Town & River Cruise Club

Annual Holiday Boat Parade

By Ken and Adrienne Beebe

The 2020 annual Cruise Club Holiday Boat Parade was held on Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020. A dozen festively decorated boats participated this year, making it one of the best attended parades in recent memory for club members and others from our community. In addition to some of the best boat decorating jobs ever, we had quite a list of characters in the parade, including Santa, Rudolph, Buddy the Elf, Snoopy, and a pink flamingo. It was a great night for a boat parade with light wind, calm seas, warm temperatures, no rain, and tide high enough to keep all the boats afloat. Unfortunately, the moon was a "no show." It would have been better to have moonlight on some of the docks, pilings, seawalls, and channel markers as well as more romantic.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we were unable to hold our usual party after the parade so we will need to make up for the loss with a great party next year when the pandemic has passed.



Commodore Mike DiBenedetto and his wife Liz donned their Santa hats for the parade.



Ken Beebe piloted the lead boat in the parade.



Bill and Wendy Martin decorated their boat with pink flamingos.







Boats decorated for the Town & River boat parade



Rudolph's nose led the way.



Snoopy loves the boat parade.

As usual, thanks go out to all the Town & River residents who helped to make the season bright with their spectacular home decorating and lighting displays plus friendly holiday greetings all along the canals and docks.

Town & River Cruise Club on page 2

Board Of Directors Meeting Minutes [Unapproved]

Thursday, December 10, 2020

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

Officers, Directors, & Residents Present

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

Approval Of Minutes –November 12, 2020 minutes were approved by motion.

Treasurer's Report – Gary Hudson

Town & River News

Gary emailed November financial statements & supporting documents to Board Members prior to the meeting. He noted lake assessment invoices in the amount of \$96.76 will be mailed Dec. 14, 2020, with a due date of January 29, 2021. He has contacted Monarch Graphics to compile & mail the annual meeting notices as well as the annual dues invoices to be mailed the end of January 2021 with a due date the end of February 2021. No questions were

presented & the financial report was approved by motion. **Deeds Of Restriction/Architectural Review COMMITTEE – Gary Hudson**

A discussion was held regarding a dock setback violation. The owner has received not only a violation letter but also a phone call. Plans were requested but not provided. Gary will again personally speak with the owner and request that a letter be provided to the board stating a date by which the dock will be brought into compliance. If such a letter is not provided and the dock is not brought into compliance, whenever there is an estoppel request upon sale of the property it will be recorded that the property is in violation of the deed of restrictions. If it gets to closing and the violation is not corrected, the closing could be stalled, or money could be put into escrow by the seller for the violation to be corrected.

Units #6 And #11 Consolidation into the Amended, Restated, and Combined Deeds of Restriction (ARCDOR) – Mark

Renee suggested a mailer be sent to owners in the two units. Mark offered to write a notice for a mailer to owners in Units 6 and 11 outlining the benefits of consolidation and the process for doing so. Even with consolidation, setbacks would not change. The primary change would be to eliminate the prohibition on two-story homes.

Committee Reports

Lake Status – Renee noted a barge is now in the lake as part of seawall construction/repair projects for three owners.

New Business

On-line Town & River Directory – Marge and the association webmaster are establishing an online directory. Further information regarding the online directory will be provided at the annual meeting.

Annual Meeting January 21, 2021 – Will be held both in-person and via Zoom. The in-person meeting will be held at Faith United Methodist Church, 15690 McGregor Blvd. in the Family Life Center. Zoom log-in information was provided in the December newsletter and will also be provided in the December issue and Annual Meeting Notice mailer. Masks and social distancing required. There is only one agenda item requiring a vote, i.e., keep dues at \$120 a year. A board meeting to elect officers will immediately follow the annual meeting.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by motion at 7:15 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will convene 6:30 p.m. Thursday, January 14, 2021 at South Pointe South Clubhouse, 9734 Foxglove Circle, Ft. Myers.

