

Town & River Cruise Club

November Luncheon

By Don and Sue Sena

The Town & River Cruise Club held its second luncheon of the 2021/22 season at Doc Ford's in Fort Myers Beach on Nov. 10 at high noon. Members attending by boat enjoyed beautiful sunny skies and calm seas. It was a great ride to Doc Ford's for those going by boat. Once there the boaters were joined by other members who came by car. Everyone enjoyed socializing before lunch was served, as this was the first luncheon for many of our snowbird

members who had just arrived. After lunch a discussion ensued of the club's upcoming events, and the winner of the 50/50 raffle was Carol Pease. Overall, 21 members and guests enjoyed the great food and good service that Doc Ford's is known for.

Town & River Cruise Club membership is open to all residents of Town & River, whether you have a boat or not. Those interested in joining our club, or seeking additional information about the club, should contact Ken Beebe at (239) 466-1625.

Photos by Ed Bourdon



A sunny day and calm waters were the order of the day for the Town & River Cruise Club boaters.



Carol Pease was the lucky winner!



The club members enjoyed visiting with each other throughout the meal.

Town & River Cruise Club on page 3

2022 Town & River Annual Meeting

Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022

Registration, 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order, 7 p.m.

Cypress Lake United Methodist Church
8570 Cypress Lake Drive
Fort Myers, FL 33919
(239) 482-1250

Board Of Directors Zoom Meeting* Minutes [Unapproved]

Thursday, December 9, 2021

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

Owner Comment Period – No residents were present.

Board of Directors

A quorum was established. Directors Present: Myriam Lentz, Kay Gloris, & Martha Smith. Officers Present: Vice President Rick Chubb, Secretary Renee Notes, Treasurer Gary Hudson. Executive Secretary Sally Stigler was also present.

Absent: President Mark Generales. Directors Roy Benton, Marge Byrne, & John Kristobak

Approval Of Minutes – November 2021 minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Gary Hudson

- Gary emailed November financial reports to the board December 8, 2021.

- By January 31, 2022, Annual Dues invoices will be mailed, with a due date of February 28, 2022.

- Gary will present a 2022 budget to the board in February for approval.

- With no questions presented, the treasurer's report was approved by motion.

Committee Reports

Lake Status – Renee reported the lake is in good condition.

Deeds Of Restriction/Architectural Review Committee – Gary Hudson

- No permit reports have been received from the county since September 15, 2021. However, the

Board Of Directors Zoom Meeting Minutes on page 2*

All are encouraged to attend our next Board meeting on Jan. 13!

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

Army Corps Engineers Release New LOSOM Model That Reduces Discharges To Caloosahatchee River

On Tuesday, Nov. 16, the Army Corps of Engineers announced their final schedule for the upcoming Lake Okeechobee Systems Operating Manual, or LOSOM. The selected model, model run 260467, will reduce harmful discharges to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

When the Army Corps announced Alternative CC back in July, SWFL Inc. and the business community voiced concerns about the number of harmful discharges the Caloosahatchee would receive. Regional stakeholders had asked the corps to

look for a more balanced approach for the distribution of flows. Tuesday's announcement is clear, that unified message of the Southwest Florida residents was heard.

"This is a significant improvement for Southwest Florida. Our voices were heard, and we continue to advocate to protect water quality and the business community throughout the region," stated Tiffany Esposito, president and CEO of SWFL Inc.

Not only does the selected model reduce discharges, but it also increases flows south to the Central Everglades to an average of 200,000 acre-feet per year and provides a better water supply to the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Lake Okeechobee Service Area.

SWFL Inc. will continue to follow the LOSOM process and advocate for solutions that solve our water quality issues.

About SWFL Inc.

SWFL Inc. is a regional chamber of commerce serving the Southwest Florida business community. It connects businesses to a regional network of customers, offers educational resources to help them grow in a modern economy, and actively works to solve regional issues that impact the business community. At SWFL Inc., membership is free and open to all businesses to create (inclusive) opportunities for all.

