

EAST LEE COUNTY NEWS | DANIELS CORRIDOR

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“Yes, Sir.” “No, Ma’am.” By Butch Swank



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

Respect. Remember the last time you heard a kid act respectfully? It's sad to say, but you were kind of shocked, weren't you? Impressed, but also shocked. We often hear someone say these days, "You have to earn my respect!" It's said like a challenge and certainly not in a friendly tone. Who wants to bend over backward for that person? Who is going to end up friends with someone beginning things that way? In my mind, respect should be freely given. Counterpoint: I've been told a number of times that I can be too harsh and unforgiving. That's fine (and probably pretty accurate). However, I truly believe it's best to begin something with a positive mindset and the best of intentions. If things don't go that way, fine, I can adapt (enter the harshness part). But I do sincerely try to be kind, fair, and open at the beginning - it simply makes no sense to me not to begin that way.

About five years ago, I hired a new employee. She was fairly young but very bright, professional, with excellent credentials, and carried herself exceptionally well. She was a fast learner and was doing beautifully

in no time. None of those are what made her stand out to me, however. I say with great pride that everyone I work with has those qualities (though some of us aren't exactly "fairly young"). At the time of her hiring, our office was small, so it was sometimes hard not to overhear other conversations. I often heard her saying "Yes, sir" and "No, ma'am" and that stood out to me, and I started paying more attention. People in person and on the phone gravitated toward her because she offered respect freely. I noticed that her doing this made two things happen: people that were unfriendly became much more friendly, and people who were already friendly just adored her. It's like she had a superpower. It dawned on me that her superpower of being polite and respectful is simply because those two qualities are so rare these days. Our insurance agency continues to grow, and I've made it a point to make those qualities a requirement for each new hire. Solid proof of the benefit of this principle is how well we all get along here in the office - another rarity in today's work environment. I argue that being respectful to your work colleagues, family, and friends cannot but have a positive impact on your life. Having a culture that offers respect, in turn, gets respect. It's not always easy, but there are very few things in life

worth having that are.

I say all of this because I suspect social media, specifically, and our culture in general, has damn near killed respect. Have you ever heard of the bucket of crabs story? In short, there is a bucket full of crabs. When one near the top has almost escaped, one of the other crabs pulls him back in. It's a story highlighting the mentality of "If I can't have it, neither can you!" How does that relate to social media? It is largely applauded if someone posts some positive accomplishment in a small circle of family and friends. However, there is a weird phenomenon if you get a big enough audience, people will start attacking you for posting something positive. On the other hand, if you post how you're a victim, everyone competes to applaud you. If you post something about overcoming being a victim, then again, a large enough audience will attack you. It's like social media has reversed what made America, America. For 245 years, we'd watch someone succeed, and instead of feeling envy, we would think, "That will be me one day!" Success stories powered us and made us want to do better. Nowadays, we're celebrating victimhood and racing to the bottom. What happened? I argue that we've largely lost our self-respect and our respect for one another.

Respect. If you have kids or grandkids these days, I cannot stress enough the importance of having them show respect. Our current culture wants them not to. Our current culture, it seems, does not want them to have the tools to succeed. Our current culture thinks it's okay for kids to be rude to their teachers and their elders. This is setting them up to fail right out of the gate. Think about it, my one employee continuously surprised people by showing them respect. If that was such a common practice, why would they be surprised? Are you seeing my point? We're being told one thing, yet what our eyes (and ears) experience in real life doesn't reflect what we're told. So, I say take command of the things that you can control. Being more respectful to one another is an easy place to start. Being a good example in your workplace is another. Teaching kids to be respectful is a bigger challenge, but I say it is 100% worth the effort. For the first time in a long time, America seems to be going backward. It is up to us, individually, to do our part to reverse that trend. Showing and giving respect is a very simple and effective way to do that. As the saying goes, the simplest solution is often the best solution. So, let's get out there and start respecting the hell out of each other! 🐞

Continental Women's Club

By Liz Paul

The Continental Women's Club will hold its monthly luncheon meeting on Thursday, June 1st at 11:30 a.m. at The Hideaway Country Club.

Carmen Crussard, Theatre Director for Cypress Lake High School Center for the Arts will be our June guest speaker. She will tell us about the wonderful performances that are open to the community throughout the year. Students from the Center will treat us to a few musical excerpts from their recent plays.

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. Reservation deadline for June is Tuesday, May 23rd. Please call Liz Paul at 239-691-7561 for additional information or to make a reservation. 🌸

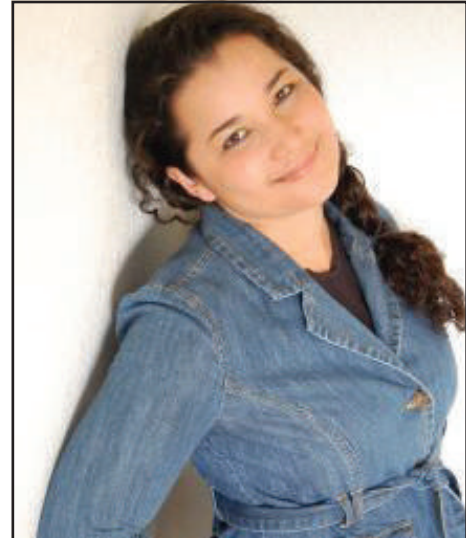


Photo: Carmen Crussard, Theatre Director for Cypress Lake High School Center for the Arts

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Honoring Vietnam War Veterans: Alva Resident Richard Erschik Invited On The Collier-Lee County Honor Flight

Submitted By Richard Erschik

It's been almost 50 years since the end of the Vietnam War, but the sacrifices made by the men and women who served in that conflict will never be forgotten. Among those brave soldiers was Richard Erschik, a Chicago native who was drafted into the Army in 1965 as part of President Johnson's 230,000 man call to support the U.S. war efforts in Vietnam.

