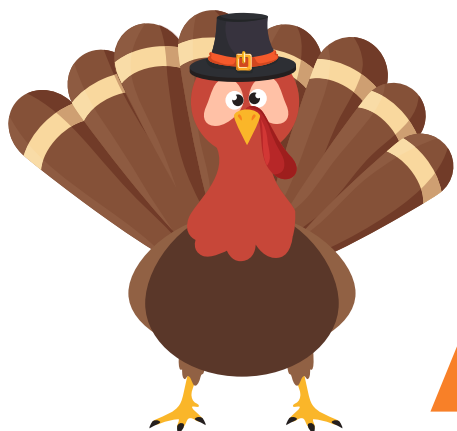


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VOLUME 04  
ISSUE 11

## EAST LEE COUNTY NEWS | DANIELS CORRIDOR

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### Greater Lehigh Acres Development

Submitted By Butch Swank - butch@goodladandswank.com



Photo: Butch Swank, President of Southwest Florida Business Alliance; Owner of Goodlad & Swank Insurance, LLC

I received the information below from John Talmage, head of the Lee County Economic Development office. Our Southwest Florida Business Alliance had a luncheon recently, and John was our keynote speaker. He went into great detail about the abundance of development, and literally, the seventy business owners and managers at the luncheon didn't want to leave because there was so much great news to hear. So, please read below, and I hope this news makes your day like it did mine!

Lehigh Acres has seen an increased level of activity over the last three years. There are 38 active developments within the Lehigh Acres Community Planning district, which together represent an upcoming 2,645,134 commercial sq. ft., 438,400 industrial sq. ft., and 8,012 residential units. There have been approximately 1,500 new residential structure permits issued within the last six months to

begin construction in Lehigh Acres.

#### NOTABLE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PIPELINE: SR 82 & BLACKSTONE CORPORATE PARK

Planning of 576,400 SF of commercial and 350,000 SF of industrial space. Tibbetts Lumber Co. Truss Plant Expansion: Six lots totaling 8.5+ acres to allow for truss assembly/storage expansion. Savannah Lakes Expansion: Mixed-use planned development approved for 1,468 single-family residential units and 100,000 SF of commercial frontage along Homestead Road S. Sunniland Town Center: Mixed-use planned development approved for remaining 810 single-family residential units and 100,000 SF of commercial space.

Increased commercial activity will benefit from the rapid pace of residential infill development occurring within the Lehigh Planning District. New multi-family investments in the area represent over 1/3 of all new housing units being planned in Lehigh Acres. They are expected to transform the area

from a historic bedroom community with sparse small-scale retail into a larger commercial hub with increased employment opportunities, significant retail expansion, and a higher presence of professional services being offered.

The early result of this growth is witnessed by the rapid development of many small-scale commercial additions within the last two years, such as a new Synovus Bank, Panda Express, Waffle House, Dollar General, Starbucks, Aspen Dental, Rick Johnson Auto, three new Self-Storage Facilities, and more. Five new shopping plazas can be found in various stages of planning, attempting to consolidate lots for future commercial development along major roads within the center of this large community.

Local services are also being expanded, with Key Foods and El Corazon Supermarket recently opening along Lee Blvd and Gunnery Road. Lee County has purchased space along Homestead Road to build office space for various government services. Lee Tran is adding a Park & Ride Facility, and local parks are

seeing expansion with new sporting facilities and lands purchased. The Lee County School District is planning on adding a new technical college in Lehigh Acres, joining the Donna J. Beasley Technical Academy to provide adult education opportunities.

The Alico Road Extension Capital Road Project, connecting Alico Road to Sunshine Blvd., began in 2022 with a five-year completion date. The 6,600+ acre Kingston Development to the immediate South of Lehigh Acres is also expected to completely change the eastern landscape of the county, with the project planning to build a major arterial road connecting State Road 82 to Corkscrew Road. The aim of these projects is to connect residents to major employment centers, increase capacity for commercial construction located servicing Lehigh Acres, and address commuter times for the rapidly growing community.

To get involved, contact the SWFL Business Alliance at 239-470-5611 or go online at [www.swflbusinessalliance.com](http://www.swflbusinessalliance.com).

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# Four Schools Chosen as 2023 Special Olympics National Banner Unified Champion Schools

Submitted By Rob Spicker

The School District of Lee County is proud to announce three high schools and one middle school have been selected as a 2023 Special Olympics National Banner Unified Champion School. North Fort Myers High School was awarded its second national banner, while Cape Coral High School, Lehigh Senior High School and Lehigh Acres Middle School are receiving their first.

