

Town & River Cruise Club

The Town & River Cruise Club held its January luncheon on Thursday, Jan. 21 at the Lighthouse Restaurant in Fort Myers. The weather was beautiful, sunny and warm. Although attendance was hampered somewhat by the ongoing concern for the coronavirus, there were 19 members who attended this event. The seas were calm with light winds and several

members arrived by boat. A good time was had by all. The next Cruise Club event will be the Feb. 18 luncheon on a Thursday at the Three Fishermen Restaurant in North Fort Myers. This will be hosted by Mike and Ellen Marra.

Town & River Cruise Club on page 2



Oop!



Lorraine Ford-Smith gets "the gift" for bringing her necklace to this luncheon.



Delicious cocktails refreshed the thirsty boaters.

Town & River's Postal Carrier Ann Gould Retires After 40 Years Of Service! You Will Be Missed Ann!



Annual Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 21, 2021

Call To Order

President Mark Generales called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. in the Family Life Center of Faith United Methodist Church, 15690 McGregor Blvd., Ft. Myers, FL. The meeting was also accessible via Zoom.com Meeting ID #482 127 0922.



Officers & Directors Present

Treasurer Gary Hudson, Secretary Renee Notes & Directors Marge Byrne, Kay Gloris, Martha Smith & Joe Tomaino were present in-person. Directors Myriam Lentz and Roy Benton were present via Zoom. Also, in attendance was Executive Secretary Sally Stigler. Absent were Directors Carol Notes, Rick Chubb, and Rick Ginsburg.

Certification Of Quorum

Including properties represented by Board members and owners attending in-person as well as Board members and owners attending via Zoom, the required quorum of twenty-five (25) was attained. Secretary Renee Notes certified the quorum.

Welcome & Meeting Overview

Mark welcomed everyone to the meeting. He announced the meeting would be brief.

Approval Of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded & approved to waive the reading of the January 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes as

published on the T&R website. The minutes were approved by motion as published.

Treasurer's Report – Gary Hudson

A financial report for 2020 was printed on the backside of the agenda distributed one per valid voting address to those in attendance. The report is published on the website. Gary said the Board voted to keep the annual dues at \$120. Gary moved and it was seconded to keep dues at \$120. The motion was approved unanimously.

He noted the Association's financial statements are published monthly in the newsletter as well as posted monthly on the Town & River website. The Treasurer's Report was accepted & approved by motion.

Deeds Of Restriction (Dor)/Architectural Review Committee

As Chair of the Committee, Gary Hudson thanked Roy Benton, Rick Chubb & Mark Generales for their service as committee members. He noted that the committee's responsibilities were outlined in the Bylaws:

- The committee shall be responsible for architectural compliance to the Deed of Restrictions.
- The committee shall investigate violations of the restrictions either noticed or called to their attention by members of the Association.

With respect to the second responsibility Gary called attention to the fact that there is a Grievance/Complaint Form on the website. Please, no anonymous complaints.

Before beginning a project, go to the website and read the DOR applying to your property.

He noted five (5) of the association's 2020 newsletters contained articles relative to the DOR's (April, June, July, August, December). Gary cautioned that homeowners are responsible for their property. He noted that the association had received an email earlier in the day regarding a landscaper on Jennifer Lane who was blowing horticultural debris into the canal. It is the owner's legal responsibility to manage landscapers and any other contractors. Owners should assure that their contractors understand the applicable deeds of restriction. The association has no legal relationship with contractors being used by owners.

Mark noted that some months ago, letters were mailed to dock contractors, advising them to adhere to the deeds of restrictions, particularly side setbacks of docks. There are still ongoing, albeit fewer, issues with dock violations.

Mark noted that, based on Solitude Lake Management reports, lake water quality is good, but most of the lake and canal seawalls need repair or replacement. Most of these date to the 1960's. This issue was the featured program at last years annual meeting.

New Business

Mark announced the Department of Transportation will begin paving additional streets in T&R within 30-45 days. This will complete 2/3 of the T&R paving project, which will finish next year.