Ranked among the top 1 percent of chambers nationwide, SWFL Inc. produces exceptional business resources and programs to serve the business community, promote a region where business can grow and prosper and enhance the quality of life in Southwest Florida.

Town & River Civic Association Inc.		
Profit And Loss		
November 2021		
	Nov 21	Jan-Nov 21
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Income		
Income - Mandatory	0.00	10,560.00
Income - Voluntary	120.00	26,880.00
Total Income	120.00	37,440.00
Estoppel Preparation Income	750.00	1,350.00
Interest Income	0.63	7.36
Paypal Cash Bank Bonus	0.00	0.72
Total Income	870.63	38,798.08
Expense		
Accounting Fees	315.00	3,915.00
Bank Fees	35.00	295.00
Corp Insurance	190.42	2,573.60
Email Service	243.00	972.00
Legal Expense	866.25	7,850.50
Meeting Rooms	200.00	1,412.32
Newspaper Postage	143.02	1,535.34
Office Expense	0.00	72.00
PayPal Fees	0.00	40.09
Postage Expense	176.22	328.07
Mailing	712.82	712.82
Printing & Postage	66.81	2,441.97
State Fee	0.00	61.25
Secretary Expense	225.00	1,260.00
Storage Expense	119.79	1,317.69
Utilities	45.62	500.49
Website Maintenance	0.00	200.00
Total Expense	3,338.95	25,488.14
Net Ordinary Income	-2,468.32	13,309.94
Net Income	-2,468.32	13,309.94

Board Of Directors Zoom Meeting* Minutes from page 1

Arch Review/DOR Committee continues to review & approve projects which are brought to their attention by owners or contractors. Gary will prepare & present a detailed report of deeds of restriction actions at the January board meeting.

A marine contractors damaged a seawall on a road over a canal with its barge and equipment while on an adjacent property seawall construction project. Rick offered to speak to the contractor regarding making needed repairs.

New Business

Two Vacant Board Positions – It passed unanimously by motion to officially appoint Ann Marie Aeschliman & Capt. Craig O'Donnell as new board members. They will be voted on at the annual meeting.

Special Meetings at Faith United Methodist Church for owners in Units 6 & 11 on December 15, 2021– Attorney Christopher Miller of Goede, DeBoest & Cross law firm will preside over two separate meetings (Unit 6 at 6 P.M. and Unit 11 at 7 P.M.) at Faith United Methodist Church. Renee will provide sign-in sheets for the meetings. Should either meeting need to be continued either due to lack of a quorum or lack of a majority of owners approving adoption of

ARCDOR (Amended, Restated, & Combined Deeds of Restriction), the meeting(s) will be continued January 20, 2022, just prior to the annual meeting. Unit 6 will meet at 6:00 P.M. and Unit 11 will meet at 6:15 P.M.

Annual Meeting

No later than January 10, Annual Meeting notices/proxies will be mailed/postmarked to all addresses in Town & River as recorded with the Lee Property Appraiser. An owner must have paid 2021 dues in order to be in good standing and be eligible to vote.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 P.M. The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will convene 6:30pm Thursday, January 13, 2022, at South Pointe South Clubhouse, 9734 Foxglove Circle, Ft. Myers.

Respectfully submitted,
Sally Stigler
Executive Secretary

*Zoom meeting was held in lieu of meeting at the usual So. Pointe South Clubhouse due to roads in South Pointe South being resurfaced and inaccessible to outsiders as well as many residents.

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Town & River Cruise Club from page 1



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: Cecilia Bourdon
1026 Clarellen Drive
Fort Myers, FL 33919

Make checks payable to: Cecilia Bourdon



Don Sena announces the 50/50 winner.



Commodore Marge Byrne and her husband Tom were thrilled to see so many club members attend the Doc Ford's event.