Respectfully submitted, Sally Stigler, Executive Secretary

PRSRT STD US POSTAGE PAID FT MYERS FL PERMIT 751

The Board meets on the second Thursday
of each month at 6:30 p.m.
South Pointe South Clubhouse
9734 Foxglove Circle, Fort Myers.
All are encouraged to attend and wear a mask please.
Check out our new website
www.townandriverfl.com.

Considerations In Trust Funding

Presented by Jacqueline J. Lambros, Registered Principal

A trust is a common estate planning tool that seeks to manage and control the distribution of your assets in the event of your death or incapacity. But as effective as trusts can be in managing assets, they can be completely ineffective if not



properly funded. So trust funding is a vital aspect of ensuring that the trust performs its intended role.

Many people incorrectly assume that trust funding is complete once the trust document has been signed at their attorney's office; however, executing the trust document is only the beginning. For a trust to function the trustee must hold title to the assets owned by and therefore, subject to trust provisions; consequently, each asset to be owned by the trust must be retitled to reflect trust ownership. Failure to transfer assets to the trust defeats its management purpose and, in the future, could expose trust assets to the unnecessary time and expenses associated with probate.

What Types Of Assets Can Be Owned By A Trust?

A trust can own several different types of property, among them:

- · Cash and liquid securities, including checking accounts, savings accounts, certificates of deposit, and money market accounts
 - Non-retirement brokerage and mutual fund accounts
 - Physical stock and bond certificates
- Personal property, such as jewelry, furniture, art, and collectibles
 - Nonqualified annuities
 - Life insurance contracts
 - Real estate
 - Business interests
 - Notes and other debt instruments

How Do You Transfer Ownership Of Property To A Trust?

For most assets, transferring ownership is relatively simple:

- Bank and brokerage accounts typically require completion of new account paperwork in the name of the trust, along with signed authorization to retitle or transfer assets from the current account to the trust.
- Physical stock and bond certificates require a change of ownership to be completed with the stock transfer agent or bond issuer.

• Life insurance and annuity contracts also typically require submission of a change of ownership form to the contract issuer.

Some assets require more effort to properly change title:

- Personal property without a legal certificate of title is commonly listed on a schedule accompanying the trust to reflect that the trust owns those assets.
- Assets with certificates of legal title require that the owner quitclaim ownership interest in the asset to the trust. The attorney who drafts the trust should help you with the quitclaim process.

Other Considerations

To avoid unintended consequences, it is very important to fund the trust in a timely manner. It is also important to work with your attorney and advisor when determining which property the trust should own. There are several variations of trusts, and each trust may have a specific role in the estate plan and require specific assets to fund it.

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 Cruise Club from page 1



Doug and MaryBeth Plank wait to board a boat.



Sue Sena and Gayle Sawyer enjoy the parade from Sena's

had time to select winners for some of the holiday gifts provided by Cecilia and Edward Bourdon, the hosts of the luncheon. Tim Mutchler, Liz DiBenedetto, Marge Byrne, Ken and Adrienne Beebe were the lucky winners. But the luckiest of them all was Lorraine Ford-Smith who won the colorful necklace. This necklace will allow her to get a gift every time she wears it at a cruise club luncheon.



Lorraine and Fred Ford-Smith chatted with the Byrnes as they waited to place their order.



Brian Bearden provided great entertainment during The Beebes were thrilled to the luncheon.



be back in Southwest Florida.



Ed and Cecilia Bourdon with guests Carol Rogers and Larry Staudt had fun attending the luncheon.



Tim Mutchler couldn't believe he was a prize winner.



Commodore Mike DiBenedetto and his wife Liz had a great boating experience with their guest Tim Mutchler.

Cruise To The Nauti Parrot

small but enthusiastic group of members from the Town & River Cruise Club met at the Nauti Parrot on Dec. 17. It was a little cool but the sun was out and it turned out to be a great day for the boaters. We sat outdoors and as cocktails were served the members had a wonderful time chatting and looking forward to participating in the upcoming boating



Tom and Marge Byrne really enjoyed their lunch.

season. Carol Rogers and Larry Staudt, guests of the Bourdons, enjoyed meeting members of the group. Eventually, lunch orders were placed and the restaurant served us very well prepared dishes and tasty drinks.