Annual Meeting Minutes on page 2

Town & River Cruise Club from page 1



Club members discuss menu options after a pleasant cruise.

So, You Are A Trust Beneficiary

Presented by Jacqueline J. Lambros, Registered Principal



If you recently learned that you are a beneficiary of a deceased relative's trust, you probably have questions about your rights and what to expect. The key is the trust document (i.e., the instructions left by the trust creator, called the grantor) and how state law interprets that document.

Some trusts are designed to be liquidated shortly after the grantor's death. The trust assets are then transferred to the beneficiary outright or to accounts set up in the beneficiary's name. Other trusts are designed to be managed by a trustee for decades – even centuries. The trust document will tell you if and when you may receive distributions of net income from the trust and when principal can be paid to you.

The Role Of A Trustee

The trustee administers the trust, manages the assets, and distributes income or principal according to the terms of the trust. The trustee must always act in the best interests of the beneficiaries – this includes both current and future beneficiaries. Unless given other instructions in the trust document, the trustee must preserve, protect, and invest the trust assets for the benefit of all beneficiaries and not favor the interests of one beneficiary over the interests of others.

Trustee Discretion

Often, the trustee is given discretion over how, when, and to whom income and principal can be distributed.

- Some trusts give the trustee complete discretion over distributions, as long as the distributions are in line with the purpose of the trust.
- Other trust instructions may limit distributions to a certain standard, such as for the beneficiaries' health, education, and appropriate levels of support.
- Another version might instruct the trustee to consider the beneficiaries' other resources before making distributions. This would allow the trustee to distribute more to beneficiaries with the most need and less to those who have other sources of income.

• Other documents allow the trustee to pay income only to one set of beneficiaries, preserving the trust principal for another set of beneficiaries at a later date.

If you are a beneficiary of a discretionary trust, you can help the trustee by providing your budget and financial plan. If you request a distribution for an extraordinary expense, be sure to help the trustee understand the circumstances and costs.

Working With The Trustee

In most states, beneficiaries of irrevocable trusts are required to receive a copy of the trust and annual accounting statements. In most states, the trustee can delegate the investment responsibilities to a professional. You can ask the trustee to review the trust's investment strategy with your own financial advisor.

Unless you are the sole beneficiary, the trustee cannot dedicate all of the assets toward creating income for you. The trustee has an obligation to manage the principal with the future needs of the remainder beneficiaries in mind. Remainder beneficiaries are those whose rights to the trust begin after your interests end.

If you are unhappy working with a particular trustee, look to the trust documents for procedures on how to remove and appoint a trustee. You may be able to ask the trustee to resign and then to appoint a new one. But before removing a trustee, be sure to show the trust document to the prospective successor. It is possible that the source of your complaint cannot be resolved by changing the trustee.

As a general rule, the trust is irrevocable and cannot be changed by the beneficiary. If the trust instructions are difficult or impossible to carry out – or are written in a way counter to the grantor's intention – it is possible to ask the probate court to intercede. A court will interpret the terms of the trust or has the power to change the trust so that its application is fair and just. Typically, the court will seek the consent of all the beneficiaries before ruling on or making any changes.

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.



Annual Meeting Minutes from page 1

2021 Plans

- Initiative to bring Units 6 and 11 into the Amended, Restated, and Combined Deeds of Restriction (ARCDOR)
- As was done with dock contractors in 2018, send letters to general building contractors advising them of the deeds of restrictions within Town & River.
- Re-write By-Laws
- Board certification to be offered again in conjunction with a "to be scheduled" board retreat.

Questions Presented

1. When will the Cypress Lake area be repaved? Mark answered in the summer or fall of 2022
2. Will the Association assist Homeowners with seawall repairs/replacement on the canals? Mark noted it is the sole responsibility of the homeowner.