On May 20, 2023, with his son Tim as his Guardian, Richard will be joining the Lee and Collier County Honor Flight to Washington, DC, to tour the monuments dedicated to his service and the service and sacrifices of his brothers and sisters. For Richard, this will be an emotional journey, and his chance to pay tribute to the many brave soldiers who served alongside him.

Richard's military journey began on October 25, 1965, when he found himself scared and alone, joining others who were being drafted into the Army. They made the bus pilgrimage together from Chicago to Ft. Knox, KY, and then on to Ft. Hood, TX, where they underwent Basic and Advanced Individual Training.

The rest, as they say, is history, chronicled in the book Richard wrote titled, "My Time Served In The United States Army," which is available on Amazon.com and Apple Books. In his book, Richard shares his experiences as a soldier, the struggles he faced, and the lasting impact the war had on his life.

Richard's participation in the Honor Flight is a reminder that we should never forget the sacrifices

made by those who served in Vietnam and other Wars. The trip to Washington, DC, will provide an opportunity for Richard and his fellow veterans to reflect on their service and to pay tribute to those who didn't make it home.

As we approach the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, it is essential that we continue to honor those who served in that conflict. Richard Erschik's participation in the Honor Flight is a reminder that the sacrifices made by our soldiers will never be forgotten, and their service to our country will always be appreciated.

The Honor Flight returns to Ft. Myers RSW airport at 8:30pm on May 20, 2023. Visitors are invited to welcome them home.



Photo: Sergeant Richard Erschik (E-5), US Army, 1967

Collier-Lee County Honor Flight <https://www.collierhonorflight.org/>

Richard Erschik rserschik@richarderschik.com Phone/Text 630-642-6500 ✨

Kid To Kid By Jay Carney

Are your closets overcrowded? Is your home filled to the brim with toys and baby gear? Do you have enough sports equipment in your garage to start your own league? What if we told you there is a place that will take your gently used "kid stuff" and pay you to recycle it? What if we also told you that when you sell to this place, you can turn around and buy clean, safe, like-new items for up to 70% off retail prices, while giving back to communities in need and helping the environment? Sounds too good to be true? It isn't!

Kid to Kid in the Forum Shops was opened in 2019 by Jay Carney and his wife Jessica, a local schoolteacher. Both saw a need to help families save money and possibly even make some as well. When they read about the principles of the Kid to Kid franchise, they decided it was a "win-win" for all.

MAKING AND SAVING MONEY!

Kid to Kid was founded on the principle that "kids grow faster than paychecks." The first store was opened in Utah in 1992, by a mother of 6 who wanted to give families the option to recycle their children's gently used items, make money, and have the option to buy more gently used things at a fraction of the cost of retail. What makes Kid to Kid unique is that there are over 50 different brands and several hundred

items in each size. It's like a treasure hunt and it's affordable, which makes shopping fun!

GIVING BACK!

When you bring us your items to sell, we will buy what we can, and afterward, our sellers have the option to pick up the rest or donate it to one of our local donation partners. We are proud to partner with The United Way East House, Eva's Closet, and Healthy Start. Kid to Kid also has a franchise partnership with BuildOn, which has helped build 15 schools in different nations across the globe.

HELPING OUR EARTH!

With pollution at an all-time high, shopping resale is the responsible thing to do. It keeps all these items in circulation. Shopping second-hand used to be considered "second rate", but is now considered smart, environmentally friendly, and even chic. When customers shop for resale, not only are they able to help themselves and others, but they are also contributing to the efforts that will ensure a cleaner planet for generations to come.

Come check us out for yourself at 3242 Forum Blvd #407, next to Staples. We are open Monday-Saturday, from 9 am - 8 pm, and Sunday from 11 am - 6 pm. You can also learn more by following us on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok. ✨



Photo: Kid to Kid Store Front. Located at 3242 Forum Blvd #407, next to Staples

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Seniors In Lehigh Acres Will Be Painting Rainbarrels And Auctioning Them Off To Help Other Seniors Struggling To Pay Their Water Bills

Submitted By Donna Lizotte

The Florida Governmental Utility Authority (FGUA), Lehigh Community Services, and Lehigh Acres Senior Center are excited to announce the return of the “Our Community, Our Seniors, Our Water” Rain Barrel Painting Contest! The purpose of the program is to promote water conservation while simultaneously providing art therapy to senior citizens within the community. The theme of this year’s contest will be, “Water... Make Every Drop Count!”

