

## From the Section 22 BOD

By Joe Averdick, President, PGI Section 22 HOA Happy Holidays BSM!

As a former Cincinnati Reds announcer used to say, "I'm rounding third and heading for home." By the time you read this article, I will have less than two months left on the PGI Section 22 board. I would like to use this article to reflect on my term serving this community.

It started about two and a half years ago. I was attending a board meeting when a member asked for volunteers to help revive Linkside Café, the lanai and patio. I raised my hand and met with Mike McFeeley after the board meeting to discuss how I could help. That was the beginning of many meetings with other volunteers, and many great ideas. Linkside Café was not doing well, and with the addition of Chef Seth and his outstanding staff, Linkside Cafe has turned the corner and serves up some very tasty food. If you haven't tried Linkside Café, please do yourself a favor, and stop by for a great meal (you don't need to be a member).

Out of many meetings came the idea for Food Truck Thursdays, I am often asked whether the food trucks share their profits with Linkside Café. The answer is a resounding NO. We allow the food trucks to make their living doing what they do best: getting people out to try different cuisines in a fun, relaxed environment. Linkside makes its money from the bar sales during these events (and WOW, has this been profitable!). The first Food Truck Thursday of the 2023-2024 season started with a bang on November 9. Deb and the Dynamics consistently bring a great crowd with lots of great music. The Thursday night fun will continue through April 2024 with more food vendors, great drinks, and a variety of music almost every week.

I would like to recognize the people behind the scenes that are responsible for getting Food Truck Thursdays off the ground and making it such a huge success: John Abbott, Bill Connelly, Deanne Fitzpatrick, Mike McFeeley, Lynda Vail, and Seth Moore have all put in an extensive amount of time and energy to make Food Truck Thursdays such a big success at the Burnt Store Marina Country Club.

Remember, you don't have to be a member to enjoy Food Truck Thursdays, or many of the other events held at Linkside/BSMCC. However, we do ask that you support the club by leaving your coolers at home. So, bring a chair and your dancing shoes and join the fun!

In addition to the event I just mentioned, this board has accomplished a lot in a short amount of time. Did you know?

- The commercial gate on Vincent is now open year-round from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.? No longer does this gate close at 6 p.m. during our busiest time of the year.
- The golf gate is open 24/7 and (thankfully) we haven't seen any masked or unmasked bandits come through thus far (3)
- A dog Park for BSM has been proposed and the committee is working hard to bring this



Holiday Lights – by Kathy Knudsen

• In late October/early November 2023, because of the Hurricane Ian insurance claim payment, new roofs were installed on Linkside Café, the restrooms on the golf course, the front gate station, the Fitness Center, and the Resorts Pool – and boy do they look great!

In the November Beacon, fellow board member, Mark Murphy, outlined all the great things that have taken place, so if you missed this issue, please go to BSM22.org and catch up on previous Beacon articles.

After many years serving on a city council before coming to BSM, it only seemed right to join the PGI Section 22 board and serve our community. I feel very good about all the accomplishments this board has made in the past two years. What I didn't see coming were the challenges. It never occurred to me that some people in this community would view the board members as villains rather than volunteers of their time and expertise. They criticize anything and everything you do to make this a better community - even so far as to verbally assaulting board members they don't agree with. We understand many of you have lived here for decades and are averse to change, but change is important to keep this community relevant to a new generation of Floridians. I recently read this and feel it applies here: "practice riding the tides of change. It's a more pleasant experience than getting caught in the swoosh."

I want to thank my wife, Liz Lavandero, for putting up with my frustration from the unkind phone calls, emails, and (believe it or not) anonymous letters. I also want to thank all the residents that were supportive and offered encouragement during my term. Thankfully, there were many more of you who kept me focused on making BSM a better community for us all.

## **Architectural Review Committee**

By Barry Groesch, Chair

Are you thinking about updating your home? Any changes to the exterior of residences in Burnt Store Marina (BSM) are required to have Architectural Review Committee (ARC) approval. This applies to all homes, including homes in a condo association. If this approval is not granted through ARC, you may be asked to modify or remove the changes made. All requests are made by completing an ARC form and adhering to Section 22 Homeowners Association (HOA) Restrictions. Remember to write legibly and complete the entire form, including having your condo representative sign off (if required). Delays will occur if it cannot be deciphered or the form is not completed in its entirety. Thanks.

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

- Paul Venne, 108 Big Pine Lane, exterior paint.
- John & Joyce Blair, 1508 Islamorada Boulevard, roof replacement.
- Edith M. Graham, 4041 King Tarpon Drive, roof replacement.
- Peggy & Terry Valerio, 4941 Linkside Drive, exterior paint.
- Michael J. MacKay, 3001 King Tarpon Drive, roof replacement.
- Richard Hallowell, 23983 Vincent Avenue, roof & gutter replacement.
- Linkside Café, 24315 Vincent Avenue, exterior paint.
- Eleanor Sullivan, 1410 Islamorada Boulevard, roof replacement.
- Lynne & Norm Lovelace, 3150 Sugarloaf Key Road, roof replacement.
- Thomas & Janet Clark, 3249 Sunset Key Road, hurricane shutters. • Todd & Heidi Clarke, 3265 Sunset Key Circle, awning replacement.
- Gordon Rayner, 3321 Diamond Key Court, install generator.
- Dale Mars, 801 Romano Key Circle, pool cage replacement.
- Glenn & Jeanne Dombrowski, 2301 Diamond Key Court, roof replacement.
- Joseph Drips, 3071 Big Bend Circle, hurricane shutters.
- Jere & Sheri Dhein, 3281 Sunset Key Circle, roof & gutter replacement.

- John & Jacque Jett, 1100 Romano Key Circle, exterior paint.
- James Pepper, 1309 Islamorada Boulevard, roof replacement
- Tom Colucci, 1500 Islamorada Boulevard, sliding door replacement.
- Joe & Lois Mouser, 1206 Islamorada Boulevard., exterior paint.
- Mark & Katherine Mitchell, 2049 Big Pass Lane, garage door replacement. • Marlin Run II Condo Assoc., 500-556 Islamorada Boulevard, exterior paint, house & roof.
- Robert & Sara Washicheck, 3949 Cape Cole Boulevard, roof replacement.
- Stephanie Hunt, 2081 King Tarpon Drive, roof replacement.
- Laura Henderson, 4021 Big Pass Lane, exterior trim paint.
- Janet Hargreaves, 2011 King Tarpon Drive, replace gutters & garage door.
- Steven Mayo, 4005 Cape Cole Boulevard, roof replacement.

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, Email: apmsupport@ alliantproperty.com.

### **Reminder:**

**Next Section 22 HOA Board Meeting –** Tuesday, December 19, 9 a.m., Linkside Café Patio. Every Tuesday – Section 22 HOA BOD Workshops, 9 a.m., Linkside Café Patio.

### **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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**Front Gate**......941-639-8226 24 hours a day burntstoregate@msn.com

Lee County Sheriff Liaison sflores@sherifflee.org

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**BSM Entry Management** Jerry Newmin, Board Liaison Mark Murphy, Board Liaison

**Communications:** Maggie Hart, Chair downhart@me.com Jon Ackerson, Board Liaison

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**Useful Information** .... 941-639-0334 securityBSM@gmail.com Websites -

Websites 
Www.bsm22.org
Section 22 HOA
BSM Fitness, Racquet & Pool Club
www.bsgac.org
Burnt Store Golf & Activity Club
www.burntstoremarina.com
Burnt Store Marina
info@alliantproperty.com
Alliant Association Management
(Section 22 HOA)
www.burntstoreanglers.com
Burnt Store Anglers
www.ppycbsm.org
Platinum Point Yacht Club
Club Administrator - Dorothy Saviste
Email - office@ppycbsm.org

## 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 all projects, go to the **BSM22.org** website to get your application.

## **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.

Thank you.

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### FEATURED PROPERTY

## 2040 KING TARPON DRIVE, PUNTA GORDA, FL 33955 \$375,000



Whether you are a first time buyer or a savvy investor this is the perfect property for you. This popular Outrigger model in Burnt Store Marina features an open concept, beautiful marble tile throughout, new interior paint, and fresh exterior paint and!!!!!!!! The kitchen features solid-surface Corian counter tops and large pantry and new appliances and an indoor laundry. Master bedroom with large walk-in closet with separate entry to lanai. Large screened rear lanai with vinyl windows offers extended living space. Outside the paver driveway welcomes you to the front lanai. Energy and noise reducing window treatments. Golf cart charging in 2-car garage. Home re-piped, HVAC AND ROOF both replaced in 2023. ADT alarm system and 24-hr front security gate. Burnt Store Marina is a pet friendly community. Nice place to enjoy full time or a winter escape. Burnt Store Marina has it all...10 nautical miles from the Gulf of Mexico... 525 wet slips plus plentiful cradles...27 holes of Golf with activities, Fitness center, Tennis and Pickle ball courts, community pool available for a nominal fee, and Waterfront Dining... Tennis...Community Pools...Fitness center. Condo fee is \$375 per month which includes cable TV, Internet, and lawn maintenance.

### RECENT LISTINGS

ADDRESS	STYLE	BED/BATH/GARAGE/POOL	PRICE
3011 MATECUMBE #4	CONDO	2/2/1+DEN COMMUNITY POOL	\$425,000
552 ISLAMORADA	VILLA	2/2/1.5 <b>(NEW PRICE)</b>	\$343,000
2040 KING TARPON	SINGLE FAMILY HOME	2/2/2 CAR	\$375,000
2090 MATECUMBE #1707	CONDO	2/2 CARPORT COMMUNITY POOL	\$375,000
24351 BALTIC AVE #301	CONDO	3/2/2.5 CAR COMMUNITY POOL (NEW PRICE)	\$489,000
2090 MATECUMBE #1707	CONDO	2/2 CARPORT COMMUNITY POOL	\$369,000
1302 ISLAMORADA	SINGLE FAMILY HOME	2/2/2 CAR POOL	\$379,000

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### Mark Your Calendar - Out And About

### **Inside the Gates Dates**

- Friday, December 1: Deadline for the January Beacon. Article and picture submissions are welcomed. Become part of the Beacon family.
- Tuesday, December 19: Section 22 HOA Board Meeting, Linkside patio, 9 a.m.
- Every Tuesday: Section 22 HOA Board Workshop, 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: Farmers Market, PPYC parking lot, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

#### **Outside the Gates Dates**

- Friday, December 1 to Sunday, December 31: Fishermen's Village Festival of Lights, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. 1200 Retta Esplanade, Punta Gorda.
- Friday December 1 to Sunday December 31: King Fisher Fleet Lighted Canal Cruise, 3 cruises nightly starting at 6 p.m. Fishermen's Village. Go to www.kingfisherfleet.com for reservations and pricing information.
- Friday, December 1: Fort Myers River District Art Walk, 1 to 5 p.m. Visit many galleries, exhibitions and performances.
- Friday, December 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.
- Sunday, December 24: Social Dance Party, 2 to 5 p.m. Apply moves learned in dance lessons and meet new friends. Punta Gorda Woman's Club, 118 Sullivan St. Call Laura at 330-501-2366 for information. For USDA Members \$15 per person, \$25 per couple. For non-members, \$17 per person, \$30 for couples.
- 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 Wednesday: Long Lunch Sightseeing & Culinary Tours, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Over the course of 3 hours you will taste local specialties, and explore historic downtown Punta Gorda. \$30 per person. Go to https://swfloridawalkingtours.com/tours-2/long-lunch-tour.
- Every Thursday: Fort Myers River District Farmers Market, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Every Saturday: Haunts of History Tour. Take a leisurely walking tour of Punta Gorda to see the most haunted sites. Adults \$29, youth under 15, \$19. Go to https://swfloridawalkingtours.com/tours-2/haunts-of-history-tour.
- 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., Clubhouse Square, SE 47th 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.

