

Your Board Listens

The Town & River HOA Board appreciates all feedback from the community! We received the following message and a request to publish it. Also, included is a message from the board regarding John's concern.

John Roberts on Wittman Drive writes:

"Having read in the *T&R News* that four of five of our directors have voted to donate \$15,000 to help clear the canals, I was struck by how unfair this is. About half of those on the canals don't have to pay the dues, while those not on the canals do. The canal side homes are much more valuable and they should be the ones to pay. I only hope our directors will be more prudent when they give our money away."

T&R Board response:

There are 340 homes on a canal with voluntary dues in Town & River. In 2023 the Board received \$120 from a total of 159 canal front homes, totaling \$19,080. The

donation made of \$15,000 to Marine Max to contribute to the dredging was more than covered by the voluntary HOA dues paid by the canal front homes.

While the Board does not typically differentiate HOA funds spent on canal vs. non-canal issues, we felt this was an important contribution made to protect and enhance all property values within T&R.

Please feel free to submit your comments or questions to the Board. We welcome any recommendations or suggestions for improvements to our community. Our goal, which is probably very similar to yours, is to make our community a great place to live while enhancing our property values.

secy@townandriverfl.com
P.O. Box 07073
Fort Myers, FL 33919

Town & River Business Owners

It's time to show off your business! We are creating a "Welcome Packet" for distribution to all T&R homeowners, plus new neighbors! Please contact Renee Notes at secy@townandriverfl.com to be included and for more information.

Save The Date For Oktoberfest!

Oct. 20, 21, 22 And 27, 28, 29

O'zapft is'! Time once again for the community to come together to enjoy life and experience Southwest Florida's biggest party – the 38th Annual Cape Coral **Oktoberfest!**

We here at the German American Social Club are so excited to invite you to the event for fun, great food, German beer, live music, laughter and dancing – from polka to blues and country, to the Chicken Dance. Come and celebrate with your clan or crew, with your significant other, or even on your own – you're bound to meet great people here! With German music and local bands, German food and beer, there's plenty of fun to go around, for any age. So, dust off your dirndls, launder your lederhosen and join us for an epic time of stein slurping with your "beste freunde."

This year's dates are Oct. 20, 21, 22 and 27, 28, 29 – the last two full weekends of the month. This is where the entire community joins us for some **Gaudi** – leg-slapping, joyous fun – and **Gemütlichkeit** – that you're welcome and a part of something special. Come sit with friends, dance under the big tent or relax under the bright umbrellas in the Bavarian Gardens. The hours are Friday from 4 p.m. to midnight; Saturday, noon until midnight; and Sunday from noon until 8 p.m.

This year, the German American Social Club is thrilled to be able to feature a music ensemble from Germany again, featuring the Maselheimer Musikanten, the big band that the community welcomed in 2017, and the Aichers, also from Germany. The event will also feature local favorites such as The Boots, Deb & the Dynamics, A'Finnity, Cape Coral's own Hafenkappelle, Manni Daum Trio, and many more! There will be nonstop foot-tapping music in the tent, the gardens, and inside in the Edelweiss Hall; something for every ear.

Save The Date For Oktoberfest! on page 4

Town & River Lake Report

Inspection Date: July 13

Inspected For:

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

Technician's Comments:

July 13: Treated for grasses, brush, and weeds along shoreline of lake. No algae or submerged aquatic vegetation present during visit.

July 21: Completed the installation of components and repairs (aeration). All systems functional at the time of completion.



Faces Of Pace Celebration & Gala

To Benefit Pace Programs In Lee County On Oct. 21

Pace Center for Girls, Lee will host its Faces of Pace Celebration & Gala on Saturday, Oct. 21, from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Caloosa Sound Convention Center and Amphitheater, located at 1375 Monroe St. in Fort Myers.



The gala will feature dinner, dancing and live music by Bay Kings Band, as well as a spirited live auction with proceeds benefiting Pace programs and services. Recognizing all the Faces of Pace who have played an integral part of the center's mission to change the lives of girls and young women, the evening will include messages from founding members and alumni of Pace Lee.