The program will run during the month of May, with painting taking place on the 16th and 17th at the Lehigh Acres Senior Center. The contest will conclude June 5th, “World Environment Day”, with a final judging and awards luncheon to be held at The Majestic Golf Club, Lehigh Acres. Prizes will be awarded to the Top 3 winners!

There are 20 barrels available for this year’s contest. Before the painting

can commence, each barrel will need to be cleaned, sanded, and primed, which can be a difficult and time-consuming process. “We are thrilled to have William Roseberry, SFC, US Army (Ret.) with the East Lee Leadership Academy, Jr. ROTC cadets donate their time to the program as they will be helping to prep the rain barrels ahead of the contest. Rain barrel prep will take place on Saturday, April 29th at FGUA’s Booster Station, located at 925 Bolivia Drive in Lehigh,” Donna Lizotte, Community Service Representative on behalf of the FGUA.

Once the artists have completed painting their barrels, they will be on display at the Majestic Golf Club. The painted rain barrels will be auctioned off with all proceeds raised going towards assisting seniors who are struggling with their water utility bills through a program administered by Lehigh Community Services.

Local seniors wishing to participate in the program or businesses who



Photo: Painted Rain Barrels Entered In The Contest from previous year

would like to be a sponsor can contact:

Donna Lizotte, Community Service Representative on behalf of the FGUA

OFFICE: (239) 368-1615, Ext. 1211 or EMAIL to: donna.lizotte@fgua.com.

Signup sheets are available at the Lehigh Acres Senior Center. Registration for the event must be completed

by May 12th.

The number of barrels is limited to 20 this year, and artists may work alone or in teams (limited to 3 members per team), rain barrels and art supplies will be provided. We also have sponsorship opportunities available and are accepting donations from businesses interested in participating in this amazing event. ✨

Local Boaters Recognize the Importance of National Safe Boating Week. NSBW May 20th – 26, 2023

Submitted By Daniel Eaton

National Safe Boating Week is an important annual campaign that aims to raise awareness about safe boating practices and the importance of wearing life jackets while boating. By participating in this campaign, you can help spread awareness about the dangers of boating and promote safe boating practices in your community.

Boating accidents can be very dangerous and even fatal, and many of these accidents can be prevented by following proper safety protocols. By wearing a life jacket and practicing safe boating habits, you can help prevent accidents and ensure that every-

one on board stays safe.

Furthermore, participating in National Safe Boating Week can help you become a better, more responsible boater. You can learn about new safety techniques, refresh your knowledge of boating regulations, and connect with other boaters who share your commitment to safe boating.

So, whether you are an experienced boater or just starting out, participating in National Safe Boating Week is an excellent way to help promote safe boating practices and ensure that everyone on the water stays safe.

National Safe Boating Week activities by Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 91 Fort Myers Beach include attending Military Appreciation Day at Hammond Stadium, offering Free Vessel Safety Checks, promoting wear your life jacket to work day, meet the Coast Guard Breakfast and the Boat America class on responsible boating. Watch the units Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/AUX-91FMB> for NSBW event updates.

The US Coast Guard Auxiliary is the lead agency in recreational boating safety, protecting America’s sea-

ward frontier. Created by Congress in 1939, the Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard, supporting the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas. Every day, vessels and aircraft deploy across the U.S. to aid or save countless boaters and dollars in property damage.

For additional information about boating safely or to register for a class, contact Kevin McTaggart, Public Education Officer, at 239-690-6780 option 1, cgaux91education@gmail.com, or www.Aux91FMB.org/Safe-boating. ✨

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U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Offers One Day Boating Safety Class: The One-Day Class Is Provided By Coast Guard Auxiliary On Saturday, May 20

Submitted By Daniel Eaton

Boating enthusiasts seeking to obtain the state boating safety certificate are encouraged to enroll in a one-day responsible boating class on Saturday, May 20, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The course will be held at the Pine Ridge Community Center, located at 15699 Pine Ridge Rd. in Fort Myers, next to the fire station and across from the tax collector's office. Completion of the course will make participants eligible for the state boating certificate.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary offers the one-day program every third Saturday of the month. Greg Masonic, the Flotilla Commander of Fort Myers Beach Flotilla 91, stresses the importance

of education and awareness of boating hazards. Masonic says, "Attending an in-person class is an excellent opportunity for students to interact, share perspectives, and gain local knowledge. Participants learn about the importance of life jackets, risk reduction, preparedness, and exercising sound judgment."

According to Florida law, anyone born on or after January 1, 1988, who plans to operate a boat in Florida waters with an engine of 10 horsepower or more must complete an approved boating safety course and obtain a Florida boating safety ID card. This card certifies that the person has completed the required boating safety course, but it is not a

boating license.

The one-day class costs \$45 per person and includes study materials. Mandatory registration is required and may be completed at www.Aux-91FMB.org or by calling 239-690-6780 option 1.

Boating is a popular recreational activity in Southwest Florida, but it can also be dangerous for the unprepared or uninformed. Human error and poor decision-making can increase the risk of accidents. According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, in 2021, there were 51 reportable boating accidents resulting in seven fatalities and 28 injuries.

