

# night lights



## Big band dancing at Imperial

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LARGO — Folks who enjoy dancing to big band music now have a new place to go. The Hall Street 8 Plus 4 is playing at Imperial Danceland, 9075 130th Ave. N, Largo (130th Avenue is two blocks south of Ulmerton Road on the west side of Starkey Road across from Bradley Furniture).

The new establishment — which has a 3,500-square-foot dance floor and seats more than 250 persons — opened Jan. 22. Admission is \$3 a person or \$5 for couples. Free parking.

**THE CLUB** will be open from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. today and Saturday but then will be closed for two or three weeks while the operation is moved to another room within the same building, owner Carl Schlemmer said.

The huge room has tables and chairs around the edge of a large dance floor just in front of the stage where the bands play. When the club reopens, a portion of the room will be marked and set aside for singles, Schlemmer said.

The band plays songs such as *Stardust*, *Chattanooga Choo Choo* and *A String of Pearls*. The last song that the members play each night, Schlemmer said, is *Rocky*. They play waltzes, cha-chas and other specialized dances.

"We will have other bands, but this (the Hall Street 8 Plus 4) will be the 'house band,'" Schlemmer said. "We will try to get western bands and smaller bands. You never know what's going to come up."

**SCHLEMMER, WHO ALSO** owns a graphic arts business and a charter sailing, fishing and diving business, discovered the therapeutic values of dancing while he was going through a divorce. His own good experiences with dancing are the main reasons, he said, that he is starting the



dance club now and encouraging singles to attend. Another reason, he added, is that he has always liked music.

No alcoholic beverages are sold at Danceland, but popcorn and soft drinks are available, as well as setups for those who want to bring their own beverages.

"I would like to have ice cream, too, and ice cream drinks," Schlemmer said. The patrons so far have been a cross section of all ages, he added. "More younger people are getting inquisitive about the big band music," he said. "When the band plays the theme from *Rocky*, we dance all kinds of dances to that."

**THE LARGE ROOM** has 18-foot ceilings, which give it a light, roomy, open look. The high ceilings also help keep the smoke away from patrons. "We want to try to make it like no other place," Schlemmer said. He only planned the idea of a dance club for two weeks before opening it, he said. "It just popped into my head," he explained.