

Town & River Civic Association, Inc. Annual Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 19, 2023

Call To Order – President Mark Generales called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Cypress Lake United Methodist Church 8570 Cypress Lake Drive Fort Myers, Florida 33919



Officers & Directors Present

– President Mark Generales, Treasure(s) Ann Marie Aeschliman & Marge Byrne, Secretary Renee Notes. Directors: Martha Smith, Myriam Lentz, Gary Hudson, Tom Aeschliman, Craig O'Donnell and John Kristobak.

Certification Of Quorum – A quorum of at least 25 properties in good standing was not present. However, the Board decided to continue with the agenda and

the prepared presentation to the homeowners in attendance.

Welcome & Meeting Overview – Mark welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval Of Minutes – A motion was made, seconded & approved to waive the reading of the January 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes as published on the T&R website.

Treasurer's Report – Ann Marie Aeschliman presented the financial report for 2022, it was also printed on the backside of the agenda distributed (one per valid voting address to those in attendance). The report is published on the website. 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.

New Business – Renee Notes gave a presentation updating the community about FDOT raised median project on McGregor Blvd. Construction is slated to begin in May 2023. Detailed information can be found at www.townandriverfl.com.

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 7:30pm. The February Board of Directors meeting will be 6:30pm Thursday, February 9, 2023 at South Pointe South Community Clubhouse, 9734 Foxglove Circle, Ft. Myers, FL 33919. All are encouraged & invited to attend.

*Respectfully submitted,
Renee Notes & Martha Smith*

Cruise Club Visits Pine Island

Wednesday, Jan. 18 was a perfect day for enjoying a waterfront luncheon. The skies were crystal clear and the seas were calm. Twenty-six members of the Town & River Cruise Club journeyed by car or boat to Phuzzy's Boat Shack on Stringfellow Road in Pine Island for lunch on the outdoor dock. The event was hosted by Adrienne and Ken Beebe.



We marveled that the damage caused by the 3 feet of water from Hurricane Ian that had flooded the restaurant and washed out the docks had all been repaired. Hurricane damage was still very much in evidence as we traveled through Matlacha and along the Monroe Canal. We spotted upturned boats leaning up against homes and piles of debris from homes flattened by the wind and storm surge. The scenes were heartbreaking but the resilience of the Pine Islanders was evident as rebuilding proceeds.

We enjoyed our lunches of seafood and burgers. We celebrated Lorraine Ford-Smith winning the 50/50 raffle and Marge Byrne winning second prize. It was fun to be out on the water again!



Members were delighted with their delicious entrees.



The "3 Amigos" enjoyed the social time before lunch.

The Town & River Bridge Club

The Town & River Bridge Club meets during season either at the clubhouse or members'/residents' homes. We play from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of the month. We have been playing bridge in our community for decades. What a great way to have fun and meet nice neighbors! Residents are welcome to inquire about, or join with our group as a permanent member or substitute.

We also Zoom bridge on Tuesday and Friday online, on the Trickster Cards App. If you would enjoy playing online regularly or as a sub, please call for more information.

Contact Adrienne Beebe for more information at phone numbers (239) 466-1625 or (603) 554-6798.



Phuzzy's welcomed the T&R CC members warmly.



These members discussed the many menu options.

Cruise Club Visits Pine Island on page 2

**All are encouraged to attend
our next Board meeting on March 9!**

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.

Cruise Club Visits Pine Island from page 1



Many of our boaters enjoyed the beautiful cruising weather.



Carol, Bob and Tom



Ellen announces the 50/50 winning number.



Debbie and William Haptonstall had a great time.



Barb and Jim Barrell really enjoyed their lunch.



Cocktails and conversations are fun.



The club welcomed Donna and Ken Ray, our newest members.



Decisions, decisions!



Adrienne hosted the event with Ken, her husband.