The US Coast Guard Auxiliary is the lead agency in recreational boating safety, protecting America's seaward frontier. Created by Congress in 1939, the Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard, supporting the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas. Every day, vessels and aircraft deploy across the U.S. to aid or save countless boaters and dollars in property damage.

For additional information about boating safety classes or registration for a class, contact Kevin McTaggart, Public Education Officer, cgaux91education@gmail.com, at 239-690-6780 option 1, or www.Aux91FMB.org/Safeboating. 🌟

Franklin Park Elementary School Building Supervisor Is Florida School Related Employee Of The Year

Submitted By Rob Spicker

The School District of Lee County is proud and excited to announce that James Busscher, Building Supervisor at Franklin Park Elementary School, is the Florida School Related Employee of the Year. Busscher was chosen as a finalist less than two weeks ago and introduced as the winner at today's awards ceremony in the State Capitol.

"I am very thrilled and humbled to be named the Florida School Related Employee of the Year," James Busscher said. "This award is for my students and our Franklin Park family."

This state program recognizes outstanding education support personnel for the significant contributions they make to their schools and district school systems. Busscher was

nominated for his hard work and dedication to the school, students and staff at Franklin Park. Known as "Mr. James" on campus, he maintains a safe and clean school while also creating a welcoming environment. In addition to serving as Building Supervisor, Busscher is the co-sponsor of the school's Young Gentlemen's Club where he teaches 4th and 5th graders the importance of a strong work ethic and engages them in community service projects.

"Our Franklin Park school family has always known how special Mr. Busscher is," said Principal Michelle Freeman. "Now the State of Florida has confirmed it. Mr. Busscher is the epitome of the person that goes over and beyond to help others."

Busscher began his career with the



Photo: James Busscher, Building Supervisor at Franklin Park Elementary School, named Florida School Related Employee of the Year

School District as a Head Custodian in 2014. Due to his work with students through the Young Gentlemen's Club and some small group instruction he is considering becoming a teacher.

The District has had one other winner of Florida School Related Employee of the Year. In 2014, James Lefko was honored for his work as the Food Service Manager at Bayshore Elementary School. 🌟

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Registration Opens for Community Job Fair

Submitted By Randy Mitchelson

Registration is open for both employers and job seekers for a community job fair on Thursday, June 1, 2023, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. The job fair will take place at the Southwest Florida Event Center, 11515 Bonita Beach Rd. SE in Bonita Springs. The Grow Business Network, in partnership with HR by Karen and Secure Staffing are producing the community job fair. Anyone interested in exploring a career change and employers wanting to purchase space at the event can register online at hrbykaren.com. A portion of the proceeds from the job fair will be donated to local charities Dress for Success and Teen Challenge.

The job fair will provide new and seasoned job seekers with the chance to learn about job opportunities in a wide variety of fields. In

addition, job seekers will have the opportunity to sign up for complimentary resume review and interview practice during the job fair. Employers who purchase a table will have their lunch provided by Jason's Deli for up to two people. Members of the Grow Business Network are eligible to purchase their tables at a discounted rate.

ABOUT HR BY KAREN

HR by Karen is a human resources consulting company based in Naples, Fla., owned and operated by Karen Shepherd, MSHR, SHRM-CP. The firm's mission is to offer a unique quality experience by providing expert human resource services with compassion, empathy, and heart; thereby, reducing administrative time for businesses and allowing

them to focus on their growth, and improving employee relations. HR by Karen provides onsite, remote, and interim human resources solutions including recruitment, hiring, onboarding, compliance and audits, employee relations and termination, conflict resolution and workplace investigation, payroll, employment handbooks, policies and procedures and training and development. Learn more at hrbykaren.com.

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ABOUT GROW BUSINESS NETWORK

The Grow Business Network exists to bring substantial value to one another's lives and businesses through measurable acts of service, encouragement, friendship, referrals & education. The network consists of five teams in Naples, Bonita Springs-Estero and Fort Myers who meet weekly. Guests always welcome. Learn more at growbusiness-network.com. ✨

Lehigh Acres Fire Control And Rescue District Hosts Water And Fire Safety Class For Children

Submitted By Katie Heck

The Lehigh Acres Rotary is bringing the Josh the Otter Water Safety and Literacy Project to the Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District's Station 102 for an educational morning on water and fire safety. Children will read and receive a Josh the Otter book about water safety and also learn about fire safety with a presentation from the firefighters.

Parents can expect the event to last approximately 1 hour and need to plan to stay on-site with their children. The target audience for this presentation is children under the age of 9. Please only reserve a ticket for your child, parents do not need a ticket (this helps us track how many books we need for the event).

The US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 94 will also be joining us to provide information on boating safety and give children the opportunity to try on life jackets so they understand their importance.

Please reserve a free ticket for your child (accompanying adults do not need a ticket). If we fill up this

class we will add additional dates.

This event is scheduled for Saturday, May 6, 2023 at Station 102 (44 Homestead Rd S) at 10:00am.

LINK TO RESERVE TICKETS:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/591380664487> ✨

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Pet Allergies

By Dr. Veja Tillman, DVM

WHAT IS AN ALLERGY?

