

Mina's Pantry

Mina Edison Society® Creates Care Packages For FSW Students

Sponsored by Busey Bank

Victoria And Bruce Stephan – Investing Today, Underwriting Dreams For Tomorrow!

Fall semester begins with a boom at Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW). As summer fades away and cool winter mornings begin, over 22,000 students are attending with COVID-19 masks on four FSW campuses. The pandemic has changed a lot about our world recently, but one thing has become clear: getting an education at Florida SouthWestern State College is a smart choice.

Upon graduation, 96 percent of FSW students graduate, enter the workforce or go on to higher education. Most stay right here in Southwest Florida, becoming productive workers and citizens. However, to achieve their goals, many students carpool, work two jobs, tutor, and live at home. What do they have in common? All are seeking their dreams for a better future.



Victoria and Bruce Stephan

Victoria Stephan and her husband, Bruce, have lived in Town & River for 26 years. In all those years, they have given of their time and talents toward educational endeavors. Vicki, currently director of development at the FSW Foundation, has re-energized the FSW Foundation's Mina Edison Society® which raises scholarships for FSW's high-achieving students. Bruce works in the Maxwell Hendry & Simmons commercial real estate appraisal division. Together they have raised two boys with fun excursions on the water. Their downtime? Giving back to the community.

Can you help? On Nov. 12 the Mina Edison Society® members are holding a drive-through event at the Barbara B. Mann Hall from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. Just pop your trunk and a team will gather your donated items.

What is needed? Toothpaste, body soap, shampoo, plastic dinnerware, and hygiene items to name a few. Basic necessities are in low supply in the student pantry. Many students are financially stressed. A little "help up" would go a long way to sending students on their way toward



academic success! Cash donations are also accepted. **Many thanks to Mina's Pantry Title Sponsor: Busey Bank.**

To learn more visit www.Foundation.fsw/MinasPantry. If you need pickup at your home, email victoria.stephan@fsw.edu.

Victoria Stephan, Director of Development
FSW Foundation
(239) 825-1794

Victoria.Stephan@fsw.edu

Believing in the boundless potential of young people, Mina Edison Society® empowers students at Florida SouthWestern State College to navigate their path toward success. Founded in 2007, the Mina Edison Society awards academic scholarships to high-achieving students. For more information on becoming a member, visit Foundation.fsw.edu/MinaSociety or call (239) 489-9210.



Board Of Directors Meeting Minutes [Unapproved]

**Thursday, September 10, 2020
Via ZOOM**

Call To Order – President Mark Generales called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Officers, Directors, & Residents Present

A quorum was established. Present: Directors Marge Byrne, Roy Benton, Rick Ginsburg, Martha Smith, Secretary Renee

Notes, Treasurer Gary Hudson & Executive Secretary Sally Stigler. Absent: Directors Rick Chubb, Kay Gloris, Myriam Lentz, Carol Notes, & Joe Tomaino. Bonnie Grossman joined the meeting.

Approval Of Minutes – March 12, 2020 minutes were approved by motion as submitted.

Treasurer's Report – Gary Hudson

Gary emailed August financial statements & supporting documents to Board Members prior to the meeting. He noted over the years numerous estoppel requests have been received & the information provided free of charge. Realizing other HOAs charge for this service and the requestor required a formal estoppel, Gary charged \$50 with the approval of the requestor. He subscribed to Form Swift so the estoppel could be completed on-line. It passed by motion for Gary to be reimbursed for the annual fee of \$72 & going forward the association will charge \$50 per estoppel request. Martha said many HOAs charge \$250.



Architectural Review/Dor Discussion – Gary Hudson

Gary has been in contact with our webmaster, Patricia Gill, to implement a method for board members to access Gary's ARB & violation files via computers. There has been much activity with ARB & County permits lately. Mark reported he issued a complaint with Lee County regarding the dilapidated boat dock at 9750 Cypress Lake Dr. Dock parts have been falling into the canal and present a potential hazard to navigation. Roy noted Lee County does have a fund for removal of derelict vessels & docks. This situation will be pursued.

Old Business:

Update on Lake Seawall – Renee

Renee looked into the MSTBU Program (Municipal Services Taxing Benefit Unit) and found that properties participating in the program would see their individual real estate tax obligations at least double. She has decided not to mount an effort to involve all lake property owners in a possible MSTBU. Her seawall will be replaced by a contractor. A neighbor has also individually engaged the services of the same contractor she is using. Renee plans to distribute a flyer to owners of lake properties with information about the company she is using and the contractor's offer of a discount (because there are some economies of scale).