At 1 p.m. a talented musician played on the outside deck. As the group lingered to listen to the music we



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	

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.

Numc(3).

Town & River Address:

Full Time Resident: _____ Seasonal Resident: _____ My Property is Leased _____

If not full-time, other address, including zip:

Telephone Number(s):

Email Adress:

Attention: Members in good standing (paid dues and have no outstanding unresolved violations), 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. **An email address is required to access the online directory. EMAIL ADDRESSES WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED IN THE ONLINE DIRECTORY UNLESS YOU GIVE YOUR PERMISSION BELOW.**

Otherwise, the information submitted is for board use only.

If you agree to have your contact information included in a Town & River Directory, accessible by a password, please initial 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 # _____ Email Address

GULF HARBOUR YACHT & COUNTRY CLUB

VERY FEW MEMBERSHIPS REMAIN



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

22nd Annual Southwest Florida Reading Festival **Goes Fully Virtual**

From March 1 to 13, the Lee County Library System will be holding its first virtual reading festival. Despite this new format, many of the same events and the same excellent quality can be expected.

Nearly 30 acclaimed and best-selling authors are scheduled to give virtual presentations and participate in live, interactive Meet and Greets on the event website from March 1 to 13. All of

Town & River Civic Association Inc. Balance Sheet As of December 31, 2020 <u>Dec 30, 20</u> **Current Assets** Checking/Savings First Citizens Bank 2580 2,085.20 First Citizens Bank 1301 2,560.16 First Citizens Bank - MMS 64,883.77 **Total Checking/Savings** 69,529.13 Accounts Receivable 3,580.12 3,580.12 Accounts Receivable **Total Accounts Receivable** Other Current Assets 319.29 Prepaid, Lake Expense 846.53 Prepaid, Other Expense **Total Other Current Assets** 1,165.82 **Total Current Assets** 74,275.07 74,275.07 **Total Assets Liabilities & Equity** Liabilities **Current Liabilities Other Current Liabilities** Annual Dues, Advanced 635.48 **Total Other Current Liabilities Total Current Liabilities** 635.48 **Total Liabilities** 635.48 Equity Prior Year Fund Balance 56,180.89 Net Income 17,458.70 **Total Equity Total Liabilities & Equity**

Town & River Civic Association Inc. Profit And Loss December 2020

	Dec 20	Jan - Dec 20
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Income - Mandatory	0.00	10,830.00
Income -Voluntary	0.00	25,520.00
Total Income	0.00	36,350.00
Estoppel Preparation Income	50.00	150.00
Interest Income	0.55	9.35
Misc Income	0.02	0.02
Total Income	50.57	36,509.37
Expense		
Accounting Fees	315.00	4,325.00
Bank Fees	36.00	42.00
Corp Insurance	228.83	4,043.46
Email Service	0.00	972.00
General Repairs & Maintenan	ice 0.00	149.11
Corp Insurance (do not use)	0.00	182.25
Legal Expense	0.00	1,427.55
Meeting Rooms	0.00	255.69
Newspaper Postage	138.28	1,519.56
Office Expense	0.00	324.04
Postage Expense	0.00	113.95
Printing & Postage	0.00	1,447.00
State Fee	0.00	61.25
Secretary Expense	0.00	1,312.50
Storage Expense	119.79	1,397.56
Utilities	45.22	537.35
Website Maintenance	40.00	940.40
Total Expense	932.12	19,050.67
Net Ordinary Income	-872.55	17,458.70
Net Income	-872.55	<u>17,458.70</u>

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Southwest Florida Reading Festival 📺



- Bestselling Authors For All Ages
- Activities and Entertainment . A Free Book for Every Child and Teen

Readfest.org • Presented by Lee County Library System

the virtual author presentations will be recorded for on-demand viewing throughout the month of March. The event website will be available the week of Feb. 22 to familiarize attendees with the new, online platform.

