

LEGALS

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA

PROBATE DIVISION CASE #23-544CP
IN RE: The Estate of REBECCA POPPELL Decedent.
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The administration of the estate of REBECCA POPPELL, deceased, whose date of death was April 24, 2023, File #23-544CP, is pending in the Circuit Court for Taylor County, Florida, Probate Division, the address of which is Post Office Box 620, Perry, Florida 32348. The names and addresses of the personal representative and the

personal representative's attorney are set forth below.
All creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or demands against decedent's estate on whom a copy of this notice is required to be served must file their claims with this court WITHIN THE LATER OF 3 MONTHS AFTER THE TIME OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE OR 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF SERVICE OF A COPY OF THIS NOTICE ON THEM.
All other creditors of the decedent and other persons having claims or

demands against decedent's estate must file their claims with this court WITHIN 3 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE.
ALL CLAIMS NOT FILED WITHIN THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH IN SECTION 733.702 OF THE FLORIDA PROBATE CODE WILL BE FOREVER BARRED.
NOTWITHSTANDING THE TIME PERIODS SET FORTH ABOVE, ANY CLAIM FILED TWO (2) YEARS OR MORE AFTER THE DECEDENT'S DATE OF DEATH IS BARRED.
Jackie Walsingham

6750 SW US 221
Greenville, FL 32331
ANGELA M. BALL, Attorney for Petitioner
FL BAR NO.: 0796557
Post Office Box 734
Perry, Florida 32348
(850) 584-8960
DATES OF PUBLICATION: January 26, 2024 and February 2, 2024

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO REGISTER FICTITIOUS NAME TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, pursuant to the fictitious name statute, Chapter 20953 or Section 865.09, Florida of State, Corporation Division, Tallahassee, Florida, upon receipt of proof of publications of this notice the fictitious name, to-wit: PLANTS OF GRACE under which we/I will engage in business. I/we expect to engage in business in Perry, Florida and our address is: 1240 CHIP EZELL RD., PERRY, FLA. 32347. The extent of ownership is MURPHY CITRUS NURSERY, INC. 100%

'You don't need that green card to pay your bill'

If you don't receive your city bill by the first week of the month, call City Hall to see how much you owe

CITY
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Hart reported the city had reconnected approximately 100 customers as of 5 p.m. Wednesday, adding, "and we held a crew over to continue working."
The city has roughly 3,500 water customers, meaning that just under 10% (310) were scheduled to be disconnected -- without receiving prior notice the city was returning to its normal practice of cutting off water if bills not paid or granted an extension by the 23rd of the month.
"We are desperately waiting for the installation of new billing software that will move the city from our antiquated 1991 system to current technology. We currently don't have the capabilities that customers have become accustomed to, such as electronic bills, email reminders and customer interfaces," Hart said.
"We are currently transferring the data over to the new software and expect to go live with the new system in the summer. Our own internal issues with the billing system, along with the issues we have at the post office, compounded by the timing of returning back to our normal procedures has created the perfect storm," Hart explained.
Making the problem worse is a recurring issue with city utility bills (which are printed on postcards) being received several days -- or even up to more than a week -- after they are delivered to the local post office several days prior to the end of the month.
"We are meeting with the post office to determine if there is anything we can do on our side to help expedite the delivery of city utility bills," Hart added.
"We understand the aggravation this causes and that is the reason we stopped cut-offs immediately when

it became apparent. We will finish cut-offs for this month only for customers that are two months behind or more.
"The \$50 reconnect fee will be removed for this month, but starting next month, we will resume normal procedures, which means late fees and cut-offs will apply on the date printed on the bill," Hart said.
"Until we get the new system in place, I would highly recommend all utility users put reoccurring dates in your calendar each month for the first of the month (bill available), 15th (last day to pay without a late fee) and the 22nd (last day to pay before cut-off and reconnection fee applies).
At the city's Jan. 23 meeting, City Finance Director Penny Staffney recommended returning to normal billing procedures.
"We suspended them due to the storm, and as of the next cycle that will be five months. So that has given everyone a five-month break, so we kind of want to get back to normal...paying bills on time," Staffney said.
Councilwoman Shirlye Hampton mentioned city bills not being received on time.
"That is up to the post office," Staffney said. "This is an ongoing thing. Our bills go out on time every month."
Mayor Ward Ketring mentioned the city should have new software coming online during the summer.
Staffney reminded the council that customers can go online to look at their bill amount and pay online if their bill has not been received by the due date.
"Are you advising us, or are you asking us to let you go ahead and do it?" Ketring asked.
"I told you I would not reinstate late fees without telling you, so if there is no objections, we need to