New Business:

Discussion of Future & Annual Board Meetings – Mark

Mark announced he would prefer to have the October meeting in person rather than via Zoom. Most likely the Annual Meeting will be held via Zoom, with the only vote, assuming no director vacancies, to be for the dues to stay

at \$120. Rick suggested voting by the use of Constant Contact & will present particular & detailed information at the next meeting.

It was noted residents have expressed an interest in the meeting Agenda being published in the Newsletter prior to the meeting. Mark will prepare the Agendas for publication in future Newsletters.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by motion at 7:30 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will convene 6:30 p.m. Thursday, October 8, 2020 at South Pointe South Clubhouse, 9734 Foxglove Circle, Ft. Myers.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sally Stigler
Executive Secretary*

Thursday, October 8, 2020

Call To Order – Treasurer Gary Hudson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Officers, Directors, & Residents Present

A quorum was established. Present: Directors Marge Byrne, Rick Chubb, Kay Gloris, Myriam Lentz, Martha Smith & Executive Secretary Sally Stigler. Absent: Directors Roy Benton, Rick Ginsburg, Carol Notes, Joe Tomaino & President Mark Generales & Secretary Renee Notes.

Approval Of Minutes – September 10, 2020 minutes were not available for review & approval.

Meeting Minutes on page 2

Guarding Against Identity Theft

By Jacqueline J. Lambros,
Registered Principal



When someone uses your name, credit card, Social Security number, or other financial information to commit a crime, you are a victim of identity theft. Luckily, you can take steps to make it more difficult for thieves to access your personal data.

What Is Identity Theft?

While stealing your wallet or mail is one tactic, thieves are just as likely to obtain your personal information from businesses you frequent. Or, using a technique called phishing, they may try to trick you into providing information by posing as your bank or a government agency. Once they have your key data, they can change your address with your credit card issuers, open up new credit cards in your name, drain your bank account, take out loans, apply for government-issued

identification, or impersonate you during an arrest. They may even entangle your identity in a sophisticated fraud on a third party without your even knowing it.

How Will You Know Your Identity Has Been Stolen?

Because identity theft has become so prevalent, it pays to be aware. The first clue that your identity has been stolen is often a call from your credit card issuer about suspicious account activity. Or, you might notice you've stopped receiving credit card or bank statements. You might get a call from a business about merchandise or services you didn't order. Worse yet, you could be denied credit or receive a notice from a collection agency.

How Can You Combat Fraud?

Use the following tips to help keep your personal information safe from thieves:

- Keep a close eye on your credit by requesting a free credit report once a year. Call (877) 322-8228 or visit www.annualcreditreport.com. (Don't be fooled by similar websites that are in the business of selling credit protection services.)
- You can freeze or secure your credit account at no cost with the three major credit bureaus: Equifax, Experian, and Transunion.
- Review your credit card and bank statements regularly (as often as weekly) for charges you didn't make. Some thieves will charge a small purchase to test if the account is active; if it goes through undetected, they'll move on to much larger purchases.
- Be smart about your passwords. Because it's relatively easy for thieves to obtain information about you from social networking sites, don't use your phone number, birthday, or names of your children or pets as passwords. Smart passwords include a combination of lowercase and uppercase letters, numbers, and symbols.
- Ask the businesses and institutions you work with (or for) about how they secure your information. "Dumpster diving" is a popular way for thieves to access information carelessly thrown away by businesses.
- Don't fall victim to a phishing scam. If you receive a call or an email that appears to be from a trusted institution or

business, don't immediately provide identifying information. Instead, visit the business's website and call its customer service number. Or, if the message appears to be from your credit card company, call the number printed on the back of your card.

- Don't click on links within emails. Rather, type the URL directly into your browser's address line.
- Secure your mail. Before you travel, ask the post office to hold your mail until you return. Don't leave bill payments in an unsecured mailbox, and have reordered checks delivered to your bank rather than mailed to your home.
- Shred your credit card receipts, bank statements, and other documents that could provide a thief with your financial information.
- Don't carry your credit or debit cards in your wallet if you don't plan to use them. Never carry your Social Security number in your wallet.
- Update your computer's virus protection, and don't open email attachments from people or businesses you don't know.
- Install a firewall on your computer to thwart hackers.
- Look for the lock icon or "https" address when shopping online. Always log off when leaving a password-protected site.
- Use a wipe utility program before throwing away old computer equipment or smartphones.

