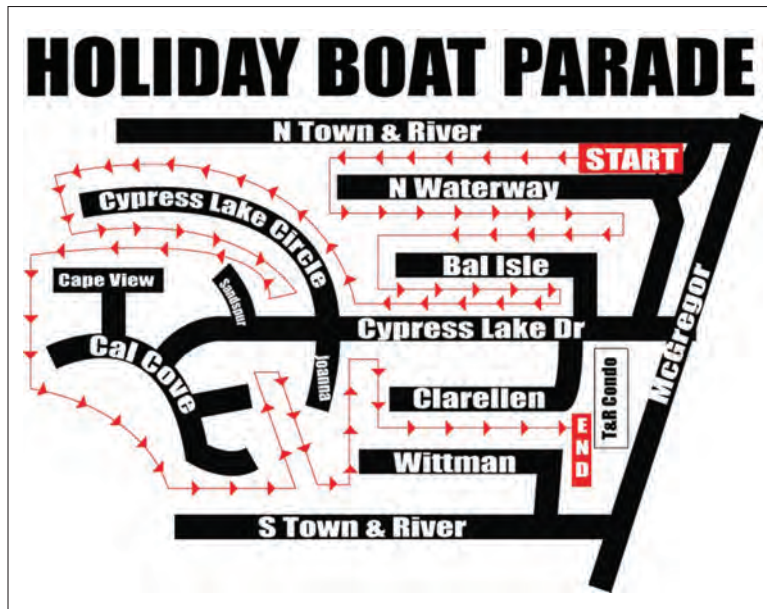


Holiday Boat Parade Saturday, Dec. 11

The annual Town & River Cruise Club (TRCC) Holiday Boat Parade will be held on Saturday, Dec. 11. The parade will begin on the east end of the north Town & River canal at 6 p.m. and follow our usual route through the canals.

All Town & River club members and residents are invited to decorate their boats and join the parade. Following the parade a party will be held at the Town & River condominium clubhouse for TRCC members and their invited guests. There will be no charge for club members; however, there is a charge for guests and nonmembers. It will be great fun to see the spectacular decorations throughout our community as always. So decorate your boat and join the parade and/or encourage your friends and neighbors to decorate theirs and join in. Residents along the canals are encouraged to turn their waterside lights on to welcome the boaters.



2021 Festival Of Trees

**Thursday, Dec. 2 Through
Sunday, Dec. 5**

The 15th Annual Festival of Trees returns to the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center (SBDAC)! Experience the beautiful trees decorated by local business to raise money for Goodwill of Southwest Florida and SBDAC. See these gorgeous creations beginning on Dec. 2. Admission: \$2 (under 12 enter free).



View trees, vote, and buy raffle tickets to win a tree! Raffle tickets: \$10 or 3 for \$25

Festival Of Trees Viewing Times

Thursday, Dec. 2 – 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 3 – 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 4 – 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 5 – 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

2021 Festival Of Trees Event Information

Preview Party: Wednesday, Dec. 1, 5 To 7 p.m.

Get a sneak preview of the Festival of Trees at this exclusive Tree Preview Party and Awards. The Preview Party will be held the night before the festival opens, Dec. 1 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate the Festival of Trees, Southwest Florida's favorite holiday tradition and join us and take a stroll through our winter wonderland! You could win a beautifully decorated tree filled with gifts at our Festival of Trees tree raffle – or an extravagant silent auction package! Tickets are \$25 per person and include: cash bar, silent auction, early entry into the Festival of Trees, and first chance at the tree raffles.

Wine And Paint On The Rooftop: Thursday, Dec. 2, 6 To 9 p.m.

'Tis the season to get creative with one of our favorite local artists, Dharma Lefevre! This talented and quirky elf is going to show you how to create a gorgeous wintery landscape in acrylic. This is not like other paint parties.

Dharma will be teaching color theory, how to translate landscapes and simplify what you see to produce scenery with depth and soul!