In addition to engaging with the best-selling authors, this year's attendees can enjoy activities for all ages, including an online reading challenge, grab-and-go crafts, and online S.T.E.A.M. contests challenging participants to create masterpieces with LEGO and art materials. As in previous years, the festival will provide each participating child and teen with a free book. This year, the free books will be distributed in age appropriate grab-and-go craft bags, which can be requested from any of the 13 Lee County Library System branches starting Feb. 22, while supplies last. "We are pleased to be able to continue Reading Festival traditions in a new and engaging online format this year," states event coordinator Melissa Baker. "The expanded time line will allow all of our attendees to enjoy the content from wherever they are and at their own pace."

The lineup of award-winning authors scheduled to attend the festival includes adult authors Jennifer Chiaverini (Mrs. Lincoln's Sisters), Julie Clark (The Last Flight), Vince Flynn (Total Power), Gregg Hurwitz (Prodigal Son) and Jayne Ann Krentz (All the *Colors of Night*), as well as youth and teen authors J.C. Cervantes (Shadow Crosser), Greg Pizzoli (Baloney and Friends), Julie Berry (Wishes and Wellingtons) and Ryan LaSala (Be Dazzled). The complete list of authors can be found at www.ReadFest.org.

Another feature adapting to the online format is the

return of the Local Author Marketplace, which for years was a hallmark of the Southwest Florida Reading Festival. A select number of approved authors will be granted virtual vendor booths on the event website to promote and sell their work and engage with attendees using video and text chat. Local authors will have the opportunity to participate in the interactive "Author Hour" Meet and Greets offered from 1 to 3 p.m. the first two Saturdays in March.

The Southwest Florida Reading Festival is free and community-supported through donations, sponsorships and grants. More information is available at www.ReadFest.org or by calling (239) 533-4832.

About The Southwest Florida Reading Festival

The Southwest Florida Reading Festival is a family-friendly event that celebrates books and the written word. The festival began in 1999 with the goals of emphasizing the importance of reading and bringing the finest literary talent to Southwest Florida. Now in its 22nd year, this free festival has grown in popularity and attracts thousands of book-loving attendees annually. Some of the past authors include Sue Monk Kidd, Susan Mallery, R.L. Stine, Janet Evanovich, Nelson DeMille, Jeff Kinney and hundreds more. The Reading Festival's objectives are to promote reading and literacy, increase awareness of the library's programs and resources and foster partnerships between the Lee County Library System and the community. It is also an opportunity to share with the community the available resources and services at their local Lee County libraries with a library card. The Reading Festival aims to build a literate community by encouraging children to develop an interest in reading independently, which fosters an increase in vocabulary and improved writing skills. For more information, visit www.ReadFest.org.

Ostego Bay Foundation Inc. Offers **Working 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, reported by a study by the University of Florida.

Pink shrimp to Fort Myers Beach is like Alaskan king crab to Alaska. While you will not 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 guided tour. Offered every Wednesday from 9 a.m. until noon, weather permitting.

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 will learn about Florida's "pink gold," the oldest and largest pink shrimp fishing fleet in Florida.

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 handsewn, the seafood is off-loaded, and other important factors used in this unique multimillion-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/.

The tour also includes a guided visit at the Marine Science Center Museum which contains numerous hands-on exhibits, touch tank, beach exhibit and estuarine aquariums.

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.

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WE CATER TO COWARDS!



Southwest Florida And Lee County Fair

Feb. 25 To March 7

Your Southwest Florida and Lee County Fair is rated in the top 15 fairs! We thank each of you for making our fair one of the best attended, safe,



fun environments for the whole family to enjoy.

As we look forward to our 2021 season, we are taking safety and health into the plans for what the fair will look like this year, and we are excited for the time with y'all. If you are wanting to join us, plan ahead, and get the Mega Pass so that you can enjoy gate entry and unlimited rides for a single day of your choosing! Remember, the \$25 Mega Pass does **not** sell during the fair, so you must get yours soon! www. swflcfair.com/tickets.

Here's A Few Fair Tips To Consider When Planning Your Day

Check The Weather Report

Be prepared with sunscreen and visors on warm, sunny days. Have a jacket or sweatshirt for cool evenings. A poncho or umbrella is a good idea if skies turn gray.

Wear Comfortable Shoes

With over 30 acres of activities and the fairgrounds being located on a hillside, there is plenty of walking in store.

