

Doing What Is Hard By Butch Swank



Photo: Butch Swank,
President of Southwest
Florida Business Alliance,
goodladandswank.com

I'm not sure what's wrong in America. I imagine you can't, either. I'm writing this to see if I can begin to work out the reason. This morning I got up and did my morning thing. Say hi to the dogs, get some coffee, feed the dogs, let them out to poop, get some more coffee, read through the preposterous number of emails on my phone, and then... go work out. I backed my wife's car out of the garage and got everything ready. I then sat on a stool and stared at my squat rack for like 15 minutes. I was frozen, and the weak part of my brain was winning the debate. This conversation was happening in my brain, and I just seemed to be a passive observer. Then, something happened, and I stood up. I put the bar on the rack to warm up. I then stared at the bar for about 3 minutes – quite a while to just stare. Again, something happened, and I put the bar on my shoulders and did ten squats. I put the bar back and resumed staring. It was like I was being pulled away from the workout and had to just stay there until I began acting again. Finally, I got my workout going but had to literally curse at the bar for each lift. I was hellbent on doing it despite the weak part of my brain seeming to have the upper hand that morning. In the end, I got it done and felt like a million bucks afterward.

Why do I say all this? I say it because, despite us collectively being unable to put our finger on what's going wrong in America, I think what I'm seeing is we, as Americans, are acting like me in my garage. Something

is up, and our brains, maybe it's a self-defense mechanism, keep us from acting. Maybe we just go along down this path that we know is wrong and do nothing different because it feels safer. That has to stop. My workout was hard. All of them are. I do them, and afterward, I feel like I can conquer the world. On the other hand, Americans have, quite literally, conquered the world. Every other country aspires to be like us. We live in the greatest nation ever to grace God's green Earth. Yet, we are all moping around. The news and social media have us at each other's throats. We obsess over things far away and ignore the things nearby that we can control. We judge first before seeing another's actions. We spend far too much time keeping up with celebrities and invest far too little time with family, friends, and neighbors. We avoid going outside and seeing the real world in favor of wasting time in the digital world. In short, technology is messing up our priorities and making us soft.

We need to be hard. America was built by hard men and women. Can you imagine the horrors of getting in a wagon with your wife, kids, and some supplies in the 1850s and just heading West? No roads, no hospitals, no McDonalds, and there were all kinds of things actively trying to kill you both night and day. Can you imagine? And that's just one tiny sliver of the hard things previous Americans endured to make us who we are today. This story I'm about to share now sounds pathetic, but I will tell it anyhow. Years ago, I was approached by the assistant principal of my daughter's elementary school to see if I would help her start a club called DOGS (Dads of Great Students). The club was to encourage dads to spend more time at school and be more

engaged with their kids' education. The assistant principal showed me studies of how when dads are more engaged with school, their kids have all kinds of long-term benefits. So, I agreed to help and, shortly thereafter, found myself having to speak in front of fifty dads in the school cafeteria. I had never spoken in public, and right before it was my turn, I basically freaked out. I took the microphone in my hand and noticed they were uncontrollably shaking. I had to put both hands on the microphone and hold it tight against my chest to keep my hands still. I was able to speak, with a bit of a waver in my voice at first, but I got my point across, and we had a bunch of dads sign up for the club that very morning. It was a success, and I had a spring in my step the rest of that week. I did something that to me was terrifying, I survived, and was much better for it. I thought a lot about that speech in the next couple of weeks, and the lesson I got from it was that getting far out of your comfort zone is scary but also incredibly empowering. Since then, I have hosted and spoken at large events with distinguished business leaders and politicians. These events would never have happened if I hadn't forced my reluctant legs to walk up the stairs of that school's cafeteria stage years ago.

Where I'm going with all this is that I'm beginning to think we Americans are going through an entirely new and a bit frightening digital age and, as a result, are choosing to remain in our comfort zone. What we're experiencing has never happened before, so we have no history to guide us. Things keep changing, and the pace of change gets faster and faster. So, we're kind of just sitting around and watching. Sure, there are some people acting, but most are watching.