Dharma is a self-taught local artist, she has had various solo and group shows and has worked on both charity and live painting for local events ... and did we mention she's a ton of fun? She can't wait to create alongside of you!

Each artist will be supplied with canvas, paint, paint brushes, and of course ... wine. Ticket prices coming soon. **Wreath Lighting, The SWFL Symphony, And The Ben Allen Band: Friday, Dec. 3, 7 To 11 p.m.**

Another beautiful holiday tradition bringing Christmas to the River District. From 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. the SWFL Symphony will be playing some of your holiday favorites.

At 7 p.m. join the mayor and Santa as they lead the stroll down First Street to the Art Center to light the giant wreath and pick the winner of the Mayor's Choice tree at the festival.

The Ben Allen Band will be playing from 7:30 to 10 p.m. and is a free concert.

Santa's Block Party: Saturday, Dec. 4, 10 a.m. To 2 p.m.

\$6 per kids workshop bag. (Adults attend workshop for free with child/children.) Tickets available at the door.

Join Santa for fun, food, and holiday festivities! Santa's Block Party offers workshops where kids can make arts, crafts, holiday cards and decorate their own cookie.

The Motown Experience: Saturday, Dec. 4, 7 To 10 p.m.

Come enjoy The Motown Experience concert on the front steps! Free to attend. Donation encouraged.

Tree Raffle Drawing: Sunday, Dec. 5, 4 p.m.

Proceeds benefit the Southwest Florida Goodwill Foundation, 5100 Tice St., Fort Myers, FL 33905 and the Sidney and Berne Davis Art Center.

Winner selection to be held via random drawing on Sunday, Dec. 5 at 4 p.m. Each Festival of Trees raffle winner will receive one of the fully-decorated raffle trees, each valued at a minimum of \$500.

Prize selection is determined by ticket holder at time of raffle entry. Each prize tree will have a separate raffle entry box which corresponds to that prize tree only. Prize selection is determined by ticket holder by depositing entry ticket in the selected tree's entry box. Prize selection cannot be changed once raffle entry ticket has been deposited. Prizes are provided by the Southwest Florida Goodwill Foundation and in-kind tree sponsors.

Ms. McCoy Turns 102

Ms. Eleanora McCoy, who is a longtime resident of Deep Lagoon Lane celebrated her 102nd birthday with a drive-by parade. Family, friends, neighbors, the Lee County Sheriffs Department and the Iona McGregor Fire Department all showed their love and admiration on Saturday, Sept. 19.

Ms. McCoy was born in Chicago, Ill., and moved to Town & River in 1985 with her son, Jim, daughter-in-law, Debbie and grandkids Jennifer and Jason.

Ms. McCoy extends her gratitude to everyone who came out to shower her with love, balloons, flowers and posters for such a milestone birthday.



We're Back! – Fair At Fenway

Nov. 5 To 21 – JetBlue Park

We're back at Fenway South, which is located at JetBlue Park in Fort Myers, 11500 Daniels Pkwy., with all of our entertainment. The shows at the Fair at Fenway South are **free** with admission and include: Cycle Circus Show Thrills, Magic of Lance Gifford,



Fair At Fenway on page 2

**All are encouraged to attend
our next Board meeting on Nov. 11!**

The Board meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

South Pointe South Clubhouse
9734 Foxglove Circle, Fort Myers.

Check out our new website
www.townandriverfl.com.

What You Need To Know About Transfer On Death (TOD) Accounts

Presented By *Jacqueline J. Lambros, Registered Principal*



A relatively new option for clients, transfer on death (TOD) accounts offer a unique beneficiary feature. Unlike similar nonretirement accounts, TOD accounts allow investors' assets to transfer directly to their designated beneficiaries when they pass away, circumventing the probate court process. The TOD registration, which is available for both individual and joint accounts, not only streamlines the account disbursement process, it also lets account holders rest assured that their beneficiaries will receive the intended amount of assets.