If you suspect that your identity has been stolen, follow the steps provided on the Federal Trade Commission's website at www.ftc.gov/idtheft.

What About Identity Theft Protection Services?

With cases of identity theft on the rise, many companies have entered the market with services promising to protect or minimize your risk. It's important to keep in mind that the industry has its own share of fraudulent promoters of worthless services. Be sure to do your research and understand the level of protection the company offers.

This material has been provided for general informational purposes only and does not constitute either tax or legal advice. Although we go to great lengths to make sure our information is accurate and useful, we recommend you consult a tax preparer, professional tax advisor, or lawyer.

Town & River Civic Association Inc.

Balance Sheet As of September 30, 2020

	Sep 30, 20
Assets	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
First Citizens Bank- Operating	972.96
First Citizens Bank - MMS	70,882.13
Total Checking/Savings	71,855.09
Other Current Assets	
Prepaid, Lake Expense	4,910.46
Prepaid, Other Expense	1,653.02
Total Other Current Assets	6,563.48
Total Current Assets	78,418.57
Total Assets	78,418.57
Liabilities & Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Annual Dues, Advanced	635.48
Total Other Current Liabilities	635.48
Total Current Liabilities	635.48
Total Liabilities	635.48
Equity	
Prior Year Fund Balance	56,180.89
Net Income	21,602.20
Total Equity	77,783.09
Total Liabilities & Equity	78,418.57

Town & River Civic Association Inc.

Profit And Loss September 2020

	Sep 20	Jan - Sep 20
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Income - Mandatory	0.00	10,830.00
Income - Voluntary	120.00	25,400.00
Total Income	120.00	36,230.00
Interest Income	0.58	7.71
Total Income	120.58	36,237.71
Expense		
Accounting Fees	315.00	3,380.00
Bank Fees	0.00	6.00
Corp Insurance	228.83	3,539.22
Email Service	0.00	729.00
General Repairs & Maintenance	0.00	149.11
Legal Expense	330.00	481.25
Meeting Rooms	0.00	255.69
Newspaper Postage	138.10	1,104.72
Office Expense	72.00	324.04
Postage Expense	0.00	113.95
Printing & Postage	0.00	1,308.35
State Fee	0.00	61.25
Secretary Expense	0.00	967.50
Storage Expense	119.79	1,038.19
Utilities	45.22	356.84
Website Maintenance	40.00	820.40
Total Expense	1,288.94	14,635.51
Net Ordinary Income	-1,168.36	21,602.20
Net Income	-1,168.36	21,602.20

Meeting Minutes from page 1

Treasurer's Report – Gary Hudson

Gary emailed September financial statements & supporting documents to Board Members prior to the meeting. With no questions presented, the financial report was accepted & approved by motion as submitted.

The monthly financial statements may be accessed on the association's web site www.townandriverfl.com.

Property Litigation Discussion – Gary Hudson

The association received correspondence in September from an attorney representing a Town & River homeowner. The client, through the attorney, is demanding that the association "cease and desist its improper attempts at enforcement against my client in relation to the hedges(s) on the Property and demands that the Association grant my client a variance for same." The correspondence also included a records request. The association's legal counsel responded to the homeowner's attorney in a timely manner, indicating where records were located and executing an agreement to mediate. The cost of mediation would be split 50/50 between the property owner & the Association.

"Solid hedge" is not defined in the Amended, Restated, and Combined Deeds of Restriction (ARCDOR). Section 3(E) states in part: "Walls or fences of solid construction and solid hedges in the rear set back of waterfront lots shall not exceed three (3') feet in height." Note: per Lee County Code, rear setback for waterfront lots is 25' The board discussed several possible definitions of "solid hedge" including:

- A living fence made of closely planted bushes, which, as they grow and get trimmed and shaped, form a wall of green.
 - A line of closely spaced plants, planted or grown so close together that you cannot push through them easily
- Following discussion, the board adopted the "living fence" definition to guide its enforcement responsibilities.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by motion at 7:30 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will convene 6:30 p.m. Thursday, November 12, 2020 at South Pointe South Clubhouse, 9734 Foxglove Circle, Ft. Myers.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sally Stigler
Executive Secretary*

Make It A "RULE" To Call Connie Esper
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Publix Run To The Arts – An Artsy 5K

5K walk or run, race or fun at the one and only ArtFest Fort Myers. Join the fun Feb. 7 at 8 a.m. in downtown Fort Myers – it is only \$35 for an activity-filled morning. It is easy to register – RunToTheArts.com.

