



President’s Comments

By Craig Holcomb, Sec. 22 HOA

As we wind up another season here in Burnt Store Marina, it is hard to believe that **April Fool’s Day** has already arrived, and our season is wrapping up. So here are some updates on new projects and what to expect the rest of this year, and into 2023 that are happening in our community, that you may not have heard about.

The new deep-sea pier at our marina has been completed, and Norwegian Cruise Lines has already signed agreements to begin docking here beginning in June of this year.

Our golf course has just signed an agreement with the PGA and will be closed for two weeks to begin to prepare and host the PGA Players Tournament here in September 2022.

The Professional International Tennis Association has moved the Australian Open Tennis Tournament to our Fitness, Racquet Sports and Pool Complex for the 2022 season because Australia is still under restricted Covid regulations, and we will let anyone in to play.

The Olympic Committee, after reading about all the other professional sports moving to Burnt Store Marina, has just announced that all the Olympic swimming trials will be held here in 2022 and 2023, excluding the Russians.

Finally, the International Powerboat & Sailing Association has just announced that their 2022 “Superbowl” of power

racine and yachting will be held and sponsored by our Burnt Store Marina’s Safe Harbor and Platinum Point Yacht Club.

Tickets for all these events will be going on sale beginning on May 1, and all residents will receive a 20% discount per ticket. Residents can also rent out their golf carts to those participants who will be living and playing here for each tournament, but all birdie bars must be removed from the golf carts to respect the player’s rules of no alcohol to be consumed while participating in their sport.

We believe we are getting through the final stages of the Covid issue. As we all know, many have flocked to Southwest Florida to purchase homes, and resettle here on a more permanent basis. This trend may change soon, as scientists now believe that any future viruses can be stopped by living in colder climates with all windows remaining open. We are predicting that the sales of homes will reverse in 2023 and beyond, as more people flock back north to take advantage of the colder weather.

We sincerely hope that everyone has enjoyed our great community this season, and has had a great time. Our weather has been perfect, except maybe for December and January, which is somewhat normal these days. You just can’t beat Burnt Store Marina, not just because of all the things one can do every day here, but especially because of all the fantastic and friendly people who live here!! There is no better place to be than here!



Beaufort SC sunrise

Section 22 HOA Committee Reports

Architectural Review Committee

By Barry Groesch, Chair

House need painting? All changes to the exterior of homes in BSM must have ARC approval. This applies to independent homes as well as homes in a condo association. If you do not get ARC approval and your changes do not meet Section 22 HOA Restrictions, you may be asked to change or remove them. You can get this approval if your changes meet Section 22 HOA Restrictions by filling out and submitting an application to ARC.

The following applications were approved last month by the Section 22 HOA ARC:

- James Meier, 4081 King Tarpon Drive, replace lanai enclosure.
- Glen Boyd, 2071 King Tarpon Drive, exterior paint.
- Jerome & Joan Perrone 24063 Redfish Cove Drive, roof replacement.
- Thomas & Cheri Frank, 3011 King Tarpon Drive, roof replacement.
- Robert & Jacqueline Ermet, 3700 Cobia Villas Court, replace lanai enclosure.
- Linda Powers, 24541 Dolphin Cove Drive, roof replacement.
- Richard & Peggy Miller, 2061 Big Pass Lane, roof replacement.
- Philip DeMario & Saadia Robles, 812 Islamorada Boulevard, roof replacement.
- Allan & Janet Ratner, 806 Islamorada Boulevard, roof replacement.
- Debra Burns, 3929 Cape Cole Boulevard, roof replacement.
- Raymond Day, 4029 Cape Cole Boulevard, roof replacement.
- Debra & Tom Chesbrough, 24001 Redfish Cove Drive, roof replacement.
- James Ackert, 509 Islamorada Boulevard, roof replacement.
- John & Patricia Neely, 237 Islamorada Boulevard, roof replacement.

- Dennis & Judy Ewing, 1402 Islamorada Boulevard, roof replacement.
 - Ralph & Joni Tramontana, 1548 Islamorada Boulevard, exterior paint.
 - Ralph & Joni Tramontana, 1548 Islamorada Boulevard, replace windows.
 - Joan L. Flinspach, 3090 Big Pass Lane, landscaping.
- Section 22 restrictions and applications are available for download at **BSM22.org**. Submit your ARC applications to your condo association, if applicable, then to Alliant Association Management, 13831 Vector Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33919.

Community Access Committee

By Pat O’Neill, Chair

Home Security While You Are Away

As we are nearing the end of our busy season, residents will soon be traveling up North to other residences. It is important to remember to secure your Florida property. Please consider the following tips that will help ensure a safe and secure summer:

- Leave contact numbers with appropriate friends and family members.
- Arrange to have a friend or colleague pick up your newspapers, mail, or other deliveries daily, or stop all mail and deliveries.
- Secure your home. Close and lock all windows and doors. Don’t forget to lock garage or gate doors.
- Consider purchasing timers to turn on outside and inside lights automatically at various times throughout the night.
- Check outside lighting and replace older light bulbs. You don’t want a light burning out while you are away.
- Ask a friend or colleague to check your residence periodically, ensuring your furnace or air conditioning is functioning and that timers and lights are working.
- The decision to set the automated alarm system may vary from region to region. Power outages and brownouts may trip alarm systems. Check with your alarm monitoring provider for advice on setting alarm systems

when you are away for long periods of time.

- Unplug all unnecessary appliances such as televisions, stereos, and personal computers.
- Mow your lawn just before leaving; make arrangements to have someone mow it again if you will be gone for an extended period of time. Also arrange for watering, if that is likely to be needed.
- If you use a telephone answering machine, turn off the ringer on the telephone. If you don’t have an answering machine, unplug or turn off ringers on all telephones.
- Lock all jewelry, important papers, currency, and other valuable portables in a safe place such as a safe deposit box or home safe.

Ensure all personal and home insurance policies are up-to-date and that your coverage is adequate.

Reminder:

Next Section 22 HOA Board Meeting –
Tuesday, April 26, 9 a.m.,
Linkside Café Patio

An ARC did you know, moment...

By Barry Groesch,
Architectural Review Committee Chair

Did you know...If you want to enclose your lanai, an ARC application is required. For other projects go to the **BSM22.org** website to get your application.

Directory: Section 22 Homeowners Association				
c/o Alliant Association Management, LLC • 13831 Vector Ave., Ft. Myers, FL 33907 • 239-454-1101, info@alliantproperty.com				
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securityBSM@gmail.com
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Section 22 HOA
BSM Fitness, Racquet & Pool Club
www.bsgac.org
Burnt Store Golf & Activity Club
www.burntstoremarina.com
Burnt Store Marina
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Main Gate email
securityBSM@gmail.com

Websites -
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Section 22 HOA
BSM Fitness, Racquet & Pool Club
www.bsgac.org
Burnt Store Golf & Activity Club
www.burntstoremarina.com
Burnt Store Marina
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Burnt Store Anglers
www.ppycbasm.org
Platinum Point Yacht Club
Club Administrator – Dorothy Saviste
Email – office@ppycbasm.org

Attention Residents:

We have notified you in the past that when you have a medical emergency, you need to call 911 and identify that you live in Lee County.

It is important that the RESIDENT call in the emergency since the front gate cannot answer the questions asked by the 911 dispatcher. In order for the medic not to be delayed in getting to the scene of the emergency the resident must be the one to call 911.

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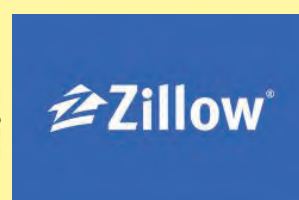


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Mark Your Calendar – Out And About

Inside the Gates Dates

- **Friday, April 1:** Deadline for the May *Beacon*. Article and picture submissions are welcomed. Become part of the *Beacon* family.
- **Tuesday, April 26:** Section 22 HOA Board Meeting, Linkside patio, 9 a.m.
- **Every Tuesday:** Bar code installation, front gate, 1 to 3 p.m.
- **Every Thursday:** Bar code installation, front gate, 9 to 11 a.m.
- **Every Friday:** Burnt Store Marina Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Cass Cay Parking Lot.

Outside the Gates Dates

- **Friday, April 1:** Fort Myers River District Art Walk, 1 to 5 p.m. Visit many galleries, exhibitions and performances.
- **Friday, April 1:** The Magic of Music – Charlotte County Concert Band. Hear them while they close out their season. 7:30 to 9 p.m. 701 Carmelita St., Punta Gorda. \$15. Go to cccb.board@gmail.com for information.
- **Friday, April 1 to Monday, April 18:** Zimsculpt at Peace River Botanical & Sculpture Gardan. Hundreds of Shona sculptures from Zimbabwean artists. The only North American tour this year. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 5827 Riverside Dr., Punta Gorda. Adults \$18, Seniors \$15. Go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/zimsculpt-at-peace-river-botanical-gardens-tickets> for information and tickets.
- **Saturday, April 2:** Yoga in the Peace River Botanical Gardens. Open to all levels of yoga. Bring your yoga mat or a beach towel and any equipment you need. 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. \$20 donation includes entry into the Gardens. 5827 Riverside Dr. Punta Gorda.
- **Wednesdays, April 13 and April 27:** Kickback Music at History Park. 4 to 6 p.m. 501 Shreve St. Music and food trucks. Bring your own chair and beverage. Donations to Punta Gorda Historical Society
- **Friday, April 15:** Fort Myers River District Music Walk, 5 to 9 p.m. Local and regional musicians line the street with music from jazz to blues to rock and roll.
- **Thursday, April 21:** Downtown Punta Gorda Experience, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Several venues to explore. Info area is Hector Park across from the old Taylor St. Court House.
- **Every Tuesday and Friday:** Dance Fusion Class. 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Punta Gorda Isles Civic Association, 2001 Shreve St. Call Cara Peralta for information, 941-276-1887. \$10 per class.
- **Every Tuesday:** Walking Tours of Punta Gorda Murals. 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Stop at 12 -15 historic murals and learn the history behind each one. Meets at Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce, 252 Marion St. Register early as only 12 participants on each tour. Call 941-639-3720 for reservations. \$25.
- **Every Tuesday:** Cape Coral Surfside Sunset Market, from 1 to 6 p.m., Veterans Parkway and Surfside Boulevard, opposite end of Belks Dept. Store.
- **Every Wednesday:** Long Lunch Sightseeing & Culinary Walking Tour. Explore culinary treasures of Punta Gorda and visit historic sites. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$39 per person. Go to <https://swfloridawalkingtours.com/tours-2/long-lunch-tour>.
- **Every Saturday:** Haunts & History of Punta Gorda Walking Tour. 1-1/2 mile tour of historic and haunted sites of downtown. 6 to 7:30 p.m. Adults \$29, youth \$19. Go to <https://swfloridawalkingtours.com/tours-2/haunts-and-history-tour>.
- **Every Thursday:** Fort Myers River District Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Every Saturday:** Punta Gorda Farmers Market, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., downtown. Lots of vendors with fresh fruits and vegetables, live music, crafts and other great buys. Visit nearby murals and enjoy some of the great downtown restaurants.
- **Every Saturday:** Cape Coral Farmers Market, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., SE 14th Ter. and SE 10th Pl., Cape Coral.
- **Every Sunday:** Punta Gorda Historical Society’s Farmers Market, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at History Park, 501 Shreve Street. Shop for veggies, meats, plants and gifts. Most Sundays you will be treated to live music by Dave Heveron. When the market closes at 1 p.m., take a guided tour of the gardens at the park. Walk the grounds with Florida native gardener, Starr Zachritz, and learn about Florida’s flora. A \$5 suggested donation gets you a plant to take home. Call 941-380-6814.