An allergy occurs when the immune system overreacts and produces antibodies to substances that it would normally tolerate. This excessive response is considered an allergic or hypersensitive reaction. Allergies can develop to any substance that a pet is exposed to. Food, fleas, seasonal environmental allergens (grasses or pollens) or indoor allergens (dust mites and molds).

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

The immune system's job is to keep you healthy by fighting harmful pathogens. It does this by attacking anything it thinks could put your body in danger. Depending on the allergy, this response may involve inflammation, or a host of other symptoms.

The most common symptom associated with allergies is localized (in one area) or generalized (all over the body) itching of the skin and ears. In some pets, licking or chewing the feet, limbs or belly may lead to skin infections or recurrent ear infections. In some cases, the symp-

toms involve the respiratory system, with coughing, sneezing, and/or wheezing. Sometimes, there may be runny discharge from the eyes or nose. In the case of food allergies, the digestive system may be affected, resulting in vomiting, diarrhea, or chronic anal gland issues.

HOW COMMON ARE ALLERGIES?

Allergies are very common and often occur after the age of 6 months. They are more commonly seen around the age of 1-2 years old. This is because it takes time for the body to become sensitized to the substance the pet is allergic to. Common pet allergies include contact allergies, food allergies, environmental allergies (or a more severe form termed Atopic Dermatitis) and flea allergies.

DIAGNOSING ALLERGIES

Diagnosing allergies can sometimes be difficult. Especially since the signs of allergies can be confused with other disorders, or they can occur simultaneously. Be prepared for your pet to receive a full diagnostic evaluation to rule out other causes

of itching and skin problems. Your veterinarian will also discuss allergy testing either by a blood test or skin test. In some instances, biopsies of the skin may be required.

TREATMENT OF ALLERGIES

Because there is no one size fits all treatment for allergies, there are many allergy treatments available for pets. Allergy treatment and control may take several months of trial and error to find a protocol that best controls your pets' signs effectively

Common Treatments For Allergies Include:

- Anti-itch therapy: Use of daily oral or injectable medications that block itching and inflammation.
- Medicated shampoos which help keep the skin barrier healthy and prevent secondary infections
- Antihistamines aid in reducing sneezing and watery eyes.
- Special Diets which help pets avoid food allergens and help strengthen the skins barrier.
- Hyposensitization: Allergy shots which contain very small

doses of allergens, given daily to desensitize the immune system.

- Antibiotics and Topical ear medications: Sometimes used to treat secondary infections to help control allergy symptoms.

There is no cure for allergies. The goal of allergy treatment is to control the clinical signs and keep your pet happy and healthy. It is important to maintain contact with your veterinarian to adjust treatments for your pet based on their response.

If you suspect that your pet may have allergies, make an appointment to have them evaluated by your veterinarian today.

ABOUT DR. VEJA TILLMAN, DVM

Dr. Tillman is a 2002 graduate of Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine. Her veterinary practice and work experience focuses on patients at emergency and critical care centers in Southwest Florida. She is the owner of Just 4 Pets Wellness Center and can be reached at 239-270-5721. ✨

Women's Montage 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 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 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, May 25th. We will not have an outside speaker at this meeting. We will, however, be conducting a formal ceremony to install the new Montage Executive Board Officers (President Sue Vail, co-Vice Presidents Sandra Hibbs and Debra White, Secretary Barbara Wierzbicki, and Treasurer Shirley

O'Donnell) for the upcoming year (2023-2024).

Luncheon fee is \$28.00 and the planned regular menu will be Chef's homemade chicken salad stuffed in a vine ripe tomato served on a bed of mixed greens with Chef's choice of dessert. The plant based / vegan entree option will be vegan chicken stir fry containing Oriental vegetables sauteed with an Asian glaze over Jasmine rice with a fresh fruit 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, May 18th. ✨



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Resilient Lee County Leaders Head To East Lee County – May 10th /Harnes Marsh Middle School Students Take Tallahassee!

By Mike Welch



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

A STATEMENT FROM OUR SHERIFF

It is now a community crisis – speeding, racing, bullying and roadway transgressions in all sorts of forms. Drivers are threatened with simple chores like going to the store or simply to work. We read or see on media almost daily crashes and terrible loss of life and for what? Aggressive driving, harassment and an utter disregard for the rights and lives of others. Last month the Sheriff wrote to us that various operations were being con-

ducted confronting this problem and as of now it has led to multiple arrests and towed vehicles. I do suspect also that many of these bad actors even lack the privilege of driving with no licensing, suspended or revoked licenses and no insurance. As a community we need to take back our streets and highways. Don't hesitate to call the Sheriff's Office at 239-477-1000 or for emergency 911.

RESILIENT LEE LEADERS TOWN HALL MEETING FOR EAST LEE/LEHIGH ACRES

Lee County has created the Lee County Recovery Task Force to discuss various topics with our local communities regarding continuing recovery of the effects of Hurricane

Ian. In addition, the federal government has awarded earmarks of \$144 million to underserved communities in Lee County. The task force and county leaders would like to hear from you: MAY 10 – East Lee County Regional Library from 6-8 p.m. (English and Spanish sessions).