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

	<u>Nov 30, 21</u>
Assets	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
First Citizens Bank 2580	1,967.01
First Citizens Bank - MMS	76,891.13
PayPal Account	1,088.63
Total Checking/Savings	<u>79,946.77</u>
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	120.00
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>120.00</u>
Other Current Assets	
Prepaid, Lake Expense	5,000.83
Prepaid, Other Expense	1,976.93
Total Other Current Assets	<u>6,977.76</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>87,044.53</u>
Total Assets	<u>87,044.53</u>
Liabilities & Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Annual Dues, Advanced	120.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>120.00</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>120.00</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>120.00</u>
Equity	
Prior Year Fund Balance	56,180.89
Retained Earnings	17,433.70
Net Income	13,309.94
Total Equity	<u>86,924.53</u>
Total Liabilities & Equity	<u>87,044.53</u>

JOIN US THIS SUNDAY!
9am Traditional ♦ 11am Contemporary
In Person or Online



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A United Methodist Congregation

Faith United Methodist Church
15690 McGregor Blvd.
Fort Myers, FL 33908

MyFaithUM.com ♦ Loving God & Loving People ♦ 239.482.2030

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info@STKRealEstate.com





YourSWFloridaRealEstate.com

ArtFest Fort Myers 2022

Love Art, See Art, Buy Art!

Spend a few hours, all day or a weekend being surrounded by imagination, inspiration and incredible talent. Join the fun on Feb. 5 and 6 with an opening night on Friday, Feb. 4. ArtFest Fort Myers brings about 200 exceptional professional artists to the heart of downtown Fort Myers, encourages around 300 talented local high school artists to pursue their artistic dreams while providing an opportunity for thousands of children, their parents and grandparents to try their hand at creating a masterpiece.

How do the festival artists get chosen? A jury panel of professional artists determines, from the 900 artists who apply, which 200 artists will exhibit with us – and rest assured that there is plenty of incredible artwork to enjoy! This is your



opportunity to meet the stars of the show – the artists! These incredibly creative folks, traveling from 43 states to share their work with us, are sure to make us laugh, learn about ourselves, appreciate our past and wonder about the future—all through their art! Amazing ceramics; a gorgeous array of wearables – jewelry, handbags, clothing; remarkable glass; unique paintings; and decorative metal are just a sampling of the work you will see all weekend long at ArtFest Fort Myers. This free-flowing, family-friendly celebration connects art and artists together with our community in a way that is so much fun – this is an arts experience that delights every sense!

Lace up your sneakers on Sunday morning for the Publix Run to the Arts, a 5K fun run that begins and ends in the heart of ArtFest Fort Myers. Commit now to run/walk/roll or stroll through scenic downtown, over the Edison Bridge and back. Enjoy an artful experience and get healthy with friends and family over festival weekend - check our website for race details – RunToTheArts.com.

Be sure to bring the entire family to this fabulous free outdoor fine art festival. Take time to enjoy our talented high school artists' work at the Art Under 20 High School Exhibit and Competition presented by Suncoast Credit Union and prepare to be astonished as the students create large street paintings at the Chalk Block Street Painting presented by Golisano Children's Hospital. Check out the We Are Overflowing exhibit with artwork featuring the message about recycling and what, as a community, we dispose of. Always a crowd pleaser, the Publix Art Yard and Community Stage are full of opportunities for children of all ages to create a masterpiece of their very own, while enjoying a variety of great performances. And be sure to visit the art festival's dining galleries, where delicious culinary fare from around the world is the norm.

Join our VIP Club and take advantage of reserved weekend parking, admission to the Friday Night Opening VIP Club with delicious food and drinks, plus unlimited access to the VIP Club with breakfast treats, a delightful lunch and beverages throughout the weekend. The elite VIP Experience is \$150 per person for the whole weekend. Ticket options are available for opening night and either Saturday or Sunday. Your support contributes to the year-round art education outreach programs of ArtFest Fort Myers.

For more information visit ArtFestFortMyers.com. Like us on Facebook. Connect with us on LinkedIn. Tag us at #artfestfm.

“We Are Overflowing” – Trash Talking In Artistic Style

“We Are Overflowing” is a collaborative project that kicks off this season with a professional art piece that conveys the importance of conserving our natural resources while making us think about our own trash/recycle habits.