America has always been filled with people of action, but we're not acting anymore. We've become passive and are letting the weak part of our brains take control. That's not us. That is not what made us great. Listen, technology and constant change are not going away. If you're looking for things to go back to "normal," that is not going to happen. What's the solution? That is entirely up to you, but I have some suggestions. Find whatever your version is of my barbell and curse at it. Then act. Do something. Put your phone down. Think about how you can make your own neighborhood better and then make it happen. Call some friends you have not spoken with in far too long. Tell some stupid dad jokes to your coworkers and have an easy laugh. Start looking for a political candidate that you feel actually represents your values, call their office, and ask how you can help. That pothole you hate – take ten minutes to find out the number for your local Department of Transportation and call them to have it fixed. See where I'm going with all this? None of these are actually that hard to do – it's just that, in this moment, they FEEL very hard. What I am suggesting is to start doing the things we all used to do. It's like the past three years have lulled us all into sleep, and it's now time to wake up. It is going to be hard at first, and that's fine. According to a number of polls, the vast majority of Americans do not like the direction we are heading. So, I say it's past time to stop wishing things would change. We're known for doing hard things, and we're up to this task. Getting out of this comfort zone we're all stuck in will lead us to something better and get America going in the right direction again. So, I say go curse at your version of a barbell and start turning things around for the better in this great America. ☀

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Lehigh Acres Community Gathers For An Unforgettable Fireworks Show Hosted By Victory Town Center

Submitted By Makennah Santana

Lehigh Acres, a tightly-knit community renowned for its strong sense of unity and commitment to giving back, is set to host an awe-inspiring fireworks show, organized by Victory Town Center. This highly anticipated event will bring together residents from all walks of life, celebrating the importance of family, the joy of being close to home, and the pleasures of good times and delicious food.

Taking the lead in organizing the fireworks show, Victory Town Center demonstrates their unwavering dedication to serving the community. Collaborating with local businesses, organizations, and individuals, this event has been made possible through the combined efforts of numerous sponsors, volunteers, and generous contributors. The collective commitment to making a positive impact underscores the profound sense of unity that characterizes Lehigh Acres.

The fireworks show, an evening of enchantment and excitement, epitomizes the significance of family in Lehigh Acres. Families of all generations will come together to create cherished memories and strengthen their bonds in the company of their loved ones. As the night sky becomes a canvas for brilliant bursts of colors and lights, the community's commitment to nurturing strong

family ties and fostering togetherness will be illuminated for all to see.

Victory Town Center's decision to host the fireworks show within the community highlights the importance of staying close to home. By keeping the celebration local, Lehigh Acres residents support their own economy, showcase their talents, and enhance the unique identity of their vibrant community. This intentional focus on staying close to home not only strengthens community ties but also cultivates a sustainable and thriving environment for all.

The festivities will not be limited to the visual splendor of the fireworks alone. A diverse array of local vendors and food establishments will tantalize taste buds, offering a wide selection of delectable treats to satisfy every palate. Attendees can look forward to indulging in mouth watering delicacies and creating lasting memories of good times shared with friends, family, and neighbors.

"We are thrilled to host this extraordinary fireworks show for the Lehigh Acres community," said [Pastor Larry], lead Pastor for Victory Church. "We believe that by coming together and celebrating as a community, we strengthen the bonds that unite us and create an atmosphere of

joy, gratitude, and togetherness."

As the date of the fireworks show draws near, the anticipation and excitement within Lehigh Acres continue to build. This event stands as a testament to the community's dedication to giving

back, fostering unity, and promoting the values of family, staying close to home, and creating cherished memories.

