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How Much Time Are You Spending In Traffic Congestion? Its Not Hours, Its Days!

By Terri Lewis



Photo: Terri Lewis
Director of Planet Connected, Lee Connected

People are moving into Lee County and residential property construction has increased, but homes are far from jobs and shopping. The largest growth in residential construction has been in Lehigh and Cape Coral. More people are driving farther. Post-Ian, the traffic congestion has become even worse with many traffic lights not functioning and an influx of people working on clean-up and construction, adding to the regular commuter congestion. Just look at a typical morning report from Wink.

The Fort Myers-Cape Coral metro area in 2021, according to a traffic congestion ranking index, was the 13th WORST in the country for traffic congestion. We are just behind Tampa.

Tom created the report collecting data from a variety of different sources. The data includes time, location and speed of moving vehicles. This data allows the ability for them to calculate how much extra time a driver

will spend in traffic during rush hour. So how much time are you losing each year sitting in traffic? It's not hours. It's days.

13. Cape Coral-Fort Myers: We are sitting 48 hours – 2 full days each year – wasted... sitting in... traffic.

If you can live close to where you work and shop, its ideal. It's getting easier to pick a location by looking at the "Walkability Score" of a property which ranges from 0-100. For each address, Walk Score analyzes hundreds of walking routes to nearby amenities. Points are awarded based on the distance to amenities in each category; grocery, food and drink, parks, shopping, sports and recognition, entertainment, emergency and services.

So what are Fort Myers & Cape Coral's Walk Scores?

- **Cape Coral** has an average Walk Score of 17: Car-Dependent – almost all errands require a car.
- **Fort Myers** has an average Walk Score of 35: Car-Dependent – Most errands require a car.
- **Minneapolis, MN**, that really, really, cold place with lots of snow? The city has a Walk Score of 71:



Photo: Typical Wink News Traffic Report For Fort Myer, FL

Very Walkable – Most Errands can be accomplished on foot.

ing, ride/share, etc.

If you're not happy with the congestion, reach out to elected officials and ask them to embrace Smart Growth which has two pillars:

1. Urban planning and land use that provides for compact multi-use zoning. Home, work and shopping locations are close. It is the opposite of urban sprawl.
2. Higher density transportation options that carry more people, quickly and use less land. These include public transit, bicycles, walk-

If we don't change, congestion will get worse. There is the old adage "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results."

ABOUT TERRI LEWIS

Terri Lewis is Director of Planet Connected, an Industrial Technology Consulting organization based in Fort Myers. She leads LeeConnected, a growing coalition of businesses and residents of Lee County who are advocates for transportation solutions. Email Terri at press@eastleenews.com

Become A Soccer Star With Stovi

By Garrett Granitz

Anthony "Stovi" Stovall is ready to help athletes reach their full potential on the soccer field.

With his vast playing experience, including four years at Division 1 University of South Carolina and eight seasons professionally all across the country and world, Stovi has a wealth of knowledge about what it takes to become an elite soccer star. His passion for the game and his energetic style of coaching is beloved by athletes of all ages. His development resume is unmatched having placed over 200 players into collegiate programs and 25 players into the professional ranks. Stovi boasts 13 years of coaching experience with 15 years of training experience and has recently been hired as a youth scout for the MLS club Inter Miami. He has proven his system for cultivating young athletes achieves elite results.

His soccer development academy, Stovi Stars, is offering summer development programs for youth of all ages and skill levels.

For serious training, Stovi Stars is offering a high-intensity elite training camp for athletes ages 7-18. During this professional style camp, participants will receive expert in-

struction in skill development from some of the most talented instructors in Southwest Florida. Instructors will help athletes develop their attacking skills, technical passing skills, speed, strength, conditioning, and mental approach to the game. This camp runs Tuesday through Thursday, 9am-12pm at North Collier Regional Park from June 13th to July 27th.

If athletes would like more personal attention in the development of their skills, Stovi offers small group elite training sessions at D1 training facility in Naples. This program lasts for 5 weeks, Tuesday through Thursday and will include a weight training program as well as personalized skill development. The small group training time slot is 1pm-3pm and is offered for ages 9-17.