"This exciting event gives us the opportunity to showcase the power of our transformative programs through Pace, while reinforcing our commitment to empowering girls as they achieve their full potential for a better future," said Jennifer Cellitti, executive director of Pace Center for Girls, Lee. "This year, we are looking forward to honoring those who have been integral to the success of our mission – the Faces of Pace. Their courageous stories and contributions are a testament to our collective impact over the past 16 years, and we hope



Noelle Casagrande, cochair



Lt. Angelo Vaughn, cochair

to leave guests inspired by the strength and resilience of our Pace community."

Presented by B&I Contractors, a range of sponsorship opportunities are still available for the gala, including the Creating Partnerships sponsor at \$10,000, Invest in the Future sponsor at \$7,500, Focus on Strengths sponsor at \$5,000, Honor the Female



Sandy Stilwell Youngquist, honorary cochair

Faces Of Pace Celebration & Gala on page 4



Lissette Ortiz, Ms. Oktoberfest 2022

All are encouraged to attend our next Board meeting on October 12!

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.



Warning Signs Of Identity Theft

The crime of identity theft has continued to grow and expand along with the development of newer technologies and consumer economic conveniences.

While the concept of identity theft has become somewhat commonplace, it is critical that individuals make their best efforts to protect their identity and to be observant for warning signs.

Most know to avoid sharing information such as social security numbers, account numbers, date of birth, etc., however, monitoring one's credit circumstances and taking proactive measures to protect against this crime are of equal importance.

Receiving credit card statements for accounts that you are unfamiliar with could be a sign that someone has accessed your credit. Bills for items that you don't recall purchasing warrant your immediate attention.

Denials for loans/credit, when unwarranted, may indicate the theft of your identity.

Additionally, missing mail ... paper bills that seem to stop coming ... need to be looked into.

Pay close attention to all charges that appear on your credit card statement. While a bit tedious, consider saving all receipts and matching them to charges on your bill.

Let's return to the discussion of one's mail.

A significant amount of personal information is often exchanged through the mail system and protecting that mail will go a long way toward reducing or eliminating the chance of suffering identity theft. Collect your mail every day. Know the time of day that your mail is delivered and make efforts to retrieve it in a timely manner. Often, the only mail that we send out contains checks. That red flag hoisted on your mailbox, notifying your mail carrier of outgoing mail, may serve as an invitation to criminals. Make efforts to place outgoing mail in the mailbox just before your mail carrier is scheduled to arrive or consider mailing them at the nearest post office. Of course, should you see any suspicious activity at or around your mailbox, or the mailbox of a neighbor, please notify law enforcement immediately.

Lastly, take the time to request and review your credit reports from the three major reporting agencies, Equifax, (800) 685-1111; Experian, (888) 397-3742; and TransUnion, (888) 909-8872.

Did You Know? —

“Strengths” Is The Longest Word In The English Language With One Vowel

According to the *Guinness Book of World Records*, “strengths” is the longest word in the English language with one vowel. The word contains nine letters, eight of them being consonants.



Sudoku Puzzle —

2	8		9		7			
1	4		3		8			
6		7						
			2			3		
	9	8		6	1			
7					2	4		
	4				3			
					6		2	
			8				9	

Sudoku Puzzle Solution on page 7

Should any of these reports contain signs of fraud, please ask these agencies to place fraud alerts and a credit freeze on your account. A credit freeze restricts access to your account and prevents anyone from applying for credit in your name ... including yourself. There is no cost or fee for this service. Should you need to apply for

credit while a freeze is in place, you can request that it is temporarily lifted to allow you to do so. A credit freeze will remain in effect until you lift it.

The time that you take to protect your identity is time well spent.

Crossword Puzzle

Across

1. Lacking flavor
6. Blockheads
10. Wails
14. Kind of beam
15. Facial covering
16. Component used as fertilizer
17. Licorice-like flavor
18. Coastal raptor
19. Tablet
20. Hyperthermia
22. Hide
23. Back talk
24. Region between hills
26. Pesky insect
30. Modern
31. Female sheep
32. Not my
33. Neuter
35. Electronic letter
39. A shoulder muscle
41. Gist
43. Black
44. Sodium chloride
46. Midday
47. Consumer Price Index
49. Fifty-two in Roman numerals
50. Sunbathes
51. Filter
54. Hotels
56. Bucket
57. Carrots and peas for example
63. Type of fruit
64. European volcano
65. Vacation destination
66. Docile
67. Tallow source
68. Spear
69. Being
70. Ocean motion
71. Terminated