For more information, go to Victory-TownCenter.com to sponsor or have a space at the event call 239-470-5611. ☀



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Fringe Fort Myers

Submitted By Alliance for the Arts

Mark your calendars for SWFL's first Fringe Fort Myers!

Fringe Fort Myers, presented by the Alliance for the Arts June 1-4, is the newest Fringe performing arts festival in Southwest Florida and maintains long-standing Fringe traditions of being 100% uncensored, 100% un-juried and 100% inclusive. Even better, 100% of ticket sales go directly to the artists.

Fringe Fort Myers kicks off on June 1 with the fun and frenetic Teaser Show, with each performance group having three minutes to sell you on their show. How they do that is up to them! Over the next four days we will play host to 48 performances on



Photo: Fringe Fort Myers Logo
three different stages at the Alliance for the Arts and Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre. After the final curtain, Fringe Fort Myers will host the first Fringe awards ceremony celebrating the artists who make Fringe an incredible experience.

Tickets are \$15 with the option to buy multiple shows for a discount: 3 shows for \$42 or 6 shows for \$78. Tickets may be purchased online at artinlee.org/fringe or by calling the box office at (239) 939-2787. ☀

Montage Women's Club

By Rita Artwohl

The Montage Women's Club is a social and philanthropic club open to all women residing in Lee County. We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month at The Club at Pelican Preserve (community entry off Treeline Avenue between Colonial Blvd and Daniels Pkwy). Meetings begin at 11:30 a.m. with a short social period followed by lunch at Noon and normally 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, June 22nd. We will have an award-winning "Professional Trash Talker" with Lee County Solid Waste, Ms. Angela Lamontagne, speaking. Ms. Lamontagne is a Communication Specialist and has been with the department for more

than 15 years, so she knows all the ins and outs of managing the waste we all produce. She is going to share what really happens at "away" and why it is so important to reconsider waste altogether.

Luncheon fee is \$28.00 and there is always either a planned regular entree or a plant based / vegan entree to select for your meal. Exact menu options will be forthcoming at a later date.

Earlier this year we reached our maximum number of 125 members permitted by our Club By-Laws, but we maintain a waiting list and when a slot becomes available, interested women are 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, June 15th. ☀

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June Programs At Riverdale Public Library

Submitted By Courtney Barr



Photo: Riverdale Library, Lee County 2421 Buckingham Road, Fort Myers, FL
Next month's roster of activities at Riverdale Public Library offers topics for all ages. The following activities are free to the public:

ADULT PROGRAMS

Knit and Stitch - 1 p.m. Wednesdays, June 7, 21

A casual, self-guided group of knitters and crocheters that join together to share projects, ideas and techniques. Participants are encouraged to bring their own projects and tools. Basic materials and supplies are available for newcomers.

Community Celebration & Summer Reading Kickoff - 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Saturday, June 10

Celebrate the library's reopening and get ready for Summer Reading at our all-ages kickoff party. Joining will be stilt walker and balloon artist Way Too Tall Torrie, as well as face painter Krafty Kate. Giveaways and refreshments will be provided.

Jane Rosenbohm Gutar Extraordinaire - 11:30 a.m. Saturday, June 10

Jane Rosenbohm is an accomplished classical guitarist with over 46 years of experience in Musical Arts whose passion and skill with the Classical Guitar is an inspiration to many as she continues to educate and perform.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Community Celebration & Summer Reading Kickoff - 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Saturday, June 10

Celebrate the library's reopening and get ready for Summer Reading at our all-ages kickoff party. Joining us will be stilt walker and balloon artist Way Too Tall Torrie, as well as face painter Krafty Kate. Giveaways and refreshments will be provided.

Magic with Joey Evans - 10 a.m. Saturday, June 10

This Master Magician is back to tickle our funny bones with magic, mystery and fun. Prepare to be amazed and inspired by his illusions, puppets and tricks. It's a show you don't want to miss.