For kids with beginner to intermediate skills, Stovi offers a fun, week-long camp that helps youngsters fall in love with the game. This camp is offered for ages 5-10 at multiple locations from 8am to 12pm. This program was developed to provide kids with an environment to learn soccer skills while having fun.

Stovi Stars is also hosting a 3v3 summer team program that will allow players to test their skills and compete against other athletes in their age group. This program will run from May through July and each player will be provided a custom uniform. This is a great opportunity for players to transform their skills and see where they stack up against some of the best players in Southwest Florida.

To register for these events, please visit the website StoviStars.com. For

more information, call 239-770-0699.

If you want to be the best, you have to train with the best! To become an elite soccer player and develop the skills and confidence it takes to succeed on the field, you need to learn from someone who has done it. Stovi is ready to share his knowledge about what it takes to rise to the top of the soccer world.

Spots are filling up so make sure you secure your opportunity to learn from a pro!



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CDs Can Be Part Of Your Investment Strategy

By Edward Jones (Company)

In the financial world, stocks and stock-based mutual funds often get a lot of attention. And deservedly so, because they often form the core of a portfolio. But to help achieve your goals, you may also want to consider a broader array of investments — one of which may be a certificate of deposit (CD).

As you may know, a CD earns interest on a lump sum for a designated period. You can purchase CDs whose maturities range from a few months to 10 or more years. Generally, the longer-term the CD, the higher the interest rate, although this isn't always the case.

In recent years, CD rates have been pretty low, reflecting the overall interest-rate environment. But now, as the Federal Reserve has repeatedly raised interest rates to combat inflation, CD rates are rising, too. In fact, one-year CDs can currently be found paying in the 5% range — a rate that hasn't been seen in more than 15 years. Later in 2023, though, if the Fed eases up on rate hikes, or perhaps even starts reversing them, CD rates could fall again.

You can purchase a CD from a bank or buy a “brokered” CD from a financial services provider. The income you receive from a CD may be its main attraction, especially if the rates remain elevated for a while. But there's another key advantage to owning CDs: They can help diversify a portfolio of stocks and stock mutual funds that are generally more susceptible to movements in the financial markets. A portfolio that contains CDs, as well as bonds and government securities, can help reduce the effects of market volatility. Keep in mind, though, that diversification can't guarantee profits or prevent losses in a declining market.

While adding individual CDs can be valuable, you might get a greater benefit from a more strategic approach known as laddering. You can build a CD ladder by buying a series of CDs that mature at different dates in the future — perhaps one month, three months, six months, nine months and 12 months out, or an even longer-term ladder of one to five years. In either case, as one CD matures, you can use the money if you need it or reinvest it to another “rung” on your ladder.



Photo: Certificate of Deposit

If interest rates are up, the reinvestment option might be appealing, but if the available CD rates are lower than your maturing CDs, you could find better uses for your money. And you'd still have your longer-term CDs, possibly paying higher rates, working for you. You must evaluate whether a CD ladder and the securities held within it are consistent with your investment objectives, risk tolerance and financial circumstances.

The amount of space occupied by CDs in your portfolio should de-

pend somewhat on your stage of life. If you're a long way from retirement, you may want to own a larger percentage of growth-oriented investments. But once you're retired and getting more income from your portfolio becomes more important, you might find a greater need for CDs.

In any case, CDs may prove useful to your overall financial strategy — so give them some thought. 🌂

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.



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Kathleen Massimino Owner And Ceo Of Remediation 911 Water Fire Mold Inc.

By Kathleen Massimino

I am proud to be a woman owned small business certified firm with the Small Business Association. Remediation 911 Water Fire Mold Inc. has been servicing property owners from Sarasota County, Charlotte County, Lee County and Collier County as well as other areas affected from Hurricane Ian. It has been 6 months since Hurricane Ian struck the west coast of Florida as a Category 4 hurricane. Most residential homes and businesses were affected in one way or another. Typically, a hurricane can dump from 6", up to a foot of rain across a region; let's not forget about storm surge. In saying that, we are meeting a lot of residential home owners, and commercial business owners, whose properties had unlicensed remediation contractors come in and do a "Trash and Bash" as we call it in the industry. They spray products inside property owners' wall cavities and say "remediation completed." In the state of Florida, any company you choose to perform mold remediation must be licensed through the state to perform such work. Many companies were performing these "tear outs" without properly drying, sanitizing and dehumidifying the structures, and they were not licensed to perform such work. Remediation 911 Water Fire Mold Inc. is now seeing many residential and commercial properties with severe mold growth due to improper remediation from Category 3 water.