TOD accounts have no contribution limits and can hold all types of investments. When the owner dies, all trading in the account must cease until the TOD account assets can be transferred to the beneficiaries' accounts. The beneficiaries may then sell the positions, if desired. In order for a beneficiary to receive assets from a TOD account, he or she must open a brokerage account at the same financial institution.

Tip: Before opening a TOD account, consider the location of your beneficiaries. For example, if a beneficiary lives out of the country, the financial institution will need to plan accordingly.

Unlimited Number Of Beneficiaries

TOD account holders can designate an unlimited number of beneficiaries, each of whom will be considered a primary beneficiary. Contingent beneficiaries may be added as well. The TOD account owner can choose, among other entities, his or her estate, individuals (including minors), trusts, and churches as beneficiaries.

You Retain Control

As the account owner, you continue to manage the account assets as you wish. Your beneficiaries have no rights to the account while you are living. If necessary, you can revise your beneficiary designations.

Keep In Mind

TOD accounts are not for everyone. It's important to consider how establishing this type of account will affect your overall estate plan and the provisions of your revocable trust or will.

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.

TOD Features

Streamlined Administration

With a traditional brokerage account, the owner's assets go to the estate upon his or her death, and distribution is delayed until the probate process has been completed. By contrast, funds held in TOD accounts are considered nonprobate assets and pass straight to the designated beneficiaries. Once a TOD account has been established, neither a court appointment nor the terms of a will can override the Supplemental Transfer on Death Registration and Beneficiary Designation Form, which designates the account's beneficiaries. If necessary, agents holding powers of attorney can manage the TOD accounts, but they cannot establish a new TOD account or update the beneficiary designation of an existing one.

Fair At Fenway from page 1

World Famous Racing Pigs, Wolves of the World, Cowtown USA, Barnyard Petting Corral, Pony Rides (this is an extra ticketed attraction and is not included with fair admission), and the **new** Pretty Bird Paradise.



Aside from our amazing acts, the Fair at Fenway South also has one of the **largest** carnival midways in the area filled with exciting rides, fun games, and delicious fair foods!

Thrill Rides

Downdraft, Enterprise, MegaDrop, Rock Star, Starship 4000, Streetfighter 360, Tilt-a-whirl, Typhoon, Vertigo, and Zero Gravity

Family Rides

Beach Shack, Bumper Cars, Friendly Wheel, MagicMaze, Merry-go-round, and Puppy Roll



Kiddie Rides

Bumblebee; Dragstrip Jr.; Farm Tractors; Granny Bugs; Lighthouse Dive; Mini Dinos; Monster Trucks Speedway; Umbrella 4x4 Quads; Undersea Adventure; and Up, Up and Away

Note: Ride ticket amounts, rider restrictions, and event specials, hours, and general information is subject to change without notice.

Sign up now for your **free** 2-for-1 admission coupon! \$5 with two-for-one coupon, \$10 at the gate. Children ages 2 and under free. Last ticket sold one hour before closing.

Family Four-Packs: include four admissions and four Pay One Price ride bracelets. Only \$116 online.

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

Town & River Civic Association Inc.		
Profit And Loss		
September 2021		
	Sep 21	Jan-Sep 21
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Income - Mandatory	0.00	10,560.00
Income - Voluntary	0.00	26,640.00
Total Income	0.00	37,200.00
Estoppel Preparation Income	0.00	600.00
Interest Income	0.68	6.04
Total Income	0.68	37,806.04
Expense		
Accounting Fees	315.00	3,285.00
Bank Fees	35.00	225.00
Corp Insurance	190.42	2,192.76
Email Service	0.00	729.00
Legal Expense	3,227.75	6,984.25
Meeting Rooms	0.00	1,112.32
Newspaper Postage	143.02	1,249.30
PayPal Fees	0.00	40.09
Postage Expense	0.00	151.85
Printing & Postage	118.16	2,375.16
State Fee	0.00	61.25
Secretary Expense	277.50	1,035.00
Storage Expense	119.79	1,078.11
Utilities	45.62	409.25
Website Maintenance	0.00	200.00
Total Expense	4,472.26	21,128.34
Net Ordinary Income	-4,471.58	16,677.70
Net Income	-4,471.58	16,677.70

YOU'RE INVITED - PLEASE JOIN US!