Down

1. Dull
2. Alley
3. Largest continent
4. Bird home
5. Clothe
6. Supervisors
7. Spray can
8. Informer
9. Record protector
10. An added quantity
11. Bay window
12. Young lady
13. Crude
21. Ballroom dance
25. Dazzles
26. Circular course
27. Neophyte, in modern slang
28. Car
29. Stuporous

34. Define
36. Dwarf buffalo
37. Computer symbol
38. Focusing glass
40. Sort
42. Tour of duty
45. Brought into agreement
48. Buy stocks
51. Foam
52. Pens
53. Angers
55. Expensive fur
58. Decorative case
59. Leguminous plant
60. Territory
61. Behold, in old Rome
62. Outbuilding

Crossword Solution on page 7

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Creating Beautiful, Healthy Smiles

Catch The Action

September On The Water

By Capt. Bill Russell

With the arrival of September, the end of summer is in sight as we gradually break away from hot muggy days and transition to the cooler days of autumn. This is great news for anglers fishing around Southwest Florida. Days become less humid with a slight drop in temperature, a welcomed relief after a hot Florida summer. Don't get me wrong, there will still be plenty of hot days, but they become much more tolerable as the month progresses. And let's hope after last September delivered devastating *Hurricane Ian*, this year tropical storms keep away.

Just as anglers enjoy the change of seasons, fish respond, as they become more active resulting in improved fishing. With a drop in water temperature after a hot summer, you can expect fish to exert more energy and feed consistently throughout the day. Of course, it's fishing, there are days



when you can't buy a bite no matter what, but chances for success are tipped in your favor as the water cools.

Offshore, as water temperatures drop and the change of seasons begin, look for fish to move closer to shore in shallower depths and pelagic species heading south down

the coast. Grouper, plus large snapper should be caught with consistency in depths from 65 to 90 feet in gulf waters. Artificial reefs that dot our coast, along with hard bottom and ledges in 30- to 70-foot depths are great locations to catch a variety of different fish from small to large.

Mangrove snapper fishing was very good through the summer and should continue strong this month. Snapper school up around some type of structure that could include bridge pilings, docks, piers, oyster bars, creeks, mangroves shorelines, or any type of manmade or natural submerged structure. Offshore, they are found in numbers over artificial reefs and limestone ledges. Scale down your tackle with a light fluorocarbon leader of 20 pounds or lighter and small hooks. Best baits include shrimp (live or dead), small pilchards or pinfish, and a variety of cut baits. Chumming is a great option to attract snapper and get them fired up.

It's possible over the month to come across schools of large redfish roaming the inshore shallows. Often several hundred or more travel along the edge of shallow bars and shorelines eating anything in their path. If you come across a school, make a long cast in front of the lead fish, and hang on. These big reds generally run 30 inches or larger and are schooling until we get our first real cold front, likely in October.

Bigger sea trout begin moving back into shallower water to feed; this is a great time to work a top water plug across your favorite trout flats. Plenty of sea trout are caught under the endless schools of baitfish, look for birds and surface activity. Trout fishing will get better as the water continues to cool over the month.

Snook will casually leave the beaches and Gulf passes where they spend the summer months and transition back inshore on the flats. Target snook around oyster bars, shorelines, sand holes, and structures such as riprap, docks, piers, and bridges. This is often one of the best months for snook fishing as they are active, on the move, and foraging on a variety of baits. Snook season reopens this month and runs through November.

Stay up to date with fishing regulations by visiting www.myfwc.com. Also, upload the Fish Rules app on your phone. It has current regulations and seasons with pictures to help identify fish.

With a variety of fish and enjoyable weather, this is a great month to get out there and see what you can catch!

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."



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Word Scramble Animal Groups

By Ellie Neal

End	Glgage	Cofko
Rila	Rdhe	Trleit
Drpie	Wrasm	Vorde
Ybev	Ocoynl	Oport

Word Scramble Solution on page 7

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Candlelight Concerts In Fort Myers

Enjoy a host of concerts illuminated by candlelight and performed by live musicians in some of the most iconic venues in Fort Myers. Please note that, for the security of attendees, all candles will be flameless.