Following a hurricane, flood, or any

type of water intrusion, mold can grow on various types of materials, especially when Category 3 water has been sitting inside wall cavities, insulation or ceiling and gypsum board, as examples. Remediation 911 Water Fire Mold Inc. follows the Institute of Inspection Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC) standards. Remediation 911 Water Fire Mold Inc. is a certified firm with IICRC. Category 3 water damage, as defined by IICRC S500, is water that is "grossly contaminated and can contain pathogenic, toxigenic or other harmful agents and can cause significant adverse reactions to humans if contacted or consumed."

- Listed below are examples of Category 3 water damage:
- *Sewage or waste line backflows originating from behind the trap
 - *Seawater
 - *Rising water from rivers/streams
 - *Wind driven rain from hurricanes or tropical storms

Remediation 911 Water Fire Mold Inc. enters properties and follows a written protocol from a 3rd party licensed mold assessor. Mold assessors take either swab or aerosol samples inside your property and send them out to a third-party lab. Lab results are provided to the mold assessor with evidence of what type of mold is present in the property. The assessor creates a written

document and protocol, for the remediation company, delineating what materials need to be removed, cleaned and remediated. The remediation process begins with setting up containment of the affected areas stated in the protocol.

Containment is an important part of mold remediation, in order to contain the spores once the mold is disturbed. This prevents cross contamination in air quality and other surfaces in the property. Next, we remove and sanitize the affected material, depending on the location and if the material is semi-porous or non-porous, creating a safe environment for the property owner. If mold is on porous material, such as drywall (gypsum board), it must be removed two feet away from the area affected with mold. For example, if mold is present on furniture, we utilize HEPA vacuums to sanitize and clean it. Sanitization is an important part of the remediation process which includes removing mold spores, HEPA vacuuming all affected areas, and sanitizing every surface in containment with electrostatic sprayers. Remediation 911 Water Fire Mold Inc. utilizes green safe products. We provide property owners with a [SDS] safety data sheet showing the green safe products we used for the mold remediation. Air scrubbers are then placed inside containments, to catch mold spores that have detached and are airborne in the containment, for 3-5 days depending on Cubic Feet Per Minute (CFM)

which we calculate: length x width x height x (air changes per hour)/60 minutes. We recommend 5-6 ACH per hour; the higher the better. A PRV (post remediation verification) is the last step in the remediation process. The assessor comes back out and retests to make sure all levels are acceptable and the mold remediation process was completed properly.

Remediation 911 Water Fire Mold Inc. prides ourselves in educating owners, of all types of properties, about how to handle their remediation process, cleaning, and sanitization. Remediation 911 Water Fire Mold Inc. holds a class "A" HVAC license to perform ductwork cleaning, sanitizing, and coil cleaning of your HVAC system. Remediation 911 Water Fire Mold Inc. staff are all IICRC WRT certified Water Damage Restoration Technicians. We have offices in Fort Myers, Cape Coral, and Palm Beach, Florida. Remediation 911 Water Fire Mold Inc. has been serving Florida for over 10 years, and we are here to help property and business owners through this process. Our services are not limited to remediation. Remediation 911 Water Fire Mold Inc. is a full-service building contractor able to put your property back to pre-loss condition. Additionally, we have an in-house insurance specialist who can help you through your claim process, too. Please feel free to reach out to us directly if we can help in any way.



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The Alliance For The Arts Presents 31st Annual Student Exhibition In Partnership With Lee Arts Educators Association

Exhibition will feature Elementary and Middle School Art April 5-15, High School Art April 20-29

Submitted By Emily Radomski



The Alliance for the Arts featured April exhibition, *The Future of Art: Student Exhibit*, will be on display from April 5-29 at 10091 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, Florida. This is the 31st year the Alliance has partnered with the Lee Arts Educators Association (LAEA) to display student work in a formal exhibit. The show features more than 40 schools and hundreds of works in a variety of mediums. Winners will be selected in several categories and the Best in Show will be awarded.