Board Of Directors Meeting

It was announced a brief Board of Directors Meeting to elect officers will be held immediately following the Annual Meeting. All present are invited to attend.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by motion at 7:34 p.m. The February Board of Directors meeting will be 6:30 p.m. Thursday, February 11, 2021 at South Pointe South Community Clubhouse, 9734 Foxglove Circle, Ft. Myers, FL 33919. All are encouraged & invited to attend.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sally Stigler
Executive Secretary*

Let our family assist your family!



Harrell, Tolp, & Albright Team

239.850.5408

info@STKRealEstate.com



JOHN NAUMANN & ASSOCIATES
real estate



YourSWFloridaRealEstate.com

Steve Harrell Toby Tolp Kasey Albright Brendan Albright

Consumer Alerts

Scammers Cash In On COVID-19 Vaccination Confusion

By Colleen Tressler, Division of Consumer and Business Education, FTC

With every passing day, the news on COVID-19 vaccine distribution seems to change. One reason is that distribution varies by state and territory. And scammers, always at the ready, are taking advantage of the confusion. Besides a big dose of patience, here are some tips to help you avoid a vaccine-related scam, no matter where you live:

- **Contact a trusted source for information.** Check with state or local health departments to learn when and how to get the COVID-19 vaccine. You can also talk with your health care provider or pharmacist.

- **Don't pay to sign up for the vaccine.** Anyone who asks for a payment to put you on a list, make an appointment for you, or reserve a spot in line is a scammer.

- **Ignore sales ads for the COVID-19 vaccine.** You can't buy it – anywhere. The vaccine is only available at federal- and state-approved locations.

- **Watch for unexpected or unusual texts.** If your

health care provider or pharmacist has used text messages to contact you in the past, you might get a text from them about the vaccine. If you get a text, call your health care provider or pharmacist directly to make sure they sent the text. But scammers are texting, too. So, don't click on links in text messages – especially messages you didn't expect.

- **Don't open emails, attachments, or links** from people you don't know, or that come unexpectedly. You could download dangerous malware onto your computer or phone.

- **Don't share your personal, financial, or health information** with people you don't know. No one from a vaccine distribution site, health care provider's office, pharmacy, or health care payer, like a private insurance company or Medicare, will call, text, or email you asking for your Social Security, credit card, or bank account number to sign you up to get the vaccine.

Stay connected to stay informed. Subscribe to consumer alerts from the FTC (consumer.ftc.gov). When you do, you'll get updates delivered right to your email inbox.

If you know about a COVID-19 vaccine scam, let the FTC know at ReportFraud.ftc.gov. Or, file a complaint with your state or territory attorney general through consumerresources.org, the consumer website of the National Association of Attorneys General.

Board Of Directors Meeting

Thursday, January 21, 2021 Immediately Following Annual Meeting

Call To Order – President Mark Generales called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. in the Family Life Center of Faith United Methodist Church, 15690 McGregor Blvd., Ft. Myers.

Officers, Directors, & Residents Present

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

President's Message

Mark explained the purpose of the meeting was primarily to elect new Officers. Martha Smith moved the slate of officers shown below. The motion was seconded and there were no further nominations. Officers unanimously elected:

- President – Mark Generales
- Vice President – Rick Chubb
- Secretary – Renee Notes
- Treasurer – Gary Hudson

Minutes

Minutes of the January 14, 2021 Board Meeting were approved by motion.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by motion at 7:38 p.m. The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will convene 6:30 p.m. Thursday, February 11, 2021 at South Pointe South Clubhouse, 9734 Foxglove Circle, Ft. Myers.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sally Stigler
Executive Secretary*

Town & River Lake Report



Inspection Date: December 22, 2020

Inspected For:

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

Technician's comments: No signs of algae or invasive vegetation; water quality appears to be in good condition.