Wild Pig Jamboree Coming to Burnt Store

By Ted Morand, Beacon Wildlife Contributor

Have you ever wondered what becomes of the wild hogs that roam the fields, swamps and woodlands of Florida? Do you know that these feral swine are now found in all 50 states? Are you aware that escaped pigs from farm



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enclosures can revert to wild hogs in only three generations, growing tusks, elongated snouts, and shaggy coats? And a more practical question, what use can be made of this renewable resource?

Now a group of Burnt Store community residents - retired farmers from Iowa, Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas - are planning a wintertime wild pig jamboree for 2023. They will be assisted by Canadian snowbirds from Caledon, Ontario. This exciting initiative will put our community on the map for a novel mid-season activity that will engage residents, entertain our visitors, and make use of an overlooked resource. This two-day event is planned for February 2023, and will be held at the open grassy area at the intersection of Islamorada and Cape Cole Boulevards. Admission will be free, and residents are being invited to serve on the planning committee and participate in events. Florida Fish and Wildlife officers will oversee the capture of wild pigs, and assist in the temporary storage, feeding and return to the wild of these remarkable and resilient creatures. Residents will be asked to assist in the feedings and event plans, which will provide a welcome wintertime diversion, and photo opportunities for family members.

Actual work will begin in January 2023 with the live-trapping of feral hogs by Florida Fish and Wildlife Officers, primarily in Charlotte, Manatee and DeSoto Counties. They will be stored and fed at temporary enclosures at the Arcadia Rodeo grounds, and be transported via pickup trucks and trailers on the days of the event by Burnt Store volunteers. Beauford “Porky” Mac Allister, founder of Wild Hog Wranglers of Wimauma, Florida will serve as technical advisor. Mr. Mac Allister states that, after a few days confinement and feeding, these feral animals will greatly reduce their wild behavior and their temperament will begin to conform to that of domestic pigs. No harm or suffering will be inflicted on the animals, and all will be returned to the wild at the conclusion of the event.

Residents are asked to sign up for the various contests which are being designed for men, women and children. If you don’t mind getting a few grass stains and a little mud and pig goop on your designer jeans, this event is just right for you and your guests. The first day will include a greased-pig capture for adult men who will race to see who can catch and hold the most pigs for at



least 30 seconds. A number of small greased piglets in the 20-pound class will be released simultaneously within a chain link temporary enclosure, making for a chaotic and entertaining experience. Capture will be made more sporting by greasing the pigs with a mixture of Bertolli’s extra virgin olive oil and Kraft buttery spread. The olive oil is the expressed preference of polled upstate New York and East Coast snowbirds, and the buttery spread by planning volunteers from the Ozarks and Kentucky. Next will be the kids’ turn, for boys and girls eight years old and under. They will mount a sow or tusk-free boar in the 100-pound class that has been fitted with a small western saddle, stirrups, and bridle, hang on for dear life and race to the finish line for a prize.

The second day will bring in women participants for calling contests. The first will be open to men and women of all ages as they use their voices and mouth whistles to attract wild pigs of all sizes to feed consisting of dog food and shelled corn. No mechanical calls or whistles will be allowed. Whoever attracts the most swine to their feeding station will walk away with a cash prize and trophy. The second day event will conclude with a husband-calling contest for women of all ages who will be judged on voice volume, originality of the call, and romantic appeal. Participation by transgender individuals is welcome, of course, and no actual spouse is required for any gender to participate.

Food trucks will be available on site to offer pulled pork sandwiches, spare ribs, cole slaw, corn dogs and your favorite beverage. All Burnt Store Marina residents and guests are invited to participate. Sign-up sheets will be available soon through your Association management. Individual and group coaching on pig wrangling tactics can be arranged by appointment. Good luck to all the participants and . . .

APRIL FOOL!
Editors’ note: Ted Morand is a Michigan snowbird who resides at the Commodore Club in the winter and delights in spoofing his Burnt Store neighbors.

What I Did During the Pandemic

By Joanne Boughner, Marina South Shore

When I thought of submitting this article, I was reminded of the school essays many of us had to write entitled “What I did during my summer vacation.”

In April 2020, when lockdowns, quarantines, mask wearing and Covid cases were on the rise, my husband and I stayed put in Marina South Shore. With hours, days, months and possibly more than a year ahead of us, I searched around for a fun project to while away the long afternoons besides the usual exercising, puzzling, reading and cooking new recipes. Since I love to paint and have always had pets, I decided to paint my families’ pets and friends’ pets and friends of friends’ pets. To date I have painted fifteen 5”x7” paintings, sometimes as surprise gifts, sometimes as special requests. I use a photo as the basis for the painting. In between paintings, I also made most of our greeting cards. My cards often depict the people they are being sent to, as well as the special occasion.

I find it emotionally gratifying to share my artistry with loved ones and their friends, lifting all our spirits. I have continued doing these little pet portraits and cards even though the pandemic is hopefully on the wane. Or maybe not right now!

NOTE: The *Beacon* editors think this would be a fun column where others can share their stories of what they did during the pandemic. So, if you have a story that you would like to share, please send it to the *Beacon* editorial team listed on the inside of each *Beacon* front page. Please be sure to send your article to all 5 email addresses.



Grammar Tips... Auxiliary verbs

By the Editors of *The Beacon*

Auxiliary means to provide support, and this is what these verbs do - they help the main verb, sometimes in multiple combinations. And, most importantly, “helping” verbs establish the main verb’s tense. The three main verb tenses in English are past, present and future.

The use of auxiliary verbs more closely defines your intentions. Examples of auxiliary verbs include:

- Be (am, is, are, was, were, being, been)
- Do (do, does, did)
- Have (have, has, had)
- Can / Could
- Will / Would
- Shall / Should
- May / Might / Must

Each sentence below takes on a new meaning when different auxiliary verbs are used:

- I **am** studying hard.
- I **did** study hard.
- I **have** studied hard.
- I **have been** studying hard.
- I **can** study hard.
- I **could** study hard.
- I **will** study hard.
- I **should** study hard.
- I **should have** studied hard.
- I **might** study hard.
- I **must** study hard.

So, be sure to study hard on your auxiliary verbs to make sure you tell your story correctly!



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The Love-bug

By Carol Nolan, Marina Towers

There was a young bug named Love
Who came down from above,
He had a date
To meet his mate
To make some little Love-bugs.

But,
he did not get far,
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April Off-Beat Holidays and Adventures

By Maggie Hart, Mariners Pass

April is one of the best months in Florida – the weather is perfect for outside entertainment, and there are lots of things to see and do all month long. Starting with just next door... **Through April 18:** *Zimsculpt*, Punta Gorda, Florida

This is a world-renowned exhibition of Zimbabwean stone sculptures that only comes to America once a year, and this year this prestigious honor goes to the Peace River Botanical & Sculpture Gardens, making this the only place in the U.S.A. one can experience this outdoor exhibition. Go to peacrivergardens.org/zimsculpt

Through April 30: *Picasso and the Allure of the South*, St. Petersburg, Florida.

Included in the admission price at The Dalí, this special limited-time exhibit presents nearly 80 Pablo Picasso paintings, drawings and collages – approximately half of which have never been seen in this country. Organized in collaboration with the Musée National Picasso-Paris, the collection of works presents the artist’s time in southern Europe and how it influenced some of his greatest masterpieces. Spend the day exploring the exhibit. Go to thedali.org/exhibit/picasso-and-the-allure-of-the-south **April 8 - 10 and 15 - 16:** *Keel and Curley Blueberry Festival*, Plant City, Florida

The 10th Annual Blueberry Festival in Plant City features live entertainment, food and craft vendors, kids’ area and U-Pick Blueberries. Go to keelfarms.com/festivals *Note here that there are many blueberry harvesting venues in Florida throughout April!*

April 5: *BBQ, Bands & Brew*, Fort Myers, Florida

Live music, delicious barbecue, and beers come together for a family-friendly event that has something for everyone. Sample all kinds of barbecue, listen to local talent, and vote for your favorite to win the People’s Choice Award. Located at Lee County Alliance for the Arts, 10091 McGregor Blvd. (SE corner of McGregor Blvd. and Colonial Blvd). Go to leebuilderscare.com/bbq-bands-and-brew

April 9 - 11: *Sharks Tooth Festival*, Venice, Florida

Venice is known as the shark’s tooth capital of the world, and this is the time to celebrate that! Enjoy live

entertainment while you browse over 100 vendors selling original artwork as well as sharks’ teeth and other fossils. Venice Airport Festival Grounds, Venice. Go to [facebook.com/sharkstoothfest](https://www.facebook.com/sharkstoothfest)

The April calendar also includes holy days for four religions, as well as many other important dates...

April 2 - May 1: Ramadan, the ninth month of the Muslim calendar is the holy month of fasting. It begins and ends with the appearance of the crescent moon. Islamic tradition states that it was during Ramadan, on the “Night of Power” commemorated on one of the last 10 nights of Ramadan, when God revealed to the Prophet Muhammad the Qur’ān, Islam’s holy book, as a guidance for the people. For Muslims, Ramadan is a period of introspection, communal prayer in the mosque, and reading of the Qur’ān. God forgives the past sins of those who observe the holy month with fasting, prayer, and faithful intention.

April 2, 1513: Spanish explorer Ponce De Leon sighted Florida and claimed it for the Spanish crown after landing at the site of present-day St. Augustine, now the oldest city in the continental U.S.

April 3, 1860: In the American West, the Pony Express service began as the first rider departed St. Joseph, Missouri. For \$1 each half-ounce, letters were delivered approximately 1,900 miles to Sacramento, California within ten days. The famed Pony Express riders each rode from 75 to 100 miles before handing the letters off to the next rider. The service was not a financial success and went bankrupt in 18 months, when faster telegraph service was established.

April 6, 1896: After a break of 1500 years, the first Olympics of the modern era was held in Athens, Greece.

April 8: Among Buddhists, celebrated as the birthday of Buddha (563-483 B.C.). An estimated 350 million people currently profess the Buddhist faith.

April 14, 1828: The first dictionary of American-style English was published by Noah Webster as the American Dictionary of the English Language.