This exhibition will be divided into two, two-week sessions and feature 34 elementary & middle and 13 high schools. The first two weeks of the month will be dedicated to the participating elementary and middle schools of Lee County. Ele-

mentary and Middle School opening night will be held on April 5, from 5-7:00 pm. This session will be on display until April 15th.

Lee County High Schools will be in the gallery the following two weeks with the opening reception held on April 20, 5-7:00pm. This session will be on display until April 29th. The High School exhibition is sponsored by Florida SouthWestern State College.

Both receptions are free and open to the public and the High School opening reception will feature pizza provided by Downtown House of Pizza (DHOP).

Theatre Gallery: Digital Lee (April 5-15) and Cypress Lake High School's Media Art (April 20-29)

From April 5-15, the Theatre Gallery will feature artwork by the students of Digital Lee. Digital Lee was established to create a more relevant, community, and career focused learning environment for the technology students of the Lee County School District. Digital Lee showcases both design and technol-

ogy skills of Lee County's Career & Technology Education (CTE) middle school, high school and post-secondary students. This show will feature Lee County's Graphic Design, Animation, Publication and Web Design students from each school. The goal of our CTE programs and participation in Digital Lee is to provide exposure for the students of Lee County; thereby spurring career opportunities, scholarship awards, and local technology involvement that will continue to make Southwest Florida a thriving and culturally rich community.

From April 20-29, the Theatre Gallery will feature artwork by Cypress Lake High School's Media Arts students. The display will feature pieces in many media, including graphic design, video production, photo manipulation, 3D modeling, animation, and digital photography.

While the gallery admission is free, a \$5 suggested donation keeps the Alliance programming affordable and accessible. While visiting the exhibit, please be sure to also partake in the Arts & Economic

Prosperity survey. All answers are anonymous and help to measure the economic and social impact of arts and culture in our community! More information can be found at americansforthearts.org.

For more information about this exhibit, visit artinlee.org/laea2023 or call 239-939-2787.

ABOUT ALLIANCE FOR THE ARTS

The Alliance for the Arts is a non-profit community visual and performing arts center located in the heart of Fort Myers, Florida. Since 1975, the Alliance has been committed to transforming lives and improving community through the arts. The Alliance campus and galleries are open to the public from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard just south of Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers. For more information, please call 239-939-2787, visit us at www.ArtInLee.org, find us on Facebook, Instagram or follow us on Twitter. 🌂

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Heartworm disease is a preventable, but serious and potentially fatal disease of pets in the United States and many other parts of the world. It is caused by foot-long worms (heartworms) that live in the heart, lungs and associated blood vessels of affected pets. It causes severe lung disease, heart failure and damage to other organs in the body. Heartworm disease primarily affects dogs, cats and ferrets. However, Heartworms can also infect a variety of wild animals such as foxes, wolves, coyotes, lions, panthers, raccoons, opossums, sea lions and seals, as well as others. Because wild species such as foxes and coyotes live in proximity to many urban areas, they are considered important carriers of the disease.

The disease is spread when a mosquito bites an infected pet or animal and then passes the infection on to other healthy pets they bite. Once in-

fect, developing heartworms migrate to the heart and lungs and can grow up to 14 inches long as they mature. If not killed with treatment, they can cause permanent heart and lung damage and even death.

Most pets will not show signs of disease. Common symptoms include coughing, lethargy, decreased appetite, weight loss and difficulty breathing. You may also notice that your pet tires easily or more often after mild to moderate exercise. In cats coughing, difficulty breathing, and vomiting are common. In some cases, pets may suddenly die with no warning signs.

Diagnosis of Heartworm disease is through a simple antigen blood test performed by your veterinarian. This test detects the presence of adult heartworms. Diagnosis of heartworm disease in cats is more difficult and a series of different tests may be needed

By Dr. Veja Tillman, DVM

to determine if heartworm infection is present.

As with most medical conditions, it is better to prevent heartworms than to treat it. However, if your dog is confirmed to have heartworm disease, there is treatment available. This treatment comes with some substantial risks and your veterinarian will recommend treatment based on the health and wellbeing of your pet. The goal of the treatment (NOT the preventatives) is to kill the adult heartworms in your dog as safely and quickly as possible. Preventatives kill the microfilaria (baby worms) thereby preventing the spread of this disease.