Paul Todd Patriotic Concert - Thursday, November 11 at 6pm

Christmas Eve Services - December 24 at 4pm and 6pm

Sunday Worship Services

9am Traditional ♦ 11am Contemporary

In Person and Online

Faith United Methodist Church ♦ 15690 McGregor Blvd.

Love God & Love People ♦ 239.482.2030 ♦ myfaithum.com



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Consumer Alerts

FTC Warns Diabetes Treatment Sellers: Cease And Desist With Questionable Claims

By Bridget Small, Consumer Education Specialist, FTC

If you or someone you care about has diabetes and are struggling to afford expensive medications like insulin, ads for products that claim to prevent, treat, or cure Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes might catch your attention. But do these products really do what they say? Are they safe? Would your health care provider recommend them? Before you try or buy any new treatment, drug, dietary supplement, or product, ask your health care provider.

The FTC and the FDA have joined forces to call out 10 companies selling unapproved and misbranded drugs they claim will treat or cure diabetes. The companies sell dietary supplements, like capsules and shake drinks, online. One claims its product is a “clinically effective formula” that helps “get your diabetes under control.” Another says its vegetarian capsule “helps balance blood sugar levels for people with diabetes.” But, according to the FTC, those claims may not be backed up by reliable scientific evidence.

In fact, the FTC’s Cease and Desist Orders warn the companies that their claims might not have the scientific backup the law requires. The agency directed them to review all claims for their products and ensure they are supported by the necessary evidence.

The Cease and Desist Orders tell the companies that – without the necessary scientific evidence – they must immediately stop

claiming their products can treat, prevent, or cure diabetes. The letters also require the companies to tell the FTC within 15 days of the specific actions they have taken to address the agency’s concerns. A company that makes deceptive claims about health products can face financial penalties or other legal action.

If You’re Looking For Treatment For A Health Condition

Talk to your health care provider before you use any health care product, even if it claims to be FDA cleared or approved. Your health care professional knows your health history and can guide you to safe alternatives.

Be skeptical about miraculous claims, especially about new treatments. If a product guarantees miracle results, it may be a scam.

Do some research online. Search for the name of the company, treatment, or procedure, plus the words “scam,” “complaint,” and “review.”

If you spot a scam, tell your state attorney general’s office and report it to the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov.



Town & River Cruise Club Membership Application

Name: _____
 Spouse: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

BOAT INFORMATION

Boat Name: _____
 Boat Type and Size: _____
 Boat example – Name: Only in America
 Boat Type and Size: Power 30’, Beam 10’ 6”

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues \$40 / household
Initiation Fee \$40 / household
 (included burgee and name tags)

New Members Prorated Dues
 Joining between
 April 1 to September 30 \$40
 October to December 31 \$30
 January 1 to March 30 \$20

Send Application, Dues and Initiation Fee to: Cecila Brown
 1026 Clarendon Drive
 Fort Myers, FL 33919

Make checks payable to: Town & River Cruise Club

Continental Women’s Club

Please join us on Thursday, Nov. 4 at 11:30 a.m. when our program will feature Jennifer Benton, CEO of Abuse Counseling and Treatment Inc. (ACT). ACT’s mission is to protect, support, educate and empower victims of domestic violence and their children, survivors of sexual assault and human trafficking in Lee, Hendry, and Glades counties.

Continental Women’s Club meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at The Hideaway Country Club, 5670 Trailwinds Drive, Fort Myers 33907. The cost to attend the luncheon is \$24. Please call Liz Paul at (239) 691-7561 for additional information or to make a reservation.