Beverly and Ellen



Honorata and Fred



JOIN US THIS SUNDAY!
10am Worship Service
In Person or Online

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

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Town & River
 CRUISE CLUB

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 \$45 / household
 Initiation Fee \$50 / household
 (included burgee and name tags)

New Members Prorated Dues
 Joining between

April 1 to September 30	\$45
October to December 31	\$30
January 1 to March 30	\$20

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

Make checks payable to: Cecilia Bourdon



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Board Of Directors Meeting Minutes [Unapproved]

South Pointe South Clubhouse Thursday, January 12, 2023

Call To Order – Mark Generales
Officers, Directors, & Residents Present

A quorum was established. Present: Directors, Mark Generales, Renee Notes, Martha Smith, Myriam Lentz, Gary Hudson, Ann Marie Aeschliman, Tom Aeschliman, Marge Byrne, Craig O'Donnell.

Absent: John Kristobak.

Approval Of Minutes – December 8, 2022 minutes were approved by motion.

Treasurer's Report – .

Deeds Of Restriction/Architectural Review Committee – John Kristobak

Absent – no discussion.

Committee Reports

Lake Status - Renee reported that Lake status is clean, no issues.

New Business

Newsletters - Continued discussion about newsletters. Do we need a printed newsletter which is currently mailed to every

resident. All residents of Town & River are encouraged to share their stories! Simply email secy@townandriverfl.com for your article to be published in our next issue.



Board vacancy - One vacancy remains.

Executive Secretary - Exec Secretary is needed and this will be a focus for the board in 2023. It is a part-time paid position; but could take on additional responsibilities.

Annual Meeting

Board members are asked to be at Cypress Lake Methodist Church on January 19 by 6:00 p.m.

Craig will pick up the key from church office. He will also place signs out for the meeting on the church property to direct folks to the meeting room.

Audiovisual equipment will be sent up.

A planned agenda will include discussion about McGregor medians.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by motion. The next regularly scheduled meeting is January 19 after annual T&R meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Smith & Renee Notes

Cypress Lake United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall Thursday, January 19, 2023

Call To Order – Mark Generales
Officers, Directors, & Residents Present

A quorum was established. Present: Directors, Mark Generales, Renee Notes, Martha Smith, Myriam Lentz, Gary Hudson, Ann Marie Aeschliman, Tom Aeschliman, Marge Byrne, Craig O'Donnell. John Kristobak.

A brief meeting was held to elect new officers and approval of new board member.

New Board Member - George Winn was nominated and approved.

By unanimous vote the Officers of the Board were nominated & approved.

President: Craig O'Donnell

Vice President: John Kristobak

Secretary: Renee Notes

Treasurers: Ann Marie Aeschliman and Marge Byrne
We welcome our new Officers to Town & River Civic Association!

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by motion. The next regularly scheduled meeting is February 9, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Smith & Renee Notes

Town & River Lake Report

Inspection Date: Feb. 4

Inspected For:

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

Technician's comments: Lake inspected for grasses, algae and submerged. None present at this time no treatment needed at this time.



Town & River Civic Association Inc. Balance Sheet As of January 31, 2023

	<u>Jan 31, 23</u>
Assets	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
First Citizens Bank 2580	9,198.76
First Citizens Bank - MMS	76,451.25
PayPal Account	7,068.81
Total Checking/Savings	<u>92,718.82</u>
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	12,149.19
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>12,149.19</u>
Other Current Assets	
Prepaid, Lake Expense	304.86
Prepaid, Insurance	830.68
Prepaid, Other Expense	150.00
Total Other Current Assets	<u>1,285.54</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>106,153.55</u>
Total Assets	<u>106,153.55</u>
Liabilities & Equity	
Equity	
Prior Year Fund Balance	97,337.99
Net Income	8,815.56
Total Equity	<u>106,153.55</u>
Total Liabilities & Equity	<u>106,153.55</u>

Do The Right Thing

Do you know a child who deserves to be honored as an outstanding citizen or student for his or her exemplary behavior, good citizenship, positive attitude or willingness to help others? If so, the Lee County Sheriff's Office



encourages you to nominate a child for recognition in our monthly Do the Right Thing program.