## Burnt Store State of Iowa Potluck

If you were born in Iowa, lived in Iowa, married someone from Iowa, or went to school in Iowa...
You are invited to the ANNUAL

Burnt Store State of Iowa Potluck Grand Isle Social Room [between buildings III and IV] 3329 Sunset Key Circle Thursday, January 25, 2024 5 p.m.

Bring a potluck dish to share: Appetizer, entree, starch/vegetable, or dessert, and your own beverage

\$5 per person—pay at the door Door prizes

WEAR YOUR SCHOOL COLORS
Please RSVP [limited seating] to

Ann Singer 319-290-5955, or amsinger122@aol.com





New Seawall Construction in North Basin

## **Bocce - That's The Way We Roll!**

By Kathy Darrell, Tarpon Pass II
BURNT STORE MARINA
COUNTRY CLUB – BOCCE
– Our goal is to introduce the
joy and competition of bocce to
more people.



We play the age-old game of Bocce at 3 p.m. every Tuesday. Bocce is a game that is easy to play for all ages and skill levels, and is a great way to meet new people.

We would love to have you join us. We range from novices to those playing for decades.

Bocce is not only a fun game, but it is now a way for a developer to tear down three dilapidated buildings in Pittsburgh, PA. The developer has tried to tear down some buildings that he owns and build a high-rise. He has been fought all the way, and struck out with the state Supreme Court in his battle to destroy the old buildings. He has decided, after

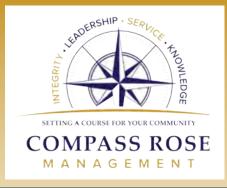
battling for four years, to offer tearing down the buildings, and building bocce ball courts. Mr. Troiani, the developer, states that "This gift of the bocce ball courts is a gift to the city to stabilize the site, and create a use that will engage the city, its neighbors and guests for years to come." Some folks loved his idea, others not so much. What do you think?

Please note, you **do not** have to be a member of Burnt Store Marina Country Club to play bocce. We plan on dining together at Linkside. We also enjoy meals together at additional restaurants close to home.

The bocce court is located in front of Burnt Store Marina Country Club on the northeast side of the parking lot. Please bring a lawn chair. We play until 5 p.m. and then have dinner.

For more information or to be put on our email list please email Connie & Dave Huelsbeck at huelsbed@bellsouth.net.

Stai al sicuro e Dio benedica (Stay Safe and God Bless)



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Community Boards and Homeowners!











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## **Community Takes Control...** Understanding the Acquisition of Amenities

By John Strohm, CAM, CEO, Alliant Association Management

In 2017, I had the honor of serving as your Community Association Manager. During this time, I witnessed the remarkable journey of your community as it successfully navigated the process of revising its documents, and acquiring the available assets from the developer. This pivotal decision marked a turning point, as the community took control of assets previously overseen by the developer. Now, let's delve into the crucial highlights:

Approval for Acquisition - On January 26, 2017, the community members voted an overwhelming yes (85% approving), and gave the green light to the Board of Directors to obtain, manage, and maintain various assets. These assets included the community irrigation system, golf course, golf course clubhouse, maintenance garage, golf cart barn, retention ponds, tennis courts, fitness center and fitness center pool, two ten-acre parcels of land, and the remaining roads within our community.

Financial Support -To fund this acquisition, the community also agreed to allow the Board of Directors to borrow \$5,000,000. This was to cover the \$4,000,000 purchase price of these assets, \$1,000,000 to pay for closing and insurance costs, and to have a beginning financial safety net available for updating, repairs, and replacements for these assets. The maintenance of these assets had been totally ignored by previous owners, and the extra funds were put in place to begin the process of bringing these assets all up to an above standard of

Independent Operation - One of the main goals of the acquired assets was that each would operate independently, and become financially self-sufficient. This means that the annual assessment collected for the PGI Section 22 Homeowners Association (HOA) is not to be allocated towards the operation, maintenance, and repairs of the assets that were purchased. The newly purchased assets are managed separately, with dedicated budgets and expenditure tracking for each asset. These new assets operations are separate from the PGI Section 22 HOA budget. The financials are reviewed monthly by the Treasurer and the Board. The HOA financials are independently audited each year.

Controlling Future Usage - The primary aim behind the acquisition of the new assets was for our Burnt Store Community to gain control over the future use of these properties, ensuring their designated usage aligns with the community's vision, and to provide a safeguard in protecting and maintaining the value of all our properties. This step has empowered the community to take a proactive stance in safeguarding and managing its valued assets, providing a solid foundation for future growth and sustainability.

In conclusion, your Board of Directors, volunteer committees and Alliant Association Management remains steadfast in its commitment to effectively manage and enhance the cherished assets of our community. Through their continuous efforts, they strive to create a thriving environment that benefits each and every member, while also preserving the overall value of our homes. Together, we look forward to a future of continued growth and prosperity. Thank you for your unwavering support.

## **Renting Your Home?**

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



## **CENTURY 21**

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### Happy Holidays To You And Yours! Give Yourself The Gift Of A Florida Home!



3221 Sunset Key Cir \$1,490,000 Turnkey! Impeccable Remodel! 4 bed+Den/4 bath/2 CG 2 Master Suites, Pool and Spa On Marina's South Basin

## RARE PENTHOUSE!



3333 Sunset Key #701 \$1,245,000 Turnkey! **Sunsets and Harbor Views!** 3 bed + Den/3 bath/Pkng Light and Bright End Unit Seller Financing Available!



3020 Big Pass Lane \$1,175,000 **Gorgeous Remodel!** 3 Bed/2 bath/3 car gar New Roof, Windows, Doors, Pavers, Kitchen, Baths, etc!

MARINA AND HARBOR VIEWS!



**BIG WATER VIEWS!** 

3329 Sunset Key #401 \$969,000 Furnished! **Gorgeous Updates! Spacious End Unit** 3 Bed+Den/3 Bath, Parking Seller Financing Available!



3361 Diamond Key Ct \$689,000 **Last Gulf Access Lot Includes** 2 Boat Lifts and Concrete Dock! Only 9 Homes on Gated Street



17837 Hibiscus Cove Ct \$575,000 3 bed/2 bath/2 Car Gar **Beautifully Updated Interior New Roof and Pool Cage!** 



3020 Matecumbe Key #603 \$579,900 Turnkey **Penthouse Overlooking** Marina with Harbor Views 3 bed/2 bath/Carport



3270 Southshore Dr. # 72C \$515,000 Turnkey **Wow! AMAZING views** 3 bed/2 bath/Private Gar **Great Rental!** 



24501 Cabana Rd \$498,000 Furnished 3 bed/2 bath + Den New Roof, New Pool, **Hurricane Shutters!** 



3228 Sunset Key Cir, #101 \$479,000 Turnkey Lives Like A Home! Updated Steps to Community Pool 2 bed/2 bath/2 Car Gar

# SOLD!

3925 Cape Cole Blvd \$475,000 Furnished **Beautifully Updated** 2 Bed/2 Bath/2 car Gar Pool and Spa, Quiet Street

# SOLD!

1410 Islamorada Blvd \$345,000 Furnished 2 bed/2 bath/2 Car Gar New Roof, Great Investment **Updated Kitchen** 

### **BEAUTIFUL UPDATES!**



1590 Islamorada Blvd #83B \$336,000 Turnkey 2 bed/2 bath/Carport Gorgeous Kitchen **New Hurricane-Rated Windows!** 

### **NEW LISTING COMMODORE!**



3 Pirates Lane 31A \$332,000 Partially Furnished 2 bed/2 bath/Carport Many Updates! New **Hurricane-Rated Windows** 

### **NEW PRICE!**



1600 Islamorada Blvd #72B \$319,900 Turnkey 2 bed/2 bath/Carport Many Updates! New **Hurricane-Rated Windows** 

## **Know Your Florida Elected Officials** and How to Contact Them

**US Senate** 

**Rick Scott** 

716 Senate Office Bldg. Washington DC 20510 202-224-5274 / 239-231-7890

Marco Rubio

317 Hart Senate Office Bldg. Washington DC 20510 239-318-6464

**US House of Representatives** 

**Byron Donalds** 

1719 Longworth HOB Washington DC 20515 202-225-2536 / 239-599-6033

**Greg Steube** 

2457 Rayburn HOB Washington DC 20515 202-225-5792 / 941-499-3214

Florida Governor

**Ron DeSantis** 

400 S. Monroe Street, Tallahassee FL 32399 850-717-9337

Florida State Senate

Kathleen Passadomo – District 28 239-417-6205 / 850-487-5028

409 The Capitol

404 S. Monroe Street, Tallahassee FL 32399-1100

Email: Passadomo.kathleen@flsenate.gov

Jonathan Martin – District 33 239-338-2570 / 850-487-5033

2000 Main Street, Suite 401, Fort Myers FL 33901

Email: Martin.jonathan@flsenate.gov Florida State House of Representatives

**Spencer Roach** - District 76 Local Office - 239-656-7790

Tallahassee Office - 850-717-5079 Email: Spencer.roach@myfloridahouse.gov **Tiffany Esposito** - District 77 Tallahassee Office - 850-717-5077

Email: Tiffany.esposito@myfloridahouse.gov

**Jenna Persons-Mulicka** - District 78 Local Office - 239-338-2328

Tallahassee Office - 850-717-5078 Email: Jenna.persons@myfloridahouse.gov

Mike Giallombardo - District 79 Cape Coral Office - 239-772-1291 Tallahassee Office - 850-717-5077

Email: Mike.gialombardo@myfloridahouse.gov

Adam Botana - District 80 Bonita Office - 239-949-6279 Tallahassee Office - 850-717-5076

Email: Adam.botana@myfloridahouse.gov

**Lee County Commissioners** Kevin Ruane - District 1

239-533-2224

P.O. Box 398, Fort Myers, FL 33902-0398

Email: dist1@leegov.com Cecil Pendergrass – District 2

239-533-2227

P.O. Box 398, Fort Myers, FL 33902-0398

Email: dist2@leegov.com Brian Hamman - District 4

239-533-2226

P.O. Box 398, Fort Myers, FL 33902-0398

Email: dist4@leegov.com

Mike Greenwell – District 5

239-533-2225

P.O. Box 398, Fort Myers, FL 33902-0398

Email: dist5@leegov.com

**State Attorney – 20th Judicial District** 

**Amira Fox** 239-533-1000

2000 Main Street, Fort Myers FL 33901

Email: afox@cjis20.org

**Supervisor of Elections** 

**Tommy Doyle** 

239-533-8683

PO Box 2545, Fort Myers FL 33902 Email: tdoyle@leeelections.com **Clerk of Court & Comptroller** 

**Kevin Karnes** 

239-533-5000

PO Box 2469, Fort Myers FL 33902

Email: kkarnes@leeclerk.org

**Property Appraiser Matt Caldwell** 

239-533-6100

PO Box 1546, Fort Myers FL 33902

Email: caldwellm@lpa.org

**Public Defender** 

**Kathleen Smith** – 20<sup>th</sup> Circuit

239-533-2911 / 941-637-2181

PO Drawer 1980, Fort Myers FL 33902

Sheriff

**Carmine Marcino** 

239-477-1000 / 239-477-1001

14750 Six Mile Cypress Pkwy, Fort Myers FL 33912

Email: cmarcino@sheriff.com

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side, orchids should be brought in or protected if temperatures

allowed to get too wet. They do best with at least 14 hours

two to three weeks. Once they bloom, they require lots of

all will moderate temperatures. The coldest temperature will

occur around 6 - 6:30 a.m. It only takes a few minutes of

cold, not freezing temperatures, to substantially harm or kill

Pruning encourages tender new growth that can be killed

• You probably don't need to prune much after the beating most plants took from the storm – but don't be tempted!