Gigi and Friends - 2 p.m. Thursday, June 15

GiGi and her dog, SuperZeus, celebrate their love of comedy, magic, dog tricks, sing-alongs and circus in this 30-minute performance packed with fun for all. Stick around after the show for giveaways and a meet and greet with SuperZeus.

Summertime Community Storytime - 10 a.m. Fridays, June 16, 23, 30

Join us for our weekly family event where we will share stories, rhymes, and activities all about our community. For children through age 5.

Joshua J. Superstar Show - 2 p.m. Thursday, June 22

The Joshua J. Supershow, starring Joshua J. Superstar, fuses side-splitting comedy, nail-biting circus stunts and tons of audience participation. Josh has performed for Britney Spears, the Today Show, and currently headlines for Disney Cruise Lines. Don't miss this opportunity to see a living legend in action.

Adam's Animal Encounters - 2 p.m. Thursday, June 29

Learn more about animals living in Southwest Florida with wildlife biologist Adam Pottruck. This hands-on, interactive program gives an up-close perspective on wildlife management, rescue and conservation.

TEEN PROGRAMS

Community Celebration & Summer Reading Kickoff - 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Saturday, June 10

Celebrate the library's reopening and get ready for Summer Reading at our all-ages kickoff party. Joining us will be stilt walker and balloon artist Way Too Tall Torrie, as well as face painter Krafty Kate. Special performances by magician Joey Evans from 10-11 a.m. and classical guitarist Jane Rosenbohm from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Giveaways and refreshments will be provided.

All Together Now Escape Room - 2 p.m. Tuesday, June 13

Dr. Sinister is up to his old tricks. He plans to release anger gas causing fights to break out everywhere. If he succeeds, he'll use the distraction to take over the world. Worse, he's set up his device inside a public library and locked everyone else out. Luckily, you happened to come to the library today. Can you work "All Together Now" and put an end to his insidious plans? Teens and tweens are asked to register for this escape room experience in advance.

Community Bingo - 2 p.m. Tuesday, June 20

Teens and tweens are invited to hang out with friends, have fun, play bingo and win prizes. Registration is required.

Interactive Movie** - 2 p.m. Tuesday, June 27

Teens and tweens are invited to join in on the fun during this interactive movie showing. If you've ever wanted to bust out in song during a movie now is the time for it. Singing, dancing, playing and eating are all encouraged during this movie. Registration is required.

ABOUT RIVERDALE LIBRARY

The Riverdale Public Library is located at 2421 Buckingham Road in Fort Myers. For more information about a program or to register, please call the library at (239) 533-4370. Check the Lee County Library System's Web site at www.leelibrary.net to find out about programs at other locations. Call the host library, or Telephone Reference at (239) 479-INFO (4636), for more information about a specific program.

To receive updates from Lee County Government, sign up for the newsletter here: www.leegov.com/resources/newsletters.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Lee County will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities in its services, programs or activities. To request an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or a reasonable modification to participate, contact Joan LaGuardia, 239-533-2314, Florida Relay Service 711, or jlaguardia@leegov.com. Accommodation will be provided at no cost to the requester. Requests should be made at least five business days in advance. ☀



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Hurricane Preparedness for Pets

By Dr. Veja Tillman, DVM

With every hurricane we learn new lessons about being prepared and disaster planning. Hurricane Ian was no exception. It gave us a stark reminder to always be prepared and plan early and to not take warnings lightly. Hurricane season in southwest Florida starts June 1st. Let's get our pets emergency and disaster ready before the next hurricane strikes. They are a part of the family too!

GET A PET EMERGENCY KIT

A collection of basic supplies that you may need in the event of an emergency.