“We are absolutely thrilled to have been honored as a Special Olympics National Banner School,” said Cape Coral high School Unified Sports Coordinator Dr. Rob Gamache. “This achievement holds special significance for us, as it not only acknowledges the outstanding efforts of our Special Olympics athletes but also underscores the culture of inclusivity we have fostered here at Cape High. This accomplishment serves as a true testament to the dedication and unwavering commitment to inclusivity for all students that permeates our school’s ethos.”

A National Banner Unified Champion School is one that has demonstrated commitment to inclusion by meeting 10 standards of excellence. These standards were developed

by a national panel of leaders from Special Olympics and the education community. The primary activities within these standards include: Special Olympics Unified Sports® (where students with and without disabilities train and compete as teammates), inclusive youth leadership and whole school engagement. Banner Unified Champion Schools should also be able to demonstrate they are self-sustainable or have a plan in place to sustain these activities into the future.

The students and staff at Lehigh Senior have always been very loving and accepting of the diversity we have in our school,” said Lehigh Senior High School Athletics and Activities Director Ernesto Adamo. “Our Best Buddies club achieved National Best Buddies Club of the year for 2021-2022. Since then we have added a Leadership buddies teams and increased our Unified Sports to 7 different sports. We are currently working on starting Lightning Lunch Buddies. Our buddies club, student leadership team and Unified Sports participants are always looking for new ways to better our school environment for all and honored we are being recognized for our efforts

through achieving National Champion Banner School for 2023! It takes a team!”

The expectation of a National Banner Unified Champion School is that the 10 standards are continuously being met, year after year. To ensure this sustainability, schools reapply for banner status every 4 years. North Fort Myers High School was first honored in 2019.

“North Fort Myers High School is honored to receive recognition as being a Special Olympics National Unified Champion School,” said North’s Director of Athletics and Activities Joe Bowen. “Having been recognized in 2019 and again in 2023, it demonstrates the continued commitment to inclusive practices involving all students in our Red Knight student body. Students with and without disabilities train and compete as teammates and work together to participate in activities including Unified bowling, basketball, and track, along with the Un-Knighted Club and Student Government Association. We are proud of our students and staff.”

Only 16 schools in Florida and 205 in the United States achieved this

status. After applying, schools were reviewed first by program staff and then by a national Certifying Body of key educational leaders.

Lehigh Senior High School will celebrate its 2023 National Banner Unified Champion School award as part of a pep rally on Thursday, October 26th.

Cape Coral High School will celebrate its 2023 National Banner Unified Champion School award on Friday, November 3rd at 9:15 a.m. during their unified basketball game. Media is invited to attend. Cape Coral High School is located at 2300 Santa Barbara Blvd. in Cape Coral. Media planning to attend is asked to please RSVP to News@leeschools.net

North Fort Myers will celebrate its 2023 National Banner Unified Champion School award at a pep rally in January. Lehigh Acres Middle is still scheduling its celebration.

Mariner High School and Fort Myers High School were honored in 2022 as Special Olympics National Banner Unified Champion Schools. They will be able to reapply in 2026.



Photos: (Top, Right to Left) - Leadership Conference, Cape United Track Team, Cape Unified Flag Football | (2nd Row) - Cape Unified Basket Ball Team With Mariner | (3rd Row) - Cape Unified Basket ball and Cheer Teams | (Bottom Row) - U Bowlers, Uff Regional Champs (D1)



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# En Point For Excellence: Southwest Florida Premier Classical Ballet School Inspires Passion And Talent

By Claudia Beyers

Fort Myers is home to a hidden gem that has been enchanting residents and nurturing young talent for over 20 years: Gulfshore Ballet. This institution embodies the true spirit of the arts, enriching the lives of students and fostering the love for ballet.

Gulfshore Ballet, our very own not for profit ballet school, stands as a testament to the dedication of its founders and board members who throughout the years have believed in the transformative power of dance. It is a symbol of artistic excellence in Southwest Florida.

## EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

With its non-for profit status Gulfshore Ballet offers financial assistance to aspiring young dancers who might not otherwise have the opportunity to learn and train in the art of ballet.

## DEDICATED INSTRUCTORS AND EXCEPTIONAL TRAINING

One of the core strengths of Gulfshore Ballet is its Artistic directors

Iliana Lopez and Franklin Gamero, who together were principal dancers at Miami City Ballet for 20 years. They along with the rest of the instructors are passionate about their craft and take pride in passing their knowledge and skills to the next generation. Students learn about the history, music and cultural significance of ballet and most importantly, the value of discipline, hard work, dedication and commitment. Students become beautiful and dynamic dancers.

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: BE A PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL

Gulfshore Ballet has made a significant impact on our local community. This local gem is nurturing the next generation of dancers and, in doing so, enriching the cultural awareness of our community.

This is why the organization is moving forward and is very excited to announce the formation of Gulfshore Ballet Company. Bringing professional dancers to the stage will continue to evolve the landscape of our community and will attract

many patrons to participate in more enlightening cultural activities.