• Potted poinsettias need to be watered, but should not be

• Christmas cacti and kalanchoes are best watered every

• Cages, pools, proximity to a wall, a rotating ceiling fan...

are predicted to drop below 50 degrees.

light, but very little water – and no fertilizer.

of natural or artificial light per day.

tropical plants.

## Gardener's Wheelbarrow

By Maggie Hart, Mariners Pass

At last! Everyone can move outside and enjoy their garden. Cooler days and nights have finally arrived. The month of December will generally be dry, with only two inches of rain.

By now, you have had the time to appraise your landscaping after Hurricane Ian, and begin planning for replacements and new additions. Pay attention to the trees and shrubs that were destroyed by the storm, and both their

pre-storm condition and location in your landscape. This is a good indication of what to plant and where to plant it... much like starting over. Because of December dryness and possible frost, it is not the time of the year to be planting your new additions. Wait for spring.

Plan to remove a tree if the main trunk is cracked or broken, or if the major roots have been damaged. Many trees and palms can be straightened up and braced until healthier. For palms, keep all green fronds, even if broken or twisted. The fronds provide assistance for regrowth. Plan on watering and fertilizing them to bring them back to life.

If there are any blooming trees still standing, this month's bloomers include fall orchid trees, kapok trees and white shaving brush trees. Most flowering tropical plants will continue to bloom, unless challenged by frosty temperatures.

• Tropical plants – this is not their favorite season. You

will probably see some yellowing and loss of foliage due to cooler temperatures. Chill plus any rain can cause brown spots to appear on the leaves of ixora and croton. • Frost predicted? Cover your plants (no plastic!), and

remember to remove the covering by 10 a.m. so daytime

temperatures don't cook your plants. And, to be on the safe

This month's garden checklist:

• Annuals – remove dead flowers to encourage continued flowering. • At this time of year, established plants have definitely

by frost. You can safely prune again in March.

slowed down their growth rate, and consequently require less of everything...water, fertilizer and pruning. Water less frequently, but deeply, to encourage deep healthy roots.

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## **Burnt Store Marina CC News**

By John Abbott,

General Manager, BSMCC

Well, the holiday season is upon us, and there is no shortage of fun holiday events going on in the neighborhood, and here at the club. The Tree Lighting on Thursday, December



7, down at the Marina, is always the kickoff. The Cart Parade is on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup>, which will end back here at Linkside Café, where we will be having a buffet dinner for all the parade participants and their friends. Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> we will be having our annual Holiday Scramble golf tournament, which always has a great turn-out. So, make sure you get signed up early.

Other neighborhood events include the home decorating contest, the boat decorating contest, the 5K charity run, Linkside Café's Hanukah special dinner on Tuesday, December 12, and finally on December 23, the second annual Outdoor Holiday Movie here at the club. If all that doesn't get you in the spirit of the holidays then we need to check you for a pulse.

Our Thursday food truck and music nights kick back into gear on December 14, with four trucks and the ever popular "Kollections." The "Remarkable Paige Duo" will be here on the 21<sup>st</sup>, and to round out the year, we will be hosting the always awesome "Jeff Becker Boots Band" on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

With the passing of the legendary Jimmy Buffet, we decided to put on a tribute concert, with various local entertainers, who will regale us with a bunch of his great beach vibe tunes that we have all grown to love. This will be on Saturday, December 16, so make sure to join us for food, fun and to help us honor the memory of an all-time favorite.

There are events almost every day of the month in December, so make sure to check the weekly blast to stay informed of all the fun things that are going on. If you are not receiving the blast and would like to, stop by the administration office and we will put you on our mailing list. We hope all of you have a wonderful holiday season and we look forward to seeing you at the club!

### **BSMCC DECEMBER 2023 Schedule of Events**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Juliuay	Worlday	ruesuay	wednesday	Thursday	1	Saturday
					Lunch	Lunch
					11 a.m 3 p.m.*	11 a.m - 3 p.m.*
					Dinner	Happy Hour 3 - 5 p.m.
					5 - 8 p.m.**/*	BOGO Drinks 5 - 6 p.m.
						Pub Night 5 - 8 p.m.
						Music - Rick Austin
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Brunch Menu	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch on lanai Only	Lunch	Lunch	Holiday Scramble 9 a.m.***
9 a.m 12 p.m.	11 a.m 3 p.m.*	11 a.m 3 p.m.*	11 a.m 3 p.m.*	11 a.m 3 p.m.*	11 a.m 3 p.m.*	Happy Hour 3 - 5 p.m.
NFL Football	Trivia	Dinner	Republican Dinner	Taco Buffet	Holiday Buffet	BOGO Drinks 5 - 6 p.m.
1 p.m.	5 - 8 p.m.***	5 - 8 p.m.**/*	5 - 8 p.m.****	Margaritas BOGO	5 - 8 p.m.**/*	Pub Night 5 - 8 p.m.
· .	Members Only!	9 Hole Scramble	•	Tree Lighting	Reservations Required	Music - Tommy Barr
	, i	3 p.m.***		Cass Cay	Cart Parade	
					5:30 p.m. Dusk	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Brunch Menu	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
9 a.m 12 p.m.	11 a.m 3 p.m.*	11 a.m 3 p.m.*	11 a.m 3 p.m.*	11 a.m 3 p.m.*	11 a.m 3 p.m.*	11 a.m - 3 p.m.*
Holiday 5K	Trivia	Hanukka Dinner	Happy Hour on Lanai	Food Trucks and Music	Dinner	Jimmy Buffet Tribute
Fitness Center	5 - 8 p.m.***	5 - 8 p.m.**/*	3 - 6 p.m.	Kollections	5 - 8 p.m.**/*	Outside 5 - 8 p.m.
NFL Football	Members Only!	9 Hole Scramble	Linkside Closed	5 - 8 p.m.	о ор.н. 7	Burgers and
1 p.m.	Boat Decorating	3 p.m.***	4 -9 p.m. Private Party	о ор		Margaritas
1 p.m.	5 - 9 p.m.	5 p.m.	4 -9 p.m. i ilvate i arty			wai gai itas
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Brunch Menu	Lunch	Lunch	Holiday Ladies League	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
9 a.m 12 p.m.		11 a.m 3 p.m.*	Luncheon****	11 a.m 3 p.m.*	11 a.m 3 p.m.*	11 a.m 3 p.m.*
9 a.m 12 μ.m. NFL Football	11 a.m 3 p.m.*			Food Trucks and Music	Dinner	Holiday Movie Night
	<b>Trivia</b> 5 - 8 p.m.***	Dinner	Prime Rib Night			, ,
1 p.m.		5 - 8 p.m.**/*	5 - 8 p.m.**/*	Remarkable Paige Duo	5 - 8 p.m.**/*	6:30 p.m.
	Members Only!	9 Hole Scramble		5 - 8 p.m.		
		3 p.m.***				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Brunch Menu	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
9 a.m 1 p.m.	11 a.m 3 p.m.*	11 a.m 3 p.m.*	11 a.m 3 p.m.*	11 a.m 3 p.m.*	11 a.m 3 p.m.*	11 a.m 3 p.m.*
1	Trivia	Dinner	Democrat Dinner	Food Trucks and Music	Dinner	Happy Hour 3 - 5 p.m.
	5 - 8 p.m.***	5 - 8 p.m.**/*	5 - 8 p.m. ****	Jeff Becker	5 - 8 p.m.**/*	BOGO Drinks 5 - 6 p.m.
j	Members Only!	9 Hole Scramble		5 - 8 p.m.		Pub Night 5 - 8 p.m.
		3 p.m.***				Music - Lori Lee
Brunch Menu * Call Linkside for reservations 941-637-6405				<del></del>		
9 a.m 12 p.m.	p.m. **Members make rerservations 1st! Non-member 7days prior to events - 3 days before dinner's if available!					
NFL Football *** Sign up in Lobby on Board						
1 - 4 p.m. **** Sign up at Admin Office.						
NY's Eve Dinner  Music**/* 5.9 n m  Music**/* 5.9 n m						
Music**/* 5 -9 p.m.	Due to sireumeten		4	to obones		

## Tight Lines... the Art of Fishing with Soft Plastic Baits

By Jay Lev, Burnt Store Anglers
Just about every fisherman's
tackle bag in America has at
least one or more bags of soft
material fishing baits, loaded and
ready for use. These soft baits,
as they are known, are designed
to imitate worms, small baitfish



crabs, shrimp, and about 1000 other designs. With the invention of moldable soft plastic material, fishing tackle companies went about designing regional baitfish designs including worms and shrimp. As coloring material became available, it was only the imagination of the tackle manufacturers as to what their product will look like. It is important to remember when selecting a soft bait lure, to select the design and color based on what exists in the water you are fishing. Usually, fisherman will begin to select soft baits based on the recommendation of the fishing shops staff, and what they have heard are producing catches. I guess, over the years, I have personally purchased several hundred different designs and colors. Today, I carry my five or six colors and designs that have produced catches many times over. This selection process is usually based on experience, and what you have caught lately.

There are three fishing soft baits that I favor. Some are a little harder to get than others, but the number of fish I catch with them actually makes me a very happy angler at the end of a fishing day. MATRIX SHAD comes in about 14 colors. These soft baits take some searching as to who carries them, but I have found a tackle shop called "4 Horsemen Tackle," that carries them and is located online. Their home is in Cut Off, Louisiana. The shop can be reached at 985-637-9720 or www.Fourhorsementackle.com. I have fished all 14 colors and find the Magneto, Shrimp Cocktail and Glow work really well in our local waters. These soft baits are produced by Dockside Bait and Tackle and are carried by 4 Horsemen Tackle. Another soft bait many fishermen use are produced by an east coast Florida company called "D.O.A." These baits come in many colors, shapes and sizes. They are most well known for their artificial shrimp and crabs. Because they are very popular, just about every local tackle shop will carry them. Fishin' Franks of Port Charlotte, Florida, has a very large selection of these soft baits to choose from. A newer soft bait known as "NLB," or "No Live Bait Needed," comes in many colors and sizes and is designed with the traditional paddle tails. Pine Island Bait and Tackle, which I have written about many times, has an absolutely tremendous selection of these baits. The shop is located on Stringfellow Rd. on Pine Island, next to the Ragged Ass Saloon. You do not want to miss a visit to this tackle shop as they always have a large inventory of soft baits to choose from. The shop can be reached at 239-558-4524.

Selecting a color soft bait is often confusing. Many guides go by this saying, "If it ain't chartreuse it ain't of no use." I always have at least one chartreuse colored soft bait in my tackle bag, and have never been disappointed. White pearl, clear glow, pink, gold fleck, blue fleck and motor oil fleck color all work just fine. Baits four to six inches long work really well. The hook is the next component. Selecting a hook is also a frustrating experience. Over the years a simple red head, white or chartreuse colored jig head hook has worked just fine. They are available in bulk or small packages in almost every tackle shop. Recently, lead jig heads, as they are called, have been designed by manufacturers to look like small bait fish heads, and are very realistic. In my experience, after talking to many guides, the simple jig heads work just as well. It is just a matter of opinion what you select. The hook size of these jig heads should usually run from a size 2/0 up to a size 6/0. Remember, that a larger hook also makes the jig head heavier than a smaller hook.