Leave Coolers At Home

No bottles, cans, coolers or picnic baskets are permitted on the fairgrounds.

Bring Your Camera

There will be plenty of memorable moments, so bring your camera or video camera and capture the special day forever. Please note: Cameras and video cameras may be prohibited during certain entertainment events.

Leave Your Pets At Home

With the exception of **service animals**, pets are not permitted on the fairgrounds. **Do not** leave them in your vehicle.

Parking Is Free At The Fairgrounds

Be sure to lock your vehicle and take note of where you have parked. Take a minute to familiarize yourself with your

surroundings when you arrive to avoid confusion when you depart. When driving in the parking lot, please drive with caution and watch for "walking traffic."

No weapons are permitted at the fair for the safety of all of our fair guests. Any items confiscated at the metal detectors will be disposed of immediately. No items will be held for pickup when leaving the grounds.

Once inside the fair, please make sure to pick up a daily schedule at the information booth. This is the best way to plan your day and locate all the activities there are to see and do.

Come back again and again. Each day there is always something new to see and do to make your visit to the Southwest Florida and Lee County Fair a good time.

What To Expect

Gate Entry

If you purchased an advance ticket there is no need to wait in line – proceed past the ticket booths, to the temperature detectors. If you register a temperature above the CDC threshold, you will be asked to step aside to have your temperature taken by an alternate method. If you again register a temperature above the CDC threshold, you will not be admitted into the park. Your Mega Pass will still be valid to use on another day.

Once cleared through the temperature detectors, you will proceed to go through metal detectors. Weapons are not allowed on our grounds. Any item confiscated will be disposed of immediately. No items will be held for pickup when leaving the park.

Once cleared through the metal detectors, you will advance to have your advance ticket scanned at the scanning station. When the ticket taker scans the advanced sale ticket, it will be validated, and then immediately become invalid for any other use. You will be given a red daily ticket in exchange for this printed Mega Pass. The red ticket is what you will redeem for your ride band, if your advanced ticket includes rides.

Once you have had the ticket scanned and received the red ticket, you will take the red ticket to the ride band station where you will redeem the red ticket for your ride band. The ride band station is located in Kiddie Land, just past the Grande Carousel.



All Mechanical Rides

The ride band is for the mechanical rides only and does not include the Euro Slide.

Livestock Shows

Be sure to check your daily schedule (available at the welcome and information booth located at the front of the grounds) for the day's livestock shows. Livestock shows are not held every day and not all animals are on the grounds at the same time.

Free Entertainment, Shows And Exhibits

Your daily schedule will reflect the many **free** shows and entertainment we have to offer. Our free shows are held multiple times through the hours we are open, allowing flexibility in your schedule.

Inside the Lee Civic Center, you will find our crafting corner, school booths, community stage, vendors and various activities for the little ones. Be sure to check the hours of closing.

Most importantly, the Southwest Florida and Lee County Fair will be following CDC guidelines.

- Masks are not mandatory, but strongly encouraged.
- Social distance when possible and be respectful of each other's space.
 - Cough and sneeze into your elbow.
 - Avoid touching your face.
- Be sure to wash or sanitize your hands frequently at one of our many stations throughout the grounds.

If you do not feel well, please plan to join us another day.

For more information please visit our website at swflcfair. com. See you at the fair!

Elevating Service From The Roadhouse To Your House . . . How Would You Like Your Home . . .



14530 Ocean Bluff Dr. Meticulously maintained private couple retreat. Just under 3000 sqft. Offering 3 bedrooms plus den, 2.5 baths, over sized garage with full third space and storage. Indoor-outdoor flow leading to private pool and spa nestled amongst mature trees and greenery. Offered at **\$825,000**



Amazing View in Prestigious Edgewater at Gulf Harbour. 3 Bed plus den, 2 bath, Detached In-Law suite with Full bath and Kitchenette. This home features an Open floor plan, huge master suite and gracious accommodations for family and guests with a stunning lake view! \$869,500

NEELEY TEAM

LUXURY REAL ESTATE

239.841.4428 neeleyteam.com realestate@neeleyteam.com

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IONA/McGregor Specialists



MARC NEELEY 234-841-4428



SHERRI NEELEY 239-841-4505



LISA NEELEY CAPOZIO 239-560-2688



15301 McGregor Blvd Ft Myers, FL 33908

ArtFest@Home Brought To You By ArtFest Fort Myers!