HARNES MARSH MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS TAKE TALLAHASSEE!

On April 17 to 19 The East Lee County Chamber of Commerce was proud to take up the invitation of our Senate President and our State Senator Kathleen Passidomo to host a group of hard-working government/civics students from East Lee County to visit her as well as our other state senator who rep-

resents Lehigh, Senator Ben Albritton. The students were invited as their guests to see the Florida Legislature in action. They spent time on the floor of the Senate, visited the House of Representatives to meet their state representative, Tiffany Esposito. The student group and faculty escorts were accompanied by Lee School District Board Chair Armor Persons who represent the East Lee County area and East Lee County Chamber of Commerce Chair Mike Welch who organized and sponsored the trip. This program was popular some years ago and the Chamber Board thought it a good project to organize in partnership with the Lee School District. Oh, and the students were asked in a Senate Committee meeting by senators about their thoughts on start times for schools. ✨



Photo: Harnes Marsh Middle School Students and Faculty with School Board Member Armor Persons, Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, Senator Ben Albritton, East Lee Chamber Chair, Mike Welch - Floor of the Florida Senate



Photo: Harnes Marsh Middle School Students and Faculty with School Board Member Armor Persons, Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, Senator Ben Albritton, East Lee Chamber Chair, Mike Welch - Florida Supreme Court



Photo: Harnes Marsh Middle School Students and Faculty with School Board Member Armor Persons, Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, Senator Ben Albritton, East Lee Chamber Chair, Mike Welch - Florida State University

Burglars' Preferences, Street Racing/Speeding

By Sheriff Carmine Marceno



Photo: Sheriff Carmine Marceno, Lee County Sheriff

Constituents from around the county have reached out requesting an effort to address and curb the speeding and racing issues that are imperiling other drivers and generating intolerable road noise that are nuisances

to the community. All such requests are noted, analyzed and strategically addressed.

In addition to traffic operations that have been executed over the course of the last month by the Lee County Sheriff's Office, we have worked cooperatively and concurrently with the Florida Highway Patrol and the Fort Myers Police Department to improve roadway

safety and to reduce roadway noise. Over the course of thirty days, we have addressed traffic violations, in many areas around the county, involving careless and reckless driving, speeding, street racing and equipment infractions.

These operations have led to multiple arrests, towed vehicles and many citations.

As shared with the local media, I have revised our pursuit policy and have increased the number of law enforcement personnel to address these matters.

This is a continuous and ongoing effort. I will continue to dedicate any and all resources to enforce traffic laws and to keep our roadways safe for all. ✨

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Answers To Your Greatest Questions

By Jack Dannemiller, Author - jack@livingdialog.org - 216-533-7607

Are you ready for an adventure in discovering answers to the profound questions of life? If your answer was yes, then *Answers to Your Greatest Questions* is just the book you've been looking for.

Answers to Your Greatest Questions reveals the secrets of those questions and answers you've been pondering. This new book is really about YOUR questions - questions you're likely to have asked; would like to have asked; or questions for which you are still seeking better, more understandable and truthful answers.

Have you wondered about why you are here and what is the reason for life? Perhaps, you have questions about creation and the existence of God. You may also have questions about Heaven and Hell and what happens when we die. Physical death, like taxes, is inescapable! Life has many options, but eternity has

only two - and just what are those?

Porter Goss, Former member of the United States Congress from Southwest Florida, calls *Answers to Your Greatest Questions* "a great way to learn something important is to ask a knowledgeable person with good sources. Jack Dannemiller is doing yeoman's work to get that message out, especially to the younger generations who are seeking Truth. Who could deny that the need is great in these days when our core values are under attack from within and without?"

Answers to Your Greatest Questions holds responses that may surprise you while challenging you to expand your thinking and shape your worldview such as what really matters in life and in eternity. It contains answers that will take you on an adventure and have you pondering the book's content for weeks and even years to come.

This book is a superb resource for navigating life in a challenging, ever-changing society. It is a must read for any person genuinely seeking God's Truth for living a meaningful, purposeful, and joyful life now and for eternity.

Answers to Your Greatest Questions is available for purchase on livingdialog.org and Amazon.com. Upcoming titles like *Reasons for the Faith*, "filled with solid theological background and practical helps for followers of Christ who may not have the confidence to share their hope in Jesus," and the *Disciple Maker's Toolbox*, "recommended to anyone who wishes to gain confidence that they can become a "disciple who makes disciple," will also be available for readers soon! ✨

