

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**Plumbers' apprenticeship**

Re "School would teach construction: Port Orange looks into starting charter program," article, July 18:

Port Orange Mayor Allen Green and City Manager Ken Parker are cited as saying there is a shortage of programs to train construction workers.

Being a 38-year member of United Association of Plumbers & Pipefitters Local Union 295 in Daytona Beach, I must say that we have been training skilled plumbers, pipefitters, welders, medical gas plumbers and the like for more than 50 years.

Our program consists of a five-year apprenticeship involving classroom and on-the-job training. Our classroom training is at Daytona Beach Community College's Advanced Technology Center on Williamson Boulevard, where our students receive credit through Daytona Beach Community College. The cost to each apprentice is a mere one-time \$20 registration fee for five years of training. We are an equal-opportunity program. We have over the years attended high-school career days, and we often advertise for apprentices in the newspaper.

In addition, Local 756 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in Port Orange offers a four-year apprenticeship program. Anyone interested in either can contact the plumbers' or electricians' unions.

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