Most anglers will fish jig heads that weigh 1/8 to 1/2 ounce. They also usually match the size of the soft baits to the size of the jig hook to prevent any damage to the soft bait. Remember, a heavier jig head will take your soft bait down the water column rather quickly. As the strength of the wind, tide, current and water depth increase, so should the weight and size of the jig head you will use. In addition, many soft bait packages will recommend the weight of the jig head to use. Be sure to have an assortment of colors and weights on hand for your trip to account for changing conditions you will encounter. I recently found a jig head on Amazon that is my new go to jig head. It is called "XRS" or Extreme Ring Shank. This jig head is made by Smart Tackle and comes 5 to a pack. I fish 1/8 ounce and 1/4 ounce in a white head. This jig works really well for me. If you can't locate the jig head on Amazon, try www.fishsmarttackle.com.

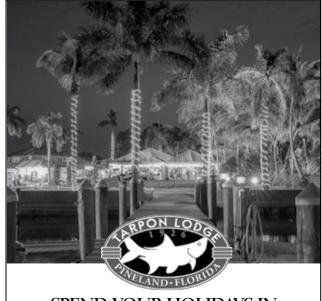
Your soft bait on a jig head needs to be fished with a leader. The leader is the piece of line that runs from your fishing line to your soft bait. The leader, as it is called, should be between 24 and 48 inches long. This leader will separate the line on your reel spool from your artificial bait, and should match the line that is on your reel. For example, if you are fishing a lighter line of say 10 to 12 lb. Test, a leader of 20 lb. should be just right. If you fish 15 to 20 lb. test line, you generally can use a 30 to 35 pound test leader. The size of the fish always matters. If you are breaking off larger fish that you have hooked, switch to the heavier rated leader. Leader manufacturers are very important to consider. Some of the large spool junk material that is usually very cheap is not worth having in your tackle box. Brands such as Orvis, Matrix, J line Leader, Suffix, Ande, Seaguer, Yo-Zuri, Daiwa and Hi-Catch are all excellent leader lines. These lines will be

available in monofilament and fluorocarbon. You will pay more for the fluorocarbon due to its ability not to be seen in the water when wet. This is the choice of experienced fisherman who look for every advantage when fishing.

One last point, in fishing all the soft baits mentioned here, is to be sure to reel your lure in after a cast, just fast enough for the fish to be attracted to its movement in the water, and yet not so fast or slow that the fish will recognize the soft bait as being artificial. This refers to both the soft baits that are cast and sink, as well as the D.O.A. lures. that are meant to hop along the bottom or be set under a floating cork.

Enjoy exploring fishing with soft baits. Try out all the combinations and suggestions listed here and add more of your own. The more you experiment with them, the more proficient you will become while fishing a variety of fish.

Tight Lines!



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## **Blood Donation**

### **News**

By Ann Singer, Admiral's Point

Welcome back to our past blood donors that have supported OneBlood-BIG RED BUS! We also hope to see many new faces these next several months. Invite your neighbors to join you. Donors do not have to be marina residents. The blood drive is a service offered by ONE BLOOD which provides the opportunity for folks in our area to donate much needed blood.

There are 3 blood drives held in Burnt Store Marina this season.

Please mark these dates on your calendar:
 Always on a Monday

November 13, January 22 and March 18
 All dates are 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Drives are scheduled so you have 56 days between. This is the law in the United States.

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of making an appointment and showing up! The bus only has 39 allotted time slots for drawing. Our donors are doing a great job utilizing the OneBlood website to make appointments. The blood draw dates are posted months in advance, giving donors the opportunity to reserve a choice time.

The bus is located in the Cass Cay/Trading Post parking lot. Make an appointment online, call or just walk in the day of the drive. For questions, call Ann Singer at 319-290-5955, or Jo Bucci at 941-445-8260. To schedule online log onto **ONEBLOOD.ORG**. Establish a username and password and follow the directions to schedule. Remember to bring a photo ID. Be sure to eat before you donate and drink lots of fluids before and after.

There are incentive gifts for all successful donors. Each will receive a \$20 eGift card, a lovely OneBlood blanket, and a Chick-fil-A card for a free chicken sandwich. All donors receive a wellness checkup of blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening.

Each whole blood donation has the potential to save up to three lives.

OneBlood expresses gratitude to all for your generousity and dedication to this program. OneBlood serves all Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas. Blood shortage exists in all these areas. We need YOU to donate. Now is the time to make a difference.









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3329 SUNSET KEY CIR #503 | \$599,000

3228 SUNSET KEY CIR #103 | \$585,000



2071 KING TARPON DR | \$529,000



17269 COMINGO LN | \$485,000



16271 BRANCO DR | \$475,000



2031 KING TARPON DR | \$460,000



17495 BOCA VISTA RD #4 | \$419.000



4619 NW 32ND TER | \$399,000



25271 ROLAND LN | \$99,000



16376 PERICO WAY | \$99,900

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## **Platinum Point Yacht Club**

By Loretta Steeves, Director

Have you noticed all the activity at Platinum Point Yacht Club (PPYC) this season? PPYC always kicks into gear in November, but this year we are celebrating our 40th Ruby Anniversary - Forty Years Afloat. Platinum Point came into existence to fulfill the hopes and dreams of several forward thinking individuals 40 years ago. Those individuals, some of whom are club members to this day, envisioned a yacht club to promote boating in the beautiful waters of Southwest Florida. This bold group bought the land at the premier spot on Charlotte Harbor. And the rest is history.

The current members of PPYC are making sure that history remains vibrant, and our club continues to flourish. One goal, which may not have been envisioned by our founders, is to spread PPYC's impact out into the community of which we are a part. That's why you probably saw, or perhaps even came to, the second Shrimp Boil on November 15. It was an unforgettable evening as over 140 PPYC volunteers created a Southern feast to welcome the entire community back together for the 2023-2024 season.

Not only was there a feast, there was live music by PPYC musicians, and a bake sale to rival any church group or PTA. Other members, especially the more artistically inclined, supplied treasures to stock the Christmas Market. (Last year, this author found a book on friendship for one

**Marina Walk** Safety

By Bill Boykin. President, PPMA

As we approach our high occupancy season, it is important to remind ourselves to safely enjoy the Marina Walk. Safety is key, and that can be achieved if we all exercise common sense and simple courtesy.

Pedestrians, as on all the Burnt Store roadway systems, have the right of way. Other than handicap related conveyances, golf carts are the only authorized motorized transportation devices on the Marina Walk. Under Florida's new golf cart law, 18 is the minimum legal age to operate a golf cart unless the driver possesses a valid driver's license or learner's permit. Please remember that we as owners are responsible and liable for the behavior of all individuals operating our golf carts.

Golf carts and bikers must slow down to near walking speed (3 to 4 mph) and announce their presence when approaching pedestrians from behind. Maximum recommended speed on the Walk is 5 mph, jogging speed. Golf cart drivers and bikers need to be mindful of all pedestrians, including those entering from single family homes along the Walk. These simple actions would eliminate many dangerous encounters. Also, two parallel stopped golf carts blocking the Walk is inconsiderate of others and a potential safety hazard.

Pedestrians may have the right of way, but they also have responsibility to ensure that they do not hinder passage of others. For example, walking four abreast and not yielding. Their responsibility also includes the sensible use of earbuds or other devices that limit their ability to hear rear approaching bikes, golf carts and other pedestrians.

If you are an early morning walker or rider, remember that sounds carry in the quietude of the morning, and could disturb the sleep of those who reside in the homes that hug the walkway. Inside voices please. After dark and before light, please have a visible light on you, your pets, bikes and golf carts. Pets must be leashed at all times and remember to pick up after them.

Please share these safety guidelines with your children, grandchildren, guests, renters and boat service contractors going to your boat dock. When all of us use courtesy and common sense, our Marina Walk will continue to provide safe enjoyment for all.

## **Sheriff's Report**

October 2023

- 4 Speeding Warnings
- o 4 Non-Residents
- 2 Stop Sign Warnings 0 1 Resident/1 Non-Resident
- Right of Way Warning
- o 1 Resident
- Expired Tag Warning
- o 1 Non-Resident

very, very special friend.) And let's not forget the Boatload of Wine Raffle, where two lucky winners took home wine to supply the entire season.

Other community involvement was PPYC members and other marina residents contributing gifts to the PPYC Adopt a Child. Eighteen families from East Elementary School will receive some early Christmas joy on December 13. Each child in the family will receive gifts of both clothing and toys. Each family will also receive a Christmas book and a restaurant gift card. Because of the generosity of this community, we truly make a difference in the lives of these families. We look forward to working together on this community outreach again next year.

If the Shrimp Boil kicked off the season for the Burnt Store Community, the PPYC Annual Meeting, held on November 11, was the set point for PPYC itself. The baton was passed from Commodore, Jeri Butler, who led us seamlessly through Hurricane Ian recovery, to Greg Broxterman, whose previous experience in the building trade makes sure all projects come in on time and on budget. But as always, PPYC is about its members, who came together to review, reflect, and establish our objectives for the coming year. And what would PPYC be without a party? That night, the members returned for the Annual Welcome-Back Dinner. Members enjoyed a sunset cocktail hour, dinner, and dancing to music by singer and saxophonist Ron Lorenzo. Platinum Point Yacht Club's 40th year was launched with renewed optimism and a commitment to meeting the needs of our membership, both boaters and non-boaters, fulltime residents, and our sometimes northern friends.

If you'd like to be part of PPYC's 40th season, please see Dorothy Saviste, our Club Administrator, on-site Mondays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays or call her at 941-639-0733. PPYC - Forty Years Afloat and going strong.



## **Platinum Point Yacht Club**

3601 Cape Cole Blvd Punta Gorda, Florida

You are invited to PPYC's Open House Sunday, November 12, from 3 until 5:30 p.m. Food and drinks will be provided. Stop by, we would love to tell you about PPYC.

### **Boaters and Non-Boaters Welcome!**

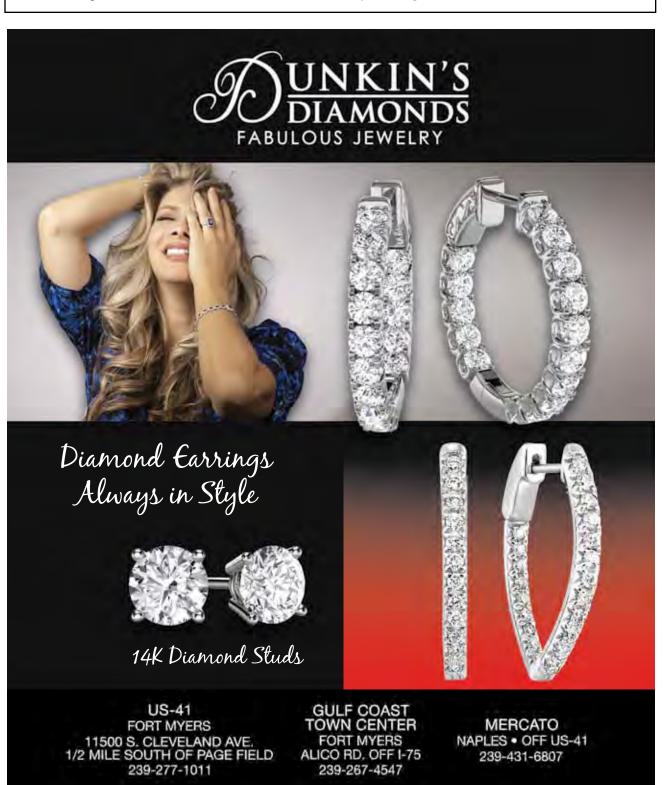
Platinum Point Yacht Club is offering a fantastic promotional:

\$300 off dues for a Couple's Membership \$225 off dues for a Single's Membership Available until March 31, 2024

As a member of this year-round club, you will enjoy many on-water and on-land activities with new friends. Boat ownership is not required, as PPYC offers a variety of activities. Ongoing events in season are: Monday sailboat racing, monthly overnight cruises, monthly parties, jam sessions Sunday evenings, Happy Hours Tuesday and Friday, games, special interest activities, and more. If you are considering joining PPYC, don't miss the opportunity for PPYC's Promotional your first season.