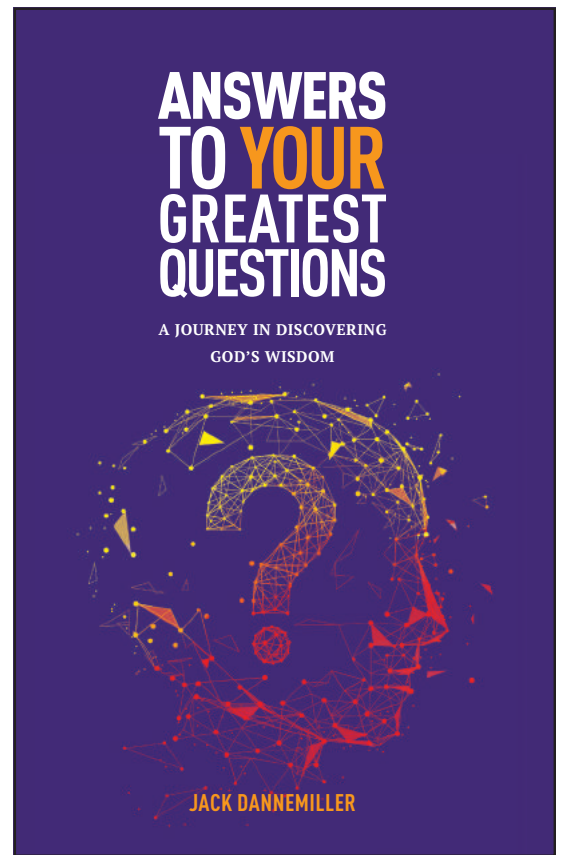


Photo: *Answers To Your Greatest Questions* Book Cover By Jack Dannemiller



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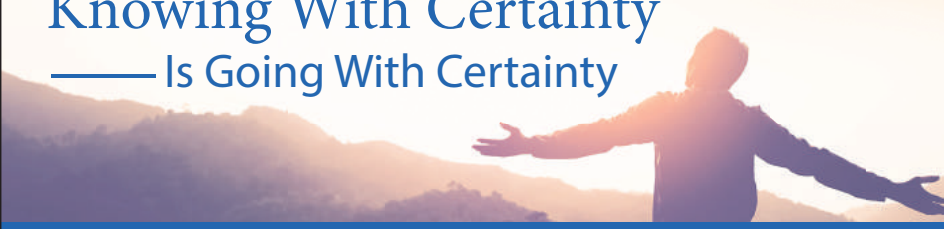

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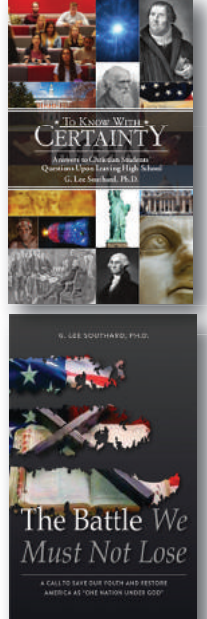



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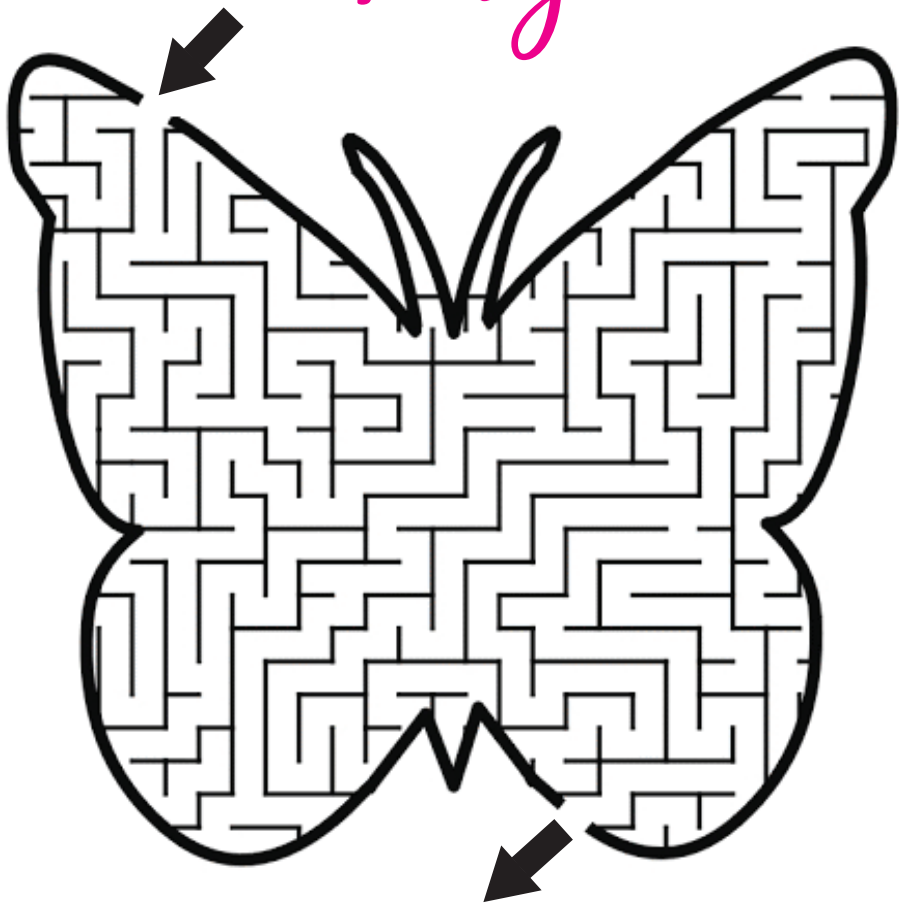


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Mother's Day



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May 8

No Socks Day

It's time to get out your sandals and flip flops. For today is No Socks Day. Go ahead..... free your toes of the confines of socks and stockings. Give those toes of yours a breath of fresh air. The creators of this day also profess that No Socks Day will reduce your laundry load, and therefore, is healthy for the environment. It's easy to participate in No Socks Day. Just leave your socks and stocking off, and let your toes enjoy a moment in the sun! Note: While washing your feet prior to participating in No Socks Day is a requirement, painting your toe nails is completely optional.