Our 2023/2024 season begins with our annual performance of The Nutcracker in collaboration with the Gulf Coast Symphony at the Barbara B Mann Performance Hall. It is a highly anticipated performance throughout the community and our students eagerly look forward to this event which utilize professional scenery, costumes, lighting, sound and stage crew. The Nutcracker this year will be December 16th, at 2pm and 7:30pm. Buy your tickets now at [bbmann.eventue.net](http://bbmann.eventue.net) for this amazing Christmas tradition!

The next performance is Carmen which will be March 7th, 2024 at 7pm. "Carmen" tells the passionate and tumultuous tale of a free-spirited and seductive gypsy and her love affairs. The ballet explores themes of desire, jealousy, and fate, set against the backdrop of the vivid Spanish landscape. This event will be held at Cambier Park in Naples in a collaboration with Opera Naples. The Festival Under the Stars promises to be a gorgeous evening of wine, ballet and pure enjoyment.



Photo: Ballet Dancers Posing

The final performance on the schedule is Sleeping Beauty on April 20th, 2024 at 7pm at the Tribby Arts Center at Shell Point. Sleeping Beauty is a fairy tale known to generations, filled with elements of magic, romance, and the enduring power of love. This iconic narrative revolves around the enchanting Princess Aurora, who falls into a deep slumber following a spell cast by the wicked fairy, Carabosse. Only true love's kiss can awaken her from this mystical sleep. Come out and enjoy this ballet with us. You will enjoy every minute of this beautiful performance! 🐦



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# Renowned Artist Contributes Exclusive Painting to the ARC's 29th Annual Starlight Auction

Submitted By **Bette Abbott**

The Animal Refuge Center (ARC) is delighted to announce its 29th Annual Starlight Auction at the exquisite Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort & Spa is set to take place on Saturday, November 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. This event promises to be an unforgettable evening of art and philanthropy, with Myra Roberts' original acrylic painting, Bailey's, dedicated to supporting ARC's vital mission.

"We are thrilled to have Myra Roberts support for the Animal Refuge Center," said ARC Board Treasurer Betty Hughes. "The Starlight Auction is our signature event and largest fundraiser of the year. Having a Myra Roberts original available for sale during the live auction could attract a record setting sale to benefit the care of our

cats and dogs, community education and eliminating euthanasia."

With a reputation that transcends borders, Myra Roberts has captivated art enthusiasts not only across the United States but also in Europe, earning her a place in the private collection of none other than the legendary Robert Rauschenberg. Roberts' artistic journey has been nothing short of remarkable, featuring numerous exhibitions and permanent installations in esteemed museums. Her commitment to philanthropy is equally impressive, having contributed to a myriad of humanitarian causes and charitable organizations. Notably, her passion for animals has garnered recognition from fellow advocates, including the renowned Jane Goodall.

Myra Roberts' signature style encompasses the nostalgia of retro bathing beauty art, as well as an extraordinary ability to capture the essence of animals, wildlife, and the natural beauty of Florida. With a heart full of compassion for all living creatures, her decision to support ARC's noble cause is a testament to her dedication to making a difference in the lives of animals in need.

In addition to the auction of this exclusive painting, Myra Roberts will be offering limited-time pet portrait commissions, with a portion of the proceeds earmarked for ARC's fundraising efforts. This unique opportunity allows art enthusiasts and animal lovers alike to contribute to a meaningful cause while acquiring a cherished

piece of artwork.

Do not miss the chance to be a part of this extraordinary evening, where art and compassion unite to make a lasting impact. Join us on November 25, 2023 at the

Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort & Spa and help us support the Animal Refuge Center as we continue our mission to save and protect animals in need.

For more information about ARC's Starlight auction or to inquire about tickets, please visit [www.Animalrefugecenter.com](http://www.Animalrefugecenter.com) or contact Betty Hughes, Auction Director, at (239) 841-0810. 🐾



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# The Craftie Ladies Fall Craft Sale

Submitted By The Craftie Ladies of St. John XXIII Catholic Church

Mark your calendars for The Craftie Ladies Fall Craft Sale! If you've been to one of our fairs before, you know we have a large variety of top quality, homemade items for sale, such as quilts, table runners, jewelry, rosaries, hand-knitted and crocheted items, holiday decor, wreaths, scrubbies, rope bowls, pillowcases, baby items, pet toys, shell roses and so much more.

We have fabulous raffle baskets this year including a Dog Basket, a Cat Basket, an Evening in Paris basket, a Christmas basket, a Santa basket, a Cookie basket, a Pamper Me basket, and others. The drawing will take place at 1 pm on Sunday, November 12, 2023.

Come and join us on Saturday, November 11th, 2023, from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday, November 12th, 2023, from 8 am to 1 pm.