Did you know that the average family generates 25 pounds of recycled material every week and each member of that family produces, in that same week, approximately 30 pounds of trash? As a society, it is time to rethink waste — As individuals and consumers, it is time to get serious about reusing and upcycling the things we no longer wish to own! Our landfills and incinerators are at capacity and some of our recycling products are becoming more difficult to sell.

Why throw away items that could be recycled through thrift stores, resale shops and donation sites? Why throw away items that could be successfully recycled – paper, glass bottles and jars, aluminum or steel cans, cardboard or plastic containers (No. 1 to No. 7). And remember that list – using your recycling bin as a trash can costs us all time and money to clean up and resort!

St. Pete Sculptor Donald Gialanella will be designing a sculpture titled *Flotsam*. *Flotsam* is 8 to 10 feet tall and 12 to 15 feet long and swims in an “ocean” that surrounds him made from cans and bottles contributed by the visitors at the festival. People will come to see *Flotsam* and add their bottles to the fenced area that encircles the sculpture. Gialanella was just selected to design the cauldron for the 2022 International Special Olympics.

We Are Overflowing will premiere at ArtFest Fort Myers. This creative look at how we deal with recycling will spark your imagination and, perhaps, begin a conversation about rethinking waste!

ArtFest Fort Myers, Southwest Florida's premier art festival, takes place February 4, 5 and 6 in the Fort Myers River District. Join the experience with 200 professional artists from across the county and around the world; the largest high school art exhibit and competition in south Florida and free interactive art experiences for children of all ages.



Seventh Annual Lover's Key Boat Show, Market And Seafood Festival

Jan. 28 To 30, Lovers Key State Park

Join us on Jan. 28 to 30 at Lovers Key State Park, 8700 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach, for our seventh annual boat show, market and seafood festival. The festival will run Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$5, and parking is free.

Visit www.loversonauticalmarket.com for more information.

Browse dozens of boat vendors, cars on display, high-end vendors, fresh local seafood, ice cream, and treats. This festival is organized by Bonita Springs Rotary Club and Friends of Lovers Key State Park to support Lovers Key State Park and projects of the Rotary Club of Bonita Springs. Proceeds support local charitable outreach through Rotary as well as maintaining the Lovers Key Welcome and Discovery Center.

For exhibition information contact Bob Lombardo at (239) 628-8800.



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TOWN & RIVER CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS - as of December 15, 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	Ann Marie Aeschliman	dir6@townandriverfl.com 239-270-0000
Erin Marie Ct S. Town & River Dr	Martha Smith	dir7@townandriverfl.com 239-671-6347
McGregor Blvd Wittman Dr	Capt. Craig O'Donnell	dir8@townandriverfl.com 239-872-3313
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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*Plus a new member capital contribution of \$10,000

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Estate Planning For Your Digital Assets

Presented by Jacqueline Lambros, Registered Principal



Today, most of us rely on our smartphones and digital records to keep track of important contact information. In fact, we depend so greatly on online profiles and accounts for completing transactions and storing information that paper checks, address books, photo albums, and handwritten letters may soon become things of the past. **How Does The Digitalization Of Information Affect Estate Planning?**

If you store records or information digitally, you'll need to take certain steps to ensure that your executor or personal representative will be able to access everything needed to gather and safeguard your assets, contact creditors, and, if necessary, oversee your business after your passing. This may be challenging, however, if you do not arrange the proper authorization ahead of time.

Your executor should be able to access information on your computer's hard drive relatively easily with the help of a technician, but this is not the case for online accounts and remote storage. Even if you give your usernames and passwords to your executor or a family member, he or she may face service agreement limitations that deny him or her the ability to access, manage, distribute, copy, delete, or even close accounts. Further, unauthorized use laws can lead to legal issues for your representatives if they are deemed to have exceeded permissible access levels. Luckily, many states have addressed access to online accounts of an incapacitated or deceased person, but the level of authority granted may vary.

What Can You Do To Help Your Executor Or Family Avoid These Complexities?

Consider taking the following actions to authorize access to your digital assets:

- **Ensure that the contact information and account numbers for all of your financial accounts is readily accessible.** Even if you regularly pay bills and conduct other business online, your executor or court-recognized personal representative can use this information to contact the financial institution directly and gain access to your financial and banking accounts.