May 11

Eat What You Want Day

What would you like to have to eat today? Okay, great.....health permitting, go ahead and have any and all of your favorite foods and snacks. Because today is Eat What You Want Day. Eat What You Want Day is definitely not a day for diets. It is one single, solitary day in the year to go off your diet and eat something you really enjoy, Today, you can set aside your dietary "No-No" list. Today, you can splurge. Tomorrow, it's back to the diet. It is important to note that today is not intended to eat as much as you want. Rather, the goal is to eat something you otherwise wouldn't have. If you are watching carbs or calories, simply keep within your limits by eating just a small amount of that favorite treat. Caution: People with allergies and/or medical conditions, may not be able to fully participate in this day. Simply said: Do not risk your health to participate in this day.

May 14

Dance Like a Chicken Day

Dance Like a Chicken Day is for those who like to do the "Chicken Dance". All 'ya gotta do is dance like a chicken. While any dance song will do, there's no dance like the Chicken dance. It's tradition at every wedding reception to play and to dance the Chicken Dance. It gets people of all ages up dancing and mingling. It puts a smile on everyone's face. The Chicken Dance is not limited to weddings. It is also played at other social events where there is a band and dancing. The only problem is that events are way too frequent for a chicken dance lover. Therefore, today exists to provide you with another opportunity to dance like a chicken. So, don't pass up this priceless opportunity.

May 25

National Wine Day

Tap the keg. Crack open a bottle. Today is National Wine Day. People have been drinking wine since the early days of man (and woman). There are plenty of references to wine in the Bible. Wine has thankfully been around for thousands of years. There are many varieties of grapes, giving us the opportunity to make and enjoy, hundreds of different varieties of wines. Made from fermented grapes, wine is easy to make. As a result, there are many home vintners among us. While you don't have to drink wine today to celebrate this day, it certainly would not be as much fun.

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2 BEDROOM POPULAR CAMILLE GARDENS VILLA



Popular Camille Gardens Villa on quiet cul de sac off of Joel Blvd, walking distance to stores etc, central water and sewer, newer windows throughout, large family room in the rear with storage closet and indoor laundry area, ceramic tile floors with carpet in bedrooms like new, terrazzo floors underneath, new water heater in 2018, kitchen with all appliances including a newer LG built in microwave, pass through to dining area, newer vanity sink and toilet in the bathroom, newer exterior doors, quiet setting with plenty of privacy, nicely landscaped with storage shed behind the carport for extra storage, NO FLOOD INSURANCE REQUIRED, highest elevation in Lee County.

Offered At\$155,000

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

3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH HOME IN WILLOW LAKE



Wonderful three bedroom two bath home with bonus room that could be used for home office, den or even a game room. Centrally located in Willow Lakes with underground utilities, central water and sewer as well as a newer AC. Flower beds surround the front of the home and you will love the big shade tree in the back yard. On an oversized third of an acre lot there is room for a pool and you already have a nice shed to store the pool supplies. The double door entry leads into a nice foyer with rock wall that opens to the spacious living room and dining area. The eat in kitchen has granite countertops, more than enough cabinet space as well as a pantry. Two nice sized guest bedrooms with large closets and a large master bedroom with newer flooring, custom California closet and recently remodeled bath. The under air bonus room is a shining star in your new home. Was recently used as a home office on one side and a family room/man cave on the other, there is plenty of room to be creative out here. The large screened lanai is right off the bonus room and has access to the garage as well for easy access to yard tools. Located in the heart of Lehigh close to shopping and schools.

Offered At\$330,000

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

4 BEDROOM 3 1/2 BATH POOL HOME ON ONE ACRE



4 bedroom 3 1/2 bath POOL home in the middle of ONE ACRE. The seller owns the adjoining lots as well. Additional lots will be sold separately if the buyer is interested for a total of 3 1/2 ACRES. Quiet low traffic dead end street, new central heat and air in 2015, electric roll down shutters throughout, screen enclosed in ground solar heated pool with plenty of deck space for entertaining overlooks cleared ONE ACRE lot with small Oak trees for shade, storage shed, security system, soaring high ceilings throughout with crown molding, formal living room and dining room plus family room open from the kitchen area with large breakfast bar, solid surface countertops, walk in pantry and all appliances, master bedroom with tray ceilings, sliding doors to the pool area, dual walk in closets, private bath with dual sinks, garden tub with separate oversized walk in shower, guest bedroom also has it's own private bath and sliding door access to the pool area, half guest bath, ceramic tile floors with laminate in the bedrooms, indoor laundry room with washer and dryer. NO FLOOD INSURANCE REQUIRED HERE. LEHIGH IS THE HIGHEST ELEVATION IN LEE COUNTY. Some furnishings for sale separately.

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