We hope to see you at our craft fair at St. John XXIII, located on Palomino

Lane, just north of Daniels Parkway. Stop by, have a chat, and just maybe you can get some early holiday shopping done!

## ABOUT THE CRAFTIE LADIES

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Photo: Top view of female hands make a christmas wreath.



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# Blessings In A Backpack Of Southwest Florida Receives Grant From The Collier County Community Foundation

## \$10,000 In Funds Aid In Feeding Over 500 Children At Golden Gate Elementary

Submitted By Cecilia St. Arnold

Blessings in a Backpack Southwest Florida is thrilled to announce that it has been awarded a generous grant of \$10,000 by The Collier County Community Foundation. This grant will enable Blessings in a Backpack to continue its mission of providing essential nutrition to over 500 children at Golden Gate Elementary School.

Golden Gate Elementary School, located in Naples, FL, serves a diverse student population, many of whom come from families facing economic challenges. Blessings in a Backpack has been dedicated to ensuring that no child at the school goes hungry over the weekends. Through their program, they provide weekend food packs to students, giving them the nourishment they need to thrive and succeed academically.

Receiving the \$10,000 grant from The Collier County Community Foundation has come at a crucial time, as Blessings in a Backpack was working tirelessly to ensure that every child at Golden Gate Elementary receives the support they need. This significant grant will make a substantial impact

on the lives of these students, making it possible for them to concentrate on their studies without the worry of hunger.

“We are immensely grateful to The Collier County Community Foundation for their generosity and support,” said Cecilia St. Arnold, Executive Director of Blessings in a Backpack of Southwest Florida. “This grant will enable us to continue our mission of providing weekend meals to the children at Golden Gate Elementary and ensure that no child in our community goes to bed hungry.”

The Collier County Community Foundation is well-known for its dedication to enhancing the quality of life for residents in Collier County, and this grant further exemplifies their commitment to supporting local initiatives that make a difference in the lives of children.

The partnership between Blessings in a Backpack and The Collier County Community Foundation demonstrates the power of collaboration in addressing the critical issue of child-

hood hunger. By working together, they are not only feeding hungry children but also providing them with the nourishment they need to reach their full potential.

For more information about Blessings in a Backpack of Southwest Florida and their mission, please visit <https://swfl.blessingsinabackpack.org>.

For more information about The Collier County Community Foundation and their support for local initiatives, please visit [colliercf.org](http://colliercf.org).

### ABOUT BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Blessings in a Backpack SWFL serves over 7,800 students through 33 school-based programs located throughout Lee, Collier, Hendry, Glades and Charlotte Counties. In these schools, test scores, reading skills, positive behavior, general health, and school attendance have improved dramatically due in part to students receiving the nourishment

they need throughout the week and the weekends.

Kids are our future; you can help secure theirs. A \$130 donation will feed a child for one full school year. Gifts of all sizes are welcome through the donation portal at <https://swfl.blessingsinabackpack.org/> or via mail at P.O. Box 61402 Fort Myers, FL 33906. All contributions are tax-deductible.

### ABOUT THE COLLIER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Collier Community Foundation™ is a tax-exempt, public, charitable organization established in 1985 to increase and focus on local private philanthropy. Today, the Collier Community Foundation manages more than 850 funds, works with hundreds of nonprofits, and has granted over \$268 million to nonprofit organizations, community programs, and scholarships. Informed giving. Powerful results.™ Learn more at [colliercf.org](http://colliercf.org) or call 239-649-5000. 🐾

# Lehigh Acres Fire Control And Rescue Hosts Food Drive

By Katie Heck

The Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District is holding a holiday food drive to benefit local families in our community. All donations collected will be delivered to Lehigh Community Services in time to help families keep food on their tables during the holiday season. Collection boxes are in the lobbies of all our fire stations to make dropping off a donation easy. The District will be collecting donations beginning today, October 12, through Wednesday, November 15.

Lehigh Community Services has

served the Lehigh Acres Community for over 46 years. Last year, they provided Thanksgiving meal items to over 400 families. Non-perishable food items such as stuffing, canned vegetables, boxed mashed potatoes, gravy mix, biscuit or muffin mix, and dessert mixes are most requested; but any donation is appreciated. In lieu of frozen turkeys, a \$10 gift card to a local grocery store is a great option! Hygiene and pet supplies are also high-need items (this is a great time to clean out that stockpile of travel-size bottles).

Whatever you give, it will have an impact on our Lehigh Acres community. Thank you for your support!