- Food and water for at least 3 days. On average, companion pets require a minimum of 1-2 oz of water per pound per day. However, If your pet has special medical conditions, is very active or pregnant, the water requirement will be greater.
- Pet medications (2 weeks supply replaced often to maintain their quality based on expiration dates.) Remember to plan for any medications that may need to be refrigerated.
- Pet First Aid Kit – these can easily be found online. However, consult your veterinarian, if your pets has any specific conditions that may require additional items for this kit
- Updated Pet Identification (microchip, ownership documentation, your contact information, pictures of you and your pet together, etc). Have digital copies as well as printed copies. Store copies in digital cloud storage as well as have them downloaded to your cell phone to allow several methods to access them.

- Make sure that your pets' microchip is registered, and your contact information is updated.
- Updated vaccination documents (include the name of your veterinarian with telephone number, address and email)
- Portable crate or pet carrier, harness, or leash/collar
- Pet litter and litter box, paper towels, plastic bags, cleaning supplies
- Familiar items (favorite toys, bedding, treats, etc) to help calm your pet during the storm while at home or in a shelter.
- Assemble kit in an easy-to-carry, waterproof tote; stored in an easily accessible area away from extreme temperature changes and keep this kit in a designated place ready in case you must leave home/ work quickly. Make sure all family members know where the kit is kept.
- Consult your veterinarian for advice on making a pet emergency kit that is appropriate for your pet's individual needs.
- Evacuate immediately, if told to evacuate.
- DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PET in an evacuation zone or if you evacuate your home. Many pets are tragically lost waiting for their owners to return and rescue them. Take your pet to a safe place outside of danger zone or to a pet storm safe shelter (boarding facility) ahead of time if you are in an evacuation zone or warnings have been issued for your area. Remember, that pets may often hide in difficult to reach places when they are afraid, which makes it difficult to get them and yourself to safety.
- Identify family or friends who

- will be willing to take you and your pets in during and/or after an emergency.
- Locate hotels that are pet friendly outside of the evacuation/emergency area.
- Research local boarding facilities that are emergency shelters for pets, incase you are not able to evacuate with your pet. Remember to call ahead and reserve space for your pet to stay before and during and a few days after the storm.
- Talk to your pet's veterinarian about emergency planning, especially if your pet has medical conditions that require consistent monitoring and supervision.
- Gather contact information for animal emergency treatment facilities locally and outside of the emergency zone. Remember to program these phone numbers (along with the name and address of the facility) into your phone.
- Make sure everyone in the family knows that hurricane plan for your pet(s). Include who will pick up the pet and safe meeting places for the family outside of the emergency zone. Make sure all members of the family learn and practice the emergency plan.

- few days after the emergency to make sure that the home and environment is safe for them to return.
- Be aware of the risks and dangers of debris, displaced wildlife and downed powerlines in your area. This can be a danger to you and your pets.
- Use of a generator or other gasoline (diesel) -powered machinery ONLY outdoors and away from pets.

STAY INFORMED

- Be aware of the types of emergencies / disasters that can happen where you live and work.
- Sign up to receive local emergency alerts on your cell phone or email available through your city and county.
- Tune into your state and federal emergency management websites and social media for information from official sources.
- Become familiar with your local emergency response plan, evacuation routes, etc

June is Disaster Awareness and Microchip Your Pet Month. Contact us today to schedule a microchip for your pets!

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. ☀

AFTER THE STORM

- Pay attention to the authorities for information and instructions.
- Return home only when authorities say it is safe and damage and risks in the area have been evaluated and cleared.
- Leave your pet(s) in the shelters or boarding facilities for a



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Stern Warnings And Action From Sheriff Marceno On Speeding, Racing And Reckless Driving



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

For the past several months this column has been getting feedback and observing the plight of the driving public within and outside of our community regarding the dangerous situation caused by a few on our

roads. Who hasn't seen the terrible and deadly crashes? How many lives must be lost or ruined? Every day it seems are tragedies that are preventable. Do we have to be stressed by simply getting into our cars for work or other reasons for travel? Do seniors have to be harassed or bullied because most follow the speed limits? All this influences all of us – rising insurance premiums that now account for the result of the criminal behavior

on our roadways and not to mention people who get behind a wheel with out a license or insurance. Additionally, put the cell phone down while driving. You can't text, email or play games while driving and try to keep your attention to the road.