For more information contact:

Club Administrator, Dorothy Saviste at 941-639-0733 or at office@ppycbsm.org. Membership Chair, Vanessa Jordan at 817-235-7361 or at vlwjordan@gmail.com.





### Sharadan Edmonds 941-875-6525

## Allison James Estates & Homes

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(Corner of Burnt Store Rd & Harborside Blvd)



Linda Dutcher 941-268-1372



Burnt Store Isles 355 Trieste Dr. \$1,299,999

Gulf access, Sailboat Water with NO Bridges. Over 3400+ sq ft of living space with 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, NEW IMPACT Windows & Doors / Heated Pool & Spa and NEW 10k Boat Lift & Dock.



Burnt Store Lakes 24342 Saragossa Ln. \$649,999

Burnt Store Lakes waterfront pool home featuring 3 bedrooms + 2 baths + 3 Car Garage and over 2200+ sq ft of living space. NEW Roof installed 2023



Pirate Harbor 2423 l Captain Kidd Blvd. \$660,000

Gulf Access Canal-Front Home Two Bed/Two Bath/Oversized Garage Incredible Views + Boat House + Concrete Seawall



Punta Gorda Isles 2001 Bal Harbor Blvd. #2201 \$282,900

The Preserve at Bal Harbor is a gated community w/ Elevator & Resort like amenities. Close to Fishermans Village & Downtown Punta Gorda. Two Bedrooms + Two Baths with lanai & under building Parking w/ 10' x 10' Storage.



Golf Fox Condo 2080 Big Pass Lane Unit B \$350,000

Ground Floor End Unit 2/2/1 Car Garage Low Monthly \$480, Turnkey Furnished



### Burnt Store Marina 3280 South Shore 88A \$789,000

Best View in Marina South Shore. Furnished Turnkey/3 Bed/2 Bath/ Private Garage, Glass Enclosed Lanai Included in the 2,592 Sq. Ft. Expansive 2,000 Ft. Waterfront Views of the Harbor and Marina.



Pirate Harbor 24397 Treasure Island Blvd. \$829,000

Gulf Access Canal-Front Home
Four Beds/Two Baths/Three Car Garage
100 Ft Seawall with Boat Lift w/ Canopy & Davits with
Concrete Dock



### Punta Gorda Isles 2327 Via Veneto Drive \$400,000

Gulf Access Canal-Front Vacant Lot. Sailboat Water, No Bridges! Huge Lot. Close to Downtown and Riverfront Over 70 Ft. Concrete Seawall



Punta Gorda Isles 1447 Mediterranean Drive \$395,000

Punta Gorda Isles Gulf Access land with 185 feet of Concrete Seawall. Huge One-Third Acre lot, Zoned GM-15. Suitable for Condos/Duplex or Single Family Home Developments.



### Burnt Store Lakes 17440 -17462 Belie Way \$59,500 Per Lot

Buy One or Buy All, Call Sharadan for 5 Lot Package Price, City Water & City Sewer, Deed Restricted, Great location close to Safe Harbor Burnt Store Marina & Golf Course.



## Recipe Box

### Pizza Squares

By Jennifer LeClair, Pelican Way

Always a welcome treat, these pizza squares are easy to make, and do not require a lot of ingredients. Any leftovers (not often), are just as good reheated or



even eaten cold. I've always served these as an appetizer but...they could be used as a meal.

#### **Ingredients**

- 1 ½ cups flour
- 2 cups milk (whole, skim, 2%, fat free, almond or evaporated)
- 2 large eggs beaten
- 1 lb. Muenster cheese, cubed
- 8 oz. pepperoni, chopped (or use the mini pepperoni)
- 1/2 teaspoon oregano
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon parsley
- 1 jar pizza sauce (for dipping)

### **Instructions**

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Mix all of the ingredients together (except for pizza sauce).

When combined pour the batter into a greased 13x9 pan. Bake in the preheated oven until set and golden brown on top (approximately 50 to 60 minutes)

Let cool and cut into bite size squares, if using as an appetizer, or larger squares if serving as a meal. Serve with the pizza sauce for dipping.

## **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.

- $\bullet$  Islamorada Entrance Gate to Cape Cole Blvd.  $0.82~\mathrm{mile}$
- 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., .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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If so, it's time to check out MyDigitalListings.com



## 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 Sherriff's Office.



Effective October 1, 2023, golf carts may not be operated on any "streets" by someone who is under the age of eighteen (18), unless the driver has a valid learner's permit or driver's license. The term "street" is defined by Statute to include "...any privately owned way or place used for vehicular travel...." In other words, the BSM community's roadways would be subject to the legislative change and its new requirements.

- 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 without a driver's license or learner's permit is allowed to drive on streets within Burnt Store Marina.
- No one **not playing golf** is allowed to drive a golf cart on the golf course.

## Wildlife Caution Notice

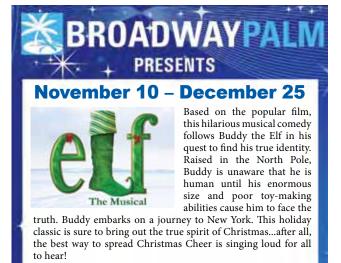
Owners are asked to use caution and be aware of local wildlife such as coyotes, bobcats, and alligators.

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.



Dec. 30, 2023 - Feb. 17, 2024



This official Elvis Presley biomusical takes a closer look at the rock star and cultural icon whose impact shaped the history of music. Spanning from his childhood in Tupelo, Mississippi to his triumphant 1968 "Comeback Special" and his ascent to be "The King."

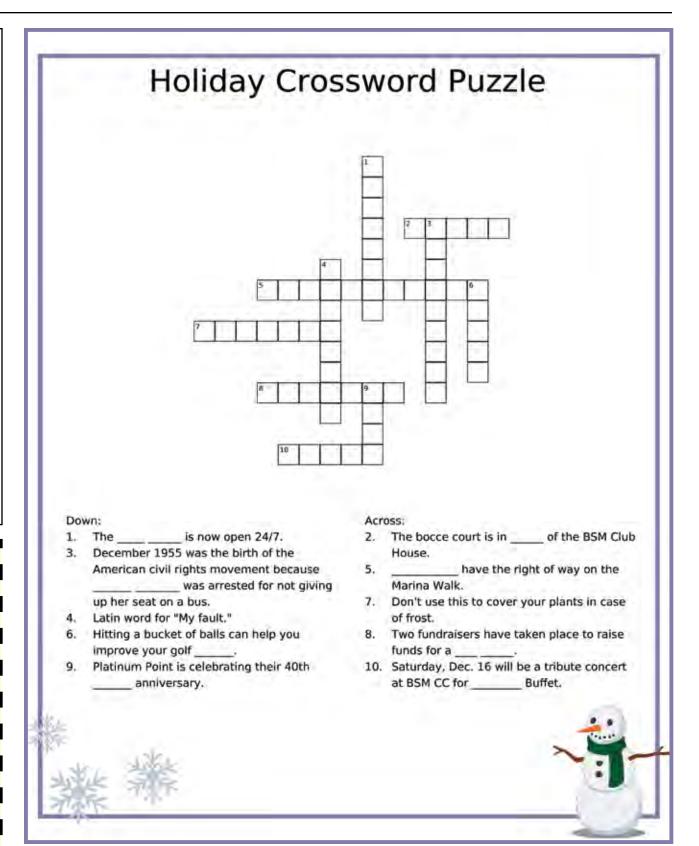
You'll hear iconic hits including All Shook Up, Heartbreak Hotel, Burning Love, Hound Dog, Don't Be Cruel, Jailhouse Rock, Blue Suede Shoes and more!

Dates may be subject to change.

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## **Burnt Store Marina Dog Park**

By BSM Dog Park Committee

The BSM Dog Park committee is working hard on trying to raise 50% of the funds needed to build a dog park for our BSM four legged residents.

Our first fundraiser was the Halloween Dog Costume Party on October 25<sup>th</sup> at the marina Tiki Bar. It was a huge success. Over 100 people and 40 dogs attended the event. We also had two guinea pigs dressed up like a pieces of

Fun was had by all. So many creative costumes for both pets and people. While the contest cost nothing to enter over \$700 was raised just in donations. People are very excited about this proposed new amenity and want to help it succeed. We appreciate the support from The Trading Post, Safe Harbors, and John Sauers for stepping up and providing the music.

We participated in the Community Garage Sale on November 4 to continue our fundraising endeavor. Thanks for the large amount of people who donated items to sell, we were able to raise \$2,047. Thank you everyone!

What next? We are planning on having a "Yappy Hour" in December that will include an opportunity for you and your pet to have your picture taken with Santa Claus. Look for more information coming soon.

We will be selling a 12 X 12-inch brick with custom engravement for our dog park entrance soon. The cost will be \$80 each and you can specify what you want engraved on your brick. See example of smaller brick below.

Captain Marty Lonergan has set up a public Facebook



page for those interested in either volunteering or wanting more information: https://www.facebook.com/ groups/2049904375354320.







### **Dining Venues**

LINKSIDE CAFÉ @ Burnt Store Marina C.C. -941-637-6405

www.bsgac.org

23415 Vincent Ave, Punta Gorda

941-637-6405

Open to the public

Breakfast – Sunday, 9 a.m. – Noon

Lunch – Monday – Saturday, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., Sunday 1 - 7 p.m.

\*Dinner – Tuesday & Friday, 5 - 8 p.m.

\*Call for information for specialty dinners

\*Reservations are recommended as seating is limited. Walk-ins are gladly accepted.

CASS CAY RESTAURANT & BAR - 941-347-7148

www.casscayrestaurant.com

Open Daily -11 a.m. -9 p.m.

**THE TRADING POST - 239-789-3463** 

www.facebook.com/tradingpostbsm

Summer Hours: Sunday-Thursday - 7:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday - 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Featuring deli, breakfast & lunch, ice cream, pizza, beer & wine and ice.



A Beautiful Evening at Cass Cay









### **Pets in Paradise**

By Debra Bretz, Admirals' Point

I decorated my front flowerbeds with pumpkins and mums for Halloween. My friend across the street let me know that mums are toxic to animals. I was unaware of this, and ultimately decided to throw them away. I wished Home Depot and Lowes would label unsafe plants. Well, I checked their websites and turns out they do. They have a listing of safe plants for both cats and dogs, outdoor and indoor. I just never knew it!

I researched what other plants might be toxic to animals so I could keep my dog safe. I checked out the ASPCA website. They have a listing of toxic plants with pictures. I also found a site called Offbeet-Gardener.com. This site listed the top 20 toxic plants in Florida for cats and dogs. The pictures were helpful in identifying ones in our area since I don't know all the plant names. I was surprised by a few of the ones listed. I have noted the top 20 toxic plants in Florida below. These are not the only toxic plants, these are just the most popular in Florida.

Disclaimer: This list is informational only and I am not a veterinarian. If you think your pet has encountered a poisonous plant, call your veterinarian ASAP. The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center can be reached 24/7 at 1-888-426-4435.