Unfortunately, there is currently no effective and safe medical treatment for heartworm disease in cats.

Heartworm infection is almost 100% preventable. There are several

FDA-approved heartworm preventives available in a variety of formulations for your dog (oral tablets, topical applications, and an injectable option) or cat (Orals and topicals only). Your veterinarian can recommend the best method of prevention based upon your pet's risk factors and lifestyle.

April is Heartworm Awareness Month. Talk to your veterinarian about your pets' risk of contracting this disease and what preventative would be best for your pet.

ABOUT DR. TILLMAN

Dr. Tillman is a 2002 graduate of Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine. Her veterinary practice and work experience focuses on health and wellness of pets. She is the owner of Just 4 Pets Wellness Center and can be reached at 239-270-5721. 🌂

Montage Women’s Club

The Montage Women's Club is a social and philanthropic club open to all women residing in Lee County. We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month at The Landings Yacht, Golf, and Tennis Club (community entry off McGregor Blvd between Cypress Lake Drive and College Pkwy). Meetings begin at 11:30 a.m. with a short social period followed by lunch at Noon and normal-ly an informative speaker program.

Within the organization are various interest groups for members' participation. Membership is open to both year-round and seasonal residents. We welcome you to visit Montage for a luncheon.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 27th, and our planned speaker will be local television personality and weather expert, Matt Devitt, Chief Meteorologist,

By Rita Artwohl

WINK News. Luncheon fee is \$28.00 and the planned regular menu will be Chicken Parmesan served with creamy Risotto, and Chef's choice of vegetable and dessert. The plant based / vegan entree option will be spiced grilled Southwestern Tofu with stuffed bell pepper and Quiana on braised cabbage, and fresh fruit for dessert.

At our January 2023 meeting we

reached our maximum number of 125 members permitted by our Club By-Laws, but we will maintain a waiting list and when a slot becomes available, interested women will be contacted. If you would like to attend a Montage meeting, need further information, or would like to make a reservation, please call Rita Artwohl at (239) 703-7787. Reservations cut-off to attend this meeting is Noon, Thursday, April 20th. 🌂



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A Message From The Sheriff & A Chamber Of Commerce Gala Like No Other!

By Mike Welch



Photo: Mike Welch
Let Us Hear From You!
Contact Us At:
voicesoflehigh@gmail.com

As we move into April many of us in the community think of Passover and Easter. New life and new generations come forward and the miracle of life continues. Tragically we must reflect on a death spiral – one of many but a spiral nonetheless.

All of us are more than aware of the crisis on our roadways and for our attention that is Lehigh Acres/East Lee County. Bullying, out of control driving, aggressive and now violent driving in all of its forms plague our communities by drivers who most likely shouldn't be on the roads in the first place. Do you feel anxious, threatened or harassed when you simply want to run errands? Has Lee Boulevard, Homestead Road, SR82, SR80, Daniels Parkway now become drag strips where so many accidents and casualties and deaths occur all too frequently?

Fed up? Well so is the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Marceno's article this month addresses our concerns and more actions are on the way. Please read his article.

A GALA LIKE NO OTHER EAST LEE COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MARCH GALA A ROARING SUCCESS!

Regional Business and Community leaders gathered on March 4th at the Plantation Golf and Country Club for the Annual Gala now in its 21st year. Awards in business, healthcare, education, law enforcement and Fire/EMS Services were awarded in the form of the Crystal Stars Awards. Lee County Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass was given the Board of Directors Award for his service to Eastern Lee County. One year later by coincidence a sheriff's deputy and a Lehigh Fire & Rescue District EMT reunited at the Gala. On March 17, 2022 Deputy Rafael Jaquez was shot in the arm during a robbery on SR82 and Gunner Road. Lehigh Fire District EMT Shawn Mowry saved the deputy's life while being transported to the hospital that fateful evening. Both public servants were Crystal Award recipients and it was the first time both men had seen each other since that fateful evening a year ago.