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VERY FEW MEMBERSHIPS REMAIN



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- Wellness Center & Day Spa
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- Waterfront Dining
- Social Activities & Events
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*Plus a new member capital contribution of \$10,000

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Town & River Civic Association Inc.
Balance Sheet

As of January 31, 2021

Jan 31, 21

Assets	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
First Citizens Bank 2580	5,443.25
First Citizens Bank - MMS	63,884.31
Total Checking/Savings	69,327.56
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	967.60
Total Accounts Receivable	967.60
Other Current Assets	
Prepaid, Lake Expense	653.72
Prepaid, Other Expense	577.70
Total Other Current Assets	1,231.42
Total Current Assets	71,526.58
Total Assets	
	71,526.58
Liabilities & Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Annual Dues, Advanced	898.72
Total Other Current Liabilities	898.72
Total Current Liabilities	898.72
Total Liabilities	898.72
Equity	
Prior Year Fund Balance	56,180.89
Retained Earnings	17,433.70
Net Income	-2,986.73
Total Equity	70,627.86
Total Liabilities & Equity	71,526.58

From The Desk Of Sheriff Carmine Marceno



I'm hoping that today's message finds everyone safe and healthy.

Lee County has been attempting to address an unusual and distressing matter ... domestic animals-at-large. Our deputies and the Lee County Sheriff's Office Animal Cruelty Task Force have received a significant number of calls for service regarding dogs roaming freely around the county ... for dog-bite incidents ... and to recover deceased canines.

Some of these dogs, sadly, have become aggressive toward passersby, toward children and toward other domestic pets. Some have been struck and injured ... or killed ... by passing vehicles. Some have been attacked by local wildlife. Some have made children fearful of the outdoors ... all of which are dreadful and unnecessary.

Through Lee County Sheriff's Office web pages and social media platforms, I have asked, requested, even pleaded with pet owners to ensure that their canines remain on their property. I asked that dogs are always walked on a leash, using a collar or harness, as required by county ordinance.

Despite these requests, the problem of dogs-at-large continues to beleaguer our communities.

As a result, our shelters are overburdened, residents have been injured/attacked and many dogs never find their way back home. Social media pages are flooded with "lost dog" posts and requests for information regarding missing pets that have wandered off.

I am requesting, at this time, that all fences be inspected regularly to ensure integrity. Gates and doors must be kept closed when used to contain an animal. Tables, chairs or woodpiles near the fence line should be moved as canines utilize these structures to climb over fencing.

Regardless of how obedient and intelligent you believe your dog to be, it is **unlawful** for any pet owner to allow their pet(s) to roam freely upon any public street, sidewalk, school grounds, parks or beaches (except where specifically authorized).

This is not a matter that can be resolved through law enforcement. This is a matter that must be resolved by pet owners. **Please** let's put an end to this once and for all.

Until next time, I thank you for your support and your cooperation.

Town & River Civic Association Inc.
Profit And Loss
January 2021

	Jan 21	Jan 21
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Estoppel Preparation Income	150.00	150.00
Interest Income	0.54	0.54
Total Income	150.54	150.54
Expense		
Accounting Fees	315.00	315.00
Bank Fees	5.00	5.00
Corp Insurance	228.83	228.83
Legal Expense	715.00	715.00
Meeting Rooms	391.70	391.70
Newspaper Postage	136.78	136.78
Printing & Postage	749.95	749.95
Secretary Expense	390.00	390.00
Storage Expense	119.79	119.79
Utilities	45.22	45.22
Website Maintenance	40.00	40.00
Total Expense	3,137.27	3,137.27
Net Ordinary Income	-2,986.73	-2,986.73
Net Income	-2,986.73	-2,986.73

The Biggest Game Already Happened

2021 Culinary CHEF Showdown – Who Won?

CHEF, the Culinary & Hospitality Education Foundation of Southwest Florida, filmed the 2021 CHEF Showdown competition on Monday, Feb. 1 in front of a live studio audience limited to just 20 VIP guests due to social distancing guidelines. The workshop demonstration kitchen at Luminary Hotel and Co. was the perfect setting for a cross-county duel between Aielli Group's Corporate Executive Chef Jason Goddard from Naples, challenged by La Trattoria Cafe Napoli's Executive Chef/Owner Gloria Jordan from Fort Myers. Each culinary wizard worked their magic to create a wow appetizer dish using mystery basket ingredients curated by Sails Restaurant's acclaimed culinary team in Naples. Pantry ingredients were provided by Luminary Hotel & Co., the newest Marriott Autograph Collection boutique hotel in downtown Fort Myers.

