

## New Florida IDs to hit 8 test markets

Updated driver's licenses will have twice as many anti-fraud measures

AREK SARKISSIAN

AREK.SARKISSIAN@NAPLESNEWS.COM; 850-559-7620

TALLAHASSEE - The state is set to release its next generation of driver's licenses, packed with new features making the document tougher in the fight against fraud.

By late August the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles will begin to roll out newly designed driver's licenses that double the number of anti-fraud measures on the current design.

The new design incorporates a rendering of Florida's state seal with the initials "FL" across the front. That's a departure from current licenses set with an orange coastal background.

Also new are clearer headers identifying the type of license. For instance, someone with a commercial driver's li-

cence will have the initials "CDL" written on the top of the card. Noncommercial driver's licenses will say "Driver's License."

The cards will be printed with ultraviolet ink, and the photo of the cardholder will be printed four times throughout the document.

On Aug. 21, Volusia County will become the first of eight test markets to issue the new IDs. By Aug. 28 they will be issued in Brevard, Broward, Duval, Lee, Leon, Manatee and Okaloosa counties.

"We'll see how things go in those test markets and continue to issue them in more offices for the rest of the year," DHS spokeswoman Beth Frady said.

Changes in the design were updated more than 10 years ago. DHS began work in 2014 with groups such as the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators to adopt features used by other states, Frady said.

"This was a long time coming," Frady said. "And this was done in an effort to protect residents against identity theft."

Frady said the new ID is the most secure "over-the-counter" design in the na-



These are the new driver's licenses set to be issued in August.

IMAGES COURTESY OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES

tion. She defined over-the-counter as a document that can be issued by a state-approved office.

The new credentials will continue Florida's pursuit of the federal Real ID Act of 2005, which implements standards meant to combat terrorism. The state began to deploy identifications that met the federal mandate in 2010, and about 80 percent are compliant, Frady said.

By Oct. 1, 2020, a Real ID-compliant credential will be required to board a commercial flight.

"But this is something that Florida has already and will continue to lead the nation," Frady said.

The new licenses will not affect how the state processes renewals or other requests. The only new feature courtesy of the Legislature will be decals printed on the back identifying someone with lifetime status under several categories maintained by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

There are also decals affixed on the front of the ID for people who are insulin-dependent, an organ donor or a veteran.



PHOTOS BY SARAH HOLM/NAPLES DAILY NEWS

Shammah Tranchant, 15, and Ceana Williams, 15, both from the Boys & Girls Club of Collier County, pack meals for Harry Chapin Food Bank at the Christmas in July event at Meals of Hope on Tuesday. Volunteers packed 23,232 meals.

## OVER 23,000 MEALS PACKED FOR NEEDY

ALENA MASCHKE

ALENA.MASCHKE@NAPLESNEWS.COM; 239-263-4722

The Christmas music playing in the background could barely be heard over the excited chatter of the more than 100 volunteers at Meals of Hope's North Naples facility.

Volunteers from four organizations came together Tuesday to assemble meal packages for the Harry Chapin Food Bank, which will distribute them to food pantries.

Grace Place, one of the organizations that participated in the event, distributes meals to families in need in Golden Gate.

"Some of these kids will actually eat some of these meals, because we distribute them at our food pantry," said Barbara Evans, CEO of Grace Place.

For the Grace Place children packing meals at the Christmas in July event, this interaction is crucial, Evans said. "They are given the opportunity to give back; it restores dignity in them."

The Boys & Girls Club of Collier County also sent volunteers to help. For Isaac Louis, 17, who works at the Boys & Girls Club during his summer break, it's his second year participating.

"I like giving back to the community," Louis said.

Volunteers packed 23,232 meals, according to Meals of Hope CEO Stephen Popper.

On the menu: pasta and tomato sauce, packaged to prepare. The pasta is fortified with protein and vitamins to in-



Cristofer Arias, 11, from Grace Place for Children and Families, scoops noodles to help pack meals for Harry Chapin Food Bank at the Christmas in July event.

crease nutritional value. Once all ingredients are placed in a plastic bag, it is sealed air-tight and stamped with a best-before date.

The Christmas in July motto is a way to add some fun to the process, said Katie Schweikhardt, chief operations officer of Meals of Hope.

"Especially the kids really get a kick out of it," said Schweikhardt, who was wearing a green elf's hat.

## Case involving pedestrian's death could be thrown out

ALEXI C. CARDONA

ALEXI.CARDONA@NAPLESNEWS.COM; 239-403-6153

The traffic court case against a woman state police say caused a crash that killed a pedestrian in East Naples four months ago could be dismissed.

According to the Florida Highway Patrol, Cris Carol Samuels, 31, of Lehigh Acres, was driving a Hyundai Accent south on St. Andrews Boulevard the morning of March 28 when she failed to stay in her lane, drove onto the right sidewalk and struck Geraldine Jennings, 73, of Plantville, Connecticut.

Collier County Judge Rob Crown on Tuesday continued Samuels' case to Aug. 29 and told investigators they need to prove that the woman was driving the car when the crash took place.

The case hinges on a post-Miranda sworn statement troopers said they got from Samuels after the crash. According to investigators, Samuels admitted she was the driver the day of the crash.

Crown told investigators they needed to provide independent evidence or witness statements proving that Samuels was driving before the recorded statement could be admitted in court.

Subpoenas have been issued for two witnesses to the crash, but there were no witnesses who could say Samuels was driving.

Samuels' attorney, William Moffatt, made a motion for the judge to dismiss the case. Crown said he would take it under advisement but gave state police until the Aug. 29 hearing to present evidence.

Samuels is not facing criminal charges.

"During the investigation, it was determined there was no criminal intent involved," Moffatt said after the hearing. "That's why she was given a civil ticket."

## Collier School Board OKs tax rates for \$1B 2017-18 budget

BRITTANY CARLONI

BCARLONI@GANNETT.COM; 239-263-4785

Collier County School Board members voted Tuesday evening to approve a \$1 billion budget and an increase in taxes for the 2017-18 school year.

Board members voted 4-1 to approve the budget, an increase from last year's \$976.5 million budget.

Board chair Roy M. Terry and members Erika Donalds, Stephanie Lucarelli and Erick Carter voted in favor of the budget. Board member Kelly Lichter voted against it.

See BUDGET, Page 6A



Watch a video and see more photos of volunteers packing meals. [naplesnews.com](http://naplesnews.com)