- 2. Aloe Vera
- 3. Asparagus Fern
- 4. Philodendron
- 5. Jade Plant
- 6. Chrysanthemum
- 7. Oleander 8. Cycad
- 9. Azalea
- 10. Caladium
- 11. Jatropha
- 12. Carolina Jessamine
- 13. Dieffenbachia
- 14. Bird of Paradise
- 15. Holly
- 16. Elephant Ear
- 17. Lantana 18. Wisteria
- 19. Morning Glory
- 20. English Ivy

I found 2 refrigerator magnets on Amazon as a quick reference for both plants and foods. We need to be vigilant to keep them safe. They depend on us!

Nearby are pictures of five of our four footed residents! Thanks for sharing your pictures with me and please send

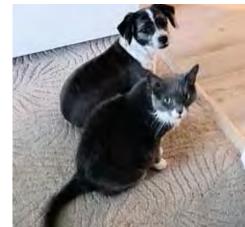


Buster and Maui Sims











Ollie Dolle



Cody LeMaster

Dixie & Kitty Moorehouse



Black-bellied Whistling Ducks Enjoying the Pond by the Resort Pool - Submitted by Karen Sanderson, Esplananade

## 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.

## **Lee County Leash Laws**



It is a Lee County law, as well as a Burnt Store Marina rule, that all dogs are to be on leashes. The open lot at the corner of Islamorada and Matecumbe is not a dog park. The Commodore residents own the whole part that is

landscaped. Please keep your dogs on leashes at all times, and off that property.



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## Fitness, Friends & Fun...'Tis the Season for Fitness!

By Cynthia Mathews

December in Florida is the perfect time to enjoy all the amenities that the Burnt Store Marina Fitness Club has to offer. Newly surfaced



tennis and pickleball courts, the new floor in the aerobics room, and many new updates await our members. And speaking of our members, we have three new Marketing Committee Members, Chris Piwowarek, Dottie Schindler, and Ted Schindler. Thank you all for joining us.

Looking for last minute gifts or stocking stuffers? Give the gifts of good health with day passes and memberships, and of good taste with our Fitness Club's apparel and swag. What a great way to show your love.

When you're renewing your membership, remember that we have price changes going into effect in 2024. All members, couples or singles, will pay the same price. Full

Annual members pay \$500 each, and a couple is \$1,000. Full Seasonal Members pay \$375 each, and a couple is \$750, and Non-Residents pay \$650 each, and a couple is \$1,300. One-month Membership is \$275 per person.

### Seasonal Activities are on tap too!

**5K Fun Run** on December 10

We welcome the community, members and non-members alike, to our 5K Fun Run on Sunday, December 10. The course runs through our lovely marina, and is open to those of all abilities. Participants don't need to even complete the whole run. Register at https://www.anasfriends.org/special-events, or at the front desk of the Fitness Club. Entry is \$30 and kids under 12 run, walk, or skip for free. Proceeds from this event benefit the Children's Needs Program of A.N.A.'s Friends (formerly known as the Guardian ad Litem Foundation - 20th Judicial Circuit, Inc.), This valuable group works to support abused, neglected, or abandoned children in Charlotte County. After the event a light lunch will be served along with music and prizes for top finishers.

Open House on January 6 from 9 a.m. to noon

We can't wait to see old friends and make new ones at our Open House. Everyone is welcome to this community event. There will be raffles, prizes, and free day-pass giveaways. The dynamic duo of Mark and Robin Vanderlinden are spearheading this event. We will be giving tours of the renovated pool area and fitness center and having tennis and pickleball demonstrations. Aqua Exercise

Our instructors each have their style. Classes are at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Zumba is held at 8:30 a.m. on Friday. Join Cathy for a moderate aerobics class with a beat; Linda C. for Zumba; Linda W. for intense muscle conditioning; Deb for a Deep-Water Mixed Bag; and Val for a full body social set to rock and roll. Even if you're not coming to the aqua aerobics class, stroll over to the renovated pool and spa area with attractive new landscaping and umbrellas.

### **Long and Short-Handled Sports**

Warming up our muscles is a great way to get ready for playing and helps prevent injuries. That's why the Fitness Center is offering stretching classes! Join us on the Pickleball Courts at 7:30 a.m. (yes, there is one of those in the morning) on Tuesdays and Thursdays. All members are welcome to increase their range and flexibility.

#### Tennis

With league play underway, our teams welcome members to watch and root for our players. County Ladies and Men over 75 play on Mondays, Men's League on Thursdays and Ladies on Fridays. Just go to Court Reserve to find the details on dates and times for our matches. Round Robin Mixed Doubles is every Saturday morning at 8 a.m. Sign up on Court Reserve. Have questions and want to know more about our popular tennis program? Ask a tennis ambassador! Call or email Kelly Millar 530-305-1451 or kellymillar23@yahoo.com - or Clif Behney 717-639-5676, cabehney@comcast.net. Want to improve your skills, coach Jay Penny can help. Reach out to him at 413-281-0041 or email at jaypenny1@aol.com.

We have a new BSM 75+ Team. Peace River is forming this division for the 2023/2024 season. New relaxed rules now permit members of our other teams (Gold, Blue, & Red) to play on both teams with 75+ matches on Mondays skill level restrictions. The goal is to form 75+A and 75+B divisions when the league expands. Find out more by contacting Milt Sales at miltkathy@gmail.com.

### Pickleball

Want to up your game? Sign up for a clinic or private lessons. We are fortunate enough to offer private lessons with Ricky 941-623-6632 and clinics with Marty 914-719-2542. Let him know if you'd like to join the skills and drills every Thursday between 1 and 2 p.m. Our Open Play is Monday through Saturday from 8 to 11 a.m. and 9 a.m. to noon on Sundays. Beginning Picklers and Gigglers gather from 11a.m. to 1p.m. Mondays and Fridays. Advanced Beginners meet Wednesdays and Fridays. Round Robin groups meet from 2 to 4 p.m. Men on Tuesday, Ladies on Wednesday, and Mixed play on Thursdays.

On a personal note, I've been playing pickleball for four months now, and I have to say this active community has been supportive, and so much fun to learn with. I appreciated our teams playing at the Punta Gorda classic as well as the costumes at our Halloween party. Kudos to coach Ricky for his expertise.





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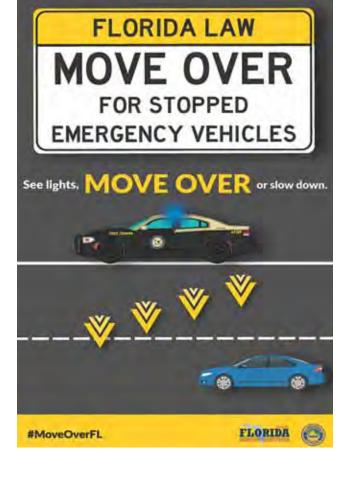




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## Golf Tip of the Month

By Bill Connelly,

Manager of Golf Operations How many of us will get a bucket

of balls, go to the range and hit that bucketful as fast as we can, without actually practicing anything? Hitting a bucket of balls, on a consistent basis, is a good way to maintain your golf swing. One thing that I do when I get a chance to go practice is to always practice with a purpose. I may not hit a lot of balls, but every swing has a purpose. Whatever you are working on, make sure to incorporate it into your practice session.

One thing you can do that helps is learn to read your

• If your divot is facing left, most likely the ball is going right. That is caused by your swing going outside in or "over the top." To correct your slice, try pulling the club down with your front side. This promotes an inside to out swing.

• If the divot faces too far to the right, then you are swinging too far inside. To correct that, try bringing the club straight back instead of snatching it inside right off the ball.

Start spending the majority of your practice time on and around the putting green. Once you start concentrating on making more putts and improving your short game in general, you won't have to spend so much time on the driving range hitting ball after ball.

There will be a Holiday Scramble on December 9 at 9 a.m. so be sure to sign up and remember the weekly 9-hole scramble every Tuesday at 3 p.m.

To the right are the results of the Halloween Scramble on October 28.

- 1. Karen and Gary Crandall, Marlene and Barry Harbart
- 2. Debra Burns, Tom Fitzpatrick, Brent Chorneyko, Ralph Smith
- 3. Karen and Dan Lone, Gene Lastfogel

### 2nd Flight Winners

- 1. Bob and Jane Moen, Sue Peters, Bob Keyworth
- 2. Ovila Case, Stephen Dahl, Dan James, Steve Maynard
- 3. Maryann and Bob San Juan, Janet and Bob Wood

### **3rd Flight Winners**

- 1. Jim and Jeanne Brown, Bruce Smith, Rob Dickson
- 2. Bob and Robin LeMaster, Dave and Krisann St. Johns
- 3. Steve and Susan Flagstad, Deb and Ralph Hodges Please stop in for lunch and some shopping, we would

love to say hello. Have fun learning to enjoy your game.

## **December Off-Beat Holidays**

By Maggie Hart, Mariners Pass

December not only brings parties, celebrations, great Florida weather, and snowbirds, but a lot of historic events. Here are some to add to your list:

December 1, 1955 - The birth of the modern American civil rights movement occurred as Rosa Parks was arrested in Montgomery, Alabama, for refusing to give up her seat to a white man, and move to the back section of a municipal bus. Her arrest resulted in a year-long boycott of the city bus system by African Americans, and led to legal actions ending racial segregation on municipal buses throughout the South.

December 1 - 3 - Siesta Beach Seafood & Music Festival, Siesta Beach, Florida

The event is a unique blending of food, music and entertainment, offering attendees a mix of seafood creations and drinks prepared by the top restaurants in Siesta Key and Sarasota. There will be musical performances by local and regional musicians, in genres from Scottish bagpipes and classical quartets, to rock-and-roll, jazz, calypso and reggae. For schedule and ticket information, go to www. facebook.com/siestabeachseafoodandmusicfestival

**December 3** - SW-FLORIDACON, a Comic & Pop Culture Event, Fort Myers, Florida

The SW-FloridaCon is a collectors' convention that is Florida's best comic convention, featuring fandoms of multiple genres. The show will have over 100 exhibitors that cater to interests including comic books, magazines, toys, gaming, video games, movies, records, sports cards, wrestling, television, anime, artwork, and apparel. In addition, a roster of comic industry professionals and fandom-related celebrities are in attendance for attendees to meet and greet. Time: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission: \$20, kids under 11 free, Free parking. Hilton Doubletree Hotel, at the Bell Tower Shops.

December 6, 1865 - The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified abolishing slavery, stating, "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, save as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction."

**December 7 – 15** – *Hanukkah* the Jewish festival commemorating the recovery of Jerusalem and subsequent rededication of the Second Temple at the beginning of the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire in the 2nd century. It is also called the Festival of Lights.

December 9 - Weary Willie Day - Professional clown Emmett Kelly created one of the more memorable clown characters of the 20th century, "Weary Willie." Unlike many other clowns, Weary Willie did not have white face paint, instead had the "tramp" look, popular to the Depression era. One of his signature routines involved attempting to sweep up after circus acts, and failing - to the delight and empathy of the audience.

December 14, 1962 - The Mariner II space probe sent back information from the planet Venus, the first information ever received from another planet.

December 15, 1964 - Canada adopted a new national flag featuring a red maple leaf on a white background.

December 17 - Wright Brothers Day, made an official holiday in 1963 by Presidential Proclamation. This holiday marks the day in 1903 when Orville and Wilbur Wright, of Dayton, Ohio, achieved the first ever documented controlled airplane flight near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

**December 21** - Phileas Fogg Win A Wager Day - In Jules Verne's 1873 classic novel, Around the World in 80 Days, Phileas Fogg bet that he can travel the entire globe, between 8:45 p.m. on October 2, and 8:45 p.m. on December 21.