All-new for 2021, Publix Run To The Arts also has a virtual option – runners and walkers can participate from anywhere in the world, Jan. 30 to Feb. 7, 2021.

All Publix Run To The Arts participants,

ArtFest
FORT MYERS
Southwest Florida's Premier Art Festival



2021 Run T-shirt artwork Waterfall by Carla Bank

in-person or virtual, will receive a virtual swag bag with promotions and special coupons from ArtFest Fort Myers' friends and supporters.

Lace up your shoes and register for Publix Run To The Arts to guarantee your in-person or virtual spot and reserve your collectable run T-shirt featuring the original artwork of artist Carla Bank. Early morning yoga warm-up or jazzy KariKardio, a yummy post-race breakfast, medals including special awards for top finishers, raffle prizes – including weekend getaways, running shoes and tickets to theatre/symphony complete the Run To The Arts experience.

"Publix Run To The Arts is a perfect way to begin your Sunday on Feb. 7," explains Sharon McAllister, executive director of ArtFest Fort Myers. "Health and fitness, arts and



culture, friends and family, and the scenic beauty of the Fort Myers waterfront – what more could you ask for? In our view it is all about quality of life in our community."

Publix Run to the Arts is a fun 5K with an artsy twist - this full morning kicks off Sunday at ArtFest Fort Myers with exceptional art, entertainment, and interactive art activities. Runners and their guests will be the first to sneak a peek at the artist booths on Sunday morning, even before the festival opens to the public. In keeping with the spirit of the fine art festival, runners will also be invited to take part in creating a public art piece!

Not a runner or walker? Join the fun as a race day volunteer and receive an artsy volunteer shirt and preferred parking. To volunteer visit RunToTheArts.com and click on Volunteer.

Run to the Arts is made possible by the generous support of Publix, a 16-year sponsor of ArtFest Fort Myers, who is carrying on its tradition of being the kind of company a community can count on. Publix invites you to start your day with an invigorating run or walk and a healthy breakfast ... then feed your mind and spirit at ArtFest Fort Myers.

ArtFest Fort Myers, the annual juried fine art festival, takes place Feb. 6 and 7, 2021 in the Fort Myers River District. Join the experience with 150 professional artists from across the county; the largest high school art exhibit and competition in south Florida and free interactive art experiences for children of all ages.

For more information visit RunToTheArts.com or contact us at (239) 768-3602 or info@ArtFestFortMyers.com. Like us on Facebook. Follow us on Instagram. Tag us #artfestfm.

Town & River Lake Report

Inspection Date: Sept. 1

Inspected For:

- Algae OK
- Aquatic Weeds OK
- Undesirable Shoreline Vegetation OK
- Water Quality OK

Technician's Comments: Lake is free of algae and contains no invasive vegetation in water body.



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Plato leading the warm-up



Plato giving out winner awards

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FORT MYERS
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239-267-4547

MERCATO
NAPLES • OFF US-41
239-431-6807

What: Run To The Arts – the artsy 5K created by ArtFest Fort Myers, Southwest Florida's premier art festival

When: Feb. 7, 2021 in-person or virtually Jan. 30 to Feb. 7

Where: Downtown Fort Myers River District on Edwards Drive for in-person 5K or location of your choice for the virtual 5K

Cost: \$35

Register: RunToTheArts.com

Parking: Parking lots adjacent to festival, street parking and city garages

The Heights Foundation Seeks Donations And Volunteers For Thanksgiving Outreach

Organizations And Individuals Are Asked To Contribute

The Heights Foundation/The Heights Center is seeking organizations and individuals to participate in the Bountiful Blessings Thanksgiving Outreach. Since 1999, the program has provided the ingredients so families in the Harlem Heights neighborhood can make a traditional Thanksgiving meal in their own homes to share with their families. In 2019, partner agencies, businesses, philanthropic organizations and more than 100 volunteers provided turkeys and groceries to more than 300 families benefiting approximately 1,500 unique individuals.

