Stardust will be missed by those who danced, partied there

By Dave Nicholson



Donna Garzone and Kevin Rios demonstrate a dance move to students during a 2011 class at the Stardust Dance Center. Garzone, an area dance instructor, said she doesn't know where she will hold her Plant City dance classes and parties when the Stardust closes. FILE PHOTO

Thanks for the memories

Two goodbye dance parties are planned for the Stardust Dance Center, 1405 S. Collins St.

- Donna Garzone's farewell dance party is 6 to 9:30 p.m. Sunday, featuring free wine and dance music by Mike Johnston. Tickets are \$10, please bring dishes to share. For information, call Garzone at (813) 340-9433.
- A farewell dance by Chuztodance and Mike and Peg Johnston will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Jan. 4. The dance includes an ice cream social and dance instruction. Cost is \$10. For information, contact Terri Lynn Goodrich of Chuztodance at (863) 255-8344.

PLANT CITY – Donna Garzone has many happy memories hosting dance parties at the Stardust Dance Center over the last decade.

She expects to shed a few tears at her next dance party, from 6 to 9:30 p.m. Sunday.

The veteran dance instructor is billing it as a farewell as the Stardust – known for its 5,000 square-foot hardwood dance floor – prepares to close after more than 17 years of operation.

"There is no other place like it in Plant City," Garzone said. "It has a beautiful floor. We've had so many good times there."

The owners, Curt and Tammy Worlock, couldn't be reached for comment but Garzone said she was told the dance center at 1405 S. Collins St. would not renew its lease and close in January. Bealls Outlet store next door will expand into the space that the Stardust is vacating.

Terri Lynn Goodrich, who has been sponsoring and organizing dance parties at the Stardust for 15 years, said she was sad to see her favorite venue close its doors.

"We almost took it for granted that as nice as the Stardust was, that it would always be there," she said. "The owners are absolutely amazing. Everybody loves the Stardust. There won't be another Stardust."

Goodrich, who operates the dance organization Chuztodance with her husband Michael, plans to co-sponsor a farewell dance from 4 to 8 p.m. Jan. 4.

She hopes the Worlocks will be there "so we can thank them personally for everything they've done for so many years."

Goodrich said the couple taught her ballroom dancing and were always patient and gracious teachers. She first booked dances at the Stardust when she was president of a dance club. She and her husband formed Chuztodance about a year ago and continued monthly dance parties there.

Goodrich said the Worlocks travel all over the world teaching and performing ballroom dancing.

Both Goodrich and Garzone are unsure where they will go for a venue for their monthly dance parties when the Stardust closes.

Garzone, for now, is focusing on Sunday's dance.

"We plan to go out with a big celebration," she said. "We will miss the Stardust and it's time to say goodbye." Twitter: @dnicholsonTBO

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