Candlelight concerts bring the magic of a live, multisensory musical experience to awe-inspiring locations like never seen before in Fort Myers. Get your tickets now to discover the music at Music & Arts Community Center-Gulf Coast Symphony, 13411 Shire Lane, Fort Myers, FL 33912 under the gentle glow of candlelight.

Performers for all three concerts: Listeso String Quartet
Candlelight: Vivaldi's Four Seasons And More
Saturday, Oct. 14 – 6 and 8:30 p.m.

The Four Seasons, Violin Concerto in G Minor, Op. 8 No. 1 RV 269: Spring – Vivaldi

The Four Seasons, Violin Concerto in G Minor, Op. 8 No. 2 RV 315: Summer – Vivaldi

Thais: *Méditation – Jules Massenet*
 Recomposed by Max Richter: Vivaldi, *The Four Seasons: Spring 3 – Max Richter*

The Cuatro Estaciones Porteñas: Verano Porteño – Astor Piazzolla

Libertango – Astor Piazzolla
The Four Seasons, Violin Concerto in G Minor, Op. 8 No. 3 RV 293: Autumn – Vivaldi

The Four Seasons, Violin Concerto in G Minor, Op. 8 No. 4 RV 297: Winter – Vivaldi

Candlelight: A Tribute To Taylor Swift
Friday, Nov. 3 – 6 and 8:30 p.m.

Lavender Haze, Love Story, Cardigan, Blank Space, Enchanted, Anti-Hero, Snow on the Beach (featuring Lana Del Rey), We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together, Lover, I Knew You Were Trouble, You Belong With Me, and Shake It Off.

Candlelight: The Best Of Hans Zimmer
Thursday, Nov. 9 – 6 and 8:30 p.m.

Time from Inception; This Land from The Lion King; Zooster's Breakout from Madagascar; Supermarine

from *Dunkirk*; *Honor* from *The Pacific*; *A Dark Knight* from *The Dark Knight*; *Wonder Woman Suite*; *Gladiator Suite*; *Cornfield Chase* from *Interstellar*; *Dune Suite*; *Discombobulate* from *Sherlock Holmes*; *Pirates of the Caribbean Suite*.

General Information

Tickets: Zone A (best visibility), \$57; Zone B (great visibility), \$45; Zone C (good visibility), \$35

To purchase tickets please visit our website at www. feverup.com. Tickets are **not** available for purchase at the venue. All tickets must be purchased through the app or website (www. feverup.com) prior to arriving at the event.

Venue: Music & Arts Community Center-Gulf Coast Symphony, 13411 Shire Lane, Fort Myers, FL 33912.

Duration: 65 minutes (doors open 45 minutes prior to the start time and late entry is not permitted).

Age requirement: 8 years old or older. Anyone under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Accessibility: This venue is ADA compliant.

Seating: First-come, first-served basis in each zone.

Drinks: Drinks will be available for purchase at the bar. No outside food or drinks are allowed in the venue.

Save The Date For Oktoberfest! from page 1

Enjoy the German and international delicacies from the various outdoor food vendors, or a sit-down dinner in the Von Steuben Hall. You'll want to meet Ms. Oktoberfest 2022, Lissette Ortiz! Ask for a photo shoot or dance with her or one of the Ms. Oktoberfests from previous years wearing their pretty dirndls and elegant blue sashes.

The German American Social Club of Cape Coral held its first public Cape Coral Oktoberfest in 1986. It has grown over the years to be the largest Oktoberfest in Florida and the second largest in the country, and last year brought a record number of close to 40,000 attendees to Cape Coral's Wies'n over the two weekends.

Tickets: \$8 in advance at German American Social Club, (Cape Coral); Farmer Joe's, (Cape Coral); Trebing Tile, (Cape Coral); European Grocery Market, (Fort Myers); German American Bakery, (Fort Myers); Geier's Sausage Kitchen, (Sarasota); Kallis German Butcher, (Port Charlotte). Tickets will also be available at the gate for \$10. Children under 12 admitted free.