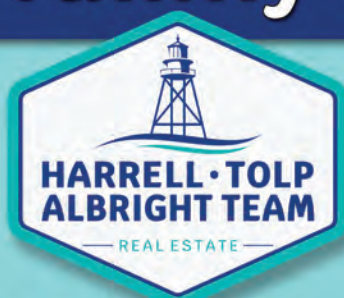
Town & River Civic Association Inc. Balance Sheet As of September 30, 2021

	Sep 30, 21
Assets	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
First Citizens Bank 2580	413.52
First Citizens Bank - MMS	82,889.81
PayPal Account	1,159.91
Total Checking/Savings	84,463.24
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	120.00
Total Accounts Receivable	120.00
Other Current Assets	
Prepaid, Lake Expense	3,471.28
Prepaid, Other Expense	2,357.77
Total Other Current Assets	5,829.05
Total Current Assets	90,412.29
Total Assets	<u>90,412.29</u>
Liabilities & Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Annual Dues, Advanced	120.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	120.00
Total Current Liabilities	120.00
Total Liabilities	120.00
Equity	
Prior Year Fund Balance	56,180.89
Retained Earnings	17,433.70
Net Income	16,677.70
Total Equity	90,292.29
Total Liabilities & Equity	<u>90,412.29</u>

Let our family assist your family!

239.850.5408

info@STKRealEstate.com



YourSWFloridaRealEstate.com

ArtFest – 2021 Publix Run To The Arts 5K

Run/Walk Like A Beast So You Can Enjoy The Turkey Feast!

Date: Nov. 20

Location: Downtown Fort Myers; Edwards Drive at Hendry Street. In-person Run to the Arts

Registration Fee: \$35 to Nov. 17, includes T-shirt (while supplies last). Registration will close at midnight. There are no day-of registrations.



5K. Walk or run, race or fun.

Lace up your shoes for Publix Run To The Arts 5K. Register today to reserve your spot and reserve your collectable Run T-shirt featuring the original artwork of artist Carla Bank. Enjoy an early morning warmup, and yummy postrace snacks.

“Publix Run To The Arts 5K is a perfect way to begin your Thanksgiving week celebration,” explains Cindy Lerick, executive director of ArtFest Fort Myers. “Health and fitness, friends and family, and the scenic beauty of the Fort Myers riverfront – what more could you ask for? From our view it is all about quality of life in our community.”

Not a runner or walker? Join the fun as a race day volunteer and receive an artsy volunteer shirt. 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 healthy snacks. This energetic boost will start your holiday week off with a bang.

ArtFest Fort Myers, the annual juried fine art festival, takes place Feb. 6 and 7, 2022 in the Fort Myers River District. Join the experience with up 200 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 as (239) 768-3602 or info@ArtFestFortMyers.com. Like us on Facebook. Follow us on Instagram. Tag us #artfestfm.



BROADWAYPALM PRESENTS

Oct. 7 - November 20

The SOUND of MUSIC

This Rodgers and Hammerstein musical has touched the hearts of audiences around the world for decades. Follow Maria, the high-spirited, aspiring nun as she is sent from her convent to be the governess to seven unruly children of a strict father, Captain von Trapp. The timeless score includes *Do-Re-Mi*, *My Favorite Things*, *Climb Every Mountain*, *Sixteen Going on Seventeen*, *Edelweiss* and *The Sound of Music*.

Nov. 25 - December 25

HOLLY JOLLY Christmas

This holiday song and dance extravaganza is perfect entertainment for all ages! *Holly Jolly Christmas* embraces the season with Broadway-style dancing, stunning costumes and the traditional holiday favorites you know and love. Bring family and friends and celebrate the most wonderful time of the year with *Holly Jolly Christmas*, *Jingle Bells*, *Silent Night*, *Santa Claus Is Comin' To Town* and more!

Dates may be subject to change.