Nomination forms are available online at www.sheriffleefl.org. For more information, call Program Director Tony Schall at 258-3215 or email aschall@sheriffleefl.org.

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Edison And Ford Winter Estates Hosts Vintage 'Base Ball' Games At Terry Park

On March 26, Edison and Ford Winter Estates will host its annual Vintage "Base Ball" Tournament at historic Terry Park in Fort Myers. The teams will play several consecutive games throughout the day in a small tournament format. The gates will open at 9:30 a.m. with the first game starting at 10 a.m.

Vintage base ball (baseball in the 1860s, spelled with two words) is played by 1860s rules, which include using wooden bats, no gloves and lemon peel baseballs. Players will wear vintage uniforms and the umpires will call the shots the way they did during the time period.

The vintage team roster to date includes the Awkwards Vintage Base Ball of Central Florida, Bradenton Shamrocks Vintage Base Ball Club, the Early Riser BBC of Detroit, Vagabonds Base Ball Club (Fort Myers home team), and the Wyandotte Stars BBC (Michigan). Additional teams may be added and visiting players may join a team for the day. Admission to the vintage base ball tournament at Terry Park will be \$5 for adults; kids 18 and under will be admitted free.

The game coincides with major league baseball spring training that is now locally played at JetBlue Park, the Lee County Sports Complex and Hammond Stadium; however,



Ty Cobb, Thomas Edison, and Connie Mack at Terry Park in 1927.

Terry Park was once the hub of baseball's spring training, and where Thomas Edison was a frequent visitor.

History Of Terry Park And The Connection To Thomas Edison

In 1921, Dr. Marshall Terry, along with his wife Tootie McGregor-Terry, donated several acres of land that had in its earliest days been a cow pasture and later the site of the Lee County Fair. Lee County government took formal possession of the land, which was a mile east of the City of Fort Myers with the stipulation that "all property shall be used as a park and public property."

Using the specifications put forth by Cornelius McGillicuddy, aka "Connie Mack," manager and owner of the Philadelphia Athletics, construction of the original ball field began in 1923 and was officially named Terry Park. After two years of negotiations between Mack and a committee led by Richard Richards Sr., owner of the Fort Myers Royal Palm Pharmacy, the Athletics agreed to play their spring training games in Fort Myers starting in 1925.

Terry Park served as the official spring training home of the Athletics until 1936. The team won the World Series in both 1929 and 1930. Over the next five decades, other major league baseball teams used the ballpark to play their pre-season exhibition games, including the Cleveland Indians, Kansas City Royals and Pittsburgh Pirates. Hall of Famers such as George Brett, Roberto Clemente, Ty Cobb, Jimmie Foxx, and Babe Ruth are just some of stars that graced the fields at Terry Park, helping bring national exposure to the "City of Palms."

Thomas Edison, world-famous inventor and businessman, was also a die-hard baseball fan. In a 1927 interview, Edison was quoted as saying "Baseball is the greatest of American games. I don't believe you can find a more ardent follower of baseball than myself, as a day seldom passes when I do not read sporting pages of the newspaper." Edison decided to visit Terry Park on a few occasions to watch the Athletics play, even seizing one opportunity to participate in the team's batting practice session.

"According to historic documents, Ty Cobb volunteered to pitch to the 80-year-old Edison, who subsequently hit a line drive that knocked Ty Cobb down who was standing halfway between the mound and home plate," said Matt Andres, Curatorial Registrar at Edison and Ford Winter Estates. "As a result, Edison and an army of reporters roared with laughter after humbling one the league's greatest players. While Cobb was dusting himself off, the inventor quipped, 'Think you can hit them like that when you're 80?' A few days later the entire team visited Mr. and Mrs. Edison at their Fort Myers' estate and toured the property and had lunch with the legendary inventor."



