan American and North Port boulevards, a "beautiful" addition.

"The lighting is necessary and very attractive," she said. "The added parking was part of the agreement when USF Sarasota-Manatee came to this

**EDC reflects city growth**

By **ED SCOTT**  
Staff Writer

**NORTH PORT** — The announcement this week that city leaders had formed the North Port Economic Development Corp. was more evidence that private citizens have their foot on the accelerator in an effort to keep pace with the city's tremendous population growth, even as the economy has pushed on the brakes.

"I don't think things are happening fast. I think we are catching up with the city's growth," said Peter Ruzickota, who will serve as the NPEDC's executive director. "The resources are coming in that we need, to participate in that growth."

Ruzickota's position and that of the EDC board are on an interim basis.

The NPEDC grew out of a process that began with the North Port Area Chamber of Commerce and Vision North Port, the citizen-based group co-founded by Ruzickota that created a forum for civic dialogue. Job creation, rather than conservation, will be the NPEDC's primary concern.

Mimi Siegel, a chamber and Vision North Port board member, will serve as vice chair of the NPEDC.

"It's a mechanism for turning ideas into action," Siegel said. "North Port benefits through the activities of all of the organizations that provide economic development. This is another tool."

Former North Port City Commissioner Fred Towse III chose not to be a member of the NPEDC board due to family considerations.

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Being Americans first, proud of their service to their native (or adopted, for Ukraine natives) country, the Ukrainian American veterans nevertheless are sympathetic toward their ancestral country, Ukraine, not unlike other ethnic groups who celebrate Columbus Day, St. Patrick's Day, etc. UAV Post 40 members, led by post commander Ihor W. Hron of Osprey, posted colors at the beginning of the community observance of the 20th anniversary of the restoration of Ukraine's independence on Aug. 20, and raised both the American and Ukrainian national flags in front of North Port City Hall on Aug. 24, the day observed as the "Ukrainian 4th of July" in Ukraine.

In addition to UAV members, watching the flag-raising ceremony were city commissioners and officials led by City Manager Jonathan Lewis and members of the local Ukrainian American community, many dressed in the traditional embroidered blouses and shirts. The American flag was raised first by yours truly and Demetrius Yadzyn while "The Star Spangled Banner" played, followed by the raising of the yellow and gold Ukrainian national flag by Col. Roman Rondiak, USA (Ret.) and Walter Motyka, UNA veteran, while the national anthem of Ukraine played. Community activist and Post 40 past commander Marian Bojsiuk of North Port coordinated the ceremony, which was followed by prayers by the Rt. Rev. Ivan Fatenko, pastor of the local Ukrainian Orthodox congregation, and the Rev. Dr. Severyn Kovalyshin, pastor of the Ukrainian Catholic congregation.

Daria Tomashosky, president of the Ukrainian American Club of SWFL and co-chair of "Hromadskyi Komitet," invited City Commission Chair Jim Blucher to read the proclamation of the commission proclaiming Aug. 24, 2011, "Ukrainian Independence Day" in North Port. Co-chair and UAV commander Ihor W. Hron thanked commissioners for publishing the proclamation and for their continuous support of the Ukrainian American community's endeavors, and Tomashosky invited all to the second-floor reception.

While enjoying the goodies, including the large anniversary cake, the attendees were informed that commission Vice Chair David Garofalo and Lewis celebrate their birthdays Aug. 24.



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## More parking available for USF students in North Port

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# EDC reflects city growth

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## PARKING: Campus now has more spaces

FROM PAGE 1

space, that the city would complete that area. We look forward to having it filled with both students and the community."

The entire project has a \$260,000 price tag, Ranalli said.

USF's North Port campus, at 5920

Pan American Blvd., opened for fall semester classes on Aug. 22, and enrollment is in the mid-500s. Currently, the campus offers about 36 classes, largely designed for those who already have their associate degree or are pursuing a master's. In the future, Kosten has said

USF hopes to expand its offerings so the North Port campus will become a four-year institution.

For more information about classes, call USF North Port at 941-426-7330, visit [www.sarasota.usf.edu/south](http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/south) or stop by to inquire about programs.

Email: [annek@sun-herald.com](mailto:annek@sun-herald.com)