“Holiday memories often center around a meal; the joy of preparation and being together as a family,” said Kathryn Kelly, president and CEO of The Heights Foundation/The Heights Center. “But, purchasing the ingredients for a holiday meal can be a large financial burden for many. Thanks to the generous support of our neighbors, we are able to provide that experience for the families in the Harlem Heights community.” Three hundred turkeys are being provided for the outreach. Golisano Children’s Hospital is donating 225 turkeys and Gecko Hospitality is donating 75.

The greatest need is for rice, canned vegetables (green beans, peas, corn and mixed vegetables) or monetary donations to purchase those items. Additional food items needed include canned yams, boxed stuffing, boxed potatoes, boxed corn muffin mix, canned gravy, cranberry sauce and cake mix.

Donations can be dropped off Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. until Wednesday, Nov. 18. The outreach event will be held on Saturday, Nov. 21. COVID-19 safety precautions will be in place. The Heights Center is located at 15570 Hagie Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33908.

Volunteers are needed on Friday, Nov. 20 and Saturday, Nov. 21. Contact Melissa Barlow at (239) 482-7706 or melissa@heightsfoundation.org to sign up for a time slot.

Organizations and individuals interested in donating can contact Melissa Barlow at (239) 482-7706 or Melissa@heightsfoundation.org.

All donations are tax deductible. Monetary donations can be made on the web at www.heightsfoundation.org/donate.

About The Heights Foundation And The Heights Center

The Heights Foundation works to build self-sufficient families in the Harlem Heights neighborhood. The mission is to support education and wellness, promote family and community development, and provide the benefits of enrichment and the arts. The Heights Center, supported by The Heights Foundation, is a place for education, opportunity, and enrichment. GLAD Kids is a child care and prekindergarten center serving more than 80 children birth to age five. The Harlem Heights Community Charter School serves kindergarten through fifth grade. Harlem Heights was originally settled as a rural agricultural community. Approximately 780 children live in a mixture of single-family homes and multifamily apartments. Demographically, the population is approximately 70 percent Hispanic, 20 percent African-American, and 8 percent Caucasian. The poverty rate for children in Harlem Heights is more than twice the county average, with family income 40 percent below the county average. Families are not able to easily access family support services located in downtown Fort Myers, and benefit greatly from programs located within the neighborhood.



Photos shown are from our 2019 Thanksgiving Outreach.

**Are you planning a special event?
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TOWN & RIVER CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS – as of June 11, 2020
 www.townandriverfl.com

President	Mark Generales	239-676-5676	pres@townandriverfl.com
Vice President	vacant		vp@townandriverfl.com
Secretary	Renee Notes	239-209-2072	secy@townandriverfl.com
Treasurer	Gary Hudson	239-481-7748	treas@townandriverfl.com

STREET ASSIGNMENTS	DIRECTOR	EMAIL PHONE NUMBER
Bal Isle Dr E Town & River Rd	Roy Benton	dir1@townandriverfl.com 239-462-6515
Brevity Ln N Waterway Dr	Rick Chubb	dir2@townandriverfl.com 609-707-0825
Cal Cove Dr Cape View Dr Hatchee Vista Ln Jennifer Ln	Carol Notes	dir3@townandriverfl.com 239-218-0645
Clarellen Dr Cypress Lake Dr	Marge Byrne	dir4@townandriverfl.com 239-482-8923
Cypress Lake Cr Joanna Cr Sand Spur Ln	Myriam Lentz	dir5@townandriverfl.com 239-225-8533
Deep Lagoon Ln Julie Ann Ct	Rick Ginsburg	dir6@townandriverfl.com 310-612-0368
Erin Marie Ct S. Town & River Dr	Martha Smith	dir7@townandriverfl.com 239-671-6347
McGregor Blvd Wittman Dr	Joe Tomaino	dir8@townandriverfl.com 239-851-4067
N. Town & River Dr	Kay Gloris	dir9@townandriverfl.com 239-470-6400
Lake Committee	Renee Notes	secy@townandriverfl.com 239-209-2072
Deeds of Restriction Committee	Gary Hudson	archreview@townandriverfl.com 239-481-7748
Architectural Review Committee	Gary Hudson	archreview@townandriverfl.com 239-481-7748

Please contact the Director responsible for your street regarding any issues related to Town & River.