The Vagabonds Base Ball Club is the Fort Myers home team and includes Tom Hottovy, Edison Ford CFO (third from left) and Matt Andres, Edison Ford Curatorial Registrar (fourth from left).

For spectators wanting to learn more about the history of spring training and the baseball legends that played in Fort Myers, Edison and Ford program manager, Holly Shaffer, will give a presentation on March 24 and March 25 at 11 a.m. The presentation is included with general admission to Edison and Ford Winter Estates.

New Exhibit Planned

In partnership with Connie Mack's family, a new baseball exhibit is planned for the museum at Edison and Ford Winter Estates and is scheduled to open this spring. The exhibit will feature original artifacts and photographs on loan from the Mack family, connecting Thomas Edison, Connie Mack and baseball in Fort Myers. The exhibit will also trace the long history of Fort Myers as a Spring Training site, resulting in World Series pennants for every team that trained here longer than two years. The exhibit is scheduled to be on display for five years.

For more information about Edison and Ford Winter Estates, visit EdisonFord.org.

Edison And Ford Winter Estates

Edison and Ford Winter Estates is the internationally known winter homesite of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford. More than 220,000 visitors walk through the location each year from all around the globe. The organization has received many awards, including the National Stewardship Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Garden Clubs' Historic Preservation Award. The property is an official project of "Save America's Treasures," a Florida Historic Landmark and a National Register Historic Site. The Edison Botanic Laboratory is a National Historic Chemical Landmark. The site is open every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and until 9 p.m. during the month of December for Holiday Nights.

Town & River Civic Association Inc.		
Profit And Loss		
January 2023		
	Jan 23	Jan 23
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Income - Mandatory	10,680.00	10,680.00
Income - Voluntary	720.00	720.00
Total Income	11,400.00	11,400.00
Estoppel Preparation Income	250.00	250.00
Interest Income	9.74	9.74
Total Income	11,659.74	11,659.74
Expense		
Accounting Fees	315.00	315.00
Bank Fees	35.00	35.00
Corp Insurance	415.38	415.38
Legal Expense	104.00	104.00
Meeting Rooms	125.00	125.00
Newspaper Postage	152.59	152.59
PayPal Fees	4.68	4.68
Postage & Delivery	149.17	149.17
Printing & Reproduction	841.07	841.07
Secretary Expense	532.50	532.50
Storage Expense	119.79	119.79
Website Maintenance	50.00	50.00
Total Expense	2,844.18	2,844.18
Net Ordinary Income	8,815.56	8,815.56
Net Income	8,815.56	8,815.56

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Dementia is a progressive neurological disorder that affects an individual's cognitive abilities, including memory, language, problem-solving, and decision-making. It is a multifactorial condition, meaning that it can be caused by a variety of factors, including age, genetics, lifestyle, and environmental factors.

Age is one of the most common causes of dementia. As people age, their brains become less efficient at processing information, leading to a decline in cognitive abilities. Genetics can also play a role in the development of dementia, as certain genetic mutations can increase an individual's risk of developing the condition. Lifestyle factors, such as smoking, alcohol consumption, and poor diet, can also increase an individual's risk of developing dementia. Finally, environmental factors, such as exposure to toxins or head trauma, can also increase an individual's risk of developing dementia.

Fortunately, there are treatments available to help manage the symptoms of dementia. One such treatment is photobiomodulation

(PBM), which is a form of light therapy that has been shown to have positive effects on cognitive function in individuals with dementia. PBM works by stimulating the production of neurotransmitters, which are chemicals that help the brain communicate with the rest of the body. Studies have shown that PBM can improve memory, language, and problem-solving abilities in individuals with dementia.

In conclusion, dementia; Alzheimer's disease and Parkinsonism are chronic complex illnesses. There is no silver bullet to combat these diseases. However, when identified in their early stages, a multi-modal approach can optimize an individual's recovery.

References upon request.