April 18, 1775: Th3 Midnight Ride of Paul Revere and William Dawes occurred as the two men rode out of Boston about 10 p.m., to warn patriots at Lexington and Concord of the approaching British.

April 19, 1775: At dawn in Massachusetts, about 70 armed militiamen stood, face to face with a British advance

guard unit, on Lexington Green. The now-famous “shot heard around the world” began the American Revolution. A volley of British rifle fire was followed by a charge with bayonets leaving eight Americans dead and ten wounded.

April 30, 1789: George Washington became the first U.S. President as he was given the oath of office, on the balcony of Federal Hall, at the corner of Wall and Broad Streets in New York City.

April 6: New Beer’s Eve - for over a decade (1920-1933), beer and alcohol were banned in the United States. This ban was set in place by the 18th Amendment to the Constitution. The 18th Amendment failed miserably, and was largely ignored. Millions of people turned to making their own beer, making alcohol in homemade stills. Bootleg beer and alcohol caused the loss of millions of dollars in potential tax revenues.

The 21st Amendment repealed the 18th Amendment. It took effect at 12:01 a.m on April 7, 1933. On the evening of April 6, anxious Americans lined up at breweries and distilleries to purchase legal beer and alcohol at the stroke of midnight. On that night, someone coined the term “New Beer’s Eve,” and a new annual holiday was born!

April 15: Passover is the celebration of the freeing of the Jews from Egyptian rule around 3000 years ago. At the time, the Israelites were enslaved by the Egyptians ruler Pharaoh Ramses II. God instructed Moses to go to the Pharaoh and ask for freedom for the Jews. His plea of “Let my people go” was ignored despite Moses’ warning of punishments by God if the Israelites were not freed. God then sent 10 terrible plagues upon the people of Egypt. Pharaoh then conceded, and freed the Jews.

April 17: Easter, the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. To Christians, it is the most special day of the year. The birth of Christ is quite important, but his resurrection offers Christians the hope of everlasting life. The Lenten season leading up to Easter Sunday is a time of fasting, sacrifice and prayer. The word “Easter” comes from the Saxon pagan festival honoring the goddess of Spring, Eostre.

April 18: Your Federal Income Tax is due!

April 29: National Arbor Day, the tree planter’s holiday, and has been celebrated since 1872. It began in Nebraska, a largely treeless plain back in the 1800’s. It is a day to plant and dedicate a tree to help nature and the environment. Millions of trees are planted on this day.

Rules of the Road

Motor Vehicles: Always drive your vehicle on the right side of the road. There are no “turn lanes” within Burnt Store Marina. Never drive your vehicle in lanes indicated for the use of bicycles and pedestrians. Always stop at stop signs. Never exceed the posted speed limit.



Bicycles: Always ride your bicycle on the right side of the road, even if there is no “bike lane” available. Use hand signals to indicate intention to turn. Always stop at stop signs. Never exceed the posted speed limit.

Golf Carts: Always drive your golf cart on the right side of the road. Use hand signals to indicate intention to turn. Always stop at stop signs. Use lanes indicated for the use of bicycles and pedestrians only when neither is present.

Pedestrians: Always use lanes provided for bicycles and pedestrians. If there is no lane available, use the left side of the street, facing wheeled traffic. Use caution when crossing streets. Wear reflective clothing and carry a flashlight when walking or running after sunset.

Enjoying Your Walk

By Jan McLaughlin, Former Beacon Editor

One morning a fellow walker stopped me and asked what the distance was around Prosperity Point, and how far was it from there to the front entry gate. With lots of residents returning and enjoying our pedestrian paths, I offer the following. All distances were measured with a GPS while riding in a golf cart.

- Islamorada Entrance Gate to Cape Cole Blvd. – 0.82 mile
- Cape Cole Blvd., golf clubhouse gate arm to Islamorada Blvd. – 0.60 mile
- Cape Cole Blvd., golf club gate arm to Matecumbe Key entry – 0.72 mile
- Matecumbe Key Blvd., construction entrance to Cape Cole Blvd., 0.72 mile



- Matecumbe Key Blvd., Cape Cole Blvd., to South Shore – 0.55 mile
- Courtside Landings’ Loop, start/stop at entrance – 0.48 mile
- Prosperity Point sidewalk loop, start/stop at Matcumbe Key Blvd, 1.26 mile
- Admiral’s Point loop (includes Key Largo Lane Circle, Sable Key Circle and Key Largo Circle) start/stop at Marathon & Cape Cole Blvd., 1.06 mile
- Tarpon Pass loop, start/stop at Islamorada Blvd., 0.76 mile

Wonderful resources for walkers abound on the Internet. These sites offer a wide selection of audio music apps for beginners to advanced walkers, exercise videos, gear (including shoes), accessories and resource information.

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The Protein Products Corporation

By *Graham Segger, Independent Home Owner*
An article in the January 2021 issue of *The Beacon* contained a series of aerial photos of the configuration of the Protein Products Corporation fish meal processing plant, located on the land now occupied by the Burnt Store Marina basins. Following, as Paul Harvey might once have said, is the rest of the story...

It is unlikely that there can be a sadder example of a commercial enterprise gone wrong than this case study. Over the five short years of its existence, Protein Products Corporation or its suppliers faced criminal charges alleging improper fishing techniques; were the source of a damaging environmental spill into Charlotte Harbor; were at the heart of a tragic industrial accident which caused the death of five employees and the closing of the operation for 15 months; were the impetus for a Florida legislative purse seine fishing ban within five miles of the coast in Lee County; experienced a decline in the availability of the very fish they relied on; lost a great deal of money; and finally faced a bankruptcy procedure and foreclosure auction. Protein Products Corporation did, however, leave one lasting legacy which I, for one, am most appreciative of. They, and their contractors, were the companies who first dredged the Burnt Store Marina channel to the 12-foot-deep water mark, and created the spoil islands on the sand bars at the entrance to the harbor. It is very possible that Punta Gorda Isles, Inc. might not have been as interested in, or been allowed to, register the plat for the Burnt Store Marina community in 1973 if many of the regulatory and dredging hurdles of gaining access to Charlotte Harbor had not already been partly cleared.

The Business Plan and Approvals

On April 18, 1966 Lee County Zoning Board approved a plan to establish a fish meal processing plant on the shores of Charlotte Harbor just south of the Charlotte County line and just off Burnt Store Road. This plan had been approved or endorsed by the County Planning Board, the Chamber of Commerce and the Committee of 100. The proponents made many optimistic promises, which included constructing five buildings (an office building, factory, cooling and grinding facility, warehouse, and net storage & chandlery house). The

factory and incinerator would have 50-foot stacks. There would be a 200-foot dock and seawalls at the harbor, in addition to the dredged channel to deep water. They projected a capital expenditure of \$500,000; annual revenues of \$1.5 million; local economy spending of \$1.0 million per year; and employment of 20 staff and 40 fishermen. The company pledged itself to be “a good industrial neighbor” and claimed that “conservation is our life blood”. They cited several successful operations in N.J. and Massachusetts, and committed that there would be no water discharges into the harbor. The owners were R.T. Angster and D.A. Vincent of Tampa; Production Manager was to be David Kalashian; and Secretary-Treasurer / Sales & Office Manager was Charles B. Davies.

The proposal had not been without opposition. Fish broker Leon Kenney of Pinellas Seafood in St. Petersburg was a vocal opponent citing evidence that similar operations in Mexico had been unsuccessful and had diminished the local food fish stock. Jesse Padilla of Pine Island, a local leader in the fishing industry, provided the following prophetic statement to the local press at the time “I think we are going to wish we had never heard of a fish meal plant”. The U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries supported the business plan. The company proceeded to purchase 76 acres for \$50,000 from Mr. & Mrs. Richard M. McConnell, and obtained rights of way to Burnt Store Road. The land included 400 feet of Charlotte Harbor waterfront.



Protein Products Corporation fish meal processing plant

The actual operation involved obtaining, through the fishing efforts of large purse seine trawlers, tons of small inedible fish, typically Menhaden and Thread Herring (aka hairy-backs). These “trash fish” would then be processed into fish meal and solubles to be used as animal feed and fish oil for export. End use included additives for poultry feed and raw material for margarine (international market only for the latter).

The trawlers would be out for several days so the fish were to be brought back in to the dock refrigerated at 25°F. Water was then pumped into the hold to loosen the fish and the slurry would then be pumped back through a six-inch pipe to the processing factory. The water contained blood, scales, and oily substances from the fish and was commonly referred to as “stinkwater.”

Operational and Regulatory Challenges

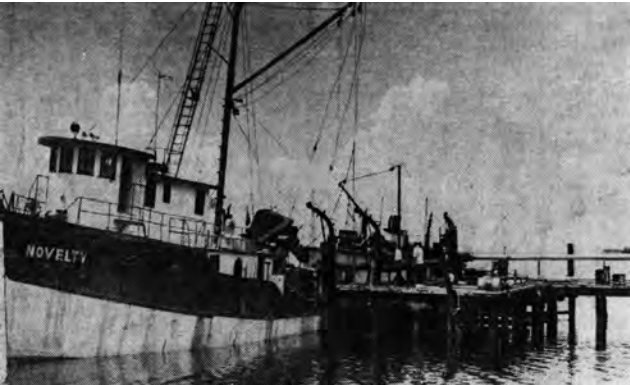
In October 1967, just months after the plant started operating, reports of a huge spill of “greasy fish gruel and rotting fish” were reported by fishermen on the east wall of Charlotte Harbor. Vultures by the hundreds and catfish in schools descended upon the nasty overflow from the plant. A commercial fisherman living on Yucca Pen Creek saw large mullet floating dead at the mouth of his creek and another fisherman reported that the discharge was hanging from the mangroves. The company claimed human error caused the spill of the “stinkwater” but the plant was closed for a period while process improvements were made.

Also in 1967, four captains on two large trawlers employed in harvesting the non food small fish were charged with also scooping up food fish with their nets, which was strictly against the law and operating authorizations. Charles Davies, the Protein Products Corporation manager, stated that it was “physically impossible” to not catch some food fish. He claimed his trawlers captured only .02% food fish in a 268 ton catch, which seems a little hard to believe given that a purse seine net is gathered from the bottom and scoops up all of the fish above it.

On November 25, 1967 the Lee County Chapter of the Organized Fishermen of Florida asked for a purse seine ban in territorial waters (3 leagues (10.4 statute miles) out from shore). On February 27, 1968 Florida imposed a ban within five miles of the Lee County coastline and ten miles from the Collier County coastline. This was sponsored by Rep. Ted Randell.

Tragedy at the Dock

On the morning of Sunday, August 11, 1968 the Novelty, a 125-foot-long steel trawler, docked at the Protein Products Corporation dock with a 50 ton catch after four days of fishing off Sanibel Island.



Purse Seine Trawler “Novelty” at the Protein Products Corporation Dock – August 12, 1968

It is difficult for me to relate the horror of what ensued that morning so I have opted to include the quotes by Lee County Sheriff’s Department Investigator James Loeffler and Fireman William H. Conrad provided in the August 12, 1968 Fort Myers News Press article by Patrick Kelly.