Owner Contact Information Request

Town & River Civic Association Inc.
P.O. Box 07073
Fort Myers, FL 33919

For improved communications, please update your contact information.
 Please [PRINT] complete the following.

Name(s): _____

Town & River Address: _____

Full Time Resident: ____ Seasonal Resident: ____ My Property is Leased ____
 If not full-time, other address, including zip: _____

Telephone Number(s): _____

Email Address: _____

Association members in good standing, who have submitted their contact information, and have agreed to have their contact information published in the online directory, will be issued a password to access the online directory. Otherwise, the information submitted is for board use only. If you agree to your contact information being included in a Town & River Directory, accessible by a password, please check either: ____ Yes or, ____ No
 If "Yes", please check the information you agree to be included in the Directory:
 ____ Names ____ Town & River Address ____ Other Address ____ Telephone Numbers
 ____ Email Address

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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GULF HARBOUR YACHT & COUNTRY CLUB IS A FINANCIALLY SOLID EQUITY MEMBER OWNED & OPERATED CLUB

Children's Advocacy Center

Rescue Runway

Nov. 7 – 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Join us on Facebook Live, Nov. 7, 11 a.m. to 12 noon, featuring K-9 unit demonstrations, parade of Beesley's Paw

Prints pet therapy dogs, crowning of king and queen of Rescue Runway 2020, announcement of best pet costume winner, and silent auction winners.

Details and updates on www.facebook.com/cacswfl.

The Holidays Are Around The Corner!

For those of you who like to get a jump on the holidays, please consider participating in our Adopt A Family or "giving tree" programs.

Once again, we are asking for unwrapped gifts for children up to age 17, or a cash donation which we will use to purchase gifts. If you "adopt" a family, we will provide you with a wish list to use as a guide. Gift cards to Walmart, Target and Publix are always in need, too.

If you are a business and would like to do a giving tree instead, we will provide you with paper angels to hang on your tree, with the gender and age of the child to buy for. Contact Lisa Rizzio, CAC Development Director, at (239) 939-2808 or lrizzio@cac-swfl.org. Thank you!

Beesley's Corner

We're happy to report that our Beesley's Paw Prints pet therapy dogs, a United Way funded program, has been able to do "window visiting" recently. Pictured are some of our volunteers at Gladwell Assisted Living in North Fort Myers.



Ostego Bay Foundation Inc. Resumes Waterfront Tours

Located on Florida's Gulf Coast, the Fort Myers Beach area offers its own great beaches as well as being surrounded by barrier and coastal islands to explore. The Working Waterfront Tour is a must do when visiting Southwest Florida. The shrimp fleet of San Carlos Island offloads more Florida pinks than anywhere else in Florida, says a study by the University of Florida.

Pink shrimp to Fort Myers Beach is like Alaskan king crab to Alaska. While you won't find shrimp boats on the *Deadliest Catch*, you can get up close and personal to our local shrimping industry with the Ostego Bay Foundation Marine Science Center's working waterfront three-hour guided tour offered every Wednesday from 9 a.m. until noon, weather permitting, beginning Oct. 7.

The Ostego Bay Foundation has earned the 2020 Trip Advisor's Travelers' Choice Award, representing the top 10 percent of attractions worldwide. The cost for the tour is only \$20 per adult and \$10 for children over 6 years of age. You'll learn about Florida's "pink gold" the oldest and largest pink shrimp fishing fleet in Florida. The tour includes a 1½-hour guided visit at the Marine Science Center Museum which contains numerous hands-on exhibits, touch tank, beach exhibit and estuarine aquariums.

The tour includes a walking tour of the commercial fishing industry working waterfront, including Erickson & Jensen Supply House, net shop and Trico Shrimp Boat loading

dock. See how the boats are unloaded, the trawl doors are built, the shrimp nets are hand-sewn, the seafood is off-loaded, and other important factors used in this unique multi-million-dollar industry, a memorable experience! Bring your camera. Participation is limited and we will be following CDC guidelines for COVID-19.



Reservations are required, call (239) 765-8101 for details or register online at <http://www.ostegobay.org/waterfront-tours/>.

Founded in 1991, the Ostego Bay Foundation Marine Science Center is a member supported 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization. The mission of the Ostego Bay Foundation Inc. is to promote the understanding, preservation and enhancement of our unique marine environment through education, research and community involvement. The foundation provides interactive educational experiences to encourage stewardship of our natural resources.