**December 23 -** Festivus Day – If you don't celebrate Christmas, Chanukah, or Kwanzaa, you can celebrate this holiday. Today is Festivus Day. The slogan for today is "Festivus for the Restivus!" Experience the joy and the Miracle of Festivus. This holiday was created by Daniel O'Keefe, who found a reference to an obscure holiday called Festivus. O'Keefe first celebrated this holiday in 1966. He selected December 23, to celebrate the anniversary of his first date with his future wife Deborah. His son Dan, a television scriptwriter, brought the holiday to life on the Seinfeld Show.

**December 25** - Christmas Day, commemorating the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Although the exact date of his birth is not known, it has been celebrated on December 25 by the Roman Catholic Church since 336 A.D.

December 26 - National Whiners Day - Get it all out, whiners. Today is your day.

**December 26 - January 1** – Kwanzaa - An annual celebration of African-American culture, culminating in a communal feast called Karamu, usually on the sixth day. It was created by activist Maulana Karenga, based on African harvest festival traditions from various parts of West and Southeast Africa.

December 30, 1803 - The Stars and Stripes flag was raised over New Orleans as the United States took formal possession of the territory of Louisiana, an area of 885,000 square miles, nearly doubling the size of the U.S. The territory had been purchased from France for approximately \$15 million.

**December 31, 1879** - Thomas Edison provided the first public demonstration of his electric incandescent lamp at his laboratory in Menlo Park, New Jersey.

### **Our Four Legged Family**

Our home is doggie paradise It's great for people too So picking up your doggie poo Should matter lots to you Please scoop the poop and bag the poo And take it home to trash Don't leave it on our sidewalk Or even on our grass Your doggie doo reflects on you It's what your puppy passed So let us live in harmony And help our paradise last



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## "I Could Feel The Sand Between My Toes Again..."

Joyce was told by her oncologist, 'There's nothing that can be done, you'll have to live with the neuropathy.' She would have to live with the chemo-induced it impossible for her to walk any distance. Joyce was a cancer survivor, only to have come out on the other side with a debilitating condition. She and her husband showed up at my clinic and told me what their medical doctor had said. I told her the same thing I told my mother, 'I just don't believe that.' After a thorough neurological examination and report of findings, she trusted me enough to follow my best recommendations. Within two weeks, her numbness and tingling in her feet subsided, and the feeling was coming back . . . After 12 weeks she told me, 'I could feel the sand between my toes again while I was walking along the beach.' At her one-year checkup Joyce's sensory loss had improved over 80% overall to within the normal range . . . She is all smiles these days!

"I got neuropathy as a side effect from the chemo that I received 2 years ago in the fall. So it has been about 2 years since I've had the neuropathy. We received the ad in the newspaper and my husband says why don't we see if this guy can help you. We made an appointment, came here and he did. I am so much better it's unbelievable. I wasn't able to go to the grocery store without taking a cart, even if I was just picking up some bananas or one or

two things. I had to have a cart to help me walk through the store. When we went to the beach we pretty much just stayed in our chairs because I couldn't get up to go for neuropathy in her hands and feet. Hot and cold were a walk on the sand. My feet hurt that bad. It was hard to indistinguishable, and the numbness and tingling made get dressed in the morning. While trying to put my feet into my pant legs my toes wouldn't cooperate. When I finally came in for my appointment it was close to the end of the time when we were going back up north. I got to know everybody pretty well because I was here everyday that they were open to get in all of my treatments before we left. I continued everything at home, all of the way up through the summertime to where I ran out of stuff, and so now I'm not doing any of that anymore, but they are still so much better it's unbelievable. I mean I walk the beach, I play golf two or three times a week, I can run into the grocery store without help, and my husband will say I can't keep up with you anymore. It's just so much better, it's wonderful. It's well worth coming in and having the treatments and taking supplements. You just need to be faithful and do it because it will wake your nerves back up. It's wonderful. If you don't try to take care of yourself nobody else is going to."

-Joyce B, Patient

Dr. Rob Davis, DC is the Best Selling Author of Breaking the Cycle, How to take control of your health when traditional medicine has failed. An Amazon #1 New Release in 3 categories. Call (239) 482-8686 to schedule an appointment.

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## Five Ways To Safely Celebrate With Your Pet This Holiday Season

By Dr. Whitney Miller, DVM, MBA, DACVPM

Most pet parents agree: their animals are part of what makes the holiday season so magical. While it's an excellent opportunity to integrate furry family members into all the special holiday traditions and make memories together, there are a few things you should keep in mind to keep your pet safe and healthy throughout the festivities:

• Opt for pet-friendly decorations. Many favorite holiday decorations need to be kept out of pets' reach. Mistletoe, pine needles, ivy garland, holly, lilies and poinsettias can be toxic to pets when consumed. This is why I recommend artificial Christmas trees to those with particularly curious pets that like to chew on plants. If you don't choose an artificial tree, it's important to note that some water additives for real trees can be toxic, so you should make sure your pet can't access this water source. When decorating your tree, it's best to avoid tinsel and breakable ornaments to prevent potential hazards, and you should always secure your tree to prevent a climbing cat from tipping it over.

• **Keep pets warm and dry.** As the weather gets colder, pets may need a few extra layers to stay comfortable and safe while outdoors. Booties can help prevent a pup's paws from getting ice in them and offer protection from salt-treated walkways. At home, use pet-safe ice melt rather than salt, which can be irritating to pets' paws, mouths and stomachs. You can keep them feeling warm and looking stylish on winter adventures with sweaters and jackets. A cozy handwarmer lead will help keep you warm as well while you're out and about. When you



return home, always dry off their coats and paws to remove debris and ice clumps in fur and between paw pads.

 Choose and wrap gifts wisely. If you're one of the nearly 80 percent of pet parents who, according to a recent consumer survey of 1,000 dog and cat parents, plan to include pets in holiday gifting, make sure pets only have access to and open presents while supervised so they don't ingest any paper or tape. I recommend sticking to wrapping paper for pet gifts, as ribbons, bows and accessories can be dangerous when ingested. Whether you're buying advent calendars, apparel or toys for your pet, holiday stockings offer an easy and pet-safe "wrapping" option that you can use year after year.

• Be aware of toxic holiday foods. Common holiday foods such as chocolate, turkey skin and bones, ham, grapes and raisins, garlic, caffeine, alcohol, onions, certain spices and sweets, especially any containing xylitol, should be avoided. For festive pet-safe foods, your local pet store has a variety of sweet and savory dog treats just for the holidays. If you think your pet has accidentally ingested toxic food or other material, contact your veterinarian or the Pet Poison Helpline, (855) 764-7661, immediately.

• Prioritize pet health and wellness. Involving pets in holiday traditions can mean taking them along for a road trip, introducing them to new people or staying in unfamiliar environments – all things that can cause anxiety in pets. It's important to keep your pet's mental health top of mind during the holiday season and year-round. When possible, pets should be introduced to new people and pets in a neutral environment, individually and at their own pace. For pets that experience anxiety in the car, practicing with short drives or sitting in the car while parked, followed by treats and positive reinforcement, can help the adjustment and prepare them for a long ride. Calming products can help mitigate anxiety in pets, and you can also consult your veterinarian for anxiety or motion sickness treatments to help make travel easier.

### **Consumer Alerts**

### Scammers Are **Impersonating Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Inspectors**

By Alvaro Puig, Consumer Education Specialist

Scammers are using the names of Federal Trade Commission (FTC) employees, including the FTC's Inspector General, to trick people into sending money or giving up their personal information. Here's what you

The FTC won't threaten you or demand a payment. If you get a letter with the name of an FTC Commissioner or staff member that threatens some dire consequence if you don't pay immediately, it's a scam. Don't pay. The same goes for threatening callers that claim to be from the FTC.

The FTC doesn't give out prizes. If someone contacts you claiming to be from the FTC and says you need to pay to get your prize, it's a scam.

FTC employees won't identify themselves with a badge number. If someone claiming to work for the FTC gives you a badge number, it's a scam. Especially if they then ask you for money.

Don't respond to someone who says they're from the FTC and demands money, threatens you, or asks for personal or financial information. Report them to the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov.

## **Grammar Tips – Latin Phrases** You Should Know

By Maggie Hart, Mariners Pass

For those of you who didn't take Latin back in school, here are some phrases that we sometimes hear or read: Ad hoc ..... For this purpose only

Carpe diem.....

Seize the day

Around, approximately Et cetera (etc.)

And the others

In flagrante delicto .....

In the act of committing a crime

Ipso facto.....

By that very fact

Mea culpa
My fault
Per se
Through itself
Pro bono
Done without charge
Status quo
Existing state of affairs
Terra incognita
Unknown land
Vox populi
The voice of the people

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### Plant of the Month...Poinsettia

By Maggie Hart, Mariners Pass

So, for that holiday gift exchange, you ended up with a potted poinsettia. It's very pretty, but what so do you do with it now, and...what do you know about them?

Poinsettias are native to Mexico, and are a popular holiday plant because of their colorful bracts (leaves). Poinsettia flowers are actually made up of the bracts, which look like petals, and the tiny yellow flowers in the center, called cyathia.

Used for decorating during the winter holidays, they are also attractive as green plants throughout the year. Most people are interested in making their green poinsettia colorful again and ready for the holidays. This is not easy, because it requires excluding light from the plant for a period of time while keeping the plant healthy. The reduction in light prevents the plant from producing chlorophyll, the pigment that makes plant parts green. This changes the bracts to red, pink or white, depending on the variety. Poinsettias change color in response to the shorter days of winter.

Dr. Leonard Perry, Extension professor emeritus at the University of Vermont and author of Caring for Your Poinsettia Year-Round, created a poinsettia-care calendar based on the holidays of the year. It is formulated for inside potted plants, but can be used as a guide if you have transplanted or put the pot outside.



New Year's Day: Fertilize if you see new growth. Continue to provide adequate light and water for prolonged bloom for several weeks. Never over-water, and be sure pot drains properly. If there is decorative paper that prevents air and light getting to the plant, remove it.

Valentine's Day: Check the plant for signs of insects, such as white fly, and manage them if you find them. If it has become long and leggy, cut back to about five inches tall to promote more compact growth. You can also transplant it directly into your garden.

St. Patrick's Day: Prune off faded and dried parts of the plant. Remove leaves from the soil surface, and add a little more potting soil if the roots are visible. Keep the plant in a bright, sunny window or area outside.

Memorial Day: Trim off two to three inches to promote side branching. If you continue growing your poinsettia as a potted plant, transplant into another container.

Father's Day: Move the plant outside and place it in indirect light.

Fourth of July: Trim the plant again and move it into full sun. Continue to water and fertilize, increasing the amount to accelerate growth.

Labor Day: Make sure your plant is in a spot that gets at least six hours of direct light daily, preferably more. As new growth begins, reduce the fertilizer.

Fall equinox: Starting on or near September 21, give the plant 16 hours of uninterrupted darkness and 8 hours of bright light every day. Note that during the dark period, the plant cannot receive even the slightest bit of light at any time.

Thanksgiving: Discontinue the short day/long night treatment. Put the plant in a sunny area that gets at least six hours of direct light.

December Holidays: Enjoy your "new" poinsettia. Start the cycle all over again after the new year.

## From The Desk Of Sheriff Carmine Marceno

### **Civilian Support Unit**

The prodigious and esteemed Lee County Sheriff's Office Civilian Support Unit (CSU) is a diverse entity comprised of volunteers from all professions, callings and backgrounds.