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TOWN & RIVER CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS – as of September 9, 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	John Kristobak	dir3@townandriverfl.com 724-272-6818
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	Vacant	
Erin Marie Ct S. Town & River Dr	Martha Smith	dir7@townandriverfl.com 239-671-6347
McGregor Blvd Wittman Dr	Vacant	
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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- 30 Complimentary Classes Weekly
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- Waterfront Dining
- Social Activities & Events
- Initiation Fee \$60,000*

*Plus a new member capital contribution of \$10,000

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- Social Activities & Events
- Initiation Fee \$12,000*

*Plus a new member capital contribution of \$10,000

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

Alliance For The Arts

The Roommate

Dec. 9 Through 19

A comedy by Jen Silverman and directed by Stephen Hooper.

Sharon, in her mid-50s, is recently divorced and needs a roommate to share her Iowa home. Robyn, also in her mid-50s, needs a place to hide and a chance to start over. But as Sharon begins to uncover Robyn's secrets, they encourage her own deep-seated desire to transform her life completely. A dark comedy about what it takes to reroute your life – and what happens when the wheels come off.



Please note: If you are joining us for onsite programming, we ask that you adhere to signage and procedures posted on our campus. In compliance with CDC guidelines masks are recommended, but not required, to be worn by fully-vaccinated patrons while at the Alliance. While the entire seating chart is available, we request you leave a seat between you and other parties when selecting your reserved seating. We continue to maintain rigorous cleaning practices. The Alliance has an air purification system that uses ionization and UV light to reduce virus particles, allergens and bacteriophage. We can't wait to see you back at our theatre!

Bluegrass Outdoor Concert (Bill Metts And Rekindled Grass)

Nov. 7 – 3 To 5 p.m.

Join fellow bluegrass music lovers for great live music by bands from Southwest Florida and beyond! Our popular Palmgrass bluegrass concerts are always a toe-tapping good time. Lineup includes Bill Metts and Rekindled Grass.



Please note: For this outdoor concert, we will be accepting the first 132 people for reservations. If weather threatens the outdoor concert, it

will be moved to our indoor theatre for general admission seats. If there is no weather threat, we will sell additional tickets at the door the day of the concert.

Guests are required to bring their own lawn chairs and blankets. No pets.

Presented in partnership with the Acoustic Music Society of Southwest Florida.

Arts On Tap Fundraiser And Nappy Roots Concert Nov. 12 And 13 – 7 To 10 p.m.

Tickets: \$25 to \$500

Back and better than ever, Arts on Tap combines all of your happiest hours into one incredible weekend!



Now in its fourth year, Arts On Tap is a fundraising event for the Alliance for the Arts. This year's event spans two days and features an exciting mash-up of Southwest Florida's burgeoning craft beer and vibrant arts scenes and a performance by two-time Grammy-nominated hip-hop group Nappy Roots.

On Friday, Nov. 12, mingle, play, sip and savor as local craft brewers pour unlimited award-winning, rare and brand-new artisan brews or delight your senses with an awesome selection of hand-selected wines and tasty culinary creations, play twisted pub and oversized lawn games, rub elbows with craft brewers and Grammy-nominated hip-hop group Nappy Roots. Tap your toes as we turn up the tunes, take a sip, then hit repeat. Arts on Tap is an exciting evening of brewhouse socializing and gallery-going!

Celebrate the Fourth Annual Arts on Tap with unlimited sips and bites from Bone Hook Brewing, Coastal Dayz Brewery, Crazy Dingo Brewing, Eight Foot Brewing, Fort Myers Brewing, Hopsized Brewing, LaBelle Brewing, Millennial Brewing Company, Palm City Brewing, Point Ybel Brewing, Riptide Brewing and Flying Eagle Kombucha and unlimited bites from Arts and Eats, Death by Taco, Green Cup and The Standard. Your ticket includes these free, unlimited tastings.