You are invited to donate to CHEF and receive a special link to access the 2021 CHEF Showdown and Auction event online on March 22 at 7 p.m. Visit www.event.gives/chef

for details and to purchase a virtual viewing ticket.

The esteemed judging panel included Chef Asif Syed, Chef Harold Balink, and Chef Tony Ridgway.



Chef Brian Roland of Crave Culinaire Companies emceed the CHEF Showdown. The judges' results will be unlocked and announced during CHEF's March 22 virtual fundraising event.

CHEF was established in 2004 as a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization with the mission to raise scholarship funds to benefit Collier and Lee County students to pursue their degrees and careers in the culinary arts and hospitality industries. To date, more than \$350,000 in scholarships and grants have been awarded through CHEF's donor-advised fund administered by the Collier County Community Foundation. Visit www.chefswfl.org.



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TOWN & RIVER CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS – as of February 11, 2021
 www.townandriverfl.com

President	Mark Generales	239-676-5676	pres@townandriverfl.com
Vice President	Rick Chubb	609-707-0825	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.

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: _____

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

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 234-841-4428



SHERRI NEELEY
 239-841-4505



LISA NEELEY CAPOZIO
 239-560-2688

Luck Of The Irish Casino Night

Saturday, March 13

The Heights Foundation/The Heights Center will host Luck of the Irish Casino Night on Saturday, March 13, from 6:30 to 10 p.m. at the outdoor pavilion at The Heights Center, 15570 Hagie Drive in Fort Myers. Guests will enjoy blackjack, craps, roulette and poker, music by DJ Michael B., a silent and live auction, and prize drawings.



Tickets are \$100 per person and include Irish-style food catered by Clancey's Restaurant and \$1,000 in funny money. A cash bar is available with specialty drinks. Masks are encouraged, and the event will be outdoors with limited tickets sold to provide social distancing.

"The poverty rate for children in Harlem Heights is more than twice the county average," said Kathryn

Kelly, president, and CEO of The Heights Foundation/The Heights Center. "This event will support programs at The Heights Center, including School Success and our enriching summer camp."

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.

For more information, visit www.heightsfoundation.org/casino or contact Brenda at (239) 482-7706 or brenda@heightsfoundation.org.

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. Heights Early Learning serves more than 80 babies through age 4. The Harlem Heights Community Charter School serves 120 children from 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 cannot easily access family support services located in downtown Fort Myers and benefit greatly from programs located within the neighborhood.

Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center

2021 International Baccalaureate Visual Arts Exhibition

Opens March 5 – 6 p.m., closes March 23 – 3 p.m.

Cost: General admission, \$1 entry donation

Fort Myers High School is proud to present the 2021 International Baccalaureate Senior Visual Arts Exhibition, showcasing the creativity of 40 students. During the past two years, students have not only created unique works of art, they have also explored the works of historical and contemporary artists, investigated critical theories in art, and have created extensive documentation of their art-making processes in a series of sketchbook entries.



Our students are proud to showcase works of art created in fulfillment of their 2021 International Baccalaureate Visual Arts requirements. The artworks presented at the Sidney & Berne Davis Arts Center explore a wide range of visual media including traditional and digital photography, acrylic and oil painting, printmaking, fiber arts, sculpture, ceramics, and more.

Oneiros, Dharma Lefevre

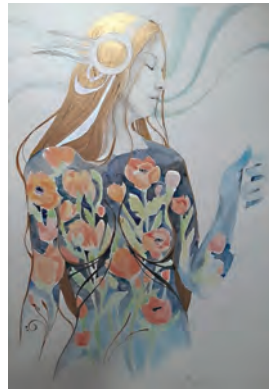
Opens March 5 – 6 p.m., closes March 23 – 3 p.m.