Lehigh Acres Fire Control & Rescue District station locations are as follows:

- Administration: 11 Homestead Rd Sout
- Station 101: 1000 Joel Blvd
- Station 102: 44 Homestead Rd

- South
- Station 103: 308 Gunnery Rd
  - Station 104: 3102 16th St SW
  - Station 105: 636 Thomas Sherwin Ave S
  - Station 106: 2501 49th St SW

Any questions regarding this holiday food drive can be directed to Public Relations Officer Katie Heck, 239-303-5340 or [katie.heck@lehighfd.com](mailto:katie.heck@lehighfd.com). 🐾

# Pet Obesity

By Dr. Veja Tillman, DVM

Obesity is a very common problem in pets and can lead to many health problems. A whopping 56% of cats and 60% of dogs in North America are classified as overweight or obese. That's more than 80 million pets at greater risk of serious health issues. However, only 10% of pet owners think their pet is overweight.

### WHY IS PET OBESITY A PROBLEM?

Plenty of evidence now exists showing that excess fat deposits in dogs and cats are associated with many serious health complications. Obesity contributes to the risk of disease including diabetes, osteoarthritis, heart disease, hypertension, kidney disease, increased joint injuries and some forms of cancer. All these conditions can eventually decrease your pet's lifespan.

### SIGNS OF OBESITY IN ANIMALS

- Excessive weight gain
- No or little visible waistline
- The collar becomes tighter
- Sagging belly
- Cannot feel the ribcage
- Lack of grooming
- Constipation or gassy
- A bigger, rounder face
- A reluctance to go for walks or lagging behind
- Excessive panting
- Tiredness
- Needing help getting in and out of cars
- Lack of mobility or struggle to stand, walk or jump
- Refusal to move or play games

### PREVENTION

There are many steps that you can

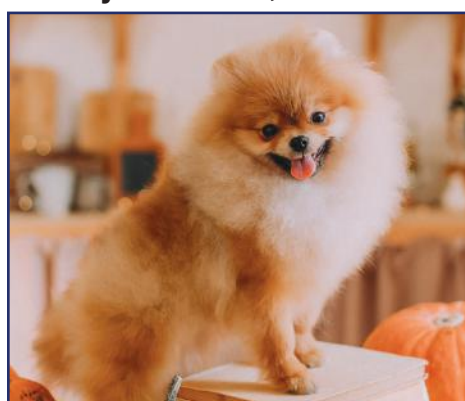


Photo: Cute Little Red Fluffy Dog Stands With His Front Paws On A Stack Of Books

take to help prevent obesity in your pets. Start by asking your veterinarian to help you choose the most appropriate food for your pet based on your pet's lifestyle and activity. Next consider portion control and mealtimes which can be critical in prevention of obesity. Finally, keep your pet active with regular exercise. Remember, consistency is key to maintaining a healthy weight for your pets.

If you think your pet may be obese, talk to your veterinarian about developing a weight loss plan specifically tailored to your pet. This plan should include regular exercise/playtime, a healthy and nutritious diet, less treats or a treat exchange and regular weight checks to monitor your pet's progress.

Maintaining a healthy weight for your pet helps to ensure they will live a long, happy, and healthy life.

### 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 health and wellness of pets in Southwest Florida. She is the owner of Just 4 Pets Wellness Center and can be reached at 239-270-5721. 🐾



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# East Lee County Chamber Of Commerce Pushes For Local Hazardous Disposal Sites In East Lee/Lehigh Acres From Lee County Solid Waste

By Mike Welch



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

This month I offer for your review a press release sent out by Lee County Solid Waste regarding the proper disposal of hazardous items that businesses and residents need to consider.

While I applaud Solid Waste the Chamber has been communicating with this department and with our County Commissioners that they must address the proper disposal of dangerous and toxic chemicals such as old gasoline, oil, antifreeze and a myriad of other chemicals. However, I think that asking residents to travel close to 25 to 30 miles

into Fort Myers on Topaz Court off of Metro Blvd. is unrealistic. The Chamber has suggested a program of local and neighborhood drop off sites with an aggressive bi-lingual campaign that enables residents to properly dispose of dangerous items and chemicals.

If you agree please call the Chamber of Commerce at 239-369-3322 so we can continue our discussions with Sol-

id Waste. I am sure many of us know of anecdotal incidents of chemical dumping that eventually goes into our canals, rivers and aquifers. Today's traffic patterns just makes a trip to Topaz Court even more tough. Topaz Court Collection needs to come to East Lee/Lehigh with a robust program for the sake of our environment and our communities. 🐾

# Lee County Solid Waste Asks Residents And Visitors To "Take Charge" Of Proper Battery Disposal

## County Launches Proactive Educational Campaign

By Betsy Clayton

Lee County Solid Waste has launched its "Take Charge" campaign to educate residents and visitors on proper battery disposal. Residents are reminded not to place any batteries in their recycling carts.

Household alkaline batteries, AA, AAA, C, D, 9-volt and button batteries can be disposed of in your regular garbage can.