Lehigh Acres Community Services has partnered with FGUA and the Senior Center for the Second Annual Rain Barrel Painting Contest. I

hope you enjoy Rae Nicely's article regarding the contest. The proceeds will go to Lehigh Community Services to help seniors with their water bills. The East Lee County Chamber of Commerce has responded with a \$1,000.00 contribution. Give Rae a call at 239-369-5818 to see how you can help.

Wishing everyone to stay safe this summer. ☀️

Safety At The Gas Station, Addressing Speeding And Reckless Driving

By Sheriff Carmine Marceno



Photo: Sheriff Carmine Marceno, Lee County Sheriff

Thefts at gas stations, across the United States, remain a concern for law enforcement. Like many other crimes of opportunity, an unlocked vehicle with personal items in sight makes for a quick and easy target.

Whether you are simply distracted while pumping gas or inside paying, thieves wait for the opportunity to quickly open your vehicle door and grab anything and everything of value.

Car thieves sit in waiting for the opportunity to occupy and steal a running and/or unlocked vehicle.

Many elect to use their refueling time as an opportunity to catch up on missed text messages, listening

to voice mail and returning phone calls. These distractions make one an easier target.

Choosing well-lit fuel stations with surveillance cameras decrease the appeal to criminals.

Whenever possible, purchase fuel during daytime hours and do so from a station that offers significant visibility to the roadway. Select a pump closest to the structure. This increases your visibility to cashiers and staff that work inside. Additionally, due to their proximity to the register, these pumps are generally free of skimming devices.

Locking your vehicle doors and keeping valuables out of sight make it extremely difficult for thieves to enter your car or truck. Take your keys with you...do not leave them in the ignition or leave fobs on the seat.

Be certain to terminate your credit card transaction, at the pump, prior to leaving and ensure that the pump handle is fully seated in order to complete your transaction.

Avoid distractions. Be observant and aware of your surroundings. Take necessary precautions.

Racing, speeding and reckless driving...

The Lee County Sheriff's Office continues to enforce speed and traffic laws across the county, with a focus on the State Road 82 corridor, Gateway Boulevard, Griffin Drive, Treeline Avenue and Daniels Parkway.



Photo: Police Car Lights On At Night

A total of 27 unannounced traffic operations were conducted during the month of April on these roadways. These efforts resulted in infractions and arrests and, based upon observation, appear to be producing positive results.

These operations will be conducted by both marked and unmarked units and will be staged at differing positions along and adjacent to the aforementioned roadways. ☀️



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11th Annual Juneteenth Community Celebration Is Planned June 17 In Fort Myers

Submitted By Kathy Becker

The Lee County Black History Society, Dunbar Festival Committee and the African Coalition of Southwest Florida are partnering to host the 11th Annual Juneteenth Community Celebration at Roberto Clemente Park, 1936 Henderson Ave. in Fort Myers from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 17. The event is free to attend.

This year’s Juneteenth Celebration will be filled with a variety of fun and entertainment for the entire family, including stage performances, music, arts and crafts, food and refreshments. Event attendees will also have a chance to receive free information from community businesses in wealth, health, education, job training, employment, housing, corporate and governmental services and more.

“It’s a celebration day that we honor the fact that this ended slavery but also for us to understand the endurance of our people,” said Charles Barnes, chairperson of the society. “Our ancestors went through that process and were successful and survived, so that we can be where we are today.”

Juneteenth, which has been celebrated since the late 1800s was finally recognized as a federal holiday in 2021. A special historical exhibit about Florida’s Emancipation Day May 20 and Juneteenth will be available at Williams Academy Black History Museum at Clemente Park at the festival and through the end of June.

Juneteenth is always observed on or around June 19, the day that slaves

in Galveston, Texas, learned that they had been freed, more than two years after President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation.