- **Insert a provision in your will that grants the authority to access your nonfinancial digital assets and accounts.**

- **Talk to your attorney about adding language to grant your power of attorney agent authority to act on your behalf with your digital accounts and assets.** An executor may eventually be able to access your digital assets, but the standard power of attorney document rarely addresses these issues.

- **Check online service providers' policies regarding death or disability.** If the provider allows access to your executor, trustee, or power of attorney agent, inform these individuals where important information is stored. A simple solution is to create a list of account IP addresses on an encrypted thumb drive and store this in a bank safe deposit box or a fireproof safe in your home—and be sure to update this information diligently.

What Are Some Additional Steps You Can Take To Organize Your Information?

- **Consider investing in a digital gatekeeper.** This type of service stores passwords in a digital safe and will transfer the passwords to your representative at a specific event, such as your death or incapacity.

- **Create a comprehensive inventory of your digital assets.** Be sure to store this inventory somewhere other

than an email account. Some email providers, like Yahoo!, will close an account if it has not been accessed for several months and will automatically delete the email history. Even if an executor promptly contacts the email provider, he or she may not be able to copy important emails or contact lists before the account is deactivated. Back up important information elsewhere and update it regularly.

- **Don't assume your digital estate has no value.** Some frequent flyer points are transferable after your death. Credit cards with cash-back feature stores are generally redeemable after your death, but only if they are claimed. Internet domain names are potentially sellable, and blogs are a form of intellectual property.

- **Decide how you want your online life handled after your death.** Facebook, for example, allows a personal administrator or immediate family member to close the account or memorialize it. This may help ease your loved ones' pain during a time of grief. Consider creating instructions for a family member to do this, or something similar, on your social media accounts.

With the increasing role that technology and the Internet play in our lives, we now must pay more attention to our digital footprint. By following these steps, you can help ensure that your executor and your family are able to carry out your wishes as quickly and efficiently as possible.

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.

Lee County Sheriff's Office's Citizens Academy

Would you like to gain insight into how the Lee County Sheriff's Office works? If so, the Citizens Academy is for you.

As your sheriff, I am always searching for ways to strengthen the bond between law enforcement and members of our community.

The Citizens Academy is a great way to showcase our agency by providing a hands-on approach in an exciting, educational environment. We hope to build a mutual trust and understanding by growing a core of well-informed community members that are proud of their sheriff's office. Together we can work to create a better quality of life for those we serve.



Sheriff Carmine Marceno

- The Citizens Academy is free; however, because class size is limited, participants are urged to make a commitment to attend every class.

- Trained and experienced certified and civilian law enforcement personnel will provide class instruction, discussion and demonstrations.

Curriculum Highlights

- Aviation Unit Tour
- Hands-on Firearms Training
- C.S.I. Crime Scene Demo
- Gang Unit Overview
- Public Information
- K-9 Unit
- Communications Tour / 911 and Dispatch

- Traffic Laws and Enforcement
- Detention Bureau Tour
- Bomb Squad Demo
- Community Response Unit
- Major Crimes Investigations
- S.W.A.T. Team
- Real-Time Intelligence Center
- Intelligence-led Policing
- Financial and Cyber Crimes
- Safe Students, Safe Schools

For further information, please call Program Coordinator Tony Schall at (239) 258-3215, email aschall@sherifflee.fl or mail to Tony Schall, Lee County Sheriff's Office, 14750 Six Mile Cypress Parkway, Fort Myers, FL 33912.

Eligibility Standards

- At least 18 years of age
- Any resident/businessperson located within Lee County
- Limited class size
- No felony convictions
- Applicant must pass background check

Schedule

- A 12-week series of classes are held on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 9:15 p.m. at various sheriff's office facilities.

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Pace Center For Girls To Host Believing In Girls Gala

Pace Center for Girls, Lee has announced its Believing in Girls Gala, a black-tie preferred fundraising event, set for Saturday, Feb. 5 in Fort Myers.