Cost: General admission, \$1 entry donation

Oneirus is the gates of dreams. It is a sacred and ancient place where all dreams pour forth. They fall

all over the world as visions, transcendental states, lessons, prophecies and inspiration. It is here where dreams find their conduits to become realities through ancient shamans to modern day world leaders, everything starts as a dream or an idea, it is just a matter of finding the perfect dreamer to bring such to life.

Local fine artist, Dharma Lefevre, is one of those dreamers. Through the years she has developed a deep respect and love for esoteric lore and ancient religions. When she began to paint, she used her creativity to breathe new life into these. With this show she invites the viewer to not only pull you into the heart of these, the dreams, ideas and visions that became realities but to also tell you the lore behind each piece.



Sierra Hull

Wednesday, March 17 – 6:30 p.m. cocktails, 7:30 p.m. performance

Cost: General admission, \$30, \$35 day of concert, \$75 series tickets, \$10 students (must show valid identification). First-come, first-served seating.

Sierra has played the White House, Carnegie Hall (twice), the Kennedy Center, traveled around the world sharing her music, and released three albums. Then there's the fact that Berklee gave her the school's most prestigious award, the Presidential Scholarship, a first for a bluegrass musician; her choice to accept it, to delay her dream of hitting the road full-time after high school in favor of expanding her musical worldview, was hardly a light one.



Boundaries – age, genre or otherwise – don't hamper an artist like Sierra. She's already earned considerable respect in the bluegrass world. But as a player, a singer and a songwriter, she also has remarkable range, the potential to win over ears unfamiliar with Bill Monroe.

Matt Glaser – head of Berklee's American Roots Music Program – put it this way: "She has no limitations as a musician."

Hotter Than July (Stevie Wonder Tribute Band)

Friday, March 19 – 6:30 p.m. cocktails, 7:30 p.m. performance

Cost: General admission: \$50, \$55 day of concert, \$65 VIP (includes premium seating and a free drink), \$10 students (must show valid identification). First-come, first-served seating.

In honor of the man we believe is one of the most incredible and complete recording artists of all time, the Hotter Than July Stevie Wonder Tribute Band is a high energy, soulful group of talented and experienced musicians. Led by professional musician Gerry Williams, an unbounded vocalist and percussionist who brings funk on the keys, this is a band you can't help but get on your feet and groove to. Backed by rhythm and horns and performing Stevie's greatest hits from *Sign Sealed Delivered* to *I Wish*, this band knows how to entertain a crowd!



Stevie Wonder is portrayed by the incredible Gerry Williams, an industry veteran vocal coach with a background in artist development that garnered him the reputation as the "boy band guy" since the onset of the pop groups that emerged in the mid-'90s. Several of his vocal students are Grammy and Dove Award Winner – Mandy Moore, Jordan Knight (New Kids on the Block), Jeff Timmons (98 Degrees), Chris Kirkpatrick (N'Sync), to name a few. Gerry has been a featured vocal coach on reality TV shows – *Mission Man Band*, *Big in America* – and has produced and written songs for artists such as Jordan Knight and C'Note.

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Catch The Action

March On The Water

By Capt. Bill Russell

Good things happen this month on the waters around Southwest Florida. The kickoff to the spring fishing season is in full effect as we transition out of winter to the warmer days of spring.

For the next couple months or until the daily afternoon rains begin, we may experience the clearest water of the year. It's the perfect time to explore the inshore and nearshore waters, learn new areas, and look for fish or locate and mark structure that looks fishy. It's also a great time to check out our awesome wildlife – manatees, dolphin, and about every kind of bird you can think of while enjoying the change of seasons. If you are an outdoor or nature photographer, this is the time to grab the camera and hit the water or beaches.