See Art. Buy Art. Your Place. Your Time.

ArtFest Fort Myers, the annual art festival Feb. 6 and 7 on the downtown Fort Myers riverfront, announces ArtFest@Home.

From The Desk Of **Sheriff Carmine** Marceno

As COVID-19 vaccine distribution begins, please be aware of emerging fraud schemes:

- · You are asked to pay out of pocket to get the vaccine.
- You are asked to pay to put your name on a vaccine waiting list or to get early access.
- Advertisements for vaccines through social media platforms, email, telephone calls, online, or from unsolicited/unknown sources.
- Marketers offering to sell or ship doses of the vaccine for payment.
- Requests from someone you do not know asking for your Social Security number, bank account information or credit card information.

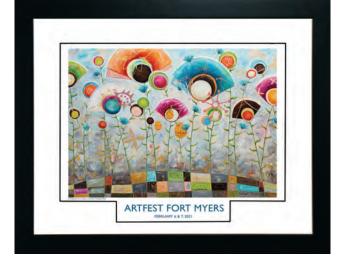
If you believe you have been the victim of COVID-19 fraud, immediately report it to:

- Lee County Sheriff's Office fraud line: (239) 258-3292.
- HHS-OIG hotline: (800) HHS-TIPS (447-8477), tips.hhs.gov.
 - FBI hotline: (800) CALL-FBI (225-5324), ic3.gov.
 - CMS/Medicare hotline: (800) MEDICARE (633-4227).

Are You Having Trouble Controlling the Way You Eat?

> Call: (239) 338-5948 Email: faswfla@gmail.com

FOOD ADDICTS in recovery anonymous www.foodaddicts.org



Kathleen Muphy Willer, 2021 poster artist, Dandelion Fan Flowers (available framed and unframed)

Not quite ready to venture to a large gathering – even outdoors? ArtFest Fort Myers hears you and has launched an all-new online virtual art festival – ArtFest@Home – as close as your computer or phone or iPad. You will find:

• a super easy shopping experience featuring all the artists who are at the art festival in person. One shopping cart with one click checkout. Shop from all the artists; talk to them via Zoom video chat; watch their demo videos; listen to their roundtable discussions; see how to use their artwork in decorating your home.

• all the fun activities from ArtFest Fort Myers. Art Under 20, high school art show: Chalk Block street painting; Publix Art Yard with art projects and entertainment; We Are Overflowing art installation based on recycled items; food and entertainment for all to enjoy.

· VIP Club experiences in a virtual art gallery and

• festival posters and T-shirts to order shipped directly to you.

You can also use ArtFest@Home to do pre-shopping and then come to ArtFest Fort Myers in person.

Where do you find ArtFest@Home? Just go to ArtFestFortMyers.com and click on the big ArtFest@ Home logo. We will see you there Jan. 29 to Feb. 25.

Attendees often ask. "How do the 150 festival artists get chosen"? These artists are the best-of-the-best as a jury panel of five professional artists spent an entire Zoom day selecting them from the 700 artists who applied.

For more information visit ArtFestFortMyers.com. Like us on Facebook. Follow us on Instagram. Tag us #artfestfm.

What: Virtual online version of Southwest Florida's premier art festival featuring 170 national artists, high school art competition, street chalk art competition,

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Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center

Seed, Time, And Harvest Opens Feb. 5 – 6 p.m., closes Feb. 26 - 3 p.m.

Cost: General admission, \$1 entry donation

Courage to make a change starts with the boldness to infuse within our children a sense of dignity and determination. This mother-



daughter exhibition explores the elements of a brave new world for the nucleus of the black community. The family.

This exhibit features mixed-media works, sure to give viewers a unique perspective on ethnicity, identity, family and love through the eyes of the artists. Create legacy every day is our Seed, Time, and Harvest. Experience works of Wanda Hamilton and Challen Rivera (Hamilton).