Any other type of battery (rechargeable, nickel-cadmium, automotive, lithium-ion, lead-acid) should be recycled at the Household Chemical

Waste Facility at 6441 Topaz Court in Fort Myers. An increasing number of products contain lithium-ion batteries, which is why Lee County Solid Waste is encouraging residents to be aware of how to properly dispose of these items. Lithium-ion batteries can be found in the following common products:

- Electronic devices, such as mobile phones, laptops, tablets and Bluetooth devices
- Power tools
- Remote car keys
- Vaping devices
- Game controllers

- Digital cameras
- Portable power packs
- Greeting cards
- Electric toothbrushes
- Toys
- Medical equipment
- Smoke/Fire/Carbon monoxide detectors
- E-bikes, e-scooters and hover boards

"Rechargeable batteries have become a hazard in the solid waste industry and our department wants to be proactive in educating our residents and visitors about proper bat-

tery disposal in Lee County," said Doug Whitehead, director of Solid Waste. "This campaign is meant to engage our residents and visitors and to empower them to share this information with their friends and families." Visit [www.leegov.com/solidwaste/battery-disposal](http://www.leegov.com/solidwaste/battery-disposal) for more information.

To receive updates from Lee County Government, sign up for the newsletter here: [www.leegov.com/resources/newsletters](http://www.leegov.com/resources/newsletters). Follow Lee County Government on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/leecountyflbocc](http://www.facebook.com/leecountyflbocc). 🐾

# Pedestrian Safety

By Sheriff Carmine



Photo: Sheriff Carmine Marceno, Lee County Sheriff

Our county is growing and, with that growth comes an increase in the number of vehicles, more pedestrians, additional cyclists and construction to alter, repair and improve roadways.

All of the aforementioned variables are capable of compromising pedestrian safety...especially for children walking to and from school and/or bus stops. As part of Sheriff Carmine Marceno's "Safe Kids, Safe Schools" initiative, a safe walk to school, and back home later in the day, is a non-negotiable component.

Everyone is seemingly rushing to get somewhere... school, work, appointments. All too many of us have our eyes focused on our cellular devices, have headphones/earphones and are simply not paying appropriate attention to all that is occurring around them.

While most reading this message are adults, we believe that our many years of street crossing and neighborhood walking makes us immune to these types of accidents.

This couldn't be farther from the truth.

Let's begin by remaining alert. If there is no sidewalk, please walk on the left side of the road facing traffic. Walk as far from the roadway as possible and reasonable.

Stop signs and red lights do not guarantee that a vehicle will stop. Do not assume that a vehicle will abide by traffic laws/signs. Attempt to make eye contact with the driver and, in an abundance of safety, always yield to oncoming vehicles.

Exit vehicles, whenever possible, from the passenger side.

Pedestrians and cyclists should exercise additional caution in areas of road construction as traffic patterns change during the course of the construction

and drivers may become confused or disoriented.

Crossing major roadways can be perilous. Vehicles are moving at higher speeds, may have blind spots created by large trucks and, when turning, may not see a pedestrian jutting out from behind a parked vehicle or landscaping. These hazards increase exponentially during the dark of night.

Time spent discussing these matters

with school-aged children is time well spent. While they may feel insulted when you broach this subject as they are "grown up" and "know how to cross a street," please remind them that even adults are susceptible to these sorts of tragedies.

"Season" will soon be upon us; more people, more vehicles, more congestion. Let's all be alert and cautious as we approach the holiday season. 🐾



Photo: Pedestrian Crosses The Road.

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# The Holidays Are Upon Us!!!

By Major Brenda Lane

## THANKSGIVING

Did you know it is only a little over 8 weeks until Christmas!?! But, of course, we have Thanksgiving to celebrate before that. We at The Salvation Army need your help. We would love to be able to supply a few families with the necessary food items for a wonderful Thanksgiving Dinner with their family.

We need canned goods such as green beans, yams, corn, mixed vegetables, jars of gravy. We also would love to supply them with items such as instant mashed potato, dressing mix, mac & cheese, pasta, muffin/cornbread mix. It would be great to be able to provide each family with a chicken or ham or some other meat to finish out the dinner. Lehigh Acres is a wonderful, giving community and we know we can count on you to help us, help those who are really struggling right now and just can't provide for their family. We are asking you as a community to step up and help make sure that every family needing a little help, will get it because of your generosity and compassion for others. If you are able to help even with a few canned goods or some dry goods, that would be great.

You can drop those things off at our office Monday thru Friday, 8:30 am to 12:noon and 1:00 pm to 4:00pm

## CHRISTMAS

There, I said it!! We are already into the Christmas mode here at The Salvation Army in Lehigh. As we shared above, we would also like to

be able to supply a few families with Christmas Dinner. We would like to have the same items as listed in the above paragraph. Turkeys, Hams, Pork Roast, these would be amazing for a family to sit down to on Christmas day. We need your help to make that happen. We will be providing several hundred children with toys and it would be wonderful to make the holiday complete with a lovely dinner as a family. Can we count on you to help us make that happen?? I know we can. We look forward to seeing many of you as you stop by to drop off the items requested.