Over the winter it felt like we had endless low tides and very little water to navigate. That will change and make it possible to fish areas that were not accessible over the past several months. Spring tides will arrive with higher water during the daytime hours. Yes, we will still have low water, but not all day every day. Combine the incoming tides with the previously mentioned clean water and you will find some great days to explore.

As the coastal water warms one could argue this may be the best month of the year to catch snook. A rising thermometer will put them on the move and hungry, feeding on oily baitfish moving back into the warmer waters. As of this writing, snook are catch and release only in Southwest Florida waters from the Pasco-Hernando county line up around Tampa, south to Gordan Pass in Collier County.

This does not mean you cannot fish for snook, catch and release snook fishing is very popular. Most anglers agree snook are far more valuable in the water than on the table. I must agree, they are far and away my favorite fish to catch. Snook populations are on a steady rise following the emergency closure several years back.

Redfish and sea trout numbers are also on the rise, with many caught from the same areas as snook. Our largest trout of the year will come this month as big egg laden females feed heavily on oily fish to float their eggs during the upcoming spawn. Redfish and sea trout are in the same emergency closure as snook. As of this writing all three species were closed to harvest in the above-mentioned area. However, Florida Fish and Wildlife has a scheduled meeting towards the end of February where there is a possibility, they could open season on one or more of the three. Follow www.myfwc.com to keep updated.

In the Gulf of Mexico fish are on the move as they follow the rising water temperature. King and Spanish mackerel likely will make an appearance a short distance off our coast. Cobia are prowling gulf waters, and many are hooked around artificial reefs. They can get big; this is the time to keep a few heavy rods rigged and ready, you never know what may show up. Winter months produced tripletail off the beaches in nearshore waters, I expect this to continue. Most are sighted hanging under floating debris, buoys, and structure. Tarpon will start showing off the coast, beginning to the south and moving north. Just how early in the month this happens is based on the weather and water temperature.

March weather is often all over the place. Cool days, windy at times, and perfect sunny days are expected as we move into



the warm season. All in all, it's a great month to get on the water and enjoy good fishing.

To experience Southwest Florida at its best, there is no better way than on the water enjoying the outdoors and catching a few fish.

For charter information, please contact us at Gulf Coast Guide Service and "Catch the Action" with Capt. Bill Russell, call or text (239) 410-8576, 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 26 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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Southwest Florida Reading Festival (Virtual)

March 1 To 13

Join us for the 22nd annual Southwest Florida Reading Festival, a free virtual celebration of reading and literacy for all ages!

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For more information please visit readfest.org.

Online Magazines Are Moving

Our online magazines are moving from RBdigital to OverDrive/Libby effective Feb. 3. If you use RBdigital, the same content will be accessible until March 31. After that time, you will need to use the Libby App or OverDrive App.

Curbside Holds Pickup

All of our library locations are offering contactless curbside holds pickup. Place your holds online, wait for

the notification that your items are ready and then head to the branch(es) for curbside pickup.

To Use Curbside Pickup:

- Drive to the library
- Stay in your car
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- Staff will ask for the library card number(s), check out the materials and bring them out to the designated spot. Once signaled by staff, you can then pick up your materials and depart with your items.

New Books-By-Mail Newsletter

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What's Blooming At Edison And Ford Winter Estates?

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



Most people don't think about shade in Florida, as we usually pine for the glorious sun during our somewhat cooler winter months. Florida is not called the Sunshine State for nothing! However, after enjoying this cool beginning of the year it won't take long for the summer season to ramp up and we will soon be looking for shade.

I moved to Florida because I love the sunshine, and that's why many people move here, but when the temperatures rise to a heat index of 95 degrees or above, I look for a shady spot. Florida summers can be spent in the swimming pool or on the beaches with the gulf waters nearby. By the time late summer rolls around I am tired of the hum from the air conditioner, and I crave spending time outdoors.