Mina's Pantry

Mina Edison Society® Creates Care Packages for FSW Students.

Calling all friends, members and community leaders to be part of Mina's Pantry on November 12, 2020. COVID-19 has changed lives, job opportunities and financial security for many of FSW students and families. Basic necessities are in low supply and are needed for daily living.

A little "help up" would go a long way to sending students on their way toward academic success!

Just pop your trunk on November 12th (11:00 am - 1:00 pm, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm) at the portico of FSW's Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall and a team will gather your donated items for distribution.

Investments today underwrite dreams and aspirations for tomorrow.

To join us and receive a list of preferred items, visit www.Foundation.fsw/MinasPantry or call 239-489-9210.



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From The Desk Of Sheriff Carmine Marceno



Oct. 1 marked my second full year as your sheriff. As the old saying goes, "Time flies when you're having fun," and believe me, the time has flown by. Since day one, my number one priority has been your safety and security. My commitment has been and will remain providing you the highest level of service and professionalism.

If I may, I'd like to take a look back and share with you several innovative programs we have implemented since I've taken office. These initiatives have resulted in lower crime rates, improved relations with the public,

and strengthened our resolve to do all we can to make Lee County the best place to work, live and retire.

Have you heard about our:

- **Community Response Unit (CRU):** CRU has strengthened community outreach by enhancing our grass roots partnerships. Its three-prong approach includes crime prevention, community policing and special enforcement. Crime Prevention educates and trains our community through programs, partnerships and initiatives; Community Policing establishes community safety teams and works closely with homeowners' associations; our Special Enforcement team supports patrol districts in high crime areas.

- **Real Time Intelligence Center (RTIC):** This new program is already paying dividends. The concept is simple: We've assembled our agency's analysts and given them a wide range of cutting-edge tools to identify emerging crime trends. Based on gathered intelligence, we then deploy appropriate resources to meet any threat. Crime analysts monitor social media, traffic and community cameras and even use social recognition tools. We also can tap into live drone feeds for aerial overviews.

- **Community Outreach Centers:** We opened community outreach centers at the Miromar Outlets in

Estero and the Bell Tower Shops in Fort Myers. Based on positive community feedback, we recently added an outreach center on Fort Myers Beach and have another planned for the Edison Mall. These centers give residents the opportunity to talk with members of the sheriff's office and share their concerns.

- **Animal Abuse And Cruelty Task Force:** This task force was started after I became aware of a number of animal abuse cases in Lee County. We now work hand-in-hand with Lee County Domestic Animal Services and diligently investigate crimes of animal abuse. I have zero-tolerance for animal abusers. Period.

- **Safe Students – Safe Schools:** The need for safety for our students begins when leaving the home and ends when they return each afternoon. Each day, our patrol deputies check bus stops during their morning and afternoon patrols to assist with security at stops. Our traffic unit closely monitors school buses when picking up and dropping off students to ensure drivers in the vicinity are following all laws pertaining to school zones.

As this year begins to wind down, we are more determined than ever to continue moving forward, making positive changes in this great community. Although there have been many challenges in 2020 for law enforcement agencies around the country, I want to assure you that we hear your kind words. We see your widespread support. We are humbled by your thoughtfulness.

It remains my honor to serve you.

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There are many single mother households in Southwest Florida. We at A Mom's Helping Hand of Southwest Florida are working hard to change their circumstances. We are trying to take away some of the barriers in their way, to offer some relief; some breathing room. To help the children and the moms. We can't do this alone. To date we have 20 families signed up with more expected during these hard unprecedented times.

We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and depend upon our fundraising efforts and donations. We have a strict screening process for our moms, including home visits. You can help bring happiness to others in our community this holiday season by adopting a family and supporting our Christmas program for our moms. We want to ensure that every little girl or boy may actually open up the gift they have been wanting.

When you adopt a family, you directly sponsor a local family in need by providing toys and food for them at Christmastime.

How Our Program Works: Adopter Responsibilities

- Read the adoption guidelines at www.amomshelpinghandofswfl.com/adoption-guidelines.html.
- Register online beginning at www.amomshelpinghandofswfl.com/swfl-santas-registration.html.

- Watch for an email containing information on the adopted family (usually one to two days after registration).