For more information, visit www. capecoraloktoberfest.com, our Facebook page www. facebook.com/ CapeOktoberfest or email us at [info@gasc-capecoral.com](mailto: info@gasc-capecoral.com).

Faces Of Pace Celebration & Gala from page 1

Spirit table sponsor at \$1,500 and in-kind sponsorships.

The signature event is led by Cochairs Noelle Casagrande and Lt. Angelo Vaughn with Honorary Chair Sandy Stilwell Youngquist. B&I Contractors is the gala's title sponsor.

"With the generous contributions of sponsors and attendees, we can ensure that every girl and young woman has the chance to succeed and find their own voice," said Noelle Casagrande, cochair of the Faces of Pace Gala.

"Angelo and I are thrilled to cochair the Faces of Pace Gala alongside Sandy as our honorary chair, as we bring the community together for a special evening in support of Pace Lee."

The fundraising event supports Pace Lee in providing 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, 100 percent of students improved their academic performance, 100 percent had no involvement with the juvenile justice system within one year of exiting the program and 95 percent were either in school or gainfully employed after leaving Pace Lee.


For more information, visit PaceCenter.org/Locations/ Lee 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.



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

Town & River Civic Association Inc.		
Profit And Loss		
July 2023		
	Jul 23	Jan-Jul 23
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Income - Mandatory	0.00	10,680.00
Income - Voluntary	480.00	22,320.00
Total Income	480.00	33,000.00
Estoppel Preparation Income	250.00	3,750.00
Interest Income	9.75	66.63
Misc. Income	8.16	8.16
Total Income	747.91	36,824.79
Expense		
Accounting Fees	315.00	2,315.00
Bank Fees	35.00	245.00
Corp Insurance	526.40	3,351.68
Email Service	0.00	486.00
General Repairs & Maintenance		
Canal Dredging	0.00	15,000.00
Total General Repairs & Maintenance	0.00	15,000.00
Legal Expense	0.00	488.00
Mailing	0.00	749.23
Meeting Rooms	0.00	275.00
Newspaper Postage	156.43	1,091.17
Office Expense	0.00	17.94
PayPal Fees	18.72	282.60
Postage & Delivery	0.00	331.20
Printing & Reproduction	0.00	841.07
Secretary Expense	0.00	1,032.50
Storage Expense	119.79	838.53
Website Maintenance	50.00	350.00
Total Expense	1,221.34	27,694.92
Net Ordinary Income	-473.43	9,129.87
Net Income	-473.43	9,129.87

Town & River Civic Association Inc.	
Balance Sheet	
As of July 31, 2023	
	Jul 31, 23
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
First Citizens Bank 2580	18,691.96
First Citizens Bank - MMS	76,508.14
PayPal Account	2,784.89
Total Checking/Savings	97,984.99
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	1,292.58
Total Accounts Receivable	1,292.58
Other Current Assets	
Prepaid, Lake Expense	2,769.29
Prepaid Insurance	4,211.00
Prepaid, Other Expense	450.00
Total Other Current Assets	7,430.29
Total Current Assets	106,707.86
TOTAL ASSETS	106,707.86
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Annual Dues, Advanced	240.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	240.00
Total Current Liabilities	240.00
Total Liabilities	240.00
Equity	
Prior Year Fund Balance	97,337.99
Net Income	9,129.87
Total Equity	106,467.86
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	106,707.86

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 www.townandriverfl.com

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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
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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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*Plus a new member capital contribution of \$40,000
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- Waterfront Dining
- Social Activities & Events
- Initiation Fee \$12,000*

*Plus a new member capital contribution of \$40,000
 Pricing subject to current conditions

**Our 24,000 Sq. Ft. Wellness Center Offers:
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Habitat For Humanity Home Dedication Welcomes First Family To New Neighborhood In City Of Fort Myers

Mother Of Six Celebrates Journey To Homeownership

Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties held the first home dedication of its new 29-home HOA community in the City of Fort Myers off Prospect Avenue. The event marked a significant milestone for the organization as it works towards its mission of providing safe, stable and affordable housing for families in need.