“Frances D. Webb, 23, of Peace Dale, R. I., the boat’s pilot, had descended into the hold about 9:30 a.m. to start to flood it. This was not only to wash off the catch of mostly “trash fish” netted the night before but was also intended to provide a means of transferring the cargo to the fish meal plant by floating it out of the large [six-inch] pipes made for the purpose. Several crewmen and most of the dockhands stood watching Webb through the open hatch. Without warning, Webb collapsed and Frances L. Winter, 53, of Punta Gorda [and originally R.I.] jumped through the hatch to help him. But it immediately

The Protein Products Corporation on page 8



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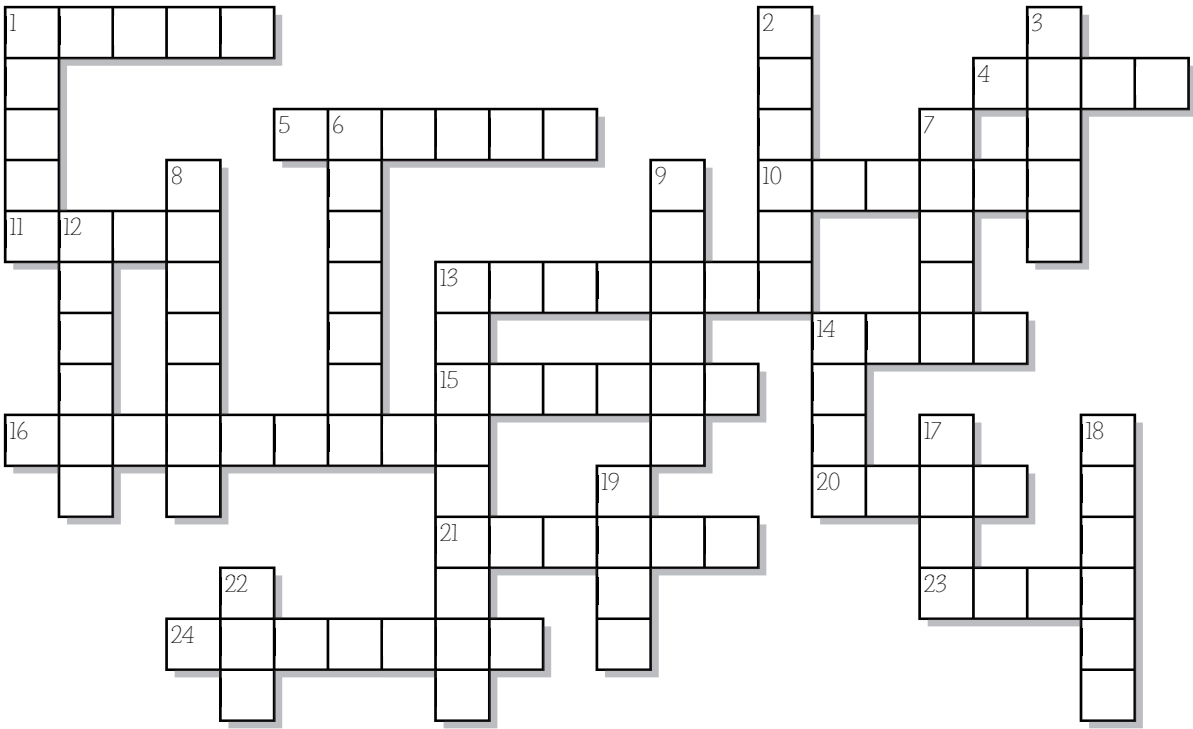
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- 18 Mr.
- 19 Happy
- 22 Scooby

Golf Tip of the Month

By Bill Connelly,
Manager of Golf Operations

During a round of golf, there are a lot of factors that you cannot control, but there are some factors that you *can* control. You control how you grip the club, your stance and how you align your body in order to have the best possible chance of hitting a good shot.

One of the most important things is how you grip the club, making sure to grip the club the same way every time. When it comes to the stance, have your feet shoulder-width apart, knees should be slightly bent, and weight should be distributed evenly. When it comes to alignment, think in two parallel lines. What I mean by that is your target line (where you want your ball to go) and your body line (the direction your body faces). When picking your target line, remember to align your body just left of that line. When pressured out there, remember the things you can control, and it will help you have a better round.

Even though our season is starting to wind down there are still some fun golfing events coming up in April, so be sure to sign up. There will be a Pick a Pro Scramble on Saturday, April 9 at 9 a.m. which ties in with the Masters. On Saturday April 23 a 2-Person Best Ball will tee up at 12:30 p.m. And remember, there is a 9 Hole Scramble every Tuesday at 3 p.m.

Below are the results of February’s golfing events.
Hawaiian Scramble on February 5:

1st Flight Winners

- 1. Dennis and Karen Schindel, John and Kelly Millar
- 2. Ralph Smith, Pat Cataldo, Marg Macdougall
- 3. Tom Hunt, Steve Hunt, Lesley Rose, Cheetah Currier

2nd Flight Winners

- 1. Jim and Pam Loring, Jay and Kathy Barnhart
- 2. Bill and Ginger Story, Gordon and Cheryl Fogg
- 3. Gary and Karen Crandall, Barry and Marlene Harbart

3rd Flight Winners

- 1. Joel and Beth Miles, Jim Harding and Michelle Goldman
- 2. Gary and Kathy Knudsen, Paul and Meg Crowley
- 3. Bob and Jane Moen, Sue Peters and Bob Keyworth

Closest to the Pineapple:

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| Doris Havens | Osprey #4 |
| Cinda Bown | Pelican #5 |

President’s Cup on February 16 and 23:

Men

1st Flight Winners

- 1. Bill Smith
- 2. Ralph Smith

2nd Flight Winners

- 1. Jim Carroll

3rd Flight Winners

- 1. Steve Flagstad

4th Flight Winners

- 1. Ron Jones

Nine Hole Shootout on February 26:

Men

1st Flight Winners

- 1. Tom Friemark
- 2. Steve Thompson
- 3. Bob Honcharski

2nd Flight Winners

- 1. Brian Buon
- 2. Larry Marks
- 3. Ken Pello

3rd Flight Winners

- 1. Jim Harding
- 2. Steve Flagstad
- 3. Roy Howard

4th Flight Winners

- 1. Mort Fleishman
- 2. Rich Hallowell
- 3. Carl Millerschoen

The Following players had a Hole in One during January and February:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Angie Dewitt | January 17 on Pelican #3 |
| Barry Harbart | January 28 on Osprey #3 |
| Bonnie Welter | February 2 on Pelican #3 |
| Gary Crandall | February 5 on Pelican #3 |
| John Millar | February 5 on Osprey #3 |
| Jeanne Dombrowski | February 10 on Osprey #4 |
| Fred Ayers | February 28 on Pelican #7 |

Congratulations to all!

Please follow us @burntstoregolf on Instagram for course updates.

Please stop in for lunch and some shopping, we would love to say hello.

Have fun learning to enjoy your game.



The Protein Products Corporation from page 7

became obvious Winter himself was overcome and his brother, Joseph K. Winter, 55, also of Punta Gorda [and R.I.], went to rescue him. He was also immediately in trouble and, as fumes arose from the still gushing water in the hold, other men began to show signs of being affected. Stephen F. Richmond, 18-year-old 2nd engineer, from Wakefield, R. I., who had been standing at the door of the galley, toppled over into the hold, lifeless. Kenneth Smith, 55, Matlacha Station, operations manager for the plant, who lived in a trailer on the property, likewise was overcome and fell into the hold. By this time, a frightened dockworker, using the mobile telephone equipment on the trawler, called for help. He reached the police department in Punta Gorda.”

On arrival, Loeffler said, he became aware of the first bit of heroism.

“A dockworker named Roy McNeely had descended into the open hatchway, holding his breath. By using a rope, he was able to rescue Lawrence Finley, 33, of North Port Charlotte [other newspapers cite eye witness accounts which identify the brave rescuer as Frank Martin, who went down into the hull and placed a hook around Finley’s belt]. But Finley was unconscious and appeared to have stopped breathing. Unaware of the nature of the poisonous gas, the ship’s cook, one-armed Clyde Parrish, 56, of Punta Gorda had immediately begun mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and Finley began to show signs of recovery. He was rushed to the Charlotte Medical Center Hospital in Punta Gorda [he did recover]. Parrish’s life-saving effort was a definite act of heroism. When the Fort Myers rescue unit arrived, Firemen Henry C. Howard and William H. Conrad immediately radioed for gas masks and air-packs. While this equipment was on its way to the scene, Conrad decided to attempt to get to some of the bodies in the hold any way he could. With the help of his fellow fireman, Howard, and Deputy Coleman, Conrad fastened a rope around his waist, took a deep breath of fresh air and dove into the hold. He succeeded in getting another rope around Smith, the last man to fall. Still holding his breath, Conrad and his helpers got the body to the dock. “But it was obvious there was no hope,” he said. “The man’s face was black. He was gone.” Conrad repeated his rescue attempt with the body of young Richmond which “seemed to be twitching” as it floated in the water in the hold. But Richmond, too, had died. Recovery of the remaining bodies was made after Fireman Lester Landrum arrived with the gas masks and air-packs. There was considerable confusion on the dock as efforts were made to appraise the situation and identify victims. The Novelty’s skipper, Capt. Ralph Robert Smith, about 50, was overcome briefly on deck but revived before his condition became serious. The Protein Products plant grounds and the ship have been sealed off by order of a maritime officer of the U. S. Dept. of Labor.”

Dock hand Cecil Dotson was an eye witness and stated that “in just 20 to 30 seconds, they were all gone - they just stepped down and that was that”. Crew member John Woodbey claimed that in eleven years on similar boats he had seen three other men die from exposure to gas. A Punta Gorda dock hand, Kenneth Hembree, whose job it would normally have been to wash out the hold, escaped the disaster when he had to call in sick that morning due to multiple bee stings.

Cause and Effect

While it was generally acknowledged that the gas which was generated when the hose was turned on precipitated the deaths, in the days following the tragedy there was much speculation about the actual source and nature of the gas. After autopsies

and tests of the ship and processing plant were performed, Dr. Wallace M. Graves, a Fort Myers pathologist, confirmed that hydrogen sulfide was the lethal gas. It can be produced by decaying organic matter. Thornton Laboratory of Tampa, working for the Coast Guard, determined that the slush water in the cargo area contained 564 parts per million (ppm) of hydrogen sulfide while toxicity levels are normally 20 ppm. Lethal levels were also found in the hose and storage tank which the water was pumped from. The plant had operated for a single day a week earlier but not for the month prior to that due to lower summer fish harvests. Protein Products Corporation and its insurer commissioned a report to determine how the disaster occurred but it was never made public. Sheriff’s Investigator Loeffler stated that he did not press for the report or lay any charges. A Florida Industrial Commission officer stated in September 1970 that it was never fully determined what combination of equipment or circumstances caused the deaths. Civil cases were unlikely given the shaky financial condition of the Corporation.