An evening “Under the Stars” in support of Pace girls, the event will feature cocktails, dinner, dancing as well as an array of live auction and raffle items, with all proceeds to benefit Pace Lee and its programs. Believing in Girls Gala will be held from 5 to 9 p.m. at the outdoor venue of Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, 2301 First Street in downtown Fort Myers.

The signature event is led by cochairs Rebekah and Jeff Barney with Dwayne Bergmann and Luis Insignares.

“While we have had to postpone past fundraising events due to the pandemic, Pace Lee’s work has continued – as does the need for support,” said Rebekah MacFarlane Barney, cochair of the Believing in Girls Gala. “My husband Jeff and I are thrilled to cochair the Believing in Girls Gala alongside Dwayne and Luis as we all come together in support of Pace Lee.”

Pace Lee provides girls and young women an opportunity for a better future through education, counseling, training and advocacy. Programs are based on the belief that all girls and young women, regardless of race, ethnicity or socioeconomic status, should be uniquely cared for, supported and encouraged to become the best versions of themselves through a path of healing and recovery. Through Pace Lee, 2019/20 saw 100 percent of students improve their academic performance, 97 percent had no involvement with the juvenile justice system within one year of exiting the program and 100 percent were either in school or gainfully employed after leaving Pace Lee.



Pace girls

“Pace Lee has seen great success in guiding girls to become strong, productive and contributing members of society,” said Dwayne Bergmann, cochair of the Believing in Girls Gala. “We are excited to enjoy an evening Under the Stars as we work to help more young women in our community find their voice and achieve their full potential.”

Tickets are \$200 per person. Sponsorship opportunities are available, including extravaganza sponsorships at \$10,000, illumination sponsorships at \$7,500, enchanted sponsorships at \$5,000, ballroom table sponsors for \$1,500, and in-kind sponsorships.

For more information on Pace Center for Girls, Lee, call (239) 425-2366 or visit www.pacecenter.org/locations/lee.

About Pace Center For Girls, Lee

Pace Center for Girls, Lee, envisions a world where all girls and young women have power, in a just and equitable society. Founded in 1985, Pace provides free year-round middle and high school academics, case management, counseling, and



Luis Insignares and Dwayne Bergmann



Rebekah and Jeff Barney

life skills development in a safe and supportive environment that recognizes and deals with past trauma and builds upon girls’ individual strengths. Dedicated to meeting the social, emotional, and education needs of girls, Pace has a successful and proven program model that has changed the life trajectory of more than 40,000 girls and is recognized as one of the nation’s leading advocates for girls in need.

Consumer Alert

Avoiding A Money Mule Scam

By Bridget Small, Consumer Education Specialist, FTC

Scammers are looking for people to help them move stolen money. They visit online dating, job search, and

social media sites, create fake stories, and make up reasons to send you money, usually by check or Bitcoin. Then they tell you to send that money to someone else by using gift cards or wire transfers. But they never say the money is stolen, the stories are lies, or – if you sent the

money – you might be acting as what law enforcement calls a money mule.

If you help a scammer move stolen money – even if you didn’t know it was stolen – you could get into legal trouble. You’ll be at financial risk, too. If you deposit a scammer’s check, it might clear at first. When it turns out to be a fake check, the bank will want you to repay the full amount. You may be charged fees, and your account may be overdrawn or closed. And using a scammer’s money to buy gift cards and turning over the PIN codes or sending wire transfers is almost like sending cash. In both cases, the scammer gets the money quickly, and it’s almost impossible to recover.

How Can You Avoid A Money Mule Scam?

- Don’t forward money for an online romantic interest who sends you money. That’s always a scam, and a way to get you to move stolen money.
- Don’t accept a job that asks you to transfer money or packages – even if they tell you to send money to a “client” or “supplier.” You may be helping a scammer move stolen money or gift cards.
- Don’t accept a grant or prize award and forward some of the money. That’s another way to get you to move stolen money.

If you think you might be involved in this scam, stop the payment transaction and stop communicating with the person. Tell your bank, the wire transfer service, or any gift card companies right away. If a scammer has your bank account information, close your account immediately. Then tell the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov.

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