vote to lift the emergency suspension of the late fees (and disconnections)," Staffney said.
Councilman Bill Brynes made a motion, and Hampton eventually offered a second.
Councilwoman Venita Woodfaulk vote against the motion.
After the vote passed 3-1, Hampton asked if the motion included both late and extension fees, before briefly considering changing her vote to "no," which would have resulted in the motion failing to pass by a 2-2 vote.
In November 2023, Hampton voted against the city upholding its current policy of charging fees for time extensions to pay utility bills.
In a split 3-2 vote at its Nov. 14, 2023 meeting, the city council officially adopted "The Utility Bill Extensions and Fee Policy of 2023," which assesses a 75-cent fee for each \$10 of utility bill due that a customer requests to be extended past the monthly due date.
Hart explained the ordinance (10-34) "is just taking what we actually do and putting it in an ordinance."
"It is not changing anything we do. We are just moving from a resolution to an ordinance," Hart added.
The policy allows customers to request an extension on paying a utility bill for a small fee. For example, a customer would be charged an extra \$3.00 to be granted an extension on paying a bill between \$30.01 and \$40.00.
In that Nov. 14 meeting, the council voted 3-2 in favor of the ordinance, with Hampton and Woodfaulk voting against.
"I never said we should not have late fees. My question was about extension fees. If we have extension fees, why do we have late fees?" Hampton asked.

City staff explained the extension gives customers an extra week after the cut-off date to pay the utility bill without having water service disconnected.
"They are basically asking for a little loan, and that is the intention behind that," Staffney said.
"I don't think we should have an extension fee on top of a late fee," Hampton stated.
Anyone with a question about their utility bill can call the city's billing office at (850) 584-2721. Customers can pay online or in person at City Hall.
The issue of city utility bills arriving late has been a recurring concern over the past several years.
During a discussion of water bill extensions and associated fees at a May 9, 2023 city meeting, several members of the city council lodged complaints about receiving their own water bills well after the first

week of the month.
In response, Staffney blamed the problem on the postal service and suggested the city begin mailing bills earlier to give customers more time to receive and pay them before being declared late.
However, several other city staff members present at the meeting argued that the bills are already being mailed on either the 26th or 27th of the previous month.
"I would personally like to see, when we mail (the bills), instead of it being a two-week period (before the due date) -- because, really, that is ridiculous -- it should be at least 18 days to three weeks," Staffney said during the discussion over the extension fees. "Then, your late fees would be after that."
"I've got two city bills, and nine times out of 10, one of them comes in a week late," City

Councilman Ward Ketring said, noting that bills have arrived on the 6th, 7th or 8th of the month.
"That's why I think that needs to be changed, because we're not fixing the post office," Staffney said.
"We try to communicate with everyone, if you don't receive your bill the first week of the month, please feel free to give us a call," Secretary Delois Clayton said. "We'll let you know how much your bill is. You do not need that green card to pay your bill."
She also noted that city customers can also look up their bill amount on the city's website.
"This month, I got half of my bill, and about a week later, I got the other half of it," Brynes said.
"The post office hates our bills," one staff member stated.

Save the date for annual Ducks Unlimited banquet

Perry Ducks Unlimited (DU) will hold its annual banquet on Friday, March 1, at 6 p.m. at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Recreation Hall.

Those who attend will be treated to a smoked prime rib and grilled shrimp dinner, as well as live and silent auctions, regular and "goose band" raffles and more.

For more info, contact Daniel Everett at (850) 838-7665.

"We're looking forward to hosting this event to continue our support for conservation. Our passion for ducks and hunting go way further than just the hunt," Everett said. "We have a duty to protect our wetlands and improve habitats so that one day the generations to come can carry on."

"Save the date in your calendars and come out to enjoy a great dinner with live auction, silent auction and raffles." You can purchase tickets online

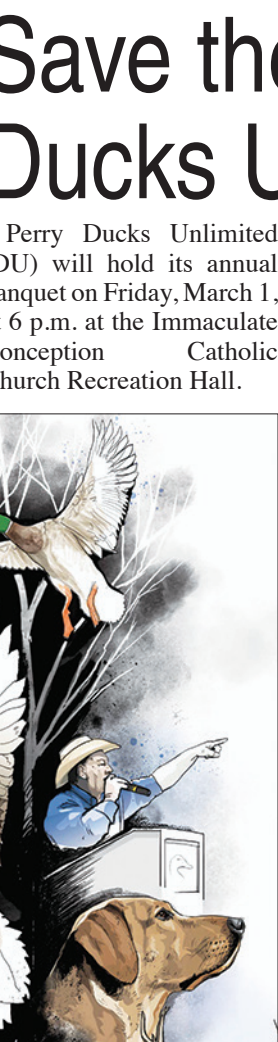
SATURDAY, JAN. 27 9 A.M. - NOON

Coastal Cleanup

BEACH ROAD, KEATON BEACH, DEKLE BEACH CEDAR, DARK & BIRD ISLANDS

8:45 A.M. KICK-OFF AT BLUE CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH & FREE LUNCH AT 12 NOON!

Community CLEAN UP DAY



at <https://ducksunlimited.myeventscenter.com>.

STORM DAMAGE? UNDERPAID CLAIM? DENIED CLAIM?

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