In addition, our teachers were recognized as those who serve in our region's public schools as they were recognized by Lee County School Board Members Armor Persons and Cathleen Morgan who represent East Lee on the Board. Over 175 were in attendance. Congratulations to one and all! 🌈



Photo: Chamber Chair Mike Welch, Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass, Commissioner Ray Sandelli



Photo: Captain Mark Mallard presents Crystal award to Deputy Rafael Jaquez (middle)



Photo: Deputy Rafael Jaquez, Lehigh Fire District EMT Shawn Mowry, Chief Rob DiLallo



Photo: Lee Health Crystal Award recipient Dave Kistel and Vice Chair Therese Everly, Lee Health Board of Directors



Photo: Presentations - Lee School Board Members Cathleen Morgan, Armor Persons



Photo: East Lee County Chamber Chair Mike Welch presents Small Business of the Year to Abed Aryan - The Medicine Shoppe of Lehigh Acres

Continental Women's Club

The Continental Women's Club will hold its monthly luncheon meeting on Thursday, April 6th at 11:30 a.m. at The Hideaway Country Club.

Our program this month will fea-

ture a presentation on 'mindfulness' by Sally Beckett. Sally is an experienced trainer and has made a career of helping others. She will help us to focus internally via meditation, and other methods.

By Liz Paul

Continental Women's Club is a social, cultural, and philanthropic organization established in 1975, and membership is open to women living in Lee County. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at

11:30 am at The Hideaway Country Club, 5670 Trailwinds Drive, Fort Myers 33907. The cost to attend the luncheon is \$25. Please call Liz Paul at 239-691-7561 for additional information or to make a reservation. 🌈

Kiwanis Club of Lehigh Acres

The Kiwanis Club of Lehigh Acres is celebrating its 55th anniversary of serving the community. For the month of April, meetings will be held on April 6th and 20th at 6:30 PM. The meetings will take place at El Tarasco Restaurant inside the Quality Inn at 1320 Business Way. A special menu is available at 6:00 PM for those who want dinner before

the meeting.

On April 20th, our club will hold its annual meeting where members will vote on officers and board members for the 2023-2024 term.

A special K-family event will be held on May 20th for the members of the service leadership programs in local schools, their families, and

By Charlene Golden, Club Secretary

their club advisors. This special invite will be sent to all club advisors at the schools.

Thank you to everyone who shops at the Kiwanis Thrift Store at 15 Homestead Road South. Your purchases have helped provide college and technical school scholarships for students who live in Lehigh Acres.

Everyone is welcome to attend the evening meetings. More information about the club is available at www.LehighKiwanis.com and www.facebook.com/LehighAcres-FLKiwanis. For additional questions, please email LehighKiwanis.President@gmail.com. 🌈

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Burglars’ Preferences, Street Racing/Speeding

By Sheriff Carmine Marceno



Photo: Sheriff Carmine Marceno, Lee County Sheriff

A very recent conversation with residents at a local community homeowners’ gathering prompted me to take this opportunity to share important information regarding nationwide burglary trends.

While burglars and prowlers most definitely benefit from the cover of darkness, nationwide statistics clearly indicate that the vast majority of home break-ins occur between the hours of 10:00 am and 3:00 pm.

Burglars do make every attempt to operate covertly and the dark of night generally enables them to do so. However, a burglar’s preference, far greater than darkness, is an empty residence.

Rigid work and school schedules make it difficult to be at home during the day and homes are often unoccupied for many daylight hours. Criminals are observant and many of us leave our homes at a specific time each day.

It is no coincidence that national home burglary statistics show a decrease since the start of the pandemic as the number of people working from home has tripled.

With no one home, it is far less

likely that the sounds of forced entry will be heard and/or reported. Additionally, neighbors are seemingly less concerned about loud noises that occur during daylight hours.

Additionally, rental properties are more frequently burglarized than homesteads. Rental properties are less likely to be protected by security cameras and alarm systems making them more vulnerable.

SOME THOUGHTS...

Landscaping and fences allow residents to establish privacy in and around their homes. However, those shrubs and tall fences may allow burglars to gain access to your home without being observed from the street. Consider home security when choosing tall, thick landscaping and fencing that completely obscures vision.

High-mounted security cameras, visible to all, do tend to deter criminals. Mount cameras around the perimeter of your home at heights that require ladders to move, cover or remove.

Security systems are now wireless, easily installed and relatively inexpensive. Monitored systems do incur a monthly fee, however, response time is significantly faster.