## BELL RINGERS

We are currently looking for Bell Ringers to man our Red Kettles. If you are interested, please call or come by our office to apply. 25 Homestead Rd N #42 33936, Lehigh Acres. You may reach us at 239-491-6071.

Blessings for a wonderful Holiday Season to all!! 🦃



Photo: Sheriff Carmine Marceno, Lee County Sheriff



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## The General Woman's Club

By Connie Puzevic

The General Woman's Club of Lehigh Acres, FL will hold its monthly meeting on Friday, November 17th at RISE Christian Church [50 Bell Blvd N, Lehigh Acres, FL]. The

speaker will be Aura Wilson, APRN, who will speak on exercise. New members are always welcome. For more information, please contact Betty Smith at 239-850-6617. 🦃

## 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, 9802 Pelican Preserve Blvd, Fort Myers 33913 (community entry off Treeline Avenue between Colonial Blvd and Daniels Pkwy).

cuss the various resources patrons can access using a Family Search Library Affiliate versus going to a Family Search Center to satisfy their genealogy curiosities when tracing either one's family tree or family history.

Luncheon fee is \$28.00 and the planned regular menu will be a six-ounce grilled flat iron steak with mushroom Demi sauce, Chef's seasonal vegetable choice, and chocolate flourless cake for dessert. The plant based / vegan entree option will be a grilled cauliflower vegan steak with mushroom Demi sauce, served with a quinoa, kale, garbanzo, edamame blend, and fresh fruit for dessert. Fresh rolls and butter are always served.

Activities begin at 10:30 a.m. with a short social period, a business meeting at 11:15 a.m., followed by lunch at Noon, and normally an informative speaker program, ending at 2:00 p.m. 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 early (due to Thanksgiving) on Thursday, November 9, and our planned speaker will be Mr. Bryan Mulcahy, Reference/Genealogy Librarian for the Fort Myers Regional Library. Mr. Mulcahy will dis-

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, November 2. 🦃

## Continental Women's Club

By Liz Paul

The Continental Women's Club will hold its monthly luncheon meeting on Thursday, December 14th at 11:30 a.m. at The Hideaway Country Club. Please note that our meeting for this month is on the second Thursday in December.

repairs.

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 usually 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 December 14th is Tuesday, December 6th. Please call Liz Paul at 239-691-7561 for additional information or to make a reservation. 🦃

Our December program will feature a presentation by Malaina Mote, Director of Donor Advancement for Habitat for Humanity. You are invited to attend this informative program and learn how this organization serves local families through affordable homeownership, housing counseling, hurricane recovery services, and home

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| CARVE        | FEAST    | NOVEMBER    | THANKS       |
| COLONY       | GRATEFUL | PARADE      | TRADITIONS   |
| COOKING      | GRAVY    | PILGRIM     | TREATY       |
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**November 6 National Nacho Day**

Nachos are extremely popular both with a meal, and as a snack. They are in popular demand for parties of all kinds. We enjoy them while watching any sporting event, at home, at the stadium or in the arena. Celebrate with a fistful of nachos or a nacho supreme.

**November 9 World Freedom Day**

World Freedom Day is a U.S. federal observance, marking the fall of the Berlin Wall. The Berlin Wall was known as the "Iron Curtain". This special day also commemorates the end of communism in Eastern and Central Europe.

**November 13 Care Giver Appreciation Day**

This is a very important day of recognition for the tens of millions of Americans, who selflessly give their time to care for those who are ill, disabled, or elderly. This day of recognition is for both paid and unpaid care givers. We believe unpaid care givers, deserve even more special recognition. They silently go about the task of supporting someone in need, most often a family member.

**November 16 National Fast Food Day**

Americans are always fast moving, always in a rush. As a result of our fast moving lifestyle, we need to eat quickly, and are usually unwilling or unable to wait long for our food to be prepared. Participating in National Fast Food Day is easy. All you have to do, is eat or drink at a fast food restaurant today. To be a full fledged participant on this special day, eat in fast food restaurants for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

**November 17 World Peace Day**

World Peace Day encourages us to be kind to others, and teach others to be peaceful. Today we strive in making the world a better place. It starts with us. Teach our children and others, in ways to promote peace, and avoid war. Without peace, the consequences is tragic.