- Shop! Adopters are asked to provide a minimum of two new gifts per child.

- Online tax-deductible receipt for your donation can be obtained on our website.

- Deliver the packages to the designated site on the date determined.

For more information please visit our website at www.amomshelpinghandofswfl.com.



**A Mom's
Helping Hand
of SWFL**



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Catch The Action

November On The Water

By Capt. Bill Russell

There should be plenty of great fishing opportunities throughout the month as cool fronts begin to arrive dropping water temperatures. Fish are transitioning from summer to winter patterns both inshore and in Gulf waters. It's another one of those months that it's possible to hook into about anything that frequents our waters.

Although sea trout season is closed, they should be plentiful and feeding heavily on small baitfish, then as we near the end of the month and the water cools, shrimp and shrimp type artificial lures could become the top baits. As we switch to shrimp, pompano catches will increase as they only eat crustaceans and mollusks. Small bucktail and pompano style jigs work great when slow bounced across a sandy bottom. While under power, if you notice one or several fish skip off your wake, it is most likely pompano. Not sure why they do it, but it's a great way to locate them and they run in schools. Circle back around and fish the area and you will generally be rewarded.

November is a great month for targeting redfish and snook throughout our inshore waters. As water temperatures cool, snook are on the move from their summer homes around the beaches and relocating throughout the inshore estuaries. If it remains relatively warm, they may be found feeding over inshore flats, oyster bars, shorelines, and sand holes. If it turns cold quick, they will seek shelter in protected areas like canals, rivers, and shorelines with deeper water. In the Caloosahatchee River the snook bite should heat up in areas around Shell Creek, Iona Cove, Tarpon Point, and bridges and docks from the Midpoint Bridge to the Miserable Mile.

The large schools of redfish that prowled the inshore flats over the last few months will move offshore or break up with the cooler weather. It's still possible to run into a school, but most reds will be in pairs or small bunches. Look for reds tailing over shallow flats on the lowest tides and in the same areas as previously mentioned for snook.

Gag grouper season remains open throughout the month with larger fish moving near shore and inshore. Most anglers target grouper in the Gulf waters, but if you find some underwater structure inshore, it could hold some good fish. Docks, piers, bridges, or any type of underwater debris is a good place to look, and it doesn't have to be very deep, often well less than 10 feet. Trolling large deep diving lures off our coast in 20- to 40-foot depths is a good technique to box a gag for dinner. Chances are good you may intercept a few large king mackerel moving down the coast as well.

As the month wears on and the water gets cooler, large sheepsheads are on the move from offshore to near and inshore. Target them in the same areas mentioned for grouper, along the beaches, and around deeper oyster bars. They generally show up over offshore reefs first then make their way inshore. Black drum are often caught with sheepsheads around inshore structure and some very large drum are caught under the Midpoint and Cape Coral bridges. Smaller drum are often caught on shrimp, but the large ones prefer a chunk of crab. Blue crab works best, pop the shell off and quarter the crab to get four baits. Like sheepsheads, drum are generally caught near pilings.

Most of the inshore snapper that we enjoyed all summer have moved offshore. Dropping light tackle over artificial reefs and hard bottom should yield a mix of tasty fish including mangrove snapper, grunts, and sheepsheads. Drop a live bait down on a heavy rig and stick it in the rod holder for a chance at a big grouper while fishing the light tackle.



It's important to keep updated on current fishing regulations for the area you fish. Snook, sea trout, and redfish remain catch and release only from the Pasco-Hernando county line up around Tampa, south to Gordan Pass in Collier County. This closure is due to the devastating fish kills we experienced a few summers ago. No harvest will allow the stocks to rebuild quicker. You can still enjoy some great catch and release fishing of all three species, they just need to be released as quickly as possible.

As the waters of Southwest Florida continue to cool this month, there should be plenty of good fishing to keep anglers busy on a variety of species.

For charter information, please contact us at Gulf Coast Guide Service and "Catch the Action" with Capt. Bill Russell, call or text (239) 283-7960, website: www.fishpineisland.com, email: gcl2fish@live.com.

Capt. Bill Russell is a native and lifelong resident of Pine Island who has spent his entire life fishing the waters surrounding Pine Island and Southwest Florida. For the past 25 years Bill has been a professional fishing guide who takes pride in customizing each trip to ensure everyone on board has a great time and will return again. Come join us and "Catch the Action."



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