Quality locks are important as many inferior locks are easily overtaken by cordless drills and blunt

force. Interestingly, experts recommend that we focus on the quality of the lock’s strike plate and the screws used to secure them. Robust strike plates installed with three-inch screws hold up far better to most types of force.

Sliding doors are often the chosen point of entry. They are generally located in the rear or on the side of the residence, making them less visible. There are numerous sliding door security devices on the market including security pins, looplocks and security bars...to name a few. These devices are inexpensive and work well to prevent glass-door break-ins.

Lastly, be aware that hollow-core doors, while less expensive, are not intended for exterior use and are extremely vulnerable. Solid doors, whether wood or steel, are significantly more secure, reduce street noise from entering your home and are more energy efficient.

As always, ensure that all windows and doors are covered to prevent burglars from peering inside and check to be certain that all potential entries are locked prior to leaving your home.

Perhaps the greatest form of security is an intangible one; caring neighbors. Be alert to the activity next door, across the street, down the block. Never hesitate to report suspicious activity or incidents that

concern you. “See something...say something...make the call!”

OF ADDITIONAL INTEREST...

Based upon constituent contacts and information gathered by the LCSO Real Time Intelligence Center, planning for a multi-agency operation has been completed.

Incidents of street racing and driving at excessive speeds along State Road 82, at the juncture of Colonial and Lee Boulevards, as well as Treeline Avenue, have prompted another multi-agency operation to address this matter.

Over the course of the last 30 days, the Lee County Sheriff’s Office Traffic Unit has conducted a total of 17 traffic operations along both the State Road 82 corridor as well as 24 operations along Treeline Avenue.

Additionally, the Lee County Sheriff’s Office, in unison with the Florida Highway Patrol and the Fort Myers Police, will be conducting stringent traffic operations within the aforementioned area. For tactical and security reasons, we are unable to disclose neither the planned dates/times nor the specific locations.

Marked and unmarked vehicles will be utilized in the effort. ☂



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FLOWERS - WORD SEARCH

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April 7 National Beer Day

On March 22, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, signed into law, the Cullen-Harrison Act. This act, repealed prohibition for beer. Effective April 7, 1933, people could once more buy, sell and consume beer. On April 7, 1993, the first National Beer Day, Americans consumed 1.5 million barrels of legal beer and ale. Let’s all lift our frothy mugs in celebration on this very special day.

April 11 National Pet Day

According to Colleen Paige, the creator of National Pet Day, this holiday event celebrates “the special relationship between humans and pets, and the joy pets bring to our lives”. It also raises awareness, of the plight of all types of animal pets awaiting rescue and/or a permanent home. Celebrate today by spending time and playing with your pet. Give your pet a special treat or a toy. If you don’t have a pet, consider getting one from a shelter.

April 15 World Art Day

World Art Day is an international celebration of the fine arts. Sponsored by the International Association of Arts (IAA), the goal of this day, is to appreciate art in general, and to spread world-wide enthusiasm and awareness for the arts. There are many easy and enjoyable ways to celebrate World Art Day. Visit museums and art galleries. Get the kids involved. Teach them about the different forms of art. Provide them with a hands-on way to experience the creation of artwork. Purchase a piece of artwork for your home or office.

April 22 Earth Day

U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson, the “Father of Earth Day”, initiated and promoted environmental actions and activities beginning in 1962. He proposed a National Earth day in 1970. It was to be the first nationwide environmental protest “to shake up the political establishment and force this issue onto the national agenda”. On that first Earth Day, an estimated 20 million Americans took to the street in support of the environment and in protest harmful environmental practices. This effort produced a lasting impact on the environment and brought about greater awareness that our planet had limited resources, and that our eco-system was self contained and finite. The things we are putting in the air, water and earth were impacting us.



ANSWER KEY

APRIL 2023

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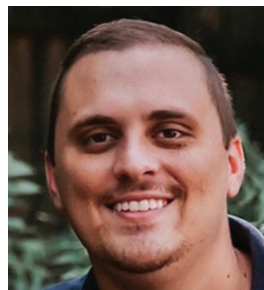


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Excellent knowledge of the real estate business. We were very impressed with Nick's information and updates at all times. Wonderfully So!! Nick is absolutely the best. So fortunate to have been referred to him. If we ever need real estate help, we will call Nick immediately!! Same if anyone we know asks us who to contact. Thank you, Nick!!

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