Clean up and Subsequent Operations

A month after the accident the storage tanks were stabilized by Inter-Science Research and Engineering of Tampa through an oxidization process, and the treated fluid was dumped 20 miles out into the gulf.

The plant reopened 15 months later in November 1969 but due to low fish catches it began closing up again in March 1970. Richard T. Agster, the Corporation president, stated in September 1970 that “the Legislature put us very much out of business”. He was referring to changes to the purse seine fishing and food fish harvesting rules.

On September 28, 1970 there was a foreclosure sale auction of the company land and equipment. This was a result of a claim for \$511,809 plus interest by Tampa Ship and Dry Dock Co. Inc., incurred while building the plant and facilities. The September 23, 1970 Auction Notice provides many details about the type of equipment employed in the operation.

In June 1971 the plant had a brief resurrection when it was used to process hyacinths into fertilizer. These had been harvested from the clogged Hendrickson Reservoir on Shell Creek, which at that time was supplying Punta Gorda with its fresh water.

Punta Gorda Isles, Inc. purchased the land shortly thereafter and combined it into the 3,000 acre Burnt Store Marina (BSM) and Burnt Store Lakes (BSL) development plan first made public in October 1972. The Lee County development plat for BSM was issued in June 1973.

Protein Products was not the first to consider a fish processing plant on the east wall of Charlotte Harbor. In 1932 “Wild Bill” Belvin, the Pine Island Road resident who received country-wide notoriety in 1930 for living alone off the grid for a year on the shores of Charlotte Harbor (three miles south of Vincent Road), came up with an interesting scheme. While working with Punta Gorda Fish Company fishermen on Crow Key and Bull Key, he conceived a technique for turning predatory fish and fish scraps into fish meal and fish fertilizer. The product was made by the process of cooking and drying. The fertilizer was produced by the addition of potassium chloride and muriate of potash to the dehydrated fish scrap. Examples of his product were presented to the Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce in November 1932, but I have found no record of a commercial operation being established.

Most of the material for this article was sourced from over 30 news articles published between 1966 and 1972 in the Punta Gorda Herald, Fort Myers News Press, Tampa Bay Times, Tampa Tribune, St. Petersburg Times, and Miami Herald.

Read *The Beacon* Online!

This edition of *The Beacon* is also available online at the Section 22 HOA web site...**www.bsm22.org**. This option is available in addition to the hard copy delivered to your door.

As a reminder; If you have not registered on our website, we strongly encourage you to do so! In addition to reading

this and past issues of *The Beacon*, it is a wonderful resource for much more information about the Burnt Store Marina community.



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Plant of the Month...The Royal Poinciana

By Maggie Hart, Mariners Pass

Native to Madagascar, royal poinciana (*Delonix regia*), is also called flamboyant or flame tree. It provides dappled shade in summer, with wide, spreading branches and brilliantly-colored flowers. Many people consider this to be one of the most beautiful trees in the world. Snowbirds



usually miss their spectacular flower display, as their flowers don't come out until May.

This tree will grow 20 to 40 feet tall, and requires a level of maintenance that makes it less desirable to some homeowners. While adored for the beautiful flowers, the large, bean-like pods that follow can become a nuisance. These 2-inch by 18-inch pods persist through winter and drop off in the spring, which can be annoying landscape litter for some gardeners. Also, royal poinciana branches are susceptible to breakage, particularly in high winds.

It's best planted in a large expanse of lawn with no garden bed beneath, since the poinciana's root system sits on top of the ground, rather than deeply into it. This means it will compete with (and win out over) nearby plants for water and nutrients. You should plant it at least 20 feet (more would be even better) from your house to accommodate the broad-spreading canopy of this tree, and at least 12 to 15 feet from drives and walkways so roots don't eventually become a problem. And...be aware that grass will grow poorly beneath your tree. Also...check with your Home Owners Association and Section 22 ARC committee before planting!

Here in Burnt Store Marina, you can see fine examples of royal poincianas along Cape Cole Boulevard, between Islamorada Boulevard and Matecumbe Key Road, and also on the golf course, along the golf cart path at Heron 4.



Our Florida birds become even more beautiful during the spring breeding and nesting season to attract mates. The Great Egrets begin to have long, showy plumes and their lores become a vibrant greenish color. Anhingas which are always displaying their wings, turn on additional charm during breeding season with their brilliant, iridescent blue-green lore. If you are looking for a nice little trip, it's fun to watch the rituals of these birds nesting at this time of the year at the Venice Audubon Rookery.



Submitted by Karen Sanderson, Esplanade



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ZimSculpt Exhibit Arrives at the Peace River Botanical & Sculpture Gardens

By Forest Hecker, Community Outreach Coordinator,
Peace River Botanical & Sculpture Gardens

The sound of chisels clinking against stone is echoing throughout the Peace River Botanical Gardens from February 4 through April 18, 2022. ZimSculpt, a world-renowned exhibition of modern Zimbabwean stone sculptures, only travels from Africa to North America once a year to be



displayed at a preselected Garden. In 2022, this prestigious honor has been bestowed upon the Peace River Botanical & Sculpture Gardens in Punta Gorda, making our local sanctuary of art and nature the only place one can experience this blockbuster exhibition.

These exquisite sculptures are famous for their striking style that is unique to the Shona tribe of southern Africa. The art is carved from various types of serpentine and semi-precious stone, often weighs tons, and can be as large as seven feet tall. The ZimSculpt organization represents an artist collective of roughly one hundred sculptors. Valuing fair trade, these sculptures have been ethically sourced and artists are fairly compensated for their talent.

More than 100 of these magnificent sculptures will be displayed artfully throughout the garden, and excitingly, all pieces on display are purchasable. An additional Zimbabwean marketplace will be present at the gardens during the event, where hundreds of unique carvings, traditional baskets, and striking jewelry pieces will be on sale.

Special events will also be occurring during the run of the ZimSculpt exhibition, in February we had an instructor-led ZimSculpt-inspired painting class, a South African wine tasting event, a South African wine Sip & Stroll event, and more!

The highlight of the event is Zimbabwean sculptors Passmore Mupindiko and Brighton Layson demonstrating their masterful artistry on select days. Experience some of the finest contemporary stone sculptures in the world, right here in Punta Gorda!

Admission:

Adults: \$18

Seniors (65+): \$15

Students up to 18: \$9

Children 5 & under: Free

SNAP Recipients through Museums for All program: \$5

Reciprocal Admissions \$13-(\$5 discount)

Member Price \$10, (\$8 discount)

We have a Members Monday on the 2nd Monday of each month where members are free!

Tickets can be purchased through Eventbrite or purchased at the gate.

For more information: www.zimsculpt.com.

Marina Beat

By Jaret Rogers,
General Manager/Safe Harbor
Burnt Store

Is it really April already? Wow how time flies when you are having fun! 2022 has been a great year so far. We are coming to the end of snowbird season, but I do not think we are going to slow down very much. Lee and Charlotte County are growing so fast. We are seeing this in our occupancy rate as well. The dry storage racks are full and so are the wet slips.

We will soon break ground on one of biggest rebuild projects we have done here at Burnt Store. The current



plan entails 2100 feet of seawall in the north basin, and also replacing the docks. The details of this project are not finalized at this time. I will release more information as soon as the contracts are executed. These details will include what fixed docks will be replaced with floating, and which ones will remain fixed. If the project rolls out as intended, it should take 18-24 months. The current plan gives a start time of June. Of course, this could change but I would like to get this information out to all of you sooner than later in case everything does go as planned.

I would like to remind all of the residents and Members about the rules in the dry storage area. Please remember all areas where the boats are stored in the racks are totally off

limits to anyone that is not an employee. If you need to work on a boat, please have it moved to the work rack area. Also please keep pedestrian traffic around the launch area to a minimum. There are no golf carts allowed anywhere within the gates with the exception of the work rack area. In the near future the gated areas will be locked and only accessible to Safe Harbor Burnt Store Members. So going forward, you should start to change your routines and walk around the gated areas instead of walking through. We appreciate your cooperation as this is for everyone's safety and the security of the vessels.

Once again, thank you to all of the Members and residents for all of your support. We are truly blessed to live and work in such a great community.



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Overall Burnt Store Marina Sales	Calenda Real Estate Group Sales
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Listings sold for 99% of ask price28 days until contractAverage sale price of \$406,486	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Listings sold for 100% of ask price8 days until contractAverage sale price of \$464,706

**Based on MLS data 3/14/21 - 3/14/22*

Recently *gold* Properties



3471B Sunset Key Cir
List \$500,000 | Sell \$500,000
Jennifer represented buyer and seller!



3265 Sugarloaf Key 43C
List \$ 379,000 | Sell \$395,000
Jennifer represented the seller!



3329 Sunset Key Cir #402
List \$564,900 | Sell \$625,000
Jennifer represented the buyer!

Jennifer Calenda

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Rebecca Hobbs, Notary Public

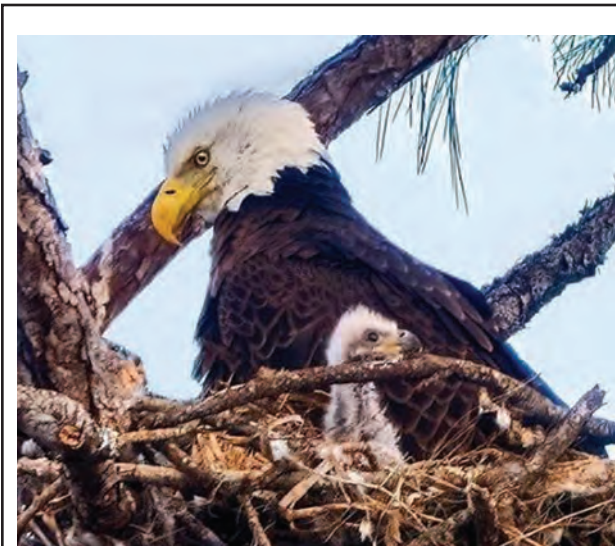
Sheriff’s Report – February

8 Warnings:
4 – Speeding: 3 residents, 1 employee
4 – Failure to stop at a stop sign: 3 residents in cars, 1 in a golf cart
A new sheriff started and spent the first 2 weeks observing the community. Several residents stopped him (11) to say they appreciated him being in the community.



Diesel Fitter

Sven and Ole worked together and both were laid off, so they went to the unemployment office together. Asked for his occupation, Ole said “Panty Stitcher. I sew the elastic onto ladies’ cotton panties.” The clerk looked up Panty Stitcher. Finding it classified as unskilled labor, she gave him \$300 a week unemployment pay.
Sven was asked his occupation. “Diesel Fitter,” he replied. Since diesel fitter was a skilled job, the clerk gave Sven \$600 a week.
When Ole found out, he was furious. He stormed back into the unemployment office to find out why his friend and coworker was collecting double his unemployment pay. The clerk explained, “panty stitchers are unskilled labor and diesel fitters are skilled labor.”
“What skill?” yelled Ole. “I sew the elastic on the panties, and Sven puts them over his head and says, ‘yah, diesel fitter!’”