On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger landed in Galveston and read General Order Number 3 to the people. Celebrations started in the following years as a way for former slaves to reconnect and recount the day their freedom was announced. Many of the first Juneteenth celebrations were held on the grounds of African American churches and eventually became more elaborate with rodeos, picnics, barbecues, fishing trips and family reunions.

For more information, visit <https://www.leecountyblackhistorysociety.org/events/>. Interested vendors or exhibitors should contact the Dunbar Festival Committee at martinbyrd@dunbarfestival.org.

ABOUT LEE COUNTY BLACK HISTORY SOCIETY

The Lee County Black History Society, Inc. (LCBHS), a nonprofit organization, was founded in 1994 by Janice Cass. The LCBHS, Inc. is comprised of an 11-member Board of Directors which meets on the second Tuesday of each month. The meeting is open to the public. The LCBHS provides a way for African Americans in Lee County to recognize and celebrate Black History Month, as well as create and maintain the Williams Academy Black

History Museum. For information, visit LeeCountyBlackHistorySociety.org, or call 239-332-8778. ☀



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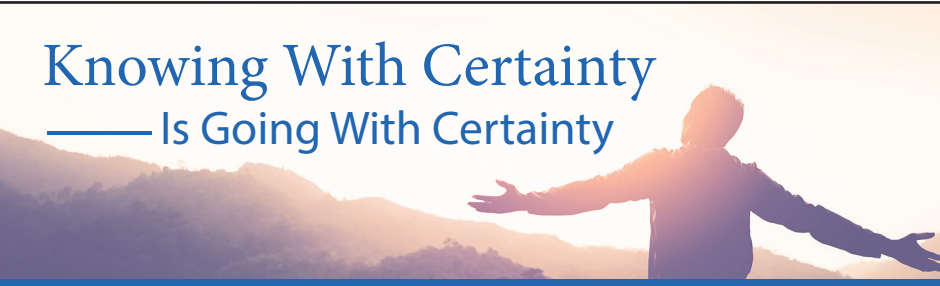
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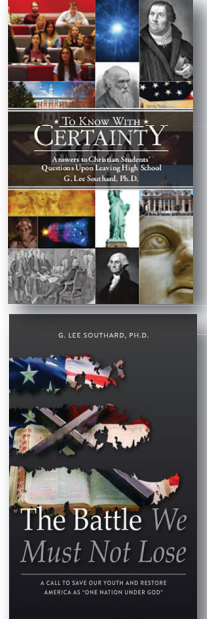




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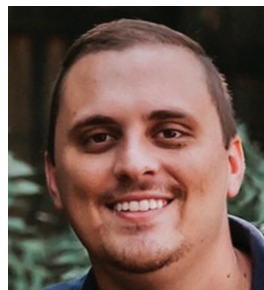
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WILLIAM SCHRADER

We started with another realtor from a different company and had very few leads for the sale of our home. We heard that Nick Bonacolta really knew the Lehigh Acres/Ft Myers market and we decided to go with him since we weren't getting anywhere with the sale of our home. Going with Nick was the absolute best real estate decision we ever made! Nick truly went above and beyond what is expected of a realtor. His professionalism, knowledge, expertise and courteous demeanor made it a pleasure working with him. Nick kept us in the loop on everything that was going on and we sold our home for exactly what we wanted. Being in the military we've bought and sold numerous homes over the last 20 years and Nick is truly the best in the business. He put our interests before his own and exceeded every one of our expectations, which is very difficult to do. We've met and worked with a lot of realtors in the past and none are as good as Nick Bonacolta; he is highly recommended.