Since the unit's inception in 1988, Civilian Support Unit members have donated hundreds of thousands of hours assisting our agency in areas related to traffic control, parking enforcement, Marine auxiliary, vacation home checks, bike

patrol, neighborhood canvassing and so much more. The supplemental services provided by our CSU members have become an integral component of the Lee



County Sheriff's Office. Their efforts assist certified deputies when additional eyes, ears and hands are essential.

Our county's population continues to grow and with such growth comes additional obligations to our community. At this time, I am reaching out to our residents in an effort to grow our Civilian Support Unit. Your desire to

serve your Lee County neighbors, combined with our assets and resources, become an extraordinary alliance. Our ceaseless commitment to this community, coupled with your life-experience, help enhance and support the quality of life that we have come to know in Lee County!





Together, and only together, can we meet the county's

expanding needs.

For additional information, please call (239) 477-1422, email csu@sheriffleefl.org or visit us at www.sheriffleefl. org/civilian-support-unit.

## **Attention Residents:**

Please notify your guests that may be coming in to provide the following information to the gate:

The name of the resident you are coming to see OR The address of the resident you are coming to see.





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## **Holiday Scams**

## Don't Get Taken During The Season Of Giving

For most of us, the holidays are full of giving, getting and goodwill. But some bad actors use the holidays to take advantage of people's generous spirits. They frequently target members of our communities who are older and more vulnerable to scammers and con artists.

### **Five Holiday Scams To Avoid**

### 1. Package Delivery Scams

An estimated three billion packages were shipped during the last holiday season. So, it's not surprising that cybercriminals have concocted several schemes related to package deliveries.

A popular scam involves receiving a text or email that asks you to click on a link for a number of phony reasons, such as to get an update about the delivery date, track the package location, give your payment preferences, provide delivery instructions or pay a shipping fee. You may also be given a phone number to call for more information about your delivery. Since fraudsters want you to act without thinking, they may convey a sense of urgency in their message.

While some of these communications are obviously fraudulent – perhaps containing multiple misspellings or other errors – many are carefully crafted, even replicating a shipping company's logo or email format in some cases.

So, it's easy to get duped, especially during the hectic holidays.

Unfortunately, clicking on the link may infect your phone or computer with malware that enables a cybercriminal to capture your passwords or take control of your device. Or it may direct you to a form that requests personally identifying information, which can be a gateway to identity theft.

Calling the number typically leads you to a friendly-sounding individual who asks you to verify your personal information or provide the credit card number used for your purchase. You might also be requested to pay an additional delivery fee, customs fee or tax for the package.

If you receive any of these communications, it's best to simply go to the shipper's website for more information about your alleged delivery using the tracking number provided. (Type the website address directly into your browser because search results may lead you to a fake or phishing site that mimics the authentic one.) Or call the shipper using a verified phone number.

Sometimes scammers take a more aggressive approach and call you pretending to be a representative from a package delivery service. If this happens, don't provide any personal information – just hang up. If you receive a voicemail with a call-back number, don't return the call.

### 2. Missed Package Scams

Who doesn't hate missing a package delivery?

Cybercriminals know this. So, they've created a ruse that involves leaving a note on your door claiming to have a package for you that couldn't be delivered. The note contains a phone number to call to reschedule the delivery. If you call the number, you'll be greeted with questions related to your personal identity that can later be used to commit fraud.

If you receive a missed delivery note, look at it closely for any mistakes or other signs that it could be fraudulent. (It's also a good idea to check your recent orders to see if a delivery was scheduled for that date.)

Even if the notice looks legitimate, don't call the number listed on the note. Instead, visit the company's website to find the official customer service number.

#### 3. Gift Card Scams

'Tis the season for gift cards. So, naturally scammers have devised some ploys to take advantage of this.

A common gift card scam involves receiving a phony or "phishing" email or text that appears to be from someone you

know – such as an executive at your company – and asks you to purchase multiple gift cards for a work-related function. Or perhaps it's a personal request allegedly from a relative or friend who claims to need some help with ordering gift cards.

If you receive any unusual requests for gift cards during the holidays, reach out directly to the individual by phone to confirm the authenticity of the request.

#### 4. Social Media Scams

During the holidays, you might see promotions or contests on social media sites offering gift cards or vouchers in exchange for simply completing an online survey. Unfortunately, the survey usually isn't legitimate. It's only a means of capturing your personal information to commit identity fraud or other types of cybercrime.

Or you might be offered a prize for just liking or sharing a social media post. But doing either could infect your device with malware.

The bottom line? Be extra cautious during the holidays on social media, especially with enticing offers that seem unusually generous.

#### 5. "Brushing" Scams

While the name of this scam is odd, the scam itself is even odder.

You'll receive a package you didn't order bought from an online marketplace that allows customers to post reviews of their purchase. The item is typically cheap and lightweight.

Since it's the holiday season, you might think it's just a gift from a stranger looking to pay it forward. In reality, it's likely from someone who sells products on online marketplaces who wants to create fake, positive reviews. But, in order to post a review, the marketplace requires that a transaction be verified with a legitimate tracking number that shows a successful delivery.

And that's where your mystery package comes into play. That purchase creates a tracking number. So, after the package is delivered, your fake gift giver can write the review.

The good news? You won't be charged for the item, and don't have to return it. Often the sender just randomly found your name and address online.

However, it's possible the fraudster created an online account for you at the marketplace or hijacked your existing account. So, you should report the activity to the marketplace. If you have an account at the site, change your password immediately. The United States Postal Inspection Service offers additional information about this scam. (https://www.uspis.gov/news/scam-article/brushing-scam).

### Taking Action

We hope you'll enjoy the holidays without the stress of dealing with fraud. But, if you're a victim, here's what to do:

- Report the crime to local law enforcement.
- Alert your banks and credit institutions.
- File a complaint with the FBI (www.ic3.gov).
- Report the scam to the FTC (www.ftc.gov).

Even if you simply encounter a scam, the FTC encourages you to report it to help others avoid becoming a victim.





## Holiday Nights At Edison And Ford Winter Estates

On Friday, Nov. 24 at 6 p.m., the Edison and Ford Winter Estates kicked off the 48th annual Holiday Nights celebration with a tree lighting ceremony. Guests had the opportunity to participate in the countdown with Dave Elias from NBC-2 when the Christmas tree on the Ford property was lit with thousands of animated lights choreographed to holiday music. Female vocalists, the American Sirens, performed shortly after the tree lighting. The event was sponsored by Florida Power & Light, Bob Dean Supply, Sunbelt Rentals, and TriCircle Pavers.

This year's theme is "Holidays on Wheels" and will incorporate many different types of wheels, especially car wheels because of the connection to Henry Ford, and also wagon wheels, bicycle tires, ships' steering wheels, and train wheelsets. Holiday Nights will run nightly through Dec. 31 (will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas night). Guided Holiday Tradition Tours will be offered at 6 and 7 p.m. or visitors can choose to meander at their own pace on a self-guided tour. Inside-the-Homes tours will be offered on Dec. 6, 13, and 20 at 6:30 p.m., for a special up close look at the homes' decorated interiors.

Additional lights with new technology are being installed this year. Throughout the property, many of the displays will have more lights than ever before. The palms will have

## 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.





The homes and gardens at Edison and Ford Winter Estates are decorated with thousands of lights for the Holiday Nights celebration.

animated "magic lights" that will change colors, and for the first time, the historic pond near the river pavilion will be lighted and there will be lights on the waterfall that are animated and choreographed to music.

The family-oriented event includes the Children's Tree Trail, which features 50 trees decorated with handmade ornaments from Lee County school children. On Sunday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m., Santa and Mrs. Claus will be

visiting, and on Dec. 3 and 10, children can get their face painted (additional charge for face painting). Then, on Dec. 16 and 23, there will be a teddy bear booth, where children can make a bear (additional charge).

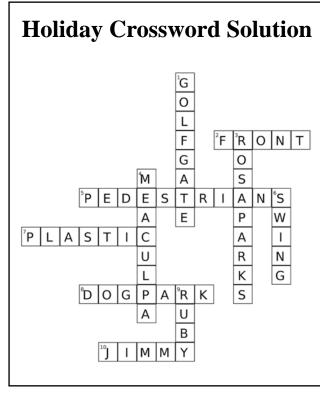
There will be music on several nights, including strolling carolers, a pianist, and tenor saxophone and trumpet players. In addition, the Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers will perform on Dec. 13. An antique circus car (a calliope) with a built-in pipe organ will be played at 6 p.m. on Dec. 12. Curators will be on hand to answer questions about the car, which is a modified 1914 Model T Ford.

Guests can shop for gift items during Market Mondays, when multiple craft and holiday vendors will have booths around the banyan tree from 4 to 9 p.m. on Dec. 4, 11, and 18. In addition, the Museum Store and Garden Shoppe will be open until 9 p.m. every night of Holiday Nights and will be stocked with unique gift items for that hard-to-buy-for loved one. Refreshments will be available for purchase on select nights.

Holiday Nights tickets for adults are \$20; teens (ages 13 to 19) are \$10; children (6 to 12) are \$2; and \$10 for Edison Ford members. Guided Holiday Tradition Tours are \$30 for adults, teens are \$25, children are \$18, and \$15 for Edison Ford members. Inside-the-Homes Holiday Tours are \$50 per person. Lee County residents with identification will receive \$5 off regular-priced Holiday Nights admission on Monday nights. To purchase tickets or view the nightly schedule, visit the website at EdisonFord.org.

#### **About Edison And Ford Winter Estates**

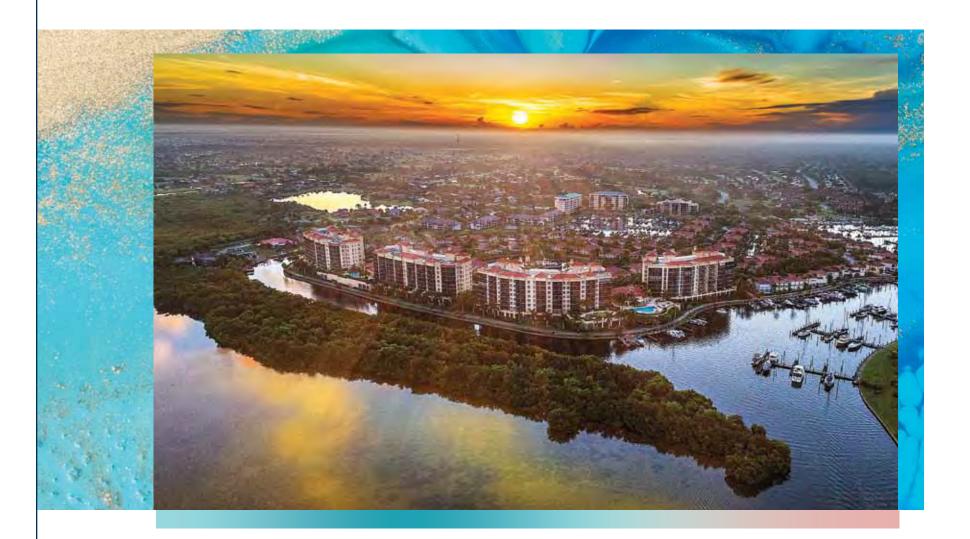
Edison and Ford Winter Estates is the internationally known winter homesite of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford. More than 220,000 visitors walk through the location each year from all around the globe. The organization has received many awards, including the National Stewardship Award from the National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







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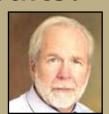


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