Pine Island eagle



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Burnt Store Marina CC News

By John Abbott,
General Manager, BSMCC

With Easter right around the corner, it feels like everyone is ready to roll up the sidewalks and call it a season. Well, not here at BSMCC. We have a fun-filled April planned with multiple events and tournaments on the calendar.



The Masters (April 7 - 10) is a highly anticipated tournament in the golfing world, and with it comes some great events here at the club. We start off Saturday morning, April 9, with our pick-a-pro golf tournament. You will pick a professional golfer playing in the Masters, and the professional’s score that you have selected, will be added to your net score for a combined total. Saturday evening is the Champions dinner where the winners of our major tournaments from the season will be recognized and celebrated. Sunday at Augusta is always exciting, and

everyone is invited to come on up and watch it on our seven new televisions. There will be food and drink specials and some great golf, so you don’t want to miss it.

Our regular events will continue all month with Trivia on Monday night, dinner on Tuesday night, Wednesday specialty dinners, and Thursday night food trucks with live music. Fridays will still have an all you can eat Fish Fry along with our regular dinner menu, and of course, we’ll have our ever-popular Sunday Breakfast Buffet. Please note: Easter Sunday will be a special brunch with sign-up in the administration office.

We are going to close the month out with a bang. Deb and the Dynamics will be here to perform on Friday, April 29 for our end of season party that will include four different food trucks, as well as our beverage truck and lanai bar for cocktails. This will be a great time and everyone is invited, so keep that date open on your calendar. As with all of our outside events, please remember to bring lawn chairs, small bills and no outside alcohol. We’ll see you at the club!

BSMCC April 2022 Schedule of Events						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Planned Events are subject to Change!					1 Dine in or Take out Lunch 11a.m.-3 p.m.* Fish Fry 5 - 8 p.m.*	2 Dine in or Take out Lunch 11a.m.-3 p.m.*
3 Breakfast 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Dine in or Take out Lunch 11 a.m.-3 p.m.*	4 Dine in or Take out Lunch 11a.m.-3 p.m.* Trivia 5 - 7 p.m.*** Bar Food Menu Available	5 9 Hole Scramble 3 p.m.*** Dine in or Take out Lunch 11a.m.-3 p.m.* Dinner 5 - 7 p.m.*	6 Dine in or Take out Lunch 11a.m.-3 p.m.* Republican Dinner 5 p.m.*****	7 Dine in or Take out Lunch 11a.m.-3 p.m.* Food Truck/Music 5 - 8 p.m.	8 Dine in or Take out Lunch 11a.m.-3 p.m.* Fish Fry 5 - 8 p.m.*	9 Pick a Pro Scramble 9 a.m.*** Dine in or Take out Lunch 11a.m.-3 p.m.* Champions Dinner 5 p.m.****
10 Breakfast 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Dine in or Take out Lunch 11 a.m.-3 p.m.* Masters Party 2 - 6 p.m.	11 Dine in or Take out Lunch 11a.m.-3 p.m.* Trivia 5 - 7 p.m.*** Bar Food Menu Available	12 9 Hole Scramble 3 p.m.*** Dine in or Take out Lunch 11 a.m.-3 p.m.* Dinner 5 - 7 p.m.*	13 Dine in or Take out Lunch 11a.m.-3 p.m.* Ladies League Banquet 5 p.m.****	14 Dine in or Take out Lunch 11a.m.-3 p.m.* Food Truck/Music 5 - 8 p.m.	15 Dine in or Take out Lunch 11a.m.-3 p.m.* Fish Fry 5 - 8 p.m.*	16 Dine in or Take out Lunch 11a.m.-3 p.m.* Bingo 5 p.m.****
17 Easter Brunch 9 a.m.* Dine in or Take out Lunch 11 a.m.-3 p.m.*	18 Dine in or Take out Lunch 11a.m.-3 p.m.* Trivia 5 - 7 p.m.*** Bar Food Menu Available	19 9 Hole Scramble 3 p.m.*** Dine in or Take out Lunch 11a.m.-3 p.m.* 5 - 7 p.m.*	20 Dine in or Take out Lunch 11a.m.-3 p.m.* Prime Rib Dinner 5 - 8 p.m.*	21 Dine in or Take out Lunch 11a.m.-3 p.m.* Kollections Food Trucks/Music 5 - 8 p.m.	22 Dine in or Take out Lunch 11a.m.-3 p.m.* Fish Fry 5 - 8 p.m.*	23 2-person Best Ball 12:30 p.m.*** Dine in or Take out Lunch 11a.m.-3 p.m.* Jeff Becker Band 5 - 8 p.m.
24 Breakfast 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Dine in or Take out Lunch 11 a.m.-3 p.m.*	25 Dine in or Take out Lunch 11a.m.-3 p.m.* Trivia 5 - 7 p.m.*** Bar Food Menu Available	26 9 Hole Scramble 3 p.m.*** Dine in or Take out Lunch 11a.m.-3 p.m.* Dinner 5 - 7 p.m.*	27 Dine in or Take out Lunch 11a.m.-3 p.m.* Specialty Dinner 5 - 8 p.m.*	28 Dine in or Take out Lunch 11a.m.-3 p.m.*	29 Dine in or Take out Lunch 11a.m.-3 p.m.* End of season Party Deb and the Dynamics 4 food trucks 5 - 8 p.m.	30 Dine in or Take out Lunch 11a.m.-3 p.m.*
* Call for your reservation or takeout order 941-637-6405 ** Call Pro Shop at 941-637-1577 *** Sign up in Lobby on Board **** Sign up at Admin Office. ***** Reservations for Republican Dinner must be made through the Republican Club. Check the Board in Lobby for additional events!						

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Platinum Point Yacht Club

By Sue Smith, Director

PPYC’s winter and spring seasons have flown by with many opportunities for fun activities on and off the water. One highlight of our March events was the Commodore’s Ball, held at the Isles Yacht Club. Commodores Rusty Stewart and David Isley were honored this year. An exceptional dinner, along with musical entertainment provided by the Gatlins, made this celebration a memorable evening.



The Recipe Box

By Candace VanDenBerghe, Marlin Run

German Meatballs (serves 6)

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1/2 lb. ground pork
- 1/2 c. minced onion
- 1 Tbsp. minced parsley
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 c. milk
- 3/4 c. breadcrumbs
- 1 can (27 oz.) sauerkraut, undrained
- additional minced parsley



In a bowl, combine the first ten ingredients; shape into 18 meatballs, 2 in. each.

Preheat the oven to 400°F. Line a baking sheet with foil and spray with a little cooking spray. Place meatballs on the baking sheet and bake for 20 minutes. Place sauerkraut in a large skillet; top with meatballs. Cover and simmer, adding water, if necessary, for 15-20 minutes or until meatballs are cooked through. Sprinkle with parsley.

Early in March, our iconic boating event, the Blessing of the Fleet, was held. The opening activity of this nautical tradition was a parade of festively decorated boats. Each vessel and crew was blessed and formally recognized as the procession made its way past the Commodore and clergyman. Following the boat parade was the Eight Bells Memorial Service. During the Eight Bells service, PPYC honored members who had passed away during the previous year. Following the traditional Blessing of the Fleet events, a lovely dinner was enjoyed as the sun set over the marina. For the second year in a row, the entire second week of March was designated as Fleet Week at PPYC, and the lighting and decorating of the clubhouse set the mood for other events such as a musical performance of Songs of Sailors and the Sea on the club lanai, a nautical movie night, a Sunset Social, and a Chili Cookoff/Bluegrass Music Night.

Additional March events for boaters included an overnight cruise to the beautiful Vinoy Marina Resort in St. Petersburg and Twin Dolphin Marina in Bradenton. Kayakers paddled into the harbor for a Sunset/Moonrise paddle, PPYC sailors participated in a long distance race in addition to the usual Monday races, and the Happy Hookers were able to reel in memorable catches.

In addition to the bridge players, book club attendees, golfers, artists, card players, quilters, and exercisers, who all stayed busy, there were several additional activities that added enrichment to our yacht club experience. Music on the Lawn was, as always, a favorite way to enjoy the talents of our wonderful musicians. The Education Committee continued to bring exceptional programs on a variety of topics, and also organized a field trip to the beautiful Peace River Botanical and Sculpture Gardens. PPYC Players entertained theater-goers with their rendition of *4 Weddings and an Elvis*, and the annual Broadway Palm Dinner Theater night took members to a showing of *Escape from Margaritaville*. A wine-tasting education session, delivered by an international wine educator, broadened our understanding of how to make our own wine choices.

Coming soon in early April, friends and neighbors who stroll the Marina in front of the PPYC clubhouse may

see poodle skirts, saddle shoes, leather jackets, and other 50s/60s garb as we enjoy the final party of the season, a sock hop-themed Sail Away party. The Sail Away party is an annual event that gives members a chance to get together one more time before some of our members head home.

If you are interested in joining our group, if these options for activity and making new friends sound like opportunities you would like to pursue, new member information can be obtained at the club house. Dorothy Saviste, Club Administrator, is on-site Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and can be reached at 941-639-0733. Any PPYC member would enjoy explaining to you why membership in Platinum Point Yacht Club is a good choice for you.

In case you didn’t see the flyers, Platinum Point Yacht Club in conjunction with Safe Harbor also sponsored a Boating Speakers Series. The first one was on February 26 and covered Vessel Safety Checks. The second presentation was on March 12 and was about Cruising to the Caribbean.

Below is the final presentation in the series and it is a Hurricane Preparedness Presentation. It will be on April 16, so you still have time to register.

COMMUNITY BOATING SPEAKER SERIES @ BURNT STORE MARINA

Sponsored by: Platinum Point Yacht Club & Safe Harbor
Location: Platinum Point Yacht Club
Fee: No Charge

Registration: call PPYC @ 941-639-0733 or PPYC
Members can register online
HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS PRESENTATION
Presented by Lee County
Date: April 16, 2022
Time: 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

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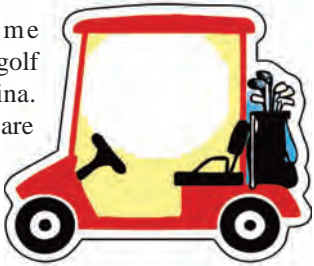
By Cheri Frank,
Certified Nutrition
Coach

During our 6 Week Weight Loss/Wellness Challenge I came across this quote which I felt was perfect for our challenge: “You can’t spell challenge without change. If you are going to rise to the challenge, you have to be prepared to change.” Making sustainable changes to your lifestyle and behaviors is the key to long term weight loss success. You need to recognize that these changes may look different for everyone, so you have to decide what works for you, and what you can maintain for the long run.