Dr. Robert Davis, DC, DACACD is a chiropractic physician with training in functional neurology and holds a diplomate in addictionology. He has been in practice for 25 years. He may be reached at (239) 482-8686.

TOWN & RIVER CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS – as of February 10, 2023
 www.townandriverfl.com

President	Capt. Craig O'Donnell	239-872-3313	pres@townandriverfl.com
Vice President	John Kristobak	724-272-6818	vp@townandriverfl.com
Secretary	Renee Notes	239-209-2072	secy@townandriverfl.com
Treasurer	Ann Marie Aeschliman	239-270-0000	treas@townandriverfl.com

STREET ASSIGNMENTS	DIRECTOR	EMAIL PHONE NUMBER
Bal Isle Dr E Town & River Rd	Tom Aeschliman	dir1@townandriverfl.com 239-822-3275
Brevity Ln N Waterway Dr	Marge Byrne	dir3@townandriverfl.com 239-482-8923
Cal Cove Dr Cape View Dr Hatchee Vista Ln Jennifer Ln	Gary Hudson	dir2@townandriverfl.com 239-671-9961
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	Mark Generales	dir6@townandriverfl.com 239-398-5332
Erin Marie Ct S. Town & River Dr	Martha Smith	dir7@townandriverfl.com 239-671-6347
McGregor Blvd Wittman Dr	George Winn	dir8@townandriverfl.com
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	John Kristobak	archreview@townandriverfl.com 724-272-6818
Architectural Review Committee	John Kristobak	archreview@townandriverfl.com 724-272-6818

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

NEW 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 and go on-line to add to T&R Directory

Name(s): _____

Town & River Address: _____

Telephone Number(s): _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing or other address, including zip: _____

Attention members in good standing, who have submitted their contact information, and have agreed to have their contact information published in the online directory, please go to our Town & River website @ www.townandriverfl.com and "sign up for members only directory".

Otherwise, the information submitted is for board use only.

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

Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center

Art Exhibitions

Each month SBDAC features new art exhibitions from local to world-renowned artists. Exhibits open 6 to 10 p.m. during Art Walk, first Friday of every month. Gallery hours Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please call ahead for gallery hours. \$1 donation entry fee.

Her Story

Opens: March 3, 6 p.m. Closes: March 24, 10 p.m.

"Her Story" – an invitation to consider, interpret and acknowledge women's experiences through the lens of art.



This is a group show, open call; we invite anybody to create artworks that are at once celebratory and thought-provoking about the history and empowerment of women. We encourage artworks, performances, and installations that very decidedly address topics of inequality and stereotypes and focus on woman's internal strength and power. Artworks that reflect these women's strong bonds to their heritage and to their experiences.

In all the individual stories within Her Story, with their unique narratives and viewpoints, a broader story of womanhood surfaces, giving us a distinct conversational point of departure for the ongoing discussion about what it is to be a woman, with all the struggles and joys therein. **Salvaged Sunshine**

Opens: March 3, 6 p.m. Closes: March 24, 10 p.m.

Samantha Severson started the hobby of collecting recycled materials, found objects, junk drawer contents, donated trash, and other flotsam and jetsam to create art in October 2021 as stress relief from her doctoral dissertation. Her first work was a portrait of Thomas Edison for the Edison and Ford Winter Estates. After winning the People's Choice Award in their Sustainable Conceptions Show, she

realized people enjoyed her quirky art and started entering her pieces into exhibits across Southwest Florida. What began as a hobby is now a passion. Samantha became Dr. Severson in August 2022, earning her Doctorate in Education with an emphasis in Adult Learning from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Ariz. While earning her degree, she feels like she became a full-fledged artist at the same time.