On Saturday, Nov. 13, the party continues as you indulge yourself in a night of food trucks, both domestic and craft brews, art, VIP experiences and a once-in-a-lifetime performance by the Nappy Roots – right under the stars. Enjoy beverages and bites for purchase by Suncoast Beverage, BBQ & Taco Works, Brooke's

Nugget Wagon, Dave's Neopolitan Pizza, Green Cup Cafe, Kava Nirvana and The Bubble Buzz.

See and be seen! Come to one night or come to both nights and mingle with local artists, artisans and craft beer makers at a fundraiser that's anything but buttoned up. Arts on Tap is all about feeling good while doing good!

Free Family Art Labs Nov. 20 – 10 a.m. To 12 p.m.

Make creativity part of your family routine the third Saturday of each month during Family Art Lab! Drop in for free, hands-on family fun from 10 a.m.



to 12 p.m. Explore something new every month like art making, gallery activities, games and more – all inspired by artworks on view in the gallery, famous artists, national holidays and artistic traditions around the world. Come ready to imagine and create! After the fun, peruse local produce and products at our GreenMarket.

Details for each program will be posted as soon as they are available. Recommended for ages 5 and older, but all ages and abilities are encouraged to participate.

Save the dates for future Family Art Labs: Dec. 11, Jan. 15, 2022, Feb. 19, March 19, April 16 and May 21. Family Art Labs are free and open to the public, but a \$10 suggested family donation keeps programming affordable and accessible.

About The Alliance For The Arts

The Alliance for the Arts is a vibrant nonprofit visual and performing arts center located in the heart of Fort Myers. Since the 1970s, we've been transforming lives and improving community through the arts. Our year-round schedule of events has become a staple for the community through engaging gallery exhibitions, inspiring art classes from fine art life drawing to the art of beer-making and stimulating theatre productions that range from the classics to the cutting edge. We are a creative community hub that spurs and supports self-expression, imagination and individuality by connecting each other through the arts.

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Alliance For The Arts, 10091 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33919, (239) 939-2787, artinlee.org.



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What's Blooming At Edison And Ford Winter Estates?

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



Thankfully, it's the time of year when the temperature starts to cool down a little in south Florida. The cool breeze and less humidity make for comfortable weather to work in the garden. Now is the time to start growing vegetables or herbs! In the past year and a half, more people have showed an interest in growing their own food. It's nice to be able to go outside and pick what you need for dinner – and know that it's fresh.

I was intrigued when I saw the name of a book titled *The \$64 Tomato*. I marched right down to the library and read the book in one sitting. I had to know why a tomato would cost that much? The story is about how someone tried desperately to grow a perfect tomato and added up the cost for all he put into it. He discovered it was \$64. I don't want to ruin the story if you haven't read it, but there truly were legitimate reasons why it could cost that much. Most people purchase their tomatoes at the grocery store, or if they are lucky to have a nearby farmers' market, they can shop there.

I remember tomatoes that we grew in Illinois tasted really good. The grocery store tomatoes, in my opinion, lack flavor. I'm not sure if tomatoes today are allowed to turn red on the vine, but instead are picked early before flavor can be imparted. I remember eating very flavorful tomatoes as a child. In our home, our mantra was "gotta have a vegetable garden." Our kitchen in August was full of tomatoes that were piled high on the counter, ready for salad or a BLT sandwich. Any tomatoes not eaten fresh were canned in Mason jars, so they would be ready for future chili and spaghetti sauce. I don't remember the varieties of tomatoes we grew – beefsteak was probably one of them. Whatever was left before frost that didn't turn the typical red was enjoyed as fried green tomatoes.



There are many tomato varieties that can be grown from seed.



Eggplant



Victory garden



Now is the time to start growing vegetables, such as carrots and tomatoes.



Now that I live in south Florida, growing tomatoes during the summer isn't really possible. But don't fret, Florida vegetable growing occurs mostly during fall, winter and spring months. November is the start of tomato season for sure. I feel it is worth the \$64 dollars to grow that tomato, not just for the taste, but for the experience and appreciation for what our farmers provide for our nourishment. To improve the odds of growing a tomato successfully, you need the patience and understanding of what a tomato wants.