Wanda Hamilton

Wanda Hamilton was born and raised in Chicago. Growing up in a time of social and racial upheaval, Hamilton's fondest childhood memories constantly centered around a grandmother's unshakable influence. A family bible with color illustrations of masterworks fixed her young heart on the power of classical art. Her childhood love for art grew into seeing an apparent absence of notable blacks associated

As a mother and grandparent, she now focuses on solidifying an artistic legacy for her descendants through encouragement, mentoring and building a body of work to inspire spiritual, mental and emotional growth. Being a self-taught artist, Hamilton uses oils to create the majority of her pieces. Yet, as she continues to experience life from a unique perspective she never rules out where the arts may take her next.

with this timeless form of art expression. From early on, her

goal has been to help change that landscape.

While gaining craft knowledge from a multitude of resources, she's shown in Chicago and New York with works displayed in California, Florida, New Mexico and Texas. While Chicago will always be her home, her long-term goal is to share her creations in Africa and Europe as well as other art hubs across the United States.

Challen "Lexie" Rivera a.k.a C. Lexicution, C Rivera Creations

In two words the creative style of this aspiring contemporary artist can only be described intrinsic and saucy! Challen Rivera's family roots, though established in Fort Myers, harken back in large part to the mountains of Jamaica and the Calypso heritage and spring forth through each stroke of her brush.

Challen, a young wife and mother of four, is being

mentored by her mother. Wanda Hamilton. She attributes the entirety of her artistic pursuits to Wanda's encouragement and influence. Stories of Challen's personal beliefs, relationships and experiences are told through her unique approach to the canvas. Inevitably, her bold and colorful style will influence the art world



for years to come.







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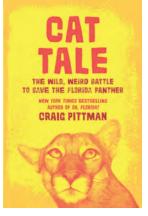
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Famous Author Lecture And Lunch: Craig Pittman

Monday, Feb. 8 - 12 p.m. **Cost:** \$45 – general admission, tables of eight: \$360

Craig Pittman is a native Floridian and an award-winning journalist. He spent 30 years at the Tampa Bay Times and now writes a weekly column on environmental issues for the Florida Phoenix. He is the author of five books, including



the New York Times bestseller Oh, Florida! How America's Weirdest State Influences the Rest of the Country, which won a gold medal from the Florida Book Awards. His latest, published in January, is Cat Tale: The Wild, Weird Battle to Save the Florida Panther. The Florida Heritage Book Festival recently named him a Florida Literary Legend, and he is cohost of a podcast called "Welcome to Florida." He lives in St. Petersburg with his wife and children.

Make sure to check out the author workshop with Pittman after his lecture from 3 to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$50.

Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center (SBDAC), 2301 First St., Fort Myers, FL 33901, (239) 333-1933, www. sbdac.com.

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a.m. until 1 p.m. or by appointment by contacting us at exhibitions@artinlee.org. Plan your visit or call us at (239) 939-2787.

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What's Blooming At Edison And Ford Winter Estates?

By Debbie Hughes, Senior Horticulturist at Edison and Ford Winter Estates

Luckily, plants and trees bloom regardless of COVID-19. Maybe that is why many new people have caught the "garden bug" since the pandemic started. I love to see what new flowers are available to brighten up yards and everyone's lives.



Spending time outdoors is perhaps the best remedy for anyone stuck at home.

While plants can get diseases too, many times they will recover. Just like people, plants can develop an immunity for certain problems. There are some serious diseases such as citrus greening that has affected the citrus industry and our dooryard citrus plants have suffered as well. Another serious condition is the laurel wilt that infects trees such as the red bay and avocado. Of course, there are many more diseases and insects that can cause minor issues with our plants, but luckily, they come and go.

One thing that makes gardening so much fun is that there is always an area of the garden to try out a new specimen. If a plant dies or doesn't work in a certain spot, try another one! Of course, I don't like when plants die, but some will only live for a year at the most – those plants are called annuals. During our so called winter season is the perfect time to grow annuals! This past Christmas was the coldest since 1989.