Although born in Cincinnati, Ohio, Samantha considers herself a Cape Coral native, having lived in Southwest Florida since she was a child. A graduate of Mariner High School, she earned her Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Florida and her Master of Education in Educational Leadership from Nova Southwestern University. Samantha taught language arts for the School District of Lee County for a decade before teaching higher education at Western Governors University out of Salt Lake City, Utah, for the last 10 years. She remembers taking art classes at the Alliance for the Arts and Cape Coral Parks and Recreation as a child and how much her high school art teacher, Stephan Frank, had an impact on her own teaching philosophy and outlook on life. She now spends her free time recruiting her husband, Justin, in scouring beaches for shells and trash for her artwork as well as nagging him to save toothpaste caps and his Yoohoo bottle tops.

Nights On The Rooftop

The rooftop bar, open from 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. Wednesday and Friday night atop Sidney's, is fun for everyone with a panoramic 360-degree view of the city and the sunset over the Caloosahatchee River! The Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center invites the public to come learn, sip, create, celebrate, listen to

music and dance the night away! Sidney's sculpture garden and reception area is now open to the public on Wednesday night from 6 till 11p.m. and Friday night from 6 p.m. till midnight.

Note: Donations encouraged. Some nights will carry a nominal cover charge.

Friday, March 3 – Hot Buttered Nuggets, 7 To 11 p.m. – Donations Encouraged

Thursday, March 9 – Latin Night With DJ JC, 8 To 11 p.m. – General Admission: \$10

Join us for the hottest Latin Party night in town at the largest open air rooftop in Southwest Florida! Sidney's Rooftop offers so much variety including Latin Party nights the second Thursday from January to April.

Jean Carlo, also known as JC or DJ JC, brings you that New York-style flavor. With his range of knowledge and variety of music, he will make sure to keep you on the dance floor.

Friday, March 10 – Retro Rooftop Dance Party, 8 To 11:30 p.m. – General Admission: \$10

Get your dancing shoes on for the Retro '60s, '70s and '80s dance party! Everyone had such a blast last time; we are doing it again!

Dress up in your favorite decade attire! Break out your old bell bottoms, leg warmers, or zip-off jeans and bring your best dance moves to get groovy and party like it's the 20th century! This Dance Party will be epic so get your tickets today! It's going to be a fun night to get groovy!

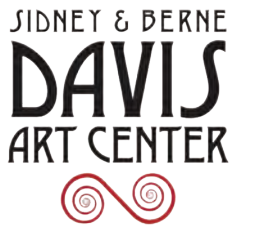
Wednesday, March 22 – Rooftop Karaoke, 8 To 11 p.m. – Donations Encouraged

Every fourth Wednesday, we're offering Rooftop Karaoke Night, a fun night where you can sit back and enjoy the entertainment or sing your heart out with friends and enjoy the fun.

Friday, March 24 – Briz And Lady, 8 To 11 p.m. – Donations Encouraged

Wednesday, March 29 – Wine And Charcuterie, 6 To 11 p.m. – Tickets: \$45

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



Continental Women's Club

The Continental Women's Club will hold its monthly luncheon meeting on Thursday, March 2 at 11:30 a.m. at The Hideaway Country Club.

Our program this month will feature Angela Katz, director of Development and Communications for the Lee Association of Remarkable Citizens (LARC). Established in 1954, LARC is a training center for success for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Continental Women's Club is a social, cultural, and philanthropic organization established in 1975, and membership is open to women living in Lee County. 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 \$25. Please call Liz Paul at (239) 691-7561 for additional information or to make a reservation.

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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 takes effect as we transition out of winter to the warmer days of spring.

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. Higher water opens up a lot more areas to fish across the inshore waters.

As the coastal waters warm, this may be one of the best months of the year to catch snook. A rising thermometer will put them on the move and hungry feeding on baitfish moving back into the warmer waters. Snook are native to our waters and cold water sensitive. They thrive as water temperatures rise into the 70s and above. However, when water drops below 70 degrees, they don't have much of an appetite. The snook bite this month will be up and down with the weather.