ED AND LINDA LANG- SOLD 3 EAST GREENS BLVD

We used Charlie 3 other times and were extremely satisfied. He is amazing, one of the best out there. We have dealt with a lot of Realtors in 61 years of marriage and Charlie is the best!!! He is one of a kind! Professional yet very caring and friendly. He made what could have been a stressful experience into a calm, easy, relaxing experience. He kept us informed and all times- made us feel like a family member. All in all- very pleasant. Our neighbors in East Greens were so impressed with how good he was. Charlie makes selling a pleasure. Keep doing what you are doing, Charlie!! Thank you!!

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CHARLIE BONACOLTA

239-994-1062
charlisold@gmail.com

NICK BONACOLTA

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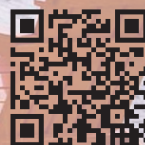


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AFFORDABLE POOL HOME IN WILLOW LAKE SOUTH



Affordable POOL home on a quiet low traffic street in Willow Lake South, wide streets and curbs, CENTRAL WATER AND SEWER, great views of the lake in the backyard from the screen enclosed in ground heated pool, plenty of covered deck space, NEW DIMENSIONAL SHINGLE ROOF IN 2018, NEWER WINDOWS IN 2020, NEW WATER HEATER IN 2018, crown molding accents throughout, ceramic tile and wood laminate floors, granite countertops in kitchen with breakfast bar, lazy susan in cabinets, some stainless steel appliances including French door refrigerator, range and built in microwave, master bedroom with private bathroom, higher toilets, Florida room plus separate Family room that can easily be used as a 4th bedroom or hobby room, half bath off of the pool area, accordion storm shutters plus panel shutters, 2013 Lennox central heat and air system, oversized double garage, storage shed in the backyard, plenty of privacy in the backyard with views of the lake and birds etc. Located just minutes to I-75 and Ft Myers. Highest elevation in Lee County. No flood insurance required

Offered At\$320,000

Charlie Bonacolta 239-994-1062 charlisold@gmail.com

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATHROOMS IN WILLOW LAKE



This 3 bedroom 2 bath home has so much to offer, starting with central water and sewer as well as underground electric. New dimensional shingle roof in 2017, AC in 2018, newer trim and baseboards throughout, additional concrete driveway and RV/ boat space with 50 Amp service. There is a brand new mini split AC system in the bonus room, storm shutters, all AC ducts were recently resealed and the windows have all been tinted for heat reduction and cost savings as well as wear and tear reduction on the AC unit. The kitchen has been updated with newer appliances as well as opened up to the living area for a great entertainment setting. Enjoy the air conditioned bonus room that has endless potential. With the double pocket sliding doors as well as the single pocket sliding door (each door tinted for privacy) this room could be used as a family room, game room, home office, extra bedroom etc. The oversized garage has ample storage space as well as a full kitchen sink and counter space for preparing barbeques or family dinners. This is your must see home!

Offered At\$325,000

Matt Jackson 574-302-5628 mjackson08@msn.com

POOL HOME, 4 BEDROOM, 3 BATHROOMS IN MIRROR LAKES



Exceptional, estate sized home in the Mirror Lakes area. NO HOA FEES here. 3656 square feet of living area in this 4 bedroom 3 bath home with NEW METAL ROOF IN 2021, beautifully landscaped property includes the adjoining lot. pavers in driveway and walkway to the front door, grand double door entry, dual central heat and air units new in 2016 and 2021, roll down storm shutters, oversized double garage, built in automatic generator, great room at entry with skylights, family room with wet bar and fireplace, formal dining room with mirrored walls, excellent for entertaining, spacious kitchen with plenty of cabinets, new refrigerator and garbage disposal, walk in pantry, large nook area overlooking the pool, two tankless water heaters, two master bedrooms with private bathrooms, the main master bedroom has extra large dual walk in closets, fireplace, sliders to the pool area, private bath with dual sinks, walk in shower and oversized jetted tub, oversized screened lanai with in ground pool, outside kitchen with Jenn Air grill and sinks, plenty of deck space, excellent location with plenty of privacy and minutes to SR 82, I-75 and Ft Myers.

Offered At\$550,000

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