First home dedicated in Habitat's Prospect Avenue Neighborhood

Community leaders, sponsors, volunteers, donors and Habitat staff welcomed a single mother of six to her new Habitat home during a dedication ceremony on June 27. Two of Christie Sowell's children are grown and have moved out, but the mother and four school-aged children had been living in a cramped two-bedroom apartment. Three of the children were using a triple bunk bed to share one bedroom. Now, their newly built Habitat home accommodates the entire family, featuring four bedrooms and more than 1,400 square feet of living space.

"We are deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our community, donors and local government," said Becky Lucas, CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties. "Their collective efforts enable us to join hands with families, such as Christie's, in their journey toward purchasing an affordable home. This is another step in our ongoing commitment to provide safe and affordable housing in the City of Fort Myers."

Over the last year, Habitat for Humanity built 66 affordable homes in Lee and Hendry counties, with 52 of the homebuyers being women. Alongside volunteers, Habitat homeowners help build their own home by completing more than 300 hours of sweat equity, in addition to attending financial education classes, paying \$2,000 in closing costs and committing to pay a zero-interest mortgage set at no more than 30 percent of their monthly income.

Coca-Cola Beverages Florida (Coke Florida) sponsored the home build, which covers the costs of building materials, supplies and skilled labor needed to complete the home. In addition to financial support, a team of staff members contributed 240 volunteer hours towards the family's home. Coke Florida leadership and more than a dozen of their associates attended the home dedication to celebrate the family on its journey to homeownership.

"At Coke Florida, our intention with our community-focused engagement is never to simply contribute funds," said Jack Palmorn, Coke Florida's territory general manager for Fort Myers. "This Habitat partnership allows us to show up in a way that demonstrates the Coke Florida culture. Throughout construction, we get involved by grabbing hammers and nails and providing whatever help is needed to truly be a part of it. Together, we have built not just a home here in Fort Myers, but a symbol of hope and unity for this deserving family. The Coke Florida family is honored to have played a role in this journey with Habitat for Humanity, and we remain committed to making a positive impact in the communities we serve."

Situated between McCormick Street and Prospect Avenue, Habitat for Humanity's newest neighborhood is a 6-acre HOA community in the City of Fort Myers. Planned for 29 single-

family homes, the neighborhood features three- and four-bedroom designs, ranging from 1,200 to 1,400 square feet. Habitat plans to complete and dedicate a total of four homes in the neighborhood by August.

To learn more about Habitat's Affordable Homeownership Program or to become a home sponsor, visit Habitat4Humanity.org.

About Habitat For Humanity Of Lee And Hendry Counties

Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties is a faith-based private nonprofit serving families with a housing need willing to partner. As a developer, builder, mortgage lender, housing counseling agency, retail operator and hurricane recovery organization, Habitat partners with families to build, improve or retain places to call home. Since 1982, Habitat has partnered with more than 1,800 families to help them achieve their dream of affordable homeownership. In addition to putting in 300 hours of sweat equity into building their own homes, Habitat homebuyers contribute to their closing costs, attend more than 20 hours of financial education classes, and pay an affordable mortgage set at no more than 30 percent of their monthly income. Through volunteering and providing financial or material donations, everyone can help Lee and Hendry County families achieve strength, stability, and independence. For more information, visit Habitat4Humanity.org.

About Coca-Cola Beverages Florida, LLC (Coke Florida)

Coca-Cola Beverages Florida, LLC (Coke Florida) is a family-owned Coca-Cola bottler. Coke Florida has an exclusive sales and distribution territory that covers over 21 million consumers across 47 Florida counties, and includes the major metropolitan markets of Jacksonville, Miami, Orlando, and Tampa. Coke Florida markets, sells, manufactures, distributes, and merchandises over 600 products of The Coca-Cola Company and other partner companies. The company is the third largest privately held and the sixth largest Coca-Cola bottler in the United States. Coke Florida is a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) certified company and holds the distinction of being named a US Best Managed



Christie and her mom - two generations of Habitat homeowners



Christie Sowell opens the door to her new home.



Coke Florida team



Family personalized Cokes

Company by Deloitte Private and The Wall Street Journal for two consecutive years. Coke Florida is also one of the largest minority-owned businesses in Florida, and the fourth largest Black-owned business in the United States. The company was founded in 2015 and is headquartered in Tampa, Fla. For more information, visit www.cokeflorida.com.