March is an opportune time to establish a shade garden, and what better place to learn about what that entails than at the Edison Ford Winter Estates. During the winter, shade on the north side of a home is at its peak, but during the summer when the sun is overhead, the north side is much sunnier. I encourage people new to their home to observe where the sun and shade are located during a full year before following through on a large landscape project. It is also a good idea to pay attention to where the rainwater stands for short and long periods of time.

Interestingly, one of the No.1 areas to reduce the energy cost associated with summer sun would be to plant a tree to shade the air conditioner. The second place to plant a tree to reduce energy costs is the southwest corner of the home. It may not be possible to plant a tree because of lot lines and proper distancing from the home (usually large trees need 20 to 30 feet away from the house). You may only be able to plant a small to medium tree or a singular palm at 10 to 20 feet from structures. The tree choice is determined by availability of course, and realistically preventative considerations should always be applied.

Trees can be messy, roots can invade sidewalks, and arbor (pruning work) needs to be done throughout the life of a tree. To make smart choices, do not consider planting a coconut palm or self-cleaning palm near a driveway, as fronds or falling fruit could damage vehicles. It is important to do the research on mature height and canopy spread before purchasing and planting any trees. Some people love flowering trees until they see the mess they can make. Flowering trees work best when they can drop their petals on a lawn or garden bed. This allows the falling leaves and flowers to eventually compost on the spot.

Choose cultivars of fruit trees that remain smaller such as Mango "Ice Cream," "Pickering," or a little larger



Monstera loves to grow up a tree in the shade.

"Carrie." Not only does a fruit tree provide the needed shade, but you will also have the perfect amount of fruit to be enjoyed by your family and friends. If you are lucky enough to already have an established tree, or perhaps a pergola, now is the time to start designing an area where shade plants are welcome. The fun part begins deciding what the area with shade can be used for. Consider adding pavers with a small sitting area with comfortable chairs so you can watch wildlife, enjoy a beautiful sunset, have a cool drink, or just read a book!

At the Edison Ford Gardens we have many trees already grown to their mature size, and we have utilized these areas to highlight plants in these conditions. All plants need some sun for growth in a process called photosynthesis. Grass and most annual flowers need full sun, or they will die out eventually. That is the beauty of shade-loving plants as they are adapted to using partial to full shade to their advantage. To brighten up a shady spot, use heavily patterned foliage-colored plants such as *Sanchezia*, *Psuederantherum*, crotons, *Dracaena*, *Cordyline* (Ti plants), begonias, and caladiums to brighten up an area. If you must have plants that flower in the shade, be sure to include gingers (summer only), *Thunbergia* (blue sky vine and king's mantle), *Crossandra*, *Barleria*, flamingo flower, justicia, shrimp plant, and firespike.



Shade garden

Surprisingly, many houseplants also grow outdoors this far south. Popular plants with different textures, unique leaf shapes and surprising variegations include *Diffenbachia* (dumb cane), philodendrons, *Monstera*, *Alocascia*, anthuriums (birds' nest fern), *Agolonemas* (Chinese evergreen), *Pepperomias*, *Aspidistra* (cast-iron plant), *Sansevierias* (noninvasive varieties) and various ferns.

I have given a multitude of solutions to creating a shade garden by planting an appropriate tree or using an existing tree, but it is still very important to understand why plants prefer the shade or grow as an understory plant. Shade plants by nature likely grow well because the soil under trees has been enriched by leaves falling regularly through the years to build the soil structure. So, when planting a new shade garden, it is also important to grow these plants in an organic rich soil. Homes built recently usually have fill dirt added to the land to raise the level of the home. These yards may need some soil amendments and mulch year after year to enrich the soil. It may take a few years for the plants to fill in, but in due time, the area will change as the trees begin to grow and mature.

What may have been partial sun during the first few years can eventually become full shade. Changing out plants and dividing and moving others around may be necessary to keep the area thriving. I assure you gardening is never a boring endeavor!



Sanchezia grows great in shade and provides a lovely foliage pattern.



Mangoes and coconuts should be planted away from structures and driveways.



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