An annual that has come back into popularity is the impatiens. Many garden centers are once again carrying these lovely plants. They come in many brightly colored options and some of the new ones have jeweled-tone colors. A new variety – after almost 10 years of research – is available that has better resistance to downey mildew, which in the past plagued the beautiful plants for many years. The disease was first found in Europe and then it made its way over to the United States. It first showed up in the northeast, but eventually found its way to Florida.

I remember the disappointment after planting a beautiful array of the shade-flowering impatiens; I noticed a white substance on the undersides of the leaves. The leaves were sickly yellow without the typical bright green shade of chlorophyll, and flowers were scarce if there were any. It



Brunfelsia manaca blooms during evening hours in the Moonlight Garden.



Brunfelsia manaca takes about five years to reach this size.

wasn't long before the entire flower bed succumbed to this fungal spore. I had to rethink the area, and the substitutions for annuals flowering in shade were scarce.

I am happy now that researchers in the field of plant pathology all over the world tackled this problem, and they have developed a variety called IMARA, trademarked from Syngenta with a high resistance to the disease. We planted an array of colors during the summer months

when pest pressures are at the highest and their performance was exceptional. Give it a try if you need some bright colors to brighten up your garden – and brighten up your day!

Speaking of a spot of color, our bromeliad Christmas tree has been enjoyed all season here at the Edison and Ford Winter Estates Garden Shoppe. Now it is time for these neoregelias to find a good home. In order to make the layered Christmas tree with bromeliads stacked on top of each other, we needed 200 plants! It is time to enjoy these colorful easy-to-grow ground covers in your yard. Local gardeners can take a piece of Christmas history home — with BOGO prices! The varieties we donned the tree with are "Venus" and "Flirting." Just their names intrigue me enough to plant these easy-care bromeliads. I always wonder how the growers come up with the names, and I bet they have some fun!

Another plant so very popular this time of year is the *Brunfelsia sp*, or lady of the night. If searching online for this plant, be sure to add the word "plant" to avoid any unwanted information, if you get my gist. The wafting perfume from this lovely plant starts just as the sun goes down and finishes up early in the morning. Last summer, we opened the gardens a few times during the evening hours so that visitors could enjoy the cooler air and take in the evening scents. In the coming months, we'll offer these nighttime events again, so be sure to seek out these lovely-scented plants with white tubular flowers that hang from the waxy leaves. A large shrub can have hundreds of scented blooms.

After first planting a shrub, tree or flower, there is always a period of time needed for the plant to get established. An easy





Syngenta with a high resistance to Bromeliads are buy one, get one at Edison and Ford Winter Estates. "Venus" is the the disease. We planted an array of variegated neoregelia and the pinkish red one is called "Flirting."

saying to remember is that in the "first year they sleep, the second year they creep, and the third year they leap." If you are interested in planting one of these amazing shrubs – and there are many different species all with a wonderful scent – just remember that they need some time to adjust. The shrubs here at Edison Ford have been in the ground for more than 10 years, so they have had lots of time to grow and produce blooms.

Brunfelsia prefers morning sun, rich amended soil, and the typical rain that we get here in Florida. Remember to supply a newly planted specimen with supplemental water until they are established. The first year after a plant is planted, the extra water is especially important, after that, just water as needed. The shrubs at the estates receive a cup of potassium (0-0-16) or a slow-release granular (8-2-12) fertilizer each October.

When digging the planting hole, always dig the hole wider, but not deeper than the pot it was growing in. For those who have poor soil conditions, compost or cow manure mixed in with the existing soil will help hold water and nutrients. When watering, drip water slowly so that it can seep into the root zone, encouraging roots to spread out and go deep. Don't make the mistake of overwatering either, as the root zone can only hold so much water in the pore space.

If you are unsure about how to do any of these gardening endeavors, it might be time to come to our Garden Talks on the second Saturday of each month (except February, as that month we have the annual winter Garden Festival). We also invite you to take a look at some of our garden classes offered during the season. Check out our website at EdisonFord.org and click on the calendar. I hope to see you soon!