There are tomatoes you can purchase in garden centers and big box stores that were started probably in August in a greenhouse. They would be ready to go in the ground now, but if you really want to try the other hundreds of varieties of tomatoes, you may want to start them from seeds. There are several seed companies that will have seeds available by now for 2022 and we are going to plant them in 2021.

Tomato Growers Supply Company has a catalog and website with wonderful descriptions with names like Celebrity (I have personally grown this one and it does well in Florida as a yellow tomato). Another favorite of mine is the cherry tomato, Sun Gold or Snow White. I pop them in my mouth as I pick them. Full of flavor, cherry tomatoes are great in salads. The Garden Shoppe at the Edison and Ford Winter Estates will have some starts for you to plant this fall along with many other vegetables.

There are several ways to grow tomato plants, and one of the best ideas is in a five-gallon bucket with holes drilled into the sides 1 inch above the bottom about every 4 inches. I suggest cherry tomatoes for the five-gallon buckets. If you want to grow a bigger size tomato, such as Better Boy or Better Girl, you will need at least a 10-gallon pot. If you look for containers, there are styles you can purchase such as Smartpots, Earth Boxes, self-watering plastic, and if you really want to pretty up the garden, try a beautiful ceramic pot. Don't forget to put a tomato cage in the pot while the plant is still small. At the time of planting, I use an organic tomato fertilizer made by Espoma brand, added to the planting hole and then side dress around the trunk of the plant. It is best to always read the directions for amounts to use. The plants should take anywhere from 60 to 90 days to produce flowers and tomatoes. You'll need to be patient. Full sun is a must as tomatoes need the sun to grow big and strong. I water the tomato every day for a while until I see the new growth, and then reduce watering, depending on the air temperature.



Amend the soil in raised beds or containers when planting vegetables.

Quite simply, with cooler weather, plants will grow slower and require less water. When temps are above 80 degrees, there is more growth and more water is needed. Don't water overhead if you can help it, as it is best to water at the root level to avoid problems and diseases. We can grow tomatoes in the fall, winter, and spring here because we don't get freezing temperatures; however, the day length is shorter. With less daylight hours, the plant doesn't grow as much and therefore doesn't produce as many tomatoes.

An important benefit to growing a tomato in a container is that you can use a rich potting mix. You can also use a potting mix if you grow in a raised bed. If planting in the ground, be sure to amend the soil with compost, cow manure, and garden soil. After learning about all that is needed to grow a tomato, you can see that the author William Alexander probably isn't far off when he says that the tomato he grew cost him \$64. Hopefully your tomato will be the best tomato you have tasted and worth every penny!

Besides tomatoes, it is a good time of year to grow bush beans, pole beans (you will need support), carrots, nasturtiums, lettuce (they prefer cooler temps), cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli. Another benefit to growing your own, is that you'll know how it was grown because you grew it! Think of all the exercise you will get from lifting bags of soil and taking care of your veggies!

Be sure to check on your plants every day to make sure they are getting enough water and sunlight. We have a community garden at Edison and Ford Winter Estates. Neighbors can rent a garden plot for a nominal fee and have access to our expert advice. When Thomas Edison lived here in the early 1900s, he had his caretakers plant a vegetable garden and the extra vegetables were sold from a truck to the local Fort Myers community.

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Annual Edison Ford Garden Festival

Nov. 20 And 21 – 9 a.m. To 4 p.m.

If you'd like to get some vegetables or seeds, we'll have them for sale at the annual fall Garden Festival on Nov. 20 and 21. There will be around 40 vendors from all over Florida selling what they do best, plus food trucks, music, and plenty of information to make your growing just a little bit easier. Our Garden Shoppe is stocked with vegetables, herbs and many other edibles, in addition to butterfly plants and hard-to-find exotics. I hope to see you there!

Admission and parking for the garden festival are free of charge (does not include admission to the historic homes and estates or museum and lab).



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