Our largest spotted sea trout of the year are caught this month. Big egg-laden females feed heavily on oily baitfish ahead of their upcoming spawn. It's hard to beat a frisky baitfish to entice a big "gator" trout, but a top water lure fished over the grass flats early and late in the day can give great results. The largest sea trout are caught around oyster bars, sandbar edges, sand holes and island points. These are the same areas to look for snook. We generally catch our largest sea trout year-in and year-out while snook fishing.



Higher water this month opens up more areas to hunt for redfish. On the higher water or top of the tide, fish baits under or along shorelines. Hurricane Ian destroyed a majority of the mangrove branches over the water so it may be a little tricky this year. It's common to hook into reds in the previously mentioned areas for snook and sea trout.

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 will be prowling the inshore and gulf waters, many are hooked around artificial reefs offshore and sandbars inshore. Cobia can grow big. It's a good idea this time of year to keep a few heavy rods rigged and ready, you never know what may show up. Also, in gulf waters not far from shore, tripletail is a good possibility. Most are sighted hanging under floating debris, buoys, and structure. Tripletail rarely turn down a well-placed live shrimp.

The best depths for larger grouper and snapper should be from 70 feet out to 120 feet or deeper. Fishing closer to land, target snapper, grunts, and a few late season sheepsheads in depths from 25 to 50 feet over hard bottom and artificial reefs. You will also catch grouper from these depths, just not the big ones.

Tarpon 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. If the month turns warm it could be an early start to tarpon season.

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.

For current fishing regulations, you can go to www.myfwc.com or download the Fish Rules app for the latest rules and regulations.

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 27 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."



Pace Center For Girls, Lee To Host 15th Annual Grande Dames Tea On April 4

Pace Center for Girls, Lee has announced its 15th Annual Grande Dames Tea presented by B. Pat O'Rourke, taking place from 1 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4 at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre, 1380 Colonial Blvd., in Fort Myers.



to future generations. With the event's theme, "The Wisdom of Time – Honoring the Female Spirit," honorees will share their wisdom during a Q&A session led by the young women of Pace. Guests will also enjoy special performances by the Pace girls, and a virtual auction featuring an array of packages from local businesses.



The 15th annual event is chaired by Kelly L. Fayer along with cochairs Marlene S. Moulton, M.D., and Kellie Urban. This year's honorary chair is Pace Lee founder Gail Markham. The 2023 Grande Dames honorees will be announced in the coming weeks.

"Every year, our Grande Dames Tea provides a powerful platform for esteemed women in the community to share their wisdom and experiences with our Pace girls," said Jennifer Cellitti, executive director of Pace Center for Girls, Lee. "We are looking forward to an inspirational event filled with empowering stories and invaluable advice from our honorees, as well as the wonderful conversations it will spark with our girls and young women at Pace."

A Friends of Pace table for six is available for \$600. Sponsorship opportunities are available, including Golden Teacup sponsor for \$7,500, Silver Teacup sponsor for \$5,000, Fascinator sponsor for \$2,500, Silver Teaspoon sponsor for \$1,500 and in-kind sponsorships.

Proceeds from the event benefit Pace Lee and its strength-based programs that guide Pace girls in finding their voice and achieving their potential. 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.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit PaceCenter.org/Locations/Florida/Lee/15th-Annual-Grande-Dames-Tea or call (239) 425-2366.

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 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.

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

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14111 CREEK CT
4380 HARBOUR TERRACE



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14200 ROYAL HARBOUR CT 306
Sports Membership Available



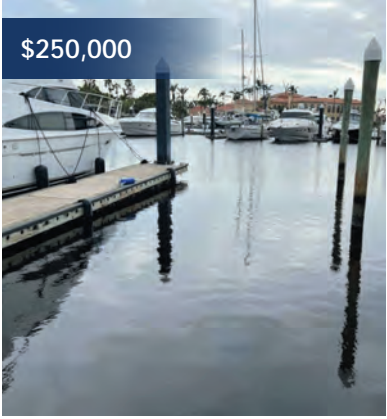
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