**November 20 Beautiful Day**

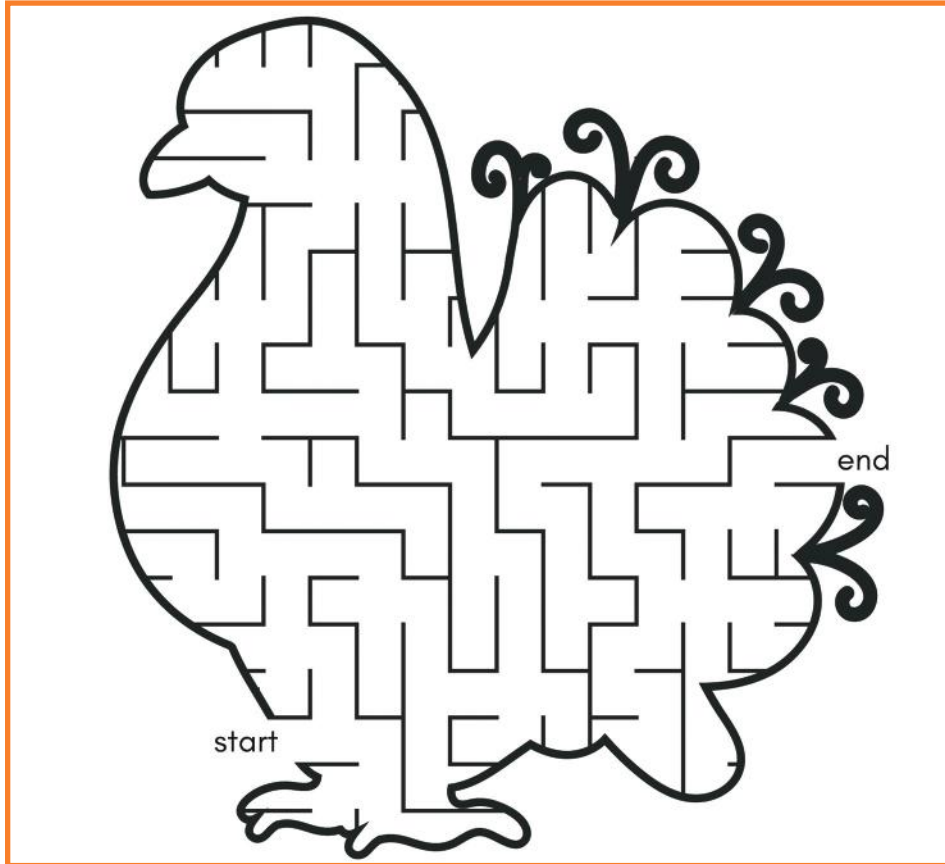
Today is truly a Beautiful Day in every way, shape and form. The world is filled with ugliness. So, a day like today celebrate it by taking the time to recognize the beauty around you.

**November 23 National Espresso Day**

Looking for a quick caffeine high? Well, you are in luck because today is National Espresso Day, and a cup of espresso should do the trick. Walk or drive to your nearest coffee shop or cafe, and order one!

**November 28 French Toast Day**

Today is your opportunity to enjoy French toast, a delicious and tasty breakfast meal. Hold it right there! French toast can be enjoyed for any meal time: breakfast, lunch or dinner. Try French toast with male syrup, sugar, cinnamon, whipped cream, or fruits. Better yet, use a combination of these.



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1	4	7	3	6	8	2
3	6	5	9	4	2	7
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**CONTRIBUTORS**  
Butch Swank | Cameron Belen | Dr. Veja Tillman, DVM  
Fire Chief Robert DiLallo | Melissa Barris | Liz Paul  
Tiffany Whitaker | Alex Moffett | Mike Welch  
The Craftie Ladies of St. John XXIII Catholic Church  
Sheriff Carmine Marceno | Major Brenda Lane  
Rita Artwohl | Connie Puzevic

**PRODUCTION • DESIGN**  
Paradise Creative Group  
Marlene Asta

**CUSTOMER RELATIONS**  
David Foetisch | Katrina Salokar

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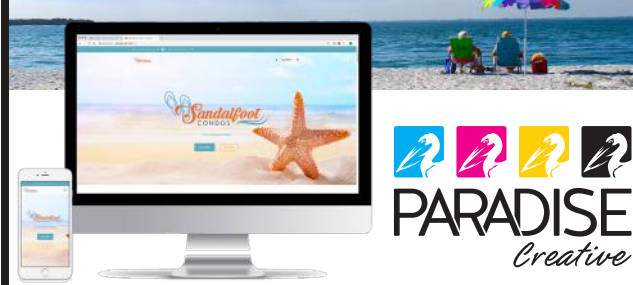


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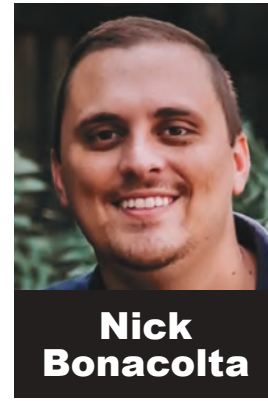


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