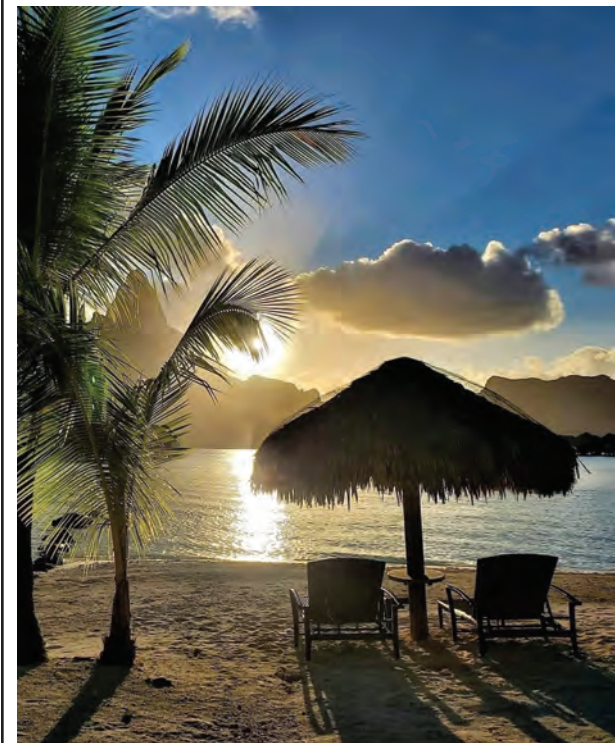


Rules for Driving Golf Carts

There has been some confusion about operating golf carts in Burnt Store Marina. Please be aware that there are rules for golf cart use, and violation will get you a citation from the Lee County Sheriff’s Office.



- Drivers of golf carts must observe the same rules as those designated for drivers of motor vehicles. Drivers must keep their carts on the right side of all streets, and obey all traffic signage.
- No one under 14 is allowed to drive a golf cart within the Burnt Store Marina premises.
- No one not playing golf is allowed to drive a golf cart on the golf course.



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Changing Glasses Prescription	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased Eye Strain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More Trouble Focusing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased Sunlight Sensitivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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The types of tackle you carry should reflect the conditions of fishing. Unless you are used to carrying a very large tackle box or bag with tackle for all seasons, types of fish and water conditions, most anglers will carry a smaller amount of fishing tackle. Let's consider first what you might want to consider carrying as the basics for fishing with bait. Hooks vary in size and shape depending on the manufacture and the correct size of the hook you will use. The major difference in fishing hooks is whether you like to use a traditional J shaped hook or a circle hook. They both catch fish. Common sized hooks for the fish mentioned above is a 2/0-3/0 hook. The numbering of hooks starts with the number 1 which is a very small hook and goes to a number 9, and then the larger hooks begin to be identified as a 1/0 thru a 20/0 or larger. Both hook sizes are available in the J design and the circle design. The difference in technique using these hooks is for another discussion.



If you are going to use artificial lures you must have an assortment of the traditional lures used to cast to the fish. There are two classes of lures. The first is made of hard molded plastic, generally with two treble hooks attached. These lures are the staple for cast fishing. Some of the best lures for use in the harbor are surface running lures, along with those lures that run a foot or two under the water. Try to match the lure to the light conditions you are fishing in, and the type of lure that imitates the local baitfish. Your tackle shop owner can help you select the best plastic lures for catching fish in the current prevailing

The best rule of thumb for getting additional information as to what else you might want to have in your tackle bag is to pay a visit to Fishin' Franks in Charlotte Harbor. Walk the store and ask any of the great fisherman who help out there what is the hottest tackle for your bag. For more in-depth information on fishing techniques come and visit the Burnt Store Anglers on the first Monday of each month, October through May at the Tiki Hut near the marina. All are welcome.

About the Pocket Watch...a Very Interesting Story

This was all arranged by “Richard,” who was a telegraph operator himself. He was on duty in the North Redwood, Minnesota train station one day when a load of watches arrived from the East. It was a huge crate of

Yes, it's a little-known fact that for a while in the 1880s, the biggest watch retailer in the country was at the train station. It all started with a telegraph operator: Richard Sears and partner Alvah Roebuck!



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Gardener’s Wheelbarrow

By Maggie Hart, Mariners Pass

By now you should have some new growth on your shrubs and trees. Have patience with your palms. Many palms will only put out 3 - 6 new fronds a year. Please...only remove fronds that have at least one third of their surface dry, damaged or dead. Palms need to maximize their ability to photosynthesize. The oldest frond supplies the needed nutrients for the newest frond.

According to station history, year-to-date, as of February 21, we’ve had about an inch and a half of rain. This is the dry season, and our landscape plants would really benefit from fresh rain water. Consider watering some of your landscape – especially potted plants – by hand.

April’s To Do List:

- **Your goal**, starting the first of the month, should be to set up your plants (shrubs, trees, palms and turf) to be the healthiest possible as we continue through the dry season and inch toward the rainy season, beginning sometime in June. Because **Local Fertilizer Ordinance (Lee County Ordinance #08-08) bans the use of any form of nitrogen and phosphates/phosphorus, June 1 through September 30**, plants can become depleted. This is a special concern when



there have been heavy rains to either wash away recently applied fertilizer, or, when a drench literally leaches it out. Hungry plants are stressed plants.

- **Fertilize** everything you didn’t fertilize in March and use only a high quality, slow-release form. Good fertilizer is expensive, but effective.
- **Palms** that may have suffered from root or bud damage during the winter benefit from fungicide and micro-nutrient supplements.
- **Fungus:** Though our temperatures have been chilly, our subtropical and tropical plants have suffered. Rain + chilly temps = fungus. This is typical for April and reflects the weather experienced during the first quarter. Always use common sense when it comes to the treatment of plants. A surprise to me, but known worldwide – ordinary ground cinnamon from your spice cabinet is a great deterrent for fungus in your garden. Shake a little on the soil, or even on your plant to take care of some of this menace.
- **Water restrictions** are a serious part of gardening in SW Florida. Planting native plants that are geared for 8 months of drought followed by 4 months of deluge should be strongly considered. Work with, not against nature. *Unless you are willing to hand water*, resist planting during the dry

season and wait until the summer rains begin at the end of June to first of July. Many associations and independent homeowners start wanting to plant color during the “high” season. It can be precious dollars wasted. Even salt tolerant plants are watered with fresh water when nursery-grown. Most shrubs, including drought tolerant ones, take 3 months to establish roots beyond the perimeter of their original pot. A new 3-gallon shrub requires a gallon of water every other day for about 60 days.

- **Prune** scraggly, overgrown plants and those with dead branches, if not done so already. First, remove crossing and broken branches. Then, prune for shape and to encourage re-flowering.
- **Want more flowers?** Florida’s flowering shrubs bloom on new wood. If the plant is constantly pruned, leaving only older wood, flower production will be severely limited.
- **Apply herbicide** to your turf when the temperature is below 85 degrees. We’ve already had temperatures in the 80s as of late February. Remember, broadleaf herbicides can harm turf, or at a minimum turn it yellow.

Wildlife Caution Notice

Owners are asked to use caution and be aware of local wildlife such as coyotes, bobcats, and alligators. Coyotes sightings have increased as it is their mating season, and they are more aggressive and vocal right now. Recently a Burnt Store Lakes resident witnessed a coyote chase a rabbit into their rain gutter downspout and then pull the downspout into the yard trying to get the rabbit out. Please watch your pets carefully and keep them on a leash when outside, particularly at dusk, nighttime, and dawn.

Smaller pets are especially at risk. Letting them out in a fenced area may not deter a coyote. Make sure pet food, fruit, or other items are stored inside or in tightly shut garbage cans. Ensure your home is not luring small rodents or animals that coyotes like to prey on.

One of the best attributes of living in Burnt Store Marina & The Lakes is the abundant wildlife. However, residents need to be aware of our wildlife and be cautious to ensure their own safety and the safety of their pets.

Dining Venues

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941-637-6405
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Lunch: Monday – Saturday, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
*Dinner: Tuesday, 5 – 8 p.m.
*Call for information for specialty dinners on Wednesday nights.
*Reservations are recommended as seating is limited

CASS CAY RESTAURANT & BAR - 941-347-7148
www.casscayrestaurant.com
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THE TRADING POST - 239-789-3463
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10 Fantasy

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13 Laverne and

14 Who’s the

15 Barney

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20 Family

21 Dukes of

23 The facts of

24 Three’s

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1 Starsky and

2 Modern

3 Mork and

6 Little House

on the

7 Growing

8 Different

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Fitness, Friends & Fun!

By Glenna Benson

We take our tag line very seriously at BSM Fitness, Racquet & Pool Club, and we do our best to ensure our members experience this firsthand. 2020 was a *Fitness, Friends, & Fun* challenging year for all of us as we modified our lifestyle, including our fitness routine, to match the time in which we were living. It wasn't easy. As expected, we saw a reduction in memberships and were thankful to those who continued on. However, 2021 and the early days of 2022 have brought new insights and new beginnings along with an influx of new members. This has brought the Club back to its 2019 historic high membership level. Some of this can be attributed to the big turnover in house sales in our community, residents returning to a pre-pandemic lifestyle and fitness regime, and the wide range of offerings the Club provides. BSM FRPC is one of the amazing amenities BSM has to offer. We are always striving to improve our offerings and facilities to provide our members with the best experience possible.

In the past year, this has included adding additional membership options. We now have more than 20 from which to choose. These range from day passes, monthly memberships, seasonal memberships, activity specific memberships, to full-time annual memberships and everything in between! Anyone interested in fitness activities should be able to find one that fits their schedule, interests and time at Burnt Store Marina. The Club held two open houses to offer residents the opportunity to come



TEXTING FOR SENIORS

BFF - BEST FRIEND FELL

BTW - BRING THE WHEELCHAIR

TTYL - TALK TO YOU LOUDER

BYOT - BRING YOUR OWN TEETH

LMDO - LAUGHING MY DENTURES OUT

FWIW - FORGOT WHERE I WAS

IMHAO - IS MY HEARING AID ON?

OMMR - ON MY MASSAGE RECLINER

ROFLACGU - ROLLING ON THE FLOOR

LAUGHING AND CAN'T GET UP

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check us out. During these events, our staff and volunteers offered our guests a guided tour of all the facilities, provided information on all membership options and gave free guest passes to use the facilities at a time that fits their schedule. We welcomed close to 100 individuals on these two days and we are pleased quite a few decided to join the Club. Our next open house will be held in January 2023, but don't wait until then to come visit. Our friendly staff are on hand to greet you and answer any question you have ANY TIME.

