

Contested dining hall wows partygoers

BY ERICA K. DANIELS • FOR FLORIDA TODAY • FEBRUARY 28, 2009



Al Folemsbee, president of Space Coast Junior/Senior High School Soccer Booster Club, serves up cake to the Lady Vipers during their annual award ceremony held at Cartridge Source of America on Saturday. (Erica K. Daniels, for FLORIDA TODAY)

TITUSVILLE — The banquet hall was decorated in Space Coast Jr./Sr. High's school colors. Centerpieces adorned each table.

Oh, they have far exceeded our expectations," said Vickie

Robinson, who booked the hall last weekend for the Lady Viper

soccer booster club's annual award ceremony.

The banquet hall, located inside the North Brevard Industrial Park at Cartridge Source of America, recently spurred complaints from neighboring business operators, who said it didn't fit into the industrial zone.

But Titusville officials told Joe and Cindy Hurston, owners of CSA, that they could continue running the hall as long as its use was incidental and subordinate to their property's primary use, which is industrial and commerce. The Hurston's "business receipt tax" was renewed conditionally.

CSA's business plan includes retail sale and re-manufacturing of computer-related items, computer and printer repair, a graphic arts and copy center, water purification system (Voyager), and hospitality and rental space.

Previously, the annual award ceremony for Space Coast's Lady Vipers was held in the school cafeteria because other locations were too costly. But Robinson said finding the banquet hall at CSA was like finding a pot of gold.

"They worked with us on the pricing, and they just went above and beyond to make this evening special for the girls," she said about last week's ceremony.

The Hurstons said the banquet hall is integral to their business plan, and it is in use nearly every weekend.

"We wanted to do this because this is what this building is designed for," Cindy Hurston said. "We're doing this for our community."

Soccer mom Carolyn Bowers was pleased.

"It's a whole lot better than the cafeteria, and the food is excellent," she said.

Robinson added: "Even better, the board members don't have to clean up afterward."

Contact Daniels at 242-3623

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In your voice

READ REACTIONS TO THIS STORY

donutsue wrote:

Good post IndianRiverMan.

IndianRiverMan wrote:

Replying to jaxdodger:

Here's a small business couple keeping their heads above water and employees working in tough economic times. They used their entrepreneurial spirit and that's what we need from everyone these days. I'm glad the city backed up these business people and I wish them more success.

Titusville has not supported the Hurstons very well at all. First they ran the church out of an industrial park. If that is not incredible enough they next revoked the license he has held for years that (arguably) allowed that use.

I am boycotting Titusville fully as are many of my friends...any city that treats a businessman so badly needs not my \$...I drove through Titusville yesterday and was astounded at the number of empty buildings...when voters of Titusville get tired of no customers they will elect a new council who will better direct the city manager and building official to be reasonable.

Those IP businesses who complained about a church will never get my business.

2/28/2009 6:18:50 PM

jaxdodger wrote:

Here's a small business couple keeping their heads above water and employees working in tough economic times. They used their entrepreneurial spirit and that's what we need from everyone these days. How many of those complaining have lost their jobs or know someone who lost their jobs. Back off you bunch of jerks! What do you expect from an industrial park! I'm glad the city backed up these business people and I wish them more success.

2/28/2009 10:23:14 AM

gatorgirl2 wrote:

It sounds to me like his neighbors who complained are just jealous because they didn't think of having a banquet hall first. Those same neighbors complained because a church was using the banquet hall on Sunday mornings. They said that people couldn't get to their businesses because of all the cars parked for the church service. Never mind that they're not open on Sunday, some people just can't stand to see a good man succeed. Mr. Hurston is a good Christian man who provides water purifiers for poor people in 3rd world countries at no expense to the people.

2/28/2009 9:32:31 AM

IndianRiverMan wrote:

Officials really need to take it easy on the Hurstons...let them perform their business...

2/28/2009 9:18:14 AM

IndianRiverMan wrote:

Replying to rocklegewatcdog:

What do you call 500 urban planners and zoning officials chained together at the bottom of the ocean?

A good start.

Pollution :)

2/28/2009 9:16:31 AM

donutsue wrote:

Sounds like a great idea, especially since the Hurstons did such a good job. Maybe the industrial park needs to diverse it's businesses, too. In these economic times, leave them alone.

2/28/2009 9:01:34 AM

rocklegewatcdog wrote:

Another example of stupid zoning gone wild. What are the diners going to do? Distract a drill press?

They approve condo towers next to single family homes with too little setback, the approve 75 foot high hospital buildings directly across the street from established single family homes with the same setback required in a single family neighborhood. They approve industrial parks/streets with no sidewalks or bike paths.

What do you call 500 urban planners and zoning officials chained together at the bottom of the ocean?

A good start.

2/28/2009 7:25:42 AM