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Montage Women's Club

The Montage Women's Club is a social and philanthropic club open to all women residing in Lee County.



We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month at The Club at Pelican Preserve, 9802 Pelican Preserve Blvd., Fort Myers 33913 (community entry off Treeline Avenue between Colonial Boulevard and Daniels Parkway).

Activities begin at 10:30 a.m. with a short social period, a business meeting at 11:15 a.m., followed by lunch at noon, and normally an informative speaker program, ending at 2 p.m. Within the organization are various interest groups for members' participation. Membership is open to both year-round and seasonal residents. We welcome you to visit Montage for a luncheon.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept. 28, and our planned speaker will be Tom Donoghue of Hearts

and Homes for Veterans. This nonprofit organization is run by veterans who help their fellow veterans end homelessness, provide low-income veterans and their families with everyday life necessities, and aid returning veterans repatriate back into the Southwest Florida community.

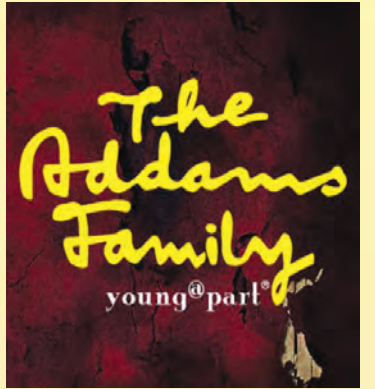
Luncheon fee is \$28 and the planned regular menu will be roasted pork loin with tropical relish, coconut rice, assorted squashes, tomato fried plantains, and Key lime pie. The plant-based/vegan entree option will be blackened tofu with fresh fruits and berries for dessert.

If you would like to attend a Montage meeting, need further information, or would like to make a reservation, please call Rita Artwohl at (239) 703-7787. Reservations cutoff to attend this meeting is noon, Thursday, Sept. 21.

Alliance For The Arts

The Addams Family young@part
Friday, Sept. 29 – 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 1 – 2 p.m.

Celebrate the wackiness in every family with our best-selling Broadway musical adapted for middle school-age performers! Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, has grown up and fallen in love with a sweet, smart young



man from a respectable family whom her parents have never met. She confides in her father and begs him not to tell her mother. Now, Gomez Addams must do something he's never done before – keep a secret from his beloved wife, Morticia. Everything will change for the whole family on the fateful night they host a dinner for Wednesday's "normal" boyfriend and his parents.

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



Word Scramble Solution from page 3

- | | |
|--------|--------|
| Den | Swarm |
| Lair | Colony |
| Pride | Flock |
| Bevy | Litter |
| Gaggle | Drove |
| Herd | Troop |

Sudoku Puzzle Solution from page 2

2	3	8	4	6	9	5	7	1
1	7	4	2	3	5	8	6	9
6	9	5	7	1	8	4	2	3
4	5	6	1	2	7	9	3	8
3	2	9	8	4	6	1	5	7
7	8	1	9	5	3	2	4	6
8	4	7	6	9	2	3	1	5
9	1	3	5	7	4	6	8	2
5	6	2	3	8	1	7	9	4

Crossword Solution from page 2

B	L	A	N	D		O	A	F	S		S	O	B	S		
L	A	S	E	R		V	E	I	L		U	R	E	A		
A	N	I	S	E		E	R	N	E		P	I	L	L		
H	E	A	T	S		T	R	O	K	E		P	E	L	T	
						S	A	S	S		V	A	L	L	E	Y
G	N	A	T			N	E	O			E	W	E			
Y	O	U	R			G	E	L	D		E	M	A	I	L	
R	O	T	A	T	O	R		E	S	S	E	N	C	E		
E	B	O	N	Y		S	A	L	T		N	O	O	N		
						C	P	I	L	I	I	T	A	N	S	
S	C	R	E	E	N					I	N	N	S			
P	A	I	L			V	E	G	E	T	A	B	L	E	S	
U	G	L	I			E	T	N	A		B	E	A	C	H	
M	E	E	K			S	U	E	T		L	A	N	C	E	
E	S	S	E			T	I	D	E		E	N	D	E	D	

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