We have introduced new fitness classes and added Saturday classes. Most of our classes are offered via Zoom as well as in person to include more members. We ran the 6-week weight loss program again this year with over 50 individuals participating. Participants report the healthy habits they learned during this challenge sustained them throughout the year. The Aqua Aerobics classes are also highly attended and we have a wide range of instructors to support this program. This high energy, lower impact form of exercise is excellent for improving cardiovascular endurance and toning muscles without the added stress on your joints. If exercise is not your thing, we have pool only memberships for you to enjoy lounging and sunbathing around our beautiful club pool.

Our pickleball program has grown significantly, with almost 300 wristbands being distributed in January – each player is required to wear a band to show they are a member. There are a wide range of options for those interested in pickleball. We have experienced players who are generous

with their time to show the newcomers “the ropes.” So, if you’ve never played before, don’t let that hold you back. The group welcomes players of all levels from beginners to competitive. In fact, we have roughly 20 members who are participating in the US Open Pickleball Championships to be held in Naples April 23-30, 2022. The social aspects of this game are another reason people like to participate. There are regular socials throughout the season, and the group has raised funds to create a very welcoming space behind the pickleball courts for these social gatherings. Take a walk back there some time and check it out.

The tennis program offers a wide range of opportunities to practice your game including team tennis, round robin events, league play, private lessons and team clinics provided by the tennis pro. A team of tennis volunteers is also leading a fundraising effort to improve the current tennis viewing bleacher area, proposing to add a patio, and new sun canopies. These changes will provide a similar facility to the one at the pickleball site. These improved amenities add yet another welcoming feature to our club. So, if you have a tennis racquet that’s been collecting dust in your garage for longer than you would like to admit, think about dusting it off and joining in with our tennis players. They are always seeking new members to join in.

The efforts of dozens of volunteers combined with our talented and hardworking staff have really contributed to the improvements at the Club over the past few years. We thank our volunteers, members and staff for their hard work, commitment and continued patronage.

Bocce - That’s The Way We Roll!

By Kathy Darrell,
Tarpon Pass

BURNT STORE MARINA COUNTRY CLUB – BOCCE – Our goal is to introduce the joy and competition of bocce to more people.



It is with great sadness that we say farewell to of one of our happiest players, and definitely our most musically talented bocce player. Mike Currao died on February 7 after a brief illness. Mike had an incredible music talent, and was inducted into the American Banjo Museum Hall of Fame in 2014. We will miss his big open smile and his wonderful sense of humor. Our prayers are with Marge his wife, and their beautiful family. RIP Mike. You will be missed.

Bocce is more popular than ever! We are thrilled to welcome more folks to the group, and look forward to meeting even more players and guests!

Mike and Carol Kokinda are in 1st place for the most wins for games played.

If you look up bocce on *Google* you will be amazed at all the unique twists on the game. In Minnesota, you can play ice bocce during the winter months. In California, you can play in a vineyard accompanied by wine tasting, and in New York you can play indoors and order pizza. In Burnt Store Marina, you can play in sunshine with great neighbors and make new friends.

Anyone can join BSMCC Bocce on Tuesday afternoons at 3 p.m. No training or special equipment needed. Bring yourself, a lawn chair and an eagerness to play...great friends, good conversation and lots of smiles.

If you wish to practice before joining our lively group, check out a bocce set from the cart barn and have a go.

For more information, or to be put on our email list, call Tom & Kathy Darrell at 330-806- 9182.

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New LPGA Amateurs Lee-Charlotte Counties, FL Chapter Launched

The LPGA Amateurs Lee-Charlotte Counties, FL Chapter has officially launched, and everyone is invited to check them out. Whether you enjoy social or competitive golf, or would like the opportunity to improve your skills, or make new friends, you are invited to join.



The chapter is planning to offer regularly scheduled weekday and monthly weekend golf outings at courses throughout Lee and Charlotte Counties. They will also be hosting social events to give the members the opportunity to meet each other and widen their circle of friends and golf buddies! Membership and preregistration will be required for many of the events. Fees for the golf and social outings will be based on the respective facilities.

In addition to the classic membership, LPGA Amateurs offers special membership rates for military, seniors (ages 65-plus), and young professionals (ages 18 to 35).

For more information about LPGA Amateurs, visit www.lpgaamateurs.com or the Lee-Charlotte Chapter's website at www.lpgaamateursleechar.com.

About LPGA Amateur Golf Association

LPGA Amateurs is the recreational amateur arm of the LPGA family with headquarters in Daytona Beach, Fla. With more than 130 chapters globally, LPGA Amateurs is one of the largest women's amateur golf communities in the world. The organization provides playing and learning opportunities for adults of all ages and abilities through a variety of local and national events. As a member, you are connected to thousands of other members and can get it all through LPGA Amateurs.

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From The Desk Of Sheriff Carmine Marceno

Construction Site Theft

Construction sites are appearing all over the Lee County Sheriff's Office East District. Undeveloped properties have increased in value and the demand for new homes has grown beyond expectation.



New homesites are particularly vulnerable to theft as the properties are vacant during the evening hours. Home builds, in their latter stages, include new appliances and, unfortunately, are frequently targeted.

While this activity is not unique to this region, the volume of theft has grown. Nationwide, an estimated \$1 billion of materials are stolen annually from construction sites ... Florida ranks third in the nation behind California and Texas.

A recent and dramatic increase in the cost of building supplies ... especially lumber ... has resulted in an escalation of criminal activity at these locations.

As a result of these thefts, I have created a Construction Site Investigations Unit, staffed with Lee County Sheriff's Office detectives, to investigate these construction-related felonies.

While this unit has proven to be effective and has made a significant number of arrests, the unit's success is dramatically improved when community members reach out with concerns and information.

Your assistance is invaluable! Should you see something, say something, make the call!

The majority of theft occurs between Friday at 6 p.m. and the Monday early morning hours. Contact the Lee County Sheriff's Office immediately at (239) 477-1000 nonemergency or 9-1-1 emergency, should you suspect construction-site theft, or observe:

- Vehicles or individuals at the construction site during the evening and overnight hours.
- Loud noises during these darkened periods. This should raise red flags!
- Juveniles, as they have no reason for being at or near construction locations at any time.
- Flashlights and cellphone lights after dark.

Let's work together to keep Lee County a safe and wonderful place to live!

Renting Your Home?

Be sure to get your paperwork to the front gate so your renters will be processed quickly and efficiently.



Deer on a snowy roof

Save The Date: Letter Carrier’s Food Drive To Return On May 14

Seasonal Residents Urged To Leave Food For Drive At Post Offices

After a two-year hiatus, the Letter Carrier Food Drive will be held on Saturday, May 14. Letter carriers in Lee County are gearing up for the 30th annual food drive, the largest single-day food drive in the nation. The “Stamp Out Hunger” food drive is the one day when letter carriers collect nonperishable food that has been left by mailboxes.



Summer is coming, school will be out, and the need for food assistance will be greater than ever. Northerners and seasonal residents who are returning home prior to May 14 are encouraged to check their pantries for unopened food items; they may drop off their contributions at any post office. Food collected will be distributed by local food banks such as Harry Chapin Food Bank and Midwest Food Bank in addition to food pantries managed by local community agencies. All food collected is distributed to participating agencies at no



cost. Virtually any kind of food may be donated in unopened, nonbreakable containers. Items especially in need are peanut butter, tuna, rice, beans, and canned meats, fruits, vegetables, and soups. Volunteers are needed to both help letter carriers collect the food and to help sort the food once it has been collected. Information about volunteering will be provided in the near future. For additional information about the Letter Carrier Food Drive, contact Steve Camacho, (239) 770-8463, machomantwo@gmail.com.

Consumer Alert

Is A Credit Freeze Or Fraud Alert Right For You?

By Seena Gressin, Attorney,
Division of Consumer and Business Education

Credit freezes and fraud alerts can help. Both are free and make it harder for identity thieves to open new accounts in your name. One may be right for you.

Credit Freezes

A credit freeze is the best way you can protect against an identity thief opening new accounts in your name. When in place, it prevents potential creditors from accessing your credit report. Because creditors usually won’t give you credit if they can’t check your credit report, placing a freeze helps you block identity thieves who might be trying to open accounts in your name.

A freeze also can be helpful if you’ve experienced identity theft or had your information exposed in a data breach. And

don’t let the “freeze” part worry you. A credit freeze won’t affect your credit score or your ability to use your existing credit cards, apply for a job, rent an apartment, or buy insurance. If you need to apply for new credit, you can lift the freeze temporarily to let the creditor check your credit. Placing and lifting the freeze is free, but you must contact the national credit bureaus to lift it and put it back in place.

Place a credit freeze by contacting each of the three national credit bureaus, Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. A freeze lasts until you remove it.

Fraud Alerts

A fraud alert doesn’t limit access to your credit report but tells

businesses to check with you before opening a new account in your name. Usually, that means calling you first to make sure the person trying to open a new account is really you.

Place a fraud alert by contacting any one of the three national credit bureaus. That one must notify the other two. A fraud alert lasts one year, and you can renew it for free. If you’ve experienced identity theft, you can get an extended fraud alert that lasts for seven years.

Learn more about credit freezes, fraud alerts, and active duty alerts for service members. And, if identity theft happens to you, visit IdentityTheft.gov to report it and get a personal recovery plan.

Watch For Motorcycles

1. **Always Check Your Blind Spots.** Motorcycles are smaller than other vehicles and can be even more difficult to spot while merging or changing lanes.
2. **Stay In Your Lane.** Motorcycles are legally entitled to their own lane of traffic. In no situation are you allowed to drive your automobile in the same lane and in close proximity to a motorcycle.
3. **Intersections Are Danger Zones.** Always follow the safety protocol for intersections every single time that you approach one: Come to a complete halt, view and obey posted traffic signs and signals, look both ways for approaching traffic, and proceed slowly.

4. **Watch For Turning Motorcycles.** If you notice that a motorcycle is driving with an activated turn signal for an abnormal distance, increase your following distance so that you have time to react whenever the rider does decide to turn.
5. **Take A Second Look At Left Turns.** Before you cross a lane or lanes of traffic to turn left, take a second look for approaching motorcycles.



Baby Gators on Pelican 8
Photo by Gail Culotta

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in Deep Creek



3020 Matecumbe Key Rd #203
\$379,000

Turnkey Furnished Condo overlooking Burnt
Store Marina North Basin



3731 Cobia Villas Ct
\$349,000

Furnished 3BR/2BA with gorgeous updates and
Golf Course Views



3761 Cobia Villas Ct
\$315,000

2BR/2BA/2 Car - Turnkey Furnishings with
Fantastic Golf Course View



302 Islamorada Blvd
\$309,000

2BR/2BA Turnkey Furnished Villa in
Burnt Store Marina



3826 NW 23rd St
\$199,000

Gulf Access location with this slice of paradise
property off Old Burnt Store Road



2010 NW 32nd Pl
\$185,000

Beautiful Gulf access Lot Cape Coral NW just off
Burnt Store Rd

We're Ready When You Are!

CENTURY 21[®]

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3160 Matecumbe Key Rd. • Punta Gorda, FL 33955
In